

18/12/2020
C245gben

SCHEDULE 1 TO CLAUSE 42.02 VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO1** .

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PROTECTION

1.0
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Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected

Wildlife corridors are an important component of the natural environment within Greater Bendigo. These areas provide habitat for a range of indigenous species including rare, vulnerable and threatened flora and fauna species. Wildlife corridors connect scattered fragments of native vegetation and provide ecological links through the developed landscape. Networks of interconnected corridors assist the movement of species dependent on native vegetation.

A distinctive feature of these areas is the abundance of large trees that provide numerous hollows and a large surface area on the trunk and branches for foraging.

Retaining native vegetation is also crucial to catchment management, in terms of surface and groundwater quality, the control of salinity, acidity and waterlogging and prevention of erosion.

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Vegetation protection objectives to be achieved

To protect and preserve native vegetation and rare and endangered flora and fauna species.

To maintain the integrity of the box ironbark vegetation around Bendigo and Heathcote.

To maintain and enhance habitat and corridor requirements for native fauna.

To ensure population viability of fauna species by maintaining connectivity between large areas of remnant vegetation.

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Permit requirement

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

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Application requirements

None specified.

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Decision guidelines

The following decision guidelines apply to an application for a permit under Clause 42.02, in addition to those specified in Clause 42.02 and elsewhere in the scheme which must be considered, as appropriate, by the responsible authority:

- Whether the proposal protects and preserves native vegetation and rare and endangered flora and fauna species.
- Whether the proposal maintains the integrity of the box ironbark vegetation around Bendigo and Heathcote
- Whether the proposal maintains and enhances habitat and corridor requirements for native fauna through the retention of mature trees with hollows and understorey species and ground litter.
- Whether the proposal ensures population viability of fauna species by maintaining connectivity between large areas of remnant vegetation.
- Whether all options have been considered which may reduce the need for vegetation clearance, including through the sensitive location of driveways or crossings over roadside reserves and the siting of building and development works at a safe distance from mature trees.