

Resource exploration and extraction

Objective

To encourage exploration and extraction of natural resources in accordance with acceptable environmental standards.

Strategies

Provide for the long-term protection of natural resources in Victoria.

Protect the opportunity for exploration and extraction of natural resources where this is consistent with overall planning considerations and acceptable environmental practice.

Recognise the possible need to provide infrastructure for the exploration and extraction of natural resources.

Ensure planning schemes do not impose conditions on the use or development of land that are inconsistent with the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, the *Greenhouse Gas Geological Sequestration Act 2008*, the *Geothermal Energy Resources Act 2005*, or the *Petroleum Act 1998*.

Develop and maintain buffers around mining and quarrying activities.

Ensure planning permit applications clearly define buffer areas appropriate to the nature of the proposed extractive uses, which are to be owned or controlled by the proponent of an extractive industry.

Determine buffer areas between extractive activities and sensitive land uses on the following considerations:

- Appropriate limits on effects can be met at the sensitive locations using practical and available technology.
- Whether a change of land use in the vicinity of the extractive industry is proposed.
- Use of land within the buffer areas is not limited by adverse effects created by the extractive activities.
- Performance standards identified under the relevant legislation.
- Types of activities within land zoned for public use.

Protect the brown coal resource in Central Gippsland by ensuring that:

- Changes in use and development of land overlying coal resources, as generally defined in *Framework for the Future* (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources and Minister for Planning and Environment, 1987) and the *Land Over Coal and Buffer Area Study* (Ministry for Planning and Environment, 1988), do not compromise the winning or processing of coal.
- Coal-related development is adequately separated from residential or other sensitive uses and main transport corridors by buffer areas to minimise adverse effects such as noise, dust, fire, earth subsidence and visual intrusion.
- Use and development within the buffer areas are compatible with use and development adjacent to these areas.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Any applicable State Environment Protection Policy.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*

- *Greenhouse Gas Geological Sequestration Act 2008*
- *Geothermal Energy Resources Act 2005*
- *Petroleum Act 1998*
- *Melbourne Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas Review* (Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record, 2003/2)
- *Ballarat Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas* (Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record, 1997/3)
- *Bendigo Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas* (Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record, 1998/6)
- *Geelong Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas* (Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record, 1999/2)
- *La Trobe Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas* (Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record, 1999/4)