

Accredited Consultant Policy



Government
of South Australia



Native Vegetation
Council

Objective

The Native Vegetation Council's (the Council) Accredited Consultant Policy outlines the role, accountability and appointment process of Accredited Consultants as required by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

Legislative Context

The Council is established under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (the Act) and has a range of functions relating to the protection and management of native vegetation. This includes determining applications for consent to clear native vegetation. Under Section 28 of the Act, applications must be in a form approved by the Council and accompanied by a report which must be prepared by persons specified by Regulation. Under Regulation 18 of the *Native Vegetation Regulations, 2017*, a specified person is an agency, instrumentality, person, or body approved by the Council as an entity that may prepare a report. Accredited Consultants are approved persons under the Regulations.

Scope

'Accredited Consultant' is the term for all persons who are appointed as an Accredited Consultant by the Council. An Accredited Consultant must understand and comply with the associated Accredited Consultant Procedure.

Application

This policy applies to the Council and its delegates, Accredited Consultants and staff supporting the Council.

1. Role of Accredited Consultants

The primary role of Accredited Consultants is to conduct vegetation assessments describing the extent and value of native vegetation for a range of purposes, using Council-approved methodology, applicable policy and in accordance with the Act and Regulations. Accredited Consultants are contracted by applicants to produce a report that meets regulatory requirements.

Tasks that Accredited Consultants may have a role in performing include:

- Assessing the vegetation proposed for clearance or determination of bushfire risk;
- Assessing the vegetation (SEB value) of a proposed SEB area;
- Drafting a management plan for a SEB area;
- Monitoring the vegetation condition of a Heritage Agreement or SEB area (including SEB credit sites and restoration sites where management is supported with grant funding from the Council); and
- Supporting compliance actions or processes where vegetation assessments are required.

Accredited Consultants should be aware of declaring conflicts of interest and proposing the management of conflicts (both actual and perceived) in instances, not limited to, where a compliance matter may be under investigation or where they may have a financial interest in a matter.

It is the responsibility of the Accredited Consultant to meet accreditation requirements (as outlined in the Procedure).

2. Appointment of Accredited Consultants

The Council will deliver training as required to support and maintain an adequate pool of Accredited Consultants. The Native Vegetation Branch (the Branch) will monitor the demand for training and develop a plan for delivery as needed, on behalf of the Council. The Branch will also provide information sessions and update training requirements for Accredited Consultants as required.

The Council will appoint a person as an Accredited Consultant when they:

1. Meet the eligibility criteria;
2. Successfully complete the training; and
3. Agree to the requirements to maintain accreditation.

Accreditation can be revoked by the Council if it determines that the conditions of accreditation are not being met or maintained.

3. Review

This policy and supporting procedure will be reviewed 2 years from the date of approval.

Endorsed:



Dr Marilyn Henderson

Presiding Member

Native Vegetation Council

Date: 11 June 2025

Next review: June 2027