

Directions for the Local Planning Strategy

Local Planning Strategy 2042

24/03/2026

City of Kalamunda

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Purpose and status

This document sets out the Planning Directions endorsed by Council to guide preparation of the City's new Local Planning Strategy.

The Directions represent the outcome of Phase 1 of the Local Planning Strategy review and establish the City's strategic position on key planning matters.

This is a non-statutory document and will inform the preparation of the draft Local Planning Strategy.

Council resolution

"That Council:

1. ENDORSE the directions outlined in Attachment 1: Directions for the Local Planning Strategy for purpose of guiding drafting of the Local Planning Strategy.
2. NOTE that these directions have been informed primarily by community consultation, and that the final directions forming the draft Local Planning Strategy will also be informed by relevant State and regional planning policies, technical studies and other strategic research.
3. NOTE the significant community consultation undertaken to understand the community's priorities for the City of Kalamunda, as detailed in Attachment 2: Engagement Outcomes Report, and that these engagement outcomes will also be used to inform other City projects and services, including the Council Plan project."

RESOLVED OCM 2026/21

Basis for the Directions

The Directions are informed by approximately 1,000 community and stakeholder contributions. Key themes included protecting environmental values, managing growth, increasing housing choice, strengthening centres, and improving connectivity. Refer 'Local Planning Strategy Engagement Report (2025)'.

Directions

City-wide Strategic Directions

Guide sustainable growth in a region shaped by nature and community — reinforcing distinctive neighbourhoods and centres, protecting environmental and rural landscapes, enabling a resilient economy, and aligning development with infrastructure capacity.

The Foothills, Escarpment and Plateau are recognised as distinct but interconnected planning areas. A place-based approach will guide land use and development across each region, ensuring growth respects landscape, character and environmental capacity while supporting housing diversity and economic vitality.

- The Foothills will accommodate the majority of centre-based growth, employment and higher-density housing.
- The Escarpment will strengthen the existing network of local and neighbourhood-scale activity centres, framed by low-density development, while celebrating heritage character and supporting tourism activity within a sensitive hills landscape.
- The Plateau will protect productive rural land and landscape character while enabling sustainable rural enterprise and low-impact diversification.

Community, Urban Growth and Settlement

Strategic Objective

Manage population growth through a sustainable settlement pattern that reinforces community identity, strengthens centres and provides diverse housing in appropriate locations.

Strategic Directions

- Direct medium and higher-density housing to activity centres and well-serviced locations, particularly within the Foothills.
- Strengthen the existing network of local and neighbourhood-scale activity centres on the Escarpment, framed by low-density development, while celebrating heritage character.
- Protect rural living and low-density character across the Plateau from inappropriate intensification.
- Provide for a range of dwelling types to meet changing household needs and support ageing-in-place.
- Reinforce a clear activity centre hierarchy, ensuring centres function as focal points for housing, services, employment and community life.
- Ensure infill development responds to landscape setting, topography, vegetation and neighbourhood character.
- Stage residential growth in alignment with infrastructure provision and environmental capacity.

Economy

Strategic Objective

Support a resilient and diverse local economy aligned with the City's regional role, landscape setting and community character.

Strategic Directions

- Consolidate retail and mixed-use development within the established activity centre hierarchy.
- Support the Foothills as a regional centre integrating employment, retail, recreation and transport connections.
- Reinforce Escarpment centres as distinctive retail, hospitality and tourism destinations that strengthen local place character.
- Identify and protect strategic employment land from encroachment by incompatible uses.
- Enable sustainable agribusiness, agritourism and value-added rural enterprise across the Plateau.
- Provide for short-stay accommodation and tourism-supporting land uses in appropriate centre and rural locations.
- Encourage mixed-use development that integrates housing and employment within centres.

Environment

Strategic Objective

Protect and integrate natural systems, hills landscapes and rural assets as the foundation for future land use and development.

Strategic Directions

- Protect bushland, waterways, biodiversity corridors and significant landscape vistas through appropriate zoning and overlays.
- Protect ridgelines, viewsheds and the visual landscape character of the Escarpment and Plateau.
- Minimise development impacts to environmentally constrained land, including areas of bushfire risk and ecological sensitivity.
- Ensure urban form is landscape-led, prioritising the retention of mature trees and integrating development within established vegetation and topography.
- Maintain and enhance green corridors within urban areas to support ecological connectivity and liveability.
- Protect productive rural land and prevent wholesale fragmentation of the Plateau.

Infrastructure

Strategic Objective

Coordinate land use and development with infrastructure provision, movement networks and community access.

Strategic Directions

- Direct growth to serviced and accessible locations with existing or planned infrastructure.
- Coordinate development staging with infrastructure planning and investment.
- Support integrated transport and recreation linkages within the Foothills to reinforce its significance within the wider metropolitan region.
- Strengthen connectivity between centres, neighbourhoods and employment areas across all three regions.
- Support active transport networks and recreational corridors that connect communities to centres and natural areas.
- Ensure land use planning facilitates access to community facilities and essential services.
- Advocate for the timely provision of infrastructure and services to enable growth aligned with local and regional objectives.

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