

Overview of proposed key changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions to better protect sensitive vegetation

The following table provides a high level overview summary of the key proposed changes, giving a comparative view of the current and proposed systems. Details of all the proposed changes to the regulatory system are described in *Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations – summary of the proposed amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions*. This document is available on the Engage Victoria website: www.engage.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation-review.

Current	Proposed (main changes highlighted)
Purpose of Clause 52.17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Avoid the removal of vegetation that makes a significant contribution to Victoria’s biodiversity 	Purpose of Clause 52.17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Avoid the removal of native vegetation (greater emphasis on avoiding removal as the first step for all)
Contribution that native vegetation makes to biodiversity measured by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Extent – Condition – Strategic biodiversity value – Habitat for rare or threatened species 	Biodiversity value of native vegetation is broadened and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Extent – Condition – Strategic biodiversity value – Habitat for rare or threatened species – Presence of large trees – Presence of endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes – Sensitive wetlands and coastal areas (nationally or internationally listed)
Three risk-based pathways based on amount and location of proposed vegetation removal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Low, moderate and high – Two clearing thresholds used (0.5 and 1 hectare) – Location risk map based on potential to impact on rare or threatened species 	Three assessment pathways based on amount and location of proposed vegetation removal and if the removal includes large trees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Basic, Intermediate and Detailed – One clearing threshold used (0.5 hectare) – Location map based on potential to impact rare or threatened species and endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes or sensitive wetlands and coastal areas
Application requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minimisation statement and offset strategy only required for moderate and high risk-based pathway applications – Habitat hectare assessment and assessment of impact to rare or threatened species required for moderate and high risk-based pathways 	Application requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Avoid and minimisation statement and offset statement required for all assessment pathways – Habitat hectare assessment and assessment of impact to rare or threatened species only required for Detailed Assessment Pathway
Decision Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Low: No assessment of impact to biodiversity, straight to offset pathway, impact is accepted. – Moderate: Assess minimisation statement and that an offset is available. Not predicted to have impact on rare or threatened species; impacts acceptable if offset can be secured. – High: Assess minimisation statement and that an offset is available. Consider if the native vegetation is significant for Victoria’s biodiversity. Have potential to impact on rare or threatened species. 	Decision Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All: Consider avoid and minimisation statement and offset statement – Basic: No assessment of impact to biodiversity values – Intermediate: Consider impacts on biodiversity values except habitat for rare or threatened species – Detailed: Consider impacts on all biodiversity values
Offsets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Required to secure general offset if don’t impact on species – Required to secure specific offset if impact on species, determined from maps – no ability to submit information – No flexibility 	Offsets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Required to secure general offset if don’t impact on species – If large trees are removed, offset must protect large trees – Required to secure specific offset if impact on species – determined from maps; able to also consider site based habitat characteristics – Flexibility introduced