

22/12/2016  
C54**SCHEDULE 2 TO THE VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY**

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

**Significant exotic and native vegetation****1.0**22/12/2016  
C54**Statement of nature and significance of vegetation to be protected**

The *Hepburn Significant Tree Register Nominations 2011 - Statements of Significance Report, with Planning Scheme Amendment, November 2015* identifies a range of exotic, native and indigenous trees on private and public land within the municipality which contribute substantially to the heritage, landscape and character of the municipality. The trees have been selected for inclusion in the Register based on the criteria used for the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees. This includes:

- horticultural or genetic value,
- rare or localized distribution,
- unique location or context,
- particularly old specimen,
- outstanding size,
- curious growth form,
- aesthetic value,
- historical value,
- outstanding habitat value,
- connection to aboriginal culture,
- outstanding example of species, or
- remnant vegetation.

**2.0**22/12/2016  
C54**Vegetation protection objective to be achieved**

- To protect vegetation of special significance, natural beauty, interest and importance.
- To protect vegetation that is significant for its contribution to the townscape, heritage or landscape character of an area.

**3.0**22/12/2016  
C54**Permit requirement**

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

This does not apply:

- To remove, destroy or lop vegetation deemed unsafe by a suitably qualified arborist to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- To prune limbs for regeneration or ornamental shaping.
- To remove, destroy or lop vegetation that is dead or dying to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, unless the dead vegetation is a habitat tree containing hollows.
- To remove, destroy or lop vegetation that is being maintained in accordance with a management program developed by a suitably qualified arborist and approved by the responsible authority.

**4.0**22/12/2016  
C54**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application to remove, destroy or lop vegetation, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The species of vegetation and its significance, age, health and growth characteristics.
- The recommendations of a report by a suitably qualified arborist on the vegetation to be removed which includes a statement of the reasons for removing the vegetation and the practicality of alternative options which do not require the removal of vegetation.
- Whether any proposed lopping will adversely affect the significance, appearance, health or structure of the tree.
- Whether any proposed pruning is in accordance with the Australian Standard – Pruning of Amenity Trees, AS4373 (2007).
- Vegetation management requirements to reduce fire hazard, prevent erosion and maintain flood control measures.
- The impact of a tree(s) on the structural integrity of existing buildings and foundations.
- The impact the vegetation removal will have on the cultural, heritage, aesthetic, landscape or other special significance of the land and surrounding area.
- The need for replacement vegetation to be of an appropriate species, having regard to the link between the species and the cultural and heritage significance of the vegetation.
- A report from a suitably qualified arborist identifying the reason and need for the proposed works, options for alternative treatment and any remedial or restorative action.

**5.0**22/12/2016  
C54**Reference documents**

- *Hepburn Significant Tree Register Nominations 2011 - Statements of Significance Report, with Planning Scheme Amendment, November 2015.*