

POST/EMAIL SUBMISSION DETAILS		
Date Received	08/03/2017	
Name	[REDACTED]	
Organisation	Goulburn Murray Landcare	
Email	[REDACTED]	
Postcode	3630	
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	Environment/Community group	
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?	Yes	
Reasons	GMLN works with farming communities across the lower Goulburn Broken floodplain. Events over the past number of years have impacted our communities heavily, resulting in many changed land use practices. The proposed regulation changes will give our regions land use decision makers greater certainty in making planning decisions. This will help both the authorities and the landholders contemplating works.	
Implementation issue with proposed changes?	Yes	
Reasons	Landholders often have limited understanding of the importance of native vegetation and the support role it plays in regional biodiversity resilience. Resources should be committed to help landholders making planning decisions that involve native vegetation clearing. At the regional workshop in Benalla in 2015 it was clear that the quality of the available maps and information was not good enough to be used to make informed decisions. If the data to be used is not accurate then resources need to be committed to correct this.	
Guidelines – guidance or clarification needed?	Yes	
Details	Some clarification around large old trees would probably help in our fragmented landscape on the northern floodplain. The proposed changes include recognition of large trees, the damaging impact of fragmentation and the need to preserve areas with identified environmental and landscape values. The proposed changes also mentions one of the strategy's to be progressed will be the identification of areas of high conservation	

	<p>areas. Not sure how these two points fit together as it appears as if the data to be used to assess the value of native vegetation is recognised as being deficient.</p> <p>In our fragmented landscape large old paddock trees play a very important ecological role yet the assessment process outlined for native vegetation removal generally does not score these trees high enough for protection.</p> <p>Point 3.2.2 states ‘the strategic biodiversity value of native vegetation at a site is a rank of a location’s complimentary contribution to Victoria’s biodiversity, relative to other locations across the state’. This statement is fundamentally flawed. Permit decisions should be made by comparing the value to regional biodiversity rather than statewide biodiversity values.</p> <p>The implication for our highly modified, highly fragmented landscape in this last statement is that, relative to other parts of the state, we don’t contribute as much to Victoria’s biodiversity values.</p> <p>So where does that leave our scattered remnant old paddock trees? Do the proposed changes mean that the ongoing losses will continue? Do they give more certainty to landholders contemplating works? Do they provide a greater level of protection than currently exists?</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>Resources need to be increased to ensure we have accurate maps which are used for decision making.</p> <p>Resources are also sorely lacking for policing, monitoring and education around the implementation of the regulations. This needs to be addressed for the regulations to work properly.</p> <p>Offsets for vegetation removal should be required to be planted locally and in the same EVC.</p> <p>Vegetation clearing regulations are only one part of managing Victoria’s biodiversity and natural resources. A more holistic approach needs to be adopted if we are to ensure that Victoria’s indigenous flora and fauna are resilient enough to survive and thrive.</p> <p>Pest plant and animal management, energy use, urban development and infrastructure upgrades are all issues which impact biodiversity resilience in Victoria and all should be coordinated to achieve the best overall outcome possible.</p>
Written submission provided?	No