

10/09/2015
C120**SCHEDULE 6 TO THE SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **SLO6**.

DANDENONG FOOTHILLS – FORMER FERNTREE GULLY QUARRY1.0
19/01/2006
VC37**Statement of nature and key elements of landscape**

The Dandenong Foothills appear as treed slopes rising above the suburbs. The Dandenong Foothills are recognised as a scenic backdrop of metropolitan significance, forming part of the slopes of the Dandenong Ranges. As a green edge containing the growth of the suburbs, the Dandenongs and their foothills have an iconic significance for Melbourne, and are essential to the image of the City of Knox as a city in a unique landscape setting.

The former Ferntree Gully Quarry is located against the scenic backdrop of the Dandenong Foothills and abuts the Dandenong Ranges National Park. It has been substantially cleared of vegetation and its topography altered as a result of over 100 years of quarrying. The quarry has ceased operating and the area covered by this overlay is considered appropriate for residential development. It is important that any development is respectful of and contributes to the site's landscape setting.

The key elements of this landscape are:

- The visual dominance of vegetation including large native trees and understorey plants and the often continuous flow of vegetation across residential blocks and roadways.
- The way in which the majority of development blends in with the vegetation and the hillsides appear to be tree covered even when developed with houses.
- Houses tucked into the hilly landscape with colours that blend with the landscape.
- The gently sloping and hilly terrain.
- Interruption of the former quarry site to the landscape setting of the foothills in terms of continuous flow of treed slopes rising above the suburbs.
- Visual intrusion on views of the Dandenongs and their foothills from inappropriate development.

Special care needs to be taken to ensure that development is sited and designed so as to re-establish the closed canopy on the site to ensure a consistent western face to the Dandenong Foothills, and maintain the landscape character of the surrounding area and near and distant view lines. The landscape character of this area depends on protection and rejuvenation of indigenous vegetation (both canopy and understorey), and limiting the visibility of buildings, roads and lighting.

Special care also needs to be taken to ensure buildings and works including fencing are in sympathy with the landscape characteristics of the site and surrounding area.

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- To protect and enhance the visual, natural and cultural heritage values of the foothills landscape.
- To protect landscapes from visual intrusion due to the inappropriate siting, design or materials of buildings and works and advertising signs.
- To encourage siting, design and landscaping of buildings and works, including fencing, that responds to the landscape significance of the site and the surrounding area.

- To re-establish the site with canopy trees to achieve the appearance of this part of the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges, particularly when viewed from the west, as treed slopes rising above the suburbs, in a manner that does not adversely increase the risks associated with the spread of bushfire through the landscape.
- To ensure that vegetation remains a key element of the foothills landscape.

3.0

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Permit requirement

Vegetation

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop a tree if it has a height of 5 metres or more or a trunk girth greater than 0.5 metre 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. This does not apply to a tree that is:

- Listed in Table 1 of this schedule.
- Dead. This exemption does not apply to standing dead tree with a trunk girth of 0.4 metre or more at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level.
- 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 the 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.
- 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 of a tree or shrub.
 - Vegetation within a road or railway reserve.

Fences

A permit is required to construct a fence if it is a side or rear fence more than 1.5 metres high that is not effectively screened by landscaping, and it is not constructed of non-reflective materials and finished in muted colours.

4.0

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Decision guidelines

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

Landscape character

- The impact of the development on views within the foothills area and the impact of the development on more distant views across the city and suburbs to the foothills of the Dandenongs.
- Whether the development incorporates high standards of architectural and landscape design that respects and contributes to the nearby natural landscapes.
- Whether the siting, height, scale, materials and form of proposed buildings and works have been designed to have least visual impact on the landscape.

Finishes

- Requiring the use of non-reflective materials and muted colours on external surfaces, including water tanks and roofs of all buildings, but excluding solar panels, to reduce the visual impact of the development on the surrounding area and views of the Dandenongs and their foothills.

Vegetation

- Re-establishing a continuous canopy of indigenous canopy trees that ensure any development on the site blends in with the surrounding natural landscape.
- Providing for the retention of existing canopy trees and keeping buildings below the predominant and expected tree canopy height.
- Retention and protection of indigenous trees and understorey vegetation and requiring a minimum of 80% of all new vegetation (both canopy trees and understorey) to be indigenous species.
- Use of planting to promote a continuous flow of native vegetation across residential blocks.
- Protection of habitat for native fauna, and the creation and enhancement of wildlife corridors.
- Promoting the removal of noxious and environmental weeds and avoiding use of invasive exotics.
- Whether buildings and works, including power and communication cables inside tree protection areas of existing vegetation, are designed and constructed to provide for the long-term health and retention of existing vegetation and proposed planting.
- Whether any vegetation to be retained, removed, destroyed or lopped addresses the risk of bushfire to life and property.

Fences

- Whether the height, materials, construction and colour of fences respond to and maintain the landscape character of the area and avoid visual intrusion. Open construction techniques should be used to maintain near and distant views.

Table 1 – Species exempt from permit under Part 3.0 above

Botanical name	Common name
<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Cootamundra Wattle
<i>Acacia decurrens</i>	Early Black Wattle
<i>Acacia elata</i>	Cedar Wattle
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow Wattle
<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>longifolia</i>	Sallow Wattle
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree
<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>	Tagasate; Tree Lucerne
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Mirror Bush
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	Karamu
<i>Cotoneaster species</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn

Botanical name	Common name
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> (also known as <i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i> or <i>Fraxinus rotundifolia</i>), excluding the cultivar 'Raywood' subsp. <i>angustifolia</i>	Desert Ash, Caucasian Ash or Narrow-leaved Ash (excluding Claret Ash)
<i>Hakea salicifolia</i>	Willow-leaf Hakea
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English Holly
<i>Ligustrum species</i>	Privets
<i>Malus species</i>	Apple
<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>	Bracelet Honey Myrtle
<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	Cape Wattle
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Maritime Pine
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey (Radiata) Pine
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry-plum
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Portugal Laurel
<i>Prunus species</i>	Apricot
<i>Prunus species</i>	Nectarine
<i>Prunus species</i>	Peach
<i>Prunus species</i>	Plum
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Caster Oil Plant
<i>Salix species</i>	Willows