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7 March 2017

Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations  
Regulatory Strategy and Design  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
PO Box 500  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wyndham City welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations. Wyndham City can see many opportunities for improvement to the Planning Provisions and the Permitted Clearing Regulations and is overall supportive of the proposed amendments.

Wyndham City is a member of the LGPro Biodiversity Planning Network (BPN). The BPN is a group of local government practitioners who are professionals in the environmental field. The BPN has workshopped and submitted a more detailed and technical response to the review. Wyndham supports the BPN submission and submits the following additional principles and comments:

- The amended Regulations appear to place additional expectations on local government to investigate and enforce native vegetation rules. This could put a strain on resources in the current rate-capping environment.
- Similarly the amended Regulations place additional expectations on local government to maintain a database of and report on native vegetation removal. This could put a strain on resources in the current rate-capping environment.
- More information is required regarding how mapped data can be added or challenged in cases where rare or threatened species are observed on site but are not mapped on the databases.
- Without monitoring being available for the removal of native vegetation under an exemption, it is impossible to track how much native vegetation and habitat is being lost this way, and therefore how the state is tracking along the 'no net loss' principle.
- Both the detailed and intermediate pathways should require offsetting within the municipality where possible, or within an adjoining municipality where it can be demonstrated that this is not possible. Given the size of the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) boundaries and the variety of Ecological Vegetation Classes covered

within the CMAs, offsetting only within a CMA can lead to local and regional losses of vegetation communities and habitat connectivity.

Wyndham City is keen to work with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to improve the Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations and to continue to protect Victoria's native vegetation. If you would like to discuss this submission, please contact Wyndham City's Environmental Planner, [REDACTED], on [REDACTED] or at [enviropanning@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviropanning@wyndham.vic.gov.au).

Kind regards,



MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

