27/01/2011 C6

SCHEDULE 4 TO THE SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **SLO4**

WANNON FALLS RESERVE

1.0 27/01/2011 C6

Statement of nature and key elements of landscape

The Wannon Falls Reserve is located on the south side of the Henty Highway, about 18 kilometres north-west of Hamilton where the highway crosses the Wannon River. The total area reserved is about 174 acres or 71 hectares and comprises bushland, some exotics and recreational facilities. Nearby is the township of Wannon, formerly called Redruth, which was established as a ford as a coaching stop. The Wannon Inn, now demolished, provided accommodation for visitors to the Falls from the 1840s. The Wannon Falls have been the consistent subject of significant art including works by some of Australia's most celebrated colonial artists, such as Nicholas Chevalier, Eugen von Guerard, Louis Buvelot, S.T. Gill and Thomas Clark. The township of Redruth and the Wannon Falls Reserve were gazetted in the mid 1860s. Much of the reserve was originally owned by local publican John Quigley. It has been managed jointly with the Nigretta Falls under a committee of management. The Reserve has been extended and developed over the years, with changes reflecting different values and fashions, including a Pine plantation for the local State School and football and cricket pitches. In the twentieth century there has been an emphasis on native plantings. The Reserve has a significant post-World War II entrance incorporating large boomerangs on crazy-stone piers. Most recently, the facilities have been modernised with contemporary concern for environmental values. The Reserve is substantially intact and ion good condition.

The Wannon Falls Reserve is of historical, social and aesthetic significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and the State of Victoria.

The Wannon Falls Reserve is of historical significance as one of the earliest beauty spots and tourist destinations established in the Western District. It is of social significance as a recreation reserve. It is of aesthetic significance for its long association with picturesque sensibility, the dominant aesthetic in colonial Victoria, which continued well into the twentieth century. It is the subject of much important and popular art. The Wannon Falls Reserve is of significance as a comparative pair with the nearby Nigretta Falls Reserve.

2.0 Landscape character objective to be achieved

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To protect the appearance and presentation of the Wannon Falls Reserve.

3.0 Permit requirement

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A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any native vegetation.

4.0 Decision guidelines

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The responsible authority will take into account the impact of the proposal on the qualities of the landscape in considering any application for buildings and works or vegetation removal

The impact of the siting, height and design of any proposed development and the view of that development from within the Wannon Falls Reserve will be considered.

The use of new or existing vegetation to screen the development will be considered.

Reference Document: Southern Grampians Heritage Study 2004 – Datasheet No. 129.