In May 2018 landmark legislation Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Act 2018 was passed to recognise Victoria’s most distinctive natural and cultural landscapes.

Background

The Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Act 2018 establishes a new benchmark to guard against inappropriate development in sensitive areas across Victoria and safeguards their unique features for future generations.

The legislation enables better management of the peri-urban areas around metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria’s regional cities, strengthening the process for protecting social, environmental and economic values in these key areas.

The Act aims to:

- recognise the importance of distinctive areas and landscapes to the people of Victoria and to protect and conserve the environmental, social and economic value of these areas
- enhance conservation of the environment including unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity
- promote cross-government coordination by enabling the integration of policy development, implementation and decision-making
- recognise the connection and stewardship of Victoria’s Traditional Owner communities.

This pioneering legislation represents the first step in implementing the Victorian Government’s commitment in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 to strengthen planning protection for our distinctive landscapes and valued non-urban areas.

Settlement Boundaries

A Statement of Planning Policy will secure the long-term sustainability of townships in declared areas by designating long-term settlement boundaries to ensure growth does not encroach into valued natural and rural landscapes.

Once designated, any future amendment to long-term settlement boundaries must be ratified by Parliament – similar to the process in place for Melbourne’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

Accessibility

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