

Site 106. Scoresby Rd Verge, South of Burwood Hwy

A treed road verge, centred on Melway ref. 73 D3.

Site Significance Level: *Local*

- There are substantial numbers of mature trees, including remnant eucalypts, that provide rudimentary habitat for native birds, bats, possums, frogs and insects.

Aerial photograph and map: See page 525.

Boundaries

The site comprises the six strips along Scoresby Rd that are outlined in magenta on the aerial photograph on page 525. Five of the strips are individual lots, even though they are effectively road verges and might appear to be part of the road reservation. The southernmost strip occupies the full width of a similar lot, but only part of its length. The total area is 0.707 ha.

Land use & tenure: Road verge.

Site description

This roadside retains a substantial number of mature remnant eucalypts, interspersed with other Australian native trees and trees from other parts of the world. They provide rudimentary habitat needs for native birds, bats, possums, and insects.

There is hardly any native understorey left within the site. The main exception is a patch of eight remnant Swamp Paperbarks (*Melaleuca ericifolia*), 7 m tall, adjacent to a bus stop near Cambden Park Parade.

Apart from the habitat value, the trees provide an attractive streetscape and shade for walkers along the footpath.

Relationship to other land

The trees in this site effectively represent an enlargement to the other areas of habitat that are outlined in magenta or red on the aerial photograph on page 525.

It appears that birds such as Musk Lorikeets move between treed neighbourhoods to the east (Site 105) and west (Site 107). They are likely to detour on some occasions along the verge of Scoresby Rd, but evidence for this was not sought.

Bioregion: Gippsland Plain

Habitat types

Scattered remnant trees and very scarce, hardy understorey plants are all that is left of the original EVCs of the site:

Valley Heathy Forest (EVC 127, **Endangered**) dominated by *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* and *E. radiata*, with some *Exocarpos cupressiformis* beneath.

Swampy Woodland (EVC 937, **regionally Endangered**) dominated by *Eucalyptus ovata*.

Plant species

The indigenous species detected are listed below, the column headed 'Risk' indicating the indigenous species' risk of extinction in Knox with 'E'=Endangered and 'V'=Vulnerable.

Risk	Species name	Risk	Species name
V	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>		<i>Kunzea ericoides</i> spp. agg.
C	<i>Amyema pendula</i>		<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>
V	<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>		<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> subsp. <i>coriacea</i>
V	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	E	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>
E	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>		<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>
	<i>Gahnia radula</i>		

Significance ratings

Ecological Integrity and Viability

For the reasons discussed above, the trees in the site function as a habitat link. This link affects fauna only in the local area. Criterion 1.2.6 of Amos (2004) attributes **Local** significance to habitat links that it describes as 'Important at Local Scale - Link between individual remnant habitat blocks or within subcatchment'.

Locally Threatened Plant Species

At least some of the locally threatened eucalypts and wattle listed above have viable populations (in combination with neighbouring native vegetation), thereby meeting criterion 3.1.5 for a site of **Local** significance.

Threats

- Tree removal or severance of tree roots during maintenance of roads or utility services;
- Eucalypt dieback disease.

Administration matters

- The planning scheme zoning is Residential 1 Zone (R1Z);
- This site is worthy of inclusion within the proposed Vegetation Protection Overlay Schedule (Volume 1, Section 5.5) because:
 - It contains (in the words of the VPP Practice Note on Biodiversity) ‘scattered living food trees with an exotic understorey’;
 - It is a site of Local biological significance; and
 - The lots involved are too small to be affected by Clause 52.17 of the Knox Planning Scheme, which might otherwise protect the more significant trees;
- Because the site comprises five small lots rather than being part of the road reservation, its native vegetation escapes the protection that Clause 52.17 of the Planning Scheme would otherwise provide (according to Knox City Council planners). If Clause 52.17 were to apply, the site would not be recommended for coverage by the Vegetation Protection Overlay. The Church of Christ land (431 Scoresby Rd) that abuts the northern tip of the site is covered by Clause 52.17 and hence it is not recommended for the overlay;
- This site almost matches an area covered by the existing Schedule 1 to the Vegetation Protection Overlay of the Knox Planning Scheme, which is identical to the area described by Water Ecoscience (1989) as their Site 68. Schedule 1 is intended for areas with native understorey, which does not apply along Scoresby Rd. The schedule to the Vegetation Protection Overlay that is discussed in Section 5.5 of Volume 1 is a more appropriate alternative.

Information sources used in this assessment

- Inspections of the area by Dr Lorimer in April and May 2004 for the purpose of finding sites of biological significance and determining the distribution of trees that represent reasonable habitat for native fauna;
- A basic check for changed conditions in 2008 as Dr Lorimer drove down Scoresby Rd; and
- Aerial photography from February 2001 and April 2003.