Biodiversity impact and offset requirements report

This report **does not represent an assessment by DELWP** of the proposed native vegetation removal. It provides additional biodiversity information to support moderate and high risk-based pathway applications for permits to remove native vegetation under clause 52.16 or 52.17 of planning schemes in Victoria.

Date of issue: 28/04/2016 **DELWP ref: EHP_0434**
Time of issue: 12:29 pm

Project ID	EHP7334_Stockyard_WFAm_Aer

Summary of marked native vegetation

Risk-based pathway	**High**
Total extent	34.415 ha
Remnant patches	32.657 ha
Scattered trees	25 trees
Location risk	C

Strategic biodiversity score of all marked native vegetation	0.369

Offset requirements if a permit is granted

If a permit is granted to remove the marked native vegetation, a requirement to obtain a native vegetation offset will be included in the permit conditions. The offset must meet the following requirements:

Offset type	**General offset**
General offset amount (general biodiversity equivalence units)	5.176 general units
General offset attributes	
Vicinity	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) **or** Pyrenees Shire Council
Minimum strategic biodiversity score	0.296[1]

See Appendices 1 and 2 for details in how offset requirements were determined.

NB: values presented in tables throughout this document may not add to totals due to rounding

[1] Minimum strategic biodiversity score is 80 per cent of the weighted average score across habitat zones where a general offset is required

Next steps

Any proposal to remove native vegetation must meet the application requirements of the high risk-based pathway and it will be assessed under the high risk-based pathway.

If you wish to remove the marked native vegetation you are required to apply for a permit from your local council. Council will then refer your application to DELWP for assessment, as required. **This report is not a referral assessment by DELWP.**

The biodiversity assessment report from NVIM and this biodiversity impact and offset report should be submitted with your application for a permit to remove native vegetation you plan to remove, lop or destroy.

The Biodiversity assessment report generated by the tool within NVIM provides the following information:

- The location of the site where native vegetation is to be removed.
- The area of the patch of native vegetation and/or the number of any scattered trees to be removed.
- Maps or plans containing information set out in the *Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines*
- The risk-based pathway of the application for a permit to remove native vegetation

This report provides the following information to meet application requirements for a permit to remove native vegetation:

- Confirmation of the risk-based pathway of the application for a permit to remove native vegetation
- The strategic biodiversity score of the native vegetation to be removed
- Information to inform the assessment of whether the proposed removal of native vegetation will have a significant impact on Victoria's biodiversity, with specific regard to the proportional impact on habitat for any rare or threatened species.
- The offset requirements should a permit be granted to remove native vegetation.

Additional application requirements must be provided with an application for a permit to remove native vegetation in the moderate or high risk-based pathways. These include:

- A habitat hectare assessment report of the native vegetation that is to be removed
- A statement outlining what steps have been taken to ensure that impacts on biodiversity from the removal of native vegetation have been minimised
- An offset strategy that details how a compliant offset will be secured to offset the biodiversity impacts of the removal of native vegetation.

Refer to the *Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines* and for a full list and details of application requirements.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne.

For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186

Appendix 1 – Biodiversity impact of removal of native vegetation

Habitat hectares

Habitat hectares are calculated for each habitat zone within your proposal using the extent and condition scores in the GIS data you provided.

Habitat zone	Site assessed condition score	Extent (ha)	Habitat hectares
1-1-AD	0.160	0.000	0.000
2-2-AC	0.250	0.005	0.001
3-3-M	0.290	0.004	0.001
4-4-V	0.350	0.047	0.017
5-5-A	0.360	0.005	0.002
6-6-N	0.370	0.056	0.021
7-7-D	0.420	0.082	0.034
8-8-AB	0.460	0.023	0.011
9-9-H	0.480	0.011	0.005
10-10-R	0.620	0.083	0.051
11-11-L	0.640	2.031	1.300
12-12-B	0.730	0.691	0.505
13-13-I	0.730	0.497	0.362
14-14-AF	0.140	0.000	0.000
15-15-AA	0.240	0.007	0.002
16-16-X	0.250	0.009	0.002
17-17-Z	0.270	0.020	0.005
18-18-Y	0.290	0.001	0.000
19-19-AE	0.480	0.019	0.009
20-20-O	0.150	0.005	0.001
21-21-O	0.150	0.006	0.001
22-22-O	0.150	0.006	0.001
23-23-O	0.150	0.188	0.028
24-24-O	0.150	0.094	0.014
25-25-O	0.150	1.526	0.229
26-26-O	0.150	0.106	0.016
27-27-P	0.190	0.000	0.000
28-28-P	0.190	0.000	0.000
29-29-P	0.190	0.001	0.000

Habitat zone	Site assessed condition score	Extent (ha)	Habitat hectares
30-30-P	0.190	0.002	0.000
31-31-P	0.190	0.016	0.003
32-32-P	0.190	0.370	0.070
33-33-W	0.220	0.009	0.002
34-34-W	0.220	0.002	0.000
35-35-S	0.230	0.045	0.010
36-36-S	0.230	0.001	0.000
37-37-S	0.230	0.004	0.001
38-38-S	0.230	0.017	0.004
39-39-S	0.230	0.048	0.011
40-41-S	0.230	1.381	0.318
41-42-S	0.230	0.021	0.005
42-43-S	0.230	0.116	0.027
43-44-S	0.230	0.752	0.173
44-45-S	0.230	0.036	0.008
45-46-S	0.230	0.099	0.023
46-47-S	0.230	0.302	0.069
47-48-S	0.230	1.039	0.239
48-49-S	0.230	0.009	0.002
49-50-S	0.230	0.196	0.045
50-51-S	0.230	0.093	0.021
51-53-E	0.390	0.007	0.003
52-54-E	0.390	0.080	0.031
53-55-F	0.420	0.070	0.030
54-56-F	0.420	0.203	0.085
55-57-K	0.580	0.001	0.000
56-58-K	0.580	0.234	0.136
57-59-K	0.580	0.064	0.037
58-60-K	0.580	0.002	0.001
59-61-K	0.580	1.289	0.748
60-62-K	0.580	0.024	0.014
61-63-C	0.610	0.007	0.004
62-64-C	0.610	0.008	0.005

Habitat zone	Site assessed condition score	Extent (ha)	Habitat hectares
63-65-C	0.610	0.021	0.013
64-66-C	0.610	0.709	0.433
65-67-G	0.770	0.035	0.027
66-68-G	0.770	0.221	0.170
67-69-J	0.770	0.973	0.749
68-70-J	0.770	0.008	0.006
69-71-J	0.770	0.171	0.132
70-72-J	0.770	0.284	0.219
71-73-J	0.770	0.712	0.548
72-74-J	0.770	0.467	0.359
73-75-AG	0.110	0.458	0.050
74-76-AG	0.110	0.187	0.021
75-77-AG	0.110	2.195	0.241
76-78-AG	0.110	0.000	0.000
77-79-AG	0.110	0.025	0.003
78-80-AG	0.110	0.052	0.006
79-81-AG	0.110	0.960	0.106
80-82-AG	0.110	1.152	0.127
81-83-AG	0.110	0.765	0.084
82-84-AH	0.150	1.466	0.220
83-85-AH	0.150	0.166	0.025
84-86-AH	0.150	0.055	0.008
85-87-AI	0.190	0.105	0.020
86-88-AI	0.190	0.040	0.008
87-89-S	0.230	0.003	0.001
88-90-S	0.230	0.015	0.004
89-91-S	0.230	0.007	0.002
90-92-S	0.230	2.499	0.575
91-93-T	0.270	0.509	0.137
92-94-T	0.270	0.030	0.008
93-95-AJ	0.300	0.588	0.177
94-96-AJ	0.300	0.649	0.195
95-97-U	0.310	0.356	0.110

Habitat zone	Site assessed condition score	Extent (ha)	Habitat hectares
96-98-U	0.310	0.041	0.013
97-99-U	0.310	0.698	0.216
98-10-U	0.310	0.003	0.001
99-1-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
100-2-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
101-3-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
102-40-S	0.230	2.979	0.685
103-52-Q	0.290	0.987	0.286
104-4-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
105-5-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
106-6-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
107-7-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
108-8-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
109-9-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
110-10-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
111-11-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
112-12-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
113-13-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
114-14-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
115-15-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
116-16-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
117-28-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
118-29-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
119-30-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
120-31-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
121-32-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
122-33-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
123-34-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
124-35-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
125-36-TR	0.200	0.070	0.014
TOTAL			**11.078**

Impacts on rare or threatened species habitat above specific offset threshold

The specific-general offset test was applied to your proposal. The test determines if the proposed removal of native vegetation has a proportional impact on any rare or threatened species habitats above the specific offset threshold. The threshold is set at 0.005 per cent of the total habitat for a species. When the proportional impact is above the specific offset threshold a specific offset for that species' habitat is required.

The specific-general offset test found your proposal does not have a proportional impact on any rare or threatened species' habitats above the specific offset threshold. No specific offsets are required. A general offset is required as set out below.

Clearing site biodiversity equivalence score(s)

The general biodiversity equivalence score for the habitat zone(s) is calculated by multiplying the habitat hectares by the strategic biodiversity score.

Habitat zone	Habitat hectares	Proportion of habitat zone with general offset	Strategic biodiversity score	General biodiversity equivalence score (GBES)
1-1-AD	0.000	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
2-2-AC	0.001	100.000 %	0.220	0.000
3-3-M	0.001	100.000 %	0.266	0.000
4-4-V	0.017	100.000 %	0.727	0.012
5-5-A	0.002	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
6-6-N	0.021	100.000 %	0.287	0.006
7-7-D	0.034	100.000 %	0.253	0.009
8-8-AB	0.011	100.000 %	0.113	0.001
9-9-H	0.005	100.000 %	0.250	0.001
10-10-R	0.051	100.000 %	0.330	0.017
11-11-L	1.300	100.000 %	0.283	0.368
12-12-B	0.505	100.000 %	0.116	0.059
13-13-I	0.362	100.000 %	0.253	0.092
14-14-AF	0.000	100.000 %	0.285	0.000
15-15-AA	0.002	100.000 %	0.577	0.001
16-16-X	0.002	100.000 %	0.142	0.000
17-17-Z	0.005	100.000 %	0.134	0.001
18-18-Y	0.000	100.000 %	0.463	0.000
19-19-AE	0.009	100.000 %	0.100	0.001
20-20-O	0.001	100.000 %	0.227	0.000
21-21-O	0.001	100.000 %	0.238	0.000
22-22-O	0.001	100.000 %	0.287	0.000
23-23-O	0.028	100.000 %	0.110	0.003
24-24-O	0.014	100.000 %	0.100	0.001
25-25-O	0.229	100.000 %	0.122	0.028
26-26-O	0.016	100.000 %	0.243	0.004
27-27-P	0.000	100.000 %	0.279	0.000

Habitat zone	Habitat hectares	Proportion of habitat zone with general offset	Strategic biodiversity score	General biodiversity equivalence score (GBES)
28-28-P	0.000	100.000 %	0.285	0.000
29-29-P	0.000	100.000 %	0.286	0.000
30-30-P	0.000	100.000 %	0.286	0.000
31-31-P	0.003	100.000 %	0.288	0.001
32-32-P	0.070	100.000 %	0.257	0.018
33-33-W	0.002	100.000 %	0.221	0.000
34-34-W	0.000	100.000 %	0.452	0.000
35-35-S	0.010	100.000 %	0.108	0.001
36-36-S	0.000	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
37-37-S	0.001	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
38-38-S	0.004	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
39-39-S	0.011	100.000 %	0.261	0.003
40-41-S	0.318	100.000 %	0.273	0.087
41-42-S	0.005	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
42-43-S	0.027	100.000 %	0.159	0.004
43-44-S	0.173	100.000 %	0.172	0.030
44-45-S	0.008	100.000 %	0.100	0.001
45-46-S	0.023	100.000 %	0.401	0.009
46-47-S	0.069	100.000 %	0.236	0.016
47-48-S	0.239	100.000 %	0.567	0.135
48-49-S	0.002	100.000 %	0.159	0.000
49-50-S	0.045	100.000 %	0.704	0.032
50-51-S	0.021	100.000 %	0.435	0.009
51-53-E	0.003	100.000 %	0.136	0.000
52-54-E	0.031	100.000 %	0.111	0.003
53-55-F	0.030	100.000 %	0.193	0.006
54-56-F	0.085	100.000 %	0.208	0.018
55-57-K	0.000	100.000 %	0.292	0.000
56-58-K	0.136	100.000 %	0.286	0.039
57-59-K	0.037	100.000 %	0.288	0.011
58-60-K	0.001	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
59-61-K	0.748	100.000 %	0.292	0.218
60-62-K	0.014	100.000 %	0.236	0.003

Habitat zone	Habitat hectares	Proportion of habitat zone with general offset	Strategic biodiversity score	General biodiversity equivalence score (GBES)
61-63-C	0.004	100.000 %	0.100	0.000
62-64-C	0.005	100.000 %	0.229	0.001
63-65-C	0.013	100.000 %	0.226	0.003
64-66-C	0.433	100.000 %	0.337	0.146
65-67-G	0.027	100.000 %	0.181	0.005
66-68-G	0.170	100.000 %	0.100	0.017
67-69-J	0.749	100.000 %	0.119	0.089
68-70-J	0.006	100.000 %	0.209	0.001
69-71-J	0.132	100.000 %	0.132	0.017
70-72-J	0.219	100.000 %	0.158	0.035
71-73-J	0.548	100.000 %	0.101	0.055
72-74-J	0.359	100.000 %	0.250	0.090
73-75-AG	0.050	100.000 %	0.123	0.006
74-76-AG	0.021	100.000 %	0.382	0.008
75-77-AG	0.241	100.000 %	0.682	0.165
76-78-AG	0.000	100.000 %	0.529	0.000
77-79-AG	0.003	100.000 %	0.530	0.001
78-80-AG	0.006	100.000 %	0.754	0.004
79-81-AG	0.106	100.000 %	0.609	0.064
80-82-AG	0.127	100.000 %	0.336	0.043
81-83-AG	0.084	100.000 %	0.372	0.031
82-84-AH	0.220	100.000 %	0.427	0.094
83-85-AH	0.025	100.000 %	0.440	0.011
84-86-AH	0.008	100.000 %	0.464	0.004
85-87-AI	0.020	100.000 %	0.100	0.002
86-88-AI	0.008	100.000 %	0.385	0.003
87-89-S	0.001	100.000 %	0.468	0.000
88-90-S	0.004	100.000 %	0.489	0.002
89-91-S	0.002	100.000 %	0.722	0.001
90-92-S	0.575	100.000 %	0.459	0.264
91-93-T	0.137	100.000 %	0.635	0.087
92-94-T	0.008	100.000 %	0.573	0.005
93-95-AJ	0.177	100.000 %	0.637	0.112

Habitat zone	Habitat hectares	Proportion of habitat zone with general offset	Strategic biodiversity score	General biodiversity equivalence score (GBES)
94-96-AJ	0.195	100.000 %	0.270	0.052
95-97-U	0.110	100.000 %	0.690	0.076
96-98-U	0.013	100.000 %	0.732	0.009
97-99-U	0.216	100.000 %	0.751	0.162
98-10-U	0.001	100.000 %	0.722	0.001
99-1-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.214	0.003
100-2-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.118	0.002
101-3-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.129	0.002
102-40-S	0.685	100.000 %	0.439	0.301
103-52-Q	0.286	100.000 %	0.307	0.088
104-4-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.244	0.003
105-5-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.244	0.003
106-6-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.123	0.002
107-7-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.108	0.002
108-8-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.100	0.001
109-9-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.459	0.006
110-10-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.425	0.006
111-11-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.533	0.007
112-12-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.576	0.008
113-13-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.581	0.008
114-14-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.581	0.008
115-15-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.224	0.003
116-16-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.100	0.001
117-28-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.622	0.009
118-29-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.622	0.009
119-30-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.614	0.009
120-31-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.605	0.009
121-32-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.600	0.008
122-33-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.598	0.008
123-34-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.588	0.008
124-35-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.577	0.008
125-36-TR	0.014	100.000 %	0.549	0.008

Mapped rare or threatened species' habitats on site

This table sets out the list of rare or threatened species' habitats mapped at the site beyond those species for which the impact is above the specific offset threshold. These species habitats do not require a specific offset according to the specific-general offset test.

Species number	Species common name	Species scientific name
10177	Brolga	Grus rubicunda
10212	Australasian Shoveler	Anas rhynchotis
10215	Hardhead	Aythya australis
10230	Square-tailed Kite	Lophoictinia isura
10238	Black Falcon	Falco subniger
10246	Barking Owl	Ninox connivens connivens
10498	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Calamanthus pyrrhopygius
10504	Speckled Warbler	Chthonicola sagittatus
10598	Painted Honeyeater	Grantiella picta
11017	Brush-tailed Phascogale	Phascogale tapoatafa
12159	Striped Legless Lizard	Delma impar
12177	Bearded Dragon	Pogona barbata
12283	Lace Monitor	Varanus varius
13117	Brown Toadlet	Pseudophryne bibronii
13207	Growling Grass Frog	Litoria raniformis
15021	Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana
500044	Sticky Wattle	Acacia howittii
500148	Adamson's Blown-grass	Lachnagrostis adamsonii
500798	Small Milkwort	Comesperma polygaloides
501061	Golden Cowslips	Diuris behrii
501265	Buxton Gum	Eucalyptus crenulata
501326	Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis
501456	Clover Glycine	Glycine latrobeana
502982	Button Wrinklewort	Rutidosis leptorhynchoides
503624	Plump Swamp Wallaby-grass	Amphibromus pithogastrus
504581	White Sunray	Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor
504655	Pale Swamp Everlasting	Coronidium scorpioides 'aff. rutidolepis (Lowland Swamps)' variant
504823	Spiny Rice-flower	Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens
505084	Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena
505337	Austral Crane's-bill	Geranium solanderi var. solanderi s.s.
505560	Arching Flax-lily	Dianella sp. aff. longifolia (Benambra)

Appendix 2 – Offset requirements detail

If a permit is granted to remove the marked native vegetation the permit condition will include the requirement to obtain a native vegetation offset.

To calculate the required offset amount required the biodiversity equivalence scores are aggregated to the proposal level and multiplied by the relevant risk multiplier.

Offsets also have required attributes:

- General offsets must be located in the same Catchment Management Authority (CMA) boundary or Local Municipal District (local council) as the clearing and must have a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 80 per cent of the clearing.[2]

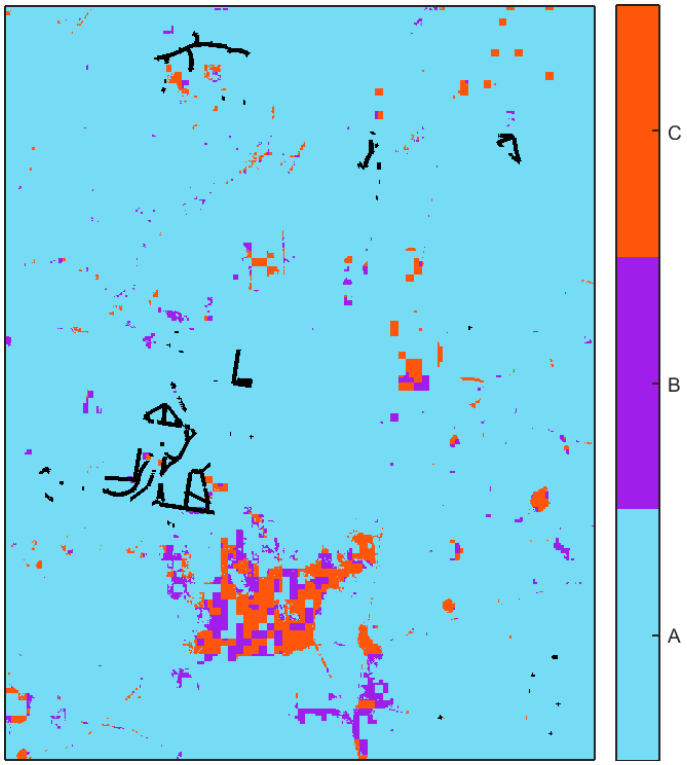
The offset requirements for your proposal are as follows:

Offset type	Clearing site biodiversity equivalence score	Risk multiplier	Offset requirements	
			Offset amount (biodiversity equivalence units)	Offset attributes
General	3.451 GBES	1.5	5.176 general units	Offset must be within Glenelg Hopkins CMA or Pyrenees Shire Council Offset must have a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.296

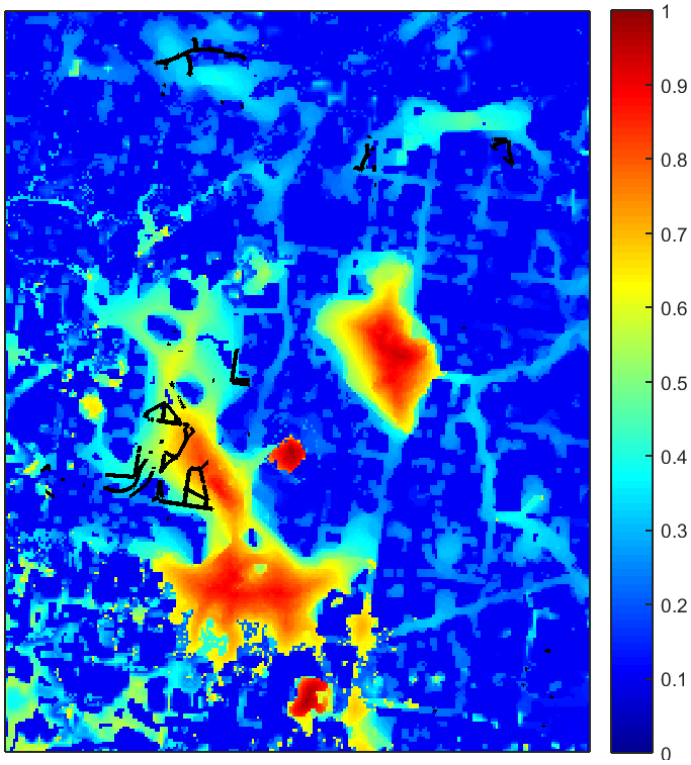
[2] Strategic biodiversity score is a weighted average across habitat zones where a general offset is required

Appendix 3 – Images of marked native vegetation

1. Native vegetation location risk map



2. Strategic biodiversity score map



3. Aerial photograph showing marked native vegetation

Glossary

Condition score

This is the site-assessed condition score for the native vegetation. Each habitat zone in the clearing proposal is assigned a condition score according to the habitat hectare assessment method. This information has been provided by or on behalf of the applicant in the GIS file.

Dispersed habitat

A dispersed species habitat is a habitat for a rare or threatened species whose habitat is spread over a relatively broad geographic area greater than 2,000 hectares.

General biodiversity equivalence score

The general biodiversity equivalence score quantifies the relative overall contribution that the native vegetation to be removed makes to Victoria's biodiversity. The general biodiversity equivalence score is calculated as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{General\ biodiversity\ equivalence\ score} = \boldsymbol{habitat\ hectares} \times \boldsymbol{strategic\ biodiversity\ score}$$

General offset amount

This is calculated by multiplying the general biodiversity equivalence score of the native vegetation to be removed by the risk factor for general offsets. This number is expressed in general biodiversity equivalence units and is the amount of offset that is required to be provided should the application be approved. This offset requirement will be a condition to the permit for the removal of native vegetation.

$$\boldsymbol{Risk\ adjusted\ general\ biodiversity\ equivalence\ score} = \boldsymbol{general\ biodiversity\ equivalence\ score\ clearing} \times \mathbf{1.5}$$

General offset attributes

General offset must be located in the same Catchment Management Authority boundary or Municipal District (local council) as the clearing site. They must also have a strategic biodiversity score that is at least 80 per cent of the score of the clearing site.

Habitat hectares

Habitat hectares is a site-based measure that combines extent and condition of native vegetation. The habitat hectares of native vegetation is equal to the current condition of the vegetation (condition score) multiplied by the extent of native vegetation. Habitat hectares can be calculated for a remnant patch or for scattered trees or a combination of these two vegetation types. This value is calculated for each habitat zone using the following formula:

$$\boldsymbol{Habitat\ hectares} = \boldsymbol{total\ extent}\ (\boldsymbol{hectares}) \times \boldsymbol{condition\ score}$$

Habitat importance score

The habitat importance score is a measure of the importance of the habitat located on a site for a particular rare or threatened species. The habitat importance score for a species is a weighted average value calculated from the habitat importance map for that species. The habitat importance score is calculated for each habitat zone where the habitat importace map indicates that species habitat occurs.

Habitat zone

Habitat zone is a discrete contiguous area of native vegetation that:

- is of a single Ecological Vegetation Class
- has the same measured condition.

Highly localised habitat

A highly localised habitat is habitat for a rare or threatened species that is spread across a very restricted area (less than 2,000 hectares). This can also be applied to a similarly limited sub-habitat that is disproportionately important for a wide-ranging rare or threatened species. Highly localised habitats have the highest habitat importance score (1) for all locations where they are present.

Minimum strategic biodiversity score

The minimum strategic biodiversity score is an attribute for a general offset.

The strategic biodiversity score of the offset site must be at least 80 per cent of the strategic biodiversity score of the native vegetation to be removed. This is to ensure offsets are located in areas with a strategic value that is comparable to, or better than, the native vegetation to be removed. Where a specific and general offset is required, the minimum strategic biodiversity score relates only to the habitat zones that require the general offset.

Offset risk factor

There is a risk that the gain from undertaking the offset will not adequately compensate for the loss from the removal of native vegetation. If this were to occur, despite obtaining an offset, the overall impact from removing native vegetation would result in a loss in the contribution that native vegetation makes to Victoria's biodiversity.

To address the risk of offsets failing, an offset risk factor is applied to the calculated loss to biodiversity value from removing native vegetation.

$$\boldsymbol{Risk\ factor\ for\ general\ offsets = 1.5}$$

$$\boldsymbol{Risk\ factor\ for\ specific\ offset = 2}$$

Offset type

The specific-general offset test determines the offset type required.

When the specific-general offset test determines that the native vegetation removal will have an impact on one or more rare or threatened species habitat above the set threshold of 0.005 per cent, a specific offset is required. This test is done at the permit application level.

A general offset is required when a proposal to remove native vegetation is not deemed, by application of the specific-general offset test, to have an impact on any habitat for any rare or threatened species above the set threshold of 0.005 per cent. All habitat zones that do not require a specific offset will require a general offset.

Proportional impact on species

This is the outcome of the specific-general offset test. The specific-general offset test is calculated across the entire proposal for each species on the native vegetation permitted clearing species list. If the proportional impact on a species is above the set threshold of 0.005 per cent then a specific offset is required for that species.

Specific offset amount

The specific offset amount is calculated by multiplying the specific biodiversity equivalence score of the native vegetation to be removed by the risk factor for specific offsets. This number is expressed in specific biodiversity equivalence units and is the amount of offset that is required to be provided should the application be approved. This offset requirement will be a condition to the permit for the removal of native vegetation.

$$\boldsymbol{Risk\ adjusted\ specific\ biodiversity\ equivalence\ score} = \boldsymbol{specific\ biodiversity\ equivalence\ score\ clearing} \times \mathbf{2}$$

Specific offset attributes

Specific offsets must be located in the modelled habitat for the species that has triggered the specific offset requirement.

Specific biodiversity equivalence score

The specific biodiversity equivalence score quantifies the relative overall contribution that the native vegetation to be removed makes to the habitat of the relevant rare or threatened species. It is calculated for each habitat zone where one or more species habitats require a specific offset as a result of the specific-general offset test as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{Specific\ biodiversity\ equivalence\ score} = \boldsymbol{habitat\ hectares} \times \boldsymbol{habitat\ importance\ score}$$

Strategic biodiversity score

This is the weighted average strategic biodiversity score of the marked native vegetation. The strategic biodiversity score has been calculated from the *Strategic biodiversity map* for each habitat zone.

The strategic biodiversity score of native vegetation is a measure of the native vegetation's importance for Victoria's biodiversity, relative to other locations across the landscape. The *Strategic biodiversity map* is a modelled layer that prioritises locations on the basis of rarity and level of depletion of the types of vegetation, species habitats, and condition and connectivity of native vegetation.

Total extent (hectares) for calculating habitat hectares

This is the total area of the marked native vegetation in hectares.

The total extent of native vegetation is an input to calculating the habitat hectares of a site and in calculating the general biodiversity equivalence score. Where the marked native vegetation includes scattered trees, each tree is converted to hectares using a standard area calculation of 0.071 hectares per tree. This information has been provided by or on behalf of the applicant in the GIS file.

Vicinity

The vicinity is an attribute for a general offset.

The offset site must be located within the same Catchment Management Authority boundary or Local Municipal District as the native vegetation to be removed.