

Native vegetation removal regulations

2021-2022 Annual no net loss report



June 2023



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

Photo credit

Richard Boon DEECA

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.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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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 Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA), this year more native vegetation was permanently protected and managed as offset sites under security agreements than was approved for removal.

A total of:

- **311** hectares and **1,170** large trees with a biodiversity value of **98** general habitat units and **68** species habitat units were approved for removal (noting only around 67% of councils reported).
- **935** credit allocations were issued for **150** general habitat units, **121** species habitat units for **61** different species and **1,863** large trees. A further **91** credit allocations were issued under the previous two versions of the regulations.
- **1,823** hectares and **7,487** large trees with a biodiversity value of **370** general habitat units and **17,565** species habitat units were protected under new security agreements.

2. This year's report

This report presents an overview of data received from responsible authorities for approved native vegetation removal and from DEECA for new security agreements and native vegetation credits allocated during the 2021-2022 financial year.

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://nativevegetation.environment.vic.gov.au).

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 2021-2022 financial year
- Extent of native vegetation protected under security agreements during the 2021-2022 financial year
- Amount of native vegetation credits allocated to planning approvals during the 2021-2022 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 DEECA on a voluntary basis, rather than under a regulatory obligation to report. DEECA 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, DEECA 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 (BIO 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.

Progress under BIO 2037 can be seen in the annual progress update ([Implementing Biodiversity 2037](#)). It includes information on a wide range of biodiversity loss and gain indicators, as well as community involvement in biodiversity enhancement.

The no net loss objective of the native vegetation removal regulations should be considered separately to the BIO 2037 progress update, which includes information regarding the periodic Net gain approximation report.

3. 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 of 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.

Avoid and minimise

The most critical steps in the three-step hierarchy are avoid and minimise. Responsible authorities will expect applicants to demonstrate, through an avoid and minimise statement, that only native vegetation removal necessary to achieve their objective is proposed for removal.

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 DEECA, 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 DEECA.

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 from the Department of Transport and Planning.

Secretary to DEECA

DEECA'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.

DEECA'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 DEECA's internal approvals tracking processes.

DEECA Pipeline Licensing team

DEECA'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 DEECA.

DEECA Earth Resources Regulation

DEECA's Earth Resources Regulation is responsible for assessing and approving extractive industry work plans under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.

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

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 DEECA 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 DEECA 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.

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 2021-2022 financial year.

Table 1 in Section 4 summarises data provided by responsible authorities regarding the extent of native vegetation approved for removal for the 2021-2022 financial year. Note that it is likely that not all approved removal data has been provided by responsible authorities.

3.4 Offset 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.

4. This year's approvals

Table 1 displays data provided by responsible authorities regarding the native vegetation which was approved for removal in 2021-2022.

Table 1: 2021-2022 Approved removal of native vegetation

Responsible authority	Planning mechanism	# of Approvals	Extent (ha)	LT Removed	GHUs	# Species impacted	SHUs
Local Government (53 out of 79 Councils reported)	Permits (2017 Regs)	434	136.61	564	53.289	46	41.633
	Permits (2013 Regs)	3	0.34	0	0.101 (GBEUs [^])	0	0
	Totals	437	136.95	564	53.289 (plus 0.101 GBEUs)	46	41.633
Minister for Planning (Wind and solar facilities)	Permits (2017 Regs)	46	55.47	75	12.32	5	24.740
	Permits (2013 Regs)	1	40.30	0	1.110	8	107.07
	Totals	47	95.77	75	12.32 (plus 1.110 GBEUs)	13	24.740 (plus 107.07 SBEUs)
Secretary to DEECA (Provisions)	52.03 (LXRP)	24	32.15	241	11.003	-	-
	52.20 (Big Housing Build)	2	0.06	0	0.012	0	0
	Totals	26	32.21	241	11.015	0	0.000
Secretary to DEECA (Exemptions)	Railways	7	0.89	2	0.492	0	0
	Road Safety	92	26.22	244	12.979	8	1.668
	Utility installations (Electric)	47	2.18	14	1.290	0	0
	Utility installations (Water)	19	1.62	10	0.719	0	0
	Totals	165	30.91	270	15.480	8	1.668
DEECA's Pipelines Licensing team	Pipeline Licence	3	14.63	18	5.541	0	0
DEECA's EER	Work plans	1	0.420	2	0.095	0	0
Statewide	Overall Totals	679	310.89	1,170	97.74 (plus 0.211 GBEUs)	67	68.041 (plus 107.07 SBEUs)

[^] General biodiversity equivalence units

* Level Crossing Removal Program

4.1 Approval summary

Approvals granted

There were at least 679 approvals granted across the responsible authorities with the majority from local governments and the Secretary to DEECA. Noting that only 53 out of 79 local governments provided approval information.

Table 2: Percent of approval granted per responsible authority

Authority	Percent of approvals granted
Local government	64%
Secretary to DEECA (Exemptions)	24%
Minister for Planning	7%
Secretary to DEECA (Provisions)	4%
DEECA ERR	<1%
DEECA Pipelines licensing team	<1%

Extent approved

There were 310.89 hectares of vegetation approved for removal with the majority from local governments. Noting that only 53 out of 79 local governments provided approval information.

Table 3: Percent of extent approved per responsible authority

Authority	Percent of extent approved
Local government	44%
Minister for Planning	31%
Secretary to DEECA (Exemptions)	10%
Secretary to DEECA (Provisions)	10%
DEECA Pipelines licensing team	4%
DEECA EER	<1%

5. This year's security agreements

Table 2 displays data provided by statutory authorities regarding security agreements executed in 2021-2022.

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 4: 2021-2022 New security agreements

Security agreement	Recorded on the NVCR	Number	Extent (ha)	LT	GHUs	Number of Species	SHUs
CFL Act	Yes	22	1,695	6,980	341	569	14,932
VCT Act	Yes	2	26	83	6	21	45
Crown Land Offset MOU	Yes	1	99	416	23	133	2,589
P&E Act*	Yes	1	4	8	<1	-	-
Overall total		26	1,823	7,487	370	723^	17,565

^ Overall total will include species habitat secured under more than one type of security agreement.

*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. Three of those also included areas of revegetation.

5.1 Total number of security agreements

With the establishment of 26 new security agreements this year, it brings the total number of security agreements registered on the native vegetation credit register to 411, totalling 19,003 hectares.

6. This year's credit allocations

Credit allocations, in the form of native vegetation credit extracts, are administered by DEECA'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 2021-2022 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 5: 2017 Regulation allocations

2017 Regulation	# of allocations	Units	# of unique species	LT
GHU	915	150	-	1,797
SHU	20	121	61	66
Total	935	271	61	1,863

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 6: 2013 Regulation allocations

2013 Regulation	# of allocations	Units	# of unique Species
GBEU	41	5	-
SBEU	21	6	3
Total	62	11	3

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 7: Framework Allocations

Regulation	# of allocations	Hha	Trees*	New recruits
Framework	29	10	345	2,778

*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 2021-2022

There were 1,026 allocations across the three versions of the regulations with the majority allocated under the 2017 regulations.

- 2017 Regulations 91%
- 2013 Regulations 6%
- Framework 3%

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 DEECA 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 DEECA 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 DEECA 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 DEECA. 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 30 occasions covering an area of approximately 470 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 DEECA, 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.

This year:

- 3,284 hectares were impacted resulting in a loss of 1,239 habitat hectares.
- 266,325 hectares were subject to counterbalance activities resulting in a gain of 1,337 habitat hectares.

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 DEECA.

One written agreement to rely on this exemption was provided this year. The treatment area covered 3.6 hectares along 3.6 kilometres of roadside.

8. Other initiatives

The following information summarises other actions taken in 2021-2022 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 GOR Authority was granted access to the Crown land exemption. This is the first year the Authority has been required to record and report on native vegetation removal and counterbalance activities.
- 17 February 2022 the following exemptions were introduced into Clause 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions
 - Tram stops
 - Transport land.
- 11 May 2022 the Victorian Auditor-General's Office tabled its audit report, *Offsetting Native Vegetation Loss on Private Land*.

8.2 Stakeholder engagement

DEECA engaged with a variety of stakeholders regarding the interpretation and application of the native vegetation removal policy.

- The Native Vegetation Advisory Group met three 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, DEECA 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.
- Two newsletters were published.
- NVO service provider day.

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 – 677 responses

- Native vegetation offset register – 704 responses (excluding Business as Usual email responses)
- Native vegetation offset management – 460 responses.

Tools/systems

- Native vegetation removal and offset reports generated in EnSym – 1,488
- Native vegetation removal reports generated in NVIM – 5,302
- Searches of available native vegetation credits on the Offset search tool – 4,412
- Native vegetation removal regulations e-learning training course participants – 33.

Competency checks

This year, five Vegetation Quality Assessment competency checks were conducted by DEECA staff. As a result, 36 assessors either gained competency or had their competency status renewed. All competent assessors are listed on the [Vegetation Quality Assessment list of accredited assessors](#).

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

Five Mapped wetlands were excluded (either totally or partially) from consideration.

Species habitat importance maps (HIMs)

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

- Wimmera Scentbark (*Eucalyptus sabulosa*)
- Werribee Blue-box (*Eucalyptus baueriana* subsp. *Thalassina*)
- Wedge Diuris (*Diuris dendrobioides*)
- Brock Knewel (*Scleranthus brockiei*).

8.5 Offset site management

DEECA was responsible for regulating 287 security agreements under the CF&L Act as of 30 June 2022. DEECA aims to visit an offset site three times in the first 10 years after the commencement of the security agreement and once every five years thereafter. This year, monitoring visits were done at

73 native vegetation offset sites, which is 25% of all security agreements regulated by DEECA.

Table 8: Level of compliance issues

Level of compliance issue	% Of issues from 73 sites
No issues (Compliant)	19.2%
Minor issues (Compliant)	31.5%
Moderate issues (Not compliant)	35.6%
Major issues (Not compliant)	13.7%

Table 9: The most common compliance issues

Compliance issue	% Detected from 73 sites
Woody weeds	44.4%
Herbaceous weeds	28.8%
Illegal access/livestock/fences/signage	27.4%
Rubbish	20.1%
Pest animals	19.2%

Woody weeds are the most common issue. This is partly because the target is very specific and needs to be achieved soon after the agreement becomes effective. While herbaceous weeds are less frequently recorded as an issue because it is harder to show that targets are not met, they are often the most challenging and frequently the most significant management issue on offset sites.

Meeting revegetation, supplementary planting and biomass reduction targets are also typically challenging, but they are not 'common issues' because relatively few security agreements include these commitments.

Addressing compliance issues

Minor compliance issues pose a small risk to native vegetation or do not need to be addressed

urgently and are dealt with in the following annual report review. An example of a minor compliance issue might be that a single mature woody weed needs to be removed.

Moderate issues pose more serious risks and often need to be addressed before the next annual report is due. In these cases, landowners must complete actions and provide feedback with evidence by an agreed date. An example of a moderate compliance issue might be that a stand of flowering woody weeds needs to be treated before the plants produce seed.

Major issues require prompt action to address a shortfall. An example of a major compliance issue might be a large stand of mature woody weeds needs to be eliminated where the target should have already been met. Some major issues may take 12 months or more to resolve. DEECA has systems in place to follow-up with landowners.

In 89 per cent of cases where landowners were found to be non-compliant, the compliance issues were rectified by landowners. DEECA aims for 100 per cent compliance and is working with the remaining landowners to address residual issues.

8.6 Unauthorised native vegetation removal

Unauthorised removal occurs when a landowner or land manager removes native vegetation without the appropriate approval from the responsible authority, or not in accordance with the description of a relevant exemption.

Responsible authorities are responsible for taking compliance and enforcement action, which in most cases will be local governments.

DEECA is exploring avenues to collect data on illegal removal to gain a better understanding of the extent occurring across the state each year. Future Annual no net loss summaries will include data from responsible authorities on illegal clearing.

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	SHUs Required	# of permits allocated offsets
Alpine Resorts	10	2.533	32	0.554	32	17.386	3
Banyule	4	0.242	3	0.088	0	0	0
Bass Coast	6	0.446	2	0.145	0	0	2
Baw Baw	5	0.244	0	0.079	0	0	2
Bayside	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benalla	5	2.477	19	0.699	0	0	1
Boroondara	2	0.031	0	0.006	0	0	1
Brimbank	5	0.969	0	0.232 (plus 0.018 GBEUs)	0	0	3
Campaspe	7	6.173	73	0.95	1	2.736	4
Cardinia	14	7.116	24	1.381	0	0	5
Central Goldfields	4	1.154	1	0.737	0	0	1
Colac-Otway	13	6.552	2	3.129 (plus 0.083 GBEUs)	0	0	4
Corangamite	10	1.487	0	0.575	0	0	3
East Gippsland	15	24.993	25	6.476	4	21.328	10
Gannawarra	1	0.019	0	0.017	0	0	1
Geelong	28	4.251	10	1.882	0	0	15
Glen Eira	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glenelg	2	0.008	0	0.002	0	0	0
Golden Plains	17	3.456	16	1.502	0	0	7

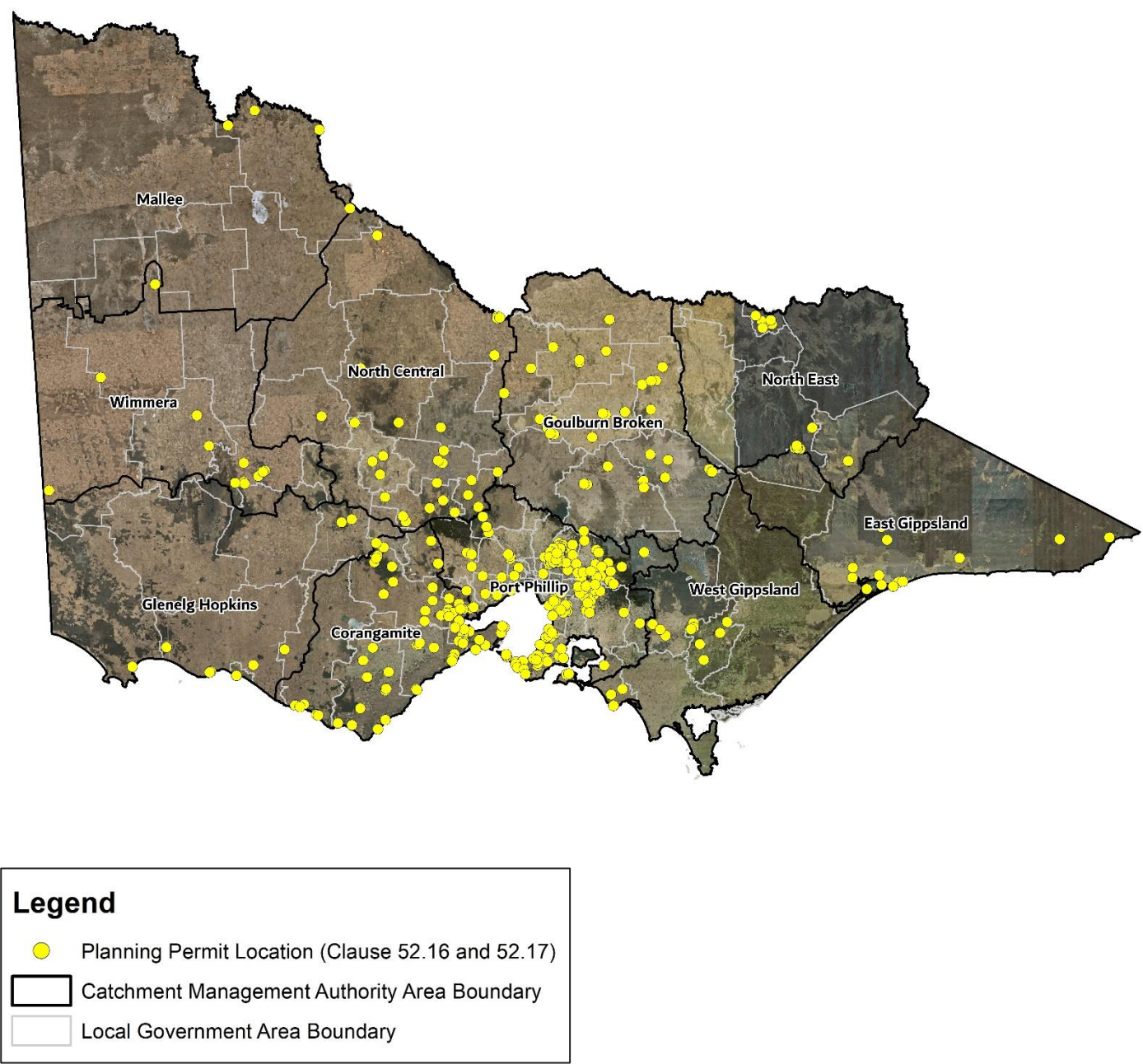
Local government	# of permits granted	Extent removed (ha)	LT removed	GHUs Required	# of Species requiring offsets	SHUs Required	# of permits allocated offsets
Greater Dandenong	15	2.723	24	0.547	0	0	4
Hepburn	9	12.492	6	7.214	0	0	4
Hindmarsh	2	0.347	4	0.119	0	0	1
Horsham	3	0.565	3	0.327	0	0	1
Kingston	6	0.081	0	0.017	0	0	1
Latrobe	7	0.814	7	0.453	0	0	5
Loddon Shire	2	0.456	8	0.209	0	0	2
Macedon Ranges	9	0.901	2	0.4	0	0	7
Mansfield	4	1.799	4	0.642	0	0	1
Maribyrnong	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maroondah	1	0.144	1	0.026	0	0	1
Melton	6	-	-	-	-	-	5
Moirā	1	0.171	2	0.029	0	0	1
Monash	3	1.554	2	0.281	0	0	0
Moorabool	5	1.297	4	0.335	0	0	0
Moreland	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mornington Peninsula	38	6.684	69	1.984	0	0	20
Mount Alexander	8	11.117	13	5.445	0	0	5
Moyne	6	0.984	0	0.331	0	0	2
Murrindindi	9	3.012	11	1.392	0	0	4
Nillumbik	65	8.962	43	3.736	0	0	14
Northern Grampians	9	5.138	34	3.351	0	0	3
Pyrenees	2	0.108	1	0.04	0	0	2

Local government	# of permits granted	Extent removed (ha)	LT removed	GHUs Required	# of Species requiring offsets	SHUs Required	# of permits allocated offsets
Queenscliffe	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shepparton	4	0.15	0	0.1	0	0	0
South Gippsland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strathbogie	19	1.511	16	0.73	0	0	4
Surf Coast	9	2.095	4	0.785	0	0	5
Swan Hill	5	1.56	37	0.391	0	0	1
Warrnambool	1	0.007	0	0.006	0	0	1
West Wimmera	1	0.149	1	0.044	0	0	0
Wodonga	6	2.08	12	1.179	0	0	1
Wyndham	5	1.969	1	1.27	9	0.183	1
Yarra Ranges	29	5.926	48	3.452	0	0	19
Local government Totals	437	136.947	564	53.289	46	41.633	177

*Species which were significantly impacted upon and require offsets include Mountain Pygmy Possum, Alpine She-oak Skink, Alpine Stonefly, Alpine Tree Frog, Snow-wort, Star Sedge, Allied Bent-grass, Reddish Bog-heath, Alpine Everlasting, Alpine Holy-grass, Cushion Rush, Snow Beard-heath, Spreading Clubmoss, Bogong Daisy-bush, Alpine Tuft-rush, Parantennaria, Carpet Heath, Felted Buttercup, Alpine Stackhousia, Shining Westringia, Thick Eyebright, Thick Eyebright, Bogong Sally, Rusty Daisy-bush, Alpine Trachymene, Compact Hook-sedge, Bog Billy-buttons, Alpine Bog Skink, Mount Stirling Stonefly, Subalpine Baeckea, Dusty Daisy-bush, Alpine Phebalium, Small-leaf Bluebush, Eastern Horseshoe Bat, Rock Grevillea, Shining Anchor Plant, Honey Hood-orchid, Grassland Earless Dragon, Small Golden Moths, Austral Tobacco, Small Scurf-pea, Fragrant Saltbush, Large-headed Fireweed, Heath Spear-grass, Basalt Podolepis and Spiny Rice-flower.

^3 permits were granted under the 2013 Regulations.

Appendix 2 - Local government approved removal locations



Appendix 3 – Security agreement statewide distribution

