

Clearance of Box Mistletoe (*Amyema miquelii*)

Native Vegetation Council Guideline under Regulation 8(16) of the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017* |
1 July 2017

BACKGROUND

Several species of Mistletoe are indigenous to South Australia and all are important in providing habitat for native birds and other fauna. However, vegetation clearance and land management practices may create situations where there are severe Mistletoe infestations in trees (particularly Eucalypts) that are already stressed by other factors.

Research has shown that the optimum approach to this situation is to revegetate affected areas with a range of native plant species, in order to help restore a better balance between Mistletoe and other native species. It is also accepted that the removal of Mistletoe from badly affected trees may prolong the life of those trees. This particularly applies to infestations of Box Mistletoe.

The removal of Box Mistletoe (*Amyema miquelii*) can occur in accordance with the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*, regulation 8(16) provided that it complies with this guideline. **Notification** must be sent to nvc@sa.gov.au with application and property information, a description of the area, location and the proposed amount to be cleared – including a map and photographs.

NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL GUIDELINE

1. Consultation and Endorsement

As Box Mistletoe can be a valuable plant in its own right, any removal on a significant scale must be discussed with, and endorsed by, the Native Vegetation Branch. This requirement applies in all situations, **except**:

- where the Mistletoe is within township boundaries, **OR**
- outside of township boundaries, where the Mistletoe removal is from ten trees or less.

2. Subject to part 1 (above), Box Mistletoe may be removed from trees where:

- the trees are scattered or isolated trees over pasture, along roadsides, or in situations where other native vegetation has largely been replaced by exotics and where the trees contribute significantly to the amenity of the district or locality; **AND**
- the trees are showing signs of significant die-back which is clearly linked with the level of Mistletoe infestation; **AND**
- the removal complies with other conditions as set out below.

3. Photos on the following pages are to be used as a guide for where Mistletoe is to be removed:

- a) **Class 1 (low) level infestation:** tree apparently healthy; no significant loss of tree foliage (photos p2)
 - **NO Mistletoe to be removed**
- b) **Class 2 (moderate) level infestation:** tree with signs of dieback; 30% to 40% of tree foliage lost with Mistletoe being the only apparent factor (photos p3)
 - **Up to 70% of the Box Mistletoe can be removed**
- c) **Class 3 (high) level infestation:** trees clearly stressed; several Mistletoe clumps present and more than 40% of tree foliage lost (photos p4)
 - **ALL Mistletoe can be removed from the tree**

For more information

Native Vegetation Branch
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

T (08) 8303 9777

E nvc@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation

4. Method of Mistletoe Removal

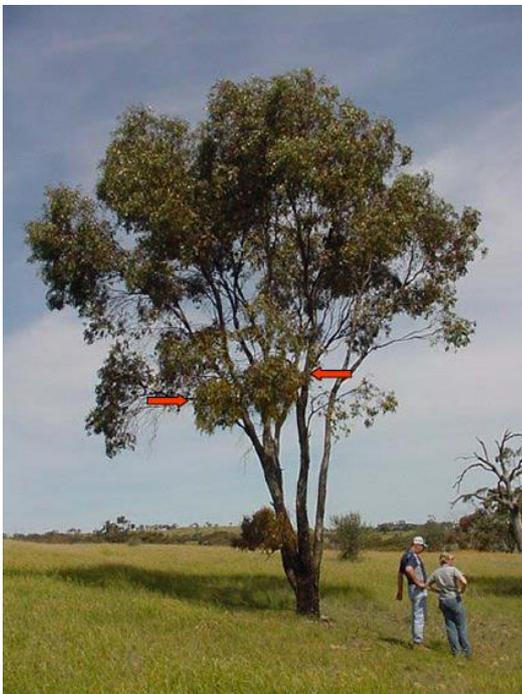
The method of Mistletoe removal must restrict the clearance to the Mistletoe itself and to a minimal amount of the host tree. The only exception to this approach is in mallee communities where greater removal of the host tree may be appropriate in order to promote better regeneration of the tree. Any such greater clearance must be endorsed by the Native Vegetation Branch and may require a clearance application under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* to the NVC. In general, the clearance of any vegetation containing hollows will not be permitted within this guideline, due to their value as bird-nesting sites.

As per Part 3 of this Guideline, the following photos are to be used as a guide for where Box Mistletoe can be removed

a) **Class 1 (low) level infestation: trees apparently healthy; no significant loss of tree foliage**

NO BOX MISTLETOE TO BE REMOVED

NOTE: Some loss or fluctuation in the foliage cover of the Eucalypts is quite natural: as a guide, 30% loss or more can be interpreted as indicating stress in trees where Mistletoe is present.



As per Part 3 of this Guideline, the following photos are to be used as a guide for where Box Mistletoe can be removed

b) Class 2 (moderate) level infestation: trees with signs of stress or dieback; 30% to 40% of tree foliage lost with Mistletoe being the only apparent factor.

UP TO 70% OF BOX MISTLETOE CAN BE REMOVED

NOTE: This percentage can be increased in consultation with the Native Vegetation Branch, where it is clear from other trees in the vicinity that Class 2 infestations can eventually contribute to more severe dieback.



As per Part 3 of this Guideline, the following photos are to be used as a guide for where Box Mistletoe can be removed

c) Class 3 (high) level infestation: trees clearly stressed; several Box Mistletoe clumps present and more than 40% of tree foliage lost.

ALL BOX MISTLETOE CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE TREE

