

19/01/2006  
VC37

## **SCHEDULE 5 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as ESO5

### **MOUNT RIDLEY GRASSLAND AND WOODLAND**

#### **1.0**

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#### **Statement of environmental significance**

The Mount Ridley locality contains areas of grassland and grassy woodland which are relatively intact. It also contains Red Gum woodland areas which are now very rare on the basalt plains due to their natural grassy understorey and ground flora components.

Red Gum woodland areas are of very high conservation value due to their high species richness, the number of flora and fauna species now rare in the region, and because they support a wide range of faunal habitats. The basalt plains grasslands are also of conservation significance due to the rarity of this ecosystem type in Victoria as a whole. The Mount Ridley site is of state significance due to the high diversity of flora species present and for its habitat values.

#### **2.0**

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#### **Environmental objective to be achieved**

Protect and enhance the species richness, flora and fauna habitat values and intactness of this site of regional and state significance.

#### **3.0**

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#### **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**

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#### **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 grasses 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.
- The requirements of the Native Woodland protection Area Guidelines as they apply to land within the Mount Ridley Local Structure Plan.

#### **References**

Native Woodland Protection Area Guidelines (1997).

Mount Ridley Local Structure Plan (1997).

Sites of Faunal and Habitat significance in North East Melbourne (1997).