

A Healthy Coliban Catchment

Fact Sheet

Proposed planning scheme amendment C145MACR

Healthy waterways and catchments are vital to the supply of high-quality source water that can be treated to a drinking water standard, used for domestic and stock purposes, or provide benefit to the environment.

The impacts of climate change and population growth will have an increasingly significant impact on water supply catchments.

Coliban Water and North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) are committed to protecting and enhancing our open water supply catchments for the benefit of catchment communities, urban populations and the environment. We look to achieve this through the implementation of the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and partnership projects such as the Upper Coliban Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP).

The catchment area of the Coliban River, and its associated tributaries, is a beautiful part of Victoria, a desirable place to call home, and of significant economic, environmental and cultural value. The Eppalock Catchment, which includes the Upper Coliban catchment, extends over the municipalities of Hepburn, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander and Greater Bendigo. The catchment is a vital part of a regional water supply system, where it operates as a source of drinking water for over 130,000 people, who live in and around the townships of Kyneton, Castlemaine and Bendigo.

In an effort to balance these competing interests, and to ensure that the catchment area continues to service multiple needs, Coliban Water, the North Central CMA and Dja Dja Wurrung are working with a range of stakeholders, including Macedon Ranges Shire Council, to deliver the Upper Coliban ICMP. This will be known to many landowners as the A Healthy Coliban Catchment (AHCC) program.

The proposed amendment would update:

- the existing schedule 4 to clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, known as ESO4; and
- the existing schedule to clause 66.04 Referral of Permit Applications under Local Provisions to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, known as schedule to clause 66.04.
- ESO4 applies to the extent of the Eppalock Special Water Supply Catchment (SWSC) of the Macedon Ranges Shire.

The proposed changes to ESO4:

- would not alter the land affected by ESO4;
- would increase the number of matters that are exempt from requiring planning permission;
- would ensure that the information required for planning permit applications within the Eppalock SWSC is relevant and sufficient to determine the potential impact on the Eppalock SWSC; and

- would ensure that the matters that would be considered when assessing planning permits within the Eppalock SWSC are appropriate to accurately determine any potential impacts on the Eppalock SWSC.

The proposed changes to ESO4 are being put forward as part of the AHCC program. The changes are being led by Coliban Water and are supported by Macedon Ranges Shire Council. The changes are similar to changes made to schedule 1 to clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme that was gazetted on 10 February 2022.

Coliban Water is the statutory referral authority under schedule to clause 66.04 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme for planning permit applications made under the ESO4. The proposed changes to schedule to clause 66.04 would require all planning permit applications within Eppalock SWSC that are not exempt by the new ESO4 to be referred to Coliban Water for consideration.

The proposed amendment aims to:

- create further exemptions for fences, buildings and works that do not have the potential to impact the health of Eppalock SWSC;
- provide transparency as to the information required for planning permit applications within the Eppalock SWSC;
- provide transparency as to the matters that will be considered when assessing planning permit applications within the Eppalock SWSC;
- ensure that all planning permit applications that have potential to impact the health of Eppalock SWSC would be referred to Coliban Water; and
- ensure that ESO4 is aligned with clauses 14.02-1S and 14.02-2S of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

The proposed amendment is not expected to place significant impacts on landowners beyond that which is expected in developing land in an environmentally sensitive area.

We are confident that the proposed amendment will continue to ensure positive outcomes for the environment, urban populations and local communities, all of which rely on healthy waterways and sustainable land use within the Eppalock SWSC to deliver multiple benefits to the region.

How you can have your say:

The feedback period for this planning scheme amendment closes **on 24 November 2022**

Feedback is welcome at www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay

