

19/01/2006
VC37**SCHEDULE 3 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO3****BELLARINE YELLOW GUM****1.0**19/01/2006
VC37**Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**

Bellarine Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. Bellarinensis*) is listed as a threatened species under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and is the subject of a Draft Action Statement under that Act. The Draft Action Statement describes the species:

'A small mallee-like, multi trunked tree to 12m high (Rule 1998). The bark is box-like in appearance on the base and lower trunk, light brown to grey brown, fibrous and persistent. The bark on the upper trunk is smooth, mottled white and grey. Cream flowers occur from April to May.

The only known locations of Bellarine Yellow Gum are in the vicinity of the Bellarine Peninsula. Within the Surf Coast Shire populations occur in Torquay and Jan Juc. The size of existing populations varies from 20 to 200 individuals, however most plants occur as isolated trees. The populations are severely fragmented with an estimated population reduction of 95% over the last three generations (NRE 2001).

The Draft Action Statement identifies the following threats to the Bellarine Yellow Gum:

- There are few extant populations and those remaining exhibit many trees with canopy dieback and have inadequate regeneration.
- Most occurrences are of scattered mature individuals on the outskirts of developing townships, where clearing for residential development, infrastructure and agricultural activities have left remnants on roadsides, small nature reserves and farms.
- Most remnants are not reserved and are threatened by residential development.
- Recruitment is insufficient to adequately replace senescence of mature trees. In the Surf Coast Shire 86% of sites are without regeneration (Tregrove 2001).
- Existing mature plants are suffering from defoliation and dieback, the causes of which are unknown (SAC 1998). The abundance of pest plants and animals and the degraded nature of the tree's habitats may be contributing factors.
- The frequent planting of specimen trees of *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (almost invariably not subspecies *bellarinensis*) on roadsides and in private and public gardens has led to hybridisation between subspecies. Swamping of the relatively small gene pool is therefore a major threat.

2.019/01/2006
VC37**Vegetation protection objective to be achieved**

To protect and ensure the long term future of the Bellarine Yellow Gum.

To secure habitat to allow natural recolonisation within, and adjacent to, extant populations.

To encourage regeneration of the Bellarine Yellow Gum.

3.019/01/2006
VC37**Permit requirement**

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop a Bellarine Yellow Gum.

Referral of application

Applications for removal, lopping or destruction of Bellarine Yellow Gum 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.

Application requirements

An application to remove, lop or destroy Bellarine Yellow Gum must:

- Indicate:
 - The total extent of Bellarine Yellow Gum and any other native vegetation on the subject land;
 - The total extent of proposed clearing, destruction or lopping;
 - A report on the vegetation and habitat significance of the subject tree(s).
 - The location of any watercourse or wetland on the subject land; and
 - If relevant, the location of areas with a slope exceeding 20%.
- Specify the purpose of the proposed clearing.
- Demonstrate that the extent of removal, destruction or lopping of Bellarine Yellow Gum has been reduced as much as is reasonable and practicable.
- Where applicable, detail measures to protect other native vegetation, including Bellarine Yellow Gum during construction of buildings and works.
- Specify proposals for revegetation following disturbance, or for restoration of an alternate site, including proposed species and ground stabilisation.

4.0
19/01/2006
VC37

Decision guidelines

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

- Any comments by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Department of Primary Industries.
- Draft Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statement on the Bellarine Yellow Gum, or any later adopted version.
- The need to avoid removal, lopping and/or destruction of Bellarine Yellow Gum. Buildings and hard surfaces including driveways should be limited to parts of sites that do not contain Bellarine Yellow Gum.
- The need to avoid further subdivision of land that could adversely affect populations of the Bellarine Yellow Gum.
- The need to set aside areas on allotments to allow for the regeneration of Bellarine Yellow Gum.
- The need to minimise human disturbance of areas containing Bellarine Yellow Gum.
- The need for conditions on permits that require protective measures to control disturbance associated with building construction activities.
- The future use of the land and whether it is appropriate to include conditions requiring restoration, regeneration, revegetation or other treatment of any part of the land.
- ‘Bellarine Yellow Gums in the Surf Coast Shire’, Mark Trengove (2001)