

19/01/2006
VC37**SCHEDULE 2 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO2****BANDIANA WHITE BOX WOODLANDS VEGETATION PROTECTION AREA****1.0**19/01/2006
VC37**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. Scientists generally recognise the 'Grassy White Box Woodlands' to represent those distinct woodland communities where the dominant tree species is generally White Box, *Eucalyptus albens*, and grass species dominate the ground layer. Within this community type, White Box may form mosaics with Blakely's Red Gum, *E. blakelyi*, and Yellow Box, *E. melliodora*, which may become locally dominant in lower topographic positions, while areas subject to waterlogging may be treeless.

The area is in generally in relatively good condition. Although some native trees have been removed, a number of mature native trees remain. Importantly, the understorey and ground flora is in excellent condition, and the area is generally free from high impact environmental weeds. It provides habitat for a range of species including seasonal habitat for threatened species such as the Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and some declining woodland birds.

Spatially, the area has importance as a habitat node in the vicinity of 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 area provides a vital 'stepping stone' of high quality vegetation in the area between the Wodonga City and the Kiewa River.

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

- To protect and conserve threatened species and communities, including Grassy White Box Woodland.
- To protect and maintain or improve the viability of habitat threatened species and indigenous vegetation communities, including Grassy White Box Woodlands.
- To ensure that the impacts of the proposed development on a nationally threatened ecological community are assessed and considered, and that all relevant approvals have been gained before any development proceeds.
- To ensure that there is a Net Gain of native vegetation, (consistent with *Victoria's Native Vegetation, a Framework for Action*) through protection, management and establishment of indigenous Vegetation.
- To encourage the restoration and re-establishment of native vegetation

3.019/01/2006
VC37**Permit requirement**

A permit is not required for:

- The removal of non-native vegetation.

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 for the need for removal, destruction or lopping of remnant vegetation, 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 for any proposed clearing.
- Document that approval has been 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 to include consideration of the impacts on the nationally listed threatened community *Grassy White Box Woodland*.

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Decision Guideline

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*.
- Whether the 'three-step approach' to native vegetation, as outlined in the VNVF, has been implemented, including alternatives for subdivision layouts.
- The effect of the proposal on understorey plants, including native grasses.
- Whether Net Gain of Native Vegetation will be achieved.
- The effect of the proposed works on local populations of rare or threatened flora and fauna species, and on threatened ecological communities including *Grassy White Box Woodlands*.

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

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

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>.

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

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

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

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.