



City of Hume

Appendix 4: State and regional PPF/rural zones



During the audit period, a review of Victoria's Planning Policy Framework (PPF) was changing the content of planning schemes. Planning schemes are always dynamic. However, the PPF translation is particularly significant because it re-organises the structure of the entire local policy portion of a planning scheme in one amendment.

KEY:																
✗	No support															
◐	Some support (could be augmented).															
●	Strong support															
N/A	Not applicable															

		Hume Planning Scheme: PPF										Hume Planning Scheme: Zone Schedules				Council Plans, Policies, Strategies			
		Clause 11.01-1R Green Wedges - MM	Clause 11.03S Peri-Urban Areas	Clause 11.03-5S Distinctive Areas and Landscapes	Clause 14 Natural Resource Management	Clause 14.01-1S Protection of Agricultural Land	Clause 14.01-1R Protection of Agricultural Land - MM	Clause 14.01-2S Sustainable Agricultural Land Use	Clause 17.01-1S Diversified Economy	Clause 21.02-4 Urban Structure and Settlement (Non-Urban land)	Clause 35.04 Green Wedge Zone Schedule	Clause 35.04 Green Wedge A Zone Schedule	Clause 35.06 Rural Conservation Zone Schedules	Clause 35.07 Farming Zone Schedules	Council Plan 2017-2021	MHWP 2017-2021	Hume CC Draft Rural Strategy March 2020	Hume Food Policy 2015	Notes:
Peri-urban Planning Scheme Audit Benchmarking Principles																			
Food Production	Does the planning scheme support 'accepted agricultural practices' and 'accepted farm structures' by exempting them from the requirement to obtain a planning permit (note: other regulation may apply).	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	✗	✗	◐	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	
	Does the planning system facilitate expansion of the array of food produced - to satisfy demand for local food and expand access to local food for the community.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◐	✗	✗	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◐	●	◐	●	
	Does the planning system facilitate resilience against climate change, peak oil, and other threats?	N/A	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	N/A	◐	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◐	✗	◐	N/A	
	Does the planning scheme support new sources of revenue on-farm, such as non-exempt agricultural uses, by taking a generally flexible and scale-sensitive approach? These might include farm-based businesses, agritourism, and direct sales.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◐	◐	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	◐	●	●		
Food Processing and Manufacture	Does the planning system respond to the scale of an operation and developmental needs for food processing - such as other regulatory requirements, and the infrastructure needed for packaging and distribution.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	Does the planning system provide for the on-farm sale of prepared food, if components of that food are produced or processed on the farm?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◐	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	●	●	◐	

		Hume Planning Scheme: PPF										Hume Planning Scheme: Zone Schedules				Council Plans, Policies, Strategies			
		Clause 11.01-1R Green Wedges - MM	Clause 11.03S Peri-Urban Areas	Clause 11.03-5S Distinctive Areas and Landscapes	Clause 14 Natural Resource Management	Clause 14.01-1S Protection of Agricultural Land	Clause 14.01-2S Sustainable Agricultural Land Use - MM	Clause 17.01-1S Diversified Economy	Clause 21.02-4 Urban Structure and Settlement (Non-Urban land)	Clause 35.04 Green Wedge Zone Schedule	Clause 35.04 Green Wedge A Zone Schedule	Clause 35.06 Rural Conservation Zone Schedules	Clause 35.07 Farming Zone Schedules	Council Plan 2017-2021	MHWP 2017-2021	Hume CC Draft Rural Strategy March 2020	Hume Food Policy 2015	Notes:	
Aggregation, Distribution and Storage (Wholesale Distribution)	Does the planning system facilitate producers self-distributing their products, especially when they have small and medium sized farms?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	D	✗	
	Does the planning system facilitate producers' access to all types of local and regional supermarkets, restaurants and institutions- where most food is purchased- which is a necessary precursor to significantly expanding the consumption of locally grown products. This might relate to the availability of a variation of scales and types of on-farm and commercial storage, aggregation and distribution services.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	D	●	
	Does the planning system facilitate "secondary integrated agricultural activities" on farms – such as the sale of non-farm products (where these are ancillary to the marketing of an on-farm product), and the hosting of educational and cultural events related to farming.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	D	✗	
	Does the planning system facilitate personal relationships among producers and consumers whose collective desire is to eat food that is healthy, fresh, tastes good, and to support those who produce it. This might encompass farmers markets, food hubs, shared marketing, shared distribution, regional brand development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	●	Planning would require specific policy references – markets, food hubs, shared assets for distribution on farms. Goes against most policy direction to discourage commercial uses not directly related to the farm business.	
Nutrient Management	Does the planning system facilitate the prevention of nutrient losses in the environment, moving away from waste management to nutrient management?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	D	✗	✗	✗	
	Does the planning system facilitate the production and use of compost as a valuable component of sustainable farming operations?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		
	Does the planning system facilitate sustainable agriculture practices – for example, environmental stewardship that supports soil health and biodiversity conservation/ enhancement, prevents manure and fertilizer runoff, reduces soil erosion and prevents livestock access to waterways. This may be achieved with buffers and setbacks that relate to the scale of the use/development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	●	✗	

Summary recommendations:

Note for all Council Matrices

The Farm to Plate Victorian Peri-Urban Planning Scheme Audit defined the problem via a literature review, VCAT review, and a review of state and local government policy reforms, using this information to make recommendations for local planning scheme content within each Council matrix. Relevant content from publicly available, local Council strategies and plans has also influenced the recommendations. Possible changes to the wording in local policy to support local sustainable food systems have been proposed below (refer strike-through and blue text). However, planning schemes are dynamic and there can be no guarantee that the policy content that was reviewed here remains the same at time of reading.

Locally relevant documents:

Investigate the incorporation into the scheme of elements from the *Hume CC Draft Rural Strategy 2020* (not implemented in the planning scheme) and the *Hume Food Policy 2015-2019*. Unfortunately, Hume Food Policy content has not influenced the content of the draft Rural Strategy. The current status of the Draft Rural Strategy is unknown. The website has not been updated since it was out for consultation. The Draft Rural Strategy does not have an implementation plan and sets out a relatively pessimistic view of opportunities for agriculture (due in large part to the feedback of community). The strategy does provide for opportunities to increase investment in land use viability and improve agricultural and other land use options. At page 27 the Strategy states: "Through the Rural Strategy, Council offers support and guidance for landowners to consider new agriculture, tourism and other non-agricultural uses for their land." Within the Future Opportunities and Enhancements in Section 5, Regenerative Farming and Direct Marketing opportunities are explained in break-out sections, but not specifically supported through actions.

Relevant objectives from the Hume Food Policy include:

- **2.3** Support a vibrant and prosperous local food economy.
- **2.4** Limit the environmental impact of Hume City's food system.
- **2.6** Strengthen Hume City's future food security.
- **2.7** Strengthen Hume's food system through a commitment to best practice, innovation and evaluation.

Action 4.24(a) of the Hume Food Policy is to promote balanced economic opportunities for a diverse range of stakeholders involved in food production, processing, distribution, marketing, retail or sale, consumption and waste management, to operate at a local, national or global scale.

There is no existing policy to work with in terms of incorporating the relevant sections of the above documents. Hume's municipal strategic statement does not acknowledge agriculture in its economic development section. Hume's Green Wedge is only addressed in the Non-Urban land section of the Settlement clauses – a new Green Wedge Policy may be required to give full justice to the opportunities from the above documents.

One strategy from this clause in the Municipal Strategic Statement provides limited opportunity for modified text to reflect the content available:

Clause 21.02-4 (Non-Urban Land):

Objective 13 seeks to "protect the role and enhance the viability of Hume's non-urban areas."

Strategy 13.2 could seek a focus on rural activities that increase local food production (existing content black text/proposed content blue text):

- 13.2 Support rural activities that provide for the sustainable and economical management of non-urban land.
- becomes
- 13.2 Support rural activities that provide for the sustainable and economical management of non-urban land, *including activities that support the local food economy.*

This recommendation is based on the stated objectives of the Hume Food Policy and opportunities highlighted in the draft Rural Strategy 2020.