

20/03/2014  
C128

## **SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO2**.

### **MOONEE PONDS CREEK AND ENVIRONS (INCLUDES MELVILLE CREEK)**

#### **1.0**

19/01/2006  
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#### **Statement of environmental significance**

The Moonee Ponds Creek and related parklands form a significant linear open space system to Melbourne's north. The creek, originally a series of ponds and wetlands, is now characterised by the concrete drain weaving through constricted alignments intertwined with imposing roadway structures. It is now recognised that time has come to realise a significant landscape revival of the creek and its environs, confirming the corridor as an asset and focus in the northern suburbs.

#### **2.0**

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#### **Environmental objective to be achieved**

##### **Hydrology and water quality**

- To reinstate some elements of natural processes while enhancing water quality and accommodating the significant hydraulic demands.
- To enhance water quality treatment capability of the waterway system including drains and tributaries prior to discharge to the estuary below Mt Alexander Road.
- To ensure the flood protection function of the waterway system is not compromised by creek revival modifications.
- To take all opportunities to reduce flood flow velocities and turbulence in order to improve public safety along the concrete channel system.

##### **Landscape and visual amenity**

- To recover and recreate the riverine setting through forming more natural floodway profiles, softening and removing, where possible, the concrete lining and introducing riparian vegetation.
- To improve the views and local awareness of the open space.
- To heighten the visual and recreational amenity to benefit the local community.
- To improve physical and visual access into and along the length of the creek system.

##### **Recreation opportunities**

- To capitalise on the linear form of the creek to provide a continuous link between the significant attractions where the valley opens out and to ensure links between community recreation facilities on the eastern and western sides of the creek and City Link.
- To provide for a complementary variety of recreation opportunities which acknowledge the immediate, medium and long term aspirations of the local communities.
- To improve presently undesirable levels of public safety, particularly steep banks beside the concrete channel, and ensure proposed modifications comply with all relevant safety criteria.

- To provide for diversity of experiences, particularly spaces that feel unkempt, wild or remote.
- To provide for resting places and or nodes for people to stop, rest, eat and contemplate.

### Habitat enhancement and creation

- To encourage bird and animal populations throughout the creek corridor with the creation of a wider diversity of water edge conditions including ponds, wetlands, etc.
- To retain and manage remnant indigenous vegetation.
- To regenerate and revegetate the waterway corridor to establish habitat, visual continuity and linkages with other existing areas of vegetation along the valley using indigenous species sourced from local provenance.

## 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.
- 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 a 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.
- Construct interpretive or information signage along creek or trail.

## 4.0

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### Decision guidelines

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

- The *Moonee Ponds and Merri Creek Resting Places Strategy*, Moreland City Council, 2002.
- The *Moonee Ponds Creek Landscape Revival Strategy*, Chris Dance Land Design, 1997.
- The *Moonee Ponds Creek Northern Zone Concept Plan*, Edge Pty Ltd, 1998.
- The *Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan*, Melbourne Water, 1992.

- The views of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordinating Committee, Melbourne Water or Aboriginal Affairs, Victorian Heritage Services Branch as considered appropriate by the responsible authority.
- Urban Stormwater: Best Practice Environmental Guidelines for Urban Stormwater, prepared by CSIRO for Victoria, Stormwater Committee, 1999.
- 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.
- The need for any stormwater measures that will improve the quality of flows entering the Moonee Ponds Creek.