

1.3 VC PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT UPDATE

Responsible Director: Peter Panagakos

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the summary of VC amendments made to the Monash Planning Scheme as set out in this report.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the VC amendments made to the Monash Planning Scheme in 2021 by the Minister for Planning.

A full summary list of the amendments is provided at Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) form the basis for all planning schemes in Victoria. They consist of State designed and approved State policy, definitions, permit exemptions, particular use provisions, zones, overlays and planning standards for single dwellings, multi-unit development, apartments and subdivision.

Amendments to planning schemes fall into two categories:

- VC amendments – which change the state provisions that are in the VPPs (the V stands for Victoria) and across all council planning schemes in Victoria, (the C stands for council)
- C amendments – which are Council initiated amendment to local planning scheme controls such as rezoning land or adding a local policy to deal with a specific issue

DISCUSSION

These standard VPP provisions are regularly updated, modified or added to by the State government in response to changes in planning policy, industry sector lobbying, such as retirement villages, significant reform or new issues that arise, such as Covid19.

VC amendments general occur without any formal exhibition or consultation process as they are considered of State of regional importance.

Over the last 12 months there have been a series of changes introduced through VC amendments to the Monash planning scheme. The majority of these have little to no impact on Monash as they relate to State policy matters which are included in all schemes.

In response to Covid19 and to provide economic stimulus there were a series of VC amendments that removed or reduced planning requirements for a range of developments. These included:

- VC180 – to fast track upgrades to non-government schools
- VC190 – specific controls for the Big Housing Build for social and affordable housing
- VC191 – for combustible cladding rectification works
- VC193 – Covid19 response to encourage outdoor dining

A full list and summary of the effect in Monash is provided at Attachment 1.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications at a State and local level are considered by DELWP as part of the VC amendment process.

GENDER EQUITY ASSESSMENT

The Gender Equality Act 2020 does not apply to this issue as actions in the report are for noting.

CONSULTATION

The introduction of VC amendment occurs via a Ministerial amendment generally without any consultation with the community or Councils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In general there are limited if any financial implications from these changes, although they do vary from amendment to amendment. The exemption from permits from some outdoor hospitality uses can have minor impact on Council fee and permit application fee collections.

CONCLUSION

The State policy and the VPP aspire to be a living and evolving document that is able to respond to major issues and policy changes challenges as they arise.

This has been demonstrated in the States changes to the VPP's in response to Covid19.

Attachment 1: Table of 2020-2021 VC Amendments to the Monash Planning Scheme