

22.01 DANDENONG FOOTHILLS

10/08/2017
C162

This policy applies to the area shown on the plan forming part of this clause.

22.01-1 Policy basis

10/08/2017
C162

The Dandenong Foothills includes the treed slopes and rural areas of Lysterfield Valley, the rural landscapes of The Basin, and parts of the suburbs of Boronia, Sassafra, Ferntree Gully (excluding the Ferntree Gully Village Neighbourhood Activity Centre), Upper Ferntree Gully (excluding the Upper Ferntree Gully Activity Centre), Rowville and Lysterfield.

This policy:

- Applies the *Melbourne 2030* objectives of Policy 2.4 to local circumstances.
- Applies the MSS objectives in Clauses 21.01 “Municipal Profile”, 21.03 “Vision and Strategic Land Use Framework”, 21.04 “Urban Design”, 21.05 “Housing”, 21.06 “Environment” and 21.07 “Economic Development”.
- Applies the findings of the Dandenong Foothills Urban and Landscape Review 2006, Knox Urban Design Framework 2020 (2003) and City of Knox Neighbourhood Character Study 1999 to ensure that new buildings, works and landscaping protect and enhance the metropolitan landscape significance of the Dandenong Foothills and Lysterfield Valley.
- Provides design guidance to implement the Knox Urban Design Framework 2020 (2003), Dandenong Foothills Urban and Landscape Review 2006 and City of Knox Neighbourhood Character Study 1999.

Melbourne 2030 recognises the environmental and landscape qualities of land in the vicinity of the Dandenong Ranges as having high environmental and social values of metropolitan significance.

The *Knox Urban Design Framework 2020* identified the Dandenong Ranges and its foothills as forming a backdrop to views across the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, including long range views from central city office buildings and other high points throughout the metropolitan area such as Northcote Hill and the Calder Highway. The important characteristics of the hills from these views are their heavily vegetated, apparently natural environment. These views are at risk from intensive residential redevelopment, poorly sited, designed and finished buildings and works, and removal of vegetation.

The interface between urban development and the Dandenong Ranges and national parks in Lysterfield are particularly susceptible to bushfire events. Within these areas, protection of human life and vegetation that has high significance to the landscape, may limit development potential.

Lysterfield Valley is classified by the National Trust as an “attractive pastoral landscape” and has been identified in *Melbourne 2030* as forming part of the Southern Ranges green wedge. Lysterfield Valley forms a key gateway to the Dandenongs and provides an important buffer between urban and rural areas.

This policy addresses five key landscape areas that make up the Dandenong Foothills area. These are the:

- Lysterfield Valley and Lysterfield Hills Rural Landscape
- Dandenong Foothills: Lower Slope and Valley Area
- Dandenong Foothills: Foothills Backdrop and Ridgeline Area
- The Basin Rural Landscape
- Lysterfield Urban/Rural Transition and Lysterfield Valley Contributory Area

22.01-2 Objectives28/03/2013
C110

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Protect and enhance the metropolitan landscape significance of the Dandenong Foothills and maintain uninterrupted view lines from within the municipality and vantage points in metropolitan Melbourne by ensuring that all buildings and works are sensitively designed and sited to sit below the dominant tree canopy height.
- Promote the maintenance and improvement of the continuous closed tree canopy by allowing enough open space within new development for the retention of existing canopy vegetation and growth of new canopy vegetation.
- Maintain the low density residential character of the landscape areas by ensuring that preferred subdivision patterns and lot sizes are retained.
- Protect the rural environments of The Basin and the Lysterfield Valley and Lysterfield Hills.
- Ensure that new buildings, works and landscaping in The Basin and the Lysterfield Valley and Lysterfield Hills protect the physical and visual amenity of the open pastoral setting.
- Limit further subdivision and rezoning of land for urban purposes where there is a high risk of bushfire.

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It is policy that:

Site analysis and design response

- Applications for buildings and works be accompanied by:
 - A site analysis.
 - A design response.

Site analysis

The site analysis may include a detailed site plan, photographs or other techniques and should accurately describe, as appropriate:

- The built form, scale, design and use of surrounding development.
- Solar access to the site and surrounding properties.
- Identified areas of environmental significance.
- Open space.
- Views to and from the site.
- Location of significant trees and vegetation.
- Drainage.
- Street frontage features such as poles, street trees and kerb crossovers.
- Any contaminated soils and filled areas, where known.
- Any other notable features or characteristics of the site

Design response

The design response should explain how the proposed design:

- Derives from and responds to the site analysis.
- Meets the objectives and requirements of this policy.
- Responds to any neighbourhood character features for the area identified in the Neighbourhood Character policy at Clause 22.07.

The design response should include correctly proportioned street elevations or photographs showing the development in the context of surrounding buildings and landscape.

Lysterfield Valley and Lysterfield Hills Rural Landscape

- Buildings and works be designed and sited to ensure that the rural landscape character is maintained and enhanced.
- Rural uses be maintained and encouraged.
- Indigenous trees and understorey vegetation be retained and protected.
- A minimum of 80% of all new vegetation (both canopy trees and understorey) be indigenous.

Dandenong Foothills: Lower Slope and Valley Area

- The design and siting of buildings, works and landscaping minimises the threat associated with bushfire.
- The design and siting of buildings, works and landscaping protects and enhances the visual dominance of vegetation, including canopy trees and native understorey plants to ensure that:
 - There is a continuous vegetation canopy across residential lots and roads.
 - Development blends with vegetation on the hillsides to maintain and enhance the appearance of the area as an extension of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
 - Development does not rise above the tree canopy height to maintain the significant landscape character of the area and near and distant view lines.
- Indigenous trees and understorey vegetation be retained and protected.
- A minimum of 80% of all new vegetation (both canopy trees and understorey) be indigenous.
- Building height does not exceed 7.5 metres (with the exception of land within The Basin Neighbourhood Activity Centre and Alchester Village Neighbourhood Activity Centre).

Dandenong Foothills: Foothills Backdrop and Ridgeline Area

- The design and siting of buildings, works and landscaping minimises the threat associated with bushfire.
- The design and siting of buildings, works and landscaping protects and enhances the visual dominance of vegetation, including canopy trees and native understorey plants, to ensure that:
 - There is a continuous vegetation canopy across residential lots and roads.
 - Development blends with vegetation on the hillsides to maintain and enhance the appearance of the area as an extension of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
 - There is effective screening of development and use of suitable colours and materials to maintain distant views and the appearance of a heavily vegetated natural hillside.
 - Development does not rise above the tree canopy height to maintain the significant landscape character of the area and near and distant view lines.
 - The significant landscape character of the area is protected and enhanced by retaining existing vegetation and planting indigenous canopy and understorey vegetation.

- Buildings and works located on sites at high points and along ridges are designed, finished and sited so that they are not highly visible from the valley area below.
- Indigenous trees and understorey vegetation be retained and protected.
- A minimum of 80% of all new vegetation (both canopy trees and understorey) be indigenous.
- Building height does not exceed 7.5 metres (with the exception of land within The Basin Neighbourhood Activity Centre and Alchester Village Neighbourhood Activity Centre).

The Basin Rural Landscape

- Land to the east and south of the Urban Growth Boundary be maintained for rural uses.
- Development and subdivision be limited to maintain land for rural uses and protect identified rural landscape qualities.
- Buildings and works be designed and sited to ensure that the rural landscape qualities are maintained and enhanced.
- The subdivision of land and the construction of buildings and works minimise the threat associated with bushfire.
- Indigenous trees and understorey vegetation be retained and protected.

Lysterfield Urban/Rural Transition and Lysterfield Valley Contributory Area

- Roads be aligned to provide an edge to the urban area and provide public access to reserves, parkland and views.
- Streets connect with adjoining development and provide informal street treatments incorporating indigenous vegetation and rollover kerbing.
- Building height does not exceed 7.5 metres
- The subdivision of land and the construction of buildings and works minimise the threat associated with bushfire.
- Indigenous trees and understorey vegetation be retained and protected.

Reference documents

National Trust Register No. 355 - Lysterfield Valley and Yarra Ranges Landscape
Melbourne 2030 - Planning for Sustainable Growth, State Government of Victoria, 2002
Knox Urban Design Framework 2020, Planisphere for Knox City Council, 2003
Dandenong Foothills Urban and Landscape Review, Hansen Partnership Pty. Ltd. for Knox City Council, March 2006
City of Knox Neighbourhood Character Study, Mike Scott and Associates for Knox City Council, 1999

Plan to Clause 22.01

