

29/11/2007
C41 (Part 1)**SCHEDULE 2 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO2****SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION (RIVER REDGUM GRASSY WOODLAND)****1.0**29/11/2007
C41 (Part 1)**Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**

Vegetation within Epping North has been highlighted in studies including the NEROC Report as being of high and medium faunal and habitat significance with vegetation communities identified from regional through to local significance. Epping North is located within two NEROC Sites – the Edgars Creek Headwaters and the Epping to Wollert site. Significant habitat links are highlighted within the Epping North area linking the nationally significant Craigieburn grasslands to the west with significant River Red Gum Grassy Woodlands to the north and north east. Watercourses within Epping North also play an important role as a habitat link.

More specific studies within Epping North have identified that the area contains a diversity of vegetation communities including plains grassy woodland, open woodland, stony knoll shrubland and grassland, and some riparian communities. Significant vegetation within Epping North includes remnant River Red Gums, Yellow Gums as well as native grassland species and riparian species along watercourses including the Edgars, Darebin and Findon Creeks. Remnant vegetation, especially River Red Gums, is also a key feature of the landscape and provides opportunities for visual relief within an urban area and for the creation of local character and identity.

It is important that a full assessment of vegetation occurs prior to development to enable retention of significant vegetation and to enhance its condition. Regard is to be given to the protection of vegetation at two levels. Firstly in forward planning work associated with Incorporated Plan, incorporated document and/or Development Plan preparation and secondly individual proposals for vegetation removal that may occur prior to urban development within Epping North.

Reference:

- Flora and Fauna Assessment, O’Herns Road Epping, Ahern, L et al, 1998
- NEROC Study (*Sites of Faunal and Habitat Significance in North East Melbourne*, Beardsell, 1997)
- City of Whittlesea Local Conservation Strategy, City of Whittlesea, 2000
- City of Whittlesea, Rural Review (Draft for Consultation), 2000
- Flora and fauna of Aurora, Epping North, Victoria, Biosis Research Pty Ltd, May 2006

2.019/01/2006
VC37**Vegetation protection objective to be achieved**

- To protect and enhance the diversity of vegetation types and communities within Epping North
- To maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of indigenous vegetation within Epping North during its transition from rural to urban
- To allow for faunal movement through the area by the maintenance and enhancement of habitat links
- To protect the ongoing viability of vegetation communities by allowing for regeneration

- To preserve and maintain significant vegetation and the character of the area
- Preserve natural habitat for flora and fauna

3.0

29/11/2007
C41 (Part 1)

Permit requirement

No permit is required to remove, destroy or lop vegetation, which is not native vegetation.

Any permit application to remove native vegetation must be accompanied by:

- A detailed site plan indicating the vegetation to be removed.
- A report by a suitably qualified environmental consultant prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority assessing the health and significance of the vegetation.
- Proposals for replacement vegetation/regeneration.

Flora and fauna assessments prepared as part of the Local Structure Plan/Incorporated Plan/incorporated document/Development Plan process should consider, as agreed with the responsible authority:

- Vegetation types (including ground flora) and vegetation communities within the site.
- Habitat types and habitat values.
- Assessment of fauna.
- Habitat links within and beyond the site.
- Level of significance and health of vegetation.

4.0

19/01/2006
VC37

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation the responsible authority must consider:

- The conservation and enhancement of the area including visual amenity.
- Preservation of and impact on the natural environment.
- The preservation and protection of significant vegetation.
- Whether any revegetation is required.
- Broad open space areas shown within the Epping North Strategic Plan.
- The management of vegetation to minimise fire hazard.