

19/01/2006  
VC37**SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO2****WATERCOURSE PROTECTION****1.0**19/01/2006  
VC37**Statement of environmental significance**

Water quality is important for urban and rural communities alike and consideration of downstream effects is essential. The Corangamite Catchment Management Board has identified high priority issues in the catchment as water erosion, eutrophication and the quality of groundwater

The protection of watercourses is necessary to prevent the degradation of the environment, with respect to water quality, habitat, vegetation and erosion

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

To maintain the quality and quantity of water within the watercourse.

- 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 prevent pollution and increased turbidity of water in natural watercourses.
- 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, where appropriate, to allow for generation and regeneration of habitats.
- 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.

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

Any application to develop land may be referred for comment to:

- the Department of Natural Resources and Environment; and
- the relevant water board or water supply authority.

Planning permits are not required for works and maintenance of roads, railways and highways controlled by Vicroads or the Public Transport Corporation, where an agreed Vegetation Management Plan has been approved.

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

The responsible authority must consider the:

- 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;
- 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 fauna, fish and other aquatic life;
- proper management of the land as a watercourse area;
- the need for fencing off of waterways and other land management measures.