Byron Shire Development Control Plan 2014

Chapter F1
Tree and Vegetation
Management



Contents

F1.1 Int	roduction	4
F1.1.1	Purpose of this Chapter	4
F1.1.2	Application of this Chapter	5
F1.1.3	Objectives of this Chapter	5
F1.2 De	clared Trees and Vegetation	7
F1.2.1	Exemptions	8
F1.2.2	Dead or Dangerous vegetation	9
F1.3 Tr	ee Removal Permit Requirements	10
F1.3.1	Information to Accompany Tree Removal Permit Applications	10
Appendi	ces	13
Appendix	1: Red flags	13
Appendix	2: Schedule 2: Koala Use Tree species	16
Appendix	3: Non native and or invasive tree species	19
Appendix	4: Guidelines and Requirements for Arborist's Reports	24
Annendix	5: Guidelines and Requirements for an Ecological Assessment	25

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F1.1 Introduction

Byron Shire's natural environment is one of the most biodiverse areas of Australia. Home to 145 threatened plant and 160 threatened animal species, approximately 43% of our Shire is mapped as High Environmental Value vegetation. The unique ecosystems found here bring 2 million visitors a year making tourism our most valuable industry. However, our biodiversity, the very thing which makes Byron exceptional, is under increasing pressure due to escalating development and tourist visitation.

Of particular concern are the viability of Byron's coastal koala population and the recognition of koalas in urban areas, as the impacts of a changing climate become more prevalent. For the first time, Byron's rainforest burned in the unprecedented Black Summer fires which saw 60% of the States National Parks and State forests decimated. For Byron to remain the 'green jewel' of the North, there is a need to identify and protect our intrinsic values.

This DCP Chapter recognises Byron Shire's unique biodiversity and outlines controls for Tree and Vegetation Management to increase resilience and support climate adaptation.

F1.1.1 Purpose of this Chapter

The purpose of this DCP Chapter is to declare vegetation that must not be removed without a permit granted by Council.

For the purposes of this DCP Chapter vegetation means:

- (a) trees (including any sapling or shrub or any scrub),
- (b) understory plants,
- (c) groundcover (being any type of herbaceous vegetation),
- (d) plants occurring in a wetland.

Tree is defined within Chapter A of this DCP.

Native vegetation (as defined by the Local Land Services Act 2013 s60B (1),(2)) means:

A plant is native to New South Wales if it was established in New South Wales prior to European settlement.

For the purpose of this DCP Chapter, remove means (the same as clearing as defined by the Local Land Services Act 2013 s60C):

- Cutting down, felling, uprooting, killing, poisoning, ringbarking, burning or otherwise destroying the vegetation, or
- Lopping or otherwise removing a substantial part of the vegetation.

Pruning is defined as all other pruning which is not 'crown maintenance pruning' and includes 'crown modification' as defined in *Australian Standard AS 4373-2007*, "Pruning of Amenity Trees".

Council may only issue a permit for the removal or pruning of vegetation that is below the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) threshold.

F1.1.2 Application of this Chapter

This DCP chapter applies to the removal or pruning of vegetation that is under the BOS threshold on all non-rural land (land in any zone other than RU1 and RU2) within the Byron Shire local government area.

This Chapter does not apply to vegetation removal when associated with a Development Application. Vegetation removal within a Development Application is considered under Chapter B1 Biodiversity.

F1.1.3 Objectives of this Chapter

- 1. To ensure the protection and preservation of local native vegetation that contributes to the biodiversity, social and amenity value of Byron Shire.
- 2. To recognise and conserve very large trees and hollow bearing trees of habitat, amenity or heritage value.
- 3. To avoid and minimise wherever possible the unnecessary removal of native vegetation.
- 4. To minimise the risks of destabilisation of foreshore, riparian or agricultural land.
- 5. To provide information ensuring land holders are aware when a permit is required for the removal or pruning of vegetation.
- 6. To provide a consistent framework for assessing permits to remove or prune vegetation.
- 7. To recognise the **biodiversity values** of vegetation that supports and provides **refugia** to native fauna.
- 8. To recognise the importance and retention of vegetation for carbon sequestration at a local scale.
- 9. To facilitate the removal of undesirable exotic, declared invasive or otherwise inappropriate plant species, and replace them with suitable local native species that contribute to ecological, environmental or habitat value.

Note 1: For the purpose of this DCP Chapter, avoid means "to keep away from". Evidence of avoidance may be illustrated through the use of ecological buffers, the design of a development footprint, or by regulating the timing or location of activities. If it is not possible to avoid impacts, then opportunities should be sought to minimise the impacts. Minimise means "reduce to the smallest possible amount or degree".

F1.2 Declared Trees and Vegetation

State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017 (Veg SEPP)

This chapter of the DCP addresses State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 (Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP) specifically relating to the *removal* or pruning of vegetation in non-rural areas, and declares such vegetation under Part 2.3 clause 2.9(1),(2).

In accordance with Part 2.2 section 2.6(1) of the Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP a person may not remove vegetation that is declared within a DCP without a permit granted by Council.

Prescriptive measures

The following vegetation is declared under Part 3 *clause* 9(1), (2) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in non-rural areas) 2017;

- 1. All vegetation mapped on Council's online mapping system as High Environmental Value (HEV);
- 2. All red flags (Appendix 1);
- 3. All **koala use tree** species found in Schedule 2 of the Koala Habitat Protection SEPP specific to the North Coast Koala Management Area (Appendix 2);
- 4. All vegetation on land zoned C2 C4;
- 5. All native vegetation within 50m of a fourth order stream or river, or within 20m of a second or third order stream:
- 6. All native trees within a non-rural area >100mm diameter at breast height (DBH), or 3m in height, whichever is the greater;
- 7. Any tree (native or non-native) that contains a hollow;
- 8. Very large trees (non native) of significant cultural or amenity value (e.g. Norfolk pine);
- All native vegetation that supports threatened species and their habitat (e.g. koala use trees that provide linkages within urban areas);
- 10. All native vegetation on publically owned or managed land including road reserve;
- Where the native vegetation is a heritage item or within a heritage conservation area under the BLEP 2014 and does not otherwise require development consent as per the BLEP 2014;

F1.2.1 Exemptions

Prescriptive measures

This section identifies exemptions to where a permit is required. This section only applies where declared vegetation is not identified as:

- Located on a heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance, or on land within a heritage conservation area as per *Byron Local Environmental Plan 2014*, Part 5, clause 5.10, or
- Required to be retained by conditions of development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* or a restriction to user instrument.

The following trees or other vegetation are exempt from applying for a permit from Council for the removal or pruning of vegetation;

- 1. The removal of vegetation that is authorised under Section 60O of the *Local Land Services Act* 2013.
- 2. Native vegetation that Council or the Native Vegetation Panel is satisfied is dead and is not required as habitat for native animals (see B2.2.4).
- 3. Native vegetation that Council is satisfied poses an unacceptable risk to human life or property (see B2.2.4).
- 4. Vegetation affected by works under State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 defined as exempt development.
- 5. Any tree where the nearside trunk is 3 metres from the nearest external wall of a lawfully approved existing permanent dwelling or manufactured home that is located on the same property. This does not apply to listed threatened species and ecological communities or areas mapped as koala habitat identified within the Byron Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management or identified under the Koala Habitat Protection SEPP. A permit will be required in those instances.
- 6. Any non-native and /or invasive tree species listed in Appendix 3, regardless of size.
- 7. Vegetation declared under the *Biosecurity Act* 2015 as a Mandatory Measure or above (see <u>BSC Invasive Plant Species list</u>)
- 8. Trees or saplings of Camphor laurel (Cinnamomum camphora) if under 5m tall.
- 9. Vegetation removal that is subject to works under an approved Vegetation Management Plan or Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan.
- 10. Restoration activities undertaken by landholders applying current 'best practice' camphor conversion techniques (e.g. Subtropical Rainforest Restoration 3rd Edition, Big Scrub Landcare).

F1.2.2 Dead or Dangerous vegetation

Where the removal or pruning of vegetation is thought to be dead, or presents an unacceptable risk to life or property and is not required as habitat for hollow-dependant fauna;

- 1. A Dead, or Dangerous Tree Removal form must be filled out, and
- 2. It must be supported by an Arborist's Report prepared by an AQ Level 5 arborist (as outlined in Appendix 4).

F1.3 Tree Removal Permit Requirements

F1.3.1 Information to Accompany Tree Removal Permit Applications

Applications for vegetation removal or pruning are to be made on the Tree Removal Permit form (available from Council) and must be supported by the following:

Prescriptive measures

- 1. Payment of the prescribed fee (in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges).
- 2. Description of the property on which the vegetation is located (street address, lot, deposited plan).
- 3. Applicant's name and contact details.
- 4. Written consent of the landowner.
- 5. A site plan (Figure 2) providing the following details:
 - a. all property boundaries, street frontage(s), name of street(s) and any services/easements;
 - b. any existing structures, driveways and access roads;
 - c. an allocated number for each tree proposed for removal/pruning or proposed to be planted and the common and/or botanical species name for each numbered tree;
 - d. the location(s) of the vegetation proposed for removal/pruning or to be planted and its position in relation to the boundaries of the site and any existing buildings, structures, driveways, etc. Dimensions between the centre of the subject tree(s)/vegetation and property boundaries and buildings should be included;
 - e. a title, property address, Lot and Deposited Plan number, north point, scale, date, legend and author.

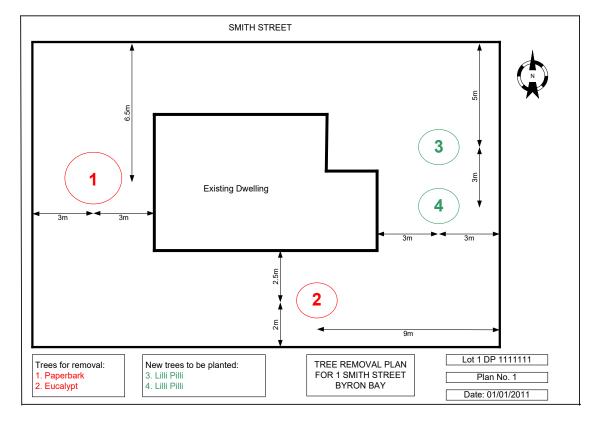


Figure 1: Example of a Site Plan accompanying a Tree Permit for Vegetation Removal/Pruning

- 6. A description of each numbered tree/vegetation detailing the following:
 - a. species of tree/vegetation (common name and botanical name);
 - b. quantity affected;
 - c. approximate height and DBH (diameter at breast height); and
 - d. colour photo(s) of the tree/vegetation to assist in identification (whole tree, bark, leaves) and a colour photo(s) to establish the context, location and position of the vegetation on the property.
- 7. The reasons why removal/pruning is required.
- 8. Any application for vegetation removal/pruning of the following should be supported by an Ecological assessment (Appendix 5) prepared by a suitably qualified ecological consultant:
 - a. Large locally indigenous trees of over 80 cm DBH (diameter at breast height),
 - b. Trees identified in Appendix 2,
 - c. Trees within High Environmental Value (HEV) vegetation and habitats,
 - d. Trees (whether dead or alive) containing tree hollow(s),
 - e. Threatened species.

Note 2: a preliminary desktop assessment of the site's biodiversity values is available on <u>Councils website</u> and the <u>SEED portal</u>. Pending availability, Council staff can assist with some of this information and provide advice on its implications for preparing the information referred to above.

Conditions are likely to be placed on a tree removal permit regarding compensatory planting and survival rates where trees are proposed to be removed. The following compensatory ratios will apply unless an equivalent habitat restoration or creation measure is proposed and supported by assessment staff:

1:10 for trees of high environmental value;

e.g. local indigenous trees in high environmental value vegetation and habitat, local indigenous rainforest trees, trees within a wildlife corridor, trees with habitat value for local wildlife, trees with a diameter at breast height >50cm.

1:5 for trees of medium environmental value;

e.g. **local indigenous** trees <u>not</u> located in **high environmental value vegetation and habitat**, a **wildlife corridor** or which do not have habitat value for local wildlife.

1:1 for trees of low environmental value;

e.g. other trees <u>not</u> located in **high environmental value vegetation and habitat**, a **wildlife corridor** or which do not have habitat value for local wildlife.

Survival rates

These ratios apply to survival rates after 2 years, therefore it is recommended to plant additional trees (10 - 20% more) to accommodate for a survival rate of less than 100% of the planted trees.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Red flags

Red flag^a

HEV vegetation^b

Threatened Ecological Communities (includes Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable listed under <u>State</u> or <u>Commonwealth</u> legislation).

Over-cleared vegetation types

(A vegetation type of which more than 70% has been cleared in the Catchment Management Area).

Over-cleared landscapes

(A Mitchell landscape in which more than 70% native vegetation cover has been cleared. NSW is divided into 580 relatively homogeneous landscape units in terms of geomorphology, soils and broad vegetation types mapped at a scale of 1: 250000 (Mitchell 2002, 2003), which are colloquially termed "Mitchell Landscapes" after their author).

Old growth

(<u>old-growth forests</u> are ecologically mature forests, often diverse in structure and species with relatively large old trees, some of which may contain tree hollows).

Important wetlands

(Wetlands protected under NSW State or Commonwealth legislation or policy. Includes wetlands mapped under the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Coastal Management 2018, previously SEPP 14 Wetlands).

Other wetlands

(Any other wetland other than an Important wetland. Wetland has the same meaning as defined within NSW Wetland Policy:

 Wetlands are areas of land that are wet by surface water or groundwater, or both, for long enough periods that the plants and animals in them are adapted to, and depend upon moist conditions for at least part of their lifecycle. They include areas that are inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish, or saline water,

Red flag^a

which is generally still or slow moving except in distributary channels such as tidal creeks which may have higher peak flows.

• Examples of wetlands include; mangroves, backwaters, sedgelands, wet heathlands, lakes, lagoons, estuaries, rivers, floodplains, swamps, bogs, billabongs, marshes, coral reefs and seagrass beds).

Other bushland on a slope >18 degrees

Pre-existing protected habitat

(Areas of existing habitat (or other land) provided with formal long-term protection designed to limit further development.

Protected habitat can be established by various mechanisms including but not limited to; restrictive covenants, rezoning, voluntary planning agreements, formal conservation agreements, biodiversity stewardship agreements, or in some cases dedication to Council or other public authority. The mechanism(s) to establish protected habitat must be conditioned or otherwise approved by Council).

Areas with a species polygon for threatened fauna or other significant fauna that are known or predicted to occur at the site.

(Threatened fauna or flora is any species listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under NSW State or Commonwealth legislation).

Areas with a species polygon for threatened flora or other significant flora that are known or predicted to occur at the site.

(A species polygon is an area of land enclosing the known or predicted habitat of targeted flora or fauna. In most cases known records will be used for flora and predicted habitat will be used for fauna).

Koala habitat outside of areas defined within a Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management.

Isolated or scattered koala use trees with evidence of koala activity

Any other areas where koalas are present and/or koala habitat is planted with public monies.

Waterways and Riparian areas (from the top of the bank)

Stream order

Red flag^a

Second order stream

Third order stream

Fourth order stream

Estuarine area

(Any part of a river, lake, lagoon or coastal creek whose level is periodically or intermittently affected by coastal tides, up to the highest astronomical tide).

Flying fox camps -Year round or intermittent

Very large native trees

(Local native trees that have a trunk diameter of greater than or equal to 0.8 metres at 1.4 metres above the natural ground level. Local native trees are trees that existed in the Byron Shire before European settlement).

Stags and **hollow-bearing** trees

Raptor nests

^a an area of land with high biodiversity conservation value which should be excluded from any **development envelope**.

b see Council website for HEV Mapping

Appendix 2: Schedule 2: Koala Use Tree species

North Coast koala management area

Common name	Scientific name
Forest Oak	Allocasuarina torulosa
Rough-barked Apple	Angophora floribunda
Red Bloodwood	Corymbia gummifera
Large-leaved Spotted Gum	Corymbia henryi
Pink Bloodwood	Corymbia intermedia
Spotted Gum	Corymbia maculata
White Mahogany	Eucalyptus acmenoides
Cabbage Gum	Eucalyptus amplifolia
Orange Gum	Eucalyptus bancroftii
Grey Gum	Eucalyptus biturbinata
New England Blackbutt	Eucalyptus campanulata
Large-fruited Grey Gum	Eucalyptus canaliculata
Thick-leaved Mahogany	Eucalyptus carnea
Narrow-leaved Ironbark	Eucalyptus crebra
Narrow-leaved stringybark	Eucalyptus eugenoides
Broad-leaved Red Ironbark	Eucalyptus fibrosa

Common name	Scientific name
Slaty Red Gum	Eucalyptus glaucina
White Stringybark	Eucalyptus globoidea
Flooded Gum	Eucalyptus grandis
Silver-top Stringybark	Eucalyptus laevopinea
Craven Grey Box	Eucalyptus largeana
Tallowwood	Eucalyptus microcorys
Grey Box	Eucalyptus moluccana
Forest Ribbon Gum	Eucalyptus nobilis
Blackbutt	Eucalyptus pilularis
Grey Ironbark	Eucalyptus placita
Bastard Tallowwood	Eucalyptus planchoniana
Small-fruited Grey Gum	Eucalyptus propinqua
Bastard White Mahogany	Eucalyptus psammitica
Grey Gum	Eucalyptus punctata
Red Mahogany	Eucalyptus resinifera
Swamp Mahogany	Eucalyptus robusta
Steel Box	Eucalyptus rummeryi
Sydney Blue Gum	Eucalyptus saligna

Common name	Scientific name
Large-fruited Red Mahogany	Eucalyptus scias
Narrow-leaved Red Gum	Eucalyptus seeana
Grey Ironbark	Eucalyptus siderophloia
Scribbly Gum/Narrow-leaved Scribbly Gum	Eucalyptus signata/Eucalyptus racemosa
Forest Red Gum	Eucalyptus tereticornis
Stringybark	Eucalyptus tindaliae
Bastard White Mahogany	Eucalyptus umbra
Broad-leaved Paperbark	Melaleuca quinquenervia

Appendix 3: Non native and or invasive tree species

Table 3: Non-native and/or invasive tree species:

Common name	Scientific name
Queensland Silver Wattle	Acacia podalyriifolia
Cootamundra Wattle	Acacia baileyana
Golden Wreath Wattle	Acacia saligna
Himalayan Cedar	Acrocarpus fraxinifolius
Tree of Heaven	Ailanthus altissima
Alexander Palm	Archontophoenix alexandrae
Creeping Bamboo	Arundinaria spp.
Running Bamboo	Bambusa sp
Paper Mulberry	Broussonetia papyrifera
Datura	Brugmansia suaveolens
Butterfly bush	Buddleja madagascariensis
Cecropia	Cecropia peltata
Cigar Box Cedar	Cedrela odorata
Chinese Elm, Hackberry	Celtis sinensis
Bush lemon	Citrus limonia
Coffee	Coffea arabica

Common name	Scientific name
Coreopsis	Coreopsis lanceolata
Cadaghi	Corymbia torelliana (syn Eucalyptus)
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster glycophylla
Rubber Vine	Cryptostegia grandiflora
Duranta	Duranta repens
Common Horsetail	Equisetum arvense
Loquat	Eriobotrya japonica
Cockspur Coral Tree	Erythrina crista-galli
Orange Coral tree	Erythrina nigra
Coral Tree	Erythrina x sykesii
Coral tree	Erythrina indica
Grumichama	Eugenia brasiliensis
Brazilian Cherry	Eugenia uniflora
Weeping Fig	Ficus benjamina
Rubber Tree	Ficus elastica
Malay Banyan	Ficus microcarpa
Queensland Maple	Flindersia brayleyana

Common name	Scientific name
Himalayan Ash	Fraxinus griffithii
Honey Locust	Gleditsia triacanthos
Icecream Bean	Inga edulis
Jacaranda	Jacaranda mimosifolia
Golden Rain Tree	Koelreuteria paniculata
Coastal tea tree	Leptospermum laevigatum
Lead Tree, Coffee Bush	Leucaena leucocephala
Large-leaved Privet	Ligustrum lucidum
Small-leaved Privet	Ligustrum sinense
African Box-thorn	Lycium ferocissimum
Curry Leaf Tree	Murraya koenigii
Murraya	Murraya paniculata
Oleander	Nerium oleander
Mickey Mouse plant	Ochna serrulata
African Olive	Olea africana
Wild olive	Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata
Common Olive	Olea europeaea subsp. Europea

Common name	Scientific name
Paulownia	Paulownia tomentosa
Date Palm	Phoenix canariensis
Caribbean Pine	Pinus caribaea
Slash Pine	Pinus elliottii
Monterey Pine	Pinus radiata
Cherry Guava	Psidium cattleianum
Guava	Psidium guajava
Indian Hawthorn	Raphiolepis indica
Yeddo Hawthorn	Raphiolepis umbellata 'Ovata'
Castor Oil Plant	Ricinus communis
Black Locust	Robinia pseudoacacia
Black Willow	Salix nigra
Willows	Salix spp.
Umbrella Tree	Schefflera actinophylla
Dwarf Umbrella Tree	Schefflera arboricola
Pepper Tree	Schinus areira
Broad-leaf Pepper Tree	Schinus terebinthifolius

Common name	Scientific name
Tower Tree, Schizolobium	Schizolobium parahyba
Winter Senna	Senna pendula var. glabrata
Smooth Senna	Senna septemtrionalis (syn X floribunda)
Turkey Berry	Solanum torvum
Devils Apple	Solanum capsicoides
Devil's Fig, Thorn Apple	Solanum chrysotrichum
Tobacco Bush	Solanum mauritianum
Jerusalem Cherry	Solanum pseudocapsicum
African Tulip Tree	Spathodea campanulata subsp. rotundata
Cocos Palm	Syagrus romanzoffiana
Golden Trumpet Tree	Tabebuia chrysantha
Tecoma	Tecoma stans
Rhus	Toxicodendron succedanea
Chinese Tallow	Triadica sebifera

Appendix 4: Guidelines and Requirements for Arborist's Reports

An arborist's report required under this DCP Chapter shall:

- 1. Be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Australian Standard 4373:2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees, AS 4970:2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites and competencies outlined in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), and
- 2. Be prepared by an arborist with a minimum AQF Level 5 qualification in arboriculture, and
- 3. In addition to the requirements of the Australian Standards, an arborist's report must contain the following information:
 - a) the name, business address, telephone number of the company/ proprietor;
 - b) evidence of Industry Body Membership, technical qualifications and experience of the arborist who undertakes the tree inspection, diagnosis and prepares the report;
 - c) the name of the person or company for whom the report is prepared;
 - d) An assessment of the health and/or risk proposed by the tree and the proposed measures to address that risk.

Note 3: Council will not accept arborist's reports with inadequate information or reports that have been prepared by persons who do not hold the qualifications detailed above.

Appendix 5: Guidelines and Requirements for an Ecological Assessment

An ecological assessment is to be prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist with tertiary qualifications in environmental science (or equivalent) and a minimum of 2 years experience.

Where an ecological assessment is required, assessment of the subject site and where appropriate, the adjoining land, must include the following information;

- 1. Identification of any of the following:
 - a. High Environmental Value (HEV) vegetation and habitats on or adjoining the subject site.
 - b. Land zoned W1 or W2.
 - c. Areas identified under the *Biodiversity Conservation* Act 2016.
 - d. Areas identified under the Local Land Services Act 2013.
 - e. Areas identified under a State Environmental Planning Policy as Coastal wetlands, Littoral rainforest and proximity areas).
 - f. Areas identified under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.
 - g. Any adjoining National Parks or Nature Reserves.
 - h. Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) on or adjoining the subject site.
 - i. Threatened species records within 1 km of the subject site.
 - i. Identified wildlife corridors
 - k. Threatened fauna habitat
 - I. Koala habitat
 - m. **Koala use tree** species including; Species name, height, location and DBH (Diameter at breast height).
 - n. <u>Hollow</u> bearing trees including; Species name, height, location, DBH, use and or potential use evaluation.
 - o. Flying fox colony on or adjacent to the subject site.
 - p. Waterways (including stream order), wetlands and riparian vegetation.
- 2. A site plan based on a recent aerial photo at a scale of 1:200 (or better) that illustrates the following details:
 - a. The location of the ecological values identified on the site including those listed in point 1 (above), and

- b. The extent and type of vegetation community present on site.
- 3. Where the removal of any **koala use tree** species (Appendix 2) is proposed, an assessment of koala activity must be included. Such an assessment must be undertaken by a suitably qualified person utilising current best practice techniques e.g. detection dog, SAT etc.
- 4. Where an assessment does not identify any additional ecological values on the site a statement to that effect must be provided with the permit application and should include details of the assessment undertaken to reach this conclusion.