SCHEDULE 3 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as VPO3.

BIRREGURRA TREE PROTECTION AREA

1.0

Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected

Both native and exotic trees are significant to Birregurra as they contribute to a strong landscape presence that is integral to the rural character of the area.

Scattered native trees contribute to significant canopy cover and provide a visual impact upon entry to Birregurra and within the township.

2.0

Vegetation protection objectives to be achieved

- To protect tree vegetation for its aesthetic value and its contribution to the character of Birregurra.
- To encourage the retention of trees where possible and the planting of new canopy trees and understorey vegetation.

3.0

Permit requirement

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any tree. This does not apply to the:

- Removal, destruction or lopping of trees which are less than 5 m high and have a single trunk circumference of less than 0.5 m at a height of 1 m above ground level.
- Pruning of trees to maintain or improve health, safety or structure.
- Pruning, or removal of trees to prevent damage to works when damage to a pipeline, electricity or telephone transmission line, cables or other services has occurred, or is likely to occur.

4.0

Application requirements

An application to remove a tree must include the following information:

- The total extent of vegetation on the property and the extent of vegetation proposed to be removed.
- The purpose of the proposed vegetation removal.
- Demonstration that the removal, destruction or lopping has been reduced to the minimum extent that is reasonable and practicable.
- Details of any proposed revegetation, including the proposed species to be planted and any proposals for ground stabilisation.
- The anticipated impact the vegetation removal will have on the character of Birregurra and the vistas from the entryways to Birregurra.

5.0

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application the responsible authority must consider:

- The effect of the proposed removal of native or exotic trees on the landscape and the overall character of the area.
- The reason for removing the vegetation and the practicality of alternative options which do not require removal of the vegetation.
- Whether a Section 173 Agreement, building envelopes or tree protection zones are appropriate in providing for vegetation protection and/or management of the land.
- Any relevant fire management plan.
- Risk to public safety.
- An assessment report by a suitably qualified arborist, with regard to AS 4373-2007 ‘Pruning of amenity trees’.