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## LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT



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The implementation recommendations for the South West Victoria Landscape Assessment Study represent the third and final stage of the project, following the determination and analysis of landscape character, and the significance assessment of the landscape and views.

This section of the Regional Overview Report contains an executive summary of the suite of recommendations, and briefly describes the approach and rationale for them.

## THE VICTORIA PLANNING PROVISIONS

The focus for implementation of the study is through the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPs) via local planning schemes. This was the intention of the study from the outset, and is clearly stated in the project brief. Successful implementation of the proposed planning scheme policy statements and controls will legally bind local Councils, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and applicants to consider the identified values of landscapes that have been defined and documented as part of the study.

A detailed audit of all existing planning scheme policies and controls that apply across the region underpinned the proposed statutory recommendations for the study.

## REGIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

A set of Landscape Management Guidelines ('guidelines') have been prepared for the study area, based on the various Landscape Character Types, and their sensitivity to change, and are appended to the relevant Landscape Character Type Analysis Papers. These guidelines have informed the development of the proposed SLO schedules that have been prepared as part of the study, and form the basis of the following objectives and strategies that should apply to the protection and management of landscapes at a regional level.

These (or an abridged version) may be considered for inclusion in the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) at Clause 12.04-2 Landscapes, and incorporation in the Regional Growth Plans (in preparation at the time of this study).

The objectives for the protection and management of landscapes within the South West Region of Victoria are:

- To protect and manage the significant landscapes of South West Victoria, including the following landscapes of State significance (and other identified landscapes of regional significance):
  - Grampians Ranges (Gariwerd) and surrounds
  - Mount Arapiles (Djurite) and surrounds
  - Wannon and Nigretta Falls
  - the Volcanic Cones and Lava Flows district, including Mount Rouse, Mount Eccles (Budj Bim) and surrounds, and Mount Napier
  - the Volcanic Cones, Lakes and Stony Rises district, including Lake Corangamite and nearby volcanic rises
  - Lal Lal and Werribee Gorges

- Brisbane Ranges and Rowsley Scarp
- Parwan Valley
- You Yangs (Wurdi Youang)
- The Hepburn Gold Mines and Volcanic district
- To protect and enhance the identified significant views and vistas of South West Victoria.
- To manage the visual impact of development on the character and significance of the landscape.
- To maintain the important contribution that significant landscapes and views make to the regional economy as tourism assets.
- To maintain the positive contribution that productive agriculture and sustainable land management practices make to the character of the landscape.
- To protect and enhance remnant indigenous and/or native vegetation as an important landscape feature of South West Victoria, especially remnant River Red Gums.

The strategies for the protection and management of landscapes within the South West Region of Victoria are:

- Ensure that the design and external appearance of development complements the character of the surrounding landscape with consideration of form, construction materials, colours and finishes, and design detailing.
- Ensure that development in the foreground of identified significant views is sited and designed to minimize visual intrusion (e.g. low building heights, minimal building footprints, appropriate colours and materials to the setting, and integration with vegetation.)

- Ensure that large scale development is sited to avoid impacting on significant landscapes and views, with particular consideration given to the foreground of identified significant views, which are particularly sensitive to visual intrusion.

Ensure that development is sited:

- Within existing clusters of buildings where possible.
- Away from visually prominent locations such as ridge lines and hill faces.
- Away from identified landscape features.
- Among established vegetation and/or screened with substantial landscaping of locally appropriate species.
- To follow the contours and/or natural form of the landscape.
- To minimise visibility from identified significant viewing locations, including major road corridors.
- Protect and rehabilitate significant stands of remnant indigenous and/or native vegetation where they are integral to the character and significance of the landscape, and where practical. Particular consideration should be given to vegetation at roadsides, throughout paddocks, and adjacent to waterways, subject to farming requirements, fire protection and safety.

The South West Victoria Landscape Assessment Study 2013 should also be included at Clause 12.04-2 of the SPPF under ‘policy guidelines’.

## MUNICIPAL TOOLKITS

The statutory implementation recommendations are packaged into ‘Municipal Toolkits’, being stand alone reports for each municipality within the study area, containing the following:

- A summary of landscape character types and areas within the municipality;
- a summary of significant landscapes and significant views within the municipality;
- a list of current planning scheme provisions relating to landscape;
- suggested inclusions to the existing Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS), and advice regarding the use of local policy;
- proposed application of the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO), SLO maps and draft schedules;
- proposed amendments to existing SLO maps and schedules (where relevant); and,
- relevant background information, maps and justification to support each SLO package.

# PROPOSED SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAYS

The map opposite depicts the proposed use of the SLO across the region to protect and manage the landscapes of regional and state significance.

Twenty new SLOs are proposed to be implemented throughout South West Victoria. In addition, 18 existing SLOs currently in place across the region have been amended (both spatially and/or in relation to schedule content). These are shown on the map as 'new' or 'revised'.

Landscapes covered by existing SLOs that were not identified as being of regional or state significance are outside the scope of this study and have not been amended.

## PROPOSED SLO BY MUNICIPALITY

- N** New SLO
- R** Revised SLO

### West Wimmera Shire

- N** Douglas Saline Lakes

### Horsham Rural City

- R** SLO1 Grampians (Gariwerd) Surrounds
- R** SLO2 Mount Arapiles (Djurite) Surrounds
- R** SLO3 Black Ranges (Burrunj) Surrounds
- N** Natimuk - Douglas Saline Wetland Depression

### Northern Grampians Shire

- R** SLO1 Grampians (Gariwerd) Surrounds

### Southern Grampians Shire

- N** Grampians (Gariwerd) Surrounds
- R** SLO2 Volcanic Cones & Lava Flows
- R** SLO3 Nigretta & Wannon Falls Reserves
- N** Merino Tablelands

### Glenelg Shire

- N** Harmans Valley & Tyrendarra Lava Flows
- N** The Hummocks
- N** Merino Tablelands

### Moyne Shire

- N** Lava Flows & Mount Eccles (Budj Bim) Surrounds
- N** Volcanic Rises

### Rural City of Ararat

- R** Grampians (Gariwerd) Surrounds
- N** Lower Pyrenees Environs
- N** Ararat Hills & Ridges

### Pyrenees Shire

- N** Island Uplands (Mount Ercildoune / Mount Misery)
- N** Mount Emu
- N** Lower Pyrenees Environs

### Corangamite Shire Council

- R** SLO1 Volcanic Cones, Lakes & Stony Rises

### Colac Otway Shire

- R** SLO1 Volcanic Cones, Lakes & Stony Rises

### Golden Plains Shire

- R** SLO1 Devils Kitchen
- N** Brisbane Ranges & Rowsley Scarp Environs
- N** Barrabool Hills

### City of Greater Geelong

- R** SLO5 Brisbane Ranges & Rowsley Scarp
- R** SLO1 You Yangs (Wurdi Youang) Foothills
- R** Anakie Hills

### Moorabool Shire

- N** Werribee Gorge
- N** Brisbane Ranges & Rowsley Scarp Environs
- N** Parwan Valley
- N** Bacchus Marsh Agricultural Valley
- N** Mount Buninyong & Mount Warrenheip Environs

### Ballarat City

- N** Mount Buninyong Environs
- R** SLO1 Island Uplands (Mount Bolton)

### Hepburn Shire

- R** SLO1 Hepburn Gold Mines & Volcanic District
- N** Island Uplands (Mount Beckworth)

