

SCHEDULE 2 TO THE RURAL CONSERVATION ZONE

Shown on the planning scheme map as **RCZ2**.

CONSERVATION VALUES

The Merri Creek and its immediate surrounds host habitat and suitable potential habitat for the threatened Growling Grass Frog, a matter of national environmental significance. The creek has a unique role to play in the survival of the Growling Grass Frog and the vegetation and aquatic communities it inhabits that in other places have almost been totally destroyed. The creek environs also provide as safe environment for the movement of non-threatened birds and other wildlife.

Merri Creek is a major tributary of the Yarra River with a catchment of 396 square kilometres and a waterway length of some 60 kilometres. Revegetation works and parkland development including path and construction works have created a linear park of outstanding quality and landscape character – one which plays an important role in the park system of the metropolitan area.

The creek and its environs are a recreational open space linking the inner suburbs of Melbourne to rural areas in its upper reaches and connecting to the metropolitan wide open space and trail network. The recreation function provides valuable exposure to conservation environments.

Land in this zone includes: existing conservation reserves; areas of significant remnant native vegetation in the form of grasslands, woodlands, waterways and riparian environments; areas to be developed for conservation and a number of areas that provide habitat for threatened flora and fauna.

	Land	Area/Dimensions/Number
Minimum subdivision area (hectares).	None specified	
Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to alter or extend an existing dwelling (square metres).	All land	50
Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to construct an out-building associated with a dwelling (square metres).	All land	50
Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to alter or extend an existing building used for agriculture (square metres).	All land	50

Permit requirement for earthworks	Land
Earthworks which change the rate of flow or the discharge point of water across a property boundary.	None specified
Earthworks which increase the discharge of saline groundwater.	None specified