

19/01/2006
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SCHEDULE 1 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as VPO1.

BANDIANA CORRIDOR VEGETATION PROTECTION AREA

1.0

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Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected

The area covered by the VPO contains native vegetation that conforms to the description of Grassy Woodland, which has a conservation status as endangered under the Victorian Government's Native Vegetation Framework.

It also conforms to the definition of Grassy White Box Woodland, that is listed under the Commonwealth's "*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*" as a nationally threatened vegetation community.

The area is generally in relatively good condition. It has mature native trees, a range of shrub and understorey species, and is generally free from high impact environmental weeds. It provides habitat for a range of species including arboreal mammals and some threatened bird species, including seasonal habitat for Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and some declining woodland birds.

The corridor contains some trees planted in the 1970's as part of the Albury Wodonga Development Corporations *Forward Planting Program*. These contribute to the habitat components on the site.

Spatially, the corridor serves to connect adjacent native vegetation on the Defence Lands to vegetation on Huon Hill, Bears Hill, and through the vegetation along the Yackandandah Road to the Baranduda Range. Even where the vegetation connections to these hills may not be contiguous, the Bandiana Corridor provides a vital 'stepping stone' of high quality vegetation in the area between the Wodonga City and the Kiewa River.

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Vegetation protection objective to be achieved

- To protect and conserve indigenous vegetation within the Bandiana corridor, and the native flora and fauna species for which it provides habitat and
- To protect and maintain or improve the viability of habitats, threatened species and indigenous vegetation communities, including Grassy White Box Woodland.
- To achieve net gain in extent and quality of native vegetation (implementing Victoria's Native Vegetation Management, a framework for action) through protection, management and establishment of indigenous vegetation.
- To maintain and enhance the landscape connectivity provided by the corridor, which facilitates the movement and dispersal of species of native flora and fauna.
- To achieve high landscape quality on roadsides.

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Permit requirement

A permit is not required for:

- The removal of non-native vegetation.

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Referral

All permit applications are to be referred to the Department of Sustainability and Environment under section 55 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

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Application requirements

The following information is to be submitted with any permit application:

- Indicate the total extent of the native vegetation proposed for removal, including a census of all trees (planted or otherwise) proposed for removal, and state the size (diameter at breast height) and species of these trees.
- Specify the purpose of the proposed clearing
- Must demonstrate that the key principles of net gain in accordance with the *Victoria's Native Vegetation, a Framework for Action* (VNVF) have been adhered to and the need for removal, destruction or lopping of remnant vegetation, and that the amount of clearing has been reduced to the minimum extent necessary, and that there are no alternative locations for the proposed works.
- Provide a report on the vegetation and habitat significance of the vegetation.
- Provide details' regarding the implementation of offsets ongoing protection and maintenance for any proposed clearing.
- Documentation of approval gained from the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage for any proposed clearing, in relation to matters of National Environmental Significance under the Commonwealth's "*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*". This is to include consideration of the impacts on the nationally listed threatened community *Grassy White Box Woodland*.

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Decision Guidelines

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

- The Government's policy on native vegetation, *Victoria 's Native Vegetation, a Framework for Action*, and any guidelines.
- Whether the 'three-step approach' to native vegetation, as outlined in the VNVF, has been implemented, including alternatives for subdivision layouts.
- The role of native vegetation in conserving the flora and fauna and in providing food and habitat for native fauna
- The need to retain native vegetation if it is rare or threatened supports rare or threatened species of flora or fauna or where it forms part of a wildlife corridor
- The suitability of the site for restoration of vegetation, and its importance as a site for strategic revegetation.
- The habitat value of dead trees and logs.
- The effect of the proposal on understorey plants, including native grasses.
- The effect of the proposed works on local populations of threatened flora and fauna species, and on threatened ecological or fauna communities.
- The opinion of the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in regard to Matters of National Environmental Significance under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Reference documents and technical reports

Country Fire Authority (2001) *Roadside Fire Management Guidelines* CFA, Melbourne.

Swift Parrot Recovery Team (2001). *Swift Parrot Recovery Plan*. Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (1997) *Action Statement for the Brush-tailed Phascogale (Phascogale tapoatafa)* Flora Fauna Guarantee Action Statement No. 79 DNRE, Melbourne.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (1993) *Action Statement for regent Honeyeater (Xanthomyza phrygia)* Flora Fauna Guarantee Action Statement No. 41 DNRE, Melbourne.

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Dept of Sustainability & Environment (draft 2003). Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Action Statement.

Endangered Species Scientific Subcommittee (2000). Commonwealth Listing Advice on Grassy White Box Woodlands.

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/grassy-white-box.html>

North East Catchment Management Authority (2003) *North East Regional Native Vegetation Plan*. NECMA, Wodonga.

NSW NPWS (2004) Draft Recovery Plan for Grassy White Box Woodlands – a report for the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage.

Prober S.M. and Thiele K.R.(1993). The ecology and genetics of remnant Grassy White Box Woodlands in relation to their conservation. *Victorian Naturalist* **110**, 30-36.

Prober S.M. and Thiele K.R. (1995). Conservation of Grassy White Box Woodlands: Relative contributions of size and disturbance to floristic composition and diversity of remnants. *Australian Journal of Botany* **43** 349-366.

VicRoads (1992) Roadside Handbook: Environmental Guidelines for Road Construction and Maintenance Workers VicRoads, Melbourne