NVR Map User Guide

An online application that underpins legislated native vegetation approvals in Victoria



What is NVR Map?

Native Vegetation Regulation (NVR) Map is a valuable resource accessible to the public through a web-based application. It provides users with a wide range of spatial datasets relating to the Native Vegetation Regulations.

By utilising this platform, users can generate the following reports:

- Native Vegetation Removal Reports: These reports are essential for supporting applications seeking approval to remove, destroy, or lop native vegetation. The reports provide crucial information necessary to evaluate the impact of such activities and identify appropriate offset requirements.
- Native Vegetation Offset Reports: These reports are required for establishing a first or third-party offset site. The reports aid in assessing the suitability and effectiveness of proposed offset sites.

Using the Native Vegetation Removal Tool

Access the tool

- 1. Visit the NVR Map home page at <u>https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/nvr/</u>.
- Review the website policies located at the bottom on the page. It's important to review the 'Terms of use' to ensure compliance.

- 3. Locate and click on the **'Go to the native vegetation removal tool**' option. This will direct you to a page containing useful information relevant to your proposal.
- 4. After reviewing the provided information, proceed by clicking on the **'Launch tool**' button. This will initiate the tool and enable you to access its features.

Confirm if you are completing a Detailed Upload

5. The Detailed Upload function involves submitting a Shapefile that adheres to defined data standards and includes site-specific information gathered by a certified native vegetation assessor. This feature is utilised when opting for site-assessed data in the Basic or Intermediate Assessment Pathways, and is obligatory for proposals within the Detailed Assessment Pathway.

If opting for a Detailed Upload, select 'Yes' and follow the steps within the NVR Map interface to generate a report. Typically, this process is managed by experienced consultants. The following instructions presume that a Detailed Upload is not proposed.

Are you completing a Detailed Upload?			
Yes			
No No			



Identify past removal of native vegetation

 Identify any past native vegetation removal relevant to your proposal. Useful information regarding the identification of past removal can be accessed by clicking on the following icons:

PAST REMOVAL
Are you completing a Detailed Upload? ? Ves No
Do you need to account for past removal? ?
Yes - details of past removal to be provided below:
Permit/PIN number(s) (?) Enter number (optional
Total area (ha) ? Enter number
◯ No

To proceed to the next step, click on **'Map Native Vegetation**.' This will allow you to move forward in the process and continue with the mapping of native vegetation.

Locate your site

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7. To locate the proposed removal site, enter the address or Standard Parcel Identifier¹ (SPI) in the property search bar. As you start typing, a list of potential addresses or SPIs will appear. Choose the relevant suggestion from the list, and the map screen will automatically zoom in to display the specified property. Alternatively, you can navigate by simply holding down the left mouse button and dragging your cursor. For zooming in and out, you can either utilise the zoom buttons or scroll your mouse wheel.



Turn on aerial imagery, layers and use other tools in the mapping page

8. To toggle between aerial imagery and the base map, simply click on the following icon, located on the map page. This will allow you to switch between different map views according to your preference.

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By clicking on the 'Layers' button, you can access a table of contents displaying various useful layers. These layers are designed to assist you in navigating the map interface effectively and accurately mapping your proposed native vegetation removal. When specific layers are activated, a transparency slider will appear. This slider allows you to adjust the transparency of the selected layer, enabling you to identify and visualise underlying features with greater clarity.

You can utilise the Identify tool by clicking on the following icon. This tool enables you to gather specific information about features displayed on the map.



The Measurement tool can also be accessed by clicking on the following icon. This tool provides the ability to measure distances on the map in various metrics.

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SPI stands for Standard Parcel Identifier, and is a shorthand way to describe a parcel. The simplest, and most common form of a SPI is lot and plan number separated by \.

Identify your proposal

9. Your proposed native vegetation removal can be identified using the '**Draw**' or '**Simple Upload**' functions.

The '**How to map native vegetation removal**' link provides useful information on how to define and map the native vegetation you propose to remove, including images of typical removal scenarios.

<u>Draw:</u>

The **Draw** tool allows you to map Patches and Canopy Trees, with on-screen instructions provided for assistance.

The classification of trees depends on their location within Patches or outside of them. Canopy Trees plotted within Patches are automatically classified as Patch Trees. Canopy Trees plotted outside of Patches can be classified as either a Scattered Tree or Patch Tree.

It is important to note that Canopy Trees outside of Patches should only be classified as Patch Trees if they are part of a Patch and their removal impacts are solely limited to the subject tree (partial removal).

When plotting Canopy Trees, you will be prompted to identify the tree size based on either the circumference of the trunk at 1.3 meters above ground level or the trunk diameter at breast height (DBH). This information determines whether the tree is classified as small or large.

If a plotted tree lies within an Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) with multiple Large Tree benchmarks, you will be prompted to select the appropriate tree species or genus. If the species or genus is unknown or not listed, choose **'Other species/genus'**.

As you map removal features, a summary will be displayed along the left-hand side of the map page, with options to:

- Move drawn Patches, Scattered Trees and Patch Trees
- Re-shape drawn Patches
- · Delete individual or all drawn features
- Change the attributes of Scattered Trees and Patch Trees, such as their size and designated species/genus.

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Simple Upload:

10. NVR Map allows for the upload of Patches and Canopy Trees proposed for removal via a Shapefile². It is important to ensure that the Shapefile conforms to the data standards, which can be accessed by clicking on the following icon.

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Drag and drop any number of zipped shapefiles or click to selec		

As per drawn Canopy Trees, you will be prompted to select the relevant tree species or genus if an uploaded tree point lies within an EVC with multiple Large Tree benchmarks.

² A Shapefile is a common geospatial vector data format used in geographic information system (GIS) software.

Confirm the assessment pathway

11. After mapping all the native vegetation proposed for removal, locate the **'To Summary**' button positioned at the bottom of the screen. Clicking on this button will generate a summary that includes the site location and removal features you have mapped.

In addition, the summary will indicate whether your proposal falls under the Basic, Intermediate, or Detailed Assessment Pathway. For proposals in the Basic and Intermediate Assessment Pathways, the summary will outline the offset requirements necessary if approval is granted for the removal of the mapped native vegetation.

However, for proposals in the Detailed Assessment Pathway, the summary will not specify offset obligations. This is because the Detailed Upload function must be used to confirm offset obligations within the Detailed Assessment Pathway.

Click on the '**Next**' button when you are ready to move on to the next step.

If your proposal falls under the Detailed Assessment Pathway, a final page will appear outlining the requirement to appoint a certified native vegetation assessor and the additional steps you need to take to progress your proposal.

If you would like an estimate of the offset obligations associated with your proposal, based on modelled condition scores, you can generate a scenario test report by selecting '**Download Scenario Test Report (PDF)**'. It's important to note that these reports are intended solely for project planning purposes and cannot be used to support an application for approval.

Address application requirements

12. In this next step, which is applicable for proposals under the Basic or Intermediate Assessment Pathways, you will be presented with a page where you can provide responses to address the majority of information requirements associated with an application to remove native vegetation.

To assist you in addressing these requirements, example responses are provided in each text field. For further guidance on addressing these requirements, you can refer to the <u>Native vegetation</u> removal regulations - Applicant's guide.

The responses you provide will be incorporated into the Native Vegetation Removal Report. If you choose not to address these requirements within NVR Map, you will need to include the information separately as part of your approval application.

When you are ready to proceed, click '**Next**' to move to the review and download page. At this stage, you will be prompted to declare that you have explored and implemented all practical options to avoid and minimise native vegetation removal, and that there are no further opportunities to reduce the impacts of your proposal.

It is advisable to carefully review your clearing proposal at this point and consider opportunities to reduce your offset obligation and the associated costs, if feasible.

Export data

13. On the review and download page, you have the option to export the removal features you have mapped as a Shapefile. Simply click on 'Export Features' to initiate the export process.

It is highly recommended to export the Shapefile as it allows for future usability. You can upload the Shapefile into NVR Map at a later date if there are any modifications to your proposal (refer to Point 10 for uploading instructions). This feature enables you to easily edit and update the mapped features as needed.

Download the report and complete next steps

14. On the review and download page, you can download your Native Vegetation Removal Report by clicking on the 'Download Report (PDF)' button. Please note that the report may take up to two minutes to generate and download, and it will be saved in the downloads folder of your browser.

The Native Vegetation Removal Report is a crucial document for progressing your application for approval. It contains essential information and guidelines for the next steps in the process. The review and download page itself also provides clear instructions on how to proceed.

Using the Native Vegetation Offset Tool

Access the tool

- 1. Visit the NVR Map home page at <u>https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/nvr/</u>.
- Review the website policies located at the bottom on the page. It's important to review the 'Terms of use' to ensure compliance.
- 3. Locate and click on the **'Go to the native vegetation offset tool**' option. This will direct you to a page containing useful information relevant to your proposal.
- 4. After reviewing the provided information, proceed by clicking on the **'Launch tool'** button. This will initiate the tool and enable you to access its features.

Completing a Detailed Upload

5. The Detailed Upload function involves submitting a Shapefile that adheres to defined data standards and includes site-specific information gathered by a Native Vegetation Credit Register site assessor.

If opting for a Detailed Upload, choose '**Upload**' and then '**Detailed Upload'**, and follow the steps provided within the NVR Map interface to generate a report.



Typically, Detailed Uploads are managed by experienced consultants. The following instructions assume that a Detailed Upload is not required, and that a first-party general offset site is proposed. Under this scenario, protected vegetation is defined using the Draw or Simple Upload functions.

Locate your site

 To locate the proposed offset site, enter the address or Standard Parcel Identifier³ (SPI) in the property search bar. As you start typing, a list of potential addresses or SPIs will appear. Choose the relevant suggestion from the list, and the map screen will automatically zoom in to display the specified property.



Alternatively, you can navigate by simply holding down the left mouse button and dragging your cursor. For zooming in and out, you can either utilise the zoom buttons or scroll your mouse wheel.

Turn on aerial imagery, layers and use other tools in the mapping page

7. To toggle between aerial imagery and the base map, simply click on this icon, located on the map page. This will allow you to switch between different map views according to your preference.



By clicking on the 'Layers' button, you can access a table of contents displaying various useful layers. These layers are designed to assist you in navigating the map interface effectively and accurately mapping the proposed native vegetation offset. When specific layers are activated, a transparency slider will appear. This slider allows you to adjust the transparency of the selected layer, enabling you to identify and visualise underlying features with greater clarity.

³ SPI stands for Standard Parcel Identifier, and is a shorthand way to describe a parcel. The simplest, and most common form of a SPI is lot and plan number separated by \. You can utilise the Identify tool by clicking on the following icon. This tool enables you to gather specific information about features displayed on the map.



The Measurement tool can also be accessed by clicking on the following icon. This tool provides the ability to measure distances on the map in various metrics.



Identify your proposal

8. Your proposed first-party general offset site can be identified using the '**Draw**' or '**Upload**' functions.

The '**How to map native vegetation for protection**' link provides useful information on how to define and map the native vegetation you

propose to secure as an offset, including images of typical offsetting scenarios.

Draw:

The **Draw** tool allows you to map Patches, Canopy Trees and Revegetation areas, with on-screen instructions provided for assistance.

The classification of trees depends on their location within patches or outside of them. Canopy Trees plotted within Patches are automatically designated as Patch Trees, while those plotted outside of Patches are classified as Scattered Trees.

When plotting Canopy Trees, you will be prompted to identify the tree size based on either the circumference of the trunk at 1.3 meters above ground level or the trunk diameter at breast height (DBH). To qualify as an offset, plotted trees must be >75% of the Large Tree benchmark of the relevant Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).

If a plotted tree lies within an EVC with multiple Large Tree benchmarks, you will be prompted to select the appropriate tree species or genus. If the species or genus is unknown or not listed, choose 'Other species/genus'.

Revegetation features must adhere to specific guidelines to ensure their accuracy and appropriateness. Drawing such features in nonwoody EVC types is not permitted, and they must meet a minimum area to perimeter ratio of 20. To assist with compliance, NVR Map will prompt you if these requirements are not met, ensuring that your mapped revegetation features are in line with the specified criteria.

As you map offset features, a summary will be displayed along the left-hand side of the map page, with options to:

- Move drawn Patches, Scattered Trees, Patch Trees and Revegetation areas
- Re-shape drawn Patches or Revegetation areas
- Delete individual or all drawn features
- Change the attributes of Scattered Trees and Patch Trees, such as their size and designated species/genus.

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Tree (point)	\rightarrow
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Simple Upload:

- 9. NVR Map allows for the upload of Patches, Canopy Trees and Revegetation areas proposed for protection via a Shapefile⁴. It is important to ensure that the Shapefile conforms to the data standards, which can be accessed by clicking on the following icon.
- ⁴ A Shapefile is a common geospatial vector data format used in geographic information system (GIS) software.



As per drawn Canopy Trees, you will be prompted to select the relevant tree species or genus if an uploaded tree point lies within an EVC with multiple Large Tree benchmarks.

View a summary of your proposal

10. After mapping all the native vegetation proposed for protection, locate the **'To Summary**' button positioned at the bottom of the screen. Clicking on this button will generate a summary that includes the site location and offset features you have mapped.

Click on the '**Next**' button when you are ready to move on to the next step.

Export data

11. On the review and download page, you have the option to export the offset features you have mapped as a Shapefile. Simply click on 'Export Features' to initiate the export process.

It is highly recommended to export the Shapefile as it allows for future usability. You can upload the Shapefile into NVR Map at a later date if there are any modifications to your proposal (refer to Point 9 for uploading instructions). This feature enables you to easily edit and update the mapped features as needed.

Download the report and complete next steps

12. On the review and download page, you can download your Native Vegetation Offset Report by clicking on the **'Download Report (PDF)**' button. Please note that the report may take up to one minute to generate and download, and it will be saved in the downloads folder of your browser.

The Native Vegetation Offset Report is a crucial document for progressing your proposal to establish a first-party general offset site. It contains essential information and guidelines for the next steps in the process. The review and download page itself also provides clear instructions on how to proceed.

Points to note

- In the map interface, you can navigate by simply holding down the left mouse button and dragging your cursor. For zooming in and out, you can either utilise the zoom buttons or scroll your mouse wheel.
- NVR Map incorporates robust checks that efficiently identify and notify you of potential errors in drawn or uploaded data. These checks are designed to ensure the accuracy and quality of your mapping. Common issues that the system detects include:
 - o Overlapping or self-intersecting Patches
 - Revegetation features overlapping Patches
 - Revegetation proposed in non-woody EVC types, or below the minimum area to perimeter ratio.
 - Features mapped within the Melbourne Strategic Assessment Levy Area
 - Trees plotted in offset proposals that are too small to generate gain.

NVR Map offers options to either discard the flagged features or prompts you to address them. For example, if overlapping Patches are found, the platform will prompt you to either merge them into a single feature or delete them.

- NVR Map allows you to export your mapped removal or offset features, ensuring you can preserve, and use the data as needed. However, it's essential to be aware that the platform does not support saving information for future sessions. For example, you can't partially address the application requirements in the removal tool, close the application, and then resume from where you left off at a later date.
- Some properties have or may show multiple address listings, especially where mapped native vegetation occurs outside a property boundary. On occasion, multiple address results will be displayed in the summary page and within generated reports.

We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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