

12.01 BIODIVERSITY

28/03/2018
VC145

12.01-1 Protection of biodiversity

16/01/2018
VC142

Objective

To assist the protection and conservation of Victoria's biodiversity.

Strategies

Use biodiversity information to identify important areas of biodiversity, including key habitat for rare or threatened species and communities, and strategically valuable biodiversity sites.

Use strategic planning as the primary planning tool for the protection and conservation of Victoria's biodiversity, particularly those areas identified as important.

Ensure that decision making takes into account the impacts of land use and development on Victoria's biodiversity.

Planning should:

- Avoid and minimise impacts of land use and development on important areas of biodiversity, including consideration of:
 - Cumulative impacts.
 - Fragmentation of habitat.
 - The spread of pest plants, animals and pathogens into natural ecosystems.
- Consider impacts of any change in land-use or development that may affect the biodiversity value of national parks and conservation reserves or nationally and internationally significant sites including wetlands and wetland wildlife habitat designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention), and sites utilised by species listed under the Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA), the China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA), or the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA).
- Assist in the identification, protection and management of important areas of biodiversity.
- Assist in the re-establishment of links between important areas of biodiversity.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017).
- *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017).
- Any applicable biodiversity strategies, including the relevant Regional Catchment Strategy (prepared under Part 4 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*).
- Statewide biodiversity information maintained by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

12.01-2 Native vegetation management

12/12/2017
VC138

Objective

To ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

Strategies

When making decisions about proposals that involve, or will lead to, the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, apply the three step approach in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2017):

1. Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
2. Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
3. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017).
- *Assessor's handbook – applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning).
- Statewide biodiversity information maintained by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.