

- NATIVE VEGETATION OFFSET SEARCH REQUEST -
for the removal of remnant patches of native vegetation

Please read this section before completing the search request form

Please use this form to request a search of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) BushBroker Database. This form assumes that the native vegetation to be removed has been assessed by a DSE representative, suitably experienced native vegetation practitioner or consultant as per the DSE *Guide for assessment of referred planning permit applications for native vegetation*.

BushBroker provides a means of **obtaining** offsets ONLY. BushBroker is unable to provide advice regarding approval of your offsets. For more information on your vegetation offset requirements, please consult with your local council, regional DSE office or suitably experienced native vegetation practitioner or consultant.

In applying the Net Gain approach to protection and clearance decisions, the three key steps are:

1. **Avoid** adverse impacts, particularly through vegetation clearance.
2. If impacts cannot be avoided, **minimise** impacts through appropriate consideration in planning processes and expert input to project design or management.
3. Identify appropriate **offset** options.

Prior to submitting this offset search request form, please ensure that steps one and two have been followed.

Notes on the information required below are provided overleaf. To avoid delays in processing your request, please print clearly and ensure that all the required information has been included. Incomplete forms or forms containing inaccurate information will not be processed until complete.

PERMIT HOLDER DETAILS

Title (please circle): Mr / Mrs / Ms / Dr / Other	First Name:	Last Name:
Company Name:		
Postal address:		
Suburb:	State:	Postcode:
Telephone: (Work)	(Mobile)	Facsimile:
Email:		
Signature:	Date of request: / /	
Have you previously requested a search of the BushBroker Register for this or any other offsetting requirements? (please circle): Yes / No		

DETAILS OF VEGETATION TO BE REMOVED

1. Is the vegetation on private or public land? (please circle):	Private land / Public land
2. Location of clearing site (if possible please attach a map):	
3. Shire/Council:	
4. Case Number/Permit Number (if known):	(if possible please attach copy)
5. Is the vegetation listed as a threatened community under Schedule 1 of the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (please circle):	
Yes / No	
If yes, please list the zone/zones that it occurs in: _____	
If yes, please list the community type (below) and indicate the significance of the community:	
Community: _____	Significance of community (please circle): best 50% / remaining 50%

Please complete details of clearing on next page and attach any relevant reports in relation to the proposed removal of vegetation or any specific offset requirements as determined by the responsible authority.

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6. Details of clearing (fill in separate line for each Ecological Vegetation Class / quality combination that is being cleared):
MAXIMUM OF FIVE ZONES (OR GROUPED ZONES) PER *BUSHBROKER OFFSET SEARCH REQUEST* FORM. SUBMIT A SEPARATE FORM IF THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE ZONES.

Zone	Bioregion	EVC	Habitat Score	Area being cleared (in Hectares)	Habitat Hectares being lost	No of Large Old Trees being cleared	No of Medium Old Trees being cleared	Conservation Significance	Rare or threatened species ^{1,2} <i>(please list the <u>one</u> species with the greatest proportional habitat loss per zone)</i>	Habitat Hectares Offset required	Large Old Tree Offset required	Medium Old Tree Offset required
									Best 50% / Remaining 50% <i>(please circle one)</i>			
									Best 50% / Remaining 50% <i>(please circle one)</i>			
									Best 50% / Remaining 50% <i>(please circle one)</i>			
									Best 50% / Remaining 50% <i>(please circle one)</i>			
									Best 50% / Remaining 50% <i>(please circle one)</i>			

1 If Rare or Threatened species are present at the clearing site, please ensure that Table 2, page 13 of the DSE *Guide for assessment of referred planning permit applications* has been consulted prior to submitting this form.

Please return completed forms to:
BushBroker
Department of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 500
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Or fax to: (03) 9637 8451
Or email to: the.bushbroker@dse.vic.gov.au

Payment details: Your BushBroker Offset Search Request will not be registered on the BushBroker Database until full payment has been received:

Amount: **\$300.00** MasterCard Visa Cheque/money order

Card Number: _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____ / ____

Cardholder Name: _____

Cheque/money order made payable to: **Department of Sustainability & Environment**

Note: a receipt will not be issued unless requested.

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Definitions

Benchmark	A standard native vegetation-quality reference point, dependent on native vegetation type, which is applied in Habitat Hectare assessments. Represents the average characteristics of a mature and apparently long undisturbed state of the same native vegetation type.
Bioregion	Biogeographic areas that capture the patterns of ecological characteristics in the landscape or seascape, providing a natural framework for recognising and responding to biodiversity values. A landscape based approach to classifying the land surface using a range of environmental attributes such as climate, geomorphology, lithology and vegetation.
Cover (of vegetation)	The proportion of the ground that is shaded when lit from directly above.
Conservation significance	For biodiversity, the conservation significance of a patch of vegetation (from Very High to Low) is determined according to: the conservation status of vegetation types present; the quality of the vegetation; the conservation status of species present (and the potential habitat value); the strategic location in the local landscape; and other recognised criteria (for example, commitments under international conventions).
Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC)	A type of native vegetation classification that is described through a combination of its floristic, life form and ecological characteristics, and through an inferred fidelity to particular environmental attributes. Each EVC includes a collection of floristic communities (i.e. lower level in the classification that is based solely on groups of the same species) that occur across a biogeographic range, and although differing in species, have similar habitat and ecological processes operating.
Habitat Hectare	A site based measure of quality and quantity of native vegetation that is assessed in the context of the relevant native vegetation.
Habitat score	The score assigned to a habitat zone that indicates the quality of the vegetation relative to the ecological vegetation class benchmark – sum of the site condition score and landscape context score, usually expressed as a percentage or on a scale of 0 to 1.
Large Old Tree	A tree with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) equal to or greater than the large tree diameter as specified in the relevant EVC benchmark.
Medium Old Tree	A tree with a DBH equal to or greater than 0.75 of the large tree diameter in the relevant EVC benchmark but less than the DBH for a large old tree.
Offset	A native vegetation offset is any works, or other actions to make reparation for the loss of native vegetation arising from the removal or destruction of native vegetation. The gains achieved must be permanent and ongoing, and linked to a specific clearing site.
Parcel	A lot as defined in the planning scheme as a part (consisting of one or more pieces) of any land (except a road, a reserve, or common property) shown on a plan, which can be disposed of separately and includes a unit or accessory unit on a registered plan of strata subdivision and a lot or accessory lot on a registered cluster plan; OR For the purposes of vegetation assessment and application of the Native Vegetation Framework on a road, a parcel is defined as the area of a road bounded by two intersecting roads, including the carriageway and roadside or verge, where present.
Rare or threatened species	Conservation status of species determined with reference to DSE Victorian Rare or Threatened Flora and Fauna lists, as supplemented by the relevant Native Vegetation Plan. If Rare or Threatened species are present at the clearing site, please ensure that Table 2, page 13 of the DSE <i>Guide for assessment of referred planning permit applications</i> has been consulted prior to submitting this form.
Remnant patch of vegetation	An area of vegetation, with or without trees, where less than 75% of the total understorey plant cover is weeds or non-native plants (bare ground is not included). That is at least 25% of the understorey cover is native; or a group (ie. three or more) of trees where the tree canopy cover is at least 20%.
Remnant vegetation	Native vegetation that is established or has regenerated on a largely natural landform. The species present are those normally expected in that vegetation community. Largely natural landforms may have been subject to some past surface disturbance such as some clearing or cultivation (or even the activities of the nineteenth century gold rushes) but do not include man-made structures such as dam walls and quarry floors.
Scattered trees	Trees that occur at densities below benchmark densities and are within areas where total understorey plant cover comprises at least 75% of weeds or non-native plants.

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