Form A   **Minor Variation to Property Vegetation Plan Assessment**
              issued under Part 5 Clause 27 of the *Native Vegetation Regulation 2005*

Case Number:	1769
PVP type :	Development
land and area under application	Lot 38 DP 751675
	LGA: Griffith City Council
Proposed development	To clear 1.8 hectares of degraded white cypress pine remnant vegetation for vineyard development

Minor Variation

Made on (date)	The date of the signature below.
The accredited expert is of the opinion that :	**(a) a minor variation to the Assessment Methodology would result in a determination that the proposed clearing will improve or maintain environmental outcomes (other than a variation that is not allowable under this clause), and** **(b) strict adherence to the Assessment Methodology is in the particular case unreasonable and unnecessary.**
Minor variation made to the following Assessment Methodology :	**Biodiversity and Threatened Species** ~~Salinity~~ ~~Land and Soil~~ ~~Water Quality~~
Reasons for Minor Variation	See Attachment No 1
Assessment Protocols	Not applicable

Accredited Expert	Ray Willis (Biodiversity and Threatened Species)
Signed	
General Manager Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority	John Searson
Signed	

Note 1.   Details of this minor variation are required by Clause 29 Regulations to be published and any reports made publicly available.

Attachment 1 – Reasons for Minor Variation

This assessment has been carried out using the EOAM methodology and resulted in a red light for the Threatened species tool despite the proposed offsets. The threatened species tool currently does not allow more than 10% of foraging habitat to be cleared for the Pink Cockatoo, Superb Parrot and Grey-crowned Babbler that is subject of this Minor Variation.

The reasons for the opinion of the Accredited Expert in respect of the Minor Variation is that based on the assessment that :

1. the minor variation involves increasing the ability of a threatened species to sustain a temporary reduction in habitat from 10% to 15% for foraging habitat only for Pink Cockatoo, Superb Parrot and Grey-crowned Babbler.
2. the proposal only involves very minor clearing (1.8 hectares) of foraging habitat
3. it is the opinion of the accredited expert that the increase to 15% is a very minor variation and is unlikely to provide any short or long term impacts on threatened species as it only allows an extra 0.6ha of clearing.
4. better quality vegetation that may provide breeding and foraging habitat is located nearby and will be managed and increased through the offsets
5. appropriate offsets are proposed that in the opinion of the accredited expert would maintain or improve environmental outcomes
6. the offsets are located within the immediate area and will provide biodiversity benefits to a range of species through limited strategic grazing and weed control on the site
7. the proposed offsets include reconstruction of strategic corridors to provide linkages in the local area
8. the current outcome is considered a "perverse" outcome and the Murrumbidgee CMA is of the opinion that a common sense approach to landscape management is warranted in this particular case.

It is considered that a minor variation in this case would maintain and improve environmental outcomes and that strict adherence to the Assessment Methodology in this particular case is considered unreasonable and unnecessary.