

SCHEDULE 7 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **ES07**

CALDER BUFFER ZONE, REMNANT VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PROTECTION**1.0 Statement of environmental significance**

The native vegetation in the area covered by this overlay has been identified as of State significance as it provides important habitat for the State threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*). The habitat of the Brush-tailed Phascogale has been extensively cleared and degraded. Remaining patches represent important feeding resources of this species and trees with hollows provide essential breeding sites. The native vegetation in this area also provides vital links between the Taradale Bushland Reserve and the Metcalfe State Forest.

Also within the area of the overlay there are Regionally significant patches of remnant native vegetation including populations of the State vulnerable Golden Cowslips orchid (*Diuris behrii*). This species has been identified as a Priority 1A species in the Goldfields Bioregion. There are also populations of Regionally significant Pale-flowered Cranesbill (*Geranium* sp. 3) and Emerald-lip Greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis smaragdyna*).

2.0 Environmental objective to be achieved

To protect remnant habitat for the Brush-tailed Phascogale, particularly hollow trees and foraging sources.

To protect populations of threatened flora species.

To encourage the revegetation of wildlife corridors to connect the remaining habitat in the area.

To protect and to maintain or improve the viability of habitats, ecological communities, flora and fauna and genetic diversity in the area.

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 maintain the integrity of the sites through protection from potentially threatening processes listed in the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

3.0 Permit requirement

A permit is not required to:

- Undertake development or works that are carried out as part of an approved management plan specifically to enhance habitat values for the Brush-tailed Phascogale habitat or other threatened fauna species;

- Undertake development or works that are carried out as part of an approved management plan specifically to protect populations of Golden Cowslips or other threatened flora species; and
- Remove vegetation not native to Victoria.

4.0 Application requirements

An application must be accompanied by:

A report including:

- Identification of any native vegetation or other habitat components to be removed, destroyed, damaged or otherwise disturbed;
- The reasons for any removal, destruction or lopping of any native vegetation or habitat components;
- How the proposal is consistent with the SPPF, the LPPF and the zone and overlay provisions;
- How the proposal responds to the purpose and decision guidelines of the native vegetation provisions;
- The likely impact on the protection and conservation of biodiversity;
- The type, significance and fauna values of the vegetation or other habitat components to be removed (to be prepared by an appropriately qualified ecologist/biologist), with particular reference to, but not restricted to the known assets contributing to the biological significance of the wildlife corridors in the area;
- The measures to be taken to ensure that any impacts on native vegetation, flora and fauna are compensated for by revegetation to meet the requirements of net gain in quantity or quality of native vegetation; and
- How the proposal supports the objective of improving wildlife corridors through revegetation.

Scaled and dimensional plans showing, where relevant:

- Property boundaries;
- Adjacent properties;
- Nearest public roads and intersection;
- Existing development on the site;
- Existing fencing;
- Records of threatened species or communities and the boundaries of any sites of significance;
- Existing native vegetation or other habitat on the site and any native vegetation or other habitat to be removed, destroyed or lopped;

- Location of watercourses, water bodies and drainage lines;
- Location of any known fauna habitats or corridors; and
- Location and management of rehabilitation and revegetation activities proposed to compensate in appropriate quality and quantity for clearing of native vegetation or other habitat.

5.0 Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application to construct a building; construct or carry out works; remove, destroy or lop any vegetation; or to subdivide land, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The potential impacts on Brush-tailed Phascogale and Golden Cowslips habitat value and potential habitat value of the area, or on other threatened species utilising the area
- The impact of the proposal on the biodiversity conservation values of the area and its immediate locality;
- The reason for removing any vegetation and the practicality of any alternative options which do not require removal of native vegetation or other habitat components. Where alternative exist which do not require the loss of native vegetation or other habitat values these alternative should be favoured;
- The results of any flora and fauna survey and assessment of the biological values of the land and consideration of whether the survey and assessment has been adequately completed under appropriate seasonal conditions and by suitably qualified personnel;
- Whether the flora and fauna of the area are to be adequately protected and their sustainability and long-term conservation ensured;
- The conservation requirements of Brush-tailed Phascogale and other threatened species or communities known from the site including those in recovery plans or action statements;
- Critical habitat, if determined under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*;
- Whether there are statutory requirements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*;
- Whether appropriate management practices are proposed, including the control of environmental weeds;
- The contribution of the proposal towards the ecological restoration of the remnant vegetation and habitat, or the potential for the proposal to reduce the capability for ecological restoration of the site;
- The need to impose conditions on any development in the area to contribute towards the use of the area for wildlife corridor purposes; and
- The views of any other appropriate committee or authority (for example, relevant threatened species recovery team, friends of species etc).

6.0 Referral requirements

An application 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 regarding the potential impacts of the proposal and actions proposed to avoid, minimise or mitigate those impacts

7.0 References/information sources

Action Statement No 79 – Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*)

Biodiversity Action Planning Strategic Overview for the Goldfields Bioregion, Victoria, East Melbourne, DNRE

Calder Freeway Kyneton to Faraday Supplementary Flora Assessment KfB Section, Ecology Australia 2002

Schedule 2 and 3 to the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee act 1988*

Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria 2000: A systematic list of vertebrate fauna considered extinct, or risk of extinction or in major decline in Victoria, East Melbourne, DNRE