Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

Version 1.3 - October 2004

Department of Sustainability and Environment

	Site Condition Score'	
Tenure EVC		Bioregion
Assessor(s)	Map Name/No	AMG / MGA
Site Name/No.	Location	Date

Large Trees

Large rices		<i>,</i> C	
Catagory & Docarintian	% Canopy Health*		
Category & Description	> 70%	30-70%	< 30%
None present	0	0	0
> 0 to 20% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	3	2	1
> 20% to 40% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	4	3	2
> 40% to 70% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	6	5	4
> 70% to 100% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	8	7	6
≥ the benchmark number of large trees/ha	10	9	8

Large trees are defined by diameter at breast height (dbh)

Tree Canopy Cover

Category & Description	% Canopy Health *		
Category & Description	> 70%	30-70%	< 30%
< 10% of benchmark cover	0	0	0
< 50% or > 150% of benchmark cover	3	2	1
\geq 50% or \leq 150% of benchmark cover	5	4	3

Score

Score

Tree canopy is defined as those canopy tree species reaching $\geq 80\%$ of mature height - see EVC benchmark description.

Lack of Weeds

Category & Description	'high threat' weeds*		
Category & Description	None	≤ <i>50%</i>	> 50%
> 50% cover of weeds	4	2	0
25 - 50% cover of weeds	7	6	4
5 - 25% cover of weeds	11	9	7
< 5% cover of weeds**	15	13	11

^{*} proportion of weed cover due to 'high threat' weeds - see EVC benchmark for guide.

The EVC benchmark lists typical weed species for the EVC in the bioregion and provides an estimate of their 'invasiveness' and 'impact'. In general, those weed species considered to have a *high impact* are considered *high threat* regardless of their invasiveness.

Understorey Life forms

LF Code from EVC benchmark	# spp observed / Benchmark spp.	% cover observed / Benchmark % cover	Present (√)	Modified (√)
•	/	/		
	/	1		
	/	1		
	/	1		
	/	1		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	1		
	/	1		
	/	1		
	/	1		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	1		
	1	1		

For life forms with benchmark cover of < 10%, considered 'present' if

Present

• any specimens are observed.

For life forms with benchmark cover of $\geq 10\%$, considered 'present' if

the life form occupies at least 10% of benchmark cover.

For life forms with benchmark cover of <10%, then considered substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:

Modified

< 50% of the benchmark species diversity; or

(apply only where life form is 'present') • no reproductively-mature specimens are observed. For life forms with benchmark cover of \geq 10%, then considered

substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:

• < 50% of benchmark cover; or

< 50% of benchmark species diversity; or

 ≥ 50% of benchmark cover due largely to immature canopy specimens but the cover of reproductively-mature specimens is < 10% of the benchmark cover.

Jnderstorey	Score	
Category & Description		
All strata and Life forms effec	tively absent	0
Up to 50% of life forms prese	ent	5
≥ 50% to 90% of Life forms present	• of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified	10
	 of those present, < 50% substantially modified 	15
≥ 90% of Life forms present	• of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified	15
	• of those present, < 50% substantially modified	20
	 of those present, none substantially modified 	25



⁻ see EVC benchmark.

^{*} Estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (i.e. not missing due to tree death or decline, or mistletoe infestation).

^{*} Estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (i.e. not missing due to tree death or decline, or mistletoe infestation).

^{&#}x27;High threat' weed species are defined as those introduced species (including non-indigenous 'natives') with the ability to out-compete and substantially reduce one or more indigenous life forms in the longer term assuming on-going current site characteristics and disturbance regime.

 $[\]ast\ast$ if total weed cover is negligible (<1%) and high threat weed species are present then score '13'.

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F	Recruitment Score				
Category & Description			High diversity*	Low diversity*	
		within EVC not dr events	iven by episodic	0	0
	No evidence of a recruitment	within EVC	clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	0	0
	'cohort'+	driven by episodic events^	no clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	5	5
	Evidence of at least one	proportion of native woody	< 30%	3	1
	recruitment 'cohort' in at		30 - 70%	6	3
	least one life-form	adequate recruitment ^{>}	≥ 70%	10	5

^{+ &#}x27;cohort' refers to a group of woody plants established in a single episode (can include suppressed canopy species individuals).

^{*} high diversity defined as \geq 50% of benchmark woody species diversity.

(Organic Litter	Score	
	Category & Description	Dominated by native organic litter	Dominated by non-native organic litter
	< 10% of benchmark cover	0	0
	< 50% or > 150% of benchmark cover	3	2
	\geq 50% or \leq 150% of benchmark cover	5	4

Species Recruitment

Woody species recorded in habitat zone	Adequate Recruitment (✓)
Eucalypt canopy (combined species)	
number of woody spp. in EVC benchmark (SS and taller)	

Logs		S	core
Category	& Description	Large logs present*	Large logs absent [#]
< 10% of	benchmark length	0	0
< 50% of	benchmark length	3	2
≥ 50% of	benchmark length	5	4

Large logs defined as those with diameter ≥ 0.5 of benchmark large tree dbh.

'Landscape Context Score'

Patch Size Score	
Category & Description	
< 2 ha	1
Between 2 and 5 ha	2
Between 5 and 10 ha	4
Between 10 and 20 ha	6
\geq 20 ha, but 'significantly disturbed'*	8
≥ 20 ha, but not 'significantly disturbed'*	10

 $[\]ensuremath{^*}$ 'significantly disturbed' defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses eg. roading, coupes, grazing etc. - effectively most patches within fragmented landscapes.

eighbour	hood	Score	
Radius from site	% Native vegetation*	Weighting	
100 m		0.03	
1 km		0.04	
5 km		0.03	
		neighbourhood is :ly disturbed'	
		Add Values and 'round-off'	

^{*} to nearest 20%.

Multiply % native vegetation x Weighting for each radius from the zone (eg. $40\% \times 0.03 = 1.2$); then add values to obtain final Neighbourhood Value.

Distance to C	ore Area	Score

Distance	Core Area not significantly disturbed*	Core Area significantly disturbed*			
> 5 km	0	0			
1 to 5 km	2	1			
< 1 km	4	3			
contiguous	5	4			

^{*} defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses.

Final Habitat Score

Filial Habitat Score											
	'Site Condition Score'						'Landscape Context Score'				
Component	rees .	Tree Canopy Cover	Lack of Weeds	torey	ment	Organic Litter		Size	Neighbourhood	Distance to Core Area	Total
Con	Large Trees	Tree C	Lack of	Understorey	Recruitment	Organi	Logs	Patch Size	Neighb	Distano	100
Score											

[^] refer to EVC benchmark for clarification.

 $^{^{\}diamond}$ treat multiple eucalypt canopy species as one species.

^{*} present if large log length is \geq 25% of EVC benchmark log length.

[#] absent if large log length is < 25% of EVC benchmark log length.