

~~12/2015~~  
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04/02/2016  
VC127

Planning should help to protect the health of ecological systems and the biodiversity they support (including ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic diversity) and conserve areas with identified environmental and landscape values.

Planning must implement environmental principles for ecologically sustainable development that have been established by international and national agreements. Foremost amongst the national agreements is the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, which sets out key principles for environmental policy in Australia. Other agreements include the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, National Greenhouse Strategy, the National Water Quality Management Strategy, the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity, the National Forest Policy Statement and National Environment Protection Measures.

Planning should protect sites ~~and features of~~ for nature conservation ~~and~~ biodiversity, ~~and~~ geological or landscape ~~features of~~ value.

### 12.01

29/10/2015  
VC101

### Biodiversity

#### 12.01-1

#### Protection of biodiversity

~~12/2015~~  
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29/10/2015

#### Objective

To assist the protection and conservation of Victoria's biodiversity, including important habitat for Victoria's flora and fauna and other strategically valuable biodiversity sites.

#### Strategies

Use statewide biodiversity information to identify areas of high biodiversity value, ~~biodiversity and consider the impact of land use and development on these values.~~

Consider the impacts (both on-site and on surrounding land) of land use and development on areas of biodiversity value.

Ensure strategic planning:

- Avoids and minimises ~~significant~~ impacts, including cumulative impacts, of land use and development on Victoria's areas of high biodiversity value including the habitat of species and communities listed under federal or state legislation.
- Considers impacts of any change in land-use or development that may affect the biodiversity value of ~~adjoining~~ national parks and conservation reserves or nationally and internationally significant sites, including wetlands and wetland wildlife habitat designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention), ~~and~~ sites utilised by species ~~designated~~ listed under the Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA), ~~or~~ the China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA) or the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA).
- Assists in the identification, protection and management of ~~sites containing~~ areas of high biodiversity value ~~biodiversity.~~
- Assists in identifying opportunities to increase biodiversity value through the re-establishment of links between ~~isolated habitat remnants~~ areas that contain high biodiversity value, ~~biodiversity.~~

~~Ensure that decision making takes into account the impacts of land use and development on Victoria's high value biodiversity.~~

#### Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- ~~Permitted clearing of native vegetation clearing – Biodiversity assessment guidelines~~ (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017 and Primary Industries, September 2013).
- ~~The Native Vegetation Information Management System~~ Statewide biodiversity information – maintained by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
- Any applicable biodiversity strategies, including the relevant Regional Catchment Strategy (prepared under Part 4 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*).

## 12.01-2 Native vegetation management

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VC-  
29/10/2015  
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### Objectives

To ensure appropriate consideration of impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

To ensure ~~that~~ permitted clearing of native vegetation results in no net loss ~~in the contribution made by native vegetation to Victoria's~~ biodiversity.

### Strategies

~~Apply the risk based approach to managing native vegetation as set out in *Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines* (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, September 2013). These are:~~

- ~~Avoid the removal of native vegetation that makes a significant contribution to Victoria's biodiversity.~~
- ~~Minimise impacts on Victoria's biodiversity.~~
- ~~Where native vegetation is permitted to be removed, ensure that an offset is provided in a manner that makes a contribution to Victoria's biodiversity that is equivalent to the contribution made by the native vegetation to be removed.~~

When assessing an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, an amendment to this planning scheme or an application for subdivision, ensure that decision making considers the impacts of land use and development, including actions that:

- Impact on the biodiversity value of national parks and conservation reserves or nationally and internationally significant sites.
- Fragment native vegetation.
- Lead to degradation of land and waterways.
- Encourage the spread of pest plants, animals and pathogens into natural ecosystems.

Assess impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation as set out in *Native vegetation clearing – Assessment guidelines* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017). This includes the three step approach to managing native vegetation (avoid, minimise and offset).

### Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- ~~Permitted clearing of native vegetation clearing – Biodiversity assessment guidelines~~, (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017 and Primary Industries, 2013).
- ~~Assessment handbook – Native vegetation clearing~~ (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017).
- ~~The Native Vegetation Information Management System~~ Statewide biodiversity information maintained by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.