

# Environmentally Sustainable Design

### What is it?

Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) is an approach to building design and construction which aims to reduce negative impacts on the environment and improve the health and comfort of buildings for occupants. It seeks to:

- improve the energy efficiency of new buildings;
- increase water efficiency and water reuse;
- enhance indoor environmental quality (e.g. fresh air, cross ventilation, natural daylight, cooling and lighting, etc);
- improve the water quality of stormwater, reduce and re-use stormwater;
- minimise car dependency and promote walking, cycling and public transport;
- reduce waste during design and construction and include composting and green waste facilities for residents;
- protect and enhance biodiversity, provide natural habitats, encourage retention of significant trees and the planting of indigenous vegetation and provide space for productive gardens.

### Why is it important?

Buildings consume a significant amount of natural resources and have a wide range of environmental impacts. Applying ESD principles can significantly reduce these impacts and deliver housing that is more suitable for climatic extremes. It also delivers housing that needs less heating and cooling, therefore reducing living costs, carbon emissions and the demand for water. The most effective buildings follow ESD guidelines from the conceptual stage.

### What are the challenges?

It is anticipated that a State wide ESD policy will be introduced in 2019, however this is not confirmed. In the absence of a State policy, 18 local councils have introduced a local policy requiring development to achieve best practice ESD. In Bayside, planning permit applicants can voluntarily incorporate ESD into their development, but they do not have to.

### What are we proposing to do about it?

We are proposing to:

- Retain the section of the *Housing Strategy* on sustainable development.
- Retain the following actions in the Housing Strategy relating to ESD:
  - o Advocate to the State Government to strengthen the environmental performance requirements for new developments.
  - o Work with the State Government and other Councils to incorporate Sustainable Design in the Planning Process (SDAPP) into the planning system.
  - o Seek to require all developments to apply SDAPP tools to residential development and commercial and industrial development (e.g. BESS assessment).
  - o Educate and inform the community about environmentally sustainable initiatives that they may incorporate into new and existing dwellings.
- If a State ESD policy is not introduced by the end of 2019, introduce an ESD policy into the Bayside Planning Scheme as a high priority.
- Provide an information sheet illustrating how ESD can be incorporated into housing design.



**To read the Housing Strategy Review or to have your say please go to:**

**[bayside.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay](https://bayside.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay)**

