

6.2.14 Environmental management and conservation zone code

6.2.14.1 Application

This code applies to assessable development:-

- (a) within the Environmental management and conservation zone as identified on the zoning maps contained within **Schedule 2 (Mapping)**; and
- (b) identified as requiring assessment against the Environmental management and conservation zone code by the tables of assessment in **Part 5 (Tables of assessment)**.

6.2.14.2 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the environmental management and conservation zone is to provide for the protection and maintenance of areas that support one or more of the following:-
 - (a) biological diversity;
 - (b) ecological integrity;
 - (c) naturally occurring landforms;
 - (d) coastal processes.
- (2) The purpose of the Environmental management and conservation zone code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes:-
 - (a) areas identified as having significant natural environmental values for biological diversity, water catchment, ecological functioning, beach protection or coastal management, and historical or cultural significance are:-
 - (i) protected for their importance in contributing to ecological sustainability; and
 - (ii) appropriately managed to the general exclusion of most forms of development;
 - (b) development is of a low-intensity and is designed and sited to ensure that it does not impact on the environmental values of the site;
 - (c) activities that do not compromise the values of the area, such as ecotourism and outdoor recreation, are facilitated where a demonstrated community need exists;
 - (d) low intensity development, providing for appreciation of the significant values of the area, may be facilitated where a demonstrated community need exists and such development is consistent with the management intent or plan for the area;
 - (e) development maintains the scenic values and landscape character of the zone, particularly prominent ridgelines, escarpments, significant landmarks, and coastal views and vistas;
 - (f) development does not adversely impact on the continued safe operation, viability and maintenance of existing infrastructure or compromise the future provision of planned infrastructure; and
 - (g) development preserves, protects and rehabilitates land to maintain biodiversity, ecological processes, water quality, landscape character, scenic amenity, cultural heritage significance and community wellbeing.

6.2.14.3 Assessment benchmarks

Table 6.2.14.3.1 Assessment benchmarks for assessable development

Performance outcomes		Acceptable outcomes	
<i>Function</i>			
PO1	Development is predominantly limited to existing uses or new uses of a low-intensity (including single dwelling houses) and does not impact on the environmental values of the site.	AO1	No acceptable outcome provided.
PO2	Parks and associated facilities may be established in the zone where such development:- (a) supports environmental values and provides opportunities for appreciation or study of those values; (b) promotes nature-based tourism activities and other low intensity, low key activities that are compatible with and have a direct connection with the environmental values; and (c) provides opportunities for recreational pursuits that have a direct connection with the environmental values of the land.	AO2	No acceptable outcome provided.
PO3	Low impact utility installations may be provided where such activities are located, designed and operated to avoid significant impacts on ecological systems and processes.	AO3	No acceptable outcome provided.
<i>General</i>			
PO4	Development provides for infrastructure and services that are commensurate with the very limited range of small scale and low-key activities that are expected to occur in the zone. Such infrastructure and services are designed and operated to maintain public safety and environmental health.	AO4	No acceptable outcome provided.
PO5	Natural features such as creeks, gullies, waterways, wetlands, flora and fauna communities, habitats, vegetation and bushland are protected and buffered from activities in the zone and adjoining land uses.	AO5	No acceptable outcome provided.