

21.08 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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21.08-1 Agriculture

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Overview

Agriculture and associated agricultural manufacturing has always been the major industry within the Shire. Considerable opportunities exist to add value to primary produce and to diversify the base income of the rural sector and improve employment opportunities. The region's competitive strengths of rich agricultural soils, high rainfall and close proximity to Melbourne should be promoted to attract new industries complementary to the region's lifestyle.

Objectives and strategies

Objective 1 To maintain a viable and sustainable agricultural industry as the corner stone to the Shire's economy and its future wellbeing

- Strategy 1.1 Protect high quality agricultural land for primary production
- Strategy 1.2 Strongly discourage rural residential land use on lots over 4.1 hectares in agricultural areas
- Strategy 1.3 Strongly discourage the development of houses in old Crown township areas except where such lots form part of a sustainable farm or are adjacent to existing urban/serviced areas or have been approved for re-structure
- Strategy 1.4 Limit the impact of house lot excisions by strongly encouraging:
 - minimum log size of 0.4 hectares and a maximum lot size of 2 hectares for a house lot
 - residual lot to generally be a minimum of 40 hectares
- Strategy 1.5 Encourage and promote new and existing diverse and sustainable agriculture industries as an important contributor to the Shire's economy, including promoting the region as a premium 'green' products food bowl
- Strategy 1.6 Provide essential services to support agricultural production and economic development
- Strategy 1.7 Promote best practice agricultural land management which includes sustainable integration of economic and environmental needs
- Strategy 1.8 Ensure that the road network is capable of serving the transport needs of the farming community on an equitable basis
- Strategy 1.9 Promote sustainable land management through best practice, by encouraging the preparation and implementation of farm management plans addressing issues such as fire safety and prevention, safe storage and handling of dangerous goods, land management practices that address any significant environmental hazards, and diversification in crops and stock
- Strategy 1.10 Consider land capability when assessing applications for the use and development of rural land

Objective 2 To support developing marine industries and farm forestry

- Strategy 2.1 Support and facilitate the development of the marine industry in appropriate locations, such as wild harvest and aquaculture ventures

Strategy 2.2 Support and facilitate the development of farm forestry in appropriate locations

Implementation

The strategies relating to resource management – agriculture will be implemented through the planning scheme by:

Policy guidelines

- Assessing applications for land use or development with reference to the Regional Catchment Strategies and the South Gippsland Rural Land Use Strategy (2011)
- Assessing subdivision of rural land that will facilitate more intensive agricultural land uses with reference to the recommendations of the South Gippsland Rural Land Use Strategy (2011)
- Applying a minimum subdivision size of 80 hectares in Farming Zone areas in accordance with the schedule to the Farming Zone
- Applying a minimum area for which no permit is required for a dwelling of 40 hectares in the Farming Zone
- Applying the Rural Dwelling local policy at Clause 22.05 to all applications for dwellings in the Farming Zone
- Applying the Rural Subdivision local policy at Clause 22.06 to all applications for subdivision in the Farming Zone

Application of zones and overlays

- Applying the Farming Zone to areas outside the towns to protect land for primary production and to facilitate diversity in agricultural land uses

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Extractive industry

Overview

South Gippsland Shire is well placed to strengthen and build upon its existing resources, assets and infrastructure to create new and diverse economic development opportunities in relation to extractive industry.

Objectives and strategies

Objective 1 To encourage mining and extractive industry, processing and associated research in an environmentally responsible manner while ensuring that all land disturbed by mining and extractive industries is appropriately rehabilitated

Strategy 1.1 Protect the area identified in the *Lang Lang to Grantville Regional Sand Extraction Strategy* in the north-west of the Shire for its significant regional sand resource

Strategy 1.2 Promote sand extraction, quarrying and mining activities that do not have significant adverse impacts on the environment

Strategy 1.3 Ensure the appropriate rehabilitation of mines and extractive industry sites at the completion of their use

Implementation

Strategies for resource management – extractive industry will be implemented by:

Application of zones and overlays

- Applying the Rural Activity Zone to areas outside the towns to protect land for primary production and to facilitate diversity in tourism based uses in an agricultural context

Policy guidelines

- Assessing applications for land use and development in the north-west of the Shire are with reference to the Lang Lang to Grantville Regional Sand Extraction Strategy

Further strategic work

- Investigating the preparation of Gippsland Coalfields Area local policy including an overall framework plan for the resource
- Commissioning the Geological Survey of Victoria to undertake a report on the Extractive Industry Interest Areas to identify stone resources and to contribute to their use and development in a manner consistent with State wide protection of stone resources