

04/06/2009
C37**SCHEDULE 1 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO1**.

KOONOOMOO/RITCHIE ROAD, COBRAM (RIVER RED GUM WETLAND)**1.0 Statement of environmental significance**04/06/2009
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The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) has identified a remnant River Red Gum wetland site on the site.

The land is within the Murray Fans bioregion with four (4) Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) mapped; EVC 292 Red Gum Swamp; EVC 295 Riverine Grassy Woodland; EVC 803 Plains Woodland and EVC 870 Riverine Grassy Woodland/Plains Woodland Complex. EVC's 803 and 870 have a bioregional conservation status (BCS) of Endangered whilst EVC's 292 and 295 have a BCS of Vulnerable.

The Victorian Fauna database shows within a 10km radius of the sites records for the following threatened fauna:

- Squirrel Glider – Endangered
- Freckled Duck – endangered
- Superb Parrot – Endangered
- Australasian Shoveller – Vulnerable
- Hardhead – Vulnerable
- Powerful Owl – Vulnerable

The bioregional conservation status (BCS) of the vegetation is based on the broad concepts of inherent rarity, degree of threat (including consideration of historic and on-going impacts) and importance for supporting other significant features (for example as a drought refuge for native fauna).

A BCS of endangered and vulnerable for the vegetation types indicates a moderate to severe reduction in the extent of the vegetation within the bioregion in comparison to pre-European extent and/or a moderate to severe degradation of these vegetation types across the bioregion.

The landscape context (position in the landscape in relation to other native vegetation) of the site is important. The vegetation on site provides an important link for the dispersal and migration of species with the Murray River corridor (within 2km) and nearby significant remnant woodland, wetlands and roadsides identified by Biodiversity Action Planning mapping (3 sites with a 4km radius).

2.0 Environmental objectives to be achieved04/06/2009
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To conserve and enhance the ecological values of vegetation within the area covered by this overlay in accordance with Victoria's Native Vegetation, a Framework for Action (VNVF).

To protect, conserve and enhance the long term future of significant vegetation and habitat.

To ensure long term protection of areas of high conservation value and promote the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

To ensure that any buildings and works involve minimal tree clearing and earth works

3.0 Referrals

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Any permit application must be referred in accordance with Section 55 of the Act to the referral authority specified in Clause 66.04 or a schedule to that clause.

The following information is to be submitted with any permit application:

A report demonstrating:

- The nature of any works proposed and evidence that the works have been designed meet the objectives of this overlay, including details of any proposed excavations or alterations to the natural surface within the area covered by this overlay.
- That the key principles of Victoria's Native Vegetation Management, a Framework for Action (VNVF) and relevant guidelines have been adhered to. This includes:
 - An assessment of the floristic and habitat significance of any impacted vegetation.
 - Demonstration that the need for removal, destruction or lopping of any remnant native vegetation and the amount of clearing proposed has been reduced to the minimum extent necessary, and that there are no alternative locations for the proposed works.
 - Evidence demonstrating that suitable offsets are available for any proposed clearing.

4.0

Decision guidelines

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

- The significance of any impacted native vegetation.
- The reason for any removal of native vegetation and whether an alternative option can be developed which conserves the vegetation.