

**Report under the NV Act 2003 in relation to a Minor Variation
(clause 27 of the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005)**

This report has been prepared by a Level 3 Accredited Expert for the purposes of clause 27(4) of the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005.

Accreditation number: 30612

PVP reference number: Request # 11495

I am 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.

The proposed minor variation does not relate to any of the following aspects of the Assessment Methodology:

- a) riparian buffer distances or associated offset requirements;
- b) classification of vegetation as likely habitat for threatened species;
- c) classification of a plant species as a threatened species or a component of an endangered ecological community;
- d) classification of the condition of vegetation;
- e) classification of the vegetation type or landscape type as over-cleared; or
- f) the assessment of the regional value of vegetation.

Description of the proposed clearing:

A field assessment for a Property Vegetation Plan was undertaken on 18th March 2010 approximately 9km west of Silent Grove, west of Tenterfield NSW. The area was mapped as part of both the Nandewar and New England Tablelands (NET) bioregions. The landholder wished to clear Black Cypress Pine (*Callitris endlicheri*), White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*), and Sticky Daisy Bush (*Olearia eliptica*) at a paddock scale with nil to minimal disturbance to soil and groundcover, consistent with the invasive native species (INS) tool environmental outcomes assessment methodology (EOAM).

Details of the proposed minor variation:

Callitris endlicheri, *C. glaucophylla* and *O. eliptica* are listed as invasive native species within the BR-G CMA, however the listing does not cover *C. endlicheri*, *C. glaucophylla* and *O. eliptica* for the NET bioregion. Individuals of these species were judged to be behaving as Invasive Native Species, according to the EOAM definition. As a result of the location of the site within the northern limit of the NET bioregion, the INS prescriptions for *C. endlicheri*, *C. glaucophylla* and *O. eliptica* do not apply to the area covered by this PVP.

Reasons for recommending the proposed minor variation:

The crux of this issue is not with the varying INS lists for the different bioregions, but the scale of the maps used in delineating bioregional boundaries. Environment Australia (2000) lists the inherent accuracy of the line data at 1:250,000 (eg 1 cm = 2.5 km). The site in question lies less than 1,400 metres from the boundary between the NET and Nandewar bioregions so is within a small error margin. A similar approach has been taken for the mapping of Mitchell Landscapes within the Biometric Tool in PVP developer whereby on-ground verification is used to determine actual boundaries as a consequence of map scale.

The vegetation type corresponds to the **Silver-leaved Ironbark – Black Cypress Pine – White Box shrubby open forest of the northern Nandewar Bioregion** classification within the Natural Resource Assessment Tool. This vegetation type has been referenced as one of the vegetation communities in the Nandewar Bioregion by DECCW (2010) and is in my opinion typical of a Nandewar vegetation type. Additionally, the landform and soil type of the proposed area is consistent with the adjacent Nandewar bioregional description.

In conclusion, the area in question is typical of the Nandewar bioregion and in my opinion the species of INS on the site should be treated according to the prescriptions available for the Nandewar bioregion.

References:

- DECCW. Detailed data: Definitions of vegetation types for CMA areas - updated June 2008 (MS Excel - 1.5 MB).
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/projects/BiometricTool.htm> - accessed 8th March 2010.
- Environment Australia (2000). Revision of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) and the Development of Version 5.1. - Summary Report. Department of Environment and Heritage, Canberra.

Recommendation:

That the list of INS species for this PVP be expanded to include *C. endlicheri*, *C. glaucophylla* and *O. eliptica*.