

19/01/2006
VC37**SCHEDULE 3 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as VPO3.

REMNANT OVERSTOREY VEGETATION**1.0**19/01/2006
VC37**Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**

In some areas of Knox the only vegetation representing Knox's natural environment are trees. These trees would have originally formed the overstorey vegetation to mid storey and lower storey indigenous vegetation, however with development, these natural lower storeys have been removed. The Vegetation Assessment and Protection Strategy for the City of Knox (Water Ecoscience, February 1998) has identified areas within the municipality as having an overstorey of remnant vegetation which provides the local vegetation characteristic to the area. This includes overstorey containing one or a number of indigenous species or remnant trees and areas of dense remnant overstorey with a high degree of naturalness.

Remnant overstorey vegetation represents part of the area's natural heritage for educational and scientific purposes. It contributes to Knox's biodiversity through the trees themselves and the fauna habitat and is also a source of genetic material for the re-establishment of Knox's natural heritage. Some remnants contain rare or threatened plant species or species of local, regional or State significance.

The remnant overstorey vegetation is important for its contribution to habitat and environmental processes. In some cases it provides protection to waterways and contributes to habitat corridors.

Remnant overstorey vegetation also beautifies and adds natural interest to the areas in which it is located.

Note: Further refinement of the boundaries of the areas of remnant overstorey trees in this overlay is required. The purpose of this control is to ensure that, in the meantime, the value of trees proposed to be removed, destroyed or lopped in this area is assessed in terms of their contribution to the vegetation protection objectives of this schedule and that this influences the consideration of whether the vegetation should be removed or modified.

Ref: Vegetation Assessment and Protection Strategy for the City of Knox (Water Ecoscience, February 1998)

Vegetation Survey of Linear Reserves – A Management Strategy for Riparian and Flood Plain Vegetation (Reid, J. et. al. September 1997).

2.019/01/2006
VC37**Vegetation protection objective to be achieved**

- To retain overstorey native vegetation which is representative of the natural heritage of the City.
- To maintain overstorey remnant native vegetation to provide biodiversity and a source of genetic material for the re-establishment of the natural heritage of the City.
- To retain overstorey habitat for native fauna.
- To retain native vegetation which provides a buffer to waterways.
- To retain native vegetation which is rare, threatened or of local, regional or State significance.
- To retain native vegetation which provides natural beauty and interest.

3.0

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Permit requirement

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation which complies with both of the following:

- Has a height of 8 metres or more.
- Has a trunk more than 300mm in diameter (measured at 1200mm above the base of the tree).

A permit is not required:

- To remove, destroy or lop the minimum extent of native vegetation necessary to continue the activity on land which has previously been cleared where seedlings or regrowth are less than 10 years old and the land is within the formation of a road or railway line.
- To remove, destroy or lop the minimum extent of native vegetation necessary to maintain public utility services for the transmission of water, sewage, gas, electricity, electronic communications or the like.

4.0

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Decision guidelines

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

- The location of existing vegetation on the land and the areas of vegetation to be removed.
- The compatibility of any buildings and works with existing vegetation proposed to be retained.