

42.01 SCHEDULE 1 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY19/01/2006
VC37Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO1****Watercourses, water body and wetland protection overlay****1.0 Statement of environmental significance**19/01/2006
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The Shire has Australia's largest permanent lake, Lake Corangamite, which is part of Victoria's Western Lakes Ramsar site. The Ramsar site also includes Lakes Colongulac, Bookar, Milangil, Terangpom and Gnarpurt, as well as Lake Cundare. The volcano complex of Mt Elephant, Mt Leura, Mt Sugarloaf and Mt Emu Creek are also important. The lakes of Bullen Merri and Gnotuk formed within marr craters are of international significance for their contribution to scientific endeavour especially regarding climate change studies. These significant water bodies play an important part in the ecology of the Shire and need to be protected from inappropriate land use and development.

2.0 Environmental objective to be achieved19/01/2006
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- To maintain the biological, physical and chemical quality and quantity of water within the watercourse, water body or wetland.
- To maintain the ability of streams and watercourses to carry natural flows.
- To prevent erosion of banks, streambeds and adjoining land and the siltation of watercourses, drains and other features.
- To protect and encourage the long term future of fauna and flora habitats along watercourses.
- To ensure development does not occur on land liable to flooding.
- To prevent waste discharge, nutrients and other pollutants from entering watercourses and water bodies.
- To prevent increased surface runoff or concentration of surface water runoff leading to erosion or siltation of watercourses.
- To conserve existing wildlife habitats close to natural watercourses and encourage regeneration of riparian and fringing vegetation.
- To minimise the potential damage caused to human life, buildings and property by flood waters.
- To restrict the intensity of use and development of land and to activities which are environmentally sensitive and which are compatible with potential drainage or flooding hazards.
- To promote the use and environmental solutions in siting and design in preference to modification of natural systems through technical and engineering measures.
- To minimise the environmental impact on estuarine environments by controls over water releases and sand bar management in line with Southern Rural Water's established protocol.
- The natural role of wetlands in filtering nutrients and absorbing soluble pollutants in water shall be maintained. Further loss of wetlands through drainage will be discouraged.

- To protect and ensure the long term future of fauna and flora habitats in wetland and estuarine areas.

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Permit requirement

The permit requirements do not apply to:

- a sign;
- fence;
- road works;
- passive recreation;
- unenclosed buildings;
- works ancillary to a dwelling, except for any effluent disposal system;
- repairs and routine maintenance to existing building and works;
- works undertaken by a public authority relating to watercourse management, environmental improvements or infrastructure services; or
- works in accordance with an approved cemetery management plan.

A permit is required to construct any building or carry out any works, including levee banks or other embankments and drainage of wetlands, within the Watercourse Protection Overlay.

Comments on any application to develop land may be obtained from:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment;
- Southern Rural Water; and
- Relevant water board or water supply authority.

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Decision guidelines

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

- existing use of land and the reason for the development in relation to that use;
- the availability of alternative land outside the overlay area;
- the means of treatment and disposal of all sewage, sullage and other wastes where connection to a reticulated sewage system is not available;
- possible effect of the development on the quality and quantity of water;
- potential for flooding to occur;
- conservation of natural terrestrial and aquatic habitats;
- preservation of and the impact on soils and the need to prevent erosion;
- protection of the area for its recreational value;
- effect of any development on the flow of flood waters and flood control measures;
- need to prevent or reduce the concentration of diversion of floodwater or stormwater;
- conservation of natural habitats and the preservation of native flora, fauna, fish and other aquatic life;
- proper management of the land as a watercourse, water body or wetland area;

- the need for fencing off of waterways and other land management measures.
- the function of the watercourse, water body or wetland as part of a broader natural system;
- potential threats to watercourse, water body or wetland quality and function;
- existing use of land and the reason for the development in relation to that use;
- possible effect of the development on the quality and quantity of water;
- the management of the natural integrity of estuarine water regimes to preserve aquatic life cycle and biological processes;
- *Managing Your Wetland A Practical Guide For Landholders* - Victorian Wetland Wetlands Trust and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.