SCHEDULE 3 TO THE SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as SLO3.

APOLLO BAY COASTAL VALLEY AND HILLS PRECINCT

1.0

Statement of nature and key elements of landscape

The Apollo Bay Coastal Valley and Hills Precinct is distinctive as a location where a number of different landscape elements intersect in a dramatic manner: low sea coast, bayside townships, topographic edge of the Otway Ranges sweeping down to the narrow coastal strip, edge of the forest, and the incised, vegetated creek valleys. The edges and interrelationships between these elements create a landscape setting of national significance.

The “preferred character” of this precinct is the retention of the dramatic intersection of landscape ‘edges’ within the precinct, which could be further emphasised by increasing indigenous planting for subtle emphasis. Ribbon development and inappropriate development on hill faces should be limited, and township edges have the potential to be further defined.

2.0

Landscape character objective to be achieved

- To achieve the “Preferred Character” as specified above.
- To increase the use of indigenous vegetation to highlight natural features within the precinct.
- To consider the contrasts between landscape elements within the precinct.
- To ensure that development that occurs on hill faces or in other prominent locations is not highly visible and sensitively designed.
- To minimise the visual impact of signage and other infrastructure, particularly in coastal areas, hill faces and ridges.
- To protect the clear sweeping views to and from the ocean available from the precinct.
- To consider the dominance of an indigenous natural landscape in coastal areas, between townships, particularly from the Great Ocean Road and avoid ribbon development.

3.0

Permit requirements

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

A permit is not required for the following:

- to remove, destroy or lop any dead vegetation; or
- to prune any native vegetation provided it does not exceed 20% of the bio-mass of the vegetation; or
- the removal and crushing of rock, soil and stone; or
- buildings and works associated with informal outdoor recreation, except involving any new effluent disposal system; or
- outbuildings less than 130m² in floor area; or
- alterations and addition to a dwelling of less than 130m² in additional floor area, except involving any new effluent disposal system; or
- a post and wire fence less than 1.8m in height; or
- works undertaken by a public authority relating to watercourse management, environmental improvements or infrastructure services.
4.0

Referral/notice of applications

Council may seek the comments on any application in accordance with Section 52(1)(c) of the Act from the authority specified in Clause 66.06 or a schedule to that clause.

5.0

Application requirements

All permit applications for buildings and works must be accompanied by a Site Description and Design Response which must address the ‘preferred character’ and the landscape objectives specified above.

A landscaping plan should be submitted with an application for buildings and works, or to remove, destroy or lop vegetation, utilising appropriate species and demonstrating how the affected area will be remediated after development.

Applicants are required to provide a realistic visual impact illustration of the view of the development from key viewpoints along the Great Ocean Road.

An application is required to demonstrate the following:

- Whether all new buildings and works are designed and constructed to avoid contrasting shape, colour, size and mass.
- Whether buildings and works are sited so that they do not dominate the visual landscape.
- Whether buildings and works on ridgelines can be avoided. It must be demonstrated that there is no alternative suitable site and that the buildings and works are essential.

6.0

Decision guidelines

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

- The overview, objectives and strategies at Clause 21.04-8.
- The ‘Apollo Bay Coastal Valley and Hills Precinct Development Principles Incorporated Plan’ from the Great Ocean Road Region Landscape Assessment Study at Clause 81.

Buildings and Works

- The impact of the development on the nationally significant Great Ocean Road Region landscape.
- Whether the landscaping plan accompanying the application, details existing vegetation, vegetation to be removed, new plantings incorporating native and indigenous species and avoids the use of exotic species.
- Whether the vehicle access and storage proposed has been designed to minimise excavation, loss of vegetation and dominance of car storage facilities.
- The impact of the proposed development on the conservation of trees.
- The impact of the proposed development on natural ground levels and drainage patterns which may have a detrimental impact on the health and viability of surrounding trees.
- Whether there is an adequate buffer strip along roads and between private gardens.

Tree Removal

- The impact of the changes to the landscapes on the valued characteristic of the nationally significant Great Ocean Road Region landscape.
- The species of vegetation, its age, health and growth characteristics.
- The location of the vegetation on the land and its contribution to the lot garden area, neighbourhood and streetscape character.
- Whether the tree is isolated or part of a grouping.
- The availability of sufficient unencumbered land to provide for replacement planting.
- The impact of the tree on the structural integrity of existing buildings including foundations.
- Whether there are other options for further planting on the site.
- Vegetation management requirements to reduce fire hazard, prevent erosion and maintain flood control measures.