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OPERATION OF THE PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Purpose of the Planning Policy Framework

The Planning Policy Framework provides a context for spatial planning and decision making by planning and responsible authorities. The Planning Policy Framework is dynamic and will be built upon as planning policy is developed and refined, and changed as the needs of the community change.

The Planning Policy Framework seeks to ensure that the objectives of planning in Victoria (as set out in section 4 of the Act) are fostered through appropriate land use and development planning policies and practices that integrate relevant environmental, social and economic factors in the interests of net community benefit and sustainable development.

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Operation

The Planning Policy Framework sets out the planning policies that form part of this planning scheme. It comprises Clauses 10 to 19.

A planning policy applies to all land subject to this planning scheme unless the policy specifies otherwise.

A planning policy provides guidance for decision making and can help the community to understand how the responsible authority will consider a proposal.

The consistent application of planning policy over time should achieve a desired outcome.

A planning authority must take into account the Planning Policy Framework when it prepares an amendment to this planning scheme.

A responsible authority must take into account and give effect to the Planning Policy Framework when it makes a decision under this planning scheme. This does not apply to policy guidelines and policy documents.

Policy guidelines

A planning policy may include policy guidelines. Policy guidelines indicate how objectives can be met and how strategies can be implemented.

A responsible authority must take a relevant policy guideline into account when it makes a decision under this planning scheme, but is not required give effect to it. If the responsible authority is satisfied that an alternative approach meets the objective, the alternative may be considered.

Policy documents

A planning policy may include reference to a policy document. A policy document may be an incorporated, background and other document.

A background document listed in the table or the schedule to Clause 72.08 that applies to Clauses 10 to 19 is a policy document for applicable planning policies.

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Integrated decision making

Society has various needs and expectations such as land for settlement, protection of the environment, economic wellbeing, various social needs, proper management of resources and infrastructure. Planning aims to meet these needs and expectations by addressing aspects of economic, environmental and social wellbeing affected by land use and development.

Planning and responsible authorities should endeavour to integrate the range of planning policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations. However, in bushfire affected areas, planning and responsible authorities must prioritise the protection of human life over all other policy considerations.

Planning authorities should identify the potential for regional impacts in their decision making and coordinate strategic planning with their neighbours and other public bodies to achieve sustainable development and effective and efficient use of resources.

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Transitional

If this planning scheme includes a Municipal Strategic Statement at Clause 21 and local planning policies at Clause 22, the provisions of Clauses 23.01, 23.02 and 23.03 apply. To the extent of any inconsistency, Clauses 23.02 and 23.03 prevail over this clause.