

**12.01**

31/07/2018  
VC148

**BIODIVERSITY**

**12.01-1S**20/03/2023  
VC229**Protection of biodiversity****Objective**

To protect and enhance Victoria's biodiversity.

**Strategies**

Use biodiversity information to identify important areas of biodiversity, including key habitat for rare or threatened species and communities, and strategically valuable biodiversity sites.

Strategically plan for the protection and conservation of Victoria's important areas of biodiversity.

Ensure that decision making takes into account the impacts of land use and development on Victoria's biodiversity, including consideration of:

- Cumulative impacts.
- Fragmentation of habitat.
- The spread of pest plants, animals and pathogens into natural ecosystems.

Avoid impacts of land use and development on important areas of biodiversity.

Consider impacts of any change in land use or development that may affect the biodiversity value of national parks and conservation reserves or nationally and internationally significant sites; including wetlands and wetland wildlife habitat designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention) and sites utilised by species listed under the Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA), the China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA), or the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA).

Assist in the identification, protection and management of important areas of biodiversity.

Assist in the establishment, protection and re-establishment of links between important areas of biodiversity, including through a network of green spaces and large-scale native vegetation corridor projects.

Support land use and development that contributes to protecting and enhancing habitat for indigenous plants and animals in urban areas.

**Policy guidelines**

Consider as relevant:

- State biodiversity information maintained by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

**Policy documents**

Consider as relevant:

- *Any applicable biodiversity strategies, including the relevant Regional Catchment Strategy (prepared under Part 4 of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994)*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors* (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2013)
- *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)
- *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)
- *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2013)

**12.01-1L**29/06/2023  
C126latr**Protection of biodiversity****Strategies**

Adopt the precautionary principle where there are threats of environmental damage, such as damage or destruction of habitat.

Protect habitats that contain indigenous flora and fauna, particularly where those species are threatened.

Ensure that the enhancement of biodiversity outcomes does not pose an unacceptable increase in bushfire risk to community and infrastructure.

Facilitate the creation of a biolink from the Strzelecki Ranges bioregion to the Southern Fall bioregion, as shown on the Rural Framework Plan in Clause 02.04.

Protect the environmental features and habitat values of the Boolarra-Mirboo North Rail Trail (Areas 2, 3 & 4 of the Boolarra Town Structure Plan in Clause 11.01-1L).

Protect roadside vegetation, especially in the Strzelecki Ranges from Boolarra to Gormandale, that provides linkages between public and private remnant native vegetation.

Retain native vegetation on roadsides, waterways and public and private land to facilitate healthy habitats to improve biodiversity.

Protect the environmental features and habitat values of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail, Toongabbie Cemetery and rear of 53-57 Humphrey Road (Area 11 of the Toongabbie Structure Plan in Clause 11.01-1L).

Protect roadside vegetation that provides linkages between public and private remnant native vegetation in Toongabbie, especially along:

- Traralgon-Maffra Road.
- Old Walhalla Road.
- Harris Lane between Cemetery Road and Guyatts Road.
- The north of Sparks Lane.

Protect remnant native vegetation in roadside reserves in Toongabbie, especially along:

- Hill Street west of King Street.
- Page Lane at the rear of 53-57 Humphrey Road.
- The unnamed road reserve abutting the eastern boundary of the Toongabbie Golf Course.

Enhance Toongabbie Creek and Rosedale Creek corridors by linking them to adjacent open spaces.

**Policy guideline**

Consider as relevant:

- Encouraging rural landholders to pursue a target of 30 per cent of native vegetation coverage across their properties and the landscape as a critical threshold for biodiversity conservation, particularly within the Strzelecki – Alpine bio-link.
- *Toongabbie Structure Plan* (Latrobe City Council, 2020)
- *Flora and Fauna Assessment -Toongabbie Structure Plan Background Report* (Latrobe City Council, 2020)

**12.01-2S**20/03/2023  
VC229**Native vegetation management****Objective**

To ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

**Strategies**

Ensure decisions that involve, or will lead to, the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, apply the three-step approach in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017):

- Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
- Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
- Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

**Policy guidelines**

Consider as relevant:

- State biodiversity information maintained by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

**Policy documents**

Consider as relevant:

- *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)
- *Assessor's handbook – applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)