

03/03/2011  
C98**SCHEDULE 2 TO THE SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **SLO2**

**PHILLIP ISLAND WESTERN AND SOUTHERN COAST****1.0 Statement of nature and key elements of landscape**03/03/2011  
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The southern and western coastline of Phillip Island is a rugged and varied landscape of state significance that has been shaped by the high seas and winds of Bass Strait to create some of Victoria's best known landforms.

The landscape comprises imposing rocky cliffs and outcrops of volcanic origin such as The Nobbies and Pyramid Rock, as well as sandy surf beaches and dune systems such as at Cape Woolamai. These landforms gives rise to some spectacular scenic views from the many lookouts and access points along the coastline, including vistas along the entire coast and out to sea. Although this is a very accessible and popular tourist area with many townships, the western half of this landscape, from Smiths Beach to The Nobbies, has a particularly wild and undeveloped character.

Most of the southern coastline is recognised by the National Trust and the Register of the National Estate for its geomorphology and its geology. The National Trust also recognises the area for its significant bird habitats, including the Fairy Penguins that attract both national and international tourists. Other attractions include the mutton bird rookery at Cape Woolamai, and the colony of seals at Seal Rocks, located at the western tip of the island.

**2.0 Landscape character objective to be achieved**03/03/2011  
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To protect existing native and indigenous coastal and hinterland vegetation, and ensure that it is the dominant feature of the landscape.

To protect cultural vegetation patterns.

To protect scenic outviews to undeveloped landscape features along the coastline including views from public recreation areas, lookouts (e.g. Pyramid Rock) and roads that abut or terminate at the coast.

To improve the clarity of edges to settlements and ensure the retention of the undeveloped, rugged coastal landscape between them, particularly west of Smiths Beach, and between Smiths Beach and Surf Beach.

To protect the wild, undeveloped and exposed character of the coastal edge.

To ensure ridge tops and prominent hill faces are kept free of visually dominant development, particularly when viewed from main roads and other key viewing locations.

To encourage landscape change that is consistent with the cultural heritage values of the landscape.

To minimise the visual impact of signage and other infrastructure, particularly on hill faces and in coastal areas.

To protect landscape character and attributes that are consistent with the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the area.

To recognise, and protect, the landscape of the Phillip Island Western and Southern Coast as a place of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage value.

Between Ventnor and Cat Bay, ensure buildings are set amongst vegetation and set back to retain an undeveloped character that does not duplicate the linear urban sprawl that has already occurred along the cliff top in the adjacent settlement.

### 3.0

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## Permit requirement

### Native Vegetation

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. This does not apply in the following circumstances:

#### *Dead Vegetation*

Vegetation that is dead.

#### *Fences*

The minimum extent of vegetation necessary for:

- The construction of a fence on a boundary between properties in different ownership; or
- Operation or maintenance of an existing fence.

The combined maximum width of clearing permitted either side of the fence under this exemption is 4 metres.

#### *Lopping or pruning for maintenance*

The native vegetation is to be pruned or lopped for maintenance only and no more than 1/3 of the foliage is removed from any individual plant. This exemption does not apply to:

- Pruning or lopping of the trunk of a tree or shrub.
- Native vegetation within a road or railway reservation.

#### *Grasses*

The native vegetation is a grass and is to be mown or slashed for maintenance only. Under this exemption the grass must be:

- Located within a lawn, garden or other planted area; or
- Maintained at a height of at least 100 millimetres above ground level.

#### *Regrowth*

The native vegetation is regrowth which has naturally established or regenerated on land lawfully cleared of naturally established native vegetation and is:

- Less than ten years old at the time of approval of a relevant Property Vegetation Plan (Farm Management Plan) where it is certified regrowth and the area affected is shown on the Plan as intended for use for cultivation or pasture during the life of the Plan.

#### *Planted vegetation*

The native vegetation is a tree or shrub within a garden area.

#### *Existing and approved buildings*

The native vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to enable the:

- Construction of a building approved by a planning permit granted under this planning scheme or by building permit granted under Building Act 1993, before 15 September 2008.

- Use and maintenance of a building constructed or approved by a planning permit granted under this planning scheme or by building permit granted under Building Act 1993, before 15 September 2008.

This exemption does not apply to:

- Native vegetation to be removed destroyed or lopped to enable the operation or maintenance of a fence.
- Native vegetation located more than 10 metres from a building.

*Existing buildings and works in the Farming Zone and Rural Activity Zone*

The native vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to enable the use or maintenance of a building or works used for Agricultural production, including a dam, utility service, bore, in the Farming Zone or the Rural Activity Zone.

This exemption does not apply to:

- Native vegetation to be removed destroyed or lopped to enable the use or maintenance of a Dwelling.
- Native vegetation to be removed destroyed or lopped to enable the operation or maintenance of a fence.
- Native vegetation located more than 10 metres from a building.

*Vehicle access from public roads*

The native vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to enable the construction or maintenance of a vehicle access across a road reserve from a property boundary to a public road, subject to authorisation from the relevant public land manager.

This exemption only applies to properties that share a common boundary with the road reserve.

The maximum total width of native vegetation permitted to be removed, destroyed or lopped under this exemption is 6 metres.

This exemption does not apply where there is a practical opportunity to site the accessway to avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

*Personal Use*

The native vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped by cutting only to obtain reasonable amounts of wood for personal use by the owner or occupier of the land. Personal use includes wood used for firewood, the construction of fences and buildings on the same land, and hobbies such as craft.

This exemption does not apply to:

- Standing living and dead trees with a trunk diameter of 40 centimetres or more at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level.
- Living native vegetation on contiguous land in the same ownership with an area less than 10 hectares.

*Grazing*

The native vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped as a result of grazing by domestic stock.

This exemption allows the removal, destruction and lopping of native vegetation on unused roads specified under Section 400 of the Land Act 1958.

*Stock movement on roads*

The native vegetation is removed, destroyed or lopped as a result of moving stock along a road.

This exemption does not apply to the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation as a result of holding stock in a temporary fence (including an electric fence) on a roadside for the purpose of feeding.

### **Fences**

A permit is required to construct a fence other than a post and wire fence up to 1.8 metres in height.

### **Buildings and Works**

A permit is not required for:

An alteration or extension to an existing dwelling where all of the following are met:

- The alterations and additions are single storey and no more than 5 metres in height above natural ground level; and,
- The alterations and additions are no more than 50 square metres in additional floor area.

A building used for agriculture where all of the following are met:

- The building is an open sided or unroofed rural structure;
- The floor area of the building is no more than 130 square metres; and,
- The building is single storey and no more than 5 metres in height above natural ground level.

An alteration or extension to a building used for agriculture where all of the following are met:

- The alteration or extension is no more than 100 square metres in floor area;
- The total footprint area is not greater than 200 square metres; and,
- The alterations and extensions are single storey and no more than 5 metres in height above natural ground level.

Buildings and works associated with informal outdoor recreation.

Works undertaken by a public authority relating to watercourse management, environmental improvements or infrastructure services.

## **4.0**

### **Decision guidelines**

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*Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider, where appropriate:*

- The key objectives and strategies at Clause 21.08-1, Landscape.

#### *Native Vegetation*

- The impact of the vegetation removal on the valued character of the State significant Phillip Island Western and Southern Coast.
- The species of vegetation, its age, health and growth characteristics.
- Whether the vegetation is isolated or part of a vegetation patch.
- The availability of sufficient unencumbered land to provide for offset planting.
- The impact of maintenance activities on the retained vegetation, for example, maintenance of a structure or infrastructure.

- The impact of the vegetation on the structural integrity of existing or future buildings, including foundations. Whether the buildings and works have been located to avoid or minimise impacts on vegetation.
- Vegetation management requirements to reduce fire hazard, prevent erosion and maintain flood control measures.

*Building and Works*

- Whether the proposed buildings are sited and designed to maximise retention of existing vegetation, and provide for the planting of new indigenous coastal vegetation wherever possible.
- Whether the visibility of the proposal is minimised in landscapes visible within 500 metres of formal scenic lookouts in the area.
- On large rural lots that extend further than 500 metres back from the southern coast, whether the proposed development is sited on the side of ridgelines and hills away from the coast to avoid built intrusion into the coastal viewshed.
- Whether proposed buildings west of Smiths Beach are set back a sufficient distance from the coast to avoid visual intrusion into undeveloped and wild coastal landforms. Where possible, buildings should also be out of the viewshed from the cliff top.
- The cumulative impact of developments visible from all key viewing corridors (e.g. from Phillip Island Tourist Road) and scenic lookouts on the open rural character of these views, and the availability of scenic views to the ocean, coastal dunes/cliffs.
- Whether the proposed development is an extension or alteration to a development already in existence on the land.

**5.0**

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**Reference Documents**

State Overview Report, *Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study* (Planisphere, 2006)

Bass Coast Shire Municipal Reference Document, *Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study* (Planisphere, 2006).

*The Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast* (Victorian Coastal Council, 1998).