

Appendix E. Tree removal and protection management plan

EASTERN FREEWAY – HODDLE TO BURKE ALLIANCE

MANAGEMENT PLAN

TREE REMOVAL AND PROTECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Document Information

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Signatures					

If the Approver does not approve the Tree Removal and Protection Management Plan, the Approver must provide reasons for this decision. The Alliance will then amend the Tree Removal and Protection Management Plan to address the Approver's reasons and resubmit the plan for approval.

Submission and updating

The submission and update of this Tree Removal and Protection Management Plan is as per the Project Requirement Specification, section 2.10 of Part F1.

Period for Update

6 monthly (unless a material change to one or more Participants of the Alliance, such as a change in ownership or entity structure, has occurred – in which case review and amendment must occur within 20 Business Days of the change occurring).

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Definitions

Defined terms and definitions

Terms	Definitions
Alliance	Means the Eastern Freeway Upgrades: Hoddle to Burke Alliance which the Participants have created to carry out the Alliance Activities.
Alliance Activities	Means the work, services, and other activities to be performed by the Participants to comply with their obligations, including: a. the design, procurement, manufacture, fabrication, supply, delivery, construction, installation, integration, commissioning, testing and hand over of the Works; b. the implementation of any Scope Variations and Pre-Agreed Adjustment Events; c. any Preliminary Development Work; d. any New Scope Early Works; e. any New Scope Proposal Work; f. the provision of Construction Plant and Temporary Works; and g. rectification works necessary to make good any Defects arising before and during any Defects Correction Period.
Alliance Charter	Means the alliance charter (including the Alliance Principles, Alliance Purpose and Alliance Objectives) for the performance of the Alliance Activities as set out in Schedule 2 (as further developed by the Participants and approved by the ALT) which, together with the other terms of the Project Alliance Agreement, governs the relationship between the Participants under this Agreement.
Alliance Manager	The person appointed by the Alliance with overall responsibility and authority for delivery of the Project as defined in the Project Alliance Agreement.
Amenity Tree	Amenity trees, for the purpose of this report, are trees and tree groups that are not considered to be 'Scattered Trees' nor a listed species within the relevant Ecological Vegetation Class for the area as defined by the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (former DEWLP, 2017).
Best For Project	Means an approach, determination, decision, method, solution, interpretation, outcome, or resolution that is consistent with the VFM Statement and the Alliance Charter.
Botanical name	The genus, species in accordance with the Linnaean Classification System. Identification is based on available visual characteristics including fruit, buds, leaves, bark, and form. Where identifying features are not available at the time of inspection (for example dead trees) the accuracy of identification is not guaranteed. Subspecies, variations, and cultivars are stated where appropriate.
Canopy width	Canopy width is measured in metres and is the average of north to south and east to west dimensions of a trees canopy.
Common name	The common name is provided for information only and is assigned to the tree based on the name most commonly used by the general public in the region.
Company	The Alliance, comprising of constructor Non-Owner Participants (NOPs) Seymour Whyte and John Holland and designer NOPs Jacobs and Mott MacDonald.
Diameter (of the tree) at Standard Height	DSH is measured at 1.4m above ground level. Where multiple stems are present, DSH has been calculated for all stems in accordance with AS4970-2025 - Protection of Trees on Development Sites. Where access was not possible to measure DSH, an estimation has been provided.
Early Works	As defined by approved Project documentation and plans. Activities may include:

Terms	Definitions
	- Utility service locating and protection - Site investigative works including geotechnical drilling and contamination sampling - Survey works
Environment	All physical factors, including the land (and subsurface), weather, waters. atmosphere, climate (including wind), sounds, odours and tastes. biological factors or animals and plants social factors of aesthetics properties and occupants of those properties, at, around, nearby, affecting or affected by the Site heritage values community amenity values.
Environmental Incident	An event that occurs on the Site and results in, or has the potential to result in, the environmental requirements being breached or requires remedial actions to minimise or prevent impact to the Environment.
Native Vegetation	Native vegetation is defined in planning schemes as 'plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses.' The Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (former DELWP,2017) further classify native vegetation as a patch or a scattered tree. These classifications assist in measuring the value of native vegetation and assessing its removal. A patch of native vegetation is: An area of vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native, or Any area with three or more native canopy trees where the drip line of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy, or Any mapped wetland included in the current wetlands map, available in DEECA systems and tools. A scattered tree is: A native canopy tree that does not form part of a patch. Although not all native species are classified as native vegetation (such as amenity plantings), all native vegetation is made up of native species.
Key Performance Indicator	Means each key performance indicator in respect of a KRA.
Key Result Area	Means a key result area in respect of the Alliance Activities, as set out in the Risk or Reward Regime.
Project	Eastern Freeway Upgrades: Hoddle to Burke
Project Arborist	A person responsible for conducting the tree assessment, report preparation, specifying tree protection measures, monitoring, and certification. A Project Arborist will be suitably experienced and competent in arboriculture, having acquired through training, qualification (minimum Australian Qualification Framework Level 5, Diploma of Horticulture (Arboriculture) and/or equivalent experience, the knowledge and skills enabling that person to perform the tasks required by this Standard.
Project Owner	The Crown in right of the State of Victoria through Major Road Projects Victoria (a division of the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority, an administrative office in relation to the Department of Transport and Planning)
Site	Any land, or any part of land, where works are to be performed.
Tree health	Good: The tree is demonstrating good or exceptional growth. The tree should exhibit a full canopy of foliage and have only minor pest or diseases problems. Fair: The tree is in reasonable condition and growing well. The tree should exhibit

Terms	Definitions
	an adequate canopy of foliage. There may be some deadwood present in the crown. Some grazing by insects or possums may be evident. Poor: The tree is not growing to its full capacity; extension growth of the laterals is minimal. The canopy may be thinning or sparse. Large amounts of deadwood may be evident throughout the crown. Significant pest and disease problems may be evident or symptoms of stress indicating tree decline. Very Poor: The tree appears to be in a state of decline. The tree is not growing to its full capacity. The canopy may be very thin and sparse. A significant volume of deadwood may be present in the canopy or pest and disease problems may be causing a severe decline in tree health. Dead: The tree is dead.
Tree height	Tree height is measured in metres from ground level to the highest point of the canopy. Tree height can be either measured using a laser range finder or tape measure if the tree is small enough. Estimations on tree height can be utilised where access or other factors inhibit the use of these techniques. The general standard for visual tree height estimation is the use of a clinometer, using trigonometry to estimate the height of the tree. Each tree assessment report will include methodology for tree height measurement and estimation.
Tree origin	Indigenous: The species originates within the local environs Victorian Native: The species originates within the state of Victoria but outside the local environs Australian Native: The species originates in an Australian state other than Victoria Exotic: The species originates in a country other than Australia
Tree structure	Good: The tree has a well-defined and balanced crown. Branch unions appear to be strong, with no defects evident in the trunk or the branches. Major limbs are well defined. The tree is considered a good example of the species. Fair: The tree has some minor problems in the structure of the crown. The crown may be slightly out of balance, and some branch unions may be exhibiting minor structural faults. If the tree has a single trunk, it may be on a slight lean or exhibiting minor defects. Poor: The tree may have a poorly structured crown. The crown may be unbalanced or exhibit large gaps. Major limbs may not be well defined. Branches may be rubbing or crossing over. Branch unions may be poor or faulty at the point of attachment. The tree may have suffered root damage. Very Poor: The tree has a poorly structured crown. The crown is unbalanced or exhibit large gaps with possibly large sections of deadwood. Major limbs may not be well defined. Branches may be rubbing or crossing over. Branch unions may be poor or faulty at the point of attachment. Branches may exhibit large cracks that are likely to fail in the future. The tree may have suffered major root damage. Failed: The tree has a very poorly structured crown. A section of the tree has failed or is in imminent danger of failure.
Tree Value	Tree value (sometimes referred to as Retention Value) considers tree size and condition, Useful Life Expectancy, contribution to landscape and individual tree significance. A value is assigned based on this information to inform design and construction priorities for tree protection and retention.
Useful Life Expectancy rating	Useful Life Expectancy is approximately how long a tree can be retained safely and usefully in the landscape: 0 years: The tree is considered dangerous in the location or is dead. 1-5 years: The tree, under normal circumstances and without extra stresses being

Terms	Definitions
	imposed on it, should be safe and have value for up to five years. During this period, normal inspections and maintenance will be required. 6–10 years: The tree, under normal circumstances and without extra stresses being imposed on it, should be safe and of value for up to 10 years. During this period, normal inspections and maintenance will be required. 11–20 years: The tree, under normal circumstances and without extra stresses being imposed on it, should be safe and of value for up to 20 years. During this period, normal inspections and maintenance will be required. 20+ years: The tree, under normal circumstances and without extra stresses being imposed on it, should be safe and of value for more than 20 years. During this period, normal inspections and maintenance will be required.

Acronyms and abbreviations

Terms	Definitions
AIA	Arboricultural Impact Assessment
ALT	Alliance Leadership Team
AMT	Alliance Management Team
ATCW	Authority to Control Wildlife
CCP	Construction Compound Plan
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
CNOP	Constructor Non-Owner Participant
DaRB	Diameter above Root Buttress
DSH	Diameter at standard height
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DNOP	Designer Non-Owner Participant
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EHBA	Eastern Hoddle to Burke Alliance
EMF	Environmental Management Framework
EMS	Environmental Management System
ENCR	Environmental Non-Conformance Report
EOR	Environmental Obligations Register
EOAR	External Obligations & Approvals Register
EP Act	Environment Protection Act 2017

Terms	Definitions
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EPR	Environmental Performance Requirements
ERMF	Environmental Risk Management Framework
ESR	Environmental Site Representative
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
FFG Act	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998
FFMP	Flora and Fauna Management Plan
GED	General Environmental Duty
GIS	Geographic Information System
IEA	Independent Environmental Auditor
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KPS	Key Performance Scoring
KRA	Key Result Area
MLTV	Medium or Long Term Viable
MRPV	Major Roads Projects Victoria
NDD	Non-Destructive Digging
NEL	North East Link
NELP	North East Link Project
NGZ	No Go Zone
NRZ	Notional Root Zone
NVR	Native Vegetation Removal
PAA	Project Alliance Agreement
PIP	Project Improvement Plans
PRS	Project Requirements Specification
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SCES	Stakeholder and Communications Engagement Strategy
SRZ	Structural Root Zone
SUP	Shared User Path
SWAP	Seymour Whyte Application Platform
SWC	Seymour Whyte Construction

Terms	Definitions
TPZ	Tree Protection Zone
TRPMP	Tree Removal Protection Management Plan
WEMP	Worksite Environmental Management Plan

1. Overview

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Plan

The purpose of the Tree Removal and Protection Management Plan (TRPMP) is to describe the process and requirements for the protection and removal of trees in accordance with the project approvals, specifically the Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs). This TRPMP reduces the potential risk of impacts to all trees and provide management measures to reduce the likelihood and severity of the potential impacts in relation to the North East Link (NEL) West package - Hoddle to Burke Street (the 'project'). This plan will also manage construction impacts on retained vegetation. This plan has been developed to meet the requirements of the EPRs, PRS, legislation and guidance as well as project approvals related to tree management.

Practical implementation of this Plan will be undertaken on-site through the site-specific Worksite Environmental Management Plans (WEMPs).

1.2. Project Overview

1.2.1. North East Link

The North East Link (NEL) project will connect the Metropolitan Ring Road (M80) and Eastern Freeway (M3) completing a ring road around Melbourne which includes the Monash Freeway (M1). The NEL project will provide a safe and efficient freeway connection for more than 135,000 vehicles a day, taking 15,000 trucks off busy residential roads in the north east of greater Melbourne each day and reducing traffic on the arterial road network crossing the Yarra River by 50,000 vehicles per day. It will also enhance access to major suburban business and employment centres, improve orbital road connectivity across Melbourne and boost the capacity of the city's freight network.

The Project location map is shown in Figure 1: Project Location Map.

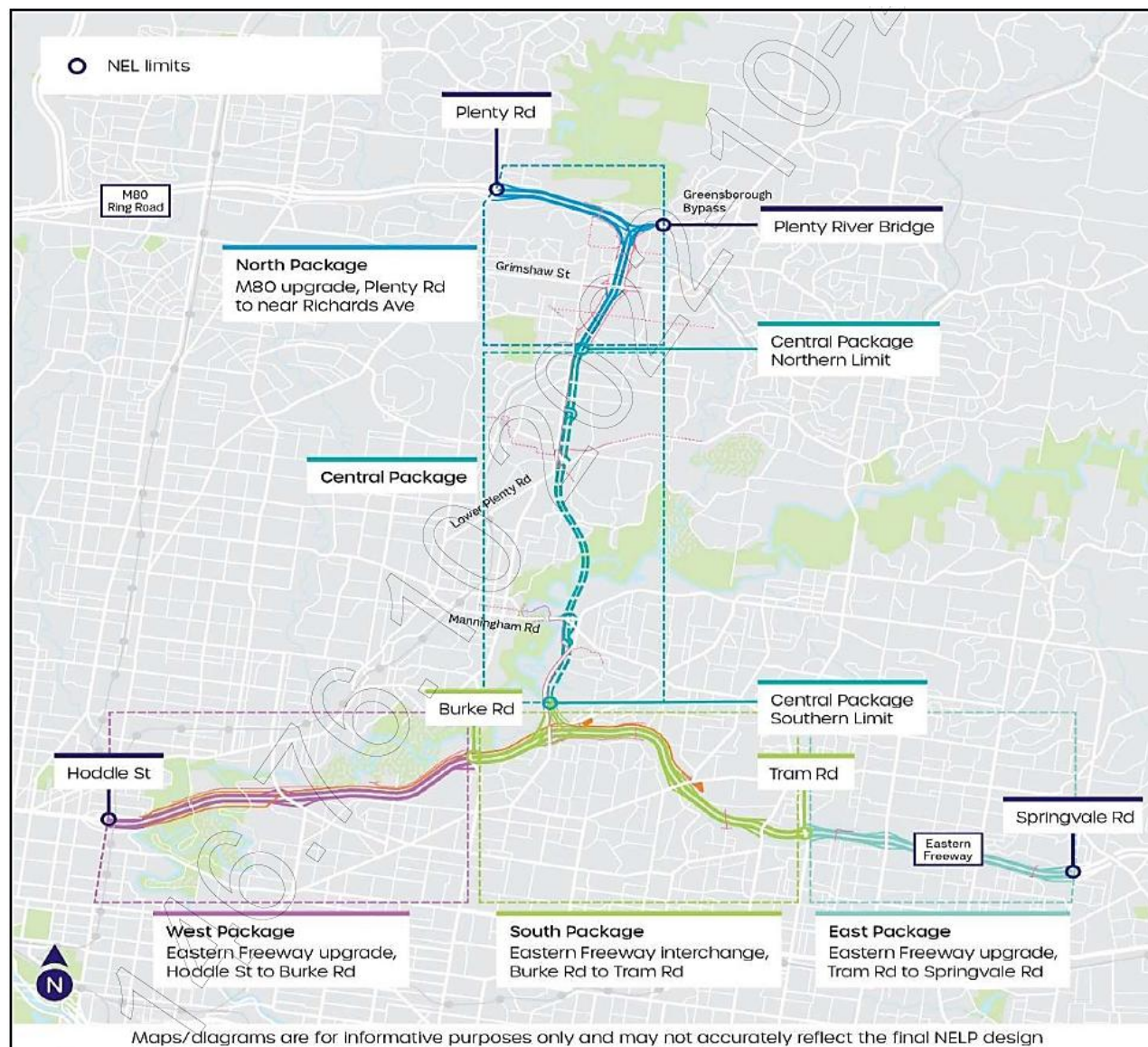


Figure 1: Project Location Map

1.2.2. West Package Scope of Works

The Project connects the North East Link Freeway Package – Burke Road to Tram Road – South Package to the east at Burke Road, see Figure 2: Overview of NEL West Package. This project is a substantial upgrade to the Eastern Freeway and the addition of the Doncaster Busway which is Melbourne's first dedicated high-speed busway between Doncaster Park and Ride and Hoddle Street. When complete, the Eastern Freeway Upgrades will connect seamlessly with the new 6.5km North East Link Tunnels linking Melbourne's east with the Ring Road.

Key features of the Project:

- Major upgrade to the existing Eastern Freeway between Hoddle Street and Burke Road (5.75km)
- An additional lane in each direction east of Chandler Highway which includes resurfacing and widening works
- A new Doncaster Busway from Burke Road to Hoddle Street (approx. 4.3km, part fully segregated)
- Approx. 5km of new Shared Use Paths (SUPs) and connections to the existing network including new bridge structure over the Yarra River
- Three new road bridge structures which includes the elevated dedicated busway from North of the Eastern Freeway corridor to the South
- A new architectural SUP bridge over the Yarra River
- New structures required as part of the works including retaining walls, drainage structures, noise walls, sign supports, road barrier upgrades, public safety barrier upgrades and gantries
- Urban Design and Landscaping
- Connection to the NEL Project – Freeway – Burke Road to Tram Road – South Package.

The Hoddle Street to Burke Road - West Package of NEL is separated into two main zones, Zone 4100 to the west and Zone 4200 to the east. Sub zones exist within each zone, relative to the scope of work within that geographical area. Further information on construction activities and packages of works are outlined in the Construction Management Plan (NEL-WST-NWA-4990-PCO-MPL-0001).



Figure 2: Overview of NEL West Package

1.3. Eastern Hoddle to Burke Alliance (EHBA) Activities

The scope of the Alliance Activities for the Project is detailed in Part A, Section 7 of the Project Requirements Specification (PRS). Typically, the following sequence of activities are anticipated for the Project:

- **Site establishment** – installing boundary fencing, conducting pre-clearing vegetation and fauna surveys, baseline soil contamination assessments, installing environmental controls including No Go Zones (NGZs) and Tree Protection Zones (TPZs) for vegetation and tree protection, and installing construction facilities and trade waste agreements.
- **Establishment of site compounds** – installing boundary fencing, clearing, and grubbing, tree and vegetation removal, delivery and install of structures and ancillary equipment, mechanical electrical and plumbing fit out, install of ancillary services, construction of car parking.
- **Relocation or protection of services** – relocating and protecting electricity, sewerage, water, gas, and telecommunications infrastructure affected by the Project.
- **Earthworks** – detailed installation of erosion and sediment controls (ESC) including sediment basins, undertaking cut and fill works along the alignment to achieve desired levels, removal of unsuitable material, batter and embankment shaping, ground improvement and surcharge works.
- **Structures and drainage** – piling and installation of noise walls, building of bridges, extension of culverts, installing retaining walls, drainage structures, sign supports, road barrier upgrades, public safety barriers and gantries.
- **Pavements** – forming sub and base layers and construction of final pavement layers.
- **Shared use path** – construction of 5km of new Shared Use Paths (SUPs) and connections to the existing network including a new bridge structure over the Yarra River.
- **Road furniture** – installing signage, line marking, safety barriers and fittings.
- **Landscaping and revegetation** – reuse of topsoil, planting and ground cover application, progressive revegetation will be adopted as much as practicable to prevent environmental impacts.
- **Open to traffic** – decommissioning construction facilities, temporary controls and commissioning new road and related infrastructure.

1.3.1. Temporary works

Temporary works refer to works that are required to support the construction of the infrastructure and that will be demolished when no longer required. Temporary works are performed within the approved project boundary and include Construction Compounds. Temporary works are also bound by the requirements of the contract and must comply with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and this plan. All temporary works activities will take place in accordance with the measures outlined within this plan with specific protections outlined in Section 7.

1.3.2. Construction compounds

In accordance with the *NEL EMF requirements (Table 6-2) and Condition 4.12 of the Incorporated Document*, Construction Compound Plans (CCPs) will be prepared and

approved in accordance with the PRS and to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning for each project construction compound.

Construction compounds are required to support construction of the Project. These sites will accommodate most of the management, engineering, client, and administrative personnel and contain minor material storage and laydown areas. The locations chosen for the main project compound have considered sensitive receivers, sensitive environmental areas, protected vegetation, and the requirement to stay within the project boundary. All construction compounds must be located and operated in accordance with the approved CCP and relevant EPRs. Establishment of the construction compounds will take place in accordance with the measures outlined within this plan with specific protections outlined in Section 7.

Typically, construction compounds include:

- Office accommodation
- Meeting rooms
- Staff amenities (including toilets and lunchroom)
- Light vehicle parking
- A plant and equipment workshop (if required)
- Hazardous waste (chemical, fuel, and oil) storage
- Material storage
- Washdown bay(s)
- First Aid facilities
- Waste and recycling bins
- Trade Waste tanks.

Few smaller ancillary facilities will also be required to support site personnel. These will be located closer to active work zones to reduce relocation timing, logistics and consequently reduce safety risks to construction personnel.

Typically, these facilities will include:

- Crib sheds, amenities, and office accommodation.
- Minor equipment and material storage.

1.4. Delivery Framework (Alliance)

The Project owner for North East Link Project including West Package: Hoddle to Burke is Major Roads Projects Victoria (MRPV). The delivery framework for the West Package incorporates the Project owner, Construction Non-Owner Participants (CNOPs) John Holland and Seymour Whyte, and Designer Non-Owner Participants (DNOPs) Mott MacDonald and Jacobs, all operating as an Alliance to deliver the Project. Various supplier and subcontractors are engaged by EHBA as required. Figure 3: Delivery Framework below further outlines this framework.

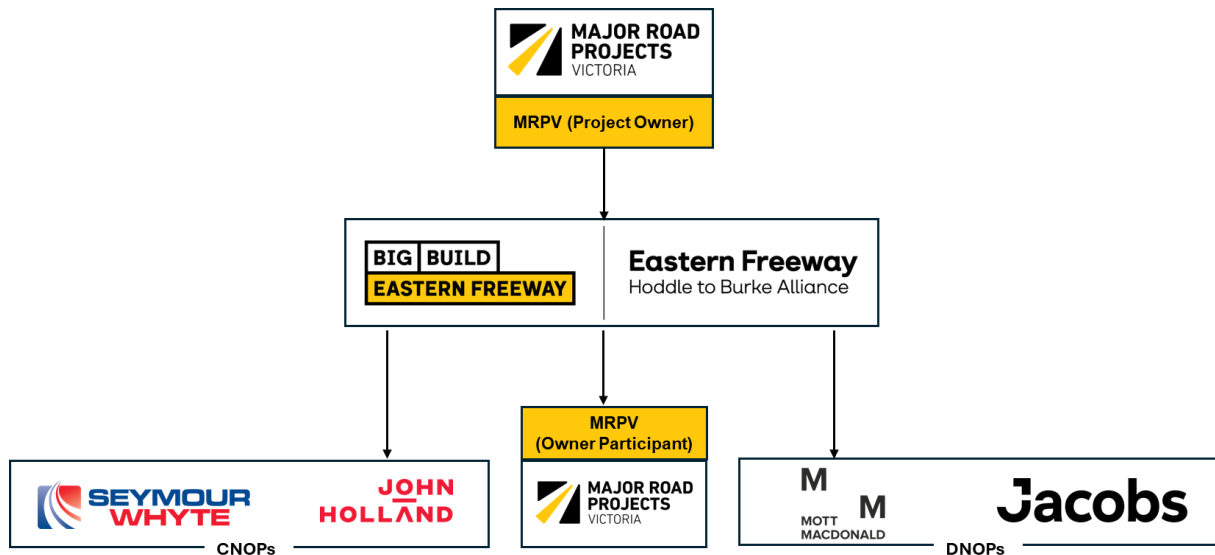


Figure 3: Delivery Framework

1.5. Objectives

The objectives of the TRPMP are to protect trees from impacts caused by construction activities on the Project by:

- Implementing measures to reduce both direct and indirect impacts to trees to the greatest extent possible
- Maintain compliance environmental legislation, permits, and tree protection requirements

The TRPMP objectives have been developed to support compliance with the Environment Effects Statement (EES), Environmental Management Framework (EMF), Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) and Seymour Whyte's Environmental Management System (EMS), see Table 1 - TRPMP Objectives and targets - derived from the EES, EMF, EPRs and EMS.

Table 1: TRPMP Objectives and targets

Objective	Target	Relevant EPRs (specific to trees)	Management measures
Avoid and minimise impacts on significant flora,	• Achieve a reduction in the actual quantity vs planned quantity (m2 or no. individual trees) of vegetation removed for the project works.	AR2, AR3, FF1, FF2, FF5, FF10	Addressed in Section 7 & 9 of this Plan

Objective	Target	Relevant EPRs (specific to trees)	Management measures
fauna and ecological communities, and loss of native vegetation.	• Achieve sustainability targets for Eco-1 protection and enhancement. • Zero major incidents impacting protected areas within and outside of the project boundary.		
Tree retention assessed and maximised to the extent practicable	• Design measures undertaken to assess specific values of trees and avoid impacts where feasible, in assessment with all other design considerations • Alternative construction methods assessed and where feasible, implemented to retain trees and minimise impacts • Protect trees marked for retention	AR2, AR3	Addressed in Section 7 & 9 of this Plan

In addition, to the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) detailed in the CEMP, a specific KPI for the TRPMP has been developed and are detailed in Table 2. It is taken from the Project Alliance Agreement.

Table 2: TRPMP KPI's

KPI	KPI Description	Actions	Accountability
Retention of trees (KPS ₄)	Defined as per MRPV KPI 2.1 of the Project Alliance Agreement (PAA). The percentage of trees retained, calculated as the number of trees retained which were identified to be removed per the Tree Removal Plan divided by the total number of trees to be removed per the Tree Removal Plan (as defined in the PRS), measured at Practical Completion.	Undertake Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIAs) and track all tree removals and retention to Project completion.	Environment & EPR Manager

Key Performance Scoring (KPS) in relation to KPS₄ above is calculated as follows in Table 3 below:

Table 3 - KPS for tree removal

KPS Measure: trees retained	KPS ₄
Number held is $\geq 15\%$	KPS ₄ = 0.1666
Number held is $> 7.5\%$ and $< 15\%$	KPS ₄ linearly distributed between < 0.1666 and > 0.0833
Number held is $= 7.5\%$	KPS ₄ = 0.0833
Number held is $> 0\%$ and $< 7.5\%$	KPS ₄ linearly distributed between < 0.0833 and > 0
Number held is $\leq 0\%$	KPS ₄ = 0

Tree reporting to ensure tracking of KPS₄ will be undertaken as discussed in Section 9 of this plan and documented in Project reporting.

EHBA aims to remove the least amount of vegetation required to safely and efficiently complete construction of the West Package. The three-step process outlined in section 4 of

Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, 2017 DELWP (2017) will be adopted for all vegetation, including amenity trees, on the Project, being:

- **Avoid:** avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of all vegetation.
- **Minimise:** minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of all vegetation that cannot be avoided.
- **Offset:** provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

An avoid and minimise statement will be prepared within the relevant Ecological Impact Assessments where the removal of native vegetation defined in DELWP 2017 is unavoidable.

2. Project Requirements

2.1. Legislation, Guidelines and Standards

The key related legislation applicable to this Plan are detailed below in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of legislation, policies and guidance relating to trees

Legislation Document	Relevance
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth)	The Act provides a framework for protecting the environment, including biodiversity, and regulates activities that may affect matters of national environmental significance.
<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Victoria)	The act provides legal protection for threatened species, ecological communities, and natural habitats in Victoria, requiring that construction activities do not harm these protected elements. It mandates assessments and management actions to prevent or mitigate impacts on flora and fauna, and may require conservation measures or offsets if harm is unavoidable.
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Victoria)	The act provides the framework for land-use planning and development in Victoria, ensuring that construction projects are assessed for their potential environmental impacts, including effects on flora and fauna. It requires consideration of biodiversity conservation and environmental protection during the planning process, with provisions for managing and mitigating adverse impacts through permits and planning approvals.
<i>Water Act 1989</i> (Victoria)	The Act regulates the management and protection of water resources, which are critical for the health of flora and fauna, particularly in aquatic and riparian ecosystems. It ensures construction projects prevent water pollution, manage stormwater runoff, and avoid altering water flow in ways that could harm plant and animal habitats.
<i>Wildlife Act 1975</i> (Victoria)	The Act prohibits the destruction, capture, or disturbance of protected species and requires permits for activities that may harm wildlife, ensuring that construction activities minimise harm to native species and their ecosystems.

The Project will also be delivered in accordance with the policy and guidance documentation outlined below:

- DEECA (former Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)) Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (2017)
- AS4970-2025 Protection of Trees on Development Sites
- AS4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) Threatened list

2.1.1. Notable changes: AS4970-2009 to AS4970-2025 Protection of Trees on Development Sites

As per Table 6.2 of the EMF the project is required to include changes to environmental laws and legislative standards. As the EPR AR1 references AS4970-2009 as the relevant standard for tree protection, this has now been superseded by AS4970-2025. The project is required to operate in accordance with the revision to the standard and have identified in Table 5 fundamental changes to terminology and structural changes to the Standard:

Table 5: Relevant changes to terminology and structural changes in AS4970-2025

Change	Description	Section
Diameter at Standard Height (DSH)	DSH has replaced the previous terminology of DBH	Section 7.4
Notional Root Zone (NRZ)	NRZ has replaced the calculation method previously referenced by Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). The calculation of 12 times DSH will now be Notional Root Zone (NRZ). Change of terms but not calculation	Section 7.4
Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)	TPZ is now referenced as the area that will be protected during construction by physical barriers (fencing)	Section 7.4
Levels of Encroachment to the NRZ	Previously encroachment was measured against the TPZ intrusion percentage as either minor or major. Encroachment is now measured against the NRZ and is categorised by 3 levels; Minor, Moderate and Major. Further detail on the encroachment calculations are listed in Section 7.5.1	Section 7.5
Tree Protection Specifications (TPS) and Tree Protection Plan (TPP)	Tree Management Plan has been replaced by TPS and TPP. This is to reduce ambiguity between a written document and drawings.	Section 7.2.3

2.2. PRS Requirements

Project Requirements Specification (PRS) relating to tree removal and protection are specified in Table 6. The corresponding section where this requirement is addressed is also provided.

Table 6: PRS Requirements

Part	Section	Description	Section
F1	2.11 CEMP	i) include the following plans to the extent required by the Environmental Requirements:	This Plan
		ii) Tree Removal Plan A). in addition to compliance with Part H17, must clearly outline the processes to be undertaken as the design of the Works and Temporary Works (as applicable) progresses through each design review stage, to seek to minimise the total number of trees required to be removed from that identified in the Design Solution; and B). must not increase the number of trees required to be removed from that set out in the draft Tree Removal Plan included in the Project Proposal, unless otherwise agreed by the Project Owner;	Section 8
		iii) Tree Protection Plan	Section 7
F6	8.2 WEMPs	(iv) include completed Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Forms for the worksite that outline the specific approaches adopted for tree removal and protection that complies with the Tree Removal Plan and the Tree Protection Plan;	Section 7
		(v) include spatial data for tree and native vegetation locations and	

Part	Section	Description	Section
		associated attributes; (viii) include a completed site-specific arborist report / impact assessment demonstrating minimisation of tree impacts.	
H16	2.2 Urban Design Measures	(a) The design and construction of the Works must be undertaken to ensure that: (iii) tree retention is maximised in accordance with the Environmental Performance Requirements, Urban Design Strategy, and section 2.11 (o)(ii) of Part F1.	Section 0 and Section 8
	3.1 Technical Urban Design Requirements	(d) The design and construction methodology of the Works and Temporary Works (as applicable) in ecologically sensitive areas must prioritise protection of existing vegetation.	Section 1.3.1
H17	3 Tree Removal	(a) Prior to removing any tree: i a relevant WEMP must be finalised in accordance with section 8.2 and 8.3 of Part F6; ii the Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Form must be finalised and approved by the Project Owner for the worksite that outlines the specific approaches adopted for tree removal and protection that complies with the Tree Removal Plan and the Tree Protection Plan; iii the Project Owner must be notified of the proposed onsite inspection (as required by section 3(a)(iv) a minimum of 5 Business Days prior to the planned inspection date; and iv an on-site inspection with the Project Owner (unless the Project Owner confirms it will not attend) and the Construction Environmental Representative or a delegate appointed by the Construction Environmental Representative (in accordance with the Tree Removal Plan) must be undertaken to: a. confirm the tree has been appropriately identified in accordance with the Tree Removal Plan and the Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Forms; and b. confirm the requirements of the Agreement have been satisfactorily achieved. (b) Trees must not be removed until the tree has been approved to be removed in accordance with this Agreement, including the Environmental Requirements, the Tree Removal Plan, the WEMP and the requirements of section 3(a).	Section 7 and 8

2.3. Regulatory Approvals

The project's environmental approvals are detailed within the External Obligations & Approvals Register (EOAR) which is included within the Construction Environment Management Plan.

Specifically, the following secondary approvals are required for the management of trees, protected flora or threatened ecological communities meet the definition of protected under relevant legislation:

Table 7: Secondary Approvals

Legislation	Approval and Description	When Required	Authority	Responsibility
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>	Information of native vegetation to be removed, destroyed or lopped. Confirm native vegetation offsets have been obtained.	Prior to removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.	DEECA	MRPV and EHBA
<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>	FFG Permit - Removal of any listed protected flora or threatened ecological community on public land.	Prior to the removal of any protected flora.	DEECA	EHBA

2.4. Environmental Performance Requirements

As detailed in the CEMP an EOAR and an EPR Matrix have both been developed and will be maintained by the Project. In addition to the EPR Matrix, EHBA has developed and will implement and maintain an EPR Responsibilities Tracker, which will document, and track compliance reported through the audit and monitoring process for each EPR. The EPRs that relate to tree removal and protection are specified in Table 8.

Table 8: Contract Environmental Requirements for Tree Protection and Removal

Contract Requirements Description		Reference in TRPMP
AR1	Develop and implement a Tree Removal Plan Develop and implement a Tree Removal Plan, as part of the CEMP, which identifies all trees within the project boundary and includes: - trees to be removed or retained as part of the works. - confirmation of the condition and arboricultural value of the amenity trees to be removed. - the canopy area of all trees to be removed. - the procedure for tree removal that addresses the requirements of EPR FF1, EPR FF2 and EPR FF5. Tree retention must be maximised to the extent practicable through detailed design and selection of construction methods to minimise canopy loss, and in accordance with EPR FF1, including by retaining trees where practicable and minimising potential impacts to trees. This includes the River Red Gum (Caltex Tree) at 39 Bridge Street, Bulleen. Arboricultural assessments are to verify existing details and inform the detailed design, Tree Removal Plan and Tree Canopy Replacement Plan (required by EPR AR3) to maximise tree retention and long-term viability of amenity plantings in accordance with Australian Standard AS4970-2025¹ Protection of Trees on Development Sites. The Tree Removal Plan must be informed by a pre-construction site assessment to confirm the area and number of trees and other vegetation proposed to be impacted. Trees to be retained must be protected in accordance with EPR AR2. Vegetation removal is to occur in a staged manner with removal only occurring once necessary for the current stage of works. The area and number of trees and other vegetation removed is to be confirmed through a post-construction assessment.	This Plan
AR2	Implement a Tree Protection Plan(s) to protect trees to be retained The CEMP must include a Tree Protection Plan(s), which is to be developed	This Plan

Contract Requirements Description		Reference in TRPMP
	and implemented in accordance with Australian Standard AS4970-2025¹ Protection of Trees on Development Sites. The Tree Protection Plan(s) must provide details of any tree protection actions that will ensure that trees proposed to be retained are adequately protected from the impact of construction or related activities, prior to those works being undertaken. Tree Protection Plans must be prepared based on detailed construction drawings and surveyed tree locations. Trees subject to protection must be monitored for a three-year period following completion of construction works in that location to assess ongoing viability, with maintenance or replacement of stressed or damaged specimens to be undertaken.	
AR3	Develop and implement a Tree Canopy Replacement Plan to replace the canopy of native vegetation and amenity plantings removed as a result of the project and achieve a net gain in tree canopy cover by 2045. A post-construction assessment is to be undertaken to confirm extent of tree removal and that the Tree Canopy Replacement Plan will achieve the net gain target set out above.	Section 7.2, 8.2 and 9.2.3 (Noting Tree Canopy Replacement Plan is to be developed)
FF1	Undertaking pre-clearing surveys and inspections to confirm the on-site location of fauna immediately prior to habitat removal or, where relevant, works on waterways, and to assist fauna to safety as necessary Protection of all vegetation inside and adjacent to the Project area that is not required to be removed, provided that such measures should be limited to activities undertaken inside the project boundary.	Section 7.3 and 9.2.2
FF2	Include requirements for protection of native vegetation and listed species, including establishment of No Go Zones to protect vegetation and habitat to be retained and Tree Protection Plan(s) as required by EPR AR2.	Section 7.3
	No Go Zones must also be established for: • The Grey-headed Flying fox Campsite within the Yarra Bend Park • Bolin Bolin Billabong • The Plains Grassy Woodland community between Enterprise Drive and the M80 Ring Road in Bundoora • The portion of 49 Greenaway Street, Bulleen (former Drive-in) heavily vegetated with trees along the Yarra River Surface impacts in the Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands and the Heide Museum of Modern Art.	Section 7.3
	Where removal of native vegetation is unavoidable, offset requirements are to be met as per Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, DELWP 2017, unless otherwise agreed to by the secretary to DELWP.	Section 1.5 Section 2.1
FF5	Obtain Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 permits prior to taking and destroying flora species protected under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act	Section 2.3

¹ AS4970-2009 referenced in the EPR requirements has been superseded by AS4970-2025 as of 30/05/2025

Contract Requirements Description	Reference in TRPMP
1988.	

For sustainability requirements refer to the Flora and Fauna Management Plan section 1.5.2 and the CEMP section 2.3.

2.5. Incorporated Document Requirements

In accordance with Clause 4.10.1 Native Vegetation of the Incorporated Document, it is required that Prior to removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation:

- a. Information about that native vegetation, including an avoid and minimise statement, in accordance with application requirements 1, 5, and 9 in Table 4 of the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017) must be provided to the satisfaction of the Secretary to DELWP (now DEECA).
- b. The biodiversity impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of that native vegetation must be offset in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017).
- c. Evidence that the required offset/s has been secured must be provided to the satisfaction of the Secretary to DELWP (now DEECA).

The requirements of Clause 4.10.1 may be satisfied in stages (as per Clause 4.10.2); however, they must be satisfied prior to the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

3. Interfacing Management Plans

The following management plans contain some requirements or information that must be read in conjunction with this Management Plan. The relevance from each plan is also provide in Table 9.

Table 9: Interfacing Management Plans

Document Name	Document Number	Relevance to this Plan
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	NEL-WST-NWA-4990-EEE-MPL-0001	To be read in conjunction with this TRPMP. Details overall project requirements with section of this TRPMP referencing the CEMP.
Construction Compound Plans (CCP)	Various	Contains site-specific requirements for the management of trees including establishment of No Go Zones, boundary delineation, site-specific figures, and control measure in respect to impacts for compounds to be established.
Worksite Environmental Management Plan (WEMP)	Various	Contains site-specific requirements and activities to be undertaken, including site layout pans of trees to be protected within the work zone. These details must align with the TRPMP.
Site Environment Plan (SEP)	Various	Site level document including site-specific controls and mapping including the relevant control measures including tree protection and significant areas to protect and / or avoid.
Flora and Fauna Management Plan	NEL-WST-NWA-4990-EEE-MPL-0012	Details control measures to protect trees during project works and approvals to be obtained. The FFMP will contain overlapping requirements to the TRPMP which require consistency.
Urban Design and Landscape Plan	TBC	Details the urban design and landscape requirements for permanent above-ground buildings or structures (excluding preparatory buildings and works) in accordance with the Incorporated Document and the EMF.
Sustainability Management Plan	NEL-WST-NWA-4990-ESU-MPL-0001	To be read in conjunction with this TRPMP. Details overall project sustainability requirements with process and measures to achieve sustainability objectives.
Tree Canopy Replacement Plan	To be developed	Develop and implement a Tree Canopy Replacement Plan to replace the canopy of native vegetation and amenity plantings removed as a result of the project and achieve a net gain in tree canopy cover by 2045

4. Roles Responsibilities and Authorities

4.1. Key Project Roles and Responsibilities

The Alliance Manager holds the ultimate responsibility for environmental performance on the Project, with support from the Land Planning, Approvals and Environmental Manager. Other key senior roles with responsibility for minimising environmental impacts and driving positive environmental outcomes during design and delivery include the Engineering Director and the Construction Director.

All employees and subcontractors are responsible for performing and managing their activities and operations according to the requirements in this management plan, the CEMP, sub plans, WEMPs and other supporting documentation.

Individual responsibilities will vary with the work performed and its potential to impact on the environment, as outlined in Table 10. All individuals and organisations involved in Project development and delivery are responsible for complying with the environmental requirements, including the General Environmental Duty (GED). Responsibilities will be documented in role position descriptions or contractual requirements (subcontractors). Project personnel, including subcontractors, will be made aware of the Project's environmental requirements, risks and their responsibilities through onboarding meetings, inductions, ongoing training, communications/awareness campaigns and key documentation.

Table 10: Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Alliance Leadership Team (ALT)	- Raise, discuss and act to resolve key Environmental issues and risks on the Project. - Ensure Alliance Management Team (AMT) and Alliance Manager are meeting all Environmental requirements.
Alliance Manager	- Oversee project construction per EHBA charter, objectives, and requirements. - Execute the Environmental Management System and Environment Policy. Key environmental duties: - Review and authorise the CEMP. - Manage and amend the CEMP with delegated authority. - Provide resources for EMS management. - Review environmental performance for continual improvement.
Construction Director	EHBA Construction Director has decision-making authority over all aspects of the environmental performance of the project. Key duties are to: - Be responsible for overall planning of the project to ensure operations are conducted in accordance with the EPRs and the PRS. - Direct overall construction and site activities. - Ensure appropriate resource needs are considered, identified, and established, including legislative and authority requirements, specialised skills and training, technological factors and options, financial, operational, and business requirements, views of interested and affected parties. - Ensure all employees and subcontractors are inducted into the project. - Report to the client on the implementation and performance of the project.

Role	Responsibility
Engineering Director	- Ensure all Environmental PRS and EPR requirements are incorporated into design. - Ensure design process is compliant with all environmental legislation, guidelines, codes, and standards.
Project and Site Engineers	Project Engineers and Site Engineers will ensure sufficient resources are available to maintain environmental compliance and continuous improvement. They will be responsible for planning construction activities to ensure all operations are conducted in accordance with the environmental requirements, and to minimise environmental risks. Other key duties are to: - Certify work is conducted in accordance with project documentation. - Direct site activities and construction in accordance with the CEMP and WEMPs. - Ensure adequate environmental measures are implemented during construction. - Liaise with Site Supervisors and Foremen on-site to ensure relevant Environmental. - Requirements are met and checklists are complete. - Ensure subcontractors and all personnel on-site comply with the requirements of the WEMPs and site-specific procedures. - Participate in environmental inspections, monitoring, and audits (as required). Where applicable, nominated engineers will be responsible for ensuring that any work performed by external parties (e.g. utility authorities) meets the requirements of the CEMP, including identifying and documenting the environmental risks of the proposed works.
Project Managers	Manage site staff, including the Superintendent, Supervisors, and Subcontractors, and audit compliance with the EMS and WEMPs. Conduct site environmental inspections and address non-conformities. Participate in environmental audits and resolve any non-conformities. Ensure daily compliance with the EMS and EPRs through pre-start meetings, subcontractor management, procurement, and construction activities. Approve Inspection Test Plans and other Quality Assurance documents, ensuring they meet EPR standards. Prepare Construction Method Statements and other site documents as per the CEMP. Where applicable, nominated engineers will be responsible for ensuring that any work performed by external parties (e.g. utility authorities) meets the requirements of the CEMP, including identifying and documenting the environmental risks of the proposed works.
Sustainability Manager	Establish and maintain the Sustainability Management Plan (SMP). Monitor project compliance with the SMP and report on sustainability performance. Interface with Project Sustainability Rating case managers and verifiers. Report on the implementation of the SMP to the Construction Manager.
Interface Manager	Manage and support both Alliance and client teams in the delivery of the project with regards to all Environmental requirements and external stakeholders.
Land, Planning and Approvals Manager	Support the Environmental Team. Conduct planning and approvals due diligence assessments to support project development activities. Lead and support the preparation of approvals documentation to facilitate project activities.

Role	Responsibility
Environment and EPR Manager	A suitably qualified management representative (Environmental Representative) has been appointed by EHBA. The Environmental Representative will have authority and responsibility for issues relating to environmental management throughout the performance of EHBA Activities and must review the outcomes of all environmental audits and ensure that the issues identified in the environmental audits are addressed. Key responsibilities are to: • Provide direction and leadership to the Environment Team members. • Liaise with the Design Director, Engineering Managers, Construction Managers, Site Supervisors and Senior Project Engineers to ensure that requirements within the CEMP and Sub-plans are resourced appropriately and complied with. • Manage specialist environmental sub-consultants. • Manage the project EMS and update documentation.
Senior Environmental Advisor	Create and implement efficient Environmental management processes in the delivery of the project through liaison with external authorities and the Client. This position will provide direction, guidance and mentorship to the broader project team in the execution of their work packages relative to environmental compliance as required. Assist in the ongoing development and continuous improvement of the CEMP.
Environment Delivery Lead	Ensure compliance in the project zones with relevant environmental legislation, environmental performance requirements (EPR's), regulations, contractual obligations and project environmental procedures through implementation and maintenance of the project wide environmental management system. Review Construction Packages and Construction Procedures to ensure relevant Environmental Requirements are detailed. Conduct site environmental inspections and track the implementation of corrective actions. Develop WEMPs.
Environmental Advisors and Coordinators	Undertake and coordinate monitoring activities of dust, noise, vibration, surface water. Develop WEMPs. Conduct site environmental inspections and track the implementation of corrective actions. Deliver toolbox talks and internal environmental training to site personnel. Respond and report environmental incidents. Ensure tracking of relevant environmental metrics.
Environmental Graduate	Conduct site environmental inspections and monitoring activities. Support the Environmental Team.
Cadets	Conduct site environmental inspection. Conduct monitoring activities of dust, noise, vibration, surface water. Support the Environmental Team.
Superintendent and Supervisors	Checking the site on a regular basis. Ensuring the WEMPs are followed. Ensuring nominated personnel undertake regular maintenance of controls and complete actions on observations raised. Ensuring site personnel attend pre-start meetings and targeted toolbox training (as required).

Role	Responsibility
Project Ecologist	• Assist with obtaining all necessary licences and permits required to safely remove displaced fauna during construction works. • Undertake all relocation and removal of stranded and displaced fauna. • Provide advice to the Environmental Team on the mitigation measures prescribed in the FFMP. • Conduct Pre-clearance surveys and identify key fauna habitat in accordance with the FFMP. • Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) accreditation required for assessment of native vegetation in accordance with the Guidelines to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation (DELWP 2017).
Project Arborist	• Conduct baseline tree surveys to inform the detailed design process and identify tree of higher retention value. • Undertake tree health and tree protection measure monitoring. • Offer guidance on tree protection zones throughout the construction phase. • Oversee activities that might affect certain trees, such as non-destructive digging and the installation of specific tree protection measures. • Take part in pre-clearing inspection and survey process as required. • Assist in development of Project training requirements
Landscape Architect	• Apply 'avoid and minimise' principles to reduce tree removal and vegetation loss through design. • Collaborate with the environment and design teams to retain high-value vegetation where practicable. • Align landscape and urban design outcomes with UDS Objectives and EPRs FF1 and AR1.

5. Environmental Settings

5.1. Existing Conditions - Tree Data Collection

The EES Technical Report G and Chapter 15 – Arboriculture provides the findings of the arboricultural assessment conducted within the North East Link project boundary. The scope of the assessment included desktop assessment, consultation with Councils and relevant Land Owners, field assessments and collation of tree or tree group data. The following information was collected on trees:

- *Taxon*
- *Common Name*
- *Origin*
- *Diameter at standard height (DSH) [estimated]*
- *Height [as a range]*
- *Width [estimated]*
- *Age*
- *Health*
- *Structure*
- *Useful life expectancy.*

A tree is defined as a woody perennial, usually having one dominant vertical trunk. The minimum size of a tree included in the assessment was three metres, consistent with the definition in Australian Standards and the DELWP Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017). The assessment did not include shrubs.

A risk assessment was undertaken to prioritise the impact assessment and the development of controls followed by an assessment of the potential arboriculture impacts during the project's construction and operation. The EPRs were developed in response to the impact assessment.

The existing condition for arboriculture within the EES was characterised in terms of the following aspects:

- Tree and urban forest character
- Number of trees within the project boundary.

5.1.1. Tree and Urban Forest Character

The treed character for each Precinct within the project boundary was documented within the EES. Specifically, the West Package project boundary falls within Zone 4100 and 4200 with their descriptions detailed in Table 11 below. Noting that the project boundary between Eastern Burke to Tram Alliance (South Package) and the EHBA falls with the Zone 4200.

Table 11: EES Tree character description

Precinct Description of treed character	EES Precinct Description of Treed character
Zone 4100	Hoddle Street to Chainage 8600 The freeway road reservation within this precinct is open and relatively treeless. Tree plantations where they do occur are clustered at entry and exit ramps. Public reserves adjacent to the freeway are strongly indigenous in character, with dense plantings of large

Precinct Description of treed character	EES Precinct Description of Treed character
	native trees. The vacant VicRoads site to the west of Chandler Highway contains native and exotic species of varying scale.
Zone 4200	Chainage 8600 to Burke Road Trees in the freeway road reservation within this precinct are generally planted in single species plantations which in combination form strong elements in the broader landscape. The landscape character of public parklands (including the Freeway Public Golf Course) is consistent throughout this precinct, dominated by large Eucalypts, including locally indigenous, Victorian, and Australian native species.

5.1.2. Number of Trees in Project Boundary

The estimated number of planted amenity trees within these nominated precincts are detailed in Table 12.

Table 12: Estimated number of planted amenity trees within the project boundary (From EES Chapter 15)

Precinct	Description	Medium or long term viable (MLTV)	Non-MLTV	Total	Total within road zone
Zone 4100	Hoddle Street to Chainage 8600	1,687	1,060	2,747	1,668
Zone 4200	Chainage 8600to Burke interchange	1,816	1,066	2,882	1,965
Total		3,503	2,126	5,629	3,633

Figures 4 - 7 show all surveyed tree data points within the CHMP Project Boundary. The CHMP Project Boundary is shown in orange and Trees are displayed as per their NRZ data (in green).

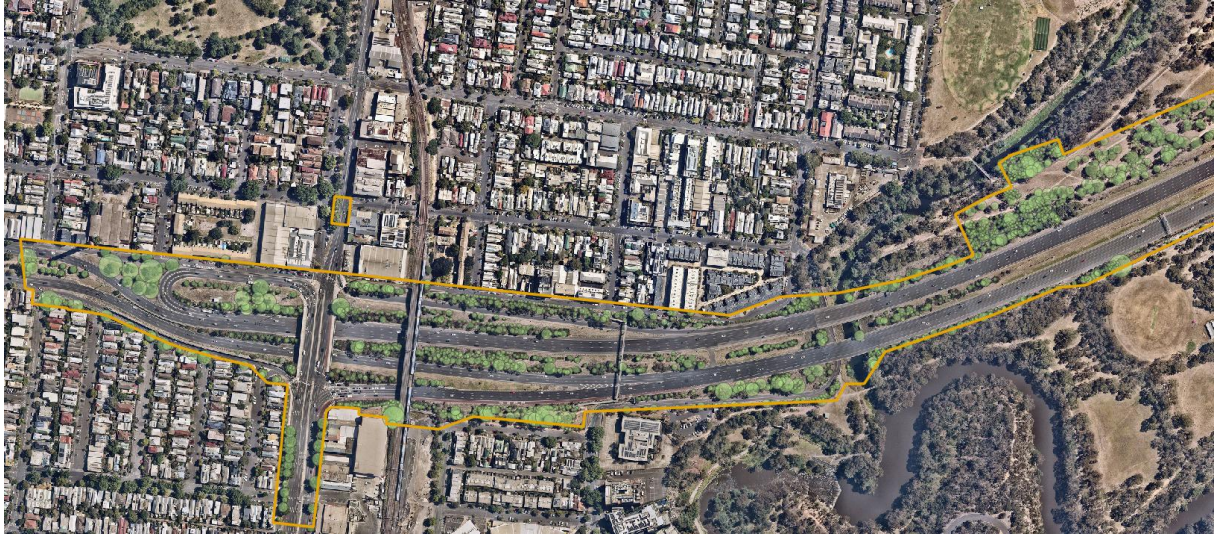


Figure 4: Trees from Hoddle Street to Yarra Bend Road



Figure 5: Trees from Yarra Bend to Chandler Hwy



Figure 6: Trees from Chandler Hwy to Belford Road



Figure 7: Trees from Belford Road to Burke Road

Of the estimated number of planted amenity trees, the following are preliminary planned for removal or potentially impacted.

Table 13: Summary of planted amenity trees planned or potentially impacted (From EES Chapter 15)

Precinct	Description	Planned for removal			Potentially impacted				
		MLTV	Non-MLTV	Total	Total within road zone	MLTV	Non-MLTV	Total	Total within road zone
Zone 4100	Hoddle Street to Chainage 8600	411	149	560	528	1,276	911	2,187	1,140
Zone 4200	Belford Road to Burke interchange	1,148	573	1,721	906	668	493	1,161	1,059
Total		1,559	722	2,281	1,434	1,944	1,404	3,348	2,199

* MLTV: Trees categorised as medium or long-term viable (MLTV) are semi-mature, mature, and over-mature trees with a life expectancy of more than 10 years

6. Risk Assessment

Environmental risks and opportunities related to tree protection and tree removal have been identified and documented in the Environmental Risk Register (SWC-SOP-011.10 Project Risk Register HBA Project Wide). Each identified environmental aspect was assessed for its significance using the criteria documented in EHBA procedure **SWC-SOP-011** Risk Management. Full account was taken of all operations and contingencies including but not limited to normal/abnormal operating conditions, incidents, accidents, emergencies, past/present/foreseeable activities, subcontractor activities, opportunities.

The predicted aspects and impacts have been provided in Table 14 below. These risks have also been captured and assessed in the EHBA Environmental Risk Register. While Table 14 includes EES Risk IDs for traceability to the Environmental Effects Statement (Chapter 25 – Ecology), the associated risks align with the project-wide EHBA risk framework and are reflected in the register.

Where additional aspects and impacts are identified upon commencement of works, or should changes in site conditions occur, this table will be updated prior to the recommencement of any works in the affected area. EES Chapter 25 - Ecology, details the findings of the Construction Impact Assessment, labelling each risk pathway identified with a Risk ID. This also includes arboricultural impacts; these have been incorporated into Table 14 where relevant.

It is noted that aspects may be realised during the following construction related activities:

- Construction of Compounds, clearing for roadways and thoroughfares
- Excavation and drilling works
- Backfilling and ground compaction
- Stockpiling of soil in areas of vegetation
- Use of vehicles or plant in the work area

Table 14: EES-Based Risk Summary

Aspect	Impact	Relevant EES Risk ID
Vegetation Removal/land clearing resulting in removal of vegetation.	Impact and loss of trees that could have been maintained.	EC01, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC11, EC15
	Loss of habitat and vegetation, breach of contract, regulatory penalties, reputational damage, community concern, project delays and rehabilitation costs.	EC01, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC11, EC15
Ground compaction caused by construction activities	Impact to tree roots and surrounding soil, leading to loss or degradation of trees.	EC07, EC08
Excavation or drilling	Impact to tree roots and surrounding soil, leading to loss or degradation of trees.	AR02, AR03
Bore Shots	Impact to tree roots and surrounding soil, leading to loss or degradation of trees.	AR02

Aspect	Impact	Relevant EES Risk ID
Vehicle and plant movement/ work areas	Impact to tree roots and surrounding soil, leading to loss or degradation of trees. Accidental impact to tree branches causing significant canopy loss and therefore potential loss of habitat	AR02

Table 15 below summarises relevant environmental risks and impacts recorded in the EHBA Environmental Risk Register.

Table 15: Corresponding EHBA Environmental Risks

Aspect	Impact	EPRs
Site clearance and general construction works, such as site establishment, earthworks, piling and drilling.	Impacts to local air quality causing impacts to physical health, annoyance and aesthetic impacts, air quality exceedances including dust deposition and the generation of PM10 and PM2.5 particles, complaints, reputational damage, infringements and regulatory action	AQ1, AQ6
Earthworks and stockpiling	Generation of odour due to exposure, stockpiling and transportation of contaminated or anaerobic soil with resultant aesthetic impacts on sensitive receptor locations.	
Removal of trees for construction activities	Reduction of urban forest canopy cover and habitat loss	AR1, AR2, AR3
Damage to trees due to construction activities Removal of trees without approvals / permits	Death, a reduction in tree health, damage or the destabilisation of trees within or adjacent to the project area due to construction activities and/or modification of soil profiles.	
Unexpected contaminated material during construction including asbestos, stained or odorous soil, potential acid sulphate soil.	Non-compliant material and contamination causing on-site or off-site environmental contamination, project delays, regulatory action and community concern.	
Vegetation Removal/land clearing	Fauna displacement due to habitat loss, fauna injury or death, regulatory penalties, reputational damage, community concern, erosion and sedimentation	FF1, FF2, FF3, FF4, FF5, FF8, FF9,
Unauthorised works or removal of vegetation.	Loss of habitat and vegetation, breach of contract, regulatory penalties, reputational damage, community concern, project delays and rehabilitation costs.	
Interaction with fauna species during the project and activities including the Grey-headed Flying Fox and the Australian Grayling.	Death or injury to fauna species, impacts to breeding leading to reduced populations, reputational damage, community concern and regulatory penalties.	
Introducing or spreading weeds or pathogens	Ecological value reduction, habitat loss, injury or death to flora and fauna, reduced local population numbers due to overgrowth of introduced species.	
Degradation/fragmentation of habitat (including aquatic) due to construction activities	On-site and offsite impacts, habitat loss, injury or death to flora and fauna, reduced local population numbers, erosion and sedimentation, reputational damage, regulatory penalties, community concern.	

Aspect	Impact	EPRs
General construction works, Including: * trenching/excavations * piling and foundation installation * Horizontal directional drilling	Trench/Excavation collapse, bore collapse and associated ground movement, frac outs, UG asset movement, machine sinkage through soft backfill, additional loading on weak soils due to lowering of water table in sections, pile collapse, health and safety risks, project delays, reputational damage, remediation costs, regulatory penalties.	GM1, GM2, GM3, GM4
Groundwater collection in excavation/trenches	Groundwater contamination, surface water contamination, increased disposal costs, project delays, community concern.	
Groundwater drawdown	A reduction in water availability to heritage trees leading to health decline or death, regulatory penalties, reputational damage, community concern.	
Noise walls and elevated structures causing overshadowing on neighbouring properties	A loss of amenity, community complaints, impacts to vegetation and public open space, reputational damage	
Construction lighting, security lighting	Impacts to nearby sensitive receivers during out of hours works from lighting installation, including residents, fauna (e.g. Grey-headed flying fox), and other receivers.	
Operational lighting	Impacts to nearby sensitive receivers from operational lighting including residents, fauna, and other receivers.	
General construction activities generating noise	Impacts to local receivers (including local residents and fauna such as the Grey-headed flying fox and Australian Grayling), acceptable limits exceedances,	NV1, NV2, NV3, NV4, NV5, NV8, NV9 NV10, NV13, NV14
Undertaking works out of approved works hours without approvals.	Impacts to local receivers (including local residents and fauna such as the Grey-headed flying fox and Australian Grayling),, Project delays, breach of approvals or licence conditions, infringements and reputational loss.	
Vibration-intensive activities carried out on the site, such as impact piling and vibratory rolling.	Impacts to local receivers (including local residents and fauna such as the Grey-headed flying fox and Australian Grayling), property damage, community concern, and reputational loss.	
Exceedance of vibration limits or approval conditions.	Impacts to local receivers (including local residents and fauna such as the Grey-headed flying fox and Australian Grayling), property damage, community concern, and reputational loss.	
Site clearance and ground disturbance from construction activities.	Degradation of local water bodies, increased turbidity in local waterways resulting in impact on aquatic flora and fauna, property damage (e.g. impacts on local drainage and flooding), reputational damage, property damage, regulatory penalties, remediation costs	SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4, SW5, SW6
Fuel, chemical and hazardous materials use and storage	Spills resulting in human health impacts, contamination of aquatic habitat, loss of aquatic species, breach of approvals or licence conditions, breach of contract, infringements and reputational loss, remediation costs	

Aspect	Impact	EPRs
Temporary storage of sewage at site facilities	Sewage spills from site facilities causing off-site impacts including human health impacts, contamination of aquatic habitat, loss of aquatic species, breach of approvals or licence conditions, breach of contract, infringements and reputational loss, remediation costs	
Construction activities impacting on water bodies	Reduced bank stability, instability of assets adjacent to the waterway, erosion and sedimentation, impacts to local flora and fauna, reputational damage, remediation costs, regulatory penalties	

7. Tree Protection

7.1. Tree Protection in Project Phase

Tree Protection is most effective when it is considered through the Planning, Design and Construction phases of project delivery. In the early planning and design phase it is possible to identify opportunities for retention that become more unlikely as options to change design and process become more limited. Key actions required to be undertaken in each of the stages are included in Table 16 below.

Table 16: Key Tree Protection Actions and Construction Phase

Construction Phase	Key Actions	Section
Planning	Utilise existing data to inform preliminary design.	Section 7.2
	Assessment and verification of tree data to inform design development.	Section 7.2
	Apply 'avoid and minimise' principles during early design development to reduce impacts to trees wherever practicable.	Section 7.2
Design	During design of temporary and permanent works, consideration must be given to tree retention by applying the 'avoid and minimise' principles where practicable.	Section 7.2
	Site-specific AIAs are to be developed based on the impacts of the design and construction methodology, including temporary impacts such as access. They are required to identify the trees to be retained and protected, and those proposed for removal, so that construction impacts can be managed and minimised in line with 'avoid and minimise' commitments.	Section 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4
Construction	Tree protection will be implemented via controls specified in the WEMP, including Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Forms for each worksite. These forms outline specific approaches for tree removal and protection in accordance with the Tree Removal Plan and Tree Protection Plan, and support the application of 'avoid and minimise' principles during construction.	Section 7.4 and 7.5
	Tree Removal to be undertaken in accordance with the hold points in the Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Forms and internal Permit to Clear Vegetation requirements. This ensures removal is staged, justified, and aligned with 'avoid and minimise' outcomes. Records are maintained to support post-construction reporting.	Section 8
	In situations where impacts are unable to be avoided through design, the project will utilise construction methods that minimise the impacts to the trees. Tree protection from construction impacts such as encroachment and restricted works inside of the NRZ will be assessed by the Project Arborist. Measures will be implemented as per Section 7.5.2	Section 7.5

7.2. Arboricultural Assessments

The arboricultural data from the EES and pre-contract stages of the project is inadequate for use due to surveys being completed back in 2017. Therefore, additional arboricultural

surveys must be undertaken to confirm the number and value of trees within the project footprint.

This information will inform the detailed design to assist and maximise tree retention through avoidance of direct and indirect construction impacts. Arboricultural assessments are to be undertaken within the project area by an arborist (minimum Australian Qualification Level 5 in arboriculture), as required by EPR AR1.

This information is included in the Additional Arboricultural Assessments which may be progressively developed prior to construction commencing on the project, or stages of the project.

Tree identification numbers may be retained from the previous arborist assessments as described in the section above. Due to variance in time of data collection and methods it is likely that tree identification number may need to be created or adjusted. In these scenarios the following may occur.

- Where an existing tree is assessed and does not correlate with an individual or group of trees in the EES Technical Report G, a unique tree number is assigned.
- Where an existing tree was assessed and correlated with a group of trees assigned a single tree number in the EES Technical Report G, the tree data is verified on the desktop. The EES identification number is retained for a single specimen of the group, with all additional members of the group to be assigned a new number. This allows more accurate reporting when removing a portion of a group of trees.
- New IDs as determined by the Alliance and the project arborist.

During the project, trees may need to be labelled discretely with tree tags, in line with MRPV guidance document 'Tree Tagging Guidance Document' (NEL-PW-NEL-9990-EEE-GUD-0004). This allows trees to be quickly and accurately identified to avoid mistakes during tree removal or protection if it is deemed a risk and necessary to distinguish in the field.

The methodology for collection of data on trees includes the following, as per AS4970-2025¹ Protection of Trees on Development Sites:

- In general, for the purpose of this project, all trees greater than 3m in height will be assessed within and directly adjoining the project boundary.
- For amenity plantings, trees <10cm DSH and >3m height are to be included in the assessment to support tracking and achievement of the 2:1 replacement target for amenity planting.
- Assessments are conducted from ground level, with a diameter tape to measure diameter at 1.4m, 1.3m and above root buttress and laser range finder to determine height.
- A detailed visual inspection of the tree/s and the surrounding site is conducted, including a complete walk around the tree, looking at the buttress roots, trunk, branches, and leaves.
- Trees are located using differentially corrected GPS.
- Locations are aligned to feature surveys where available for verification purposes.
- Determination of tree numbers is based on spatial data used for the preparation of the Technical Report G – Arboricultural Assessment.
- Canopy Dimensions - Estimation of average north/south and east/west canopy diameter.

- Tree canopy loss is calculated by obtaining an area using canopy width measurements and obtaining a radial area from this ($A = \pi r^2$).
- DSH measured at 1.4m above ground level (Notional Root Zone (NRZ) based on DSH measurements).
- NRZ radius = DSH x 12
- Diameter at 1.3m is measured to assist with native vegetation offset requirements if required.
- Diameter above Root Buttress (DaRB).
- Structural Root Zone (SRZ) based on DaRB measurement and determined using the calculation:
- $SRZ \text{ radius} = (DaRB \times 50)^{0.42} \times 0.64$
- Where access is not available to accurately determine diameters at 1.4m, 1.3m or above root buttress, an estimate can be provided and noted in the comments field.
- Site conditions, such as existing roads or ground conditions are to be considered in the measurements and layout of TPZ/NRZ/SRZ dimensions when assessing trees on the project.

7.2.1. Data collection categories

All trees identified on the project will have the following information collected and uploaded onto the project Geographic Information System (GIS):

- Project Identification Reference Number (i.e. a specific Tree ID number)
- Heritage ID number (if applicable)
- Suburb
- Municipality
- Asset owner
- Amenity Tree (Yes or No)
- Botanical / species name
- Common name
- Origin
- Age
- Height (m)
- NS/ES Width (m)
- DSH (cm)
- Diameter at 1.3m (cm)
- Diameter at Root Buttress (cm)
- Living or Dead
- Health
- Structure
- Hollows present (Yes or No)
- Useful Life Expectancy
- Arboricultural/Retention Value

- NRZ (m radius)
- TPZ (m radius)
- SRZ (m radius)
- Comments from the arborist.

7.2.2. Data collection reporting

Once the above methodology has been completed, all data collected will be transferred into GIS format and provided to the Environment Team in an agreed format (e.g. .shp file or similar, as advised). An exported spreadsheet listing all identified trees and their individual properties will also be included. Tree data will be uploaded to internal GIS and design platforms and shared with MRPV as it becomes available. Updates will occur progressively as new data is collected or changes are identified during works.

7.2.3. Tree Protection Specifications (TPS) and Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

The TPS and TPP will be developed in accordance with Section 2.2.6 of AS4970-2025.

Table 17 Tree Protection Specification and Tree Protection Plans

Document	Description	Relevant Project Plan
Tree Protection Specifications (TPS)	Management plan that specify using a logical and sequential process, the measures by which the trees will protected and managed throughout the development works State any prohibitions that may be required due to the lack of detail or documentation (eg. No trenching is allowed within the TPZ where a services plan does not exist); and document critical stages	This Plan
Tree Protection Plan (TPP)	TPZs for trees being retained, consideration to the NRZ impacts, and the location of specified tree protection devices.	WEMPs and SEPs

7.3. No Go Zones

Section 5 of the EES details areas of No Go Zones for the NEL project which are in accordance with Condition 4.5.3(b) of the Incorporated Document. These include the following:

- Bolin Bolin Billabong;
- Grey-headed Flying Fox campsite within Yarra Bend Park;
- Plains Grassy Woodland community between Enterprise Drive and M80 Ring Road in Bundoora;
- Rear of 49 Greenaway Street, Bulleen; and
- Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands and Heide Museum of Modern Art, except for below ground development within the 'project boundary - underground works'.

With the exception of the Grey-headed Flying Fox campsite within Yarra Bend Park, the remaining areas, as outlined in EPR FF2, fall outside the West Package project boundary.

Other sensitive receivers that may be vulnerable to impacts on the project also include the Australian Grayling in the Yarra River, located within the West Package project boundary.

Sensitive receivers and No Go Zones within each construction area will be identified and managed in accordance with the WEMPs. In addition, receivers sensitive to a specific environmental aspect (i.e. air quality, noise, and vibration) will be specified and managed in their respective management plans (i.e. Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan).

7.4. Tree Protection Zone and Notional Root Zone

Any trees that are identified for retention regardless of the retention value must be protected during construction. The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is a specified area above and below ground and at a given distance from the trunk set aside for the protection of a tree's roots and crown to provide for the viability and stability of a tree. TPZs are determined from the Notional Root Zone (NRZ) according to Australian Standard Protection of Trees on Development Sites (AS4970-2025) for all trees to be retained. The dimensions of the NRZ are calculated as 12 times the trunk diameter at 1.4m above ground level (DSH). The NRZ is expressed as a radius from the centre of the trunk and generally incorporates the canopy and trunk. Notional Root Zones will be informed by the Tree Baseline Assessments.

7.4.1. Tree Protection Zone Fenced Area

The area to be fenced for tree protection on-site is referred to as the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) Fenced Area. This area is determined based on the Tree Baseline Assessment and Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIAs), which consider construction impacts. The TPZ Fenced Area may differ from the No-Go Zone (NGZ), as encroachment into the NRZ may be approved in the AIA, or the fenced area may need to be increased to protect limbs and canopy from potential damage. The TPZ Fenced Area will be delineated with fencing in accordance with AS4970-2025. The TPZ Fenced Areas or protective controls must not be removed or modified in any way during construction activities unless approved by the Project Arborist, if construction activities have ceased then the Environment and EPR manager will coordinate the process for demobilising the controls.

7.4.2. Structural Root Zone

The Structural Root Zone (SRZ) is the area deemed required by the tree to remain stable in the ground. If impact and damage to the tree and surrounding soil in the SRZ occur the likelihood of the tree failing and falling are significantly increased. This is further increased if roots are cut or damaged.

There are many factors that affect the size of the SRZ, such as tree height, crown area, soil type, soil moisture. However, an indicative SRZ radius can be determined from the trunk of the tree, measured immediately above the root buttress (DaRB)

$$\text{SRZ radius} = (\text{DaRB} \times 50)^{0.42} \times 0.64.$$

Note: The SRZ for trees with trunk diameters less than 0.15 m will be 1.5 m

7.4.3. Restricted Activities within Tree Protection Zones

Unless approved by the Environment & EPR Manager (or delegate) or as specifically allowed within the relevant AIA or EHBA Permit to Enter a No Go Zone, the following activities are to

be restricted within the TPZ. This list of activities has been adapted from the Australian Standard (AS 4970-2025) Protection of Trees on Development Sites:

- Working within a TPZ/NRZ without approval
- Any works within a SRZ
- Machine excavation including trenching or piling.
- Vehicle and machinery access through a TPZ without prior approval and appropriate ground protection
- Re-fuelling activities
- Storage of materials and or waste (including fuels, oils, or chemicals)
- Preparation of any cement products
- Parking of vehicles, plant, or other equipment
- Placement of fill or site spoil or site level changes
- Physical damage of any kind to the tree (including attaching anything to the trunk or branches)
- Removal of tree canopy or branches, or temporary work / access at that height with Alliance machinery (i.e. booms and lifts)
- Excavation for silt fencing
- Soil cultivation
- Lighting of fires
- Temporary or permanent installation of signs
- Installation of utilities.

The above activities could result in irreversible tree damage and need to be controlled through tree protection measures, under appropriate supervision where required and appropriate works methodologies.

Complete exclusion of works from within a TPZ is not always possible or practical and, in certain circumstances, works may be acceptable provided permission is obtained by the Project Arborist and Environment and EPR Manager to enter an area and / or undertake the work in accordance with Section 7.5 and the NRZ encroachment and compensatory offset is assessed in accordance with Figure 9.

7.4.4. Tree Protection Fencing

The TPZ fence is designed to act as a physical barrier of protective fencing. It is erected around retained specimens (at the edge of the TPZ or were modified by the project arborist) before site works commence. Tree protection fencing must be maintained and fit for purpose at all times. Per AS4970-2025, TPZ fencing should be a minimum height of 1.8m constructed of wire mesh or equivalent and supported by concrete pads where practical. Fencing should be secured via in ground stabilisation to prevent movement on-site, as shown in Figure 8: Example of Tree Protection Fencing from AS4970-2025.

Certain site constraints may require deviation from 1.8m high chain mesh fencing. These include:

- When placing TPZ fencing within proximity to waterways, there can be a risk of fencing to be washed downstream during flooding causing additional impacts to the environment and residents. This will be indicated in the relevant WEMP for the construction area.

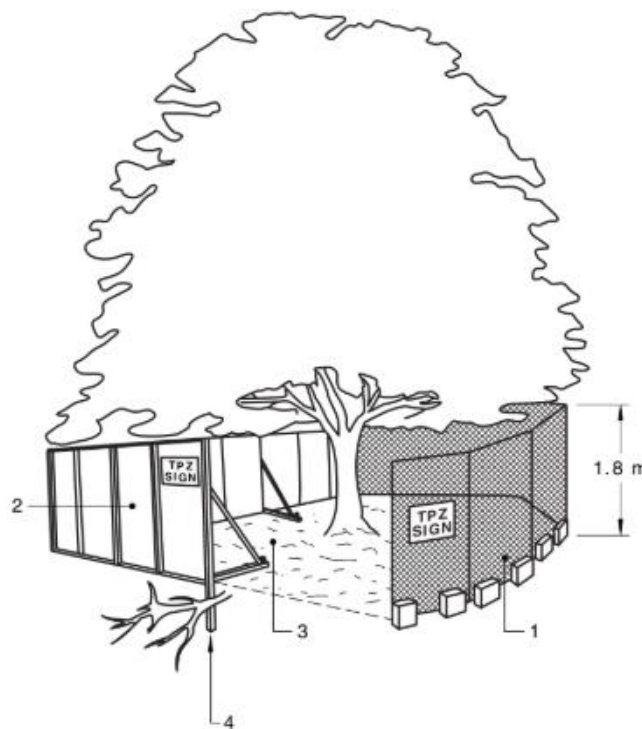
- Where site access or area is constrained, the requirement of 1.8m fencing may encourage additional removals to account for the fencing footprint.

Tree protection fencing will be installed for any NGZ that contains trees – other NGZs will use star pickets and parawebbing.

In instances such as, but not limited to, the above, a project arborist and the Environment and EPR Manager, or delegate, must approve of any alternative proposed TPZ delineation. Approval must be provided to the environment team in written form (technical memorandum, site inspection report, email confirmation etc.) prior to any works or delineation set up in the area.

If tree protection fencing requires relocation of delineation from the NRZ, appropriate protective measures should be implemented as identified in Section 7.5.2. This should be established in collaboration with the Project Arborist advice.

To mark initial clearing areas where the impact boundary lies within vegetated zones, install in-ground stakes with para webbing and appropriate 'No Go Zone' signage will be installed. . This is to allow delineation of a clearing area where there are factors that prevent the installation of adequate temporary fence and stabilisation blocks.



KEY:

- 1 Chain wire mesh panels that are held in place with concrete feet.
- 2 Alternatively, plywood or wooden paling fence panels may be used. This fencing material also prevents building materials or soil from entering the TPZ.
- 3 Mulch installation across the surface of the TPZ (as detailed in the TPS). No excavation, construction activity grade changes, surface treatment or storage of materials of any kind is permitted within the TPZ other than those indicated in the TPS.
- 4 Bracing may be used within the TPZ. Installation of posts or supports should avoid damaging roots.

Figure 8: Example of Tree Protection Fencing from AS4970-2025.

7.5. Construction impact

The Worksite Environmental Management Plans (WEMPs) and Site Environmental Plans (SEPs) will include the relevant Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA), as well as relevant content from this plan including areas of tree protection.

In accordance with EPR AR1, the project will be maximised to tree retention to the extent practicable through detailed design and selection of construction methods to minimise canopy loss, and in accordance with EPR FF1, including by retaining trees where practicable and minimising potential impacts to trees. In situations where impacts are unable to be avoided through design, the project will identify encroachment as per Section 7.5.1 utilise construction methods that minimise the impacts to the trees NRZs if a tree can remain viable for retention through consultation with the Project Arborist and the Environment and EPR Manager.

Construction into the NRZs of trees is allowed per AS4970-2025 when encroachment has been assessed as per Section 7.5.1, and provided approval is given by the Project Arborist and Environment and EPR Manager. The level of encroachment allowed is based upon the percentage of NRZ area intruded upon. The SRZ is required to be always maintained for trees that are to be retained, any encroachment into the trees SRZ may result in the tree requiring removal due to the impacts discussed in Section 7.4.2.

7.5.1. Encroachment

Encroachment into the NRZ of trees is allowed under certain circumstances depending on several factors including site and tree conditions.

An assessment of minor, moderate and major encroachments into NRZs is assessed as part of the Site-specific AIAs or Tech Memos produced by a Project Arborist in reference to the construction design and methodology.

The WEMPs and SEPs will outline site-specific protection measures for vegetation during works, including delineations, arborist supervision requirements and any pruning options for tree retention.

7.5.1.1. Minor Encroachment

Encroachment $\leq 10\%$ of NRZ and no SRZ intrusion is deemed to be minor encroachment provided there have been no other known recent NRZ encroachments (Figure 9: Examples of NRZ encroachment and compensatory offset). It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact to tree health and protection should be implemented during site works.

7.5.1.2. Moderate Encroachment

NRZ encroachment of between 11-20% with no SRZ intrusion (Figure 9: Examples of NRZ encroachment and compensatory offset). The impacts must be reviewed by a project arborist and undertake any other necessary investigation required to demonstrate the tree will remain viable. This may be through the implementation of suitable design measures and construction controls to mitigate impacts including development of Tree Protection Specifications

7.5.1.3. Major Encroachment

NRZ encroachment >20% and/or SRZ intrusion is deemed major encroachment (Figure 9: Examples of NRZ encroachment and compensatory offset). The project arborist must demonstrate that the tree(s) would remain viable. This may require root investigation by non-destructive methods, soil analysis, review of historical records and consideration of relevant factors such as tree health, vigour, stability and species sensitivity. Measures to control and mitigate impacts during development should be detailed in Tree Protection Specifications.

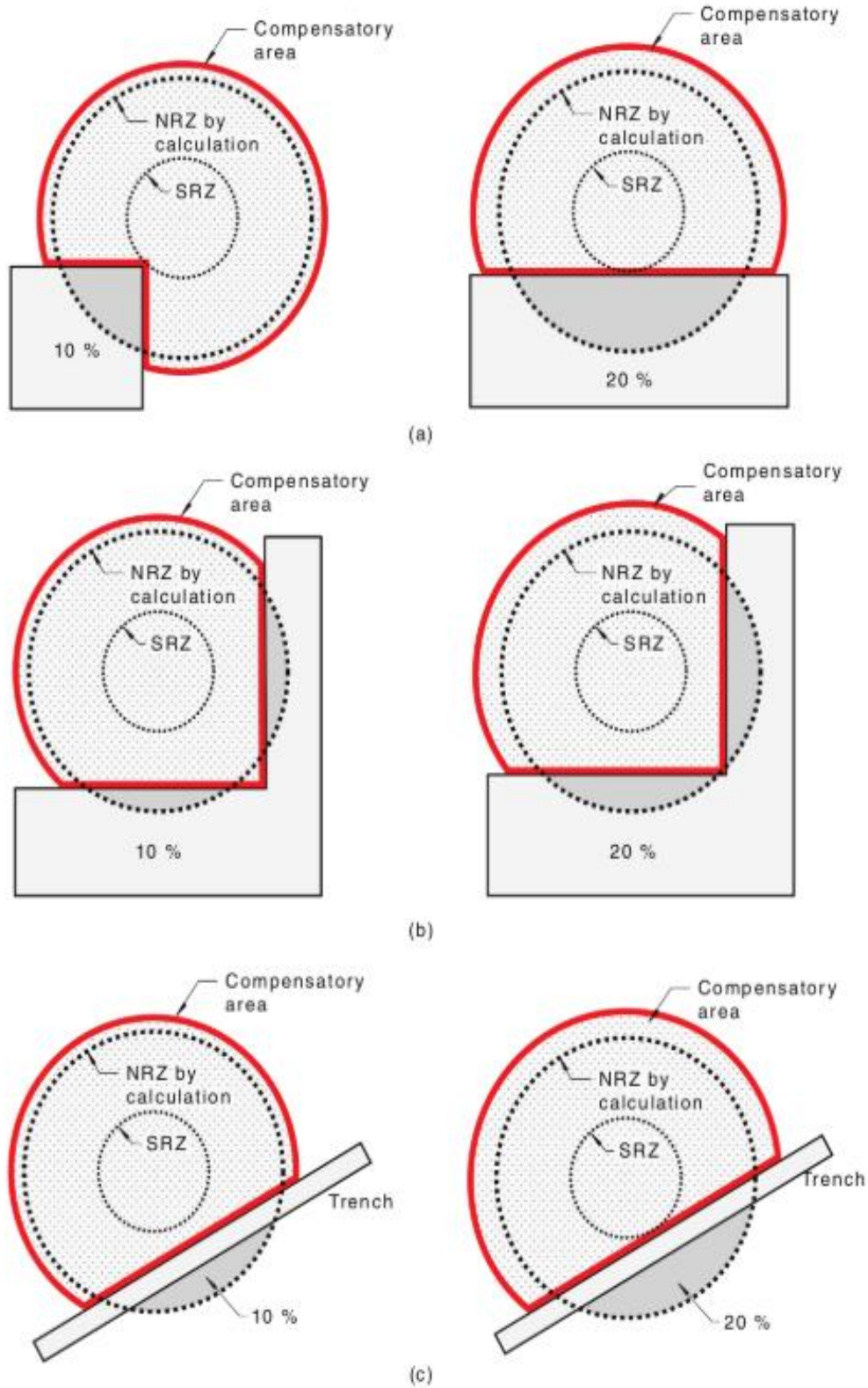


Figure 9: Examples of NRZ encroachment and compensatory offset

7.5.2. Protective measures for activities within Tree Protection Zones

Protective measures are required to minimise impacts on trees during construction activities within Tree Protection Zones.

The Structural Root Zone (SRZ) is required to be always maintained for trees that are to be retained, any encroachment into the trees SRZ may result in the tree requiring removal due to the impacts discussed in Section 7.4.2.

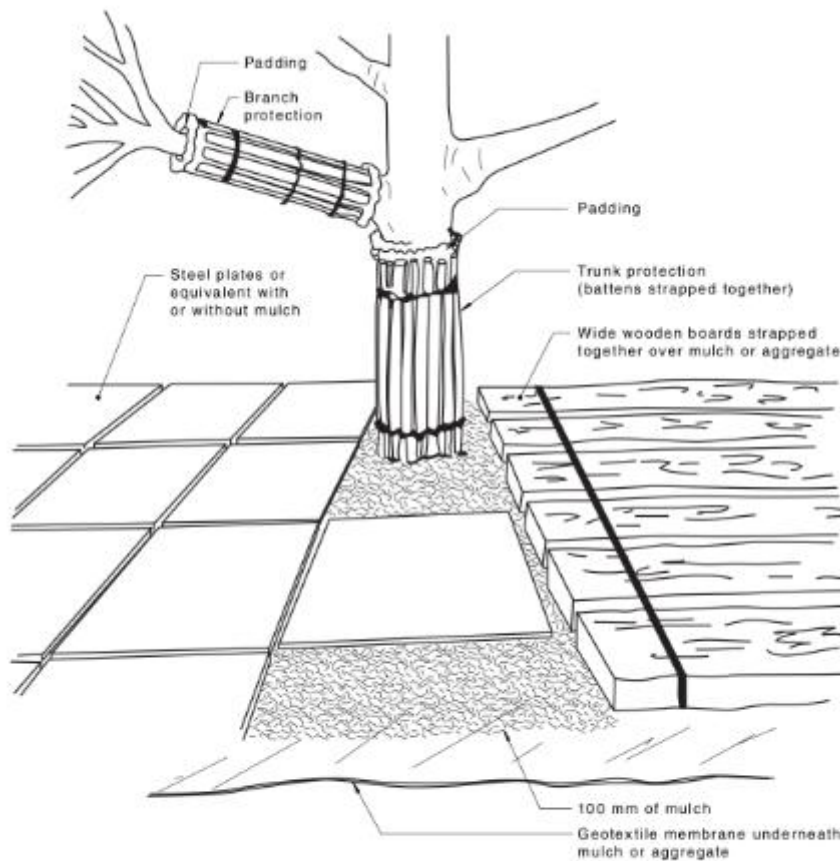
If impacts to trees cannot be avoided through design, the Project Arborist will assess encroachment as per Section 7.5.1, and implement construction methods that minimise harm to the NRZ.

Additional protective measures are to be considered to further minimise impacts from the approved works. These measures will be determined in consultation with the Project Arborist and the Environment and EPR Manager.

Protection measures detailed in AS4970-2025 have been documented in Table 18 below.

Table 18: Protective Measures for TPZ works as per AS4970-2025

Trunk and Branch Protection	For trunk and branch protections, boards and padding may be used to prevent damage to back, Boards shall be joined together using straps, screws or similar. Methods of fixing of the boards shall not impact the tree, such as screwing or nailing. Trunk and branch protection to be installed as per Figure 10: Example of trunk, branch and ground protection.
Ground Protection	Ground protection for activities within the NRZ should include a combination of protective measures to spread loads to reduce soil compaction and root damage. Protective measures such as mulch, geotextiles, steel plates or wooden boards. Ground protection to be installed as per Figure 10: Example of trunk, branch and ground protection.
Root Protection	When activities encroach the NRZ, consideration to root protection should be conducted in consultation with the project arborist. Manual excavation should be the preferred method for excavation within NRZ. When roots are impacted they should be assessed by the project arborist for tree viability and pruned in accordance with AS 4373
Changes in gradients	If the gradient of the soil surrounding a tree is required to be modified (such as batters grades), the material utilised should be coarser or more porous than the underlying material. Depth and compaction should be minimised.
Installation of underground services within TPZ	All service installations should be routed outside of the TPZ. If underground services require routing within a TPZ, these should be installed by directional drilling, hand excavated pits and trenches or as specified by the project arborist. The SRZ of the tree must not be impacted within these works. Minimal impact investigation works such as Non-Destructive Digging should be considered to avoid damage to roots.



NOTE 1 For trunk and branch protection, boards and padding may be used to prevent damage to bark. Boards shall be joined to each other using hoop straps and screws or similar. They shall not be screwed or nailed to the tree.

NOTE 2 Wide wooden boards or plastic or metal plates should be of a suitable thickness to spread the load and prevent soil compaction and root damage.

Figure 10: Example of trunk, branch and ground protection

7.6. Tree Protection Mitigation and Management Measures

Table 19: Tree Protection Mitigation and Management Measures

	Control Measure	Reference	Responsibility	Evidence
Pre-Construction (Design Phase)				
1	AIAs must be completed. It must detail the impacts of design and construction methodologies,	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	AIA
2	TPS and TPP to be developed for the proposed removals as informed by the AIAs. TPS will identify the methodology and controls required for the protection of trees. The TPP will detail the design of protections for the trees (Table 17 Table 17 Tree Protection Specification and Tree Protection Plans)	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	TRPP, WEMPs & SEPs
3	Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Forms to be prepared and submitted following WEMP approval.	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Tree Removal and Protection

	Control Measure	Reference	Responsibility	Evidence
				Proposal Forms (TRPPFs)
3	Establishment of Environmental No Go Zones and Tree Protection Fencing.	AR1	Environment and EPR Manager	WEMP and Inspections
4	No Go Zone fencing must be: - Erected a minimum of 1m beyond the boundary (i.e. 1 m buffer away) of the habitat to be protected, - Constructed of star picket (to be replace by stakes if in proximity to the trafficked road) and parawebbing with two wire supports. The star pickets must be 1.3m in height, installed to a heigh of 1m above the ground level and parawebbing must be installed to maintain a minimum 30cm gap is available between the bottom of the fence and existing ground to allow for fauna movement, - Tree protection fencing will be installed for any NGZ that contains trees – other NGZs will use star pickets and parawebbing, - Include installed signage at interval no less than 10m apart stating "Environmental No Go Zone - No unauthorised access", and, - Installed prior to commencement of works in the immediate area, in accordance with the relevant WEMP.	AR1	Environment and EPR Manager	Inspections Pre-clearing Checklists
5	Tree Protection Fencing must be installed as per AS 4970-2025 Protection of Trees on Development Sites tree protection fencing, the primary method of protecting trees, is to be installed and certified by the project arborist prior to construction activities and in accordance with the following: - Installed in the location shown in the AIA unless otherwise agreed to by the project arborist - Constructed from temporary fence panels or as described in section 7.4.4. - Braced as required to provide an adequately robust structure. - Use signage, with a maximum of 10 m intervals, that clearly identifies the area as a TPZ and designates it an 'Environmental No Go Zone'	AR1	Environment and EPR Manager	Inspections Pre-clearing Checklists
6	All Construction personnel working on the site are to be inducted on to the site and brief on the requirements of Environmental No Go Zones including TPZ and their responsibilities.	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Site induction Pre-start Briefings
Construction				
7	AIA must be completed and maintained. It must detail the controls and mitigation	AR1	Environment and	AIA

	Control Measure	Reference	Responsibility	Evidence
	measures including the NRZ and TPZ fencing locations.		EPR Manager	
8	Tree protection measures inclusive of fencing and items listed in Section 7.5.2 are inspected in consultation with the Project Arborist to ensure measures are fit for purpose	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Inspections Incident reports
9	Encroachment of a NRZ including excavation is permitted to encroach up to 10% into the NRZ in accordance with the AIA by the project arborist.	AR1	Environment and EPR Manager	AIA Inspections
10	Further encroachment or new encroachment to the NRZ must be assessed by the project arborist. Alternatives to encroachment above 10% must be explored and documented. Should encroachment over 10% of the NRZ, or any encroachment into the SRZ, be identified, tree viability is to be determined by the project arborist. Relevant controls will be implemented as per the arborist's advice. Should removal be required an Arborist Technical Memo must be prepared to detail impacts and controls and AIA must be updated at next review cycle.	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	AIA
11	Weekly environmental inspections are to be conducted by an environmental team member or project arborist to check control measures are in place as per this plan and the AIA.	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Inspections
12	Damage to tree must be reported to the environment team and then consulted with the project arborist to; - Advise on the extent of damage. - Advise on remedial actions. - and provide report to summarise impact, actions, and additional mitigation measures.	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Inspections Incident reports
13	Where tree health monitoring identifies the health deterioration of a tree, the project arborist may implement a combination of measures to increase the likelihood of a tree's survival. Relevant controls will be implemented as per the arborist's advice. If further assessment deems the tree not viable, it will be recorded as removed by the project	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Inspections AIA
14	Where temporary access to undertake any restricted activities as per section 7.4.3, in a TPZ is required, mitigation measures must be established by the project arborist to prevent damage occurs. Mitigation measures have been documented in section 7.5.2. These measures must be document in an Arborist Report if not already included in an AIA. This will then inform and become part of the "Permit to Enter No Go Zone".	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Permit to Enter No Go Zone

Post Construction

	Control Measure	Reference	Responsibility	Evidence
15	On completion of construction activities tree protection fencing and other mitigation will be removed.	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Inspections
16	Should staged removal of protection fencing occur to allow for landscaping works an Arborist Technical Memo must be prepared to detail impacts and controls and AIA must be updated at next review cycle.	AR1 and AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	
17	Project Arborist must conduct a post construction assessment to determine the condition and number of trees, confirming all removed trees have been accounted for in previous reporting.	AR2 and AR3	Environment and EPR Manager	Post Construction Assessment Report
18	Once construction works have been completed on the project, trees subject to protection must be monitored for a 3-year period to assess ongoing viability, with maintenance or replacement of stressed or damaged specimens to be undertaken (EPR AR2).	AR2	Environment and EPR Manager	Post Construction Arboricultural Monitoring Report

8. Tree Removal

In addition to the tree protection requirements detailed in Section 7, a tree removal process must be followed to remove trees that cannot be retained. This process is described in Sections 8.1 (approvals required) and 8.2 (removal process), with specific mitigation and management measures outlined in Table 20.

8.1. Approvals

Vegetation must be removed in accordance with all approvals. For compliance this plan must be read in conjunction with the Flora and Fauna Management Plan. This plan provides additional detail on the related legislation and requirement for the protection of flora and fauna. Brief summaries are included below for information.

If vegetation removal is required outside the project boundary, the Alliance will obtain a planning permit under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Clause 52.17 or the relevant local planning scheme) before works begin.

8.1.1. Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

All works must be undertaken as per the Referral 2018/8142, and the required Matted Flax-lily Salvage and Translocation Plan and [Studley Park Gum Management Framework](#) should the relevant species be found onsite. It is noted that no Matted Flax-lily has been recorded within the EHBA footprint to date.

8.1.2. Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

In accordance with EPR FF5, a permit must be obtained to take and destroy flora species protected under the FFG Act, following assessment by a suitably qualified ecologist. The ecological assessment will identify any requirements for FFG Act permits. To date, all protected flora recorded under the FFG Act have been identified on public land within the NEL project boundary. All necessary permits and approvals from DEECA and MRPV must be obtained prior to any removal, and a copy must be held on-site during clearing works.

8.1.3. Guidelines for removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation

Guidelines for removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP, 2017) ('the Guidelines') are incorporated into the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes in Victoria. The Guidelines are used to assess native vegetation removal proposed as part of major infrastructure projects in Victoria.

Native vegetation to be removed must be offset in accordance with guidelines. The offsets are to compensate for the biodiversity value lost. This biodiversity value is evaluated and represented as a general or species-specific habitat score. A Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) report, which is generated by DEECA determines the offsets required and is produced after submitting the habitat hectare assessment field and spatial data.

8.1.4. Internal Permit to Clear Vegetation

A Permit to Clear Vegetation must be issued in relation to any vegetation clearing being undertaken on the project. The permit must be issued by a EHBA Environmental Representative and accepted by an onsite member of the delivery team, such as the supervisor or project engineer. All conditions within the Permit to Clear Vegetation must be followed during the clearing process.

The Permit to Clear Vegetation procedure will include requirements for pre clearance inspections, site specific control measures for protection of retained vegetation, and identification of trees to be removed in each area.

8.2. Removal Process

The AIAs described in section 7.2 will report which trees are required to be removed due to construction impacts. This assessment will inform the WEMP development trees are accurately identified, and mitigation measures are incorporated. Example mitigation measures to maximise tree retention are listed below and further opportunities may be realised in consultation with the Project Arborist and Design disciplines.

- Modifications to design to reduce excavation and fill.
- Optimisation of utilities and drainage design to reduce required excavation with SRZ or NRZ.
- The use of Non-Destructive Digging (NDD) to establish the presence of roots
- Directional boring of underground services to reduce the requirement of open trench excavation.
- Compound layouts to consider maximising tree retention where feasible and reasonable.
- Construction mitigation such as arborist supervision and specific construction techniques.

Vegetation removal will be undertaken in a staged manner as per EPR AR1, removal only taking place once necessary for project activities. The AIAs may be undertaken in a staged approach to align with construction staging and design development across various areas of the project. As AIAs are completed, they will be issued to MRPV for review and acceptance, and then to the Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA) for review and verification. Once verified, they will form appendices to this Plan, which will be updated and reissued as required. Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Forms (TRPPFs) will be prepared for each worksite following WEMP development, and will not be approved until the relevant WEMP has been verified by the IEA and accepted by MRPV.

Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Forms will be completed and accompany the WEMP for each worksite. They will outline the specific approaches adopted for tree removal and protection that complies within this Plan. They will show detailed maps of the trees to be removed and retained and the control measures to be used to protection trees to be retained. Spatial data for tree and native vegetation locations and associated attributes, as described in Section 7.2 will be provided as an attachment. The WEMP can then be review and verified by the IEA and then accepted by MRPV.

A permit to clear vegetation will be prepared, incorporating the required controls in this plan and the AIA. A Pre-clearance Inspection with the tree removal contractor, construction team and project ecologist will be completed to confirm which trees are to be removed or retained and to identify any habitat or fauna for relocation.

This process is shown in the flowchart in Appendix A – NELP Flowchart: Vegetation Removal (from NEL-PW-NEL-9990-EES-PRC-0001: Native Vegetation and Tree Removal Procedure) and is also reflected in the controls detailed in Table 20.

Table 20: Tree Removal Mitigation and Management Measures

Item	Process and Control Measure	Reference	Responsibility	Evidence
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Pre-Construction (Design Phase)

Item	Process and Control Measure	Reference	Responsibility	Evidence
1	Tree protection measures to be in place as described in Section 7. These may be identified from the AIAs to be installed prior to any tree removals	AR1	Environment & EPR Manager	Environmental and Sustainability Inspection Checklist Pre-Clearance Inspection Checklist
2	Preparation and approval of internal project permit to clear vegetation.		Environment & EPR Manager	Permit to Clear Vegetation
3	Trees confirmed to be removed are to be clearing identified visible paint or tape.		Environment & EPR Manager	Pre-Clearance Inspection Checklist
4	Vegetation removal will be undertaken in a staged manner as per EPR AR1, removal only taking place once necessary for project activities. The AIAs may be undertaken in a staged approach to align with construction staging and design development across various areas of the project	AR1	Environment & EPR Manager	AIA

Removal and Construction

5	Issue of permit to clear to responsible site supervisor from delegated environment team member.		Environment & EPR Manager Supervisor	Permit to Clear Vegetation
6	An onsite daily briefing to onsite personnel undertaking removal works; to confirm tree to be removed and control measures are in place.		Supervisor	Permit to Clear Vegetation Briefing Record
7	Pre-clearance Inspection with removal contractor, construction team and ecologist to confirm scope of trees to be removed/retained and identify any habitat or fauna for relocation.		Environment & EPR Manager	Pre-Clearance Inspection Checklist
8	All pruning that has been recommended for risk mitigation or clearance as per the AIAs, must be completed in accordance with AS4373:2007 Pruning of amenity trees.		Environment & EPR Manager	Environmental and Sustainability Inspection Checklist Pruning Record
9	All pruning is to be documented, recorded, and retained on site. These must confirm all pruning was undertaken by a level 3 AQF Arborist at a minimum. Pruning records are to include: • Identification of each tree pruned. • Pruning extent (% of canopy cover) for each tree (must be <30% for tree retention) • Arborist name and qualification		Environment & EPR Manager	Pruning Record

Item	Process and Control Measure	Reference	Responsibility	Evidence
	undertaking the pruning.			

8.3. Timber reuse opportunities

As part of the Arboricultural Survey and AIAs, information collected by the project arborist and ecologists will identify trees within the project boundary that are subject to removal, including relevant details such as species, height, diameter and presence or absence of hollows.

The data collected will guide the volume of timber that is potentially suitable to repurpose and what it may be used for, with further investigations to be undertaken by suitably experienced forestry and arboricultural contractors. Engagement with the Communications and Community Engagement team, as well as the Urban Design team, will assist in identifying opportunities for reuse on the project where the need for timber has already been identified.

Timber Repurposing Guidance Document - Freeway Packages (MRPV, 2023) provides guidance for timber repurposing including assessment, felling, classification, milling, seasoning/further treatment, and storage.

Due to the unavoidable clearing of vegetation associated with the construction of the project, there is a potential opportunity to recover and repurpose high quality timber. There are a range of repurposing options available that can benefit environmental, sustainability, community, and amenity outcomes. These include reuse back on the project in permanent landscaping, partnering with social enterprises to produce benches and other features for the project, local councils, community groups/schools, and connecting with other local projects, initiatives, and community groups to organise additional reuse opportunities as they are identified.

9. Monitoring and Reporting

9.1. Records

Table 21 below outlines the records that will be created as part of implementing this plan. The Environment Team will manage these records, which will be available for audit purposes and to support the documentation and review of project compliance.

Table 21: Project records

Record	Description	Reporting Requirements
Arboricultural Survey	A survey assessment report that captures all the tree data recorded as per section 7.2.2.	Prior to undertaking Arboricultural impact assessment.
Arboricultural Impact Assessment	This assesses the anticipated construction impacts on existing trees and outlines the mitigation measures required to protect the trees that are to be retained.	Prior to undertaking construction works.
Arborist Technical Memorandum (Tech Memo)	A brief, written report that provides guidance on matters impacting trees for retention or removal on the Project. Usually required for potential impacts and controls not previously captured in the AIA.	Provided prior to any construction. impacting the subject of the tech memo (e.g. no excavation within NRZ prior to receiving Tech Memo outlining required controls).
Arborist Supervision Report	A written summary of activities supervised by the Arborist, including branch pruning, root pruning and excavation supervision within NRZ.	Provided within 48 hours of supervision, unless otherwise agreed with the arborist and environment team.
Arborist Inspection Report	A written summary of potentially impacted trees during construction and identified through routine inspections by the Arborist and any remediation requirements necessary for ongoing tree viability.	Provided within 48 hours of inspection, unless otherwise agreed with the arborist and environment team.
Permit to Clear Vegetation	An internal EHBA Permit required for all tree clearing and pruning works on the Project.	Must be approved and issued prior to clearing works commencing on-site.
Permit to Enter No Go Zone	An internal EHBA Permit required for any works within a NRZ or No Go Zone (such as fenced TPZ), including any relevant controls required for the activity.	Must be approved and issued prior to works in No Go Zone commencing on-site.
Pre-Clearance Inspection Checklist	To be used as a checklist to assess all relevant controls during site establishment and clearing works.	Prior to clearing works.
Tree Removal and Protection Proposal Form	An external hold point with submission and approval required on clearing extent by MRPV.	Approval required prior to clearing works.
Tree Protection Specifications (TPS)	Specify , using a logical and sequential process, the measures by which the trees will protected and managed throughout the development works State any prohibitions that may be required due to the lack of detail or documentation (e.g. No trenching is allowed within the TPZ where a services plan does not exist); and document	Provided prior to any construction.

Record	Description	Reporting Requirements
	critical stages	
Tree Protection Plans (TPP)	TPZs for trees being retained, consideration to the NRZ impacts The location of specified tree protection devices.	Provided prior to any construction.
Pruning Record	All pruning is to be documented, recorded, and retained onsite. These must confirm all pruning was undertaken by a level 3 AQF Arborist at a minimum. Pruning records are to include:	Pruning Record
Post-Construction Assessment	An assessment to collate the information included in the post-clearance checklists for a project area.	On completion of entire projects clearing works.
Post-Construction Tree Monitoring	Regular monitoring as outlined in section 9.2.3 of retained, impacted trees on the project.	Assessment and associated reporting of all impacted trees resulting from construction yearly for three years. Details of reporting included in section 9.2.3.

9.2. Monitoring Program

In line with the **avoid, minimise, mitigate** approach, EHBA will undertake environmental modelling and monitoring to effectively manage risks and implement controls throughout project delivery.

The Alliance will use real-time environmental monitoring and modelling for key environmental aspects like noise, dust, and vibration to proactively manage compliance with the EPRs and trigger action to prevent non-compliance.

On site monitoring includes team-lead monitoring via daily superintendent and work crew inductions and inspections along with weekly inspections by the Environmental team monitoring the site works for compliance against the EPRs.

9.2.1. Weekly Environment Site Inspection

The Environment & EPR Manager, or their delegate, will carry out the weekly environment and sustainability inspection, supported by relevant construction personnel. Findings will be documented in the Environmental and Sustainability Inspection Checklist (SWC-CEMP-010.10) and entered into the Seymour Whyte Application Platform (SWAP) or a similar database. Any issues identified (also referred to as Project Improvement Plans or PIPs) will have at least one corrective action assigned. Corrective actions will be allocated to construction or administrative personnel as appropriate, with defined timeframes for closure.

9.2.2. Pre-clearing Inspection

A permit to clear vegetation will be prepared, incorporating the required controls in this plan and the AIA. A Pre-clearance Inspection with the tree removal contractor, construction team and project ecologist will be completed to confirm which trees are to be removed or retained and to identify any habitat or fauna for relocation. Site plans or diagrams will be used to accurately delineate the vegetation in the field and confirm it is approved for clearing. The inspection will also confirm that environmental protection measures in the area, such as fencing, barriers, and signage, remain correctly installed and undisturbed.

The project ecologist will assist with obtaining all necessary licences and permits required to safely remove displaced fauna during construction works. Undertake all relocation and removal of stranded and displaced fauna. Provide advice to the Environmental Team on the mitigation measures prescribed in the FFMP. Conduct Pre-clearance surveys and identify key fauna habitat in accordance with the FFMP.

9.2.3. Post Construction Arboricultural Monitoring

On completion of the stage removal of trees a Post Construction Arboricultural Assessment will be undertaken. Monitoring will follow the NELP Tree Protection and Monitoring Guidance (NEL-PW-NEL-CNP-PLN-0001, 2024).

Once construction works have been completed on the project, trees subject to protection must be monitored for a 3-year period to assess ongoing viability, with maintenance or replacement of stressed or damaged specimens to be undertaken (EPR AR2). This monitoring period will begin from practical completion and during this period of monitoring, an arborist assessment will be completed annually. Tree assessment frequency may change as per arborist advice depending on the health status of each particular tree. Trees subject to protection will be identified by the project arborist in each AIA, as well as during site inspections, and recorded in a EHBA tree register. This will include commencement of the monitoring period for each tree to account for the staged demobilisation of construction sites.

Reporting of impacted trees should include the following:

- Observations must be completed by a project arborist
 - Monitoring is to record the following information:
 - Any adverse change in a trees health, structure, or Useful Life Expectancy (ULE)
 - Any sign of declining tree health and potential causes (insect infestation, dieback, etc).
 - Any potential impacts to trees unrelated to EHBA works (e.g., council pruning, storm events, additional impacts to NRZ's)
 - Photographic records of trees showing signs of deterioration.
 - Details of the recognised risk methodology used by the suitably qualified arborist
- Reporting should include any findings of the above, detailing relevant mitigation and control measures that could be implemented to increase the health of the tree. Details of undertaken maintenance to be provided in the following periods report including assessment of effectiveness (including dates and photos if available).

Where tree health monitoring identifies the health deterioration of a tree, the project arborist may implement a combination of measures to increase the likelihood of a tree's survival. Examples of measures are provided below, however additional opportunities may be realised through consultation with the project arborist.

- Implement a watering regime for stressed plants during dry periods.
- Installation of mulch around a NRZ
- Treatment of insect infestations
- Installing trunk protection.
- Soil testing for nutrient deficiencies

. Post-construction monitoring will be undertaken quarterly over the first-year post-construction, then commencing six-monthly (summer and winter) for the remaining two years

required under AR2. Any additional EHBA works impacting trees that may be required (e.g., defect rectification if necessary) will cause the monitoring period of the impacted trees to restart. All tree identification tags are to remain on the trees to allow for identification during the monitoring period.

9.3. Reporting Requirements

9.3.1. Compliance Tracking Program

The EHBA EPR Responsibilities Tracker will list each EPR, compliance requirements, associated management plan(s), responsibility, consultation, delivery phase (design or construction), summary of actions completed to date, Alliance compliance status, IEA audit findings, additional audit actions. It will be used as reporting tool rather than updating the full External Obligations & Approvals Register (EAOR).

9.3.2. Register Updates

In addition to the above, the following registers will be updated by the Environment Team as part of tracking compliance with this TRPMP:

- Permit to Clear Vegetation (SWC-ESP-040.20)
- Permit to Enter No Go Zone Register
- Environmental Complaints Register
- Non-conformance Register

9.3.3. MRPV Reporting

The **Monthly Environmental and Sustainability Performance Report (SWC-SOP-021.20)** will be logged into the PSEM or a similar database and be electronically accessible by MRPV and the IEA. The deliverable in this plan that will be included in the report will include:

- Compliance Reporting under the EPR Matrix related to AR1 and AR2
- Register/summary of current and completed nonconformance reports, corrective actions, environment-related complaints, including status update relating to tree impacts (or potential impacts).
- The status of tree removal and data recorded in post clearing checklists.
- The status of environmental documentation related to this plan, including:
 - Any updates to this TRPMP
 - Authorisation applications (including letters to regulators) and any amendments and proposed submissions.
- Summary of Surveys/assessments undertaken.

Tree removals will also be recorded within the weekly report.

9.3.4. Incident Reporting

Incidents and Emergencies will be managed in accordance with Safety Operating Procedure, SWC-SOP-008 Incident Management and Reporting (2024).

Potential incidents may include:

- Damage to trees
- Incorrect tree removed
- Permit not obtained prior to tree removal
- The management, investigation, reporting and notification process for environmental events, including positive events, is to be undertaken in accordance with Section 14.1 of the CEMP.

The CEMP further details management measures on incidents and reporting.

10. Training and Competencies

10.1. Environmental Inductions

All personnel will receive a site-specific project induction prior to commencing working on-site. Site inductions will be mandatory prior to undertaking any work and temporary work on-site.

The environmental sections of the project induction are detailed within Section 11.1 of the CEMP however, information relevant to the management of Tree Removal and Tree Protection will include:

- Roles and responsibilities for environmental management
- General Environmental Duty
- Requirements to comply with the Project EPR's including identification of No Go Zones and clearing limits
- Environmental and sustainability policies
- Control measures to be implemented
- Procedures for incident notification and management
- Permits including permit to clear vegetation and permit to enter No Go Zone.

The Safety Team will maintain records of induction and training completed by project personnel, including details of topics, attendees, and duration in accordance with the **Training and Development Procedure (SWC-HRP-040)**. The environmental team, or delegate, will maintain records of all specific environmental training/briefings that have taken place on the project.

A site induction and training sub-plan will be developed which:

- Expands upon the points listed above
- Makes all personnel, including subcontractors, aware of the TRPMP, familiar with relevant plans, and knowledgeable about how the TRPMP will be implemented, including emergency/incident response procedures
- Systematically records required training and training undertaken

10.2. Site Pre-starts/Toolbox Talks

This is an internal brief delivered by project management. All site visitors will undertake a pre-start brief detailing the key hazards and risks associated with the site, including risks and impacts to trees, along with any safety or environmental topics of concern. General briefings and Toolbox Talks will include all environmental aspects and impacts of the project as detailed in Section 6, specifically designed to be directly relevant to site operatives and other site personnel. Toolbox talks will be provided by the environmental team with subjects for discussion relevant to the scope and staging of the work, or in response to incidents. Details of each toolbox talk will be recorded, including topic, outline of content, attendance, and date. Signatures of attendees will be recorded.

The main project environmental aspects relating to tree protection and removal to be covered include the following topics:

- Fauna and flora awareness and management
- Permit to Clear Vegetation and Pre-clearing inspection requirements
- Structural Root Zones and Notional Root Zones
- Tree Protection Zones and Fencing
- Maintenance of tree protection measures
- Incident response and notification.

Internal environmental alerts will be communicated to the workforce during the site pre-starts.

10.3. Site specific training

Training may also take place in the form of site-specific training with the project arborist or other arborists to key Alliance members, for example a toolbox separate to that delivered at pre-start.

11. External Communication

11.1. Communication and consultation of this Plan

Consultation with relevant environmental authorities, land managers, councils, and other stakeholders will be undertaken to support implementation of this plan and meet the requirements of the EMF, as outlined in Section 9.2 of the CEMP. While the plan itself is not subject to formal approval, engagement will focus on key matters such as tree protection requirements and land access. The plan will also be verified by the Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA) as part of the EMF compliance framework. Communication will also support compliance with environmental approval conditions, the General Environmental Duty, and the Duty to Notify under the Environment Protection Act 2017.

Feedback received may inform updates to the plan where appropriate.

11.2. Stakeholder Communication

As detailed in Section 9.3 and 9.4 of the CEMP, the project team will develop a Communications and Community Engagement Plan (CCEP) which will be consistent with the NEL Communications and Community Engagement Strategy (NEL-PW-NEL-9990-PSC-STT-0001). A detailed complaint management processes and measures are addressed in the CCEP.

11.2.1. Complaint Management

Environmental enquiries and complaints will be communicated to the Environment & EPR Manager or their delegate. Together with the Communications, Stakeholder Engagement & Social Procurement Manager, or their delegate, they will develop an appropriate management strategy for the complainant, which may include additional environmental monitoring, management, and mitigation measures.

Environmental monitoring programs will be reviewed to address matters raised through valid complaints and consultations with stakeholders. Amendments to the monitoring program will be adequate to allow early identification of conditions that are likely to result in further complaints and/or exceedances. Data will be analysed to identify actual and potential impacts to the community, and corrective actions implemented.

11.3. Revision of CEMP and Sub-Plans

EHBA's processes will be continuously reviewed for improvement opportunities through many areas with these including but limited to results from audits, management reviews, monitoring results and reports, incidents, and incident investigation findings. The revision process for this plan is included in Section 10 of the CEMP.

11.4. Changes to the TRPMP

Changes to the TRPMP may occur in accordance with Section 10 of the CEMP. These may include updates such as revised design layouts, audit findings or feedback from consultation. The addition of any arboricultural or ecological information from surveys would also trigger this to be updated. Revisions of standards will also require updates to the TRPMP.

Those who need to be informed about these changes will be notified through:

- Toolboxes
- Training sessions

- Internal meetings and or emails.

12. Auditing

Confirmation that the requirements set out within this TRPMP has been complied with, including implementation of control measures, will be assessed through undertaking internal and external audits. Internal auditing will be undertaken quarterly with audit outcomes to be captured in the EHBA EPR Responsibilities Tracker.

Persons conducting internal audits and reviews will be suitably experienced and qualified. The two levels of internal auditor are Auditor and Lead Auditor. A mix of general education, specific auditor training and work experience are considered in determining the level of auditor.

TRPMP will form part of the scope Independent Environmental Audit as per of the Part F1, Section 1.7 of the PRS and section 7 of the EMF. The IEA will develop and finalise the project audit plan including the schedule and audit scope to the satisfaction of MRPV. It is expected that this plan and its deliverable will be audited in respect to compliance with EPR's AR1 and AR2.

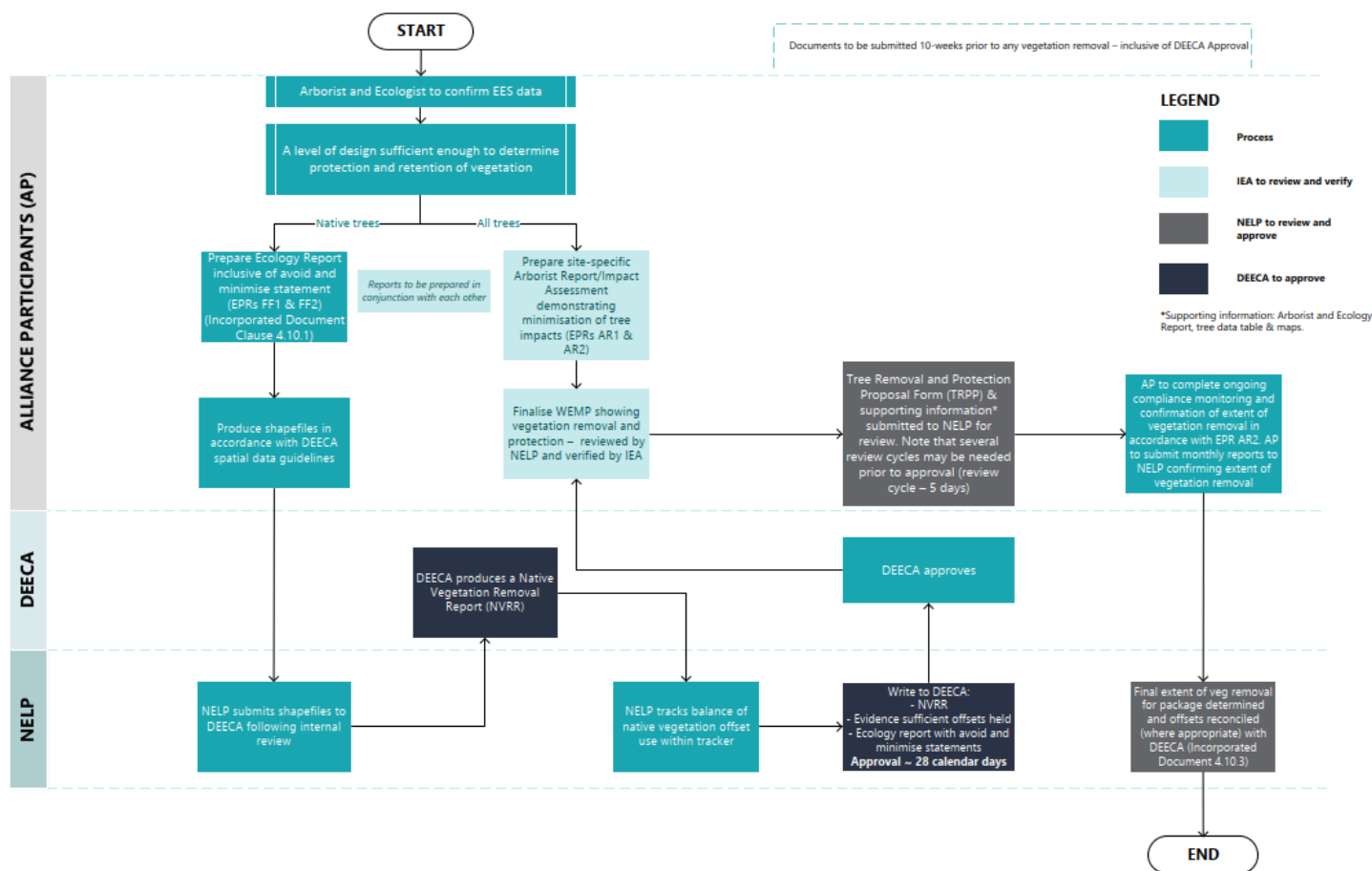
Feedback from these audits will support the continuous improvement of the Alliance EMS and overall project environmental performance. Audit findings will be shared with Alliance members and across the wider project team, as appropriate.

13. References

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- North East Link Project. (2024). Tree Protection and Monitoring Guidance (Document No. NEL-PW-NEL-CNP-PLN-0001). North East Link Program.

Appendix A. MRPV NELS FLOWCHART - Vegetation Removal

Please note: Arboricultural assessments (the first step after 'START') are to be used in the design process of the second step of this flowchart to determine tree retention.



NELS FLOWCHART – Vegetation Removal

Revised: 16/04/2025