

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

Shown on the planning scheme map as VPO1.

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS BUSHLAND

1.0

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Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected

The remnant native vegetation of the Central Goldfields is significant for its diversity and environmental value in providing habitat areas of State and national significance. Remnant vegetation is also a feature of the Central Goldfields' landscape and provides a cultural landscape and context for the gold mining heritage of the area.

Retaining vegetation is critical to catchment management, the preservation of ground water quality, the control of salinisation, acidity, waterlogging and prevention of erosion.

Sites of Victorian Rare or Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna have been identified and mapped in the municipality. A number of depleted vegetation communities also exist within the Central Goldfields.

2.0

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Vegetation protection objective to be achieved

- To protect areas of significant vegetation.
- To ensure that development minimises loss of vegetation.
- To recognise vegetation protection areas as locations of special significance, natural beauty, interest and importance.
- To maintain and enhance habitat and habitat corridors for indigenous fauna.
- To encourage the regeneration of native vegetation.

3.0

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Permit requirement

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

Application requirements

An application to remove destroy or lop native vegetation must indicate:

- The total extent of native vegetation of the property and the extent of proposed clearing, the location of any watercourse on the property, and, if relevant, the location of areas with a gradient exceeding 20%.
- The purpose of the proposed clearing and any proposals for revegetation, including proposed species, and ground stabilisation.
- If the area of proposed clearing exceeds 4000 m² a report on the vegetation and habitat significance of the area to be cleared must be prepared by a suitably qualified person to the satisfaction of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

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Decision guidelines

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

- The effect of the proposed removal of native vegetation on the habitat value and long term viability of remnant bushland areas in the vicinity.
- The significance of the native vegetation area in terms of quality, diversity and rarity.
- The reason for removing the vegetation and the alternative options which do not require removal of the native vegetation.
- The Maryborough Bushland Conservation Study (1993) and Nature Conservation in the Avoca-Loddon Campaspe Region (1996), where applicable.
- Comments received from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.