

15/05/2008
C73**SCHEDULE 1 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO1****131-173 CENTRAL ROAD, NUNAWADING****1.0**15/05/2008
C73**Statement of environmental significance**

The site contains remnant native vegetation of very high local conservation significance. This includes the presence of:

- A remnant of the endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) (Valley Heathy Forest) with Very High conservation significance rating and habitat score in excess of 0.4.
- Large hollow bearing trees.
- 15 plant species of bioregional conservation significance

This site of botanical significance plays an important role in contributing to the biodiversity of the area around Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. The site is dominated by a combination of Mealy Stringybark *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*, Bundy *E. goniocalyx* and Messmate Stringybark *E. obliqua*. The majority of trees are relatively young regeneration although the presence of 16 Large Old Trees and 44 Medium Old Trees within the broader stand have been identified.

The native understorey is dominated by a range of indigenous grasses including Wallaby-grasses *Austrodanthonia* spp., Silvertop Wallaby-grass *Joycea pallida*, Veined Spear-grass *Austrostipa rudis*, Common Blown-grass *Lachnagrostis filiformis*, Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides*, Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*, Mat Grass *Hemarthria uncinata* and Soft Tussock-grass *Poa morrisii*. Other common species included Broad-leaf Stinkweed *Opercularia ovata*, Smooth Solenogyne *Solenogyne dominii*, Common Bog-sedge *Schoenus apogon*, Small Poranthera *Poranthera microphylla*, Small St John's Wort *Hypericum gramineum*, Grassland Wood-sorrel *Oxalis perennans*, Wattle Mat-rush *Lomandra filiformis*, Centella *Centella cordifolia* and Ivy-leaf Violet *Viola hederacea*.

Shrubs and small trees are relatively sparse but include Wattles *Acacia* spp., Prickly Tea-tree *Leptospermum continentale*, Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa* and Burgan *Kunzea ericoides*.

This EVC is severely threatened to the extent that records indicate only about 470 hectares remain out of the 20,000 hectares that may have existed in the Gippsland Plain Bioregion.

Development, particularly subdivision, within the property needs to be appropriately managed to ensure the long term protection and sustainability of this biodiversity.

References

131 Central Road, Nunawading: Vegetation Assessment by Stephen Mueck, Biosis (November 2007)

Weeds in Whitehorse

2.015/05/2008
C73**Environmental objectives to be achieved**

To ensure the long term protection of the very high conservation values of this site of botanical significance.

To recognise the importance of the site as a key habitat area for the Valley Heathy Forest endangered EVC.

To ensure that the very high habitat value of the site is not diminished by the incremental removal of remnant vegetation or inappropriate development.

To protect the natural resources and maintain the ecological processes and genetic diversity of the site and area.

To ensure that any new development is sensitively designed and sited to reinforce the existing environmental characteristics of the site.

3.0

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Permit requirement

A permit is required to construct a fence.

A permit is not required to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation if the vegetation is:

- Dead or dying to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- Non-native vegetation.
- Included in the Incorporated Document titled “The City of Whitehorse Environmental Weed List 2007.”

4.0

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Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application to construct a building, construct or carry out works, subdivide land or remove, destroy or lop vegetation, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The impact of the proposal on the identified very high habitat values of the land.
- The significance of the vegetation that may be affected by the proposal, in terms of its rarity, variety or as a habitat for wildlife.
- The need to avoid the clearing of any vegetation, especially on slopes greater than 20 percent or within 30 metres of a watercourse.
- The capability of the site to accommodate the proposal without adversely affecting the environmental features of the site and its environs.
- Any alternative means of locating proposed buildings, works and subdivision that would protect and enhance the environmental features of the site and its environs.
- Whether appropriate management practices are proposed, including the control of vermin and environmental weeds, the fencing of significant vegetation, the prevention of soil erosion, fire prevention measures, and revegetation of degraded areas with plant species that are indigenous to the site and area.
- The extent to which the proposal will avoid, minimise or offset impacts on the native vegetation which is an endangered EVC and has a very high conservation significance.