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## **SCHEDULE 2 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO2**.

### **SIGNIFICANT REMNANT INDIGENOUS VEGETATION**

#### **1.0**

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#### **Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**

Substantial areas of Strathbogie have been modified as a result of agriculture and urban development. The remaining areas of native vegetation are generally confined to larger isolated remnant patches of modified indigenous vegetation mostly on private land and linear connecting remnants of varying widths and quality associated with public roadside, rail and stream frontage reserves.

The retention and management of linear remnants of indigenous vegetation plays a significant role in achieving the sustainable conservation of the larger isolated remnants of indigenous vegetation and the incumbent biodiversity. Remnant patches and linear reserves provide significant refuge, connectivity and ecological resilience across the landscape. This is particularly the case in the woodland remnants of the Strathbogie Shire.

Remnant indigenous vegetation provides significant habitat for biodiversity and associated land management benefits such as erosion control and water table regulation.

Indigenous vegetation consists of those species of vascular plants that grow naturally on the site.

Naturally means grew on the site prior to European settlement.

Exotic vegetation includes plants that do not occur naturally on the site.

#### **2.0**

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#### **Vegetation protection objective to be achieved**

- To conserve areas of significant indigenous vegetation.
- To ensure that development minimises the removal of indigenous vegetation.
- To maintain and enhance a linear network of vibrant indigenous vegetation connecting extant remnant patches of indigenous vegetation.

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#### **Permit requirement**

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

A permit is not required to remove, destroy or lop any exotic vegetation.

#### **4.0**

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#### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application for a permit, the responsible authority must consider as appropriate to the particular case:

- The conservation significance of the indigenous vegetation of the site and surrounds, particularly its significance across the landscape:
- The ecological impact of the application on the distribution and quality of indigenous vegetation and landscape values.
- The contribution the indigenous vegetation makes in achieving the sustainable conservation of biodiversity and in providing food, shade and shelter for indigenous fauna.

- The need to retain and manage indigenous vegetation if it is of conservation significance or supports rare species of flora or fauna or where it forms part of a linear network.