

Draft Amenity Local Law 2026

Summary of Changes

GENERAL LOCAL LAW AMENDMENTS

- ✓ Wording clarity, consistency and document order
- ✓ New/improved definitions
- ✓ New/improved clauses addressing key issues
- ✓ Revise Schedule 1 - Penalties
- ✓ Streamline - reference only to other policies, permits, licenses etc.
- ✓ Cross-reference with other legislation
- ✓ Consistency with other Councils

PRIVATE LAND AND AMENITY

Supporting clauses

11	Dangerous land
12	Unsightly land
13	Land which is detrimental to the general amenity of the neighbourhood
14	Obstructions from private land
15	Dilapidated buildings
17	Camping on private land
19	Intruder alarms
20	Lights
21	Short stay rental accommodation
22	Shipping containers

Description of changes

- Redrafted current clause and replaced with 3 clauses:
- Dangerous land
 - Unsightly land
 - Land which is detrimental to the general amenity of the neighbourhood
- New definition of ‘unsightly land’ to provide clarity to the community.
- Included graffiti to address antisocial behaviour.
- Redrafted the clause regulating dilapidated buildings to impose obligations on the owner to clean up and maintain a property. Includes graffiti as part of the owner’s obligations.
- New clause to address nuisance lighting.
- Expand provisions to include liability for property managers, to address compliance issues with rental properties.

PRIVATE LAND AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Supporting clause

26 Open air burning

Description of changes

Divide the municipality into two areas:

- Private land located within the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)
- Private land outside the BMO

Land within the BMO can burn without a permit, **subject to conditions** to allow reduction of vegetation fuel loads.

Land outside the BMO can only burn with a permit, **subject to conditions** to minimize smoke nuisance in high-density residential areas.

Conditions include **extensive safety and amenity obligations** for people burning material on private land including but not limited to buffer zones, pile size, supervising and extinguishing fires.

Provide exemptions for cultural burning to comply with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).

NOTE: Should this clause be adopted by Council, then an extensive communications campaign will be run to inform and advise the community about the changes in which category their property sits and how to easily ascertain that information. Council’s webpage will be easy to navigate and informative.

ANIMALS

Supporting clauses

- 30** Limits on the number of animals kept
- 32** Private land adequately fenced

Description of changes

Amend the land area for excess animal permits to include all land and not land less than or equal to 4,000sq metres.

Propose keeping the numbers of animals the same.

Introduce an exemption for assistance dog or assistance animal.

Add a new clause regulating fencing of animals (specifically dogs) on private land to prevent them escaping the property, to ensure responsible pet ownership as prescribed under the Domestic Animals Act 1994(cats & dogs). There is an option to install and maintain an enclosure instead.

USE OF COUNCIL LAND AND ROADS

Supporting clauses

- 36** Behaviour on Council land (including a municipal place) and roads
- 38** Access to a municipal place

Description of changes

Add new clause to extensively address aggressive, insulting and offensive behaviour and activities on Council land and access to Council buildings.

This also addresses the risk of this type of conduct during a Council Meeting.

COUNCIL ASSETS, TREES AND REGULATING BUILDING SITES

Supporting clauses

58	Hours of building work
59	Drains
60	Spoil on roads
61	Occupation of roads

Description of changes

Noise is regulated under the Environment Protection Act 2017, but a new proposed clause would regulate building works during certain times. The purpose of this new clause is to fill the gap between noise nuisance and building nuisance. Minor building works are exempted.

Strengthened the clauses to provide Council assets protection (particularly during building works), and drafted two new clauses:

- Spoil on roads
- Occupation of roads