

Strategic Assessment Guidelines Checklist

This checklist is a tool that provides a quick snapshot of the abovementioned information. It may be useful to use while preparing an amendment assessment.

Note: In the 'Comment' field, you must click in the top left part of the field to enter any comments.

Strategic Consideration		Yes	No	N/A	Comment
Why is an amendment required?	What does the amendment intend to do and what is its desired outcome?	☐	☐	☒	Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires a planning authority to carry out regular reviews of its respective planning scheme to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency in achieving the objectives of planning in Victoria and the objectives of the planning framework established by the Act.
	How does it intend to do it?	☐	☐	☒	The amendment implements the findings of the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme Review 2023 (the review). The review was completed by the council and forwarded to the Minister for Planning in July 2024 and was prepared to meet the requirements of Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act). The amendment: - Clarifies and improves the style, format, language and grammatical form of local policy to ensure it aligns with the principles set out in <i>A Practitioner's Guide to Victorian Planning Schemes</i> where the intended effect of the respective clause is not changed. - Adjusts the structure of local content to ensure it aligns with the <i>Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes</i>. - Updates Department names, terminology and statistical data. - Removes or updates references to outdated content. - Updates the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) at Clause 02.01 Context to include appropriate recognition of the Traditional Owners of the land in which the Mount Alexander Shire Council sits and update demographic information with the latest ABS data. - Updates the MPS at Clause 02.02 Vision and Clause 02.03 Strategic Directions to include reference to the most recently adopted Council Plan. - Updates various Planning Policy Framework clauses. - Updates various Zone and Overlay schedules. - Updates various Particular Provisions, General Provisions and Operational Provision schedules. - Updates Zone maps where necessary and in accordance with the <i>Ministerial Direction of the Form and Content of Planning Schemes</i>.
	Is it supported by or is it a result of any strategic study or report?	☒	☐	☐	The amendment is the result of the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme Review 2024
	Will the planning policy, provision or control result in the desired planning outcome?	☒	☐	☐	Yes, for the above reasons.
	Will the amendment have a net community benefit?	☒	☐	☐	Yes. The amendment will provide greater certainty for users of the planning system and reduce unnecessary costs to users as a result of unclear planning requirement.

	- Will the community benefit outweigh the cost of the new control? - Does the amendment repeat provisions already in the scheme? - Is the planning scheme the most appropriate means of controlling the issue or can other existing regulatory or process mechanisms deal with the issue? - Is the matter already dealt with under other regulations?	☒	☐	☐	Yes, for the above reasons.
		☐	☒	☐	No, the amendment removes duplication and repetition to provide further clarity to planning scheme users.
		☐	☐	☒	N/A
		☐	☐	☒	N/A
Does the amendment implement the objectives of planning and any environmental, social and economic effects?	- Does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria? (Refer to section 4 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>) - Does the amendment adequately address any environmental effects? - Does the amendment adequately address any social effects? - Does the amendment adequately address any economic effects?	☒	☐	☐	Yes. The amendment implements the objectives by providing clear strategic direction for future land use and development in Mount Alexander Shire. The amendment ensures that local policy and controls have been drafted appropriately to encourage land use planning and development to occur in a manner that is consistent with the objectives set out in section 4 of the Act.
		☒	☐	☐	The amendment will ensure that land use and development outcomes are consistent with the environmental objectives of planning in Mount Alexander and Victoria.
		☒	☐	☐	The amendment will ensure that land use and development outcomes are consistent with the social objectives of planning in Mount Alexander and Victoria.
		☒	☐	☐	The amendment will ensure that land use and development outcomes are consistent with the economic objectives of planning in Mount Alexander and Victoria.
Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?	- Does the amendment meet the objective and give effect to the strategies to address the risk to life as a priority, property, community infrastructure and the natural environment from bushfire in the Planning Policy Framework (Clause 13.02 of the planning scheme)? - Has the view of the relevant fire authority been sought in formulating the amendment? - If the planning scheme includes a Local Planning Policy Framework at Clause 20, is the amendment consistent with the Local Planning Policy Framework objectives and strategies that apply to bushfire risk?	☐	☐	☒	The amendment is not expected to result in any increase to the risk to life as a priority, property, community infrastructure and the natural environment from bushfire. The amendment does not alter any existing planning controls or policies that relate to the management of bushfire risk and does not seek to introduce any new controls or policies that would pose or create any new bushfire risk.
		☐	☐	☒	N/A
		☐	☐	☒	The planning scheme does not contain a local planning policy framework.

	Is local policy for bushfire risk management required to support the amendment?	☐	☒	☐	No. See response above.
Does the amendment comply with all the relevant Minister's Directions?	- Does the amendment comply with the requirements of the Ministerial Direction - The Form and Content of Planning Schemes? - Do any other Minister's Directions apply to the amendment? If so, have they been complied with? - Is the amendment accompanied by all of the information required by a Minister's Direction?	☒	☐	☐	Yes, it seeks to give effect to this direction. Ministerial Direction No. 11: Strategic Assessment of Amendments Ministerial Direction No. 11 will help to ensure a comprehensive strategic evaluation of a planning scheme amendment and the outcomes it produces. A strategic assessment of the amendment has been undertaken in accordance with this Ministerial Direction within this Explanatory Report. Ministerial Direction No. 15: The Planning Scheme Amendment Process The amendment is consistent with Ministerial Direction No. 15 The Planning Scheme Amendment Process under Section 12 of the Act. Yes.
Does the amendment support or implement the PPF?	- Does the amendment support or give effect to the PPF? - Are there any competing PPF objectives and how are they balanced? - Does the amendment support or give effect to any relevant adopted state policy? If the planning scheme includes a Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) at Clause 02 and the amendment seeks to introduce or amend a local planning policy in the PPF: - Does the new or amended local planning policy: - respond to a demonstrated need? - implement a strategic direction in the MPS?	☒	☐	☐	The amendment seeks to reinforce the alignment between state and local policy in the PPF by ensuring that the directions for settlement, environmental risks and amenity, natural resource management, built environment and heritage, transport and infrastructure in particular are consistently written and appropriately placed within the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme. No. The amendment seeks to ensure local policy has been drafted in a manner that supports relevant related state policy. The amendment responds to the need for responsible authorities to ensure their planning scheme is kept up to date. See above.

	– relate to a specific discretion or group of discretions in the planning scheme? – assist the responsible authority to make a decision? – (assist any other person to understand whether a proposal is likely to be supported? • Does the amendment affect any existing local planning policy or tool? • Is a local planning policy necessary OR is the issue adequately covered by another planning tool or decision guideline?	☐	☐	☒	No.
		☒	☐	☐	Yes, the amended policies will provide clarity to users of the scheme, including the responsible authority.
		☒	☐	☐	Yes, the amended policies will provide clarity to users of the scheme.
		☒	☐	☐	The amendment makes changes to a number of local planning policies in the MPS and PPF and ensures that existing planning provisions are being used as intended by the VPPs.
		☒	☐	☐	Yes.
Does the amendment support or implement the LPPF? *This strategic consideration only applies if the planning scheme includes an LPPF at Clause 20	• Does the amendment implement or support the MSS? • Does the amendment seek to change the objectives or strategies of the MSS? If so, what is the change? • What effect will any change to the MSS have on the rest of the MSS: – Is the amendment consistent/inconsistent with strategic directions elsewhere in the MSS? – Has the cumulative effect of this amendment on the strategic directions in the MSS been considered? • Does the new or amended local planning policy: – respond to a demonstrated need? – implement an objective or strategy in the MSS? – relate to a specific discretion or group of discretions in the scheme? – assist the responsible authority to make a decision?	☐	☐	☒	Not applicable. The planning scheme does not include an LPPF at clause 20.
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	– assist any other person to understand whether a proposal is likely to be supported? • Does the amendment affect any existing local planning policy or tool? • Is a local planning policy necessary OR is the issue covered by another planning tool or decision guideline?	☐	☐	☒	
Does the amendment support or implement the MPS? *This strategic consideration only applies if the planning scheme includes an MPS at Clause 02	• How does the amendment seek to implement or support the MPS? • Does the amendment seek to change the strategic directions of the MPS? If so, what is the change? • What effect will any change to the MPS have on the rest of the MPS? – Is the amendment consistent/inconsistent with strategic directions elsewhere in the MPS? – Is the amendment consistent/inconsistent with strategic directions elsewhere in the MPS? – What is the cumulative effect of this amendment on the other directions in the MPS?	☐	☐	☒	The amendment ensures that the narrative for local context is up to date with the latest geographic and demographic information and clearly articulates the council's overarching vision for sustainably managing land use planning and development in the municipality. No. The amendment seeks to reinforce the existing strategic directions. The amendment seeks to ensure that all components of the planning scheme are consistent. See above. See above.
Does the amendment make proper use of the VPP?	• Does the amendment use the most appropriate VPP tool to achieve the strategic objective of the scheme? • Does the amendment affect, conflict with or duplicate another existing provision in the planning scheme that deals with the same land, use or development? • If so, have the provisions been reconciled?	☒	☐	☐	Yes. The amendment seeks to utilise schedules that are appropriate to local circumstances (for example Clause 74.02) and updates the content within them to ensure they are consistent with the principles set out in A Practitioner's Guide to Victorian Planning Schemes and the requirements of the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes. No.

	- Does the control capture matters that do not specifically relate to the purpose or objectives of the control or matters that should not be dealt with under planning? - Does the amendment make any existing provision in the planning scheme redundant? - Is the amendment consistent with any relevant planning practice note?	☐	☒	☐	No.
		☐	☒	☐	No.
		☐	☐	☒	N/A.
How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?	Have the views of any relevant agency been addressed?	☐	☒	☐	Consultation with relevant agencies has been undertaken during the Planning Scheme Review process. The views of relevant agencies will again be sought formally through the exhibition process where required.
Does the amendment address the requirements of the <i>Transport Integration Act 2010</i> (TIA)?	- Is the amendment likely to have a significant impact on the transport system as defined by section 3 of the TIA? If so, explain how the amendment addresses the transport system objectives and decision-making principles set out in Part 2, Divisions 2 and 3 of the TIA. - Are there any applicable statements of policy principles prepared under section 22 of the TIA? If so, assess how the amendment addresses any specified policy principles that apply to the proposal.	☐	☐	☒	The requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010 apply where a planning scheme amendment is likely to have a significant impact on the transport system. This amendment will not have a significant impact on the transport system as defined by the Transport Integration Act 2010.
What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?	- Has the council considered the cost implications in implementing and administering the new planning provisions including: - estimated increase in number of planning permit applications - planning staff resources	☐	☐	☐	The amendment will not impose additional resource or administrative costs on the responsible authority. The amendment proposes to make improvements to the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme to support the operation of planning processes, policy and provisions. This will ultimately reduce the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority.
		☐	☐	☒	
		☒	☐	☐	

	– other miscellaneous costs including legal or other professional advice, for example, heritage advisers	☒	☐	☐	
	– capacity to consider the new application within the prescribed time?	☒	☐	☐	