

19/01/2006
VC37

SCHEDULE 1 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as ESO1.

SIGNIFICANT ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL AREAS

1.0

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Statement of environmental significance

Sites identified for their zoological significance (diverse habitat communities) have exceptional conservation values because of the Island's isolation and lack of major disturbances (unlike the mainland where diverse habitat communities have been fragmented by subdivision and other development).

Sites identified for their botanical significance include heath and open woodlands, orchids, salt marsh, mangroves and sea grass communities, many of which represent a uniquely Australian component of worldwide ecosystems.

2.0

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Environmental objective to be achieved

- To recognise the role of remnant vegetation as a habitat for wildlife.
- To retain and regenerate native vegetation as a refuge or corridor for wildlife.
- To discourage feral animals, introduced non-native animals or introduced plant species from infiltrating areas of natural vegetation.
- To discourage public access to identified areas of zoological and botanical significance.
- To ensure that development, including subdivision, and land uses are compatible with the environmental values of the area.
- To protect and enhance areas identified for their botanical and zoological significance.

3.0

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Permit requirement

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.

A permit is not required to remove, destroy or lop *Pinus Pinaster*, if undertaken in consultation with Parks Victoria.

4.0

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Decision guidelines

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

- Whether flora and fauna will be protected from introduced plants and species.
- Whether any additional human activity will cause detriment to the environment, including habitat values.
- The impacts on wildlife by the fragmentation of continuous vegetation which act as corridors or refuge areas.
- The need to prevent stock access to areas identified for their zoological and botanical significance.
- The need to retain and enhance native vegetation, particularly in areas susceptible to salinity recharge.