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31/03/2017
VC134

OPERATION OF THE STATE PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

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Purpose

The purpose of State policy in planning schemes is to inform planning authorities and responsible authorities of those aspects of State planning policy which they are to take into account and give effect to in planning and administering their respective areas. The State Planning Policy Framework provides a context for spatial planning and decision making by planning and responsible authorities.

The State Planning Policy Framework is dynamic and will be built upon as the government develops and refines policy, and changed as the needs of the community change.

The planning policies are directed to land use and development, as circumscribed by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a primary objective of which is to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land.

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Objectives

The State Planning Policy Framework seeks to ensure that the objectives of planning in Victoria (as set out in Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*) are fostered through appropriate land use and development planning policies and practices which integrate relevant environmental, social and economic factors in the interests of net community benefit and sustainable development.

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Application

The State Planning Policy Framework sets out the planning policies which apply to all land in Victoria.

The Victoria Planning Provisions includes nine regionally specific policy clauses in Clause 11 of the State Planning Policy Framework. This scheme includes only the regionally specific policies that apply to the area covered by this scheme.

These policies must be taken into account when a planning authority prepares an amendment to this scheme or a responsible authority makes a decision under this scheme.

Planning and responsible authorities must take account of and give effect to the policies applicable to issues before them to ensure integrated decision making.

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Integrated decision making

Society has various needs and expectations such as land for settlement, protection of the environment, economic well-being, various social needs, proper management of resources and infrastructure. Planning aims to meet these by addressing aspects of economic, environmental and social well-being affected by land use and development.

Planning authorities and responsible authorities should endeavour to integrate the range of policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Consistent with the objectives of local government under the *Local Government Act 1989*, municipal planning authorities are required to identify the potential for regional impacts in their decision-making and co-ordinate strategic planning with their neighbours and other public bodies to achieve sustainable development and effective and efficient use of resources.

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Structure

The State Planning Policy Framework is structured around the following themes:

- Settlement
- Environmental and landscape values
- Environmental risk
- Natural resource management
- Built environment and heritage
- Housing
- Economic development
- Transport
- Infrastructure

Each policy includes:

- An objective that sets out the aim of the policy.
- Strategies that outline how the policy is to be achieved.

Each policy may also include:

- Policy guidelines that provide guidance about specific strategies, legislation and other matters to be considered in planning decisions.