12.01 BIODIVERSITY

31/07/2018
VC148

12.01-1S Protection of biodiversity

20/03/2023
VC229

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 Protection of biodiversity

~~03/03/2022~~ ~~--/--/----~~
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Strategies

Identify and protect significant native vegetation and habitat corridors prior to rezoning for urban development.

Encourage the retention of native vegetation patches within reserves, open spaces, road reserves and wildlife corridors.

Strengthen environmental values and biodiversity corridors to areas of environmental significance, including in and along:

- West Wodonga
- Huon and Middle Creeks
- Gateway Island
- Felltimber Creek Reserve
- Huon Hill, Kiewa River and Murray River from Riverside and Meridian Estate
- Kiewa River from Baranduda
- Any identified gaps in the Biodiversity Corridor Map in Clause 12.01-1L

Ensure viability of the habitat network in environmental land when developing adjoining residential areas.

Protect the natural environment character of the Hills, High Country Rail Trail and Lake Hume.

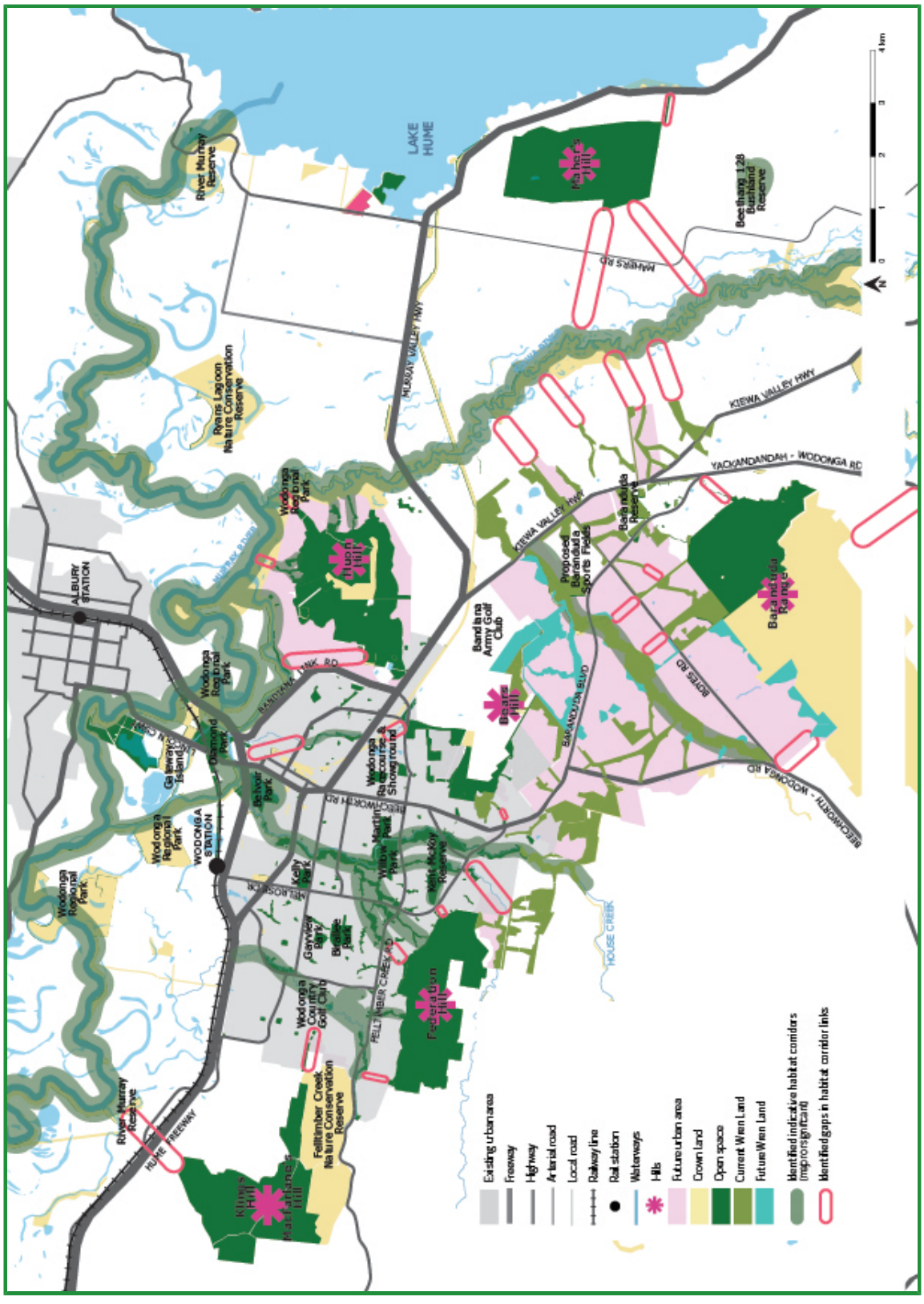
Avoid drainage and run off into areas of high conservation value, including the Wodonga Retained Environment Network (WRENs), areas affected by Vegetation Protection Overlays, hilltop reserves, and vegetation offset areas.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Wodonga Open Space Strategy (2023), including Appendices B, D & E*
- *ESD for Subdivisions in Regional Victoria (2018)*

Biodiversity Corridor Map



12.01-2S Native vegetation management

20/03/2023
VC229

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)