

## 21.04 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

19/10/2017  
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This clause provides local content to support Clause 13 (Environmental Risks) of the State Planning Policy Framework.

Specific references to individual towns are included in Clause 21.09 (Local Areas).

### 21.04-1 Key issue - Greenhouse and Climate Change

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As the Australian economy seeks to decarbonise, brown coal based power generation will not provide the opportunities in the future that it has in the past. However, a carbon constrained world presents new opportunities for Latrobe City to diversify its economy, by attracting new industries as well as capitalising on its strengths, expanding existing businesses, services and skills in the region.

Council has developed a range of policies and actions *through Positioning Latrobe City for a Low Carbon Emission Future 2010* to ensure that it is prepared for a low carbon future.

The key impacts of a changing climate for Latrobe include:

- Changes in rainfall patterns that pose challenges for water supply and agriculture.
- More common intense rainfall events which increase the risk of severe flooding.
- Higher temperatures which increase the likelihood of large and intense fires.
- Increased number of hot days and heatwaves which place substantial pressure on health services and infrastructure.
- Biodiversity changes.

#### Objective 1

To promote the use of water sensitive urban design (WSUD), including stormwater re-use.

#### Strategies

- 1.1 Promote greater use of water harvesting and water reuse within residential areas.
- 1.2 Encourage all commercial, industrial and residential developments incorporate WSUD techniques, particularly into their landscaped areas.

#### Objective 2

To reduce pollution from local domestic, transport and industry sources.

#### Strategies

- 2.1 Support the development and implementation of new technology designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.2 Encourage the reduction of pollution from Council activities, as well as local and domestic, transport and business sources.

#### Objective 3

To promote energy efficient building design to reduce the effects of climate change

#### Strategies

- 3.1 Encourage new residential buildings to be environmentally sustainable by encouraging the application of best practice design and energy ratings.
- 3.2 Encourage all new commercial and industrial buildings to incorporate energy efficient design measures.

### 21.04-2 Key issue - Floodplains

19/10/2017  
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Flooding is a natural hazard that can severely disrupt communities and may cause extensive damage, stock loss and, in extreme cases, loss of life. Careful planning and

management of floodplains has been effective in reducing damage and costs associated with flood events.

### **Objective 1**

To minimise the potential for loss of life, risk to health and damage to property, as a result of flooding.

#### **Strategies**

- 1.1 Discourage urban or rural residential development on areas subject to regular flooding.
- 1.2 Ensure the floodway is maintained and that the free passage and temporary storage of flood waters is not compromised.
- 1.3 Discourage subdivision, other than realignment or consolidation, in a floodway.
- 1.4 Discourage houses, other than replacement houses, in a floodway.
- 1.5 Require houses to be located above the 1:100 year flood level.
- 1.6 Require building envelopes for houses provide an adequate effluent disposal area which is free from flooding.
- 1.7 Discourage uses such as sewerage treatment and pumping works, intensive animal industries and sanitary landfill depots on flood prone land.
- 1.8 Ensure that the natural function of the floodplain to convey and store flood waters is preserved.
- 1.9 Ensure zones and overlays are updated when new reliable flood information is available.

### **Objective 2**

To sustainably manage floodplains.

#### **Strategies**

- 2.1 Discourage any urban expansion within floodplains that reduces flood storage, obstructs flood flows or increases the risk to life, health and safety.
- 2.2 Discourage raised earthworks that reduce natural flood storage, obstruct and/or redistribute flood flows, and increase flow velocities and levels.
- 2.3 Discourage developments in residential areas that encroach on 1:100 year floodplains or existing waterways.

## **21.04-3 Key issue - Waste Management**

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Latrobe City Council recognises waste management as a fundamental element of caring for the natural environment and has adopted a *Latrobe City Council Waste Management Strategy 2010-2017* to provide sustainable solutions to the collection, disposal and resource recovery of waste.

Council recognises that disposing of urban solid waste by means of landfill is not a sustainable waste management strategy. Across the world, governments have introduced legislation which limits the amount of waste that can be directed to landfill. This factor, coupled with the development of community waste education initiatives, leads to an increase in reuse and recycling and a move from disposal to a focus on materials recovery.

### **Objective 1**

To encourage waste minimisation and enhance resource recovery.

#### **Strategies**

- 1.1 Develop waste management facilities, techniques and technologies to advocate waste avoidance or minimisation, enhance resource recovery and achieve 'final storage quality'.
- 1.2 Adopt a regional approach to waste management.

- 1.3 Locate new waste management facilities in locations that do not detrimentally affect the amenity of the area.

#### 21.04-4 Key issue - Bushfire

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Extensive areas of the municipality are prone to bushfires. Council has adopted the *Municipal Fire Management Plan 2013-2016*, which has the primary objective of the protection of life and property. Large areas of grassland, scrub and forest have been identified on the Bushfire Management Overlay. A high level of hazard has also been identified in areas of rural residential development in the vicinity of the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges. It is important that all development and use of land have regard to fire safety measures. Planning can assist to decrease the level of risk to life and property and biodiversity and to facilitate the efforts of emergency service in the event of fire.

##### Objective 1

To minimise the risk to life, property and the environment from bushfire.

##### Strategies

- 1.1 Ensure that the design, siting and layout of subdivision increases protection from fire.
- 1.2 Ensure that use and development includes adequate fire protection measures.

#### 21.04-5 Key issue - Mine fire

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Council has concerns surrounding the general effective remediation of brown coal mines in the City. Council supports planning for the short, medium and long term remediation of the existing mines and planning for the use of brown coal in the future in order for it to best manage the urban growth of the municipality. Overall, Council acknowledges:

- There is a risk of timber plantation fires around mines. Vegetating the coal buffer areas was a recommendation of the Land Conservation Council reports of the 1970's, however in light of the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire, there is a potential problem with plantations in close proximity to a fire source. This is particularly significant for towns that are near large timber plantations and raises town safety and amenity issues that became apparent with the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire.
- Many infrastructure assets are also in areas that are at danger from mine and timber plantation fires.
- Timber plantations within buffer areas, plantation buffer distances from coal mines and separation distances between towns and mines all need to be assessed and considered.

##### Objective 1

To minimise the risk to life, property and the environment from fire within and around mine sites.

##### Strategies

- 1.1 Encourage design, siting and layout of open cut mines that take into account the need for protection from fire risk.
- 1.2 Encourage adequate buffers from open cut mines to timber plantations.

#### 21.04-6 Implementation

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The objectives, strategies and policy guidelines arising from this clause are implemented through the application of appropriate zones and overlays as described in Clause 21.10