

11/02/2010
C96**SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO2****15 VIRGILLIA STREET, BLACKBURN NORTH****1.0****Statement of environmental significance**11/02/2010
C96

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

- A remnant of the endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) 127 (Valley Heathy Forest) with High conservation significance rating and habitat score of less than 0.4.
- Eight flora species of regional significance.
- Habitat for woodland flora and fauna species.
- Presence of a population of old, hollow-bearing trees.

This site of botanical significance plays an important role in contributing to the biodiversity of the Blackburn North area. The original vegetation over much of the site has been cleared and degraded, however the remaining vegetation is comprised of a mixture of exotic vegetation and remnant forest. The modified remnant of Valley Heathy Forest, which supports four large old trees, is dominated by a Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora* with a small number of Mealy Stringybark *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*, and one Red Stringybark *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*.

The understorey shrubs and small trees include Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa*, Black Wattle *Acacia mearnsii* and Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis*. The ground layer, although modified with introduced plants, includes indigenous graminoids, such as Slender Wallaby-grass *Austrodanthonia racemosa*, Spear Grass *Austrostipa spp.* and Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides*.

This EVC is endangered in the Gippsland Plain Bioregion and within all bioregions where it occurs.

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

References

Flora, Fauna and habitat hectare assessment of 15 Virgillia Street, Blackburn North, Biosis Research (April 2008)

Weeds in Whitehorse

2.0**Environmental objectives to be achieved**21/08/2008
C95

To ensure the long term protection of the 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 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.

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11/02/2010
C96

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 and has a trunk diameter less than 40 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level.
- Non-native vegetation.
- Included in the Incorporated Document titled “The City of Whitehorse Environmental Weed List 2007.”

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11/02/2010
C96

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 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 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 high conservation significance.