

19/01/2006
VC37

SCHEDULE 4 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as ESO4

NORTHERN RAILWAY RESERVATION

1.0

19/01/2006
VC37

Statement of environmental significance

The Northern Railway Reservation contains at least two sites of vegetation significance. The two sites are located north and south of Sunbury and consist of disturbed remnant Plains grassland dominated variously by *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo grass) *Danthonia caespitosa* (Wallaby grass) and *Stipa aristiglumis* (Spear grass).

The site south of Sunbury is of national significance due to the presence of endangered and vulnerable flora species. The site to the north is of regional significance due to the rarity of this ecosystem type in Victoria.

The ability to maintain the sites and prevent further degradation is dependant upon appropriate management of weed species and the use of fire.

2.0

19/01/2006
VC37

Environmental objective to be achieved

The objective to protect and enhance the endangered and vulnerable flora species and habitat value of this site of national significance.

3.0

19/01/2006
VC37

Permit requirement

A permit is required to remove native vegetation.

An application to remove native vegetation must indicate:

- The total extent of vegetation on the property and the extent of native vegetation proposed to be cleared.
- The purpose of the proposed clearing and any proposals for revegetation, including proposed species, and ground stabilisation.
- A report by a suitable qualified person which describes the vegetation and habitat significance of the site, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

4.0

19/01/2006
VC37

Decision guidelines

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

- The effect of the proposed removal of native vegetation on the habitat value and long term viability of remnant grasslands in the vicinity.
- The significance of the native vegetation area.
- The reason for removing the vegetation and the practicality of alternative options which do not require removal of the native vegetation.

Reference

Remnant Native Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands of the Melbourne Area: An action plan for conservation based on biological values (1990).