

19/01/2006
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SCHEDULE 4 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as ESO4.

WETLAND AREAS

1.0

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Statement of environmental significance

A number of important wetlands exist within Moorabool Shire. These wetlands are significant in terms of wildlife habitat and due to the existence of important species of flora. Often the wetlands are home to rare species of flora and fauna. The wetlands are important and unique landforms within the region.

The wetlands are often surrounded by agricultural land and offer refuge for many types of animals. The vegetation within the wetlands is in some cases the only remaining remnant vegetation in the area.

2.0

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Environmental objective to be achieved

- To protect the environmental and scientific significance of the wetland vegetation.
- To protect the habitat significance of the wetland vegetation.
- To protect the areas high landscape values.
- To protect significant threatened species of flora and fauna from adverse management practices that may result in their extinction.
- To conserve native vegetation communities in their natural condition, and maintain genetic diversity.
- To provide protection and enhance the long-term survival prospects for significant vegetation communities and species.
- To improve the water quality of the wetlands.
- To provide for the retention, restoration and revegetation of local native species.
- To minimise impacts from agricultural activities on the wetlands.

3.0

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Application requirement

An application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must be accompanied by the following information as appropriate:

- The purpose of the removal of vegetation.
- Method of removal of vegetation.
- Photographs of vegetation to be removed, or alternatively, a report from a qualified person detailing the level of significance and status of vegetation to be removed.
- A plan drawn to scale, showing the area and location of vegetation to be removed.
- Details of any replanting or regenerative measures to be undertaken.

4.0

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Decision guidelines

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

- The extent of vegetation to be removed.
- The reason for removing the vegetation.
- Whether the removal of the native vegetation will detrimentally impact on the sustainability of the wetland.

MOORABOOL PLANNING SCHEME

- The cumulative effect of incremental removal of native vegetation.
- Whether the removal of native vegetation will detrimentally affect the habitat value of the locality.
- Whether the removal of vegetation will result in instances of land degradation, including salinity and soil erosion.
- Any replanting or regenerative measures to be undertaken.