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VC148

PLANNING FOR PLACES

11.03-1SHistoric
16/04/2026
VC300**Activity centres and precincts****Objective**

To encourage the concentration of major retail, residential, commercial, administrative, entertainment and cultural developments into activity centres with good public transport services.

Strategies

Build up the central activity areas of Major regional cities, Metropolitan activity centres, Priority Precincts, Suburban Rail Loop Precincts and Activity Centres - Housing Choice and Stations as a focus for high-quality development, activity and living that:

- Are a focus for business, shopping, working, leisure and community facilities.
- Provide different types of housing, including forms of higher density housing.
- Are connected by transport.
- Maximise choices in services, employment and social interaction.

Undertake strategic planning for the use and development of land in and around Major regional cities, Metropolitan activity centres, Priority Precincts, Suburban Rail Loop Precincts and Activity Centres - Housing Choice and Stations and their residential catchments.

Encourage a diversity of housing types at higher densities in and around Major regional cities, Metropolitan activity centres, Priority Precincts, Suburban Rail Loop Precincts and Activity Centres - Housing Choice and Stations and their residential catchments.

Reduce the number of private motorised trips by concentrating activities that generate high numbers of (non-freight) trips in highly accessible activity centres.

Improve access by walking, cycling and public transport to services and facilities.

Support the continued growth and diversification of activity centres to give communities access to a wide range of goods and services, provide local employment and support local economies.

Improve the social, economic and environmental performance and amenity of activity centres.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)
- *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021)
- *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2021)
- *Mid-Rise Design Guide* (Department of Transport and Planning, 2026)

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Activity centre

General strategies

Support the development of retail and commercial enterprises in the Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale town centres, provided their design respects and enhances the existing character of the area.

Enhance public spaces and pedestrian environments within commercial areas.

Avoid commercial development in adjoining residential neighbourhoods, other than in areas designated for tourist accommodation or town centres.

Queenscliff strategies

Protect and develop the Queenscliff town centre as the focus for cultural, administrative and tourism functions, and other key community services and facilities.

Reinforce the distinct characters of Hesse Street (as a main street in Queenscliff) and Queenscliff Harbour.

Support a broader range of activities and uses to establish in and around the Hesse Street, Queenscliff commercial area.

Allow for a modest and incremental increase in retail floor space in the Hesse Street, Queenscliff commercial area.

Point Lonsdale strategies

Focus commercial and retail development in the existing Point Lonsdale town centre and retain the neighbourhood role of this centre, to provide basic services and retail shops for the local community.

Retain the existing compact area of the Point Lonsdale town centre and consolidate retail uses at ground floor level.

Support commercial use of the existing residential terrace development in the centre of the Point Lonsdale town centre.

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Growth areas

Objective

To locate urban growth close to transport corridors and services and provide efficient and effective infrastructure to create sustainability benefits while protecting primary production, major sources of raw materials and valued environmental areas.

Strategies

Concentrate urban expansion into growth areas that are served by high-capacity public transport.

Implement the strategic directions in the growth corridor plans.

Deliver residential densities in the growth areas of Melbourne and Major regional cities of an average of at least:

- 30 dwellings per net developable hectare in locations within walkable distance of existing and proposed activity centres, train stations, major transport routes and public open spaces.
- 20 dwellings per net developable hectare in other growth area locations.

Provide housing diversity and choice through a mix of housing types, particularly in areas suitable for higher residential densities.

Deliver accessible, integrated and adaptable community infrastructure, including a high-quality network of public open space with opportunities for passive and active recreation.

Plan for the timely and adequate provision of public transport and local and regional infrastructure and services, in line with a preferred sequence of land release.

Provide for significant amounts of local employment opportunities and in some areas, provide large scale industrial or other more regional employment generators.

Create a network of mixed-use activity centres that are high quality, well designed and create a sense of place.

Provide a diversity of housing type and distribution.

Retain unique characteristics of established areas impacted by growth.

Protect and manage natural resources and areas of heritage, cultural and environmental significance.

Create well planned, easy to maintain high amenity, environmentally resilient and safe public realms that contribute to a sense of place, support cooling and greening, reduce opportunities for crime, improve perceptions of safety and increase levels of community participation.

Develop and implement plans for growth areas that will:

- Include objectives for each growth area.
- Identify the long term pattern of urban growth.
- Identify the location of broad urban development types, for example activity centre, residential, employment, freight centres and mixed use employment.
- Identify the boundaries of individual communities, landscape values and, as appropriate, the need for discrete urban breaks and how land uses in these breaks will be managed.
- Identify transport networks and options for investigation, such as future railway lines and stations, freight activity centres, freeways and arterial roads.
- Identify the location of open space to be retained for recreation, and/or biodiversity protection and/or flood risk reduction purposes guided and directed by regional biodiversity conservation strategies.

QUEENSCLIFFE PLANNING SCHEME

- Show significant waterways as opportunities for creating linear trails, along with areas required to be retained for biodiversity protection and/or flood risk reduction purposes.
- Identify appropriate uses for constrained areas, including quarry buffers.

Develop precinct structure plans consistent with the *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2021) to:

- Establish a sense of place and community.
- Create greater housing choice, diversity and affordable places to live.
- Create highly accessible and vibrant activity centres.
- Provide for local employment and business activity.
- Provide better transport choices.
- Respond to climate change and increase environmental sustainability.
- Deliver accessible, integrated and adaptable community infrastructure.
- Deliver 30 per cent tree canopy cover within the public realm and in open spaces (excluding areas dedicated to biodiversity or native vegetation conservation).

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *North Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *West Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *Sunbury Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *South East Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2021)
- *Ministerial Direction No. 12 – Urban Growth Areas*

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Peri-urban areas

Objective

To manage growth in peri-urban areas to protect and enhance their identified valued attributes.

Strategies

Identify and protect areas that are strategically important for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space, water, agriculture, energy, recreation, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources.

Enhance the character, identity, attractiveness and amenity of peri-urban towns.

Prevent dispersed settlement and provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas.

Ensure development is linked to the timely and viable provision of physical and social infrastructure.

Improve connections to regional and metropolitan transport services.

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VC283**Coastal settlement****Objective**

To plan for sustainable coastal development.

Strategies

Plan and manage coastal population growth and increased visitation so that impacts do not cause unsustainable use of coastal resources.

Support a network of diverse coastal settlements that provide for a broad range of housing types, economic opportunities and services.

Minimise linear urban sprawl along the coastal edge and ribbon development in rural landscapes.

Protect areas between settlements for non-urban use.

Limit development in identified coastal hazard areas, on ridgelines, primary coastal dune systems, shorelines of estuaries, wetlands and low-lying coastal areas, or where coastal processes may be detrimentally impacted.

Encourage the restructure of old and inappropriate subdivisions to reduce development impacts on the environment.

Ensure a sustainable water supply, stormwater management and sewerage treatment for all development.

Minimise the quantity and enhance the quality of stormwater discharge from new development into the ocean, bays and estuaries.

Prevent the development of new residential canal estates.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Marine and Coastal Policy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2020)
- *Marine and Coastal Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2022)
- *Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2020)

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Distinctive areas and landscapes**Objective**

To recognise the importance of distinctive areas and landscapes to the people of Victoria and protect and enhance the valued attributes of identified or declared distinctive areas and landscapes.

Strategies

Recognise the unique features and special characteristics of these areas and landscapes.

Implement the strategic directions of approved Localised Planning Statements and Statements of Planning Policy.

Integrate policy development, implementation and decision-making for declared areas under Statements of Planning policy.

Recognise the important role these areas play in the state as tourist destinations.

Protect the identified key values and activities of these areas.

Enhance conservation of the environment, including the unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity of these areas.

Support use and development where it enhances the valued characteristics of these areas.

Avoid use and development that could undermine the long-term natural or non-urban use of land in these areas.

Protect areas that are important for food production.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy* (Victorian Government, 2023)
- *Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy* (Victorian Government, 2019)
- *Mornington Peninsula Localised Planning Statement* (Victorian Government, 2014)
- *Surf Coast Statement of Planning Policy* (Victorian Government, 2022)
- *Yarra Ranges Localised Planning Statement* (Victorian Government, 2017)

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The Great Ocean Road region

Objective

To manage the sustainable development of the Great Ocean Road region.

Strategies

Protect public land and parks and identified significant landscapes in the Great Ocean Road region.

Ensure development responds to the identified landscape character of the area.

Manage the growth of towns by:

- Respecting the character of coastal towns and promoting best practice design for new development.
- Directing urban growth to strategically identified areas.

Manage the impact of development on catchments and coastal areas.

Manage the impact of development on the environmental and cultural values of the area.

Improve the management of access and transport by:

- Managing the Great Ocean Road for tourism and regional access.
- Enhancing the safety and travelling experience of the Great Ocean Road.
- Improving the safety and operational performance of the inland routes from the Princes Highway to the Great Ocean Road.
- Providing travel choices to and in the region.

Encourage sustainable tourism and resource use by:

- Developing a network of tourism opportunities throughout the region.
- Supporting tourism activities that provide environmental, economic and social benefits.
- Supporting the land use and transport needs of key regional industries including tourism.
- Using natural resources with care.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Marine and Coastal Policy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2020)
- *Marine and Coastal Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2022)
- *The Great Ocean Road Region Landscape Assessment Study* (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2003)
- *The Great Ocean Road Region - A Land Use and Transport Strategy* (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2004)

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31/07/2018
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Regional and local places

Objective

To facilitate integrated place-based planning.

Strategies

Integrate relevant planning considerations to provide specific direction for the planning of sites, places, neighbourhoods and towns.

Consider the distinctive characteristics and needs of regional and local places in planning for future land use and development.

