

DIRECTION NO. 22

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATION

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Direction is to specify the matters relating to climate change a planning authority must have regard to in preparing a planning scheme or amendment to a planning scheme in accordance with section 12(2A) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

Note: Section 12(2A) of the Act does not apply to the preparation of an amendment that meets the requirements of the transitional provisions at section 230 of the Act.

The Minister may publish guidance from time to time on the application of this Direction to the preparation of a planning scheme or amendment.

Definitions

2. In this Direction:
 - (a) **climate change consideration report** means a report that documents how a proposed planning scheme or amendment to a planning scheme considers and responds to minimising greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to climate change risks, when decisions will be made about the use and development of land to which the planning scheme or amendment will apply.
 - (b) **emissions reductions targets** means an interim and a long-term emissions reduction target as established under Part 2 of the *Climate Action Act 2017* (Vic).
 - (c) **non-urban land** means land included in a non-urban zone.
 - (d) **non-urban zone** means a rural zone or a public land zone in the *Victoria Planning Provisions*.
 - (e) **precinct-scale means** a scale that encompasses an entire city, region, settlement, town, precinct, neighbourhood or activity centre.
 - (f) **prescribed amendment** means a class of amendment prescribed for the purposes of section 20A of the Act.
 - (g) **urban land** means land included in an urban zone.
 - (h) **urban zone** means a residential zone, industrial zone, commercial zone or special purpose zone in the *Victoria Planning Provisions*.

Application

3. A planning authority must have regard to the matters relating to climate change specified in paragraph (5) and (6) when it prepares:
 - (a) a planning scheme under section 8(1) of the Act; or
 - (b) an amendment to a planning scheme to rezone land from a non-urban zone to an urban zone; or
 - (c) an amendment to a planning scheme that will have the effect of enabling:
 - i. a significant change to, or intensification of, the use and development of urban land; or

- ii. a new use and development of land (whether or not subject to the grant of a planning permit) that may be exposed to a natural hazard that arises from, or is likely to arise from, the impacts of climate change.
- 4. The requirements of section 12(2A) of the Act and this Direction do not apply in respect of the preparation of:
 - (a) a class of amendment prescribed in accordance with section 20A of the Act;
 - (b) an amendment which does not do any of the things specified in paragraph (3)(b) and (c).

Requirements to be met – minimising greenhouse gas emissions

- 5. For the purposes of section 12(2A)(a) of the Act a planning authority must have regard to emissions reductions targets by considering the likely extent to which the planning scheme or amendment minimises greenhouse gas emissions, through measures most relevant to strategic or precinct-scale responses, including:
 - (a) prioritising urban renewal and infill development over new greenfield development outside of defined growth corridors;
 - (b) planning for an urban structure and layout that facilitates:
 - i. access to and use of public transport;
 - ii. active transport, including pedestrian and bicycle networks; and
 - iii. solar orientation of lots and solar access for future development.
 - (c) planning for projected increases in zero emissions vehicles at a precinct scale, including consideration of necessary infrastructure needs; and
 - (d) precinct-scale planning to support renewable energy infrastructure.

Requirement to be met – increasing resilience to climate change risks

- 6. For the purposes of section 12(2A)(b) of the Act, a planning authority must have regard to the need to increase resilience to climate change when decisions are made about the use and development of land, considering as relevant:
 - (a) the impact of climate change on natural hazards, including but not limited to risks related to bushfire and flood (riverine, drainage, overland flow, coastal), erosion, landslip and landslide, heatwave and drought;
 - (b) how the use and development of land envisaged by the planning scheme or amendment will be resilient to the impact of, or likely impact of, climate change on natural hazards, including through:
 - i. avoiding exposure of new use and development to risks posed by natural hazards;
 - ii. ensuring new use and development does not exacerbate risk to existing residents, property, infrastructure and the natural environment;
 - iii. ensuring new use and development will be located and appropriately designed inclusive of protection measures, to minimise exposure to risks posed by natural hazards; and
 - iv. ensuring identified protection measures are proportionate to the risk and practical.
 - (c) the provisions of the planning scheme, including State and regional planning policies in the Planning Policy Framework that relate to those natural hazards and climate change risks; and

- (d) the advice and views of applicable emergency management and natural resource management agencies about the risks posed by climate change impacts.

Requirements that do not need to be met

7. A planning authority is not required to quantify the direct or indirect greenhouse gas emissions likely to be generated by the use or development of land envisaged by the proposed planning scheme or amendment.
8. A planning authority is not required to have regard to any matter other than the matters specified in paragraphs (5) and (6) of this Direction.

How requirements are to be met

9. The matters specified in paragraphs (5) and (6) are to be met by including a statement in the explanatory report prepared in respect of the proposed planning scheme or amendment explaining how the requirements of this Direction have been met.
10. The statement in the explanatory report must be supported by preparation of a Climate change consideration report.

Relationship to other considerations and Ministerial Directions

11. Nothing in this Direction alters the obligations of a planning authority to consider the matters under section 12(2) of the Act, including other Ministerial Directions, notwithstanding there may be areas of overlap with the subject matter of this Direction.

Exemption by Minister

12. The Minister may exempt a planning authority from the requirement to comply with this Direction in relation to a proposed planning scheme or planning scheme amendment.
13. An exemption granted by the Minister under paragraph (12) may be subject to conditions.

HON SONYA KILKENNY

Minister for Planning

Date: 28 August 2025

Commencement Details	
Commenced	11 September 2025