

Addendum to Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Retention Controls – Very Large Old Tree & Small / Slow-growing Tree Offsets

March 2010

This document replaces some information contained in Appendix 4, Table 4 of the Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Management Plan (Vol 2) 2003.

Changes to the of the Victorian Native Vegetation Management Framework, which guides the application of native vegetation removal regulations under the Victorian Planning Provisions, since publication of the Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Management Plan (Vol 2) 2003 has resulted in the need to amend the guidelines for determining offset ratios for trees removed, particularly the ways trees are determined to be ‘very large’, ‘large’ or ‘small’ (see Appendix 4, Table 4). This addendum modifies the distinction between large and small (previously based on trunk diameter at breast height) to include tree species that, whilst small in stature, are slow-growing and considered to be large individuals of that species when dbh is >20cm.

Very Large Old Trees

Very large old trees (VLOTs) in the Goulburn Broken catchment are ecological ‘keystones’, providing vital habitat attributes to a range of fauna as well as significant landscape character beyond simply the presence of ‘a tree’ . The Victorian Native Vegetation Management Framework defines Very Large Old Trees as those with a girth at 1.3m above the ground being 1.5 that of the benchmark diameter (see EVC benchmarks at www.dse.vic.gov.au).

In order to be more compatible with the ‘like for like’ principle, and to better reflect the impact of removal from the landscape of very large old trees, the following offset responses are recommended where the clearing of very large old trees is involved:

Site Context	Conservation Significance of site			
	Very high	High	Medium	Low
Remnant patches (any number of VLOTs / ha)				
VLOTs protected	8	4	2	1
And new trees recruited for each VLOT cleared	40	20	10	5
Land parcels >4ha, with >8 VLOTs / ha				
VLOTs protected	8	4	2	1
And new trees recruited for each VLOT cleared	40	20	10	5
Land parcels >4 ha, with <8 VLOTs / ha OR parcels < 4ha, any number of VLOTs / ha				
VLOTs protected	6	4	2	1
And new trees recruited	30	20	10	5
Or Recruit new trees only option	400	200	100	50
for each VLOT cleared				

Small &/or Slow-growing Trees

The following information is to be used for determining offsets for small trees (<0.75% of EVC benchmark – referred path assessment ; or, <40cm dbh – standard path assessment).

1. If the application for a planning permit to remove native vegetation is being considered under the ‘**Referred Path**’ approach, the appropriate offsets are designated in Table 1 below.

Small Tree Offset Ratios	Conservation Significance of Vegetation			
	Very High	High	Medium	Low
Number of plantings required to achieve offset ratio	50 new trees planted	25 new trees planted	10 new trees planted	5 new trees planted

Table 1: Small Tree offset ratios

2. If the application for a planning permit to remove native vegetation is being considered under the ‘**Standard Path**’ approach (VPP Practice Note: ‘*Assessing applications involving native vegetation removal (DSE 2006)*’), the appropriate offsets are designated in Table 1 above **UNLESS** the species involved are listed in Table 2 which describes trees of a naturally small stature, or exceptionally slow growing. These species are considered ‘large trees’ if they are >20cm dbh (and small trees if < 20cm dbh). Offsets for small / slow growing trees as listed in Table 2 are to be considered as described for large trees in Table 4 of the *Goulburn Broken Regional Native Vegetation Plan Vol II, 2003 (p 128)*.

Botanical name	Common name
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood
<i>Acacia omalophylla</i>	Yarran
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>	Buloke
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong
<i>Bursaria spinulosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	White Cypress-pine
<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>	White Box
<i>Eucalyptus behriana</i>	Bull Mallee
<i>Eucalyptus crenulata</i>	Buxton Gum
<i>Eucalyptus froggattii</i>	Kamarooka Mallee
<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>	Black Box
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Red Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i>	Mugga Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus viridis</i>	Green Mallee
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart
<i>Hakea tephrosperma</i>	Hooked Needlewood
<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i>	Austral Mulberry
<i>Lomatia fraseri</i>	Tree Lomatia
<i>Myoporum platycarpum</i>	Sugarwood
<i>Pittosporum bicolor</i>	Banyan
<i>Pittosporum phylliraeoides</i>	Weeping Pittosporum
<i>Tasmania lanceolata</i>	Mountain Pepper

Table 2: Naturally small and / or slow growing trees in the GB Catchment