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**LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES**

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**General Alpine Resorts policies**

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**Development Guidelines**

**Introduction**

The responsible authority must consider the following policies when assessing applications for planning permits. Similarly these policies should be considered by any applicant and it is suggested that the responses to these policies be included in an application report to accompany the application for planning permit.

The following policies apply to three of the six designated Alpine Resorts, being Lake Mountain, Mt Baw Baw, and Mt Stirling.

**Car Parking**

**Policy Basis**

Until car parking precinct plans are developed by the planning and responsible authorities, in conjunction with the Resort Management Boards, the following policy will apply. These have been developed through practice and Resort Management Board consideration and approval.

**Policy Objectives**

- To preserve the individual character of each Alpine Resort.
- To provide adequate car parking for each Resort.
- To achieve balance between the demands of vehicle transport with pedestrian and skier movement.

## **Policy**

### **LAKE MOUNTAIN ALPINE RESORT**

- Car parking is to be located within the designated car parking areas and any new development must provide adequate car parking to ensure, at least, the maintenance of existing vehicle space numbers. Ideally more vehicle spaces will be provided to enable greater visitation.
- In the area of Gerratys new parking areas may be developed within the area designated as CDZ1 on the northern side of the access road.

### **MT BAW BAW ALPINE RESORT**

- At Mt Baw Baw the policy is to have a main village area which is free of vehicles during the declared snow season by providing adequate car parking located within the designated car parking areas.
- During other times of the year limited car parking be provided on site whilst ensuring the maintenance of vegetated areas and restrictions of slope are recognised.
- Car parking areas within a site may be a unsealed construction.

Development which designates new areas for car parking requires the preparation of an Urban Design Impact Statement.

## **Plot Ratio and Site Coverage**

### **Policy Basis**

Plot ratio and site coverage controls have traditionally been used as a planning tool relating to the scale, bulk and intensity of development. However the topography, environs, view and vistas, and vegetation of the site can mean that the prescribed plot ratio and site coverage restrict the approval of sound applications for planning permits as determined by an Urban Design Impact Statement.

### **Policy Objective**

- To ensure that the intensity of any development does not detrimentally affect the objectives of the State Planning Policy Framework or the other policies within the Local Planning Policy Framework.
- To ensure that new development is assessed with proper regard to urban design principles and built form requirements.
- To ensure the intensity of new development does not detrimentally affect the capacity of Alpine Resort infrastructure.
- To guide the continuing development of the Alpine Resort villages in a manner that will be consistent with its function and form.
- To provide a degree of certainty and equity in alpine planning and development in relation to the development potential of land.
- To ensure that new development enhances the physical and social infrastructure of the Alpine Resort villages.

## Policy

The table prescribes the plot ratios and site coverage for the following nominated areas:

LOCATION	PLOT RATIO	SITE COVERAGE
LAKE MOUNTAIN ALPINE RESORT		
	0.75	40%
MT BAW BAW ALPINE RESORT		
Village Centre	0.75	40%
Accommodation Area	0.25	25%

The following definitions are extracted from the Standard Definitions in the Victorian Planning Provisions:

- Plot Ratio is calculated by as the gross floor area of all buildings on a site, divided by the area of the site.
- The gross floor area is the total floor area of a building, measured from the outside of external walls or the centre of party walls, and includes all roofed areas.
- Site Coverage is the product of the building footprint divided by the site area multiplied by 100 and expressed as a percentage.
- The building footprint is the area in square metre contained within the projection of the external extremities of the enclosed walls of a structure to ground level.

A development should not exceed the plot ratio and site coverage provisions without completing an Urban Design Impact Statement to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

The following matters should be taken into account by the responsible authority when considering an application to exceed the plot ratio and site coverage, or when there is none specified:

- The extent to which the proposal will significantly advance the aims and objectives of the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework.
- An Urban Design Impact Statement.
- The objectives of the Alpine Development Code 1997.
- The scale and nature of surrounding development.
- The effect of amenity on surrounding sites.
- The relationship to surrounding vegetation.
- The topography and slope of the site.
- The intrusion into the skyline.
- The economic rationale for exceeding the requirements.
- The extent to which snow deposition and public safety will be controlled and maintained.
- The extent to which the proposal will result in a net community benefit.
- The extent to which the proposal will enhance the physical and social infrastructure of the Alpine Resorts.

- The effect on the infrastructure capacity of the land and surrounding land, including reticulated service, traffic and car parking.
- Whether the development will facilitate the redevelopment of existing sites.

### **Setback Guidelines**

### **Policy Basis**

Setback guidelines are used to control the scale, bulk and intensity of development.

### **Policy Objectives**

- To ensure that the intensity of any development does not detrimentally effect the objectives of the State Planning Policy Framework or the other policies within the Local Planning Policy Framework.
- To ensure that new development is assessed with proper regard to urban design principles and built form requirements.
- To ensure the intensity of new development does not detrimentally affect the capacity of Alpine Resort infrastructure.
- To guide the continuing development of the Alpine Resort villages in a manner that will be consistent with its function and form.
- To provide a degree of certainty and equity in alpine planning and development in relation to the development potential of land.
- To ensure that new development enhances the physical and social infrastructure of the Alpine Resort villages.

### **Policy**

The following setback requirements are applied to all sites except those designated in a Comprehensive Development Plan. The external wall of a building must not be constructed:

- Less than 6 metres from a road alignment.
- Less than 3 metres from any boundary of an allotment other than a street alignment.
- Less than 6 metres from any building.

A development should not impede on the setback without completing an Urban Design Impact Statement to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

The following matters should be taken into account by the responsible authority when considering an application to exceed the setback guidelines:

- The extent to which the proposal will significantly advance the aims and objectives of the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework.
- An Urban Design Impact Statement.
- The objectives of the Alpine Development Code 1997.
- The scale and nature of surrounding development.
- The effect of amenity on surrounding sites.
- The relationship to surrounding vegetation.
- The topography and slope of the site.

- The intrusion into the skyline.
- The economic rationale for exceeding the requirements.
- The extent to which snow deposition and public safety will be controlled and maintained.
- The extent to which the proposal will result in a net community benefit.
- The extent to which the proposal will enhance the physical and social infrastructure of the Alpine Resorts.
- The effect on the infrastructure capacity of the land and surrounding land, including reticulated service, traffic and car parking.
- Whether the development will facilitate the redevelopment of existing sites.

### Height Guidelines

#### Policy Basis

The height controls represent protecting the views and vistas of the natural environment and maintaining the natural tree line excessive encroachment by the constructed environment.

#### Policy Objectives

- To protect sunlight access to key public places and open space areas.
- To ensure that the height of new buildings reinforces the built form character of unique areas.
- To maintain the visual dominance of prominent landmarks.
- To maintain the natural line of the snow gums.

#### Policy

An application for architectural features and building services to exceed the maximum heights must be accompanied by a written urban context report documenting the key planning influences on the proposed development and how it will relate to its surroundings.

It is policy that the height of the tree line of the snow gums is the height control, except for nominated activity areas.

LOCATION	MEAN BUILDING HEIGHT
LAKE MOUNTAIN ALPINE RESORT	11
MT BAW BAW ALPINE RESORT	
Village Centre	15
Accommodation Area	11

The following definitions are extracted from the Victorian Planning Provisions:

- The mean building height is the vertical distance between the mean ground level and the finished roof height at its highest points.

- The mean ground level is one half the sum of the highest and lowest levels along ground level of the outer surface of all external building walls.

A development should not exceed the stated height controls without completing an Urban Design Impact Statement.

The following matters should be taken into account by the responsible authority when considering an application to exceed the height controls, or when there is none specified:

- The extent to which the proposal will significantly advance the aims and objectives of the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework.
- An Urban Design Impact Statement.
- The objectives of the Alpine Development Code 1997.
- The scale and nature of surrounding development.
- The effect of amenity on surrounding sites.
- The relationship to surrounding vegetation.
- The topography and slope of the site.
- The intrusion into the skyline.
- The economic rationale for exceeding the requirements.
- The extent to which snow deposition and public safety will be controlled and maintained.
- The extent to which the proposal will result in a net community benefit.
- The extent to which the proposal will enhance the physical and social infrastructure of the Alpine Resorts.
- The effect on the infrastructure capacity of the land and surrounding land, including reticulated service, traffic and car parking.
- Whether the development will facilitate the redevelopment of existing sites.

## **Urban Design**

### **Policy Basis**

A clear, overall vision for each of the Alpine Resorts is one which should be generated and owned by all sections of the community. A vision needs to reinforce the individual character and attraction of each resort. It should encompass economic, social, cultural, ecological / environmental and physical dimensions.

### **Policy Objectives**

The development of a multi-dimensional vision and strategy for each Alpine Resort will provide a vehicle for:

- The articulation of each resort's strategic importance.
- The rationalisation of the needs and expectations of the local community and those of the broader community.
- The identification and coordination of disparate opportunities within the community.
- The efficient distribution of services and resources.
- Establishing sustainable levels of development.

## **Policy**

In the formulation of a shared and clear vision, planning and responsible authorities in conjunction with the Resort Management Boards and in consultation with the community need to assess the diverse factors which contribute to the distinct nature of individual resorts in terms of both physical form and natural environment, whilst identifying and reinforcing the direction each resort community is forging.

The process of formulating an urban design vision must include an analysis of:

- Current development and infrastructure.
- Functional demands.
- Sustainability of new development.
- Visual impact (at local and broader landscape scale).
- Physical form and architectural style.

Having formulated a vision and developed integrated strategies to articulate, express and implement the vision, change may be initiated through the development of an Urban Design Framework. This framework should take into account information about the following issues:

## **Activity**

The location and character of a village centre or centres and other activity precincts.

## **Movement**

Access to the village and relationships between activity precincts and in particular, pedestrian and skiing networks.

## **Infrastructure**

Roads system and hierarchy.

## **Urban Form**

Response to local environment climate and topography. Distribution of built form, local architectural styles and heritage in addition to architectural scale, massing and articulation.

A framework which encompasses all of these layers of information will provide a strategic guide for the continuing development and improvement of the resorts and for the delivery of effective urban design outcomes.

An Urban Design Impact Statement is required when seeking a variation to the policy controls or where there are none specified. The responsible authority will notify the proponent in writing whether the statement is their satisfaction.