

14/12/2017
C150**SCHEDULE 4 TO CLAUSE 42.02 VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO4**.

CANOPY TREE PROTECTION**1.0****Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**14/12/2017
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Flora and fauna identified in *Sites of Biological Significance in Knox – 2nd Edition, 2010* has local or wider significance to Knox. The density and types of trees in the areas subject to this schedule:

- Fulfil basic habitat needs for native fauna, such as kookaburras, king-parrots, small bats and gliders.
- Provide a more natural environment and landscape, which improves amenity and the health and wellbeing of the community.
- Provide ecosystem services such as climate moderation.
- Display rudiments of pre-European Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) that are now all regionally or nationally threatened.
- In some cases, can act as an ecological corridor or series of ‘stepping stones’ for movement of native fauna around Knox.

Trees are generally the most important part of the remnant vegetation. Large old native trees are important local environmental assets that are being progressively lost through clearing and declining health but are impossible to replace in the short to medium term.

In this schedule, the term ‘native’ refers to species that are indigenous to Victoria.

In some areas, shrubs and lower plants provide additional habitat for birds, butterflies and other fauna.

A number of uncommon, rare or threatened wildlife species have been identified as living in or travelling through the subject areas.

2.0**Vegetation protection objective to be achieved**14/12/2017
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To protect and retain the continuity of tree cover, with particular emphasis on indigenous species and large old native trees.

To reduce the threat of local extinction of flora or fauna species in Knox.

To improve the continuity of tree cover over time by replacing trees that must be removed with new indigenous canopy trees and a larger number of smaller plants.

To retain the likely pre-European tree canopy species of the neighbourhood through selecting replacement trees consistent with the area’s landscape and arboricultural constraints.

To provide habitat for small native birds and other small fauna through planting of shrubs and lower plants, not necessarily just trees.

To recognise the role that vegetation plays in contributing to maintain the role that nature plays in Knox’s liveability and the health and wellbeing of the community.

To ensure offsets are located as close as practicable to the local catchment and plant/animal population areas impacted by vegetation loss. Preference is to be given to any reasonable option to locate offsets within Knox.

To provide for adequate bushfire protection measures that minimise adverse environmental impacts, where appropriate.

3.0 Permit requirement

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A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation and vegetation listed in Table 1 to this clause. This does not apply to vegetation that is:

- Less than 5 metres in height and has a trunk girth of less than 0.5 metres when measured at a height of 0.5 metres above existing ground level (on sloping ground to be taken on the uphill side of the tree base) or immediately above the ground for multi-stemmed trees.
- A tree with its trunk within 2 metres of the main roof structure of an existing building used for Accommodation (excluding a fence).
- A tree which overhangs the roof of a building used for Accommodation, excluding out-buildings and works normal to a dwelling. This exemption only allows the removal or lopping of that part of the tree provided the removal or lopping is in accordance with Australian Standard® AS 4373 – 2007, ‘Pruning of amenity trees’.
- The minimum amount necessary to maintain a Minor utility installation in accordance with a current signed Memorandum of Understanding between Knox City Council and the relevant service provider.
- Listed in Table 2 to this clause.
- A weed proclaimed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- For maintenance pruning only provided no more than 1/3 of the foliage of any branch is removed from any individual plant. This exemption does not apply to pruning or lopping of the trunk.

Table 1 – Non Victorian tree species requiring a permit

Common name	Scientific name
Lemon-scented Gum	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> , <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>
Narrow-leafed Black Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>
Wallangarra White Gum	<i>Eucalyptus scoparia</i>
Brush Box	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> , <i>Tristania conferta</i>
Red-flowering Gum	<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus ficifolia</i>

Table 2 – Native tree species exempt from permit

Common name	Scientific name
White Sallow Wattle	<i>Acacia floribunda</i>
Sallow Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subspecies <i>longifolia</i>
Bracelet Honey-myrtle	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>
Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>

Application requirements

An application for a permit must be accompanied by a scaled plan of the property that shows:

- The location, species, height, trunk girth and condition of each tree to be removed, destroyed, or lopped.
- A written statement that provides:
 - For species native to Victoria and those species listed in Table 1 to this clause, an indication of measures adopted to avoid or minimise the potential impact of vegetation loss, and where any adverse effects cannot be avoided, an explanation why.

- Where adverse impacts cannot be avoided, the proposed offsets to be provided. For this purpose, the species in Table 1 to this clause are to be treated the same as native vegetation.

4.0 Decision guidelines

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

- The reason for the proposed actions and the practicality of any alternative options that would incur less (or no) adverse effects.
- The natural values of the vegetation and its value to local amenity, health and wellbeing.
- Whether the vegetation outcome mitigates bushfire risk in high risk areas.

Reference documents

Australian Standard® AS 4373 – 2007, '*Pruning of amenity trees*'

'Sites of Biological Significance in Knox - 2nd Edition', 2010 by G. S. Lorimer, 2010.