

**3. The draft Assessment guidelines and the proposed changes to the VPP have been developed to improve the way the regulations work. Do you think the proposed changes will help achieve this? Please describe your reasons:**

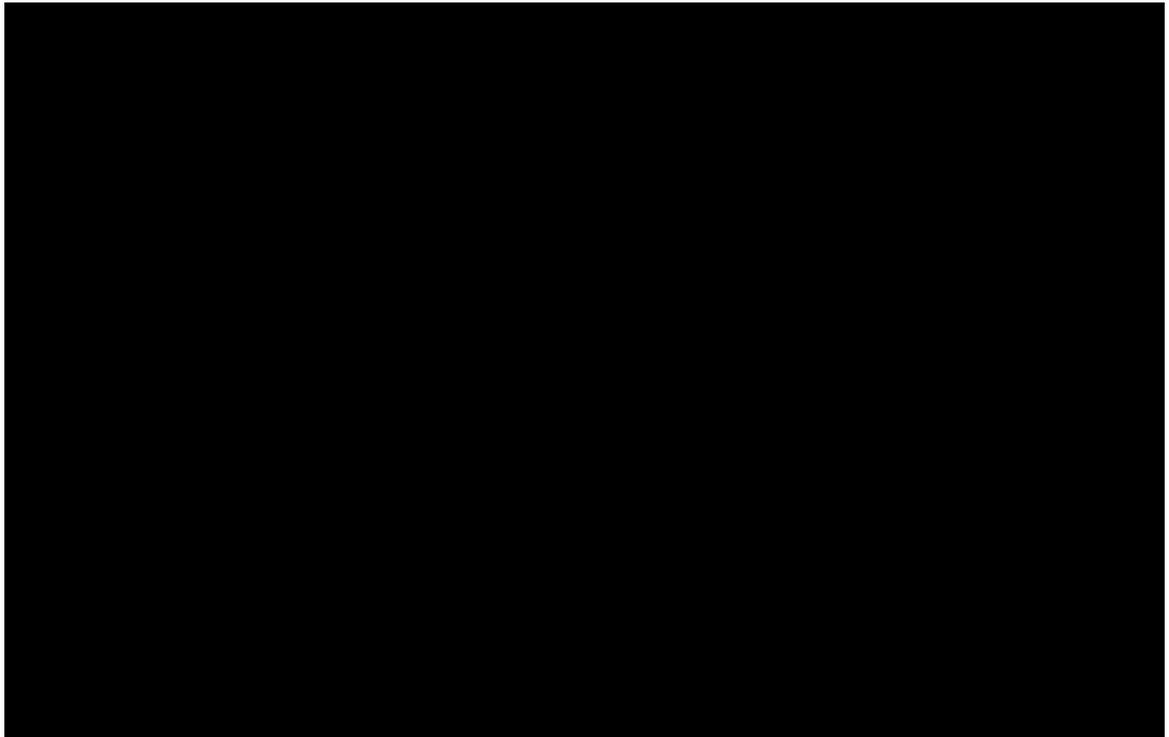
2.1 Clause 12.01 Biodiversity

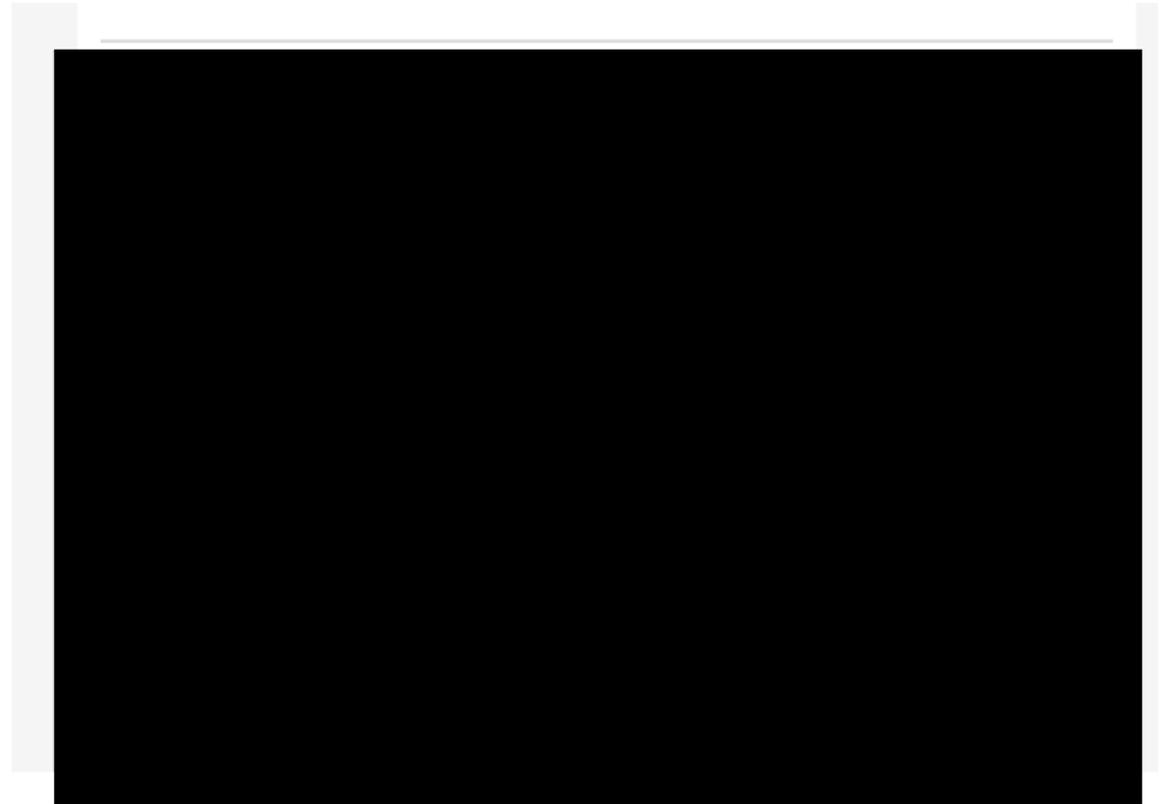
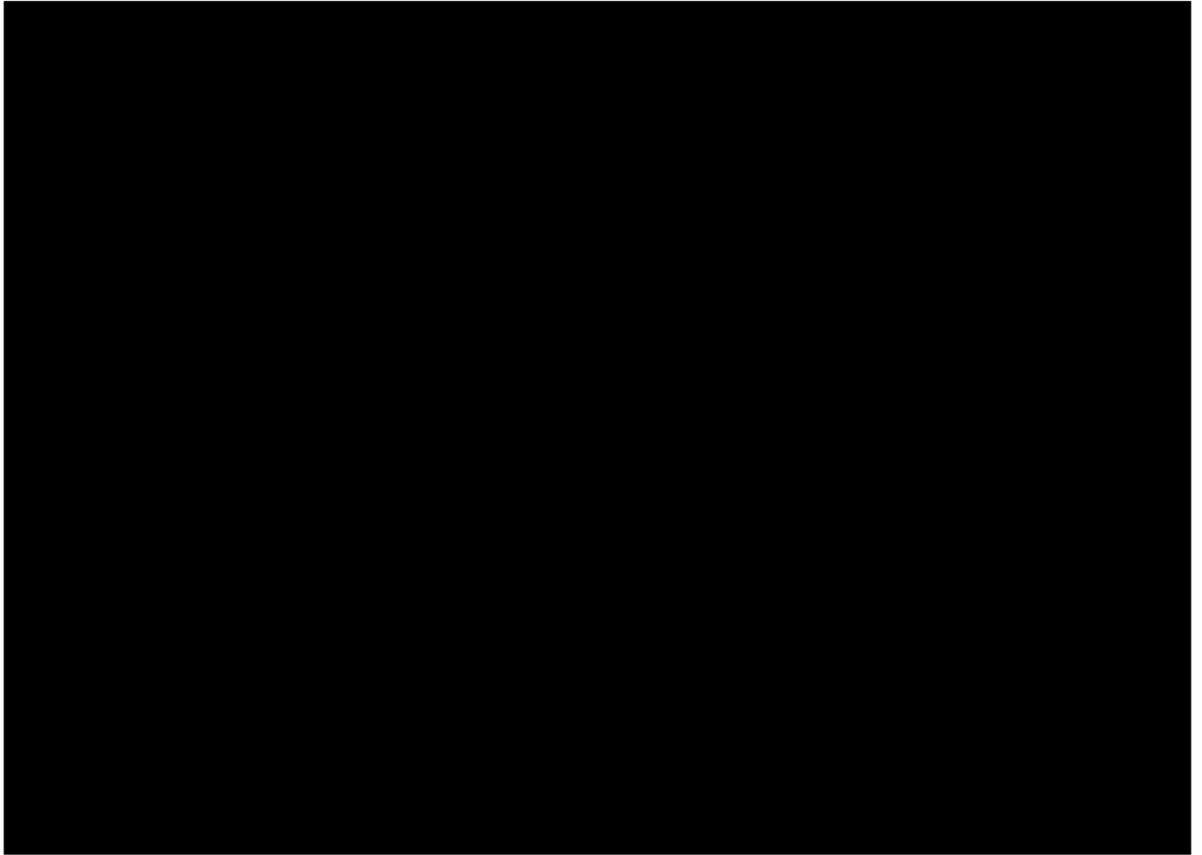
2.1.1

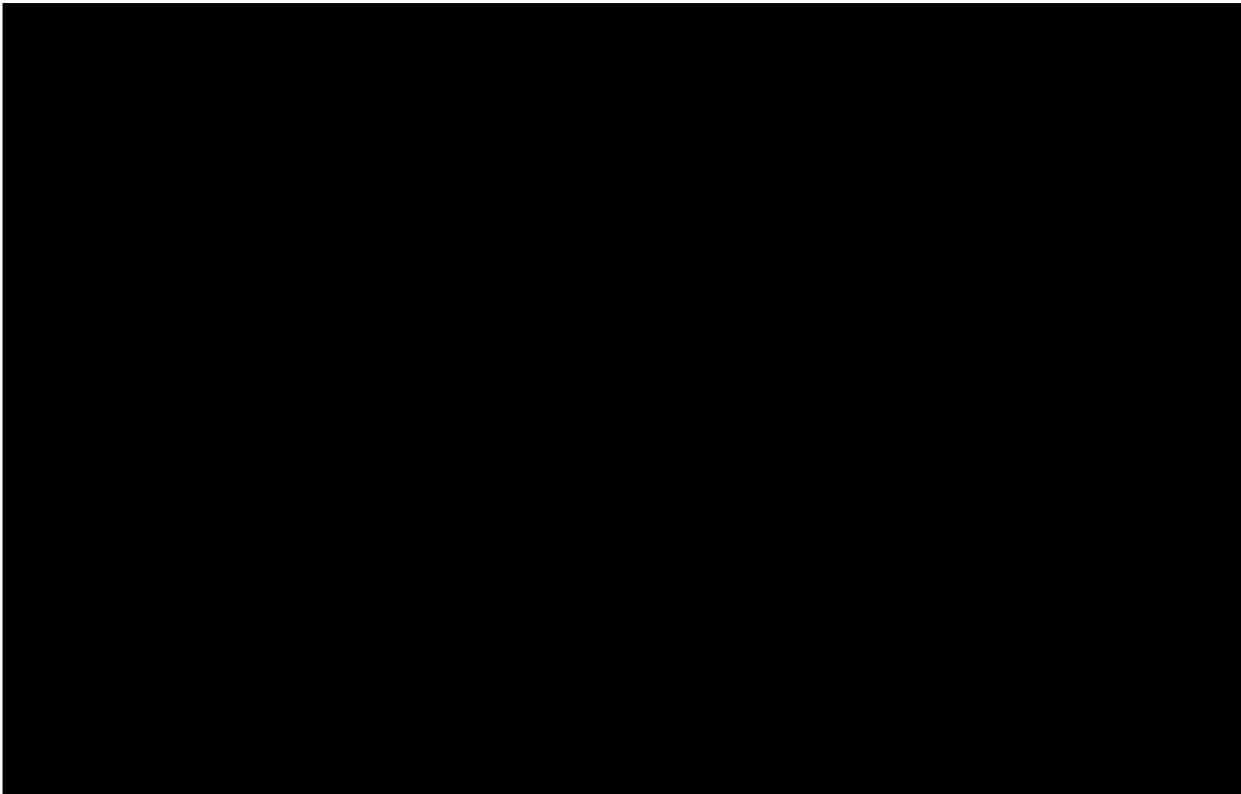
\* Ensure the strategic planning strategy enables consideration of all impacts of land use and development on biodiversity

- This must be relevant to all kinds of development whether that be for housing, commercial or industrial. Links between areas that contain biodiversity must be re-established and protected from destruction. Smaller blocks of land are at risk of destruction also with a selection of smaller properties next to each other a corridor for native vegetation and wildlife.

For example, the below block of land at [REDACTED] in Eltham is for sale. This block joins with others on each side that contain large amounts of native vegetation and would support a significant number of native fauna.







This block of land supports large amounts of native species and has a creek running through the property. The property is for sale and is targeting developers meaning there is every intention that the native vegetation on this block will be destroyed. The changes to the biodiversity clause must strengthen the ability of councils to reject development on blocks like this one. Blocks like this are of increasing importance to native flora and fauna as more of their habitat is destroyed.

The impact of the removal of native vegetation should include a “biodiversity map” developed by a planning officer. Ensuring there is “no net loss” to biodiversity is absolutely crucial.

2.2.1 Clause 52.16 and 52.17

Bushfire threat;

- There is absolutely no way of completely preventing bush fires in Victoria. The landscape has for millions of years burnt and it is a cycle of nature. Whilst we can try to prevent bushfires from impacting on human lives in built up residential areas it is near impossible to ensure those that live in more remote, less dense communities such as Kangaroo Ground, Warrandyte, Research and Kinglake will always be safe. With the increasing severity of

climate change we know there is greater risk of bushfire. Destroying native vegetation to protect against bushfire is futile as we just cannot fully protect ourselves from this risk. Therefore, we must look after the native vegetation that remains on private property. There is absolutely nothing State Government can do to fully protect the community from bushfire. Unfortunately it is a part of the landscape in which we live and we are all aware of this.

**Biodiversity Value**

- Must be clear. Perhaps a rating system would work best.

2.2.4. Table of exemptions

- Add an exemption for utility installation. Everything must be done to ensure the absolute minimum impact possible is made on biodiversity of the area in question. Option with the least impact on biodiversity should always be taken and the investigation must be thorough.

2.2.4

2.5

- Ecological Vegetation Classes

Crucial that this is included. Inland bushy areas should also be included. Smaller blocks of land also need to be included with blocks under 0.5 hectares highly important. Pockets of smaller blocks, which link up, should be seen as one area rather than individual lots. As individual lots they may not be important however, side by side they are of significant importance.

**4. Are you aware of any issue that may impact on implementation of the proposed changes?**

**Yes**  **No**  **Unsure If yes, please provide details here:**

Lack of agreed, single policy in housing enforcing which areas can and cannot be developed across the whole of Victoria. This leaves to council discretion what can and cannot be destroyed. It is important that areas of significant value are marked as such as such so there is no confusion. They must have significant environmental overlays or overlays or Green Wedge overlays to protect the land from being destroyed and native native vegetation removed.

**5. Are there any other areas that need further guidance or clarification in addition to those outlined in the draft Assessment guidelines?  Yes  No  Unsure If yes, please provide details here:**

The terms “no net loss” must be explained better. There must be no misinterpretation possible from this term. No Net loss should mean “nothing can be removed”.

**6. Are there any other words or terms used in the Assessment guidelines that should be included in the glossary?**

**Yes**  **No**  **Unsure If yes, please provide details here:**

**7. When there is new information to share about the changes to the regulations, we produce and send out an e-newsletter. Would you like to be on the mailing list?**

**Yes. Please send information updates to my email address**

**What other comments would you like to make?**

**Please provide any other comments relating to the documents released for public comment here:**

It is absolutely crucial that native vegetation and the current level of biodiversity in the State of Victoria is protected as much as possible. Living on a 2 and a half acre property has shown me that even in small spaces, it is vital to have native species of plants to ensure our native animals can flourish. We have such a diverse range of species living on our property from King Parrots to Blue Tongue Lizards and frogs. We must ensure that every consideration is taken to protect what is left including undertaking biodiversity assessments prior to any development taking place whether that be development of roads, rail line or housing.

**Thank you for making a submission!**