

MITCHELL LOCAL FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOULBURN RIVER PRECINCT, SEPTEMBER 2003

1.0 Application

This local floodplain development plan applies to the Goulburn River floodplains as shown on the attached plan, and which is within the Urban Floodway Zone, Floodway Overlay or Land Subject to Inundation Overlay of the Mitchell Planning Scheme (or any other area known to be subject to inundation by flooding). This local floodplain development plan has been prepared to provide a performance-based approach for decision making that reflects local issues and best practice, including flood risk assessment, in floodplain management.

2.0 Flood History

The Goulburn River has a long history of flooding, with major floods recorded in 1870, 1916, 1917, 1934, 1974, and 1993. The 1916 flood is considered to be the largest flood experienced in the 20th century in the township of Seymour, with floods of this magnitude or greater exceeded on average every 100 years. Floods exceeding the magnitude of the 1974 flood will occur every 30 years or so. The 1993 flood in Seymour caused localised flooding of low-lying areas.

3.0 Flood Information

The extent of flooding has been determined from flood mapping completed in 2000 by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The project made use of historic flood levels documented in past floods, aerial flood photography, and surface level information. FO, LSIO and UFZ areas are based on the relative flood risk assessed for different parts of the floodplain, considering factors such as flood depth, velocity, natural storage, flood frequency and flood duration.

Major flooding along the Goulburn River within the Mitchell Shire area is deep and wide with relatively well defined river terraces. Flooding in the Shire may occur from the Goulburn River or from a number of other sub-catchments such as the Sunday, Dry, Sugarloaf and Whiteheads Creek catchments, or a combination of all.

The duration of flooding varies considerably with each flood. How fast floodwaters rise and fall depends on a number of factors, including the shape of the floodplain, and the magnitude and duration of the flood. Estimates of flood duration are limited to several days.

Substantial improvements to the flood warning arrangements for Seymour were carried out during 1999 to 2001 as part of the Eildon to Seymour Flood Warning Project. However, the catchment response to storm runoff of some 12 hours imposes a limitation on the flood warning time that can be made available.

4.0 Flood Impacts

Flood impacts in the area are significant, resulting in road closures, loss of access for residents, disruption to schools, property isolation, risks to emergency personnel during sand bagging and evacuation operations and damage to buildings constructed below flood level. During major floods, there are also likely to be substantial rural and infrastructure flood damages. Flood impacts for FO areas are greater than LSIO areas, as the velocities, depths and frequency of flooding are generally greater.

Seymour is the major town along this reach of the Goulburn River and is highly flood prone, especially in areas adjacent to High Street and Emily Street. Seymour township is located at the confluence of the Goulburn River, Whiteheads and Sunday Creeks, with the town experiencing flooding primarily as a result of Goulburn River, Whiteheads and Sunday Creeks. Generally, flooding from the Goulburn River is of longer duration and larger magnitude. Flooding from the Sunday Creek mostly coincides with high flow in the Goulburn River, whereas flooding from Whiteheads Creek generally tends to be shorter in duration and primarily affects the eastern portion of the town.

During the 1974 flood, approximately 200 buildings suffered direct flood damage and today there is an estimated 400 buildings susceptible to flood damage in a 100-year ARI type flood.

5.0 Development Requirements

An application to construct a building, construct or carry out works or subdivide land must be accompanied by four sets of plans and supporting documents that demonstrate the following relevant development requirements have been met.

Where relevant, the supporting documents and plans (drawn to scale) must show the following:

- The boundaries and dimensions of the property
- A regional locality plan showing the property whereabouts within the region, including roads, streams and other prominent land marks
- The layout plan of the existing and proposed building, works or subdivision boundaries
- Floor level of any existing and proposed buildings to Australian Height Datum
- Natural ground levels of the proposed dwelling site to Australian Height Datum, taken by a licensed surveyor
- Natural ground levels along access routes to flood free land (as indicated by the planning scheme flood overlays and zone) to Australian Height Datum, taken by a licensed surveyor. The access route includes access along any relevant government road to the property and then to the proposed dwelling location

6.0 Development Requirements for the UFZ

Buildings

- Where no more than 50% of the existing building has been damaged or destroyed, the construction of the replacement ground floor area must not be more than 20 m² greater than the destroyed ground floor area of the pre-existing dwelling on 26th March 1999 and must be set at least 300 mm above the 100-year ARI flood level or a higher level set by the responsible authority
- The construction of the floor area of any building extension (single or multiple) must not be more than 20 m² greater than the ground floor area of the pre-existing building on 26th March 1999
- New buildings must not obstruct natural flow paths or drainage lines on land located within the zone

Works

- New earthworks must not obstruct the natural flow paths or drainage lines

6.1 Development Requirements for FO or LSIO

Buildings

- New buildings must not obstruct natural flow paths or drainage lines
- The construction of a dwelling, including a replacement dwelling, must not be located closer than 50 metres to an existing river levee, unless the purpose of the levee is to protect a dwelling, or the levee is less than 1 metre in height
- The construction of a dwelling must be sited on land where the 100-year ARI flood depth is less than 0.5 metres above the natural surface level, and is less than 0.8 metres above the natural surface level along the defined access route to the dwelling site for rural areas, or 0.5 metres above the natural surface level for urban areas, unless a lot is greater than 80 hectares or is an infill site in an urban area surrounded by existing buildings (dwelling, industry, commercial) within 50 metres on at least 3 sides
- The construction of any new dwelling, including a replacement dwelling, must be sited on the highest available ground unless the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and floodplain management authority that an alternative site is more suitable
- The floor level of any dwelling, is set at least 300 mm above the 100-year ARI flood level or a higher level set by the responsible authority
- Any non habitable buildings must be aligned so that their longitudinal axis is parallel to the predicted direction of flood flow

Dwelling Extensions

- Where a dwelling extension (or multiple extensions) is greater than 20 m² and below the nominal flood protection level the owner must:
 - Use water resistant materials up to the nominal flood protection level
 - Within the **FO** areas obtain approval from the responsible authority and the floodplain management authority
- The construction of the ground floor area of any dwelling extension (single or multiple), which is more than 300 millimetres below the 100-year ARI flood level and greater than 20 m² to the existing dwelling at 26th March 1999, must be set at least to the nominal flood protection level as determined by the floodplain management authority or a higher level as determined by the responsible authority
- The construction of the ground floor area of any dwelling extension (single or multiple) between the 100-year ARI flood level and 300 millimetres below the 100-year ARI flood level must not be more than 40 m² greater than the existing dwelling at 26th March 1999. Where a dwelling extension (or multiple extensions) is greater than 20 m² and below the nominal flood protection level the owner must:
 - Enter into an agreement with Council under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, stating that combined ground floor area of the constructed extension together with any future extensions, must not be lower than the highest existing ground floor level, and must not exceed 40 m². Extensions beyond 40 m² must be set at least to the nominal flood protection level

- The construction of the ground floor area of any dwelling extension (single or multiple) between the 100-year ARI flood level and the nominal flood protection level must not be more than 80 m² to the existing dwelling at 29th March 1999. Where a dwelling extension (or multiple extensions) is greater than 20 m² and below the nominal flood protection level the owner must:
 - Enter into an agreement with Council under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, stating that combined ground floor area of the constructed extension together with any future extensions, must not be lower than the highest existing ground floor level, and must not exceed 80 m². Extensions beyond 80 m² must be set at least to the nominal flood protection level

Works

- Any earthworks do not obstruct natural flow paths or drainage lines on land located within the overlay
- Any earthen land fill at the site of a new building or a building extension should be no more than 2 metres from the building footprint
- Any works that are designed to protect the immediate surrounds of existing habitable dwellings, where the floor level is below the 100-year ARI flood level, and do not enclose an area of more than 1,000 m² including the footprint area of works

Subdivision

- Any subdivision does not increase the number of lots, except for the purposes of a lot excision agreed to by the responsible authority and the floodplain management authority, or any subdivision located partly within FO or LSIO is structured so that:
 - New lot boundaries (other than existing and/or realignment of lot boundaries) are sited on land where the 100-year ARI flood depths are less than 0.5 metres
 - Each lot is accessible via a defined access route where the 100-year ARI flood depths are less than 0.8 metres for rural areas, or 0.5 metres for urban areas

7.0 Development Requirements for LSIO in Residential, Industrial and Business Zones the Precinct of the Goulburn River.

Buildings

- The floor level of a new industrial, retail or office building (including a replacement building), must be set at least 300 mm above the 100-year ARI flood level (nominal flood protection level) unless the applicant can demonstrate to the responsible authority and the floodplain management authority that this requirement can not be practically achieved. A written design response statement must accompany the application to justify a proposed floor level below the nominal flood protection level. Where relevant, the design response statement must include:
 - Relationship of the proposed building floor level to the floor levels of adjoining buildings, access-ways (vehicle and pedestrian) and street footpaths levels, which demonstrate transport and pedestrian access into the proposed building as impractical. Submitted survey levels must be to Australian Height Datum, by a licensed surveyor
 - Plans and elevation drawings of the building and surrounding areas showing maximum allowable ramping grades to meet relevant Australian Standards and Building Regulation and Codes, which achieve the highest possible floor level

- Plans showing and specifying flood proofing arrangements up to the nominal flood protection level for retail or office buildings
- Plans showing and specifying electrical fitting located at least to the nominal flood protection level
- Plans showing adequate storage areas and shelving above the nominal flood protection level for the storage of valuable goods and hazardous materials
- Plans showing placement of flood markers inside and outside of the building showing the 100-year ARI flood and other historical flood levels
- A flood response action plan which sets out procedures and actions to minimise flood damage, risk to occupants, and demands on emergency services

Subdivision

- Land is subdivided to realign the boundaries of existing lots except if the site is in either an infill site (ie surrounded by existing buildings (dwelling, industrial or commercial) within 50 metres on at least three sides) or land where the 100-year ARI flood depth is less than 0.5 metres