

21.06 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

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This clause provides local content to support Clause 13 (Environmental risks).

The Council Plan 2013-2017 is committed to the following environmental and natural resource management issues:

- *Implement the key adopted actions of Council's Environment Strategy.*
- *Ensure that the need to mitigate the potential for natural disasters is considered in all key planning decisions by amending the Mansfield Planning Scheme to ensure flood and bushfire overlays reflect local conditions.*
- *Prepare a Shire-wide drainage strategy, and progressively implement the Mansfield Drainage Strategy.*
- *Work in partnership with Goulburn Murray Water and other lead agencies to deliver the key priorities of the Lake Eildon Land and On-Water Management Plan through participation in the Implementation Committee.*

21.06-1 Climate change impacts

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Overview

Council will face many challenges and some opportunities from climate change and climate variability. In the future it is likely there will be more heatwaves, intense and frequent fires and floods and storms. Thorough and thoughtful strategic planning will ensure the impact of these events are minimised even though they may be exacerbated by climate change.

Key Issues

- Responding to climate change
- Minimising greenhouse emissions
- Identifying opportunities arising from climate change impacts

Objective 1

To ensure future development considers the impacts of climate change.

Strategies

Strategy 1.1 Facilitate sustainable development by considering climate change impacts.

21.06-2 Flooding

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Overview

The Broken, Goulburn, Delatite, Jamieson, Howqua and Big Rivers and Fords Creek all have the capacity to flood and create environmental and property damage. Recent work by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has updated flood data for the shire and will be implemented by an amendment to the planning scheme. Mansfield Township and Jamieson are the focus of the new flood data.

Key Issues

- Flooding issues, particularly along the Broken and Goulburn Rivers and Fords Creek.
- Obtaining additional data to support further flood mapping.

Objective 1

To protect the floodplain from inappropriate development.

Strategies

- Strategy 1.1 Ensure that land use decision making recognises flood hazard.
- Strategy 1.2 Delineate those portions of the Broken, Goulburn, Delatite, Jamieson, Howqua and Big Rivers and Fords Creek which are inundated in a 1% probability flood event.
- Strategy 1.3 Discourage development that could adversely inhibit the flow of flood waters.
- Strategy 1.4 Maintain the function of the floodplains to convey water in flood events.

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Bushfire

Overview

Bushfire hazards can potentially impact on the risk to life, property and community infrastructure. The hazard is most significant in and around forested areas in mountainous topography. The urban areas of Mansfield Township are generally unaffected by bushfire risk. Other hazards include extensive grassland areas, particular at the urban / grassland interface of existing settlements.

The *Regional Bushfire Planning Assessment* identifies that development pressure near forested land and often in locations where there is only one access road is a major risk. The bushfire risk is increasing in areas that are popular for residential and rural residential development, areas where there is a high number of non-resident landowners and where property maintenance can be variable, and in areas which may potentially introduce vulnerable people to a location close to the bushfire hazard.

Council has completed the *Bushfire Planning Provisions – Mitigating Risk in Small Townships 2014* report which has led to a greater understanding of the risk levels of smaller towns and settlements.

Both the Alpine National Park and Mount Samaria National Park are densely vegetated. The National Parks are a major tourist attraction resulting in a trend towards people wanting to live in Mansfield Shire with approximately 45% of the total ratepayer base being part time resident and non resident landowners. With more than 60% of the Shire as crown land, land use and development planning must recognise and minimise that level of fire risk.

Ensuring that the risk of bushfire is considered at all levels of planning is important to strengthen resilience to bushfire and minimise the risk to life.

Key Issues

- Balancing the desire of many to live in treed environments with the threat of bushfire.
- Considering the threat posed by grass fires.

Objectives

- To ensure that strategic and settlement planning decisions prioritise the protection of human life, over other policy considerations.
- To strengthen community resilience to bushfire by ensuring that bushfire protection measures are considered and given effect to in large subdivisions outside of the Bushfire Management Overlay.
- To ensure that in areas outside of the Bushfire Management Overlay bushfire protection measures are considered for development which may be occupied by potentially vulnerable people.

Strategies

- Strategy 1.1 Direct growth to areas of lower bushfire risk and avoid development in areas at extreme bushfire risk and areas where bushfire protection measures will be incompatible with other environmental objectives.
- Strategy 1.2 Consider any access and egress routes to areas of relative safety when planning to create or expand existing settlements.
- Strategy 1.3 Consider the cumulative impact of decisions that may intensify the permanent, seasonal or temporary population in areas of high bushfire risk.
- Strategy 1.4 Consider the views of the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee on potential risk to life, property and community infrastructure, the ability to reduce the risk to an acceptable level through fire prevention activities and the ongoing resources which will be necessary to maintain those activities in conjunction with the ongoing use of land.
- Strategy 1.5 The subdivision of land outside of the Bushfire Management Overlay into more than 10 lots must:
- Consider connectivity to the existing road network and the reasonable opportunities which may be available to safely access locations that may provide shelter in the event of a bushfire.
 - Consider the need for perimeter roads and hard edges at the urban – hazard interface (including grassland).
 - Consider the need for multiple points of access and egress to the existing and proposed road network.
- Strategy 1.6 Potentially vulnerable development outside of the Bushfire Management Overlay must:
- Consider the bushfire risk at a local level.
 - Incorporate passive risk mitigation measures, including the siting, landscaping and layout of new development to enhance resilience.
 - Consider the need for an emergency management plan to be prepared to specifically manage people before, during and after a bushfire event.

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Reference documents

- Regional Bushfire Planning Assessment Hume Region 2011
- Bushfire Planning Provisions – Mitigating Risk in Small Townships 2014