

12/11/2009  
C95

## SCHEDULE 5 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as ESO5

### KOALA AND KOALA HABITAT PROTECTION

#### 1.0

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#### Statement of environmental significance

To provide for the long-term survival of koala populations within the City of Ballarat it is imperative to recognise the vital role that the City's native vegetation plays in the survival of the koala in Ballarat as habitat and food source, particularly the presence of Manna Gum and Messmate Stringybark tree species.

Numerous land management issues affect the long-term survival of the koala in Ballarat. The 2002 Ballarat community-based Koala Survey highlighted overwhelming support for and the importance that the Ballarat community places on koala conservation. Residents perceive that koala numbers are lower now than in the past, with the main issues affecting koala survival being the logging of native forests, housing developments, the removal of vegetation on private land and along roadsides, roaming dogs and the danger created by roads and vehicular traffic.

To manage these issues, residents perceived the need for restrictions on dog ownership, improved traffic management, more tree planting and habitat restoration, tree preservation orders and stronger planning controls over urban development. This Koala and Koala Habitat Protection Schedule has been introduced to deal manage these issues, insofar as they can be dealt with through the Ballarat Planning Scheme.

#### 2.0

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#### Environmental objective to be achieved

- To maintain and enhance koala habitat.
- To ensure the type, density, design and layout of new development is such as to minimise any adverse impacts on koala movements that occur or are likely to occur throughout areas of koala habitat and associated areas and on koala behaviour and health generally.
- To coordinate the protection of koala habitat with the protection of native vegetation generally throughout Ballarat.

#### 3.0

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#### Permit requirement

A permit is required:

- to construct any buildings or carry out works where native trees are to be removed
- to construct a fence
- to remove native trees
- to subdivide land

#### 4.0

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#### Application Requirement

The following information must be submitted with applications for development on sites that contain koala habitat as shown on the Ballarat Koala Habitat Planning Map:

- An assessment of koala habitat, by a suitably qualified person, in accordance with the City of Ballarat's Guidelines for Koala Habitat Assessment.
- Clear and precise details concerning which vegetation is to be cleared or disturbed and that which is to be retained.
- Details of any proposed building envelopes and the means by which they are to be enforced.
- Proposed measures to restore koala habitat, including those that would result in a net gain of koala habitat over time.

- Proposed measures to facilitate the safe movement of koalas across the site including road designs and speed mitigation measures, fence construction details, landscaping proposals and swimming pool specifications.
- Proposed measures to mitigate the impacts on koalas by dogs. This should include such measures as education of dog owners, appropriate signs, or restrictions on dog ownership to reduce the likelihood of domestic dogs straying into adjacent koala habitat.
- Details of any proposed program to monitor koalas and koala habitat, during and following development activity on the site. Monitoring programs are not required for single lot developments, but are to be submitted with all applications for subdivision of land affecting koala habitat.

**5.0**

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**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application the Responsible Authority must consider:

- Opportunities for koala habitat restoration presented by the proposed development.
- The means proposed to maintain and enhance connectivity between areas of koala habitat and to prevent further fragmentation of habitat and Habitat Linking Areas.
- The means proposed to minimise threats to safe koala movements between habitat areas and the safety of koalas within the development site generally.