

Amendment VC66 – Regional blueprint implementation

This Advisory Note provides information about changes to the *Victoria Planning Provisions* (VPP) and planning schemes made by Amendment VC66. The amendment affects the policy and strategic context for planning for development in regional and rural Victoria by changing Clauses 12 and 14 of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) and establishes a consistent projected population growth period of 15 years across Victoria for considering land supply.

What does VC66 do?

Amendment VC66 changes Clause 12 of the SPPF by:

- introducing the Regional Victoria Settlement Framework
- introducing a settlement hierarchy within the Regional Victoria Settlement Framework
- introducing regional settlement principles that emphasise maintaining Victoria's quality regional environments and the character of towns and regional cities and centres
- providing for limited growth in Melbourne's hinterland subject to investigating existing infrastructure capacity, local employment opportunities and assessing environmental values and risks.

The amendment also changes Clause 14 by extending the timeframe required for urban land supply. This will accommodate the projected population growth to at least 15 years with the urban growth directed towards key settlements rather than dispersed across a municipality.

Why are the new state planning policy changes needed?

The government approved *Ready For Tomorrow – a Blueprint for Regional and Rural Victoria* (the Blueprint) in June 2010. The Blueprint provides for rural and regional policy, strategies and programs to support and facilitate sustainable and prosperous communities and development in the regions of Victoria. The Blueprint introduces the Regional Victoria Settlement Framework and identifies the strategic placement of future urban growth. The SPPF has been amended to reflect this strategic commitment.



What is the effect of the amendment?

Decision makers considering proposals that affect regional and rural settlement planning will need to take into account the strategies in Clause 12.03, including the regional settlement principles:

- Supporting a network of integrated and prosperous regional settlements
- Maintaining environmental health and productivity within rural and hinterland landscapes
- Enhancing regional Victoria's competitive advantages
- Responding to climate change and natural hazards and promoting community safety
- Supporting distinct and diverse regional settlements
- Promoting liveable settlements and healthy communities.

A new statewide consistency for urban land supply

A consistent projected population growth period of 15 years will apply across Victoria.

Clause 14 provides reference to the State, regional and local context for decision making in growth locations. Prioritising growth to identified centres recognises that not all towns and cities need to have the same level of urbanisation. Urban land supply should be determined by the settlement planning principles and through integrated precinct based planning. Regional planning should take into account the Regional Victoria Settlement Framework.

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