

How to complete a vegetation (V1) removal form

Proposed works

1. Tick all the boxes that apply to your native vegetation removal.
2. Describe what you are proposing to do that involves native vegetation removal. For example, building a new house or shed, removing native vegetation to address a fire risk or to construct a fence.

Avoiding and minimising the removal of native vegetation

In this section you are required to detail of how you have **avoided** and **minimised** vegetation removal, such as moving the development to a cleared or weedy area or grouping infrastructure; e.g. locating the shed close to the dwelling, making your dwelling design compact or double storey, or meandering your driveway around trees.

Under the Cardinia Planning Scheme, the greatest emphasis is placed on retaining native (indigenous) plants, with less emphasis on exotic or non-indigenous plants. Particular emphasis is placed on protecting large indigenous trees.

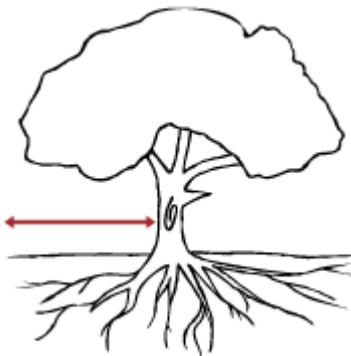
If the removal of native vegetation cannot be avoided you must **minimise** the amount of native vegetation you remove through careful planning, sighting, design and construction.

If you cannot avoid or minimise removing trees, you will be required to **replace** them through an offset plan. You will need to demonstrate that removing the trees is essential to activate this option.

Even though you may not be removing a tree, if your buildings or earthworks will effect more than 10 per cent of a tree's protection zone Council may consider the tree lost due to the high possibility that the tree will die or be damaged.

Figure 1 shows the tree protection zone which can be calculated:
= 12 x diameter (at 1.3m above ground level)

Figure 1. Tree protection zone

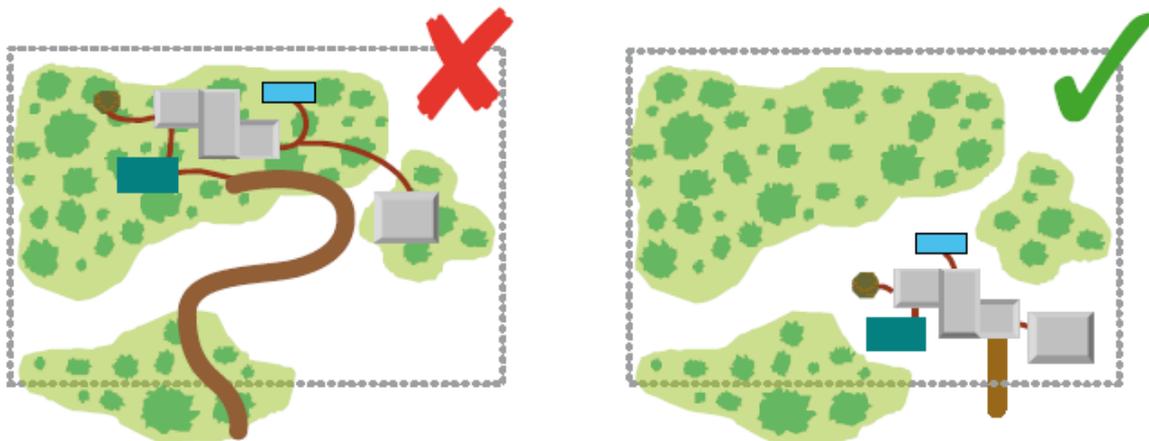


You will also need to consider the vegetation on neighbouring properties within 10 metres of your building or earthworks, calculate the tree protection zones and include any relevant trees on your application. You will be required to avoid any impact on these trees.

Describe any actions you have taken to avoid or minimise native vegetation removal. For example, if you are building a house you might have chosen a mostly cleared area, siting the building close to the road (to reduce native vegetation removed for the driveway), or you could have designed your home to minimise native vegetation removal.

In Figure 2 the image on the left is a development that has not avoided or minimised native vegetation loss; the image on the right is an example of the same development redesigned to better meet these objectives. Please note that this example does not address vegetation removal for fire protection.

Figure 2. Redesign to minimise vegetation removal (image by DLWEP)



The following questions may help you to complete Section 2

- Are there alternative sites on your property where you could do the works that would avoid or minimise native vegetation removal?
- If you are building a house, is there an opportunity to locate it away from vegetation in an area where the fire risk is reduced?
- Can you consolidate the different parts of your construction or subdivision layout (e.g. grouping buildings together) to avoid removing native vegetation?
- Could you alter the orientation, layout or form of your works to avoid native vegetation?
- Can your earthworks be modified to avoid the removal of native vegetation?
- Can you share defendable space for fire management with the road of neighbouring cleared properties?
- Can you choose construction methods that would minimise damage to native vegetation?
- Can you locate the development in areas where vegetation is of poorer quality?

Section 3: Describe the native vegetation and the vegetation removal

Describe the native vegetation on your property, including the vegetation you wish to remove.

Details need to include the vegetation type (e.g. forest, grassland), the species (provide as best description as you can) and any information you have on the past history or previous use of the site. Council recommends you seek advice from our Environment Unit if you are unsure whether you have native vegetation on your property or what type it is.

3. Define patches of native vegetation

If you think you have a patch of scrub, bush or grassland (as opposed to individual trees), quantify how much native vegetation you propose to remove in hectares or square metres.

Please note that patches of bushland may include areas with trees, but may also include treeless areas of scrub or grassland. Figures 3 and 4 provides some examples of native vegetation.

Figure 3. *A patch of native vegetation with trees, shrubs and ground storey vegetation.*



Figure 4. *A patch of treeless native vegetation comprising of shrubs and ground storey vegetation*



4. Define the area of the native vegetation patch proposed to be removed

If removing vegetation other than trees, you will need to specify the total area of native vegetation to be removed (square metres). You will need to include any native vegetation to be removed to meet CFA defendable space requirements, works in road reserves, and areas within the construction footprint including the extent of cut and fill earthworks and works for site access.

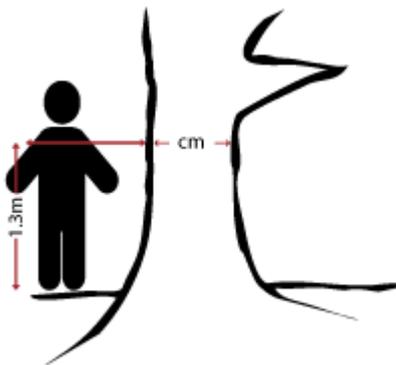
5. Total number of trees to be removed

The total number of trees to be removed needs to be included so Council officers assessing your application can ensure that all trees are described and marked on the site plan.

6. Give each tree proposed to be removed a unique number and provide details of each tree

- In the table detail the tree number (must correspond to site plan), species and diameter (in centimetres) of the trunk at 1.3 metres or at breast height (DBH) (refer to Figure 5).

Figure 5. Where to measure the diameter of tree trunk



- Trees with hollows are valuable wildlife habitat and are protected by the Planning Scheme. You must identify any tree with a hollow.
- Dead trees are still protected by the planning scheme and provide valuable habitat. You must detail if the tree is dead.
- Trees that will not be removed, but are within 10 metres of the proposed building or earthworks must be identified within the application. This includes any neighbour's trees.
- If you prepare the site plan without utilising a surveyor they must measure the distance from each tree to the proposed buildings or earthworks. Each distance measurement must be listed in the legend or dimensioned on the site plan.
- If your proposal requires a bushfire management statement then you must identify every tree within the defendable space to be removed or retained to meet defendable space requirements.
- If there are trees within your effluent disposal field these must be included for removal on your site plan.

Land and water protection

7. In some conditions, removing native vegetation can lead to land and water degradation such as erosion, sediment run-off and salinity.

These conditions include clearing vegetation:

- within 30 metres of a waterway (waterways include rivers, creeks, springs, streams and watercourses where water may occasionally flow, lakes, lagoons, swamps or marshes and are often mapped)

- on slopes greater than 20 per cent (i.e. more than 18 degrees off horizontal)
- in areas with an existing or high risk of erosion
- in areas where soil salinity is prevalent.

You must ensure waterways will not be degraded by your proposal. You will need to describe any management or protection measures you are proposing to address water and soil degradation issues, particularly if any of these conditions are present within your proposed works area. For example, to prevent soil being washed away by rain, you might install sediment fences or use erosion control mats.

Please note, if Council officers believes your proposal may cause significant land and water degradation your application may be refused.

Photographs

All photographs must be taken in daylight and be in focus. To aid identification, it is useful if you provide photographs that depict different aspects of the native vegetation: leaves; bark; flowers, fruit or nuts, as well as an overall view. Your site plan should show where you took your photographs from and the direction you were facing.

Site plan

Vegetation (V1) removal site plan requirements:

Requirement	Description
Tree identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each tree and corresponding number as listed Table 1 • You must identify any tree with a hollow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - these are valuable wildlife habitat and are protected by the Planning Scheme. • You must detail if the tree is dead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dead trees are still protected by the planning scheme and provide valuable habitat. • Trees that will not be removed, but are within 10 metres of the proposed building or earthworks must be identified within the application, including any neighbour's trees. • Measure the distance from each tree to the proposed buildings or earthworks and include this measurement in the legend or dimensioned on the site plan. • If your proposal requires a bushfire management statement, then you must identify every tree within the defendable space to be removed or retained to meet defendable space requirements. • If there are trees within your effluent disposal field these must be included for removal on your site plan.
Pointer showing north	Draw an arrow orientated north
Boundaries and roads	Draw your property boundary and any nearby roads
Existing vegetation	Show any isolated trees or any patches of native vegetation (tree, shrubs, grasses etc.)
Proposed vegetation/trees to be removed	Mark any trees or patches of vegetation you are proposing to remove
Waterways or water bodies	Show any creeks, dams, periodically inundated areas

Existing and/or proposed buildings	Draw any houses, sheds, pergolas, car ports etc.
Effluent disposal field	The area of dripper lines where the waste water will be disposed of
Photograph locations	Mark and number the location of any photograph included within the application
Construction zone boundaries	Footprint of your total construction including buildings, earthworks, fences etc.
Offset areas	Area you propose to revegetate or existing native vegetation you will protect to compensate for vegetation removal
Site contours	Slope for the land at 5 or 10 metre contours
Flood levels	Any areas of the property that are liable to flooding