

22.0415/12/2016
C41**NATIVE VEGETATION PROTECTION**

This policy applies to all applications to remove native vegetation.

Policy basis

The retention of native vegetation and the planting of additional vegetation are important from an environmental viewpoint as a means of minimising the potential for erosion and salinity problems, and to maintain the health of catchments.

This policy addresses the protection of biodiversity and native vegetation management objectives identified in Clause 12.01-1 and Clause 12.01-2; water quality objectives identified in Clause 14.02-2; and Council's natural environment objectives identified in Clause 21.04.

Objectives

- To conserve and enhance existing vegetation throughout the Shire wherever practicable.
- To protect significant and sensitive areas including wetlands from the negative effects of vegetation clearance and modification.

Policy

It is policy that:

- Trees having a height of greater than 5 metres should be retained where possible and reasonable.
- Areas of remnant understory should be retained.
- Native vegetation in areas included in the Rural Conservation Zone or to which an Environmental Significance Overlay has been applied should be retained.
- Native vegetation in gullies and along streams and drainage lines should not be removed except where this is necessary to improve stream way or flood plain management.
- In considering applications for the removal of native vegetation the responsible authority should take into account the likely effect of the removal of such vegetation and the desirability of including conditions in any Permit requiring planting or replanting of native vegetation on other parts of the land.