

APPENDIX 12 – HOLLOW-BEARING TREE REMOVAL GUIDELINES

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EnviroKey recommends the following guidelines for implementation when any hollow-bearing tree (HBT) is to be removed:

1. Ensure that a suitably qualified and licensed ecologist (who is vaccinated for Australian bat lyssavirus) supervises the removal of HBT. Any bats found must only be handled by a person vaccinated for lyssavirus.
2. Clearly mark the HBT to be removed and/or retained by differentiating with coloured flagging tape.
3. Check for fauna in the zone of disturbance before clearing and scare or remove them before beginning operations.
4. Remove all non-hollow bearing vegetation prior to the removal of HBT.
5. After clearing, re-check to ensure no fauna have become trapped or injured during clearing operations. Any fauna found should be safely located to nearby habitat.
6. Leave HBT standing for at least one night after other clearing to allow any fauna the opportunity to remove themselves after site disturbance.
7. Before felling HBT, tap along trunk using an excavator or loader to scare fauna from the hollows. Repeat several times. The aim of this procedure is to 'substantially' shake the tree. The majority of fauna will exit the tree during this process.
8. Re-check after felling HBT to ensure no fauna have become trapped or injured during clearing operations. Any fauna found should be safely located to nearby habitat.
9. If taking the HBT tree down in stages, the non-hollow-bearing branches should be removed before the hollow-bearing branches are removed.
10. Fell trees into the zone of disturbance to avoid damaging adjacent vegetation
11. Take care when moving equipment near vegetation to be retained.
12. Rather than mulching or burning cleared vegetation, logs from the felled trees should be distributed into areas of vegetation to be retained where it would not be considered a fire hazard. This would provide additional potential habitat for ground dwelling fauna such as reptiles and small mammals.