

SCHEDULE 5 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO5**.

WATERCOURSE PROTECTION

1.0 Statement of environmental significance

The Mount Alexander Shire is located in the headwaters of the Loddon-Campaspe water catchment, which is the fourth most degraded catchment in the Murray Darling Basin. The management of land adjacent to watercourses is necessary to reduce erosion, maintain vegetation, habitat and improve water quality.

2.0 Environmental objective to be achieved

- To maintain the quality and quantity of water within the watercourse.
- To maintain the ability of streams and watercourses to carry natural flows.
- To prevent erosion of banks, streambeds and adjoining land and the siltation of watercourses, drains and other features.
- To protect and encourage the long term future of flora and fauna habitats along watercourses.
- To ensure development does not occur on land liable to flooding.
- To prevent pollution and increased turbidity of water in natural watercourses.
- To prevent increased surface runoff or concentration of surface water run-off leading to erosion or siltation of watercourses.
- To conserve existing wildlife habitats close to natural watercourses and, where appropriate, to allow for generation and regeneration of habitats.
- To minimise the potential damage caused to human life, buildings and property by flood waters.
- To restrict the intensity of use and development of land and to activities which are environmentally sensitive and which are compatible with potential drainage or flooding hazards

3.0 Permit requirement

A permit is not required for:

- any building or works located more than 200 metres from the centre point of the watercourse, drainage line or channel.
- Repairs and routine maintenance to existing buildings and works.
- Works undertaken by a public authority to:
 - Regulate the flow of water in a watercourse.
 - Regulate flooding.
 - Construct or redirect a watercourse.
- Any buildings for works associated with a Minor utility installation.
- Any buildings for works associated with Passive recreation.
- routine maintenance works on land managed by Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

4.0 Decision guidelines

An applicant must demonstrate that the proposed development has considered the following issues, prior to the responsible authority deciding on an application:-

- The Catchment Management Authority Regional Strategy for the Loddon-Campaspe water catchment
- The effect that the proposed development will have on water quality
- The need to protect vegetation and habitat and the role these attributes play in improving and assisting in the maintenance of water quality
- The need to retain vegetation which prevents or limits adverse effects on ground water recharge