

# Climate change consideration guidelines

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Department  
of Transport  
and Planning

This guideline provides information on how to prepare and evaluate a proposed planning scheme or planning scheme amendment to satisfy section 12(2A) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) and *Ministerial Direction 22 - Climate Change Consideration* (Ministerial Direction).

Reference to climate change in this guideline includes consideration of and responses to greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and increasing resilience to climate change risks.

## 1.0 CONTEXT

### 1.1 Victoria's climate action

#### 1.1.1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets

Legislated GHG emissions targets under the *Climate Action Act 2017* (CA Act) include a target of net zero emissions by 2045, along with interim emissions reduction targets of 28-33% by 2025, 45-50% by 2030 and 75-80% by 2040.

The state legislated GHG emissions reduction targets provide the policy context for section 12(2A)(a) of the Act, which requires planning authorities to have regard to the targets when preparing a planning scheme or amendment.

*Victoria's Climate Change Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning DELWP, May 2021) is issued every five years under the CA Act and outlines Victoria's plan for reducing GHG emissions.

#### 1.1.2 Climate change adaptation

The CA Act also includes a policy objective to build the resilience of the State's infrastructure, built environment and communities through effective adaptation and disaster preparedness action. Adaptation objectives and priorities are outlined in *Victoria's Climate Change Strategy* (DELWP, May 2021) and associated adaptation action plans (prepared every five years), to support a more climate resilient built and natural environment.

Land use and development planning measures are set out in the *Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026* (DELWP 2022), one of seven adaptation action plans.

### 1.2 Relevant sections of the Act

One of the objectives of the planning framework established by the Act, is to provide for explicit consideration of the policies and obligations of the State relating to climate change, including but not limited to GHG emissions reduction targets and the need to increase resilience to climate change, when decisions are made about the use and development of land (section 4(2)(da)). It guides planning authorities in their 5-yearly reviews of planning schemes and provides more explicit support for climate related provisions being included in planning schemes.

Under section 12(2A) in preparing a planning scheme or amendment, a planning authority must, in accordance with and subject to the Ministerial Direction, have regard to:

- emissions reduction targets



- any significant risk to any use or development envisaged by the scheme or amendment that arises from, or is likely to arise from, the impacts of climate change.

### 1.3 Ministerial Direction

The Ministerial Direction specifies:

- the type of planning scheme amendments to which the requirement in section 12(2A) of the Act applies (Section 2.0 of this guideline)
- the matters relating to climate change, a planning authority must have regard to or is not required to have regard to (Section 3.0 of this guideline)
- how the requirement under section 12(2A) of the Act is to be satisfied (Section 4.0 of this guideline).

The Ministerial Direction focuses on strategic planning scheme decisions, highlighting the benefits of early integration of Victoria's climate change objectives into the land use and development process.

A planning authority must also have regard to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and any policy statement which forms part of the planning scheme. The VPP and all planning schemes contain existing policy and statutory controls which support:

- emissions reduction, including through reducing fossil gas use, enhancing energy efficiency, increasing use of active and public transport and facilitating renewable energy
- increasing resilience to climate change, including in relation to coastal inundation and erosion, bushfire, flood, landslip and landslide, and additional impacts relating to drought and heatwave as highlighted through the Ministerial Direction.

### 1.4 Transitional provisions under the Act

Under the transitional provisions (section 230 of the Act) section 12(2A) **does not** apply to the preparation of an amendment if one or more of the following steps has been taken before 26 March 2025:

- The planning authority has given notice of the preparation of the amendment in accordance with section 19.
- The planning authority has applied to the Minister under section 20(1) for an exemption in respect of the amendment.
- Any person has:
  - made a request for the preparation of the amendment
  - applied for an exemption under section 20(4) from any of the requirements of section 19 in respect of the amendment.
- The Minister has exercised a power of exemption under section 20(2) or (4) in respect of the amendment.
- The Minister has determined under section 20A(2) to prepare the amendment.
- The Minister has either:
  - established a committee under section 151 to advise on the amendment or the preparation of the amendment; or
  - referred the amendment or the preparation of the amendment to a committee established under section 151 for advice.



## 2.0 APPLICATION

### 2.1 What does section 12(2A) of the Act apply to?

The requirement to have regard to climate change matters under section 12(2A) applies to the:

- preparation of a new planning scheme
- the type of amendments specified in the Ministerial Direction.

Section 2.1.2 of this guideline outlines the type of amendments to which the requirements **apply** and Section 2.2 the type of amendments that **do not apply**.

#### 2.1.1 Preparation of a planning scheme

A new planning scheme must be approved by the Minister for Planning under section 8(1) of the Act. The planning scheme must be consistent with State planning policies relating to GHG emissions, natural hazards and climate change.

#### 2.1.2 Preparation of a planning scheme amendment

The requirement applies to planning scheme amendments prepared by a council or other planning authority directly or an amendment proposal initiated by a landowner or other person. If an amendment is prepared at the request of a landowner or other person, the planning authority should discuss the Ministerial Direction with the proponent, so they understand the requirements, including the preparation of relevant documentation.

Climate change should be an early consideration when undertaking strategic work and consultation that may result in the preparation of an amendment. This approach should apply regardless of the process leading to an amendment, for example undertaking a planning scheme review, or preparing a housing strategy or initiating the rezoning of land.

Note the Ministerial Direction defines:

- **non-urban land** as 'land included in a non-urban zone'
- **non-urban zone** as 'a rural zone or a public land zone in the *Victoria Planning Provisions*'
- **urban land** as 'land included in an urban zone'.
- **urban zone** as 'a residential zone, industrial zone, commercial zone or special purpose zone in the *Victoria Planning Provisions*'.

The type of amendments that need to demonstrate that climate change has been considered include the following:

- **Enabling non-urban land to be used and developed as urban land**

Example amendments where the Ministerial Direction applies include rezoning land from a:

- rural zone to urban zone (including implementing a precinct structure plan)
- Green Wedge Zone to the Urban Growth Zone
- Rural Living Zone to an Industrial, Commercial or Mixed Use Zone.

- **Enabling significant change to and or intensification of the use and development of urban land**



- Example amendments where the Ministerial Direction applies include, rezoning land from the General Residential Zone to the Residential Growth Zone or applying a Development Contributions Plan to land zoned as Urban Growth Zone.
- **Enabling 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**
  - An amendment that has the effect of enabling a new use and development of land must consider whether that use and development has the potential to be affected by a natural hazard that arises from, or is likely to arise from, the impact of climate change. This includes natural hazard risks relating to bushfire and flood (riverine, drainage, overland flow, coastal), erosion, landslip and landslide, heatwave and drought.

Example amendments where the Ministerial Direction applies include rezoning:

- land from the Farming Zone to the Low Density Residential Zone in a designated bushfire prone area
- surplus government land in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay from the Public Use Zone to the Mixed Used Zone
- land to the Residential Growth Zone, if information is held by a catchment management authority or council that the land is affected by flood hazard (as indicated by information sources such as a completed flood study) including floodplain management authority advice on potential increases in flood hazard due to climate change.

## 2.2 What amendments does section 12(2A) of the Act not apply to?

The requirement to have regard to climate change matters under section 12(2A) and the Ministerial Direction does not apply to:

- a class of amendment prescribed in accordance with section 20A of the Act
- an amendment which does not do any of the things in paragraph 3(b) and (c) of the Ministerial Direction (Section 2.1 of this guideline).

## 3.0 REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET

### What climate change matters are not required to be considered under section 12(2A) of the Act?

The Ministerial Direction specifies that a planning authority is not required to:

- quantify the direct or indirect GHG emissions likely to be generated by the use or development of land envisaged by the proposed planning scheme or amendment
- consider any other matter other than the matters specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Ministerial Direction (Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this guideline).

The Ministerial Direction does not require a planning authority to undertake quantitative assessments of abatement options against Victoria's emissions reduction targets, nor to set site specific abatement targets for precincts or land use change enabled by planning scheme amendments.

The Ministerial Direction does not require a planning authority to mandate building or plumbing performance standards on matters dealt with through the *Building Act 1993* and subordinate legislation, *Plumbing Regulations 2018* and the [National Construction Code](#), or control the discharge of GHG emissions as regulated under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.



## What climate change matters must be considered under section 12(2A) of the Act?

The Ministerial Direction specifies the climate change matters that a planning authority must consider, which are set out under Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this guideline as key considerations.

### 3.1 MINIMISING GHG EMISSIONS

It is a requirement for planning authorities to have regard to the GHG emissions reduction targets by considering the likely extent to which the planning scheme or amendment minimises GHG emissions, through measures most relevant to strategic or precinct-scale responses.

Transitioning to a low emissions built environment is necessary to support Victoria's GHG emissions reduction targets. Planning scheme amendments provide an opportunity to use urban structure and layout, along with consideration of infrastructure needs to help reduce transport related GHG emissions, reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency, and enable increased use of renewable energy in our cities and towns.

The Ministerial Direction defines **precinct-scale** as 'a scale that encompasses an entire city, region, settlement, town, precinct, neighbourhood or activity centre'.

#### 3.1.1 Key considerations

The following are suggested planning measures to help minimise GHG emissions including, land use and urban layout responses.

##### Focusing growth in established areas and designated growth areas

Urban layout measures to locate new development in and around existing urban areas and towns and designated growth areas contribute to reducing transport related emissions.

Victoria's Housing Statement adopts the target for 70 per cent of new homes to be built in established areas, while making sure defined growth areas deliver 30 per cent of new homes near transport, job opportunities and essential services, together helping reduce transport related emissions and embodied energy (through use of existing infrastructure). Planning for urban growth should prioritise opportunities for the consolidation, redevelopment and intensification of existing urban areas.

Specifically:

Does the planning scheme amendment enable urban development focused on urban consolidation, redevelopment and intensification of existing urban areas?


**Example response:** Specify the proportion of urban growth associated with the planning scheme amendment designated for existing urban areas or settlements (based on planned housing density or relative land area allocated to specific zones from high to lower urban density).

##### Urban structure, layout and density

Design the urban structure, layout and residential densities to support access to and use of public and active transport, including pedestrian and bicycle networks, and building energy performance through solar access.

Specifically:

- Does the proposed urban structure, land use layout and the design of access routes support walkable neighbourhoods?



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**Example response:** Are proposed higher density areas in growth areas of over 30 lots per net developable hectare within walkable distance of existing and proposed activity centres, train stations, major transport routes and public open spaces? Applying the [six 'Hallmarks'](#) of 20-minute neighbourhoods. Refer to the [20-minute neighbourhoods checklist tool](#) (Department of Transport and Planning, 2023) and the Amenity-based density model outlined in the [Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines - Part 3](#) (Victorian Planning Authority, October 2021) can help identify measures appropriate for framework and structure plans.

Does lot distribution (or density) provide for 95 per cent of dwellings to be located no more than 800 metres street walking distance from the nearest existing or proposed railway station, 400 metres street walking distance from the nearest existing or proposed bus stop, and 600 metres street walking distance from the nearest existing or proposed tram stop unless, constrained by existing site conditions or topographic features.

Does the urban structure and proposed street network orientation support good solar orientation of lots and solar access for future development?

**Example response:** Roads and streets oriented, so north-south streets are within 20° west and 10° east of true north, and east-west streets are within 30° south and 20° north of true east (Note this will help ensure at residential subdivision stage at least 70 percent of lots achieve appropriate solar orientation).

### Planning for renewable energy and zero emissions vehicles

Review opportunities for precinct-scale planning to support renewable energy (for example, precinct scale battery storage) and projected increases in zero emissions vehicles by considering the following:

- Have any third party energy service or electric vehicle providers sought precinct design, urban layout, or electricity infrastructure measures to support their future initiatives?
- Has the relevant Distribution and Network Service Provider (DNSP) identified any electricity grid readiness issues to meet future use of neighbourhood batteries and electric vehicles and associated infrastructure?

#### 3.1.2 What requirements are expected across different geographical areas?

The requirement to minimise GHG emissions should be considered across the different urban contexts, such as greenfield and infill areas, but responses, priorities and emphasis will vary with context. For example, there is more scope in established urban areas to review opportunities for neighbourhood batteries due to the presence of existing community groups who may be well placed to manage such initiatives.

Relevant considerations will also differ based on geographical location, such as urban areas in metropolitan Melbourne compared to urban areas in regional Victoria. For example, the population densities of small regional settlements may limit opportunities to plan development around public transport nodes, although small regional towns may be more walkable, supporting 20-minute neighbourhoods outcomes by virtue of their size.



## 3.2 INCREASING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

It is a requirement to have regard to any significant risk to any use or development envisaged by the scheme or amendment that arises from, or is likely to arise from, the impacts of climate change by considering:

- the impact of climate change on natural hazards
- 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.

Victoria's built environment already contends with risks from natural hazards, including but not limited to bushfire, flood (including riverine, drainage, overland flows, coastal), coastal erosion, landslip and landslide, heatwave and drought.

Climate change is projected to increase the magnitude or intensity, frequency, duration, timing and spatial extent of natural hazards. This increases risks to human life, the safety and function of the built environment and its capacity to meet our present and future needs. Planning must also account for impacts that are both gradual and will occur over a long-time frame (for example, shifts in the seasonality of rainfall patterns) or can have immediate effect (for example, extreme weather events).

The VPP and planning schemes have well established mechanisms for responding to most natural hazards as part of land use decision making. Strategic planning can achieve significant prevention and adaptation outcomes by identifying, assessing and responding to natural hazard and risk when planning for future land use, urban and settlement growth and development.

### 3.2.1 Key considerations

The key climate change resilience considerations for each natural hazard that must be addressed by the planning authority are set out in Section 3.2.2 of this guideline.

Considerations applying to all natural hazards are addressed below.

#### Seeking early advice from relevant agencies

Seeking the early advice and views of applicable emergency management and natural resource management agencies is important too:

- identify relevant information such as hazard related data to support strategic work that underpins an amendment
- confirm the scale, detail and form of any hazard and risk assessments required for the proposal
- clarify the applicability and constraints of technical assessments
- gain an initial understanding of the climate change implications of the proposed land use change.

There are no statutory requirements on when and how agency advice should be sought as part of strategic planning. It is good practice to seek advice early, particularly in the preliminary assessment stage of strategic work prior to commencement of the amendment process. Relevant agencies can then gain an initial and timely understanding of the proposal and their advice can be incorporated from the outset. Early engagement ensures that planning authorities are not seeking this advice during the planning scheme amendment process. Attempting to apply retrospective advice can be problematic when strategic decisions about land use have already been taken.

If the amendment is proponent led, the proponent should seek the views of the applicable agency and provide evidence of this to the planning authority.





**Table: Designated State agencies**

NATURAL HAZARD	AGENCY
<b>Bushfire</b>	Relevant fire authority (Fire Rescue Victoria or Country Fire Authority)
<b>Flood</b>	Relevant floodplain management authority
<b>Coastal inundation</b>	Relevant floodplain management authority
<b>Drought (water supply)</b>	Relevant water corporation

Note: There is no designated State agency for landslip/landslide or heatwave hazards.

### Climate change data

Hazard and risk assessments, benchmarks and standards need to be based on best available science and information on the potential for increased climate-related hazards for Victoria. Assessments should be undertaken using methods, data and climate science issued or endorsed by relevant State and Commonwealth authorities, with reference to any climate science reports issued under the CC Act. On a case-by-case basis, standards issued by Standards Australia may also be suitable, where adopted by a relevant Victorian Government or Commonwealth Agency.

### Requirements across different geographical areas

The requirement to support resilience to climate change risks must be considered across the different urban contexts, such as greenfield and infill areas, and different geographical locations. Where use and development is considered acceptable on land subject to a natural hazard, the design response will vary with context. For example, there is more scope to plan for a 30 per cent tree canopy cover across a greenfield precinct area, whereas many small infill locations have more limited space for tree planting due to existing built structures.

For land subject to bushfire hazards, the primacy of human life is the priority consideration in all instances. Planning responses to flood risk will also vary between greenfield and established urban areas. In established locations there may be more emphasis on flow management higher in the catchment (outside the area subject to a planning scheme amendment) and on enhancing existing infrastructure, particularly if land availability for retarding basins is limited.

## 3.2.2 Natural hazards

### Bushfire

If the amendment affects land exposed to a bushfire hazard, it needs to be informed by the following:

- a bushfire hazard assessment based on best available information and modelling on the potential for increased climate hazards<sup>1</sup> and any other applicable site specific information, considering risks and consequences for people, infrastructure or the environment
- an evaluation of the suitability of the land for new use and development in areas where there is a high risk of bushfire





- an evaluation of alternate low-risk locations for new land use and development, or settlement growth to avoid or minimise the exposure of people and future development to high hazard exposure (e.g. radiant heat impacts)
- an evaluation of whether proposed bushfire protection measures are practicable for ongoing management and risk minimisation
- consideration of the location and characteristics of likely future occupants and visitors, including age, mobility and capacity to evacuate
- consideration of the integration of strategic land use planning with emergency management decision making, such as the impacts on service delivery and safety of fire fighting
- advice from the relevant fire authority.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Section 3.2.1 'Climate change data' on page 8 of this guideline.

### **Flood (including riverine, drainage)**

Locations subject to a planning scheme amendment that are exposed to flood hazard and risk need to be informed by a flood study and where state-funded must include climate modelling in accordance with the *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* (DELWP 2016). Victoria applies the current version of *Australian Rainfall and Runoff – A Guide to Flood Estimation* (Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia), Version 4.2, 2019, or as updated) through flood studies.

A planning scheme amendment should be informed by the following:

- the *Guidelines for development in flood affected areas* (DELWP February 2019) and specifically the decision framework and objectives that support consideration of climate change through strategic planning
- an evaluation of the consequences of flood hazards on potential development, mitigation costs<sup>2</sup> and the suitability of the land for new use and development in areas where there is potential for high flood risk
- the integration of strategic land use planning with emergency management decision making, such as safe access
- an evaluation of alternate low-risk locations for new land use and development, or settlement growth to avoid or minimise the exposure of people and future development to high-risk flood exposure. The 1 in 100 year (1% per cent Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood is the standard applied to regulate and protect development through the planning and building systems<sup>3</sup>)
- location of emergency and community facilities (including hospitals, ambulance stations, police stations, fire stations, residential aged care facilities, communication facilities, transport facilities, community shelters, child care centres and schools) outside the 1 in 100 year (1% AEP) floodplain and, where possible, at levels above the height of the probable maximum flood
- recognition that the absence of low risk locations is not a reason to approve development in high risk locations (unless suitable mitigation responses are implemented to reduce risk to an acceptable level)
- any state-approved regional catchment strategy or special area plan, any catchment or floodplain management authority adopted plan, manual, guideline or strategy or Environment Protection Authority adopted management strategy for stormwater
- advice from the relevant floodplain management authority.



<sup>2</sup> The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (section 17.2) adopts the 'beneficiary pays' principle to determine the management and funding arrangements for flood mitigation infrastructure.

<sup>3</sup> See Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy - Policy 13a.

### Coastal inundation and erosion

An amendment affecting land along Victoria's coastline and environs should be informed by the following:

- any applicable coastal hazard assessment endorsed by the State
- a coastal hazard assessment that considers:
  - the risk relevant to the coastal compartment type (for example, a rocky coast, sandy or engineered shoreline<sup>4</sup>)
  - the potential for the hazard to change over time and the consequence of any change.
- the potential for increased climate hazards including, as relevant:
  - sea level rise projections
  - change in wave action
  - increase in swell energy and storm tide events
  - ocean acidification
  - intensified riverine flooding
  - combined effects of inland/riverine and coastal flooding.
- consideration of all available adaptation options including, non-intervention, avoidance, nature-based methods, accommodation, retreat and protection, and evaluation of alternative low risk locations for new use and development
- an evaluation of whether the proposed adaptation actions will be effective and whether they will detrimentally impact coastal processes
- the State sea level rise planning benchmark as set out under [\*Victoria's Marine and Coastal Policy\*](#) (DELWP 2020) made under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*
- advice from the relevant floodplain management authority or any coastal erosion advice required under section 75 of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

<sup>4</sup> See definition in the [\*Marine and Coastal Policy\*](#) (DELWP 2020)

### Landslip and landslide

An amendment affecting land exposed to landslip and landslide hazard should be informed by the following:

- a geotechnical assessment based on best available information and modelling on the potential for increased climate hazards<sup>5</sup> and any other applicable site specific information, considering risks and consequences for people, infrastructure or the environment
- an evaluation of the suitability of the land for new use and development in areas prone to landslip and landslide
- an evaluation of alternate locations for settlement growth, and new land use and development, to avoid or minimise the risk to people and future development from landslip and landslide
- consideration of the integration of strategic land use planning with emergency management decision making.



Landslip is a more generic, non-technical term (it implies only one main movement type) historically used in Victoria's planning schemes. Landslide is a technical term used by the sector worldwide.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to Section 3.2.1 'Climate change data' on page 8 of this guideline.

## Heatwave

An amendment that will facilitate or enable new or more intensive urban development should be informed by the following:

- an assessment of heatwave exposure in a location, based on best available information and modelling on the potential for increased climate hazards<sup>6</sup> and any other applicable site specific information, considering risks and consequences for people, infrastructure or the environment
- an evaluation of the location for future open spaces (treed and/or irrigated), open water (wetlands and ornamental lakes) and water sensitive urban design infrastructure to provide downwind cooling benefits (based on summer prevailing wind patterns) for areas with heat exposure ('hotspots') such as high-density residential areas.
- scope to orient streets to utilise the heat dispersal benefits of cooler prevailing summer breezes (i.e. adjusting street corridors for planned higher density areas parallel to prevailing wind where feasible)
- an evaluation of proposed canopy tree cover to shade the public realm, open space and along footpaths for pedestrians and for places where people congregate
- whether public open space and other planted areas are supported by integrated water management elements, water sensitive urban design features, recycled water or alternative water sources and associated infrastructure
- whether heat amelioration strategies including permeable surfacing, cooling surfaces and materials and shade structures, are incorporated into planning of public places and both public and private infrastructure.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to Section 3.2.1 'Climate change data' on page 8 of this guideline.

## Drought

An amendment that will facilitate or enable new or more intensive urban development should be informed by the following:

- The drought response plan which is incorporated into the [urban water strategy](#) prepared by the relevant water corporation for the area, including consideration of:
  - water authority advice based on assessments of the impact of climate change on water availability in the region, relative to supply needs to support existing urban demand and capacity to sustain future urban growth
  - whether integrated water management will be embedded into the envisaged use and development, and delivered through associated infrastructure and urban design to support drought resilience (Example: complementary measures to support land use and infrastructure planning of priority community assets that might require water to be made available during periods of water shortages).
- in regional locations, feedback from the relevant water authority that the provision of water and wastewater, the likely water demand associated with the land use change and planned infrastructure will be consistent with the latest adopted Urban Water Strategy.



## 4.0 HOW REQUIREMENTS ARE TO BE SATISFIED

Planning authorities and proponents are required to demonstrate that a new planning scheme and relevant amendments have considered and addressed spatial and relevant infrastructure responses to support minimising GHG emissions and increasing the resilience to climate change risks. Consolidating this information in a Climate change consideration report (or suitable equivalent report supporting a precinct structure plan or as a component of a background report) will demonstrate how a climate change assessment has been undertaken.

An explanation in an explanatory report alone is not sufficient for the purposes of the Ministerial Direction.

### 4.1 Climate change consideration report

The Ministerial Direction defines a Climate change consideration report as ‘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’. The report:

- provides an evidence base of the specific considerations of climate change
- demonstrates how the proposal supports or implements responses to GHG emissions and increasing resilience to climate change risks
- informs the information to be included as a statement in the planning scheme amendment explanatory report
- supports implementation of the planning scheme amendment and any subsequent stages in the planning approval and development process, such as a development contributions plan (DCP) or infrastructure contribution plan (ICP) in growth areas.

Climate change consideration reports will differ in the degree of information they provide, depending on the specific amendment proposal and its geographic location.

It is not expected that completion of a report would need to be outsourced, including for major proposals.

Generally, the assessments needed to meet the requirements of the Ministerial Direction can be drawn out of the technical assessments already undertaken to support the planning scheme amendment.

For state-led projects, housing priority precincts, designated major activity centres and urban land use change subject to a precinct structure plan, technical reports are typically required across a range of relevant issues and these can normally be extended to test response options or alternative development scenarios, and the findings consolidated into a Climate change consideration report (or suitable equivalent report). For both greenfield and infill precinct structure plans (PSP) or structure plans for major urban development sites typically include plans, diagrams, and tables that may already include the necessary information or can be readily adapted to provide suitable information.

For simple amendments with less potential impacts, a more abbreviated Climate change consideration report will generally be sufficient. For instance, the report could be informed by one or more annotated land use plans and provide a checklist style response with summary conclusions.

Additional shared commitments can be recognised in the adopted report by mutual, voluntary agreement between the relevant developers and landowners, the planning authority and other



government agencies. Such agreements are contingent upon consistency with current policy and will require agencies and stakeholders to support relevant strategic responses.

## 4.2 Explanatory report

To ensure that the requirements under section 12(2A) of the Act have been satisfied, the Ministerial Direction requires a statement in the explanatory report to be prepared in respect to the proposed planning scheme or amendment. The statement needs to report on how the requirements of the Ministerial Direction have been satisfied. The statement should be drawn from the prepared Climate change consideration report or other technical reports.

## 5.0 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

There are no matters in section 12(2A) of the Act or the Ministerial direction that alter the obligation of a planning authority to consider the matters in section 12(2) of the Act when preparing a planning scheme or amendment, including environmental, social and economic effects.

A planning authority must still have regard to other applicable Ministerial Directions issued under section 12(1A) of the Act, even if those directions also require consideration of matters relating to climate change. This includes:

- *Ministerial Direction 11 - Strategic assessment of amendments*
- *Ministerial Direction 12 – Urban Growth Areas*
- *Ministerial Direction 13 - Managing coastal hazards.*



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