

12/11/2015
C30

SCHEDULE 2 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as VPO2.

REMNANT VEGETATION

1.0

12/11/2015
C30

Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected

The vegetation of the Gannawarra Shire is highly depleted due to European settlement and broad scale agricultural land use. The remaining vegetation is significant for its diversity and environmental value in providing habitat areas of State and National significance.

At least fifty species of plants within the municipality are listed as rare or threatened in Victoria, and at least five species are threatened nationally. The municipality also contains significant vegetation communities, including Black Box grassy woodlands and high-diversity grasslands. Retaining vegetation is critical to fauna habitat, catchment management (in terms of surface and ground water quality), the control of salinisation, acidity, waterlogging and the prevention of erosion.

The ability to maintain environmental systems and viable habitat areas within the municipality is highly dependent on retaining existing vegetation and encouraging revegetation with indigenous species. Smaller areas of native vegetation act as important components of the remaining habitat, providing movement corridors for animals, and repositories for genetic variability in plants.

The retention of the extent and quality of remnant vegetation, and its enhancement, is a key objective of Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy.

Roadside and riparian vegetation and vegetation on private land form a vital network of wildlife corridors and habitat within the municipality. The continued viability of these plant and animal populations is dependent upon the maintenance and enhancement of remnant vegetation, as well as on sustainable development and land management practices.

2.0

12/11/2015
C30

Vegetation protection objective to be achieved

To protect remnant native vegetation and habitat, including the understorey, and facilitate natural revegetation.

To promote the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.

To encourage the establishment and enhancement of habitat corridors to link pockets of remnant vegetation.

To recognise the catchment-wide land and water management benefits resulting from vegetation retention.

3.0

12/11/2015
C30

Permit requirement

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation, other than vegetation which is not native vegetation.

An application to remove native vegetation must:

- Indicate the total extent of native vegetation on the subject land and the extent of proposed clearing, destruction or lopping and the location of any river, stream, waterway, wetland or channel on the subject land.
- Specify the purpose of the proposed clearing.
- Demonstrate that the need for removal, destruction or lopping of remnant native vegetation has been reduced to the maximum extent that is reasonable and practicable.
- Specify proposals for revegetation following ground disturbance, or restoration of an alternate site, including proposed species and ground stabilisation.

4.0

12/11/2015
C30

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on any application under this overlay area, the responsible authority must give notice of an application of the kind listed below in accordance with section 52 (1) (c) of the Act to the authority specified in Clause 66.06 or a schedule to that clause:

- Any application to remove, lop or destroy native vegetation within the overlay area.

Before deciding on an application the responsible authority must consider:

- The need to retain remnant vegetation and conserve flora and fauna habitats including habitat corridors and biolinks.
- The value of the flora, fauna or habitat in terms of physical condition, rarity or variety.
- The purpose of removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation and alternative options for carrying out development on the land.
- The likely effect of removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation on resident and migratory fauna and the need to retain trees (live and dead) with hollows, for habitat value.
- The need to retain the connectivity in a local, regional, state wide or national context of linear remnants (vegetation along roadsides, railway lines, rivers and streams), habitat corridors, and biolinks.
- The likely impacts on soil, water, flora, fauna, air and ecosystems.
- The future use of the land and whether it is appropriate to include conditions requiring planting, replanting or other treatment of any part of the land.
- The latest information available on rare or threatened species.