

14/12/2017  
C150

## SCHEDULE 3 TO CLAUSE 42.02 VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **VPO3**.

### REMNANT OVERSTOREY VEGETATION – EIGHT (8) METRES IN HEIGHT OR MORE

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

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Much of the natural heritage of the City of Knox has been lost as the city has developed, however some remnant overstorey vegetation with a high degree of naturalness remains.

The retention and enhancement of remnant vegetation is important for the contribution the trees make to:

- Beautifying and adding natural interest to the area they are located.
- Knox's neighbourhood character and green, leafy image.
- Representing part of the natural history of the area for educational and scientific purposes.
- The health and wellbeing of the local community.
- Providing habitat for indigenous fauna.
- Providing ecosystem services such as climate moderation, including reducing the severity of high temperature associated with 'urban heat island effect'.

These remnant overstorey vegetation areas were identified by the *Vegetation Assessment and Protection Strategy for the City of Knox* (Water Ecoscience, February 1998).

#### 2.0 Vegetation protection objective to be achieved

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To retain and protect existing trees.

To promote planting of new trees that contributes to Knox's natural habitat, natural beauty, interest, ecosystem services and the benefits to the community that comes from contact with nature.

To retain vegetation which is representative of the natural heritage of the City.

To retain native vegetation which provides natural beauty and interest.

To maintain vegetation to provide a source of genetic material for the re-establishment of the natural heritage of the City.

To retain habitat for native fauna.

To retain native vegetation which is rare, threatened or of local, regional or State significance.

To recognise the role that remnant vegetation plays in contributing to Knox's liveability and the health and wellbeing of the community.

To ensure that, where tree removal is permitted, appropriate replacement planting is provided.

#### 3.0 Permit requirement

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A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. This does not apply to vegetation that is:

- Less than 8 metres in height and has a trunk girth of less than 0.3 metres when measured at a height of 1.2 metres above existing ground level (on sloping ground to be taken on the uphill side of the tree base) or immediately above the ground for multi-stemmed trees.

- A tree with its trunk within 2 metres of the main roof structure of an existing building used for accommodation (excluding a fence).
- A tree which overhangs the roof of a building used for Accommodation, excluding out-buildings and works normal to a dwelling. This exemption only allows the removal or lopping of that part of the tree which is overhanging the building provided the removal or lopping is in accordance with Australian Standard® AS 4373 – 2007, ‘Pruning of amenity trees’.
- The minimum amount necessary to maintain a Minor utility installation in accordance with a current signed Memorandum of Understanding between Knox City Council and the relevant service.
- A weed proclaimed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- For maintenance pruning only provided no more than 1/3 of the foliage of any branch is removed from any individual plant. This exemption does not apply to pruning or lopping of the trunk.
- Listed in Table 1 to this clause.

**Table 1**

Common name	Scientific name
White Sallow Wattle	<i>Acacia floribunda</i>
Sallow Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subspecies <i>longifolia</i>
Bracelet Honey -myrtle	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>
Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> [KO1]

### Application requirements

An application for a permit must be accompanied by:

- A scaled plan of the property that shows the location, species, height, trunk girth and condition of each tree to be removed, destroyed, or lopped.
- A written statement that provides:
  - The reason(s) for the removal, destruction or lopping.
  - An assessment that demonstrates why removal or destruction is unavoidable and that reasonable steps have been taken to minimise the adverse impact on the natural environment and its benefits to the local community.
  - Any proposed actions to compensate for the removal, destruction or lopping, including the species and numbers of any trees or shrubs to be established or maintained.

## 4.0

### Decision guidelines

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

- The location of existing vegetation on the land and the areas of vegetation to be removed.
- The compatibility of any buildings and works with existing vegetation proposed to be retained.
- Whether alternative options to removal have been fully explored.
- The natural values of the vegetation and its value to local amenity, health and wellbeing.

### Reference documents

Australian Standard® AS 4373 – 2007, ‘Pruning of amenity trees’

*Vegetation Assessment and Protection Strategy for the City of Knox*, Water Ecoscience, 1998

*Vegetation Survey of Linear Reserves – A Management Strategy for Riparian and Flood Plain Vegetation*, Reid, J et al, 1997