



# Policy for Vegetation Management Offsets

20 November 2006

SUPERSEDED

## RATIONALE:

The *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA) regulates the clearing of vegetation over all tenures in both rural and urban areas. The VMA states:

The purpose of the Act is to regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that—

- a) conserves the following:
  - i) Remnant *endangered* regional ecosystems
  - ii) Remnant *of concern* regional ecosystems
  - iii) Remnant *not of concern* regional ecosystems
- b) conserves vegetation in declared areas; and
- c) ensures the clearing does not cause land degradation; and
- d) prevents the loss of biodiversity; and
- e) maintains ecological processes; and
- f) manages the environmental effects of the clearing to achieve the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e); and
- g) reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Significant challenges exist to achieve the State's vegetation management objectives whilst recognising other goals of government that include accommodating population growth, maintaining the quality of life for existing and future communities and providing infrastructure.

Vegetation offsets can assist in balancing these interests in some circumstances, as they provide a mechanism for particular development to proceed while ensuring long-term conservation of remnant regional ecosystems.

The Regional Vegetation Management Codes set out performance requirements that development applications for clearing native vegetation, Material Change of Use, and Reconfiguring a Lot must meet.

A vegetation management offset (offset) is an arrangement or agreement that guarantees to maintain the extent, structure and function of—

- a) regional ecosystems;
- b) essential habitat; and
- c) vegetation associated with—
  - i) watercourses;
  - ii) natural wetlands; and
  - iii) natural significant wetlands.

An offset is a means of meeting relevant performance requirements of a Regional Vegetation Management Code.

An offset may be proposed by an applicant as a solution to meet a number of performance requirements. This policy gives guidance and sets standards for what would constitute an acceptable offset under those particular Regional Vegetation Management Codes. Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered.

Offsets are not an acceptable solution where a development would not otherwise be for a relevant purpose under the VMA. Offsets are not a suitable option where the impacts of development have an irreversible effect on biodiversity.

## **PURPOSE/SCOPE:**

This policy applies to an offset proposed to meet a performance requirement under a Regional Vegetation Management Code.

This policy is to be used by Vegetation Management Officers and other relevant officers when assessing a development application.

## **Definitions**

Words underlined in the text of the Policy are defined in the glossary of terms. Where any term is already defined in a Regional Vegetation Management Code or the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, this policy does not redefine the term.

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## **POLICY:**

An offset may be proposed as a solution to meet a performance requirement where the performance requirement requires that a development “maintain the current extent” of certain vegetation or habitat. Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered.

“Maintain the current extent” is defined in the Regional Vegetation Management Codes as—

- a) not clearing;
- b) ensuring the regional ecosystem structure and function are maintained; or
- c) providing an offset in accordance with the current policy for vegetation management offsets administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Water.

An offset must meet each of the following criteria and be consistent with the relevant offset options in Table 1 prior to development approval being granted. Where the development is for community infrastructure or a state significant project and must proceed in the public interest, the offset must at least meet criteria 6 before development approval is granted.

### **1. Limitations on offset vegetation**

The proposed offset must not be:

- a) mapped as remnant vegetation, unless:
  - i) the area has a valid clearing approval that would result in the area being cleared; or
  - ii) the remnant vegetation is likely to fall below the criteria for remnant vegetation and appear as white on a regional ecosystem map through an identified and immediate threatening process;
- b) vegetation that is required to be retained under other conditions of a development approval;
- c) mapped as remnant vegetation or a category 1 area, category 2 area, or category 3 area on a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation; and
- d) an area on which vegetation is protected by another instrument of State Government unless 1.a)i) or 1.a)ii) apply. However, where an offset is required under another Act or policy of the State, the same offset can be used to satisfy multiple requirements providing the requirements of this policy are met.

### **2. Selection and location of appropriate regional ecosystem**

The proposed offset must:

- a) be geographically close to the area proposed for clearing as is reasonably achievable to ensure that localised environmental effects of the clearing will be mitigated and ecological equivalence achieved;
  - b) be within the same bioregion and should ideally be within the same subregion as the area proposed for clearing (refer to Table 1 – Minimum Standards for Offsets);
  - c) have the same pre-clearing regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing where the regional ecosystem proposed for clearing is—
    - i) below 5% of its pre-clearing extent and is less than 500 hectares in total extent;
    - ii) less than 200 hectares in total extent or the clearing would result in the regional ecosystem being less than 200 hectares; or
    - iii) essential habitat;
- and

- d) be a pre-clearing regional ecosystem that has the same or higher conservation status as the area proposed for clearing and be on the same landzone as the regional ecosystem proposed for clearing. Where an area on the same landzone is not available or is not ecologically viable, and does not meet the description of 2.c)i) or 2.c)ii), the area must be consistent with a relevant option provided in Table 1.

### 3. Regaining remnant status

The proposed offset must:

- a) be at least 2 hectares in area to ensure it will persist in the landscape; and
- b) be likely to be mapped as remnant vegetation within a maximum of twenty years of the development approval.

### 4. Obtaining ecological equivalence

The proposed offset must become ecologically equivalent to the area proposed for clearing. Ecological equivalence is described in Table 2 – Ecological Equivalence Factors.

As it is likely that the offset will be less established or of less ecological value per hectare than the area proposed for clearing, the offset area must generally be greater than the area proposed for clearing. This is also necessary to compensate for risk and uncertainty in the establishment of the offset, and so that the outcome is no net loss of biodiversity.

### 5. Ensuring ongoing management

- a) The proposed offset must include a management plan that specifies how the offset will be managed to ensure it achieves or maintains remnant regional ecosystem status and ecological equivalence. The management plan must include:
  - i) risks to the revegetation or restoration project—including the risk of weed infestations and fire—and actions that will be undertaken to minimise those risks;
  - ii) goals and measures that define and quantify the stages by which the offset area will reach remnant status;
  - iii) a monitoring program—for example, photo monitoring points and the recording of species composition, abundance and mean heights of species at those sites—to ensure agreed management actions are successful in achieving remnant status; and
  - iv) remedial action that will be undertaken if the goal and measure of any stage of the management plan is not met;

and

- b) The development approval must contain conditions relating to the management plan.

### 6. Ensuring the offset is legally secured

The offset must be proposed as part of the development application and legally secured before a development approval can be issued.

Where the development is for community infrastructure or a state significant project and must proceed in the public interest, the offset must at least be legally secured before development approval is granted. However once development approval is issued, the applicant must, within twelve months, provide an offset that meets all other criteria of this policy and be consistent with the relevant offset options in Table 1.

## **7. Consideration of other requirements**

The proposed offset:

- a) is not required to be on land owned by the applicant. If the land is not owned by the applicant, the offset must be protected and managed under agreement with the landholder; and
- b) can not be a financial donation or contribution, although a financial contribution may be made to a third party for the management of an approved offset.

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**Table 1 – Minimum standards for offsets**

<b>Regional Vegetation Management Code Performance Requirement</b>	<b>Offset options</b>  Note: Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered. Where the offset is proposed to meet more than one performance requirement, each applicable offset option must be met. It may be possible for one offset area to address more than one performance requirement.	<b>Minimum area of clearing to offset ratio (minimum offset must be no less than 2 hectares)</b>
1. Maintain the current extent of an endangered regional ecosystem where: a) its <u>pre-clearing</u> extent is less than 5% and is less than 500 hectares in total extent; or b) is less than 200 hectares in total extent, or the clearing would result in the regional ecosystem being less than 200 hectares.	<b>Option 1.1</b> The proposed offset must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>c) be non-remnant vegetation;</li> <li>d) have less than 10% weed cover;</li> <li>e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years; and</li> <li>f) not require revegetation.</li> </ul>	1:2
	<b>Option 1.2</b> The proposed offset must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>c) be non-remnant vegetation;</li> <li>d) have less than 25% weed cover;</li> <li>e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years;</li> <li>f) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area; and</li> <li>g) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</li> </ul>	1:2.5
	<b>Option 1.3</b> The proposed offset must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>c) be non-remnant vegetation;</li> <li>d) have less than 25% weed cover;</li> <li>e) with management, attain remnant status within 20 years;</li> </ul>	1:4

Regional Vegetation Management Code Performance Requirement	Offset options	Minimum area of clearing to offset ratio (minimum offset must be no less than 2 hectares)
	<p>Note: Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered. Where the offset is proposed to meet more than one performance requirement, each applicable offset option must be met. It may be possible for one offset area to address more than one performance requirement.</p> <p>f) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area; and g) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</p>	
	<p><b>Option 1.4</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing; b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing; and c) be remnant vegetation of the same or better ecological quality that has a valid clearing approval and therefore would otherwise be cleared.</p>	1:1
2. Maintain the current extent of an endangered regional ecosystem where its <u>pre-clearing</u> extent is greater than 5% or 500 hectares.	<p><b>Option 2.1</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing; b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing; c) be non-remnant vegetation; d) have less than 10% weed cover; e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years; and f) not require revegetation.</p>	1:1.5
	<p><b>Option 2.2</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing; b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing; c) be non-remnant vegetation; d) have less than 25% weed cover; e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years; f) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area; and g) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</p>	1:1.75
	<p><b>Option 2.3</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</p>	1:3

Regional Vegetation Management Code Performance Requirement	Offset options	Minimum area of clearing to offset ratio (minimum offset must be no less than 2 hectares)
	<p>Note: Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered. Where the offset is proposed to meet more than one performance requirement, each applicable offset option must be met. It may be possible for one offset area to address more than one performance requirement.</p> <p>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing;  c) be non-remnant vegetation;  d) have less than 25% weed cover;  e) with management, attain remnant status within 20 years;  f) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area; and  g) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</p>	
	<p><b>Option 2.4</b>  The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;  b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing; and  c) be remnant vegetation of the same or better ecological quality that has a valid clearing approval and therefore would otherwise be cleared.</p>	1:1
	<p><b>Option 2.5</b>  The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be an endangered regional ecosystem;  b) be on the same land zone as the area proposed for clearing;  c) be in the same <u>subregion</u> as the area proposed for clearing;  d) be non-remnant vegetation;  e) have less than 25% weed cover;  f) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years;  g) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area; and  h) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</p>	1:2
	<p><b>Option 2.6</b>  The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be an endangered regional ecosystem that contains similar species and habitat values to the area proposed for clearing;  b) demonstrate ecological equivalence or better will be provided than the area proposed for clearing;  c) be within the same <u>bioregion</u> as the area</p>	Net benefit (Minimum 1:2.5)

Regional Vegetation Management Code Performance Requirement	Offset options	Minimum area of clearing to offset ratio (minimum offset must be no less than 2 hectares)
	<p>Note: Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered. Where the offset is proposed to meet more than one performance requirement, each applicable offset option must be met. It may be possible for one offset area to address more than one performance requirement.</p> <p>proposed for clearing;</p> <p>d) provide strategic biodiversity protection that enhances the viability and extent of endangered remnant vegetation;</p> <p>e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years; and</p> <p>f) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area.</p>	
3. Maintain the current extent of an of concern regional ecosystem	<p><b>Option 3.1</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</p> <p>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing;</p> <p>c) be non-remnant vegetation;</p> <p>d) have less than 10% weed cover;</p> <p>e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years; and</p> <p>f) not require revegetation.</p>	1:1.5
	<p><b>Option 3.2</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</p> <p>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing;</p> <p>c) be non-remnant vegetation;</p> <p>d) have less than 25% weed cover;</p> <p>e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years;</p> <p>f) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area; and</p> <p>g) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</p>	1:1.75
	<p><b>Option 3.3</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <p>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</p> <p>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing;</p> <p>c) be non-remnant vegetation;</p> <p>d) have less than 25% weed cover;</p> <p>e) with management, attain remnant status within 20 years;</p> <p>f) not require revegetation across more than 10%</p>	1:4

Regional Vegetation Management Code Performance Requirement	Offset options	Minimum area of clearing to offset ratio (minimum offset must be no less than 2 hectares)
	<p>Note: Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered. Where the offset is proposed to meet more than one performance requirement, each applicable offset option must be met. It may be possible for one offset area to address more than one performance requirement.</p> <p>of the offset area; and</p> <p>g) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</p>	
	<p><b>Option 3.4</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be the same regional ecosystem as area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>b) be within 20 kilometres of the area proposed for clearing; and</li> <li>c) be remnant vegetation of the same or better ecological quality that has a valid clearing approval and therefore would otherwise be cleared.</li> </ul>	1:1
	<p><b>Option 3.5</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be an endangered or of concern regional ecosystem;</li> <li>b) be on the same land zone as area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>c) be in the same <u>subregion</u> as the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>d) be non-remnant vegetation;</li> <li>e) have less than 25% weed cover;</li> <li>f) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years;</li> <li>g) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area; and</li> <li>h) provide connectivity or a buffer to other remnant vegetation.</li> </ul>	1:2
	<p><b>Option 3.6</b> The proposed offset must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be an endangered or of concern regional ecosystem that contains similar species and habitat values to the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>b) demonstrate ecological equivalence or better will be provided than the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>c) be within the same <u>bioregion</u> as the area proposed for clearing ;</li> <li>d) provide strategic biodiversity protection that enhances the viability and extent of endangered and/or of concern remnant vegetation;</li> <li>e) with management, attain remnant status within 5 years; and</li> </ul>	Net benefit (minimum 1:2.5)

Regional Vegetation Management Code Performance Requirement	Offset options	Minimum area of clearing to offset ratio (minimum offset must be no less than 2 hectares)
	<p>Note: Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered. Where the offset is proposed to meet more than one performance requirement, each applicable offset option must be met. It may be possible for one offset area to address more than one performance requirement.</p> <p>f) not require revegetation across more than 10% of the offset area.</p>	
4. Maintain the current extent of essential habitat	<p>The proposed offset must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be the same regional ecosystem as the area proposed for clearing;</li> <li>b) include all of the essential habitat factors—including any mandatory habitat factors—as the area of essential habitat proposed for clearing; and</li> <li>c) demonstrate that the impacts on the species are mitigated by the offset.</li> </ul>	1:1.5 where proposed offset is in the same <u>subregion</u> ; or 1:3 in all other locations.
5. Maintain the current extent of assessable vegetation associated with any natural significant wetland and/or natural wetland	<p>The proposed offset must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be a wetland regional ecosystem listed in the relevant Regional Vegetation Management Code; or</li> <li>b) be a regional ecosystem associated with a natural significant wetland and/or natural wetland that has the same or higher conservation status than the regional ecosystem proposed for clearing.</li> </ul>	1:2 where proposed offset is in the same <u>subregion</u> ; or 1:3 in all other locations.
6. Maintain the current extent of assessable vegetation associated with any watercourse	<p>The proposed offset must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be a regional ecosystem associated with any watercourse that has the same or higher conservation status than the regional ecosystem proposed for clearing; and</li> <li>b) be a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse that has at least the same stream order as the watercourse proposed for clearing.</li> </ul>	1:2 where proposed offset is in the same <u>subregion</u> ; or 1:3 in all other locations.
7. Maintain the current extent of regional ecosystems that are at risk of— a) the remnant extent of the regional ecosystem falling below 30% of its <u>pre-clearing</u> extent; or b) having a remnant extent of less than 10000 hectares.	<p>The proposed offset must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be a regional ecosystem that is at risk of the remnant extent of the regional ecosystem falling below 30% of its <u>pre-clearing</u> extent, or, having a remnant extent of less than 10 000 hectares listed in the relevant Regional Vegetation Management Code; or</li> <li>b) be a regional ecosystem that has a higher conservation status than the regional ecosystem proposed for clearing.</li> </ul>	<p>For option a), 1:2 where proposed offset is in the same <u>subregion</u>; or 1:3 in all other locations.</p> <p>For option b) refer to the relevant ratios for endangered or</p>

Regional Vegetation Management Code Performance Requirement	Offset options	Minimum area of clearing to offset ratio (minimum offset must be no less than 2 hectares)
	<p>Note: Other offset proposals that ensure the extent of relevant vegetation and associated environmental values are maintained can be considered. Where the offset is proposed to meet more than one performance requirement, each applicable offset option must be met. It may be possible for one offset area to address more than one performance requirement.</p>	of concern regional ecosystems in this table.

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**Table 2 – Ecological Equivalence Factors**

Ecological Equivalence Factors	Requirements
1. Shape and edge effects	Areas of vegetation with a shape that provides a low perimeter to area ratio are less susceptible to edge effects. Therefore, the vegetation offset area should have a perimeter (metres) to area (hectares) ratio of no more than 200:1.
2. Condition	Condition can be described in terms of genetic or species diversity, vegetation community structure, presence and abundance of native fauna, presence and abundance of feral animals, pests and weeds, health of soil and water, long-term viability of the vegetation and ability of the ecosystem to withstand threatening processes.
3. The requirement for revegetation and/or restoration of the offset area	Offsetting regrowth vegetation that contains the range of values of the regional ecosystem is preferable to an offset involving revegetation of a severely degraded area. A revegetated area is generally of less biodiversity value, at least in the short to medium term, than an intact natural vegetation community. There is also a higher chance of the offset becoming remnant over time if the vegetation is already established.
4. Time necessary to achieve remnant status.	The longer the time necessary for non-remnant vegetation to achieve remnant status, the higher the risk of failure. For instance, less area will be required for an offset where the vegetation can be expected, through protection and management, to achieve remnant status in 5 years than an area where the vegetation is expected to achieve remnant status within 20 years.
5. Connectivity of the offset to other areas of native vegetation	If the offset is linked to other areas of native vegetation, there is a greater enhancement of biodiversity and consequently, greater long term conservation outcomes. In <u>bioregions</u> where there is a <u>State or Regional Wildlife Corridor</u> , the offset should preferably be located within the <u>State or Regional Wildlife Corridor</u> .
6. Size	Size is strongly correlated with the long-term viability of areas of native vegetation. Larger areas are less susceptible to ecological edge effects and are more likely to sustain viable populations of native flora and fauna than smaller areas. Small areas can mean that wildlife species are more vulnerable to disease, bushfire, pests, changes in climate, and inbreeding. Minimum sizes and offset options are set out in Table 1.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

**Note:** Where any term is already defined in a *Regional Vegetation Management Code* or the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, this policy does not redefine the term.

**Bioregions** are—

based on broad landscape patterns that reflect the major structural geologies and climate as well as major changes in floristic and faunal assemblages. Bioregions contain a number of subregions. The exact location of the bioregion boundaries are held in digital electronic form by the Department of Natural Resources and Water and are available from Department of Natural Resources and Water service centres.

**Community infrastructure** is—

infrastructure listed in schedule 5 of the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* as community infrastructure.

**Immediate threatening process** is—

a demonstrated threatening process where, if action is not taken to address the threat, the vegetation will no longer be classed as remnant within a period of 6 months.

**Landzone** is—

a simplified geology/substrate-landform classification for Queensland utilised in the regional ecosystem framework.

**Legally secured** means—

at the time of assessing the development application and prior to any development approval being given, either:

- a) the offset land is identified and the vegetation protected with a legally binding mechanism such as:
  - i) Dedication as a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (for example, a voluntary nature refuge or conservation park);
  - ii) Declaration as an area of high nature conservation value under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*;
  - iii) Use of a covenant over offset areas under the *Land Title Act 1994*, *Land Act 1994* and *Integrated Planning Act 1997*; or
  - iv) Another legally binding mechanism, approved by the Department, which provides for permanent protection of the vegetation;

or

- b) the offset land is identified and a legally binding agreement between the landholder and the applicant is provided that requires, within an agreed timeframe which is no greater than 12 months—
  - i) for protection of the vegetation by a covenant, declaration as an area of high nature conservation value, nature refuge or similar; and
  - ii) a management program to be in place that ensures remnant status is achieved within the relevant period of time;

or

- c) a legally binding agreement between the State of Queensland, the applicant and another party, if relevant. This can only occur for a development that is for community infrastructure or a state significant project that must proceed in the public interest, and despite a thorough search for an offset to meet a performance requirement, an offset has not been secured. The legally binding agreement must provide that, within a period of no greater than 12 months—

- i) the offset land will be secured;
- ii) the vegetation will be protected by a covenant, declaration as an area of high nature conservation value, nature refuge or similar;
- iii) a management plan will be in place to ensure the land achieves remnant status within a the relevant period of time; and
- iv) a financial surety<sup>1</sup> of a reasonable amount for compliance with the agreement will be paid;

or

- d) Where the offset is a remnant endangered or of concern regional ecosystem that has a valid clearing approval, the development approval is amended to prevent the vegetation being cleared.

**Pre-clearing is—**

determined using a digital mapping layer which shows the pre-clear extent of regional ecosystems, and is available from Department of Natural Resources and Water service centres.

**State or Regional Wildlife Corridors are—**

areas designated as State or Regional Wildlife Corridors on a Biodiversity Planning Assessment map, produced by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**State Significant Project is—**

a project declared to be a significant project under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, section 26.

**Subregion means—**

an area that is contained within a specific bioregion and that is usually associated with specific geology and geomorphology or finer climatic patterns. The exact location of the subregion boundaries are held in digital electronic form by the Department of Natural Resources and Water, and are available from Department of Natural Resources and Water service centres.

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<sup>1</sup> The applicant is required to obtain at least one quote for securing and managing the offset. The quote will be considered in the determination of the financial surety.