

PSP 25.2

English Street

Precinct Structure Plan

Appendix 8

SCHEDULE 4 TO THE RURAL CONSERVATION ZONE

Shown on the planning scheme map as **RCZ4**.

Conservation Values

The Merri Creek and its immediate surrounds host habitat and suitable potential habitat for the threatened Growling Grass Frog, a matter of national environmental significance, some of the most threatened ecosystems in Australia. The creek has a unique role to play in the preservation of threatened flora and fauna—survival of the Growling Grass Frog and the maintenance of vegetation and aquatic communities it inhabits that in other places have almost been totally destroyed. The creek environs also provide as safe environment for the movement of non-threatened birds and other wildlife.

~~[from Hume]~~ Merri Creek is a major tributary of the Yarra River with a catchment of 396 square kilometres and a waterway length of some 60 kilometres. Revegetation works and parkland development including path and construction works have created a linear park of outstanding quality and landscape character – one which plays an important role in the park system of the metropolitan area.

The creek and its environs ~~also provide~~ are a a linear recreational open space and habitat link, ing which extends from the inner suburbs of Melbourne to rural areas in its upper reaches. This link is a valuable component of and connecting to the metropolitan wide open space and trail network, and a major habitat corridor for the movement of birds and other wildlife. The recreation function provides valuable exposure to conservation environments.

~~Revegetation works and parkland development including path and construction works have created a linear park of outstanding quality and landscape character — one which plays an important role in the park system of the metropolitan area.~~

~~The areas covered by this overlay~~ Land in this zone includes: some existing conservation reserves,; areas of significant remnant native vegetation in the form of grasslands, woodlands, waterways and riparian environments; areas to be developed for conservation and a number of areas that provide habitat for threatened flora and fauna.

~~The areas include but are not limited to:~~

~~Important grasslands~~

~~Grassy eucalypt woodlands~~

~~Waterways and riparian areas~~

~~Other important habitat for threatened flora and fauna~~

~~It is important that these areas are retained and managed to ensure that their biodiversity values and any habitat links are protected and enhanced.~~

~~The creek contains habitats for many flora and fauna species of local, regional and State significance. It also contains many aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage sites of significance. The creek is the focus of a large number of pre and post contact archaeological sites which as a group is highly significant. Many unknown sites are likely to exist and the areas likely to have the greatest density of these are sensitive to development.~~

~~[from Whittlesea — contained in or very similarly addressed in Hume version] The Merri Creek and its immediate surrounds are host to some of the most threatened ecosystems in Australia. The Creek has a unique role to play in the preservation of threatened flora and fauna and the maintenance of vegetation communities that in other places have almost been totally destroyed.~~

~~The Creek is the focus of a large number of pre and post contact archaeological sites which, as a group are highly significant. Many unknown sites are likely to exist and the areas likely to have the greatest density of these are sensitive to development.~~

~~Revegetation works and parkland development including path construction have created a linear park of outstanding quality and landscape character — one which plays and important role in the park system of the metropolitan region.~~

~~[from VC68 — largely superseded by the zoning of the land as RCZ and addressed in statemetns above] The development of Melbourne has caused significant impacts to the environment. Melbourne's footprint has resulted in the removal of most native vegetation,~~

and retained habitat areas only support flora and fauna that can survive in a highly fragmented and urbanised landscape. The overall biodiversity of Melbourne is a fraction of what it was prior to European settlement.

As part of the delivery of Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities Program, the Victorian Government established a process to identify, permanently protect and manage biodiversity assets that are important within the greater Melbourne region.

This process has determined the location of significant biodiversity assets and identified areas where these can be retained and where urban development is not appropriate and to which this overlay has been applied.

	Land	Area/Dimensions/Number
Minimum subdivision area (hectares).	None specified	
Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to alter or extend an existing dwelling (square metres).	All land	50
Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to construct an out-building associated with a dwelling (square metres).	All land	50
Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to alter or extend an existing building used for agriculture (square metres).	All land	50

Permit requirement for earthworks	Land
Earthworks which change the rate of flow or the discharge point of water across a property boundary.	None specified
Earthworks which increase the discharge of saline groundwater.	None specified