Use of more appropriate local data

in accordance with section 2.4.3 of the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology

Case Number:	3903
PVP type :	Development
Proposed development:	To clear 0.54 hectare of native vegetation for tourism cabins

Use of more appropriate local data	
Made on (date)	The date of the signature below.
The accredited expert recommends that more appropriate local data be substituted for the data in the PVP Developer in relation to:	The estimated percentage increase in the improvement that can be expected in response to the proposed management actions, as measured by either an increase in the number of individuals, or habitat amount or key habitat feature.
Use of more appropriate local data made to the following Assessment Methodology:	**Biodiversity and Threatened Species** Salinity ~~Land and Soil~~ ~~Water Quality~~
Reasons for use of more appropriate local data:	See Attachment 1
Assessment Protocols	Not applicable

Accredited Expert	Vanessa Allen (Biodiversity and Threatened Species)
Signed	*(signature)*
General Manager Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Noel Kesby
Signed	*(signature)*
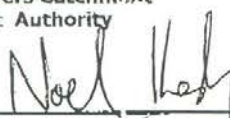
Note 1. Details of the use of more appropriate local data are required by Clause 29 Regulations to be published and any reports made publicly available.

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Attachment 1

Use of more appropriate local data in accordance with Section 2.4.3 of the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology (EOAM)

The proposed area to be cleared is 0.54 ha of Southern Lowland Wet Forest in moderate to good condition.

The original offset area required was 13.94 ha for the Sooty Owl using the PVP Developer. Using the *proposed revised PVP Management Actions and expected level of response* provided by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) in the PVP Developer resulted in the maximum offset being reduced to 8.01 ha.

This result is in line with the PVP Developer's response to the three other owl species predicted to occur at the same site. The Powerful Owl, Masked Owl and Barking Owl have all had their response to management actions reviewed previously.

The *Accredited Expert* is of the opinion that the offset size is unnecessary and that "more appropriate local data" should be used in this case, as described below. Note, all of the "more appropriate local data" used is based on revised prescriptions proposed by DECC, December 2007. The revised response rates have not yet been incorporated into the Threatened Species Tool but are considered appropriate for use at the CMA's discretion through the "more appropriate local data" mechanism (John Briggs, Senior Threatened Species Officer, DECC, 30/11/07).

The current response to 'domestic stock grazing exclusion' by the Sooty Owl is a value of 2 in moderate to good condition vegetation. The revised response has a value of 8. This action will encourage over-storey regeneration. The benefit will be through the associated increase in habitat for prey.

Recommendation:

Due to the following reasons, it is recommended that the revised response to management action values for the Sooty Owl be used:
- the *Accredited Expert* is of the opinion that the original offset size is unnecessary;
- the revised data will bring the response of Sooty Owl in line with the PVP Developer's response to the three other owl species predicted to occur at the same site; and
- the revised response rates are considered by DECC as appropriate for use at the CMA's discretion through the "more appropriate local data" mechanism.

This will reduce the 'on property' offset required for the proposed clearing.

It is the opinion of the accredited expert that this proposal would maintain or improve environmental outcomes for all threatened species and that the Property Vegetation Plan is approved on this basis.

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