

Report under the NV Act 2003 in relation to a Minor Variation (clause 27 of the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005)

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PVP/DA reference number: PVP case number 1664

I am of the opinion that:

- a) a minor variation to the Assessment Methodology would result in a determination that the proposed clearing will improve or maintain environmental outcomes (other than a variation that is not allowable under this clause), and
- b) strict adherence to the Assessment Methodology is in the particular case unreasonable and unnecessary.

The proposed minor variation does not relate to any of the following aspects of the Assessment Methodology:

- a) riparian buffer distances or associated offset requirements,
- b) classification of vegetation as likely habitat for threatened species,
- c) classification of a plant species as a threatened species or a component of an endangered ecological community,
- d) classification of the condition of vegetation,
- e) classification of the vegetation type or landscape type as overcleared,
- f) the assessment of the regional value of vegetation.

Description of the proposed clearing: The proposed clearing is for the removal of overstorey species in an area of 0.06 hectares of Bega Wet Shrub Forest for the construction of a powerline in a rural area (zoned rural 1a) in Bega Valley Shire.

Details of the proposed minor variation: The proposed minor variation is the use of the Reviewed Interim Vegetation Condition Benchmark data, published on the 8th of August 2006, on the Department of Environment and Conservation website (www.dec.nsw.gov.au). This data replaces the data originally released with the EOAM (referred to as the vegetation benchmarks database) and has been reviewed and field trialled (for a number of vegetation communities) by Southern Rivers CMA staff. This interim data provides a more representative and accurate condition benchmark for field data to be compared to in the BioMetric assessment using PVP Developer.

Reasons for recommending the proposed minor variation: The use of the Reviewed Interim Vegetation Condition Benchmark data provides more representative and scientifically accurate data for the assessment of the impact of the proposed clearing on environmental outcomes.

Recommendation: That the proposed clearing for PVP Case Number 1664 is assessed using the Reviewed Interim Vegetation Condition Benchmark data.