

19/01/2006  
VC37**SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as ESO2

**DAREBIN CREEK AND ENVIRONS****1.0**19/01/2006  
VC37**Statement of Environmental Significance**

The Darebin Creek and its surrounds contain significant parcels of the threatened grassland/grassy woodland ecosystem remaining in the Melbourne region. The remnant and re-vegetated areas along the Darebin Creek and abutting areas provide a significant resource for native flora and fauna.

The Darebin Creek contains pre and post European contact archaeological sites. At this stage only a portion of the sites has been registered whilst unidentified sites continue to be at risk from development.

The Darebin Creek offers a recreational resource of great value, both in the local and regional context of open space. The linear park provides an open space environment which ensures the preservation, restoration, environmental protection, and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Darebin Creek Park.

**2.0**19/01/2006  
VC37**Environmental objective to be achieved**

- To facilitate pedestrian and cyclist movement along and across the creek to link with the Main Yarra Trail through the provision of a network of pathways and creek crossings.
- To protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources and the wildlife habitat of the creek valley.
- To enhance the amenity of the surrounding residential, commercial and industrial land uses.
- To provide diverse recreational opportunities and experiences along the Lower Darebin Creek in a predominantly natural setting.
- To enhance the quality of the creek valley by discouraging activities which may cause unacceptable levels of air, noise, soil and water pollution.
- To enhance water quality.
- To ensure sound drainage and flood plain management.
- To protect areas along Darebin Creek from development that may adversely affect the Creek as a visual, conservation, ecological and recreation resource.
- To encourage development consistent with the Lower Darebin Creek Concept Plan and in keeping with the character and appearance of the area and prevent the inappropriate siting of buildings or works.
- To encourage the retention and enhancement of a continuous corridor of indigenous vegetation along the Darebin Creek Valley in order to provide corridors for the movement of wildlife.
- To protect and enhance a sense of remoteness in the Darebin Creek Valley.
- To conserve water quality and watercourse capacity to enable appropriate beneficial land use and water based activities to be undertaken.

**3.0**19/01/2006  
VC37**Permit requirements**

The requirements for a permit to construct a building or to construct or carry out works does not apply to:

- Buildings (including foundation works of less than 1 metre below ground level) in a residential zone if they are 6 metres or less above ground level.
- Works undertaken by a public authority, or waterway management agency to:
  - Sustain the form and stability of stream bed and banks, or regulate or control the flow of water in a watercourse;
  - Mitigate flooding, or construct stream habitat works;
  - Revegetation works, including preparatory works associated with the revegetation;
  - Construct a bicycle or shared pathway provided that the works are to the satisfaction of Melbourne Water;

provided that sites of archaeological sensitivity, known Aboriginal heritage sites, or areas of remnant native vegetation are not disturbed.

The requirement for a permit to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation does not apply to:

- A tree on residential zoned land with a single trunk circumference of less than 0.35 metre and 1 metre above the ground and which is less than 6 metres high or has a branch spread of less than 4 metres.
- A non-indigenous tree that has the capacity to adversely affect stream flow.
- The control or removal of non-indigenous plants in preparation for revegetation works.
- Pruning of plants to maintain access or maintain a plant's horticultural health.

**4.0**19/01/2006  
VC37**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application the responsible authority should consider:

- The Darebin Creek Concept Plan.
- Any adopted guidelines or local policies for the Darebin Creek.
- The views of the Darebin Creek Coordinating Committee, Melbourne Water and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria Heritage Services Branch, as deemed appropriate by the Responsible Authority.
- The relevant provisions of any adopted municipal Open Space Strategy and in particular, the relevant open space category and preferred recreational uses and development guidelines.
- The effect of the proposed removal of vegetation on the habitat value, wildlife corridor, and long term viability of remnant and revegetated areas along the creek corridor.
- The significance of the native vegetation area, including significance of plant communities or significance plant and animal species supported.
- The reasons for removing the vegetation and the practicality of alternative options which do not require the removal of the native vegetation.
- The effect of the height, bulk, and general appearance of any proposed buildings and works on the environmental values and visual character of the creek.
- The extent that buildings or works are designed to enhance or promote the environmental values of the creek and the visual character of the creek corridor.

- The need for landscaping or vegetation screening.
- The need to ensure that buildings or works do not disturb known sites of Aboriginal heritage or areas likely to contain Aboriginal heritage.
- The need to protect trees with Aboriginal trunk or branch scars.
- The need to retain vegetation and natural features which contributes to the health and water quality of the creek and the visual character of the creek corridor.
- The extent that buildings or works are designed to enhance or promote the environmental values of the creek and the visual character of the creek corridor.
- The need for a retention pond that acts as a filter and collector of sediment and litter.