

# BARWON COAST

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.

A.B.N. 16 921 392 965



8 March 2017

**Manager Native Vegetation Review  
Regulatory Strategy Design  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
PO Box 500  
East Melbourne VIC 8002  
[nativevegetation.review@delwp.vic.gov.au]**

Dear Sir, Madam

**Re: Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations**

Barwon Coast welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the review of native vegetation clearing regulations leading to amendment of the Victorian Planning Provisions.

Barwon Coast is an appointed coastal crown land manager for 13km of barrier sand dune system fronting Bass Strait adjoining the townships of Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads. The barrier sand dune system provides a linear native vegetation corridor on the southern extent of the Bellarine Peninsula where native vegetation and overall biodiversity is depleted.

Barwon Coast recognises a priority to protect biodiversity across the state, considering the challenge of a changing climate, and developing understandings of the scale of this threat and the capacity of vegetation response and adaptation to provide habitat to support biodiversity.

The principle that there is no net loss to biodiversity through any approved native vegetation clearance is supported with it paramount that it be demonstrated and achieved.

Within the new regulatory framework it is positive to have the re-focusing on the requirement for native vegetation retention, that is avoid, then if required to minimise and offset.

It is supported that all proponents for native vegetation clearing proposals be required to provide substantive evidence to clearly demonstrate that avoiding native vegetation removal has been fully considered.

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It is recognised that proposals for native vegetation clearing will be allowed, and in proponent response the principles around offset sites and management should require arrangements to be realistic opportunities for habitat replacement, involving comparable sites; with connectivity opportunities where possible.

In support of achieving no net loss to biodiversity, there needs to be the adequate and ongoing resourcing to enable the updating and expansion of the native vegetation information systems. This should allow capacity to recognize and ensure specific consideration of endangered habitats, threatened species and additional unique values in specific sites impacted; in turn resulting in informed decisions.

The no net loss to biodiversity principle is supported to be applied to all management tenures of land and that all land management activities respond to demonstrate that principle through the development and response to approved management protocols.

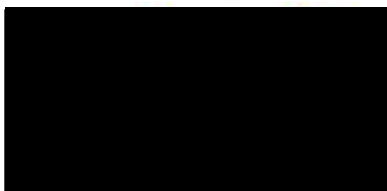
It is important and incumbent that there is assessment and reporting to demonstrate that the principle of no net loss to biodiversity is an outcome of any approved offset.

In establishing the revised native vegetation clearing regulations, and the management systems to be applied through local government and state government, there needs to be made available the financial resourcing to support the development of the information systems, reporting systems and compliance, i.e. enforcement requirements to ensure effectiveness of the application of the regulations for biodiversity protection across the State.

Barwon Coast supports the scope and detail of the submission of the Australian Coastal Society, Victorian Chapter to the review of Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations.

Barwon Coast looks forward to improvement of the management of native vegetation across the Victoria and for the protection of biodiversity through this review of the native vegetation clearing regulations.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the General Manager.

**GENERAL MANAGER**