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SCHEDULE 4 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO4**.

CANOPY TREE PROTECTION

1.0 Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected

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Flora and fauna identified in *Sites of Biological Significance in Knox* – 2^{nd} *Edition*, 2010, has local or wider significance to Knox. The density and types of trees in the areas subject to this schedule:

- Fulfil basic habitat needs for native fauna, such as kookaburras, king-parrots, small bats and gliders.
- Display rudiments of pre-European Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) that are now all regionally or nationally threatened.
- In some cases, can act as an ecological corridor or series of 'stepping stones' for movement of native fauna around Knox.

Trees are generally the most important part of the remnant vegetation. Large old native trees are important local environmental assets that are being progressively lost through clearing and declining health but are impossible to replace in the short to medium term.

In this schedule, the term 'native' refers to species that are indigenous to Victoria.

In some areas, shrubs and lower plants provide additional habitat for birds, butterflies and other fauna.

A number of uncommon, rare or threatened wildlife species have been identified as living in or travelling through the subject areas.

2.0 Vegetation protection objectives to be achieved

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- To protect and retain the continuity of tree cover, with particular emphasis on indigenous species and large old native trees.
- To reduce the threat of extinction to vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered flora or fauna in Knox.
- To improve the continuity of tree cover over time by replacing trees that must be removed with new indigenous canopy trees and a larger number of smaller plants.
- To retain the likely pre-European tree canopy species of the neighbourhood through selecting replacement trees consistent with the area's landscape and arboricultural constraints.
- To provide habitat for small native birds and other small fauna through planting of shrubs and lower plants, not necessarily just trees.
- To ensure offsets are located as close as practicable to the local catchment and plant/animal population areas impacted by vegetation loss. Preference is to be given to any reasonable option to locate offsets within Knox.
- To provide for adequate bushfire protection measures that minimise adverse environmental impacts.

3.0 Permit requirement

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A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation and vegetation listed in Table 1 to this schedule. This does not apply to vegetation that is:

• Less than five metres in height and has a trunk girth of less than 0.5 metres when measured at a height of 0.5 metres above adjacent ground level (on sloping ground to be taken on the uphill side of the tree base) or immediately above the ground for multi-stemmed trees.

- A tree with its trunk within two metres of the main roof structure of an existing building used for accommodation (excluding a fence).
- A tree overhanging the roof of a building used for Accommodation, excluding outbuildings and works normal to a dwelling. This exemption only allows the removal, destruction or lopping of that part of the tree which is overhanging the building consistent with Australian Standard® AS 4373 2007, 'Pruning of amenity trees'
- The minimum amount necessary to maintain a Minor utility installation in accordance with a current signed Memorandum of Understanding between Knox City Council and the relevant service provider.
- Listed in Table 2 to this schedule.
- A weed proclaimed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- For maintenance pruning only and no more than 1/3 of the foliage of any branch is removed from any individual plant. This exemption does not apply to pruning or lopping of the trunk.

4.0 Application requirements

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An application for a permit must be accompanied by a scaled plan of the property that shows:

 The location, species, height, trunk girth and condition of each tree to be removed, destroyed, or lopped.

and a written statement that provides:

- For species native to Victoria an assessment as to how the application addresses the three-step approach (avoid, minimise and then offset) as set out in *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management A Framework for Action* (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).
- The reason(s) for the removal, destruction or lopping.
- Any proposed actions to compensate for the loss of the tree canopy or other habitat
 values, including the species and numbers of any trees or shrubs to be established or
 maintained.

5.0 Decision guidelines

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

- The reason for the proposed actions and the practicality of any alternative options that would incur less adverse effects on vegetation and the habitat that it provides.
- The adequacy of any proposed restitution measures (such as establishing or retaining trees or shrubs) and the likelihood that they will be successful over a ten year period.

6.0 References and information sources

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- *'Sites of Biological Significance in Knox 2nd Edition'*, 2010 by Graeme S. Lorimer, published by Knox City Council, 2010, and references cited therein.
- 'Victoria's Native Vegetation Management A Framework for Action', Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
- Australian Standard® AS 4373 2007, 'Pruning of amenity trees'
- Australian Standard® AS4970 2009, 'Protection of trees on development sites.'

Table 1 - Non Victorian species requiring a permit under Part 3.0 above

Common name	Scientific name
Trees	
Lemon-scented Gum	Corymbia citriodora, Eucalyptus citriodora

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Common name	Scientific name
Trees	
Narrow-leafed Black Peppermint	Eucalyptus nicholii
Wallangarra White Gum	Eucalyptus scoparia
Brush Box	Lophostemon confertus, Tristania conferta
Red-flowering Gum	Corymbia ficifolia, Eucalyptus ficifolia

Table 2 – Native species exempt from permit under Part 3.0 above

Common name	Scientific name
Trees	
White Sallow Wattle	Acacia floribunda
Sallow Wattle	Acacia longifolia subspecies longifolia
Bracelet Honey-myrtle	Melaleuca armillaris
Sweet Pittosporum	Pittosporum undulatum