42.02 VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

31/07/2018
VC148

Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO** with a number.

Purpose

To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.

To protect areas of significant vegetation.

To ensure that development minimises loss of vegetation.

To preserve existing trees and other vegetation.

To recognise vegetation protection areas as locations of special significance, natural beauty, interest and importance.

To maintain and enhance habitat and habitat corridors for indigenous fauna.

To encourage the regeneration of native vegetation.

42.02-1 Vegetation significance and objectives

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A schedule to this overlay must contain:

- A statement of the nature and significance of the vegetation to be protected.
- The vegetation protection objectives to be achieved.

42.02-2 Permit requirement

28/10/2022
VC224

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation specified in a schedule to this overlay.

This does not apply:

- If the table to Clause 42.02-3 specifically states that a permit is not required.
- To the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation in accordance with a native vegetation precinct plan specified in the schedule to Clause 52.16.

VicSmart applications

Subject to Clause 71.06, an application under this clause for a development specified in Column 1 is a class of VicSmart application and must be assessed against the provision specified in Column 2.

Class of application	Information requirements and decision guidelines
Remove, destroy or lop one tree provided: ▪ A permit has not been granted for a VicSmart application to remove, destroy or lop a tree on the same land within the last 12 months. ▪ There is no other current VicSmart application to remove, destroy or lop a tree on the same land.	Clause 59.06

42.02-3
16/08/2024
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Table of exemptions

The requirement to obtain a permit does not apply to:	
Emergency works	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped: ▪ in an emergency by, or on behalf of, a public authority or municipal council to create an emergency access or to enable emergency works; or ▪ where it presents an immediate risk of personal injury or damage to property. Only that part of the vegetation that presents the immediate risk may be removed, destroyed or lopped under this exemption.
Extractive industry	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to enable the carrying out of extractive industry in accordance with a work plan approved under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* and authorised by a work authority granted under that Act.
Fire protection	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to enable the carrying out of any of the following fire protection activities: ▪ fire fighting; ▪ planned burning; ▪ making or maintenance of a fuelbreak or fire fighting access track (or any combination thereof) that does not exceed a combined width of 6 metres; ▪ making a strategic fuelbreak up to 40 metres wide by, or on behalf of, a public authority in accordance with a strategic fuelbreak plan approved by the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (as constituted under Part 2 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*); ▪ is ground fuel within 30 metres of a building and is vegetation other than native vegetation; ▪ in accordance with a fire prevention notice issued under either: – section 87 of the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* ; – section 65 of the *Forests Act 1958* ; or – section 41 of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* . ▪ keeping vegetation clear of, or minimising risk of bushfire ignition from, an electric line in accordance with a code of practice prepared under Part 8 of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* ; ▪ minimising the risk to life and property from bushfire on a roadside of a public road managed by the relevant responsible road authority, and carried out by, or on behalf of that authority in accordance with the written agreement of the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (as constituted under Part 2 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*). In this exemption, roadside, public road and responsible road authority have the same meanings as in section 3 of the *Road Management Act 2004* . *Note: Additional permit exemptions for bushfire protection are provided at Clause 52.12.*
Geothermal energy exploration and extraction	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary in accordance with an operation plan approved under the *Geothermal Energy Resources Act 2005* .
Greenhouse gas sequestration and exploration	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary in accordance with an operation plan approved under the *Greenhouse Gas Geological Sequestration Act 2008* .

The requirement to obtain a permit does not apply to:	
Land management and directions notice	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to comply with a land management notice or directions notice served under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* .
Land use conditions	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to comply with a land use condition served under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* .
Mineral exploration and extraction	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary by the holder of an exploration, mining, prospecting, or retention licence issued under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act* 1990: ▪ that is low impact exploration within the meaning of Schedule 4A of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* ; or ▪ in accordance with a work plan approved under Part 3 of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* . *Note: Schedule 4A of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 specifies limits on the extent of native vegetation that may be removed as part of low impact exploration.*
Noxious weeds	Vegetation that is a noxious weed subject of a declaration under section 58 or section 58A of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* . This exemption does not apply to Australian Dodder (*Cuscuta australis*).
Pest animal burrows	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to enable the removal of pest animal burrows. In the case of native vegetation the written agreement of an officer of the department responsible for administering the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* is required before the vegetation can be removed, destroyed or lopped.
Planted vegetation	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped that was either planted or grown as a result of direct seeding for Crop raising or Grazing animal production.
Railways	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to maintain the safe and efficient function of an existing railway, or railway access road, in accordance with the written agreement of the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (as constituted under Part 2 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*).
Regrowth	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped that has naturally established or regenerated on land lawfully cleared of naturally established vegetation, and is: ▪ bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*); or ▪ within the boundary of a timber production plantation, as indicated on a Plantation Development Notice or other documented record, and has established after the plantation. This exemption does not apply to land on which vegetation has been destroyed or otherwise damaged as a result of flood, fire or other natural disaster.
Road safety	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary by and on behalf of a public authority or municipal council to maintain the safe and efficient function of an existing public road in accordance with the written agreement of the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (as constituted under Part 2 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*).

The requirement to obtain a permit does not apply to:	
Stone exploration	Vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to enable the carrying out of Stone exploration. The maximum extent of vegetation removed, destroyed or lopped under this exemption on contiguous land in the same ownership in a five year period must not exceed any of the following: ■ 1 hectare of vegetation which does not include a tree. ■ 15 trees with a trunk diameter of less than 40 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level. ■ 5 trees with a trunk diameter of 40 centimetres or more at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level. This exemption does not apply to costeaning and bulk sampling activities.
Surveying	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary by, or on behalf of, a licenced surveyor (within the meaning of section 3 of the *Surveying Act 2004*) using hand-held tools to establish a sightline for the measurement of land.
Traditional owners	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped by a person acting under, and in accordance with: ■ a natural resources agreement under Part 6 of the *Traditional Owners Settlement Act 2010* ; or ■ an authorisation order made under sections 82 or 84 of the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* as those sections were in force immediately before the commencement of section 24 of the *Traditional owners Settlement Amendment Act* in 2016 (1 May 2017).
Tram stops	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary by or on behalf of the Head, Transport for Victoria to construct a tram stop, including a tram stop shelter.
Transport land	Vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary by or on behalf of the Head, Transport for Victoria on land in a Transport Zone, or in a Public Acquisition Overlay if the Head, Transport for Victoria is the acquiring authority, to construct or maintain transport system infrastructure.

42.02-4 Application requirements

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An application must be accompanied by any information specified in a schedule to this overlay.

42.02-5 Decision guidelines

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Before deciding on an application, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- The statement of the nature and significance of the vegetation to be protected and the vegetation protection objective contained in a schedule to this overlay.
- The effect of the proposed use, building, works or subdivision on the nature and type of vegetation to be protected.
- The role of native vegetation in conserving flora and fauna.
- The need to retain native or other vegetation if it is rare, supports rare species of flora or fauna or forms part of a wildlife corridor.

- The need to retain vegetation which prevents or limits adverse effects on ground water recharge.
- The need to retain vegetation:
  - Where ground slopes exceed 20 percent.
  - Within 30 metres of a waterway or wetland.
  - On land where the soil or subsoil may become unstable if cleared.
  - On land subject to or which may contribute to soil erosion, slippage or salinisation.
  - In areas where the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation could adversely affect the integrity or long term preservation of an identified site of scientific, nature conservation or cultural significance.
  - Which is of heritage or cultural significance.
- The need to remove, destroy or lop vegetation to create a defendable space to reduce the risk of bushfire to life and property.
- Any relevant permit to remove, destroy or lop vegetation in accordance with a land management plan or works program.
- Whether the application includes a land management plan or works program.
- Whether provision is made or is to be made to establish and maintain vegetation elsewhere on the land.
- Any other matters specified in a schedule to this overlay.