

16/10/2014
C181**SCHEDULE 1 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as VPO1.

NATIVE VEGETATION PROTECTION AREAS**1.0**12/11/2009
C95**Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**

Native vegetation within the municipality is considered important because it is one of the major biotic elements of the environment that contributes to proper ecosystem function.

Native vegetation conserves plant diversity, provides habitat for native fauna, prevents or controls salinity and erosion, and is an important component of nutrient and water cycles. Native vegetation is also valued by the community for its role in recreation, visual amenity, wildlife and plant appreciation, screening and wind protection.

A total of 3693 hectares have been mapped ranging from 3294 hectares of Heathy Dry Forest and/or Grassy Dry Forest to 6 hectares of Swampy Riparian Woodland. Of these areas, 106 hectares are considered endangered, 290 hectares vulnerable and 3294 hectares as depleted/least concern.

The significance of native vegetation affected by this overlay has been determined by its assessment against six significance criteria, as follows:

- Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) bioregional conservation status;
- Presence of rare or threatened flora and fauna populations;
- Native fauna habitat;
- Riparian and wetland ecosystems;
- Landscape function;
- Quality of remnant vegetation.

Native vegetation that satisfies one or more of these criteria is classified as significant and qualifies for protection under this overlay.

This overlay applies to:

- all native vegetation components including tree, shrub and ground layer species; and
- private land, roadsides and public land not managed by Parks Victoria, and the Department of Sustainability and Environment .

The overlay does not relate to exotic species.

Reference Document

City of Ballarat Native Vegetation Mapping and Review of the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO1) 2005.

2.012/11/2009
C95**Vegetation protection objective to be achieved**

- Protection of rare and/or threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) and regionally significant vegetation communities within the municipality.
- Protection of populations of rare and/or threatened native flora and fauna and regionally significant species within the municipality.
- Prevention of the removal or degradation of rare and/or threatened and significant fauna habitat.
- Protection of riparian and wetland ecosystems to prevent loss of native fauna habitat water quality decline, bank erosion, sedimentation and loss of riparian and wetland native vegetation.

- Protection of native vegetation that contributes to landscape function through the provision of connectivity between remnants, prevention and control of salinity and soil erosion and maintenance of natural hydrological regimes.

3.0

16/10/2014
C181

Permit requirement

A permit is required to remove, destroy, or lop any native vegetation.

A permit is not required:

- for the construction of buildings or the carrying out of works that does not remove, destroy or lop native vegetation
- to prune a tree to improve its health or appearance, provided its normal growth habit is not retarded
- to remove a tree if this is consistent with an approved development or management plan

4.0

12/11/2009
C95

Application Requirements

An application must include the following information:

- A site plan showing the total extent of native vegetation existing on the property and the extent of native vegetation proposed to be removed, destroyed or lopped.
- A description of the native vegetation on the property including the Ecological Vegetation Class (if applicable) and its conservation status, native species present including conservation status, native trees (type, size, number and location), native fauna habitat features, and the condition of native vegetation using the Department of Sustainability and Environment Habitat Hectare method where applicable.
- The purpose for which vegetation is to be removed.
- Details of any proposed revegetation, including the proposed species (and numbers) to be planted and any proposals for ground stabilisation.

5.0

12/11/2009
C95

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002) and native vegetation offset requirements under the Framework.
- The native fauna and flora (including rare and/or threatened species) habitat value of the native vegetation to be removed, lopped or destroyed.
- The conservation status and quality of the native vegetation to be removed, lopped or destroyed.
- The value of the vegetation in maintaining the health of riparian, waterway and wetland ecosystems.
- The location and linkage values of native vegetation in the local landscape.
- The degree to which the vegetation addresses existing or preventing future land management problems and whether any replacement planting should take place.
- Whether the proposed lopping is in accordance with the Australian Standard - Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-1996.