

POST/EMAIL SUBMISSION DETAILS		
Date Received	07/03/2017	
Name	[REDACTED]	
Organisation	Mildura Rural City Council	
Email	[REDACTED]	
Postcode	3500	
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	
	Targetted consultation	
	SRG	
	Written submission to CP?	
Other? Describe		
Will changes improve function of regs?		
Reasons	Clarifying the 3 step process and providing clearer guidance on the decision making process will allow for responsible authorities to make more confident and better informed decisions when assessing applications. Providing a clear list of the application requirements at the 3 different levels - basic, intermediate and detailed is very helpful to applicants and responsible authorities.	
Implementation issue with proposed changes?	Yes	
Reasons	Although not directly related to the changes - the capacity of responsible authorities to accurately assess sites and provide professional advice to applicants needs to be considered. Funding and training for responsible authorities should be made available.	
Guidelines – guidance or clarification needed?	Yes	
Details	<p>General Comments:</p> <p>How does the Responsible Authority know what native vegetation is and what it's value, condition etc is? There is an expectation that the responsible authority will have expertise in the area of native vegetation. How will additional resourcing be provided to accommodate this requirement - fee based (applicant to pay) or State funded?</p> <p>Statutory Comments:</p> <p>All applications should be referred to DELWP, with advice from DELWP adhered to for basic pathway in location 2 & 3 as well as Intermediate and detailed pathways. Basic pathway in location 1 should be referred to DELWP informally to confirm pathway.</p>	

	<p>Application requirements: If a section 173 agreement is required for first party offsets there needs to be a fee attached to this for ongoing monitoring to be undertaken by the responsible authority.</p> <p>Offset eligibility - when clearing vegetation on Crown Land - the offset should be able to be on Crown Land - eg roadside clearing offset on roadside - like for like.</p> <p>Page 13 Second last paragraph with * last sentence The responsible authority cannot require the applicant to engage an accredited native vegetation assessor(ANVA) even through the pathway has gone from a basic assessment pathway to an intermediate assessment pathway. Can this be explained to the reasoning why (ANVA) cannot be used.</p> <p>Page 14 4.2 Second para Can an officer from an LGA become qualified to be an ANVA? How is a report from an ANVA validated?</p> <p>Page 15 Tab 4 No. 5 the extent in hectares of all native vegetation to be removed. Does this include all remnants and scattered trees as one total amount or are remnants and trees itemised in a table.</p> <p>Page 15 Tab 4 No. 6 With recent photographs a suggestion of a referral table with codes to identify the photos. Included in the table should be the dbh of the trees as well as the species name.</p> <p>Page 15 Table 4 No 7 Native vegetation that has been cleared in the past should be connected to the property/landscape not the owner otherwise further clearing can be applied for if there is new ownership.</p> <p>Page 15 Table 4 No 8 This is good.</p> <p>Page 16 4.5.1 native vegetation is protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 This should be a mandatory referral for every application. Is it at the moment?</p> <p>P25 5.1.5 An offset must be secured before the native vegetation is removed. Should be this wording only. The rest of the sentence "to the satisfaction of the responsible or referral authority " takes away the power of the first part of the sentence, makes it too ambiguous.</p> <p>P. 27 6. first paragraph Title should be Biodiversity Assessment Handbook-native vegetation clearing</p> <p>P. 29 Definition of Large Tree Mallee trees age can only truly be assessed by the lignotuber as stems are blown off by wind, weight and coldburns leaving the lignotuber underground ready to recoppice. This type of measurement does not give any value to trees with this growth behavior.</p>
Terms to include in guidelines glossary?	Yes No Unsure
Details	

Subscribe to e-newsletter?	Yes. Please send information updates to my email address
Other comments	<p>These changes are a huge step in the right direction. Currently there is lot of confusion about the process from both the community (applicants) and responsible authorities. Providing clear guidelines and assessment processes will allow for a more consistent and effective approach.</p> <p>We have particular concerns with the way in which illegal clearing is dealt with. The penalties are often similar to the cost of going through the planning permit process. This offers no incentive for the landowners to do the right thing. We appreciate that this issue is not directly dealt with in these documents.</p>
Written submission provided?	No