

20/03/2014  
C128

## SCHEDULE 1 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

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

### MERRI CREEK AND ENVIRONS (INCLUDES EDGARS, MERLYNSTON AND CAMPBELLFIELD CREEKS)

#### 1.0

19/01/2006  
VC37

#### Statement of environmental significance

The Merri Creek and its tributaries form an environmental, heritage and recreation corridor. It draws its significance as much from its role as a continuous corridor as it does from the quality of individual reaches. All areas are important because they contribute to the linking of areas of environmental, heritage and recreation values along the creek.

The Merri Creek and its immediate surrounds host some of the most threatened ecosystems in Australia. The creek has a unique role to play in the preservation of threatened flora and fauna and the maintenance of vegetation communities that have almost been totally destroyed in other places.

The creek is the focus of a large number of pre and post-contact archaeological sites that, as a group, are highly significant. Many unknown sites are likely to exist. The areas likely to have the greatest density of these archaeological sites are sensitive to development.

Revegetation works and parkland development, including path construction, have created a linear park of outstanding quality and landscape character – one which plays an important role in the park system of the metropolitan region.

#### 2.0

19/01/2006  
VC37

#### Environmental objectives to be achieved

##### Natural systems

- To restore and revitalise the Merri Creek and adjoining open space to a more natural and ecologically diverse environment.
- To ensure the health and vitality of the natural system of the creek and its associated open space.
- To protect and enhance the diversity, integrity and health of the local native riparian, escarpment and plains vegetation associated with the creek and environs.
- To ensure the suitability of the riparian, escarpment and plains vegetation habitat and in-stream habitats for local native animals.
- To improve the water quality of the creek.
- To provide for the retention, restoration and revegetation of local native species

##### Waterway function

- To sustain flood, regional drainage and waterway functions to enable appropriate beneficial land use and water-based activities to be undertaken.
- To provide flood management and water quality protection through works that seek to mimic natural systems and produce more natural looking stream form.

### Recreation use

- To create a peaceful, passive open space quality in the creek parkland and valley.
- To provide a linear open space link including the provision of a shared pedestrian and cycle use path along one side of the waterway corridor.
- To provide for links, views and access from surrounding areas to the creek and open space.
- To provide for a range of recreational uses in the corridor that are consistent with the environmental and open space objectives for each area or activity node.
- To provide for resting places and or nodes along the creek for people to stop, rest, eat and contemplate.

### Landscape character

- To protect and enhance the natural and visual character of the waterway corridor.
- To ensure that the scenic qualities and visual character of the waterway corridor are not compromised by the inappropriate siting of buildings, the placement of fill or lack of screening vegetation.
- To restore those sections of the waterway corridor which have been modified to create artificial bed, banks and landforms to a more natural, visually attractive and ecologically diverse landscape.

### Heritage

- To protect areas of sensitivity for Aboriginal heritage
- To protect natural landforms and geological features

## 3.0

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### Permit requirement

A permit is not required to construct a building or to construct or carry out works for the following provided that sites of archaeological sensitivity, or areas of remnant vegetation are not disturbed:

- A building (including foundation works of less than 1 metre below ground level) in a residential zone if it is 6 metres or less above ground level.
- A building or works (including foundation works of less than 1 metre below ground level) for the purpose of utility installation at 46 King Street, Brunswick East if in accordance with the *Brunswick Terminal Station Incorporated Document, 2012*.
- Works undertaken by a public authority or waterway management authority to:
  - sustain the form and stability of stream beds and banks, regulate or control the flow of water in a watercourse
  - mitigate flooding or construct stream habitat works
  - revegetation works including preparatory works associated with the revegetation
  - construct a bicycle or shared pathway to the satisfaction of Melbourne Water.

A permit is not required to remove, destroy or lop vegetation as follows:

- A tree in a residential zone with a trunk circumference of less than 0.35 metre at 1 metre above the ground and which is less than 6 metres high or has an overall branch spread of less than 4 metres.

- A non-indigenous tree that has the capacity to adversely affect stream flow.
- The control or removal of non-indigenous plants in preparation for revegetation works.
- Pruning of plants to maintain access or to maintain a plant's horticultural health.

#### 4.0

17/02/2012  
C140

#### Decision guidelines

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

- The *Brunswick Terminal Station Incorporated Document*, 2012.
- The *Moonee Ponds and Merri Creek Resting Places Strategy*, Moreland City Council, 2002.
- The *Merri Creek and Environs Strategy*, Merri Creek Management Committee Incorporated, August 1999.
- Development Guidelines for the Merri Creek, Merri Creek and Environs Strategy Steering Committee, 1999.
- The views of the Merri Creek Management Committee, Melbourne Water or Aboriginal Affairs, Victorian Heritage Services Branch as considered appropriate by the responsible authority.
- Any adopted Open Space Strategy and, in particular, the relevant open space category and preferred recreational uses and development guidelines.
- The effect of the proposed removal of vegetation on the habitat value, wildlife corridor and long-term viability of remnant and revegetated areas along the creek corridor.
- The significance of the native vegetation area, including the significance of plant communities or animal species supported.
- The reasons for removing the vegetation and the practicality of alternative options which do not require the removal of native vegetation.
- The effect of the height, bulk and general appearance of any proposed buildings and works on the environmental values and visual character of the creek corridor.
- The need for landscaping or vegetation screening.
- The need to ensure that buildings or works do not disturb known sites of Aboriginal heritage or areas likely to contain Aboriginal heritage.
- The need to protect trees with Aboriginal trunk or branch scars.
- The need to retain vegetation and natural features which contribute to the health and water quality of the creek and the visual character of the creek corridor.
- The need for a retention pond that acts as a filter and collector of sediment and litter.