

Form A

Minor Variation to Property Vegetation Plan Assessment

issued under Part 5 Clause 27 of the *Native Vegetation Regulation 2005*

Case Number: 604

PVP type : Development

Proposed development To clear 0.025 hectares of remnant vegetation for the construction of a Hydro power substation

Minor Variation

Made on (date) _____ The date of the signature below.

The accredited expert is 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.

Minor variation made to the following Assessment Methodology :

Biodiversity and Threatened Species

~~Salinity~~

~~Land and Soil~~

~~Water Quality~~

Reasons for Minor Variation See Attachment No 1

Assessment Protocols Not applicable

Accredited Expert Ray Willis (Biodiversity and Threatened Species)

Signed

General Manager
Murrumbidgee Catchment
Management Authority John Searson

Signed

Note 1. Details of this minor variation are required by Clause 29 Regulations to be published and any reports made publicly available.

Attachment 1 – Reasons for Minor Variation

This assessment has been carried out using the EOAM methodology and resulted in a green light for the Biometric tool with the use of offsets. The threatened species tool provided a green light to 5 of the 6 threatened species after offsets being applied. The sixth species, the Regent Honeyeater provided a red light to clearing with a value of -0.01 that is subject of this Minor Variation.

The reasons for the opinion of the Accredited Expert in respect of the Minor Variation is that based on the assessment that :

1. the size of the offset is not important in this particular case meaning that increasing the offset for the Regent Honeyeater does not provide a green light.
2. the site contained only foraging habitat for the Regent Honeyeater
3. the proposal only involves very minor clearing (0.025 hectares) resulting in minimal impact (if any) over the short term on the Regent Honeyeater.
4. there would be no impact on the breeding population of Regent Honeyeaters in the local area and therefore no impact on the size of the population in the area
5. a similar sized offset in the immediate area is proposed and will benefit the species through no grazing and weed control on the site
6. the Regent Honeyeater is a wide ranging species that can avoid small scale impact such as the loss of very small areas of foraging habitat.

It is considered 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 be approved on this basis.

It is considered that a minor variation in this case would maintain and improve environmental outcomes and that strict adherence to the Assessment Methodology in this particular case is considered unreasonable and unnecessary.