

10/09/2015
C84

SCHEDULE 9 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO9**.

LIVING FOREST

1.0

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Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected

Council's vision for the areas around Woodend, Macedon and the Cobaw Ranges is protecting and enhancing the existing forest mosaic. This native vegetation is considered valuable for its environmental role, including its contribution to biodiversity, and for the part it plays in the character and amenity of the Shire.

2.0

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Vegetation protection objective to be achieved

To protect and enhance all remnant native vegetation for its role in biodiversity, natural resource management, and landscape and character.

3.0

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Permit requirement

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any native vegetation.

This does not apply to the removal, destruction and lopping of vegetation which is associated with the collection of firewood for private use.

4.0

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Application requirements

An application to remove native vegetation must be accompanied by a report which;

- Provides full details of the vegetation to be removed, lopped or destroyed, including species, age and number of plants to be removed or lopped;
- Provides an assessment of the significance of the vegetation at a local level;
- Demonstrates conclusively that the works requiring the removal/lopping/destruction of the native vegetation are essential and consistent with Council's vision for the area;
- Provides details of the revegetation works planned to mitigate the loss of the vegetation proposed to be removed, lopped or destroyed.

5.0

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Referral of applications

Any application must be referred in accordance with Section 55 of the Act to the referral authority specified in Clause 66.04 or a schedule to that clause.

A referral agreement between the responsible authority and the referral authority may be in place that may affect the above requirement.

6.0

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Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The need to protect all native vegetation in this area to pursue the "Living Forest" vision.
- The relative value of the vegetation in terms of the surrounding vegetation community and at a regional level.
- The threat of soil erosion and land slip resulting from loss of vegetation.
- The need to locate access roads across slope to minimise visual intrusion of the road on land where slope is greater than 20 per cent.