



Mildura Rural City Council

## Native Vegetation Policy

### Policy – CP065

Prepared	Reviewed	Approved	Date	Council Minute No.
Environmental Sustainability Coordinator	ELT	Council	27 March 2019	2019/0053
EDMS File: 18/02/01		To be reviewed: March 2024		
Document Owner: Manager Community Futures		Review Frequency: 5 Years		

#### 1. The purpose of this policy is

The purpose of this Policy is to state Council's approach to the management of native vegetation on Council managed land.

#### 2. Policy Statement

Mildura Rural City Council is responsible for the management of native vegetation on both freehold land and land under Council's Committee of Management. This includes municipal roadsides, the Murray River Permanent Reserve and various other parcels. Council recognises the value of native vegetation in providing:

- Wildlife corridors and habitat,
- supporting ecosystems and biodiversity,
- amenity,
- ecosystem services such as, windbreaks and soil conservation,
- heritage value.

Council is committed to protecting and managing native vegetation in accordance with State Government regulations.

### **3. Principles**

#### **Native Vegetation Management**

The protection of native vegetation on Council land is considered a high priority. Management actions in areas of native vegetation include but are not limited to:

- The prevention/closure of unauthorized tracks with fencing, bollards, logs etc,
- litter/illegal dumping collection,
- revegetation with indigenous species,
- mulching,
- pest plant and animal control,
- strategic provision and maintenance of recreational areas/furniture (picnic tables, authorised tracks and parking areas) that are sensitive to the natural environment.

Native vegetation impacts will be identified and considered in the planning stage of all projects, with the protection and avoidance of damage to native vegetation a priority.

Employees with the potential to impact native vegetation will be appropriately trained in native vegetation management.

#### **Native Vegetation Clearing**

Any proposed native vegetation clearing on Council land, or unique use requests on Council land containing native vegetation must go through Council's Land Managers Consent process. The purpose of the clearing must be clearly conveyed including demonstrated avoidance in accordance with State Government regulations.

Illegal clearing on Council land will be managed in a consistent and transparent manner. A clear decision making process will be followed for prosecution of illegal native vegetation clearing on Council land.

### **4. Implementation**

Manager Asset Services, Manager Community Futures, Manager Development Services, Manager Parks and Waste Services, Manager Works and Infrastructure Services.

## 5. Definitions

Native Vegetation	Native local plant species growing naturally in the environment that has not previously been cleared. Can be a single tree/plant or a patch of many trees/plants. Includes regenerated and areas planted for biodiversity that are older than 10 years.
Murray River Permanent Reserve	Land along the Victorian banks of the River Murray permanently reserved as Crown land for public purposes. This is typically an area approximately 60 meters (3 chains) from the water's edge.
Unique Use	Use other than passive recreational use such as apiary, special events, fire management activities, utility access requests.

## 6. Legislation and other references

### 6.1 Legislation

For further information related to this policy see:

- Mildura Planning Scheme
- Native Vegetation Removal Regulations (Victoria)

### 6.2 Documents

This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following documents:

- Land Managers Consent (applications for new mooring site licensees)
- Vegetation Management Plan

### 6.3 Risk Assessment Reference

*Please tick the corporate governance risk(s) that this policy is addressing.*

Risk Category	✓	Risk Category	✓
Asset Management	✓	Financial Sustainability	✓
Committees		Human Resource Management	
Compliance – Legal & Regulatory	✓	Leadership & Organisational Culture	
Contract Management		Occupational Health & Safety	
Contract Tendering & Procurement		Organisational Risk Management	✓
Corporate Governance		Project Management	
Environmental Sustainability	✓	Public Image and Reputation	