

# Consultation and the Native Vegetation Assessment Panel – Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 2022

## What does the Native Vegetation Assessment Panel do?

The Native Vegetation Assessment Panel (NVAP) makes decisions in relation to the clearance of native vegetation. The committee of the NVC was formed in 2007 to make decisions on a number of native vegetation issues. It consists of four members. This structure offers a small responsive panel, allowing prompt decisions to be made. The NVAP has delegation to:

- Make decisions on native vegetation clearance applications, including conditions of consent;
- Make decisions under the Native Vegetation Regulations, including Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) conditions;
- Approve local council roadside vegetation management plans;
- Make decisions on mining and major project SEBs;
- Make decisions on Heritage Agreements (HA) and Management Agreements;
- Hear representations from landholders regarding applications and projects; and
- Make decisions on the initiation of civil proceedings for unauthorised clearance of native vegetation.

## How often does NVAP meet?

NVAP meets every 4 weeks. In 2022, the Panel is scheduled to meet on:

- Tuesday 18 January
- Tuesday 22 February
- Tuesday 22 March
- Tuesday 19 April
- Tuesday 17 May
- Tuesday 21 June
- Tuesday 19 July
- Tuesday 23 August
- Tuesday 20 September
- Tuesday 18 October
- Tuesday 22 November

## How far in advance of an NVAP meeting are documents required?

Clearance applications and supporting Data Reports are assessed/audited prior to going to NVAP. Accredited Consultant reports are required 7 weeks prior to the meeting. Please note, Clearance Application forms, signed by the landholder, must be received before the auditing of Data Reports will be undertaken. Agenda items close 2 weeks prior to a meeting. Applications for Heritage Agreements and all other types of business are submitted by staff once fully compiled.

Items received after the deadlines, or those requiring additional work before they are ready to be presented to the Panel, will be scheduled for the following meeting.

## What is involved in consultation of applications?

Consultations on clearance applications under Section 28 of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and Level 4 applications under the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017* run for 28 calendar days. Following the consultation period, the application and any comments received are submitted to NVAP for review. There are a number of steps in the application process that influence consultation timings.

*Step 1* - Application submitted to the Native Vegetation Branch;

*Step 2* - Native Vegetation Branch checks that the application includes all required information and liaises with the applicant as required;

*Step 3* - The application is uploaded to the consultation web page and the 28 day consultation period commences;

*Step 4* - Consultation period ends and comments are collated and substantiated by the Native Vegetation Branch;

*Step 5* - The application and any comments received are submitted to the Native Vegetation Assessment Panel for review at their next meeting;

*Step 6* - The applicant is notified of the outcome of their application; and

*Step 7* - The outcome of the application is posted on the Consultation outcomes web page.

**How long after an NVAP meeting are applicants advised of a decision?**

Decisions are normally advised within 1 week after an NVAP meeting.

## For more information

**Native Vegetation Branch**

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