# <Native Vegetation Clearance Proposal – Report Title>

# Arborist Report

Clearance under the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*

*Regulation 8(6) Safety of Persons or Property*

<Date>

<Location>

Prepared by <NVC Trained Arborist >

Qualifications <The tree assessor must have Certificate V Horticulture (Arboriculture) or higher>

This report is prepared in accordance with Regulation 8(6) – Safety of persons or property. The regulation allows for reasonable clearance of trees (or limbs) for the purpose of managing risk to the safety of people or property. Clearance applies to the part of the tree presenting a risk and whole tree removal should only be considered were there are no feasible alternatives to manage the risk.

If clearance is proposed for any other reason (i.e. fencing, new dwelling, road upgrade, installation of infrastructure) then a Clearance Application (in accordance with Section 28 of the Act) or an application under the applicable Regulation will apply and a Significant Environmental Benefit could be required. It is recommended the Native Vegetation Branch be contacted to discuss the most appropriate approval pathway.

**<Red text provides a guide to completing this data report, please delete all red text prior to report submission>**

Reports, ESRI shapefiles, photos and attachments are to be submitted through the Native Vegetation Online Application Portal accessed at <https://apps.environment.sa.gov.au/nvmu/>. Files must be:

* PDF format (no scans)
* PDF must be searchable and copyable

# Table of contents

1. Application Information
2. Background
3. Method
4. Assessment Outcomes
   1. Tree Observations and Assessment
   2. Risk Assessment.
   3. Risk Management and Requirements of the Regulation
5. Other considerations
6. Summary
7. Caveat
8. Appendices
9. Reference Information

Figure 1 – Site and Tree Location Plan

Table 1 – Tree Risk Assessment Summary

# 1. Application Information

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant: |  | | |
| Key contact: | Name, email and phone number | | |
| Landowner:  *(if the applicant is not the landowner, you must attach written permission)* | Name, email and phone number | | |
| Site Address: |  | | |
| Local Government Area: |  | Hundred: |  |
| Certificate of Title: | CT | Section/Allotment: | DP  FP |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Summary of Application** | |
| Proposed clearance: | Summary e.g.   * number of trees for removal * number of trees for pruning |
| Level of risk (state methodology used): | e.g. TRAQ - Low, Moderate, High, Extreme,  e.g. QTRA - Broadly Acceptable, Tolerable, Unacceptable |

# 2. Background

* 1. **Purpose of the proposal**

*Provide a description of the purpose of the clearance*

e.g. On <date> <consultant / company> was engaged by <client> to conduct a Tree Risk Assessment on <number of trees> at <location>.

*Discuss reason for assessment*

e.g. This assessment was requested due to concerns regarding <e.g. branch failure, recent construction potentially impacting tree health or condition>.

*Discuss the requirements of the assessment*

e.g. This report discusses the health, condition, form, structural integrity, risk level and proposes risk management measures to reduce or eliminate risk.

* 1. **Background**

*Discuss site history. Provide information on site use and frequency*

e.g. pedestrian path with occupancy of <#> hours /day, road reserve with <#> vehicles /day.

* 1. **Location**

Figure 1 – Site and Tree Location Plan

|  |
| --- |
| *Provide a map and GPS coordinates (preferably in a shapefile format) showing the location of the tree(s) in proximity to site features and potential targets e.g. road, dwelling, footpath.* |

# 3. Method

*Discuss how the tree was assessed*

e.g. A site assessment was conducted on <date> by <name> and took <#> hours.

The inspection was conducted from <ground level, elevated platform, ground penetrating radar>.

The QTRA/TRAQ (or other) Tree Risk Assessment methodology was used.

*Discuss any constraints or limitations*

e.g. access (locked gate/ dense vegetation / dog), weather, land form, poor visibility, high traffic volumes, inspection from ground only.

# 4. Assessment Outcomes

**Tree Number <#> (Repeat this table, the risk assessment and justification for each tree)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Genus/Species** |  | **Common Name** |  |
| **Height (m)** | *Insert Tree Photo*  *Please show the entire tree, base to upper canopy. Please show the tree in relation to the target (i.e. people or property)*  *Any additional photos to show features (i.e. defects, unions, hollows) can be provided in an appendix* | | |
| **Spread (m)** |
| **Dia. @ 1m**  XX cm |
| **TPZ** |
| **SRZ** |
| **Form** |
| **Condition**  (VG, G, F, P D) |
| **% Dieback** |
| **~Age Range** |
| **~\*ULE** |
| **Location of the Tree and Potential Targets** | *Describe the location of the tree on the parcel and proximity to structures/ targets, e.g. Xm from the northern boundary fence and Xm from children’s play equipment.* | | |
| **Tree Description** | *Describe the ground immediately surrounding the tree, lower stem, branching, canopy, form and condition* | | |
| **Discussion** | *Describe any defects or features of concern* | | |
| **Habitat Value** | *Record the distance from the edge of the canopy to closest tree.*  *Discuss if the tree occurs over shrubs, grasses etc. If possible, comment whether the understory is native or exotic.*  *Describe any hollows (number and entrance size in diameter), nests or habitat features.*  *Refer to Scattered Tree Assessment Manual (NVMU 2017) or quick reference guide at the back of this template.* | | |

*\*Useful Life Expectancy.*

**Risk Assessment**

An assessment of risk to possible target(s) was conducted in accordance with QTRA/TRAQ methodology on the part of the tree most likely to fail. The assessment will determine the level of risk and inform risk management strategies.

The most likely part of the tree to fail is XX.

The risk assessment should be conducted using a recognised risk assessment method i.e. Tree Risk Assessment Quantification (TRAQ) or Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA). If an alternative risk assessment method is proposed, please provide details and justify how it provides an effective assessment method.

Please complete one of the tables below, please delete the other.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY | TRAQ Risk Assessment |
|  | **Description / Justification** |
| A. Likelihood of Failure |  |
| B. Likelihood of Impacting a Target |  |
| C Likelihood of Failure Impacting a Target |  |
| D. Consequence |  |
| **Risk Level** |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY | | QTRA Risk Assessment |
|  | **Score** | **Description / Justification** |
| Target Range |  |  |
| Size of Part |  |  |
| Probability of Failure |  |  |
| **Risk Level** |  |  |

**Justification and Requirements of the Regulation and Risk Management Recommendation**

Regulation 8(6) allows for the reasonable clearance of trees (or limbs) for the purpose of managing risk to the safety of people or property. However, clearance is to be limited to the limb or part of the tree causing a risk. If proposing to remove a whole tree adequate justification will be required.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Does the risk level warrant management? | *Please provide justification, preferably in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Manual (2017) or QTRA Assessment User Manual (2018).* |
| Can the risk be managed in a way that would involve no or least clearance  *e.g. move the target (park bench), prune limbs instead of removing a whole tree.* | *Please provide justification*  If the risk can be managed in any way that involves no or less clearance then approval cannot be given. |
| Outline the recommended risk management actions or strategies  (with regards to the statements above) | *Please ensure management actions or strategies proposed are in accordance with the Australian Standard 4373-2007.*  e.g. prune the <x> limb back to nearest fork or union, or removal the tree to ground level. |
| Discuss timeframes for implementation of risk management | *e.g tree presented an emergency hazard and was removed/pruned on (date)*  *The tree presents a XX risk and should be pruned XX.* |

# 5. Other Considerations

* 1. **Approvals required *or* obtained under other legislation (including past clearance approvals)**

Please discuss if the assessment has considered or sought approval in accordance with any other relevant legislation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Legislation** | **Outcome** |
| *Native Vegetation Act 1991* | *Provide details of any past applications* |
| *Development Act 1993* | *Applicable, not applicable, not assessed* |
| *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* |  |
| *River Murray Act 2003* |  |
| *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* |  |
| *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* |  |
| *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* |  |

* 1. **Other works proposed at the site**

e.g. the landowner is also proposing xxxx which will impact this tree / or other vegetation on site:

# 6. Summary

*Summarise the findings and recommendations*

e.g. A Tree Risk Assessment was performed on <#> number of trees and revealed the following:

The tree(s) was/were generally in < > condition

<#> number of trees was assessed as high or medium risk to people or property and remedial works is recommended. See summary table below.

Table 1 – Tree Risk Assessment Summary

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tree Number** | **Species** | **Risk Level** | **Mitigation proposed** | **Timeframe** |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |
| … |  |  |  |  |

# 7. Caveat

*Discuss any limitations or commercial constraints*

e.g. assessment valid for 12 months from the date provided on the front page.

# 8. Appendices

Appendix 1. Additional Photos showing tree features relevant to the assessment

Appendix 2.

# 9. Reference Material

## **Habitat Value Summary Guide**

An assessment of habitat value should be conducted with regard to the Scattered Tree Assessment Manual, NVMU, February 2017. Relevant extracts from the Manual are provided below.



