

SCHEDULE 1 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

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

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PROTECTION

1.0 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 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.

2.0 Vegetation protection objective to be achieved

To protect and preserve indigenous 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 indigenous fauna.

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

3.0 Permit requirement

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

This does not apply to any vegetation which is not native.

4.0 Decision guidelines

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

- Whether vegetation is to be lopped or destroyed.
- The conservation and enhancement of the area.
- The preservation of and impact on the natural environment or landscape values.
- The presence of mature trees with hollows.
- The role of native vegetation in conserving the flora and fauna and in the providing food, shade and shelter for native fauna.
- The need to retain understorey species and ground litter.

- The need to retain native vegetation if it is rare or supports rare species of flora or fauna and where it forms part of a part of a wildlife corridor.
- Whether provision is made or is to be made to establish and maintain viable corridor links elsewhere on the land.
- The sensitive location of driveways or crossings over roadside reserves.
- The need to site building and development works at a safe distance from mature trees.
- The need to consider fire safety issues.
- Whether all options have been considered which may reduce the need for vegetation clearance.
- Issues with respect to native flora and fauna management raised in “Agenda for Action, Nature Conservation in the Avoca-Loddon-Campaspe Region.”