

06/08/2010
VC68**SCHEDULE 3 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO3**.

TRUGANINA CEMETERY GRASSLANDS**1.0**06/08/2010
VC68**Statement of environmental significance**

Truganina Cemetery was created in 1866 and is currently an operational cemetery as well as being the interment site of the early settlers of the Truganina district.

The cemetery supports a small remnant area of plains grassland comprising nationally significant and endangered vegetation and vulnerable fauna including:

- Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*) - listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.
- Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens subsp.spinescens*) – listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.
- Doublejointed Speargrass (*Austrostipa bigeniculata*).
- Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*).
- Striped Legless Lizard (*Delmar impar*) – listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia Leplorrhynchoides*) is an endangered species (EPBC Act) that exists in few locations in Australia. The cemetery also supports one of the best remaining examples of the original Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda Triandra*). The central section of the cemetery has been reserved for the preservation of these species. The area is managed by burning once in three years during winter when the Button Wrinklewort is dormant.

Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens subsp.spinescens*) is a stunted shrub, 5-50 centimetres in height. (*Pimelea spinescens subsp. Spinescens*) is listed as critically endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Truganina Cemetery contains less than 300 plants and is an intact small native grassland within an active cemetery. The Spiny Rice-flower is significantly prone to future threats which are likely to result in extinction. Populations are threatened by residential and industrial development, construction and maintenance activities on road and rail reserves which may affect drainage and fire regimes, cattle grazing and trampling, ploughing, and weed invasion. The species is very rare in terms of abundance and distribution.

Other nationally listed plants occur within the grassland. A Public Authority Management Agreement exists between the Cemetery Trust and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

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VC68**Environmental objective to be achieved**

- To protect the Truganina Cemetery grassland.
- To protect significant landscape and habitat areas of threatened species.
- To ensure that development does not impact on the environmental significance of the land.

- To ensure that any use, development or management of land within and adjacent to areas of biological significance are compatible with their long-term maintenance and conservation and will not have detrimental impacts on biodiversity values.
- To prevent environmental degradation of sites of conservation significance.
- To enable areas of conservation significance and habitat values to be identified.
- To protect and improve the viability of habitats, ecological communities, flora and fauna and genetic diversity of the Truganina Cemetery grasslands in the long term.
- To maintain and enhance the environmental significance of the Truganina Cemetery grasslands through protection from:
 - Inappropriate activities and development.
 - Disturbance and removal of rock.
 - Indiscriminate weed control.
 - Habitat fragmentation and isolation.
 - Impacts of pest and weed species.
 - Disturbance and destruction of habitat of threatened species.
- To ensure that development does not impact on significant habitats.
- To ensure that the siting and design of any buildings and works, including the location of sites of interment, protects the areas of environmental significance on the land.
- To encourage ecological restoration, regeneration and revegetation with indigenous species within the site and in adjoining areas.
- To manage buffers around areas of environmental significance on the Truganina Cemetery land.
- To provide for the long term preservation of the flora and fauna of environmentally significant areas. Management practices for the land aim to achieve:
 - Linking and enlarging of remnant parcels of significant flora and fauna habitats.
 - Effective and targeted weed control.
 - Programs to control or eliminate introduced predatory and pest animal species, in particular foxes, rabbits and hares.
 - Rehabilitation of degraded areas through fencing, replanting and ongoing management.
 - Collection of seed and other plant propagules for rehabilitation projects on and off site.

3.0 Permit requirement

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A permit is not required to:

- Construct or carry out works undertaken by or on behalf of a public authority or public land manager involving revegetation, or preparatory works associated with revegetation.
- Construct or carry out works for the purpose of interment where the disturbance of surface soils and native vegetation is to the 'burial zone' as identified in the Truganina Cemetery Environmental Management Plan for Wyndham City Council (Native Vegetation Management Services, November 2004).

4.0**Application requirements**06/08/2010
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An application must be accompanied by:

- A description of how the proposed works are consistent with the Truganina Cemetery Environmental Management Plan for Wyndham City Council (ibid).

An application must also be accompanied by, as appropriate:

- A flora and fauna assessment of the land prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The assessment must include:
 - A flora and fauna survey.
 - Identification of the vegetation and habitat significance of the property.
 - The total extent of vegetation on the property and the extent of native vegetation proposed to be cleared.
 - A description of any proposed disturbance of surface soil or rocks associated with the proposal.
 - A description of the steps that have been taken to avoid and minimise the removal of native vegetation including the practicality of alternative options which do not require removal of the native vegetation.
 - A description of the effect of the proposed development in relation to other areas of native vegetation or native fauna habitat, including any proposed reserves, strategic reserves, conservation reserves, streams and waterways.

If in the opinion of the responsible authority a flora and fauna assessment of the land is not relevant to the assessment of an application, the responsible authority may waive or reduce the requirement.

5.0**Referral of applications**06/08/2010
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In accordance with Section 55 of the Act, an application must be referred to the relevant referral authority specified in the schedule to Clause 66.04.

6.0**Decision guidelines**06/08/2010
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Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The conservation significance of any vegetation to be removed and its habitat value for native fauna.
- The need to adopt a precautionary approach in the absence of scientific certainty.
- The effect of any proposed building or works on the environmental values of the area.
- The reason for removing any vegetation and the practicality of any alternative options.
- The importance of the natural environment including any important landscape or conservation characteristics of the area and the suitability of the proposed development.
- The control of noxious and environmental weeds and pest animals, including the need to minimise the spread of weeds and soil pathogens.
- The results of any flora and fauna survey and assessment of the area.

- Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities: Strategic Impact Assessment Report for *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Any Growth Area Framework Plans, Biodiversity Conservation Strategies, Sub-Regional Species Strategies, Native Vegetation Precinct Plan, Conservation Management Plan, Precinct Structure Plan or other management plan approved for the area by the Minister for Planning or Minister for Environment and Climate Change
- Any relevant park management plan or interim management plan.
- Any action statement, significant impact guidelines or prescriptions for listed species or habitat of listed species occurring or likely to occur in the area.
- A Public Authority management agreement affecting the land made under Section 25 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.
- The Truganina Cemetery Environmental Management Plan for Wyndham City Council (Native Vegetation Management Services, November 2004).

7.0

Reference

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- Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities: Strategic Impact Assessment Report for the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Department of Sustainability and Environment 2009)
- Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities: Report for Public Consultation, Urban Growth Boundary Review (Department of Planning and Community Development 2009)
- Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities: Background Technical Report 2a: Biodiversity Assessment of Melbourne's Western Investigation Area (Biosis Research 2009)
- Truganina Cemetery Environmental Management Plan for Wyndham City Council (Native Vegetation Management Services 2004)