Dear [NAME]

RE: NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATIONS DISCUSSION PAPER
MAV DRAFT SUBMISSION

Thank you for providing Strathbogie Shire Council with the opportunity to review and comment on the MAV's draft submission to the native vegetation regulations discussion paper. We acknowledge the ongoing hard work of MAV in relation to planning policy review, and welcome the opportunity to be involved.

Overall, Council supports the comments made by the MAV. In particular, we reiterate the following key issues.

- **Complexity of the system**: overall, the native vegetation system is complex, and any changes which result in the simplification of the system are supported. This includes the recommended removal of the 'moderate assessment pathway'.

- **Offsets**: it is agreed that improvements to the off-set system are necessary, as discussed at Section 5.4 of the MAV's submission. In addition to the comments of the MAV, Council considers that off-sets for low risk applications, where vegetation removal is limited (for example to a few scattered trees), can be onerous for property owners who are 'just trying to do the right thing'. Methods for guaranteeing offsets aside from the use of S173 or Section 69 Agreements should be explored for use in such instances.

- **Exemptions**: many of the exemptions listed at Clause 52.17 are unclear and the comments made by the MAV at section 5.5 of their submission are supported.

- **Compliance**: as a small shire with limited resources, enforcing compliance with the native vegetation regulations is difficult. We thoroughly support the comments made by the MAV at section 5.6 of their submission, including the call for state government to have an expanded role and responsibility.
- **Need for greater public awareness**: A state-wide or regional campaign is needed to promote public awareness about native vegetation regulations.

Please be aware that Council have submitted a copy of this letter directly to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

If you have any questions in relation to this, please do not hesitate to contact [redacted] or via email

Yours sincerely

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Strathbogie Shire Council

CC. Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations
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