

Native vegetation removal regulations 2020-2021

Annual no net loss summary



April 2022



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

OFFICIAL

Photo credits:

Coastal Saltmarsh, French Island (Richard Boon)

Small-leaf Swainson-pea (*Swainsona microphylla*) (Richard Boon)

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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ISSN 2209-9824 - Online (pdf / word)

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1 Executive Summary

Based on information provided by responsible authorities and data held by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), this year more native vegetation was permanently protected and managed as offset sites under security agreements, than was approved for removal.

A total of:

- **137** hectares and **979** large trees with a biodiversity value of **47** general habitat units and **31** species habitat units were approved for removal (noting only around 40% of councils reported).
- **768** credit allocations were issued for **165** habitat units, including **23** different species and **2,600** large trees. A further 87 credit allocations were issued under the previous two versions of the regulations.
- **1,784** hectares and **21,760** large trees with a biodiversity value of **447** general habitat units and **16,716** species habitat units were protected under new security agreements.

2 This year's report

This is the fourth annual report on the operation of the native vegetation removal regulations. It presents an overview of data received from responsible authorities for approved native vegetation removal and from DELWP for new security agreements and native vegetation credits allocated during the 2020-2021 financial year.

Previous reports focused on operational improvements implemented because of amendments to the regulations in December 2017. This report focuses on whether the no net loss to biodiversity objective is being achieved, and where any gaps persist in making this determination.

Previous year's reports can be viewed at [Native vegetation \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation).

2.1 Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to summarise data provided by responsible authorities regarding the:

- Extent of native vegetation approved for removal during the 2020-2021 financial year
- Extent of native vegetation protected under security agreements during the 2020-2021 financial year
- Amount of native vegetation credits allocated to planning approvals during the 2020-2021 financial year.

This information will be used to provide an indication as to whether the native vegetation removal regulations are achieving the no net loss to biodiversity objective at a statewide level.

2.2 Limitations to evaluating the no net loss objective

Definitively determining whether the no net loss objective is being achieved over the course of a single financial year is affected by the following limitations.

Operation of the regulations

Permit holders must secure their offset requirement before native vegetation approved for removal can be removed, rather than at the time the approval is granted.

- For many planning approvals, native vegetation is not anticipated to be removed in the same year the approval was granted, thus permit holders often do not secure their offset requirement in the same year of approval. Offsets secured and allocated for these approvals, will be included in future reports.
- Some native vegetation approved for removal is never removed because the permit is not acted upon or amended in following years. Therefore, permit holders may not be required to secure the offset requirement identified in the original approval.

Collecting data

This report relies on over 80 responsible authorities providing data on approved native vegetation removal, as well as newly established security agreements. This information is provided to DELWP on a voluntary basis, rather than under a regulatory obligation to report. DELWP actively requests this information from responsible authorities.

However, due to internal tracking processes or resourcing issues, some responsible authorities are not able to provide data.

Despite these limitations, DELWP is confident that this year's report includes the majority of approved removals and newly established security agreements for the past financial year.

Improvements in data collection will continue to occur for future reports to provide an even more accurate account of the no net loss objective to biodiversity values from approved removal of native vegetation under the native vegetation removal regulations.

2.3 Biodiversity 2037 Net Gain target

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 outlines the State Government's commitment to achieve an overall **net gain** in the extent and condition of native habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments over the 20-year life of the plan.

The no net loss objective of the native vegetation removal regulations is only one of several components which contributes to reporting on overall net gain of habitats under the plan. The plan can be viewed at - [Biodiversity 2037 \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-2037).

3 The native vegetation removal regulations

In Victoria, the removal of native vegetation requires planning approval from a relevant responsible authority. The responsible authority will assess applications in accordance with the State's native vegetation removal policy – *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Guidelines) – and decide on whether to approve the proposed removal.

No net loss objective

The Guidelines adopt the three-step hierarchy of avoid, minimise, and offset to achieve the objective of no net loss to biodiversity values.

- Avoid removal, destruction or lopping native vegetation when possible
- Minimise impacts when removal cannot be avoided
- Offset native vegetation removal when it cannot be avoided.

No net loss means that, through the avoid, minimise, and offset hierarchy, there will not be a reduction in the state's biodiversity value from the approved removal of native vegetation.

Biodiversity values

The biodiversity values considered under the Guidelines include:

- Native vegetation extent
- Native vegetation condition
- Large trees
- Endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC)
- Sensitive wetlands and coastal areas
- Strategic biodiversity value
- Habitat for rare or threatened species.

Impacts to and compensation (secured offset sites) for these biodiversity values is measured in:

- General habitat units, when removal is not significantly impacting rare or threatened species habitat
- Species habitat units, when removal is significantly impacting one or more rare or threatened species habitats
- Large trees as per EVC benchmarks.

Removal

Applications to remove native vegetation are submitted to the relevant responsible authority for assessment. Depending on the level of proposed impact the application may be referred to DELWP, as the referral authority for further assessment.

The application to remove native vegetation will generally be approved if the level of impact is deemed acceptable and satisfactorily meets the application requirements in the Guidelines. All applications must include a native vegetation removal report (NVR report).

Identifying biodiversity impact

An NVR report is used to identify the loss of biodiversity value which is expected to occur when a patch of native vegetation or scattered tree is removed. Loss is measured in general habitat units, species habitat units, and large trees. The NVR report identifies the offset requirements.

Offset requirement

Native vegetation approved for removal must be compensated with a secured offset before it can be removed. The applicant granted approval to remove native vegetation is responsible for locating and securing the offset requirement identified in the NVR report and included as a condition on the approval.

A secured offset can either be a security agreement established on the entity's own property (first party offset) or an offset allocated from a property owner who has already entered into a security agreement to protect and manage an offset site (third party offset).

Identifying biodiversity gain

A native vegetation offset report is used to identify the amount of biodiversity improvement (gain) which is expected to occur within the permanently protected offset site if standard management actions are implemented over a ten-year period. Gain is measured in general habitat units, species habitat units, and includes the protection of existing large trees.

Offset sites may protect and manage existing patches of native vegetation, scattered trees, revegetation, or a combination of all three.

A native vegetation offset report must be included with every offset site.

3.1 Authorities responsible for approving native vegetation removal

Unless otherwise exempt, all land managers and landowners must seek and be granted approval to remove native vegetation. Under various pieces of legislation, the following authorities are responsible for assessing and approving applications to remove native vegetation.

Local government

Local governments are responsible for assessing and approving planning permits to remove native vegetation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&E Act) and Clauses 52.16 and 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP). There are 79 local governments in Victoria.

Councils are expected to voluntarily provide this data to DELWP.

Minister for Planning

The Minister for Planning is responsible for assessing and approving all matters specified under the P&E Act and Clause 72.01 of the VPP. This includes energy generation facilities with an installed capacity of one megawatt or greater.

This data is provided by the relevant team within DELWP.

Secretary to DELWP

DELWP's Secretary is responsible for endorsing native vegetation removal proposals for:

- Planning schemes amendments (PSA)
- VPP Clauses 52.03, 52.20, 52.30, 52.35 and 52.36.

DELWP's Secretary is also responsible for providing written agreement to rely on the following exemptions:

- Railways
- Road safety
- Utility installations (Electric)
- Utility installations (Water).

Written agreement is provided on the condition that the avoid, minimise and offset hierarchy outlined in the Guidelines is applied.

This data is collected and provided by DELWP's internal approvals tracking processes.

DELWP Pipeline Licensing team

DELWP's Pipelines Licensing team is responsible for assessing and approving gas pipeline proposals under the *Pipelines Act 2005*.

This data is provided by the Pipeline's Licensing team at DELWP.

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) is responsible for assessing and approving extractive industry work plans under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.

DELWP's Statutory Planning and Approvals teams, as the referral authority, provide this data.

Table 1 in Section 4 summarises data provided by responsible authorities regarding the extent of native vegetation approved for removal for the 2020-2021 financial year. Note that it is likely that not all approved removal data has been provided by responsible authorities.

3.2 Authorities responsible for approving and administering offset sites

All native vegetation offset sites must be secured in perpetuity with an on-title security agreement with a statutory authority under one of the following security mechanisms.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 (P&E Act)

Local governments can enter into a security agreement to secure an offset site under Section 173 of the P&E Act.

Landowner security data is provided by local governments.

Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972 (VCT Act)

Trust for Nature can enter into a security agreement to secure an offset site under the VCT Act.

Landowner security data is provided by the native vegetation credit register.

Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 (CF&L Act)

The Secretary to DELWP can enter into a security agreement to secure an offset site under Section 69 of the CF&L Act.

Landowner security data is provided by the native vegetation credit register.

Crown land offset Memorandum of Understanding

Under specific circumstances, the Secretary to DELWP can enter into a security agreement with a Crown land manager to secure an offset site.

Security agreement data is provided by the native vegetation credit register.

Table 2 in Section 5 summarises data provided by statutory authorities regarding the extent of new security agreements executed during the 2020-2021 financial year.

It is the role of the statutory authority who entered into the security agreement to ensure landowners are meeting their management and reporting requirements.

3.3 Allocating offsets to approvals

All applications seeking approval to remove native vegetation must include the offset requirement and an offset statement which demonstrates that a compliant offset is achievable.

If approved, the offset requirement is included as a condition on the approval, and it must be secured before the native vegetation is removed. Evidence of a secured offset must be provided to the responsible authority and may be either:

- An **allocated credit extract**, which allocates credits generated from a third-party security agreement, or
- An executed **first party** security agreement.

Multiple offset allocations satisfying multiple planning approvals are typically made from a single security agreement.

Section 6 summarises the credit extracts allocated to approvals for the 2020-2021 financial year.

3.4 Compliance

Removal approvals

It is the role of the responsible authority who approved the native vegetation removal to ensure applicants are securing their offset requirements prior to the removal of native vegetation.

In some situations, there may be a delay of many months or even years from the time of receiving planning approval until the actual removal of native vegetation. It is common that offset requirements are not secured until up to two years after the approval was given.

Security agreement

Landowners are required to meet their security agreement obligations, which include land use restrictions, management actions, and reporting requirements.

4 This year's approvals

Table 1 displays data provided by responsible authorities regarding the native vegetation which was approved for removal in 2020-2021. Although approved this financial year, the actual removal may not occur until subsequent years.

Table 1: 2020-2021 Approved removal of native vegetation

Responsible authority	Planning mechanism	# of Approvals	Extent (ha)	LT Removed	GHUs	# Species impacted	SHUs
Local Government (33 out of 79 Councils reported)	Permits (2017 Regs)	368	82.95	612	31.351	3	2.121
	Permits (2013 Regs)	4	2.65	15	0.278 (GBEUs^)	0	0
	Totals	372	85.60	627	31.351 (plus 0.278 GBEUs)	3	2.121
Minister for Planning	Wind facility	2	0.57	14	0.472	0	0
	Solar facility	8	7.21	88	1.714	0	0
	Totals	10	7.78	102	2.186	0	0.000
Secretary to DELWP (Provisions)	PSA (LXRP*)	3	0.73	1	0.080	0	0
	52.03 (LXRP)	7	8.24	82	1.975	0	0
	Totals	10	8.97	83	2.055	0	0.000
Secretary to DELWP (Exemptions)	Railways	2	0.23	0	0.164	0	0
	Road Safety	144	18.49	115	9.541	0	0
	Utility installations (Electric)	21	0.47	1	0.268	0	0
	Utility installations (Water)	3	0.22	1	0.147	0	0
	Totals	170	19.41	117	10.120	0	0.000
DELWP's Pipelines Licensing team	Pipeline Licence	1	0.43	0	0.273	0	0
DJPR	Work plans	4	14.59	50	1.181	3	28.974
Statewide	Overall Totals	567	136.78	979	47.166 (plus 0.278 GBEUs)	6	31.095

^ General biodiversity equivalence units

* Level Crossing Removal Program

4.1 Approval summary

Approvals granted

There were at least 567 approvals granted across the responsible authorities with the majority from local governments and the Secretary to DELWP. Noting that only 33 out of 79 local governments provided approval information.

• Local government	65%
• Secretary to DELWP (Exemptions)	30%
• Secretary to DELWP (Provisions)	2%
• Minister for Planning	2%
• DJPR	1%
• Pipelines Licensing team	<1%

Extent approved

There were 136.78 hectares of vegetation approved for removal with the majority from local governments. Noting that only 33 out of 79 local governments provided approval information.

• Local government	64%
• Secretary to DELWP (Exemptions)	12%
• Minister for Planning	10%
• Secretary to DELWP (Provisions)	9%
• DJPR	5%
• Pipelines Licensing team	<1%

5 This year's security agreements

Table 2 displays data provided by statutory authorities regarding security agreements executed in 2020-2021.

Generally, the catalyst for new security agreements is either to meet the offset requirements for an individual (often large) project, or to satisfy the offset requirements for many smaller projects expected to

be approved in the near future. Native vegetation credits generated from security agreements, which may not be immediately allocated to planning approvals, are available to be allocated to future planning approvals. As a result, native vegetation credits generated under a security agreement established in one year are often allocated to planning approvals in subsequent years.

Table 2: 2020-2021 New security agreements

Statewide	Recorded on the NVCR	Security agreements	Extent	LT	GHUs	Unique species habitat	SHUs
CFL Act	Yes	27	1,426	20,016	350	465	12,526
VCT Act	Yes	5	358	1,744	97	105	4,190
Crown Land Offset MOU	-	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
P&E Act*	No	4	-	-	-	-	-
Overall Totals		36	1,784	21,760	447	504^	16,716

^ Overall totals are the number of unique species habitats that were secured. 66 species habitats were secured under both acts.

*Security agreements secured under the P&E Act are first party offsets and are not required to be registered on the native vegetation offset register.

Type of vegetation protected

All the security agreements were protecting existing vegetation. Two of those also included areas of revegetation.

5.1 Total number of security agreements

With the establishment of 32 new security agreements this year, it brings the total number of security agreements registered on the native vegetation credit register to 385, totalling 18,180 hectares.

Security agreements executed under the P&E Act by local governments are not registered on the native vegetation credit register unless the landowner is intending to use it to meet offset requirements for multiple approvals they have. This year, local governments identified four new security agreements. However, the native vegetation credit register does not hold information on the extent of native vegetation protected.

6 This year's credit allocations

Credit allocations, in the form of native vegetation credit extracts, are administered by DELWP's native vegetation credit register, and used by applicants to demonstrate they have met their offset requirements. Native vegetation credit extracts provide evidence that a third-party offset has been allocated to a specific planning approval. Allocations for the 2020-2021 financial year are displayed below. This year, credits have been allocated for approvals granted under the current and previous two regulatory frameworks.

Credit extracts may be allocated to planning approvals granted in the same year. However, it is common for extracts to be allocated to planning approvals granted in previous years.

6.1 Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation

This is the current version of the native vegetation removal policy. It was introduced on 12 December 2017 and is referred to as the 2017 regulations. Most allocations this year were to planning approvals granted under the current 2017 regulations.

Table 3: 2017 Regulation allocations

2017 Regulation	# of allocations	Units	# of unique species	LT
GHU	759	117	-	2,600
SHU	9	48	23	
Total	768	165	23	2,600

6.2 Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines

This was the version of the native vegetation removal regulations in place from 12 December 2013 – 12 December 2017 and is referred to as the 2013 regulations. Some allocations this year were to planning approvals granted under the 2013 regulations.

Biodiversity impact and improvement under the 2013 regulations was measured in general biodiversity equivalence units (GBEUs) and specific biodiversity equivalence units (SBEUs).

Table 4: 2013 Regulation allocations

2013 Regulation	# of allocations	Units	# of unique Species
GBEU	63	16	-
SBEU	3	6	5
Total	66	22	5

6.3 Victoria's native vegetation management – A framework for action

This was the original version of the native vegetation removal regulations in place prior to 12 December 2013 and is referred to as the Framework. Some allocations this past year were to planning approvals granted under the Framework.

Biodiversity impact and improvement was measured in Habitat hectares (Hha), trees and new recruits.

Table 5: Framework Allocations

Regulation	# of allocations	Hha	Trees*	New recruits
Framework	21	48	583	2,620

*Under the Framework Trees were classified as large old trees, or very large old trees as per EVC large tree benchmarks.

6.4 Total allocations for 2020-2021

There were 855 allocations across the three versions of the regulations with the majority allocated under the 2017 regulations.

- 2017 Regulations 90%
- 2013 Regulations 8%
- Framework 2%

7 Exemptions from the native vegetation removal regulations

The native vegetation removal regulations provide for exemptions from the requirement for approval to remove native vegetation. A number of these do not require a secondary approval to rely upon. However, some exemptions require written agreement from the Secretary to DELWP to ensure they are addressing the no net loss objective of the regulations.

7.1 Exemptions not requiring written agreement

Most exemptions are targeted at landowners and native vegetation removal required to undertake maintenance, personal use, or safety activities.

Landowners are not required to notify the responsible authority when relying on these exemptions. It is not possible to accurately determine the extent of native vegetation removal occurring under these exemptions.

7.2 Exemptions for fire mitigation

The planning provisions include several exemptions specifically allowing native vegetation removal for bushfire risk reduction activities. Besides Clauses 52.16 and 52.17, Clause 52.12 also contains exemptions to mitigate bushfire risk.

Generally, landowners and land managers apply these exemptions without notifying the responsible authority.

7.3 Exemptions requiring written agreement

Some exemptions apply to sectors or organisations who provide essential services, which must be regularly maintained and periodically upgraded or improved.

Access to these exemptions is provided through written agreement from the Secretary to DELWP and require that native vegetation be removed in accordance with a pre-approved procedure. Those procedures require that native vegetation removed for construction purposes must be identified and assessed in accordance with the Guidelines. The timing for securing an offset is varied as per the relevant procedure.

Records of this removal are maintained by DELWP and are included in the removal data presented in Section 4.

7.4 Extractive industry work plans

Earth resources have exemptions which remove the requirements for a permit for native vegetation removal associated with stone and mineral extraction activities. These exemptions remove a duplicate process to approve native vegetation removal. In place of a permit, native vegetation removal is assessed as part of Work Plan approval process under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*. This approved removal is presented in Section 4.

7.5 Conservation work exemption

The conservation work exemption enables native vegetation removal to proceed without the requirement for a permit when written agreement is provided by the Secretary to DELWP. This will be provided if the applicant clearly demonstrates that native vegetation removal directly results in an overall improvement for biodiversity.

This year written agreement to rely on the conservation work exemption was provided on 15 occasions covering an area of approximately 500 hectares. Generally, the purpose for relying on this exemption was to manage native vegetation so it better reflects its EVC benchmark.

7.6 Crown land exemption

The crown land exemption enables DELWP, Parks Victoria, and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GOR Authority) to remove native vegetation on Crown land they manage without a permit, provided native vegetation removal is in accordance with a pre-approved procedure.

Native vegetation removal to undertake new management activities, as well as activities to improve native vegetation extent and condition are recorded. Biodiversity losses and gains are calculated in habitat hectares.

Due to complex data analyses to ensure removal and counterbalance activities are captured and calculated correctly, the final figures were not available at the time of publication of this report. Crown land exemption data will be provided in the annual Crown land exemption report published at a later date. Once published this report will be updated to reflect the biodiversity losses and gains.

7.7 Fire protection (Roadside fuel reduction) exemption

The roadside fuel reduction component of the fire protection exemption enables native vegetation removal activities along roadsides to be undertaken by road authorities without the requirement for a permit for the following fire management objectives:

- Prevent fires on roadsides
- Contain roadside fires
- Manage safety of road users.

The removal must be in accordance with a work plan approved by the Secretary to DELWP.

No written agreement to rely on this exemption was provided this year.

8 Other initiatives

The following information summarises other actions taken in 2020-2021 to assist in the implementation of the native vegetation removal regulations.

8.1 Policy updates

Policy updates are generally communicated through periodic newsletters provided to stakeholders. This year the major policy updates included:

- The development of the *Procedure to rely on the utility installations exemption in planning schemes – Water service providers*. This procedure must be applied when a water service provider has been provided written agreement to rely on the utility installations exemption in the VPP.
- The development of the *Native vegetation regulations compliance and enforcement toolkit – A guide for councils*. This document assists responsible authorities to act against unauthorised native vegetation removal.
- The development of the Conservation work exemption – Application guidance and associated application template to assist landowners to apply for written agreement to rely on the conservation work exemption.
- The addition of the following two road safety programs under the road safety exemption.
 - Department of transport targeted road safety works program
 - Australian government road safety program.
- The development of a revised process for excluding a mapped wetland from the native vegetation removal regulations assessment process. The revised process can be viewed in Native Vegetation Newsletter 5, dated October 2021.

8.2 Stakeholder engagement

The Native Vegetation Regulations team engaged with a variety of stakeholders regarding the interpretation and application of the native vegetation removal policy.

- The Native Vegetation Advisory Group met four times this year to discuss the implementation of the native vegetation removal regulations. The advisory group is made up of representatives from local government, industry groups, DELWP and ecological consultants.

- A native vegetation removal regulations refresher course was run through the Planning Institute Australia. Participants were mainly from local governments.
- Upon request numerous advice/training sessions were run with various stakeholder groups.
- One newsletter was published in August 2020.

8.3 Implementation systems and tools

The native vegetation removal regulations utilise several systems and tools which stakeholders interact with while implementing the regulations.

Email support

- Native vegetation removal support – 547 responses
- Native vegetation offset register – 678 responses
- Native vegetation offset management – 503 responses.

Tools/systems

- Native vegetation removal and offset reports generated in EnSym – 1,283
- Native vegetation removal reports generated in NVIM – 4,857
- Searches of available native vegetation credits on the Offset search tool – 6,650
- Native vegetation removal regulations e-learning training course participants – 90.

Competency checks

This year, restrictions relating to COVID-19 significantly constrained the ability to conduct Vegetation Quality Assessment competency checks. Consultants with accreditation that expired during the restrictions, were automatically extended until the restrictions were lifted. However, we were able to run one session issuing nine new accreditations.

8.4 Modelled data exclusions

The native vegetation removal regulations provide an avenue for applicants to exclude modelled data from consideration during the assessment process if the on ground ecological conditions do not support wetland associated native vegetation or species habitat characteristics.

Mapped wetlands

12 Mapped wetlands were excluded from consideration.

Species habitat importance maps (HIMs)

5 HIMs were excluded from consideration at specific locations across the state.

- Prickly Arrowgrass
- Eastern Horseshoe Bat
- Giant Gippsland Earthworm
- Water Pimpernel (excluded at two locations)
- Wimmera Scentbark.

88% of this year's compliance issues were addressed by the landowners. DELWP continues to work with the remaining landowners to attend to residual issues.

8.5 Offset site management

The most effective way to monitor offset management plans is to provide management advice to landowners through site visits. This year, restrictions relating to COVID-19 significantly constrained DELWP's ability to conduct site visits for security agreements recorded on the NVCR. However, between February 2020 and April 2021, 112 security agreements (44% of all sites administered by DELWP) were monitored during the year. Compliance issues categorised by severity and commonality are listed below.

Compliance

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| • No compliance issues | 26% of sites |
| • Minor compliance issues | 47% of sites |
| • Moderate compliance issues | 24% of sites |
| • Not compliant | 3% of sites |

Most Common issues

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| • Woody weeds | 45% of sites |
| • Fencing | 27% of sites |
| • Rubbish | 43% of sites |
| • Herbaceous weeds | 36% of sites |

Herbaceous weeds are the most difficult threat to mitigate.

Addressing compliance issues

Minor compliance issues are considered a negligible risk to the native vegetation or not urgent and are dealt with in a subsequent annual report review.

Moderate compliance issues are considered a more serious risk and they cannot wait for the subsequent annual report, which may be many months away. Landowners are given guidance on resolving the issue and asked to report back with evidence by an agreed date.

Non-compliant landowners have failed to address compliance issues identified previously. DELWP has systems in place to follow up with landowners who fail to address issues on time.

Appendix 1 – Local Government Approved Removal Data

The table below presents a breakdown of Clause 52.16 and Clause 52.17 permits granted by each local government. The table expands upon local government data displayed in Table 1, while including the number of credit extracts allocated to permits granted by each of the local governments.

Only local governments who provided data are represented below. In addition to this report, each local government who provided data will receive a list of permits they granted, confirmation of whether a credit extract has been allocated to each permit, and a map showing the location of approvals.

The number of offsets allocated to permits is expected to be lower than the number of permits granted. This is due to the following reasons:

- Offsets to satisfy planning permit conditions are not required to be secured until just prior to native vegetation removal, which may occur years after approval.
- Some permits do not require offsets due to the minimal impact to biodiversity values.

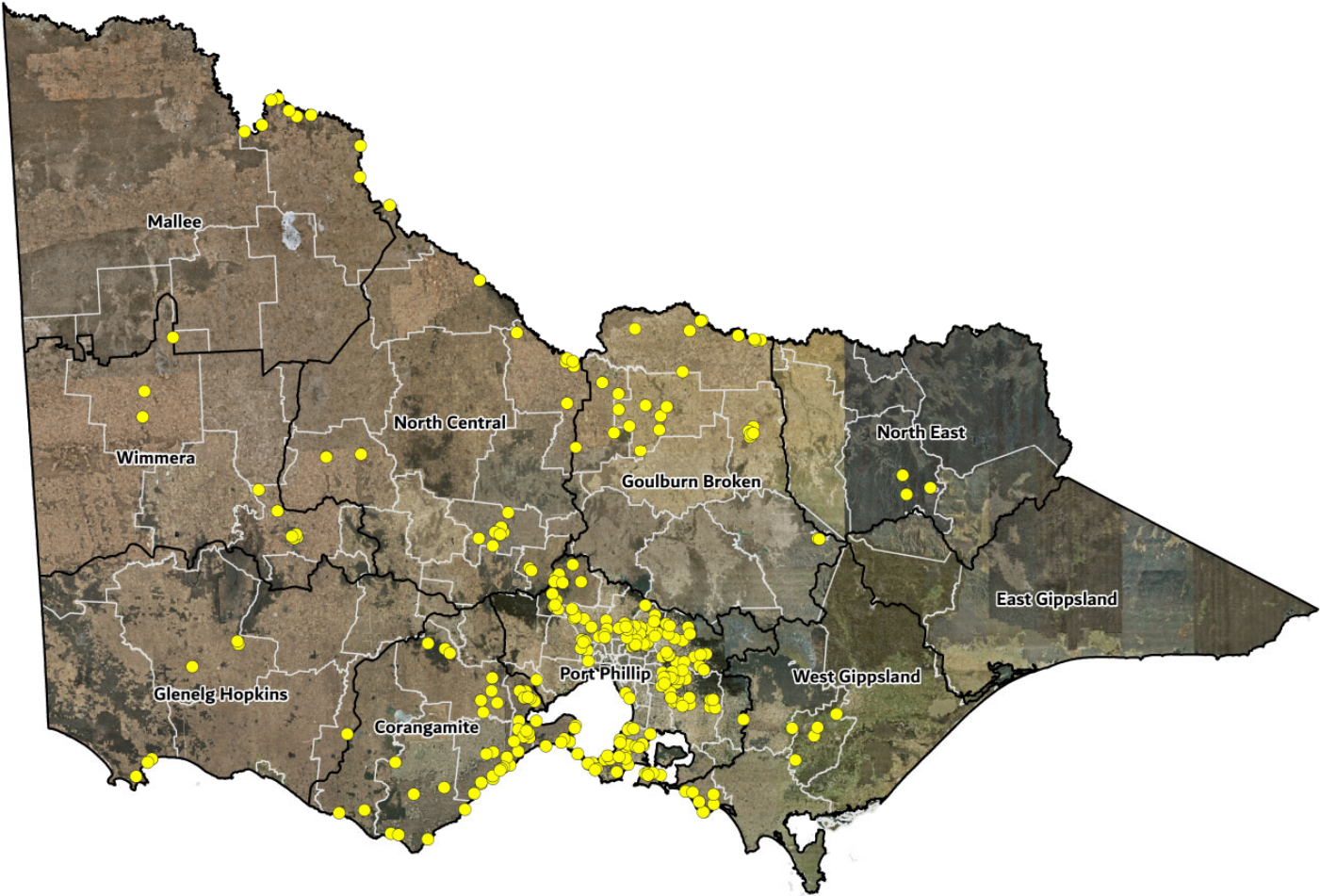
Local government	# of permits granted	Extent removed (ha)	LT removed	GHUs Required	# of Species requiring offsets	# of permits allocated offsets
Alpine Resorts	5	0.268	16	0.208	-	2
Alpine Shire	4	2.371	8	1.145	-	0
Banyule City	1	0.037	0	0.024	-	0
Bass Coast	16	1.789	8	0.837	-	8
Baw Baw Shire	1	2.274	16	0.525	-	0
Benalla Rural City	5	1.143	8	0.270	-	3
Borough of Queenscliff	1	0.001	0	0	-	0
Brimbank City	7	0.328	0	0.077	-	4
Campaspe Shire	12	14.646	22	3.008	-	6
Cardinia Shire [^]	28	6.232	68	1.587 (plus 0.134 GBEUs)	-	8
Colac-Otway Shire	6	0.930	2	0.502	-	2
Corangamite Shire	4	0.192	1	0.111	-	3
Gannawarra Shire	2	0.511	4	0.239	-	2
Glenelg Shire	4	0.413	0	0.198	-	0
Glen Eira Shire	0	0	0	0	-	0
Golden Plains Shire [^]	10	0.706	0	0.441 (plus 0.011 GBEUs)	-	3
Greater Geelong City	27	3.131	8	1.042	1	11
Greater Shepparton City	7	1.004	16	0.239	-	3

Local government	# of permits granted	Extent removed (ha)	LT removed	GHUs Required	# of Species requiring offsets	# of permits allocated offsets
Hindmarsh Shire	3	1.419	5	0.453	-	2
Hume City	13	2.336	12	0.689	-	5
Kingston City	3	0.098	0	0.022	-	1
Latrobe City	8	1.043	6	0.398	-	4
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	14	1.856	8	0.863	-	3
Moir Shire	10	3.825	58	0.886	-	4
Mornington Peninsula Shire	28	4.777	53	1.738	-	7
Mount Alexander Shire	8	1.328	8	0.461	-	4
Nillumbik Shire [^]	54	14.332	108	4.443 (plus 0.133 GBEUs)	1	26
Northern Grampians Shire	10	2.039	10	0.576	-	4
Southern Grampians	5	0.387	0	0.286	-	1
Surf coast	18	1.630	20	0.880	-	4
Swan Hill Rural City Council	10	3.483	53	2.871	-	8
Whittlesea City	11	1.990	3	0.878	-	3
Yarra Ranges Shire	37	9.027	104	5.413	1	11
Local government Totals	372	85.600	627	31.351 (plus 0.278 GBEUs)	3*	142

*Species which were significantly impacted upon and require offsets include Coast Saltwort, Little Pink Spider-orchid, and Dandenong Wattle.

[^]4 permits were granted under the 2013 Regulations.

Appendix 2 – Local Government Approved Removal Locations



Legend

Planning Permit Location (Clause 52.16 and 52.17)

Catchment Management Authority Area Boundary

Local Government Area Boundary

Appendix 3 – Security Agreement Statewide Distribution

