

22/03/2012  
C42

## **SCHEDULE 6 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO6**.

### **REMNANT VEGETATION AND HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS**

#### **1.0**

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#### **Statement of environmental significance**

The indigenous vegetation of the Shire is highly depleted due to European settlement and broad scale agricultural uses. All remnant vegetation is therefore significant for its diversity and biodiversity values. The areas that remain exist as small pockets on private land and along roadsides. They are important in providing habitat for native plants and animals and as movement corridors for indigenous species.

#### **2.0**

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#### **Environmental objective to be achieved**

To protect remnant vegetation and habitat areas.

To promote the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.

To encourage maintenance and development of biolinks between existing remnant vegetation.

To recognise the importance of structural habitat, particularly in the absence of native vegetation.

#### **3.0**

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#### **Permit requirement**

A permit is required to construct a fence. This does not apply:

- If the fence is of post and wire construction or other open 'rural type' fencing.
- If the fence is a vermin control fence.
- For temporary fencing for construction sites.

A permit is not required to remove, destroy or lop vegetation which is not native vegetation.

#### **4.0**

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#### **Application requirements**

An application to remove native vegetation must:

- Indicate the total extent of native vegetation on the subject land and the extent of proposed clearing, destruction or lopping, the location of any river, stream, watercourse, wetland or channel on the subject land, and if relevant the location of areas with a slope exceeding 20%.
- Specify the purpose of the proposed clearing.
- Demonstrate that the need for removal, destruction or lopping of remnant native vegetation has been reduced to the minimum extent that is reasonable and practicable.

#### **5.0**

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#### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on the application, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The need to retain remnant vegetation and the effect of the proposed removal of native vegetation on the habitat value and long-term viability of flora and fauna and rare, endangered and threatened species.
- The need to retain and enhance the connectivity in a local and regional context of linear remnants, habitat corridors and biolinks.
- The significance of the native bushland area.
- The reason for removing the vegetation and the practicality of alternative options which do not require removal of native vegetation.
- The particular characteristics of the habitat.
- The potential impact of the proposal on biodiversity values.
- Opportunities for mitigation, protection or enhancement of those values.
- The presence, or likely presence, of any rare or threatened species.
- Any other relevant, Action Statement, Recovery Plan Biodiversity Action Plan or similar documentation.