

EMAIL SUBMISSION DETAILS		
Date Received	08/03/2017	
Name	██████████	
Organisation	Campaspe Shire Council	
Email	██	
Postcode	3564	
Privacy Options	I am making this submission on behalf of an organisation, and understand that it may be published and will include the name of the organisation unless otherwise requested	
Privacy Statement Correct?	Yes	
Privacy Collection Notice Read?	Yes	
Submission Type	Local government	
Previous engagement in review?	Info session 2015	Yes
	Workshop 2015/16	Yes
	Targetted consultation	Yes
	SRG	
	Written submission to CP?	Yes
	Other? Describe	
Will changes improve function of regs?		
Reasons	<p>he Native vegetation clearing – Assessment guidelines are an improvement to biodiversity conservation, in particular the recognition of the impact of removing large trees and reintroduction of the three step approach to the planning application.</p> <p>The recognition of large trees is important to not just our Shire but across the agricultural landscape as many of the scattered trees remaining are large and the only native vegetation and habitat present.</p> <p>The reintroduction of the three step approach in the planning application will show how the applicant is applying the process, unlike the current situation where the guideline refers to the three step approach but applicants have no obligation to address it. A further improvement is for applicants of the Basic Assessment Pathway to have to indicate how they have avoided and minimised their native vegetation removal. Not only would this bring consistency to all three pathways, in the limited cases where the proposal is considered to removing native vegetation unnecessarily, Local Government has an appropriate avenue to refuse the application. Currently any application that is in Location A (equivalent to the new Basic Assessment Pathway) cannot be refused.</p> <p>The changes to the naming of the assessments pathway to Basic, Intermediate or Detailed provides a better indication to the general community the impacts of their native vegetation removal. The reduction to the size of the removal for the Basic and Intermediate assessment pathway is an improvement for biodiversity and will not negatively impact on the obligations of future applications or increases in referrals as more than 90% of the applications state-wide are for less than 0.5ha.</p>	
Implementation issue with proposed changes?	Yes	
Reasons	<p>he implementation of the proposed changes requires guidance and support materials for both local government assessing applications as well as for applicants. Currently the Department has not circulated any new practice notes or information for the community. The current Biodiversity Report or applicant kit will need to be amended to enable applicants to detail how they have taken reasonable steps to avoid and</p>	

	<p>minimise native vegetation removal.</p> <p>The implementation of the proposed changes will benefit from the development of the guidance and support material for compliance and enforcement activities. The proposed improvement to develop a compliance and enforcement strategy needs to be released in line with the proposed changes. This will assist the implementation of the proposed changes.</p>
Guidelines – guidance or clarification needed?	Yes
Details	<p>Under the changes to the VPP, 52.17 Table of exemptions should include two minor word changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Dot point 4 should specify that public land manager has given written consent. The addition of written consent will assist Council to ensure that there is compliance with the Road Management Act (as landholders will require a Works in Road Reserve permit) as well as provide a record of the removal and assist with ensuring compliance of the works. Currently the exemption does not specify the amount of clearing that is allowed on the road reserve, consequently landholders contact Council to discuss removing native vegetation (predominantly trees) from the road reserve. This contact gives Council the opportunity to ensure compliance under the Road Management Act 2004 as well as appropriate vegetation removal. • Fire protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Planned burning; should specify by the Department or CFA or per local priorities as listed in Fire Management Plans. Additional clarification around planned burning is required so that it is not used as a loophole to remove native vegetation to clear the land. The current exemption for fire protection does not specify planned burning. <p>Both proposed changes to 52.16-4 and 52.17-4 state that all applications must include: 'Whether reasonable steps have been taken to avoid and minimise the impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, as set out in the Assessment Guidelines'. The Assessment Guidelines state that 'An applicant is not required to avoid or minimise impacts from the removal of native vegetation on biodiversity values in the Basic Assessment Pathway'. This has the potential to be confusing to many applicants as the VPP state that you must take reasonable steps to avoid and minimise impacts and the Assessment Guidelines say you don't need to for Basic Assessment Pathway. It is reasonable to have all applications consider avoid and minimise. The Assessment Guidelines should be amended to reflect this.</p>
Terms to include in guidelines glossary?	No
Details	
Subscribe to e-newsletter?	Yes. Please send information updates to my email address
Other comments	<p>Following the introduction of the Assessment guidelines and alterations to the VPP, the Managing native vegetation on roadsides. A guideline for implementing agreements under the local government public road exemption should be updated to reflect the changes and reviewed to ensure it is meeting the requirements for the management of roads. This will be an opportunity to engage with local government around the definitions of maintenance activities and new works. The agricultural sector would like to discuss the maintenance of trees on rural roadsides due to the increasing size of agricultural equipment and access to farm properties.</p> <p>The continued commitment of DELWP to addressing the improvements highlighted in its review of the native vegetation clearing regulations is key to the implementation of the amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions and new Native vegetation clearing - Assessment guidelines. DELWP must continue to work with local government on the details of the co-regulatory system, monitoring plan and the consolidation of comprehensive policy guidance and applicants kit. It is important that</p>

	DELWP and local government work together as local government is responsible for managing native vegetation removals under the Planning and Environment Act.
Written submission provided?	