

# Removal of Native Vegetation

The purpose of this information sheet is to assist applicants in preparing a planning permit application for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation



## What is native vegetation?

Native vegetation is plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses. This includes areas of bushland with trees, scattered paddock trees, and treeless areas of scrub or grassland.

Native vegetation provides habitat for plants and animals and delivers a range of ecosystem services that make land more productive and contribute to human well-being. Native vegetation in and around Bendigo and across the municipality is a key contributor to the character of the city. The management of this vegetation, particularly at the interface with residential development, is a key challenge.

The purpose of native vegetation controls is to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation; and to manage the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation to minimise land and water degradation.

If you are not sure whether the vegetation you want to remove is native, you should seek advice from a suitably qualified professional.

## Policy basis

A planning permit is usually required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation (including dead vegetation) on land.

Native vegetation should only be removed when there are no suitable alternatives that avoid removal. If you cannot avoid vegetation removal, you must only remove the minimum amount necessary.

[Clause 52.17](#) Native Vegetation is a state-wide planning provision that outlines the requirement for the removal, destruction and lopping of native vegetation and includes a table of exemptions.

To ensure there is no net loss to biodiversity the following three-step approach is applied in accordance with the [Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation 2017](#) :

- 1. Avoid** the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
- 2. Minimise** impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
- 3. Provide an offset** to compensate for the biodiversity impact if a permit is granted to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

## Offset requirements

When you remove native vegetation, you must provide an offset to compensate for the impact on biodiversity. You must decide how you will secure the offset – on your own property; or purchased through a broker. This will add to the cost of your proposal. Keeping your removal of native vegetation to a minimum will help to reduce this cost.

For more information on offsets, see the [Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action website](#)

What do I need?	Where can I get it/who can help?
A completed application for planning permit form	Download from our <a href="#">website</a>
A copy of the Certificate of Title including any covenants or agreements (produced within the last 3 months)	Purchase a copy from <a href="https://www.landata.vic.gov.au/">https://www.landata.vic.gov.au/</a>
Payment of the relevant application fee	Download a fee schedule from our <a href="#">website</a>
<p>The Department of Transport and Planning has produced a set of key documents to help landowners prepare a planning permit application to remove native vegetation and can be accessed at <a href="https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation">https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017)</i></li> <li>• <i>The Native vegetation removal regulations – Applicant's guide</i></li> </ul> <p>Applications to remove native vegetation are categorised in to one of three assessment pathways with different application requirements and decision guidelines.</p> <p>The assessment pathway is determined by the amount of native vegetation to be removed (in hectares), whether any large trees are to be removed, and the location of the native vegetation in the landscape.</p> <p>The following information is the minimum required when lodging a planning permit application to remove, destruct or lop native vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Native Vegetation Removal Report – this can be produced by using the NVIM removal tool at <a href="https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/">https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/</a> (the NVIM removal tool will prompt you to provide additional information that is needed as part of the application).</li> <li>• Recent dated photographs of the vegetation to be removed.</li> </ul> <p>Additional application requirements apply to applications in the Detailed Assessment Pathway (Refer to <i>Applicant's guide</i>).</p>	<p>Planning Consultant/Environmental Consultant/Arborist</p> <p><a href="https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation">https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation</a></p>