

22.0219/01/2006
VC37**BOX IRONBARK FORESTS**

This policy applies to the Box Ironbark forests and remnant vegetation throughout the Shire.

Policy Basis

Central Goldfields is located within the heart of the Box-Ironbark ecosystem. This ecosystem provides essential habitat for a wide diversity of flora and fauna, many of which are unique to this area. Box Ironbark forests surround Maryborough. Box-Ironbark vegetation communities are a vastly depleted natural resource in the Shire and region. Less than 15% of original Box-Ironbark vegetation remains in Victoria. This policy builds on the objective in Clause 21.09 concerning the need to protect and augment remnant vegetation and wildlife corridors.

Objectives

- To protect and retain Box Ironbark forests and flora and fauna habitats associated with these forests.
- To encourage revegetation to ensure no net loss of Box Ironbark forests.
- To ensure that land use and development proposals are consistent with regional vegetation plans.
- To ensure the present diversity of species and ecological communities and their viability is maintained or improved across the ecosystem.

Policy*Exercising discretion*

Where a permit is required for use or development, it is policy to:

- Require development proposals that include removal of remnant vegetation to submit an environmental management plan as part of planning permit application. The plan must clearly indicate the area and quality of vegetation that is proposed to be removed and must demonstrate the following:
 - replacement planting of approved species so that there will be no net loss of vegetation.
 - consistency with the North Central Catchment Management Authority's Vegetation Strategy.
- Seek comments, where appropriate, from of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Reference documents

The following reference documents may be considered in the assessment of development proposals that involve the removal of Box Ironbark vegetation:

Environment Conservation Council Study of the Box-Ironbark Ecosystem.

Victorian Biodiversity Strategy 1998.

North Central Vegetation Strategy.

North Central Regional Catchment Strategy 1997.

Maryborough Bushland Study 1993.

Agenda for Action - Nature Conservation in the Avoca-Loddon-Campaspe Region 1996.

Paddys Ranges State Park – Management Plan 1996.

Avoca-Loddon-Campaspe Regional Landcare Plan 1993.

Loddon Catchment Salinity Management Plan 1992.

DNRE Selected Biodiversity Components - LGA Central Goldfields.

Assessment of Road side Conservation Values in the Shire of Tullaroop.

Relevant roadside management plans.

DNRE Bio maps (indicating presence of threatened species or communities).

Any other relevant natural resource strategies.