

18/06/2009
C55**SCHEDULE 1 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO1****SIGNIFICANT AND REMNANT VEGETATION****1.0**19/01/2006
VC37**Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**

The remnant vegetation is significant for its bio-diversity and environmental value in providing habitat areas of state, national and international significance.

The vegetation forms a link between major blocks of vegetation and smaller remnant areas and consolidates remnant corridors along streams.

Remaining vegetation is critical to catchment management, in terms of surface water quality and the prevention of erosion in the steep country.

Remnant vegetation within the Otway Ranges is a key feature of the landscape and scenic recreational value for local, regional and state communities.

The area of remnant grassland has continued to decline and is now reaching a level that requires immediate action to prevent possible local extinction.

Protection and retention of groundwater quality is of major significance to the community.

2.018/06/2009
C55**Vegetation protection objectives to be achieved**

- To protect and manage the remnant vegetation in the Otway Ranges as viable habitat areas for animals and birds, for catchment management and for its scenic and recreational value.
- To protect and manage the remnant grassland as identified in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and in particular in Action Statement No 53, Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland Community.
- To encourage natural regeneration and replanting with indigenous species and to remove or modify threatening processes and introduced plant species.

3.018/06/2009
C55**Permit requirement**

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

4.018/06/2009
C55**Application requirements**

An application to remove native vegetation must include the following information:

- The total extent of native vegetation on the property and the extent of native vegetation proposed to be removed.
- The location of areas, if any, with a gradient exceeding 20%.
- A Vegetation Management Plan including identification of habitat envelopes.
- The purpose of the proposed vegetation removal.
- Demonstration that the removal, destruction or lopping has been reduced to the minimum extent that is reasonable and practicable.
- Details of any proposed revegetation, including the proposed species to be planted and any proposals for ground stabilisation.

- If the area of proposed native vegetation removal exceeds 400 square metres, a report by a suitably qualified person which describes the vegetation and habitat and habitat significance of the site.

5.0 Referral/notice of applications

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An 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 unless in the opinion of the responsible authority, the proposal satisfies requirements or conditions previously agreed to in writing between the responsible authority and the referral authority.

Council may seek the comments on any application in accordance with Section 52(1)(c) of the Act from the authority specified in Clause 66.06 or a schedule to that clause.

6.0 Decision guidelines

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Before deciding on an application the responsible authority must consider:

- The particular characteristics of the significant/remnant vegetation as listed in the table in this schedule and referenced in the map titled Colac Otway Shire – Sites of Biodiversity Significance, June 2002.
- The need to limit removal of trees to less than 10% of the land and to limit the clearance of understorey to less than 30% of the land.
- The need to retain remnant vegetation and conserve flora and fauna habitats including habitat corridors and bio links.
- The need to maintain ecological processes and dynamics of the ecosystem in a local and landscape context.
- The value of the flora, fauna or habitat in terms of physical condition, rarity or variety.
- The need to maintain viable examples of particular Broad Vegetation Communities.
- 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 need to maintain habitat corridors and to prevent fragmentation of habitats and the degradation of native riparian habitats.
- The significance of the native bushland area.
- The impacts of the vegetation removal on soil, water, flora, fauna, air and ecosystems.
- The contribution of the proposal to pest plant control.
- The reason for removing the vegetation and the practicality of alternative options which do not require removal of native vegetation.
- Whether a Section 173 Agreement is appropriate in providing for vegetation protection and/or management of the land.
- Whether the application is subject to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- Any relevant Regional Vegetation plan and Department of Sustainability and Environment Biodiversity Map including the Corangamite Native Vegetation Strategy (2006).
- The recommendations of any relevant Biodiversity Action Plan of Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Ref No.	Location	Rare or threatened species present	Rare or threatened flora communities	High Biodiversity values/link	Comment
(1)	Pomorneit Stoney Rises		Yes	Yes	Herb-rich woodland
(2)	Tomahawk Ck	Yes	Yes	Yes	Heathy Woodland
(3)	Colac Foothills		Yes	Yes	Lowland Forest
(4)	Glenaire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Heath & Lowland Forest & Rufous Bristlebird habitat
(5)	Cape Otway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Coastal Woodland
(6)	Ground Parrot Heaths	Yes	Yes	Yes	Heathy Woodland
(7)	Marengo heathlands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Coastal heathland
(8)	Barham Valley			Yes	Remnant vegetation high biodiversity link
(9)	Carlisle River	Yes	Yes	Yes	Heath & Ground Parrot
(10)	Kings Trk Nth.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Heath & Ground Parrot
(11)	Devondale	Yes		Yes	Heath & Ground Parrot
(12)	Barwon River East & King Ck Yaugher		Yes	Yes	Depleted vegetation type
(13)	Gellibrand River, Clancys Hill		Yes	Yes	Depleted vegetation type
(14)	Johanna Headwaters	Yes	Yes		Protection of rainforest and associated gully systems.