21.04 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

01/06/2017
C67(Part 1)

The environment is the most important factor influencing the economy, lifestyle and recreational choices in the shire.

Key challenges facing the shire include:

- The degraded nature and condition of the environment
- Balancing vegetation conservation against protecting people from wildfire
- Supporting the sustainable management of land and water resources
- The need to minimise and manage the effects of flooding.

21.04-1 Catchment Management

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Objectives and strategies

Objective 1 **To encourage the protection of significant habitats, remnant vegetation and maintain bio-diversity**

Strategy 1.1 Develop management plans for the control and eradication of gorse and serrated tussock.

Objective 2 **To protect water catchments**

Strategy 2.1 Adopt an integrated catchment management approach to ensure use and development assessment comprehensively considers the effects on land and water resources.

Strategy 2.2 Ensure the location and size of dams minimises alterations to natural drainage and natural flows of watercourses and is consistent with land capability.

Strategy 2.3 Ensure dams are constructed with appropriate dam construction and soil conservation techniques and avoid leakage to groundwater.

Objective 3 **To improve water quality and reduce water pollution, particularly from unsewered urban development**

Strategy 3.1 Improve water quality and the condition of waterways by promoting infrastructure works in unsewered townships, including the supply of reticulated waste water treatment to Bannockburn.

Strategy 3.2 Manage use and development in the Moorabool River and Stony Creek Water Supply Catchment Areas in order to protect water quantity and quality.

21.04-2 Flooding

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Flooding risk is a particular problem in the southern areas of the shire along the Leigh and Woady Yaloak Rivers.

Flooding has been recorded in Inverleigh, Meredith, Smythesdale, Haddon, Rokewood, Enfield, Shelford, Teesdale, Lethbridge, Linton and several rural areas throughout the Shire. The most significant flooding in the Shire occurs in Inverleigh where the Barwon and Leigh Rivers meet.

Objectives and strategies

Objective 1 **To ensure the protection of floodplains through minimising the impact of development and subdivision**

Strategy 1.1 Prepare floodplain management plans to ensure that the function of floodways to convey and store floodwaters is preserved and that the environmental attributes of floodplain areas are protected.

21.04-3 Salinity

04/12/2014
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Golden Plains Shire is experiencing increased salinisation of soil and water resources, and the consequential impacts on biodiversity and productive use of land and water resources.

It is important that new development and subdivision recognises and undertakes appropriate risk managmenet strategies to avoid damage from salinity on built structures and infrastructure, such as underground pipes and roads.

Areas with the potential to be affected by salinity are shown on Figure 21.04-3A.

Objectives and strategies

Objective 1 **To protect the quality of naturally saline waterways including wetlands from the impacts of development and subdivision.**

Strategy 1.1 Avoid areas of salinity impact when planning for new urban and rural residential development and subdivision.

Strategy 1.2 Avoid extensions to existing development adjacent to naturally saline waterways including wetlands.

Strategy 1.3 Ensure existing or potential salinity impacts are managed and mitigated in any proposals for new urban and rural residential development or re-zoning.

Strategy 1.4 Avoid development and subdivision within or adjacent to naturally saline waterways including wetlands to prevent their degradation.

Strategy 1.5 Support development and subdivision where protecting and enhancing the environmental values of waterbodies can be demonstrated.

Strategy 1.6 Manage impacts of development and subdivision and permitted extensions to existing development through the appropriate use of protective measures including the careful siting of development and infrastructure, selection of appropriate construction materials, site landscaping and revegetation works, watering and irrigations systems, extent of impervious surfaces and the management of surface water runoff.

Objective 2 **To protect soil resources from erosion, contamination, compaction, salinity and other forms of degradation.**

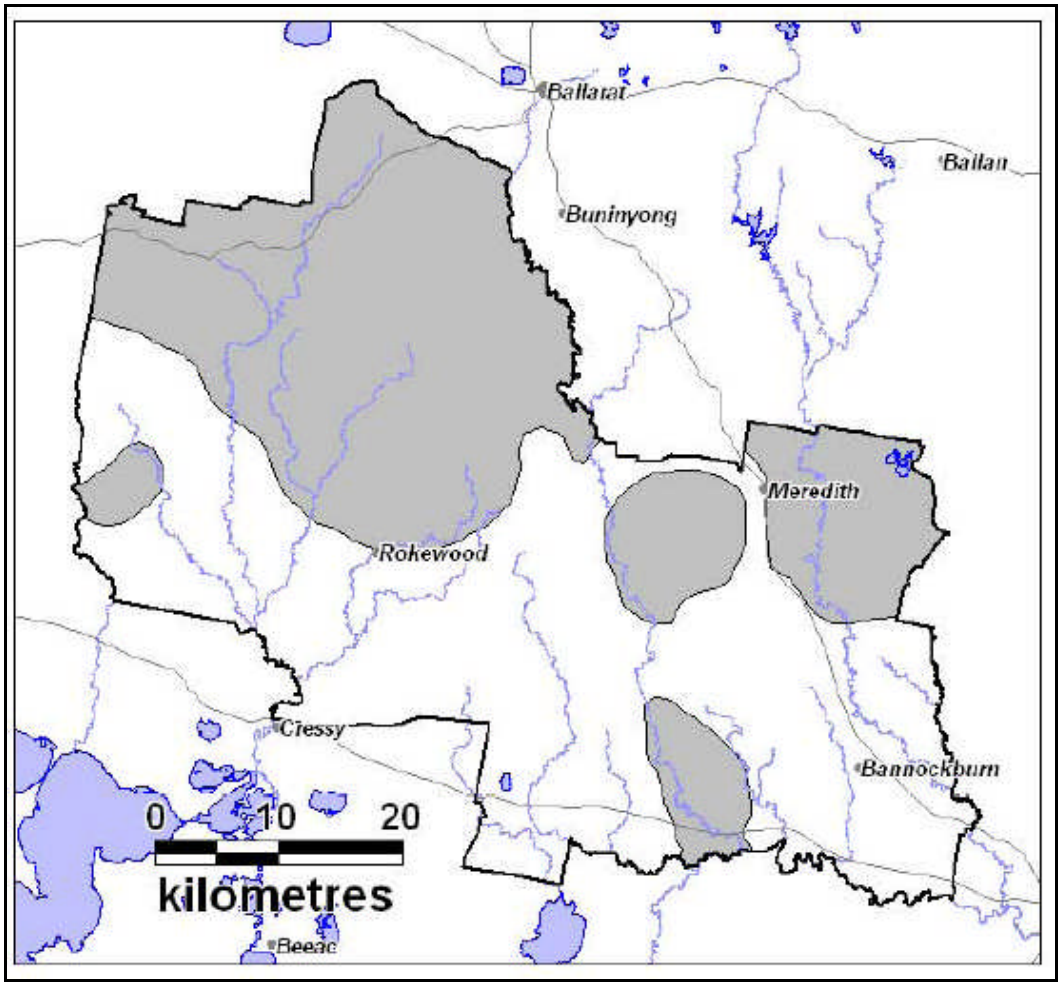
Strategy 2.1 Protect soil and water resources from the risk of increased salinity.

Guidelines for decision makers

- Land uses, development and subdivisions that can significantly change surface water and groundwater hydrological flow patterns within those areas shown shaded in grey on Figure 21.04-3A: Area of Potential Salinity Impacts should mitigate:

- against the degradation or loss of naturally saline lakes and wetlands, particularly from the effects of reduced surface water flows or drainage.
- the expansion of existing areas effected by salinity or the generation of new areas effected by salinity.

Figure 21.04-3A: Map 1 – Area of Potential Salinity Impacts



21.04-4 Bushfire

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Fire risk is an issue in the shire's open grass lands and wooded forest/bush areas. The Haddon, Ross Creek, Dereel and Enfield areas have experienced bushfires in the past.

Objectives and strategies

Objective 1 **To balance the protection of people from wildfire with the conservation of significant vegetation.**

Strategy 1.1 Ensure that development in areas of high wildfire risk does not increase the potential for the fire risk to built assets and human life.

Strategy 1.2 Minimise the impact of any wildfire protection measures on vegetation with high environmental value.

21.04-5 Protection of stone resources

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The north west area of the Shire possesses important stone resources which have been identified in the Ballarat Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas 1997 report.

Objectives and strategies

Objective 1 **To provide for the long term protection and utilisation of stone resources.**

Strategy 1.1 Consider the findings of the Ballarat Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas 1997 report in determining applications for the use and development of land.

Strategy 1.2 Identify mineral and stone resources of sufficient quantity and quality to support a commercial extractive industry operation in the Ballarat Supply Area.

Reference Documents

- Ballarat Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas 1997

21.04-6 Environment and Natural Resources strategies will be implemented by applying:

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- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to areas subject to inundation.
- Floodway Overlay to areas subject to high velocity flooding. Wildfire Management Overlay to areas identified by the Country Fire Authority and the responsible authority as subject to fire hazard.
- Salinity Management Overlay to areas identified as being subject to the effects of salinity.
- Environmental Significance Overlay to the following areas: water catchment areas, watercourses, Enfield State Park, Mt Misery Creek, two areas at Dereel, Smythesdale, Yarrowee Creek.
- Significant Landscape Overlay to various landscapes, Avenues of Honour and settings across the Golden Plains municipality which are of natural significance.
- Vegetation Protection Overlay to areas of identified flora and fauna importance to the following areas: - Westernplains grasslands, Happy Valley Bushland reserve at Golden Reef, roadside vegetation, Linton Flora Reserve, Enfield State Park Reference area.
- The Local Planning Policy 22.08 – Water Supply Catchment.
- The Local Planning Policy 22.10 – Salinity.
- The Local Planning Policy 22.11 – Floodplain Management.

21.04-7 Further work

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- Develop a strategy for the retention of native grasslands.

21.04-8 Reference documents

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- Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy – Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

- Corangamite Area Ragwort Strategy
- Dryland Salinity Strategy for the Corangamite Salinity Region (Restoring the Balance) Corangamite Salinity Forum
- Salinity Management Overlay Project Report, EnPlan-DBA with Dahlhaus Environmental Geology and Chris Harty Planning and Environmental Management, Corangamite CMA, 2006
- Golden Plains Shire – Salinity Management Overlay Salinity Occurrences and Mapping Background Report No 1, Dahlhaus Environmental Geology Pty Ltd, 2006
- Permit Application Requirements for Development Proposals where a Salinity Management Overlay Applies. EnPlan, 2006
- Smythesdale Urban Design Framework, Michael Smith and Associates (March 2006)
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Floodplain Management Strategy, April 2002
- South West Landscape Assesment Study, Planisphere, June 2013