Criteria for assessing applications to protect revegetation under the Native Vegetation Act 1991.

Refers to:

Part 4 – Heritage Agreements, proposals for revegetation and financial and other assistance – Divisions 1&2 – specifically: Heritage Agreements (Section 23 (1)(b)) and non-Heritage Agreements (Sections 23E, 23F and 23H) of the Native Vegetation Act 1991

The criteria were endorsed by the Native Vegetation Council, April 2014 subject to review in April 2016
Introduction

The intention of this document is to assist the assessment for the protection of native revegetation under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. It contains the criteria to guide that assessment by consultants and DEWNR staff as the main audience. Revegetation approved by the Native Vegetation Council provides protection from clearance controls, and may also qualify for management incentive funding under the Act.

Supporting documents produced to supplement these Criteria are:

- Information Sheet 49 – Protection of Existing Planted Native Species under Section 23E and 23H of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- Information Sheet 50 – Protection of Proposed Revegetation under Section 23F of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- Information Sheet 51 – Protection of Existing and Proposed Revegetation within a Heritage Agreement under *Part 4 – Division 1 – Heritage Agreements 23 (1)(b)* of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- Application Form to Protect Revegetation under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*


Application of these Criteria

These criteria apply for applications to protect proposed and existing revegetation, including within a Heritage Agreement area.

Section 23 (1)(b) of the Act allows for ‘representative’ revegetated areas to be considered for Heritage Agreements for preservation or enhancement.

Section 23H provides guidance with criteria for assessing protection applications for *existing* vegetation under Section 23E. Section 23F is about seeking protection for *proposed* revegetation.
General Points applying to all revegetation applications – 23(1)(b), 23E, 23F

1. The use of seed sourced from > 10 km from the application area requires an assessment by the Native Vegetation Council on a case by case basis.

2. Naturally occurring progeny of protected planted species will also be protected.

3. Where revegetation on a single property occurs in discrete areas and/or comprises distinct assemblages of plant species (differentiated by species composition, spacings and/or plant ages), assess each spatially or floristically discrete area independently. For each clearly distinguished (floristic and/or spatial) area of revegetation, the entire area occupied by the vegetation association will be assessed as a whole.

4. When assessing all applications against the recommended criteria, naturally occurring native species within the application area should be included in the assessment.

Criteria to assess 23E (existing revegetation) applications

The wording of Section 23E is as follows:

**23E—Declaration in relation to existing vegetation**

The Council may, on the application of the owner of land that has been revegetated with plants of one or more species indigenous to South Australia, declare that this Division applies to the vegetation if, in its opinion, the value of the vegetation is sufficient to warrant the application of the controls against clearance under Part 5 of The Act.

The wording of Section 23H is as follows:

**23H—Decision by the Council**

If, in the opinion of the Council after having regard to the Regional Biodiversity Plan or Plans (if any) prepared by the Minister, and associated pre-European vegetation mapping (if any) undertaken by the Minister, that apply in the vicinity of the relevant land, and any other matter considered relevant by the Council, the value of the native vegetation referred to in section 23E or 23F is, or will be, sufficient to warrant application of the controls against clearance under Part 5, it may make a declaration in relation to the vegetation under section 23E or approve the proposal under section 23F.

Pre-requisite conditions: 23E (existing revegetation)

Three prerequisite conditions must be fulfilled prior to further assessment of revegetation applications submitted under Section 23E. A decision tree is provided below the following explanations:
1. The planted species must be indigenous to South Australia and considered likely to have occurred on the land prior to European settlement

If the number of planted individuals not native to the application area exceeds 10% of the number of planted individuals applied for, it is recommended that the application be refused. If the number of planted individuals not native to the application area is < 10% of the number of planted individuals, it is recommended that the application be eligible for further consideration, but subject to an Action Plan being endorsed by the NVC. The Action Plan must detail a method for at least preventing an increase in the non-native species, and ideally outlining a method for their removal in an appropriate time frame.

The revegetation species assemblage does not necessarily have to be representative of a naturally occurring community.

2. (i) For completed revegetation projects, the planted species should be at least 5 years old

This condition ensures that the planted species have a high probability of survival. For revegetation that is 3 – 5 years old, applications should be assessed on a case by case basis taking into consideration the likelihood of survival of the majority of planted individuals.

2. (ii) For incomplete revegetation projects, the majority of existing planted species should be at least 5 years old

It is anticipated that there may often be applications where revegetation is a staged process and the landholder may apply for assessment of current and proposed plantings. If the majority of existing plantings are ≥ 5 years old and comprise > 50% of the biomass of the combined existing and proposed plantings, then existing plantings may be assessed using the suggested criteria for 23E OR may be assessed in conjunction with proposed future plantings using the criteria for 23F. For example, the applicants may have planted shrubs and trees, but still propose to plant groundcover plants and/or plant trees or shrubs to replace deaths of existing planted shrubs. In either case, the Act requires that the proposed plantings to be assessed use the criteria for 23F.

If the majority of existing plantings are < 5 years old and comprise > 50% of the expected biomass of combined existing and proposed plantings, then both the existing and proposed plantings should be assessed using the criteria for 23F.

If the majority of existing plantings are < 5 years old and comprise < 50% of the expected biomass of combined existing and proposed plantings, then the applicant should be advised to wait until the plantings are 5 years old (or if 3 – 5 years old, then assess existing plantings on a case by case basis).

3. “Increaser” plant species to be < 20% of the revegetation area

Increaser plant species are those listed in Appendix A of this document. This pre-requisite condition enables “increaser” planted native species to be protected under the Act but only to a predefined
maximum area. This is to circumvent potential applications for clearance of the increaser species should they increase their extent to the detriment of other native species and/or impair property management. For example, if at the time of application, Acacia paradoxa comprise 15% of the application area, and these plants are considered to provide important habitat (or satisfy any of the other Principles of Clearance), then all Acacia paradoxa existing at the time of application would be protected. These would continue to be protected if they increased up to 20% of the application area. However, if the Acacia paradoxa continued to increase then any of the Acacia paradoxa plants occupying over and above 20% of the area would not be protected (all other Acacia paradoxa plants up to 20% of the area would remain protected). Namely, at any one time increaser species are protected if they comprise up to 20% of the revegetation area (and clearance of them would be seriously at variance with one or more Principles of Clearance).

**Decision Process: 23E pre-requisite conditions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-requisite conditions to be fulfilled</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Are the planted species likely to have occurred on the land prior to European settlement? (need to consider landform element, soil, aspect)</td>
<td>Proceed to condition 2.</td>
<td>Look at protection options under other legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. (i) <strong>Substantially completed</strong> Revegetation Projects (&gt; 80% of total proposed plantings completed) that are:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- at least 5 years old</td>
<td>Continue to condition 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 3 – 5 years old</td>
<td>Assess each application on an individual basis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- &lt; 3 years old</td>
<td>Wait until at least 3 years old, or look at options under other legislation (refer Appendix C)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. (ii) <strong>Incomplete</strong> Revegetation Projects where a:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Majority of existing plantings are &gt; 5 years old, and &gt; 50% of the biomass of the combined existing and proposed plantings**</td>
<td>Existing plantings may be assessed using the suggested criteria for 23E OR may be assessed in conjunction with proposed future plantings using the criteria for 23F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Majority of existing plantings are &lt; 5 years old and comprise &gt; 50% of the biomass of combined existing and proposed plantings**</td>
<td>Both the existing and proposed plantings should be assessed using the criteria suggested for 23F.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Majority of existing plantings are &lt; 5 years old and comprise &lt; 50% of the biomass of combined existing and proposed plantings</td>
<td>Applicant should be advised to wait until the plantings are 5 years old.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Are “increaser” species &lt; 20% of the revegetation area?</td>
<td>If Yes, proceed to Assessment against Principles of Clearance per Schedule 1 of the Act.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only individuals comprising up to 20% of the revegetation area declared under Section 23E will be protected. Removal of naturally occurring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-requisite conditions to be fulfilled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>progeny of planted increaser species that cause the increaser species to occupy ≥ 20% of the revegetation area is authorised. Proceed to Assessment against Principles of Clearance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Where the majority of plantings are 3 – 5 years old, then assess each application on its merits

Section 23E Assessment against “Principles of Clearance” to determine ‘sufficient value’

Schedule 1 of the Act – ‘Principles of native vegetation clearance’ provide criteria for determining when vegetation should not be cleared and therefore offers statements of value that can apply to revegetation assessment and these are elaborated upon here.

After determining that the planted species would have occurred on the revegetated land prior to European settlement; have a high probability of survival; and will not become ‘problem’ native plants, the key requirement stated under Section 23E is to assess whether the revegetation has sufficient value to warrant controls against clearance. "Sufficient value" is determined by assessing whether clearance of the planted species would be seriously at variance with one or more Principles of Clearance. For this reason, no minimum area, number of plants or number of species has been defined within the following criteria.

When assessing the revegetation against the Principles of Clearance, naturally occurring native species within the application area should be included in the assessment.

Assessment of Planted Species against Principles of Clearance for Section 23E

It is recommended that planted species be declared under Section 23E if they meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

(a) *Species diversity*

The revegetation (including naturally occurring native species) comprises a high level of diversity of plant species. A high species diversity is defined as scoring at least ‘9’ (out of a maximum of 15) against the benchmark scores developed for that particular community in the Native Vegetation Management Unit “Bushland Rapid Assessment Technique (BushRAT)” Manual [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native_vegetation/Managing_native_vegetation/BushRAT](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native_vegetation/Managing_native_vegetation/BushRAT) (the species to be scored within a 1 ha area or the area of the revegetated community, if the latter is < 1 ha). Parallel to the development of the BushRAT assessment technique, was developed a series of benchmark values for the different condition attributes scored. A score of 9 is considered to be a high plant species diversity. For example, if the planted species benchmark community was a stringybark open forest with a dense sclerophyll understorey in the Mt Lofty Ranges, the representative revegetation area would need to contain at least 24 species.
(b) Wildlife Habitat

The revegetation (and any associated naturally occurring remnant vegetation) has significance as a habitat for wildlife. For the purpose of these Criteria, the revegetation will have significance if it:

Provides habitat for 1 or more fauna species listed in the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and/or the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

AND/OR

The revegetation forms a buffer to a naturally occurring remnant OR forms a corridor linking two remnants. The buffer and corridor should be at least 30 m wide, the buffer should be at least 100 m in length, and the remnants should be at least 1 ha.

AND/OR

The vegetation has been assessed as providing important fauna habitat by a person with recognised expertise in fauna habitat

(c) Threatened Species

For the purpose of this Criteria document, this principle applies only to the individuals of a plant species that are listed as rare, vulnerable or endangered in Schedules 7, 8 or 9 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and/or listed as threatened in the federal Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC). Note: for planted species not listed as threatened under State or Federal legislation, their declaration under Section 23E will require that their potential clearance would be deemed to be seriously at variance with one or more of the other Principles of Clearance.

(d) Endangered plant community

The revegetation comprises the whole, or a part, of a plant community that is rare, vulnerable or endangered. For the purpose of this Criteria document, this principle applies to nationally threatened plant communities, namely those listed under the EPBC Act (refer Appendix B for listing) and/or to vegetation communities provisionally listed as being of State (South Australian) conservation significance.

Further, at least the overstorey of that community should be present and representative of the threatened community, namely overstorey species and their density and spacing are typical of the community AND species diversity should score at least “7’ (out of a maximum of 15 points) for the appropriate BCM benchmark community.

(e) Remnancy

It is considered that relatively recent revegetation is unlikely to mimic “remnants”. For revegetation to qualify as being a “remnant” it is recommended that the plantings:
i. are at least 10 years old, AND

ii. are structurally and floristically representative of the plant community that would have existed on the land prior to clearance and/or if a BushRAT assessment is conducted, the revegetation achieves a vegetation condition score of > 45 (out of a possible 80 – NB: scores of 40 – 50 are considered to indicate that the plant community contains stratum that are intermediate between substantially intact and not substantially intact), AND

iii. occur within an Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) association that retains ≤ 10% remnant vegetation (to fulfill the requirement that the vegetation occurs within an area that has been extensively cleared). Note, 10% has been adopted for use since at least 1990 by the Native Vegetation Council in assessing this principle in clearance applications under the Act.

(f) Wetland

The revegetation is growing in, or in association with, a wetland environment. It is recommended that this principle be assessed on a case by case basis.

(g) Amenity

Due to the highly subjective nature of this principle, it is recommended that this principle not be used to determine whether revegetation has sufficient value to be declared under Section 23E.

(h) Soil erosion or soil salinity, (i) Surface of groundwater (j) Flooding

It is recommended that one or all of these principles apply if clearance of the revegetation was likely to contribute to:

(h) soil erosion or salinity in an area in which appreciable erosion or salinisation has already occurred or, where such erosion or salinisation has not yet occurred, the clearance of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable soil erosion or salinity; or

(i) the clearance of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water; or

(j) the clearance of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Revegetation applications will be assessed against the Principles of Clearance; (k) sustainable land use, (l) harm to the River Murray and (m) Adelaide Dolphin sanctuary on a case by case basis.
Section 23F: Proposals for revegetation of land NOT subject to a Heritage Agreement

Pre-requisite conditions: 23F

Section 23F applications will generally only be considered if they are part of a current revegetation program, of which a least 50% of the total proposed plantings are already 5 years old.

If the plantings are 3 – 5 years old, these will be assessed on an individual basis.

The existing plantings may be assessed under Section 23E using criteria recommended for Section 23E applications, OR they may be assessed along with future plantings using criteria for 23F.

The revegetation is representative of a naturally occurring community

This determination will be based upon an assessment of existing plantings (and where present, naturally occurring species), and information provided within a management plan. It is recommended that a management plan be required to accompany the application. The management plan should include plans for each existing planted and/or naturally occurring species, and for each species proposed to be planted. It should include:

- Estimates of projective foliage cover of each species at maturity (or for each shrub and tree species where there are more than 40 species being revegetated).
- A description of the proposed spatial arrangement of each species (or for each shrub and tree species where there are more than 40 species being revegetated).
- Weed control methods proposed for at least 5 years.
- Methods to prevent grazing of planted species.

The assessment of the proposed revegetation will be based upon information in the management plan, in conjunction with existing plantings and any naturally occurring native species.

Vegetation will be considered representative of a naturally occurring community if the proposed revegetation scores at least 25 points using the following table, and scores at least 3 points for attributes 1 to 5 in the table below.

Table 1: Point scoring to determine whether to approve proposed revegetation. Refer to the text below the following table to guide scoring of each attribute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute (existing and/or proposed plantings and naturally occurring native plant species, if any)</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Structural Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Native plant species diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Plant Spacing Density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Floristic composition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When assessing the following attributes, include naturally occurring native species and any existing plantings within the proposed revegetation area.

1) **Structural Diversity**

Plant species from each of the main structural layers present in the “benchmark” community (as per the Bushland Condition Monitoring Manuals) are proposed to be present within the projective foliage cover ranges indicated in Table 2 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark structural formation</th>
<th>% Projective foliage cover (PFC) range</th>
<th>Ground Layer &lt; 1m</th>
<th>Shrubs/Sedges &gt; 1m</th>
<th>Trees incl. lower tree layer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 - 50</td>
<td>0 - 20</td>
<td>0 - 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland with prominent grassy/herbaceous understorey</td>
<td>10 - 50</td>
<td>5 - 40</td>
<td>10 - 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallee (non-heath)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 - 20</td>
<td>20 - 40</td>
<td>20 - 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallee/Woodland heath (including mallee broombush)</td>
<td>2 - 20</td>
<td>30 - 60</td>
<td>10 - 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubland (wetland and non-wetland)</td>
<td>5 - 30</td>
<td>30 - 70</td>
<td>0 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland/Open Forest with sclerophyll shrub understorey</td>
<td>5 - 30</td>
<td>30 - 70</td>
<td>20 - 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) **Species Diversity**

The area should contain a proposed native species diversity equivalent to a score of at least 7 (out of a maximum of 15) against the relevant Bushland Condition Monitoring community benchmark.

3) **Spacing and density of plants**
The proposed spacing of plants should broadly resemble that of the corresponding “mature” pre-European plant community (or there should be a management plan that provides for adjusting the density of plants to match that of the mature community).

4) Floristic Composition

The proposed abundance of individual species should broadly resemble that of the corresponding “mature” pre-European plant community (or there should be a management plan that provides for adjusting the relative abundance of plant species to match that of the mature community).

5) Non-local species

Existing planted non-local species must not exceed 10% of the total number of planted individuals and there must be a management plan to control and where appropriate remove such species.

Determining sufficient value

If proposals meet the above criteria, then it is assumed they will have “sufficient value” to be declared under Section 23F.
23(1)(b) – Revegetation within an existing or proposed Heritage Agreement

This following criteria for assessing applications under 23(1)(b) (Heritage Agreements) include applications for:

- Revegetation within proposed new Heritage Agreements (including additions to existing Heritage Agreements)
- Revegetation within existing Heritage Agreements

The wording of Section 23(1)(b) is as follows.

The Minister may enter into a heritage agreement with the owner of land—

(b) where the land has been revegetated with plants of one or more species indigenous to the local area so as to be representative of a naturally occurring plant community and the Minister considers, after having regard to the Regional Biodiversity Plan or Plans (if any) approved by the Minister, and associated pre-European vegetation mapping (if any) undertaken by the Minister, that apply in the vicinity of the relevant land, that provision should be made for the preservation or enhancement of that vegetation.

Hence, for existing revegetation within a Heritage Agreement application area, the Act provides the following guidelines to determine applications under Section 23(1)(b):

- The revegetation must be representative of a naturally occurring plant community
- The NVC must have regard to the Regional Biodiversity Plan, and associated pre-European vegetation mapping (if any) for 23F.

Pre-European plant community

If > 90% of the planted individuals within the proposed Heritage Agreement are considered likely to have occurred on the land prior to pre-European settlement, then proceed with the application (a management plan should be in place to decrease the non-native planted species).

Minimum age of plantings – proposed Heritage Agreements

It is recommended that at least 50% of the revegetation within a Heritage Agreement application area be at least 5 years old.

Where at least 50% of the revegetation is 3 – 5 years old, each application should be assessed on its merits (the decision being based on how likely it is that the existing plants will survive).

Where at least 50% of the revegetation is < 3 years old, it is recommended that the revegetation be rejected for consideration as a Heritage Agreement UNLESS excluding the revegetation would create a highly irregular boundary (e.g. the revegetation was a small area in the centre of the proposed HA area).
This is summarised in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum age of at least 50% of plantings</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 5 years old</td>
<td>Proceed with application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 5 years old</td>
<td>Assess on merits and if appropriate, proceed with application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 3 years old</td>
<td>Reject revegetation for HA unless the exclusion of the revegetation would result in a highly irregular boundary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Minimum age of plantings – existing Heritage Agreements**

There is no minimum age for plantings to be approved within an existing Heritage Agreement.

If the revegetation meets the above criteria – namely the plant species are likely to have occurred on the land prior to European settlement, then it must be assessed as being representative of a naturally occurring community as follows (see next page):

**Determining if existing revegetation is representative of a naturally occurring community**

Existing areas of revegetation will be assessed based on information obtained during a field assessment and/or within a management plan. A management plan is required to accompany the application. The management plan should include for each existing planted and/or naturally occurring species, and for each species proposed to be planted:

- Estimates of projective foliage cover of each species at maturity (or for each shrub and tree species where there are more than 40 species being revegetated).
- A description of the proposed spatial arrangement of each species (or for each shrub and tree species where there are more than 40 species being revegetated).
- Weed control methods proposed for at least 5 years.
- Methods to prevent grazing of planted species.

Vegetation will be considered representative of a naturally occurring community if the revegetation scores at least 25 points using the following table, including scores at least 1 point for attributes 1 to 5 in the table below.

**Table 3: Point scoring to determine whether to approve existing revegetation within a Heritage Agreement application (new or addition to existing HA). Refer to text following the table for guidance on scoring each attribute.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Falls within the suggested parameters</td>
<td>Falls &lt; 50% outside parameters but management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Determined if proposed revegetation within an existing Heritage Agreement is likely to be representative of a naturally occurring community.

The assessment of the proposed revegetation within an existing Heritage Agreement will be based upon information in the management plan and in conjunction with existing plantings plus any naturally occurring native species.

Vegetation will be considered representative of a naturally occurring community if the proposed revegetation scores at least 25 points using the following table, **including** scores at least 3 points for attributes 1 to 5 in the table below.

Table 4: Point scoring to determine whether to approve proposed revegetation. Refer to text following the table for guidance on scoring each attribute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute (existing and/or proposed plantings and naturally occurring native plant species, if any)</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>Falls within the suggested parameters</th>
<th>Falls &lt; 50% outside parameters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Structural Diversity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Native plant species diversity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Plant Spacing Density</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total score must be at least 25 points for proposed revegetation to be approved with at least 3 points being for attributes 1 to 5.

When assessing the following attributes, include naturally occurring native species and any existing plantings within the proposed revegetation area.

1) **Structural Diversity**

Plant species from each of the main *structural layers* present in the “benchmark” community (as per the Bushland Condition Monitoring Manuals) are proposed to be present within the projective foliage cover ranges indicated in Table 5.

**Table 5: Range of projective foliage cover for plant structural layers within broad benchmark structural formations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark structural formation</th>
<th>% Projective foliage cover (PFC) range</th>
<th>Ground Layer &lt; 1m</th>
<th>Shrubs/Sedges &gt; 1m</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Woodland with prominent grassy/herbaceous understorey</td>
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<td>30 - 70</td>
<td>20 - 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) **Species Diversity**

The area should contain a proposed *native species diversity* equivalent to a score of at least 7 (out of a maximum of 15) against the relevant Bushland Condition Monitoring community benchmark.

3) **Spacing and density of plants**

The proposed spacing of plants should broadly resemble that of the corresponding “mature” pre-European plant community (or there should be a management plan that provides for adjusting the density of plants to match that of the mature community).

4) **Floristic Composition**
The proposed abundance of individual species should broadly resemble that of the corresponding “mature” pre-European plant community (or there should be a management plan that provides for adjusting the relative abundance of plant species to match that of the mature community).

5) Non-local species

Existing planted non-local species must not exceed 10% of the total number of planted individuals and there must be a management plan to control and where appropriate remove such species.
Appendix A: Increaser species

*Acacia longifolia var. sophorae*

*Acacia paradoxa*

*Acacia pycnantha*

*Acacia cyclops*

*Acacia victoriae*

*Atriplex stipitata*

*Dodonaea viscosa*
Appendix B: Threatened Ecological Communities (under the EPBC Act)

- Buloke Woodland of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Regions

- Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of south-eastern Australia

- Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia

- Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Grassy Woodland of South Australia

- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains

- Swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula

- The community of native species dependent on natural discharge of groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin

- Subtropical and Coastal Saltmarsh

- Eyre Peninsula Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus petiolaris*) Woodland