



This information sheet has been developed to be used as a guide for landowners in the Municipality who wish to prepare a Farm Management Plan.

The purpose of the information sheet is to provide guidelines for landowners as to the purpose and content of a farm management plan, to assist in the preparation of any permit applications that may be required.

## **What is a Farm Management Plan?**

A farm management plan is a plan which shows what the property is like now, what you intend doing with it, how and when you intend to do things, and what the likely financial return will be.

It should describe the layout of the property, the physical characteristics of the land in terms of soil type, slope, conditions of rivers or streams and other physical features including dams, wood lots, scattered trees, fences, and any physical improvements proposed.

The plan should also describe the current and intended use of the land as a farm. The plan should also indicate the site, size, and scope of any proposed developments. It should also give an indication as to the reason the proposed developments are thought to be necessary.

## **The Purpose of a Farm Management Plan**

The Farm Management Plan is required by Council to assist the Planning Officers to make a judgment as to whether, if the intended development is carried out, the enterprise will meet Council's planning guidelines.

These guidelines include planning, environmental, land use, zoning, cultural heritage, infrastructure, and community considerations.

Council is committed to maintain agricultural land for agricultural purposes and to ensure that inappropriate developments on agricultural land do not occur.

Activity on the land which would diminish the aesthetic value of the land, or which would have a negative effect and make it difficult for neighbouring landowners to carry out their own legal and permitted uses of the land, could also be considered inappropriate land use.

The Farm Management Plan should demonstrate to Council what the landowner intends to do and also encourage the landowner to think more clearly about what is intended.

## **Farm Management Plan Checklist**

A Farm Management Plan should include but is not limited to the following information:

- Existing and proposed land uses.
- Site plan/operational layout including location of the dwelling, farm enterprise and associated infrastructure requirements (i.e. shedding, fencing, machinery, dams, etc.).
- Description of existing or proposed buildings and how they support the land use(s)
- Intensity/size/hours of operation of the farm enterprise.
- Qualifications and background of the farm enterprise manager(s).
- Five year operational plan for the farm enterprise, including infrastructure development timeline.

For more information, please contact the Planning Department on (03) 5349 1100 or you can email [pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au) Attn: Planning

# Farm Management Plans



**Pyrenees**  
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- Farm enterprise costs, forecast revenues, balance sheet as applicable
- Soil quality and conservation.
- Water management, water sources including dams as applicable.
- Natural resource management, including protection of waterways.
- Pest, plant, and animal management
- The management of wastewater generated from the agricultural land use(s). (This does not include onsite septic systems. This should be addressed in a Land Capability Assessment).
- Mitigation measures for any potential adverse effects of the farm enterprise on surrounding properties e.g. odour, noise and dust.
- Describe how the proposal addresses biosecurity risks.
- Detail how other potential risks will be managed.
- Detail on how the farm will look to utilise technology.
- Fire safety and defensible space as applicable.

## **Inclusion of Dwellings**

If, as part of the farm management plan, you intend to build a house, there needs to be a justification in the plan as to why that house would be necessary. It is not automatically the case that a farmer must live on the land that is being farmed, and it is a requirement of the plan to build your case as to why you require a dwelling. It is also necessary for individuals to provide real evidence to show that the property in question will be able to be developed, and then will be sustainable in the long term. It is also necessary to demonstrate that the proposed rural enterprise is compatible with existing land use and will not have a detrimental impact on adjoining properties.