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Y06/1820

21 NOV 2006

Dr John Williams
Commissioner
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Dr Williams

I write further to my letter to you of 2 November 2006 seeking the advice of the Natural Resources Commission on amendments to the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology. As you are aware, these amendments were the result of extensive consultation between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

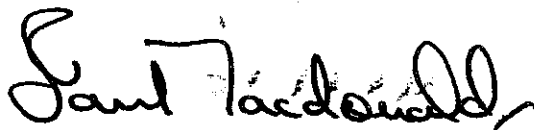
I would appreciate it if you could replace the current information with the information provided in the attachment to this letter. The revised information should also be used in your preparation of any comments you may wish to make on the amendments.

Subsequent to my previous letter of 2 November 2006, the matter of thinning in coastal Catchment Management Authorities has been raised with me as an important issue that requires further analysis. I have therefore removed this issue from the attached table. I expect to refer this matter to you for full consultation in the near future.

I would appreciate your early advice on these changes.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



IAN MACDONALD MLC

CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EOAM FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

As posted by the NRC on Monday 6 November 2006

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
1		[Not applicable]	Below the words "Date: 14 th November 2005", add the words "This version incorporates amendments published in the NSW Government Gazette on 21 July 2006 and [date]". [Date to be added following gazettal of the relevant amendments.]	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
5		Native Vegetation Reform Implementation Group, 2003 Final Report. Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au/nvrig/pdf/sinclairreport.pdf	Delete and replace with: Native Vegetation Reform Implementation Group, 2003 Final Report. Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources http://www.nativevegetation.nsw.gov.au/methodology/index.shtml	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
5		Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), 2003 A New Approach to Natural Resource Management. www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au/nvrig/pdf/finalnvrig.pdf	Delete and replace with; Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 2003 A New Approach to Natural Resource Management.	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
6	Section 2.1 3 rd paragraph	[In second line] "clause 25"	Delete and replace with "clause 24"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
6	Section 2.1 3 rd paragraph	[In fourth line] "Clause 26"	Delete and replace with "clause 25"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
6	Section 2.1 3 rd paragraph	[In sixth line] "clause 25(2)"	Delete and replace with "clause 25(1)(g)"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
6	Section 2.1 6 th paragraph	[In second line] "in accordance amendments approved by clause 26"	Delete and replace with "in accordance with amendments made under clause 25"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
8	Section 2.3, Note, dot point B	"the benefits of the offset occur in the same area as the impacts of the proposed clearing"	Delete and replace with "benefits from any offset whether the same property or elsewhere will improve or maintain environmental outcomes for each relevant environmental value".	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
9	Section 2.4.3	[Second paragraph, first dot point] "vegetation density benchmarks"	Delete and replace with "vegetation benchmarks"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
9	Section 2.4.3 2 nd paragraph	[second dot point] "habit feature".	Delete and replace with "habitat feature"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
9	Section 2.4.3 4 th paragraph	"in accordance with clause 27(1)(a)"	Delete and replace with "in accordance with clause 26(1)(a)"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
9	Section 2.4.3 7 th paragraph	"the requirements of clause 30"	Delete and replace with "the requirements of clause 29"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
17	Section 4.2	[Not applicable]	Insert new paragraph after paragraph 2, "A salinity hazard assessment is not required where the proposal to clear native vegetation involves the removal of paddock trees, as defined for the BioMetric Tool".	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
17	Section 4.2 Table 4.1	[Current wording is set out in the "Salt Store Class" column in existing Table 4.1 – see Attachment B]	[Delete current Table 4.1 and replace with revised Table 4.1 – see Attachment C.]	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT.
33 and 45	Sections 5.2.3 and 5.2.4 and 5.7 (4)	[Section 5.2,3, second dot point] "the Minister for the Environment will consult with the Minister for Natural Resources" [Section 5.2,4, second dot point] "the Minister for the Environment will consult with the	For Sections 5.2.3, 5.2.4 and 5.7 (dot point 4), delete "Minister for the Environment" wherever it appears and replace with "Director General, Department of Environment and Conservation"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
		<p>Minister for Natural Resources”</p> <p>[Section 5.7, dot point 4] “approved by the Minister for the Environment” [The section states that prior to any changes being made the Minister for the Environment must consult with the Minister for Natural Resources.]</p>		
34	5.2.4	<p>Under the heading “Determining whether the vegetation is an overcleared vegetation type”</p> <p>An overcleared vegetation type is a vegetation type of which more than 70% has been cleared within the relevant Catchment Management Authority area.</p> <p>The vegetation type and whether it is an overcleared vegetation type is identified from the list of vegetation types in the BioMetric database.</p> <p>The overcleared vegetation type database is a database held by the Department of Environment and Conservation and approved by the Minister for Environment, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a list of Vegetation types are listed by Catchment Management Authority area in which more than 70% of native vegetation type has been cleared; and • prior to any changes being made to the overcleared landscape database the Minister for the Environment will consult with the Minister for Natural Resources. 	OMITTED FROM DNR TABLE OF AMENDMENTS	<p>NOTE CORRECTION TO AMENDMENT</p> <p>In dot point two change the wording from “prior to any changes being made to the overcleared vegetation types data base.”</p>
35	Section 5.3.3	Under the heading “ Change in landscape value from clearing ”:	Under the heading “ Change in	NOTE CORRECTION TO AMENDMENT

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
		<p>“Landscape value encompasses fragmentation, connectivity and adjacency of native vegetation up to 1000 ha around the clearing proposal. The assessor determines change in landscape value from clearing using the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • percent native vegetation cover in the landscape. This is current vegetation cover and future vegetation cover (with proposed clearing) within radii of 1.75 km (1000 ha), 0.55 km (100 ha) and 0.2 km (10 ha) from the centre of the proposal site, estimated in categories of 0-10%, 11-30%, 31-70%, or >70% cover; • connectivity. The current and future (with proposed clearing) connectivity values are assessed as high, moderate, low, or nil using criteria in the Biometric to determine the change in connectivity value with clearing; • total adjacent remnant area. This is the total remnant area of which the clearing proposal is a part recorded as large, medium, small, or zero. This is assessed for current landscape value only, as adjacent remnant area is lost with clearing. <p>Landscape value is assessed separately for each of the proposed offset and the proposed clearing once only, regardless of the number of vegetation zones proposed for clearing and offsets. The centre of the radii is the approximate centre of the vegetation zone if one zone is involved, and is the centre of the vegetation zone which loses the most</p>	<p>landscape value from clearing”:</p> <p>In the first dot point, delete the words, “from the centre of the proposed site” and replace with “with the centre of the radii placed to cover the maximum loss of vegetation from clearing”.</p> <p>In the third dot point, delete the words “This is assessed for current landscape value only, as adjacent remnant is lost with clearing”.</p> <p>Delete the following sentences “Landscape value is assessed separately for each of the proposed offset and the proposed clearing once only, regardless of the number of vegetation zones proposed for clearing and offsets. The centre of the radii is the approximate centre of the vegetation zone if one zone is involved, and is the centre of the vegetation that loses the most landscape value from clearing if more than one vegetation zone is proposed for clearing”. Leave the last sentence “Biometric calculates change in landscape value with clearing using the equations below”.</p> <p>Under the heading “Change in landscape value with offset(s)”: Delete sentence, “Change in landscape value with the offset(s) is calculated as the difference between current landscape value in the offset zone(s) and landscape value in the offset zone(s) with the management actions</p>	<p>“Change in landscape value with the offset(s) is calculated as the difference between current landscape value and landscape value in the offset site and clearing using the equations below.</p>

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
		<p>landscape value from clearing if more than one vegetation zone is proposed for clearing. BioMetric calculates change in landscape value with clearing using the equations below.”</p> <p>Under the heading “Change in landscape value with offset(s)”:</p> <p>Change in landscape value with the offset(s) is calculated as the difference between current landscape value in the offset zone(s) and landscape value in the offset zone(s) with the management actions for the offset, using the equations below.</p> <p>The change in landscape value with the offset is determined using the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) percent native vegetation cover in the landscape (see above); b) connectivity (see above); c) total adjacent remnant area (see above); d) riparian area. Whether the offset has >25%, 26%-50%, 51%-75%, >75% of its area within a riparian area is recorded. 	<p>for the offset, using the equations below.</p> <p>Replace with, “Change in landscape value with the offset(s) is calculated as the difference between current landscape value in the offset with clearing and landscape value in the offset with clearing with the management actions for the offset, using the equations below.”</p>	<p>The change in landscape value with the offset:</p> <p><u>also considers the percentage within the riparian area. This is the percentage of the site within the riparian area as defined in the Biometric manual.</u></p>
35, 36 and 37	Section 5.3.3 and 5.3.2 [5.3.2 incorrectly numbered]	<p>[In Section 5.3.3 (pages 35 to 36):]</p> <p>The words “The <i>Landscape Value</i> formulae are:” and the formulae, number and text following those words, up to and including the words “<i>f</i> = % within riparian area”</p> <p>[In Section 5.3.2 (page 37):]</p>	<p>In Section 5.3.3 (pages 35 to 36), delete the text described in the column “Current wording” and replace with the formulae and text set out under the headings “The Landscape Value formulae for the clearing site are;” and “The Landscape Value formulae for the offsets site are;” (including the text of those headings), in Attachment “A”.</p>	<p>NOTE CORRECTION TO AMENDMENT</p> <p><u>Insert Attachment A of this corrected document as “Attachment A”</u></p>

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
		The formula and text immediately following the words "Site Value is calculated as;", up to and including the words "Zone Area is the total area of the <i>i</i> th Zone in hectares"	In Section 5.3.4 (page 37), delete the text described in "Current Wording" and replace with the formula and text set out under the heading "Site Value is calculated as;" (including the text of that heading), in Attachment "A".	
35 and 37	Sections 5.3.4 (page 35) and 5.3.2 (page 37)	<p>"5.3.4 Assessing change in landscape value" [page 35]</p> <p>"5.3.2 Assessing site value" [page 37]"</p>	<p>On page 35, delete the text set out in the "Current Wording" column and replace with "5.3.3 Assessing change in landscape value"</p> <p>On page 37, delete the text set out in the "Current Wording" column and replace with "5.3.4 Assessing site value"</p>	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
36	Table 5.1	<p>Numbers in column headed "Relative Weighting" in Table 5.1 – Table shows:</p> <p>Relative Weighting</p> <p>1</p> <p>0.66</p> <p>0.33</p> <p>0.66</p> <p>0.66</p> <p>0.66</p>	<p>Delete all numbers in column headed "Relative Weighting" and replace them with the following numbers:</p> <p>10</p> <p>6.66</p> <p>3.33</p> <p>6.66</p> <p>6.66</p> <p>6.66</p> <p>6.66</p>	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
36	Table 5.2	[Not applicable – see "Suggested Changes"]	<p>Immediately above Table 5.2, insert the following text box:</p> <div data-bbox="1077 1102 1576 1355" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Note: Vegetation is linked to surrounding native vegetation if it is <100 metres from native vegetation that is, in turn, linked to surrounding native vegetation not in low condition and greater than one hectare.</p> </div>	<p>NOTE CORRECTION TO AMENDMENT</p> <div data-bbox="1585 1098 2101 1350" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Note: Vegetation is linked to surrounding native vegetation if it is ≤100 metres from native vegetation that is, in turn, linked to surrounding native vegetation not in low condition and greater than one hectare.</p> </div>

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
38	Table 5.4	Rows b-f percentages in Column 1 (100-150%) and column 2 (150-200%).	<p>In rows b-f in Column 1, delete “100-150%” wherever it appears and replace with “151-199%”. In rows b-f in Column 2, delete “150-200%” wherever it appears and replace with “100-150%”.</p> <p>For all rows in Table 5.4, delete “150-200%” wherever it appears and replace it with “151-199%”.</p> <p>For all rows in Table 5.4, delete “50-100%” wherever it appears and replace it with “51-99%”</p> <p>[Attachment “D” shows Table 5.4 as it appears after the changes set out above].</p>	<p>NOTE CORRECTION TO AMENDMENT</p> <p>Replace Attachment “D” Table 5.4 of this corrected document as Attachment D</p>
39	Section 5.3.2	<p>[First dot point under the words “Current site condition is measured as follows”]</p> <p>Current site condition is measured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “establish plots in each vegetation zone in approximate proportion to the area of the zone. Randomly place one plot every two hectares, with a minimum of one plot and a maximum of 10 plots per vegetation zone.” <p>Site value following clearing is determined by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • predicting the impact of clearing on each condition variable according to the type of clearing, using the information provided with BioMetric; and • multiplying the predicted condition in the vegetation zone(s) with clearing by the area of the zone(s). 	<p>Delete the words “Randomly place one plot every two hectares, with a minimum of one plot and a maximum of 10 plots per vegetation zone”. and replace them with “Plots should be placed randomly with a minimum of one plot and a maximum of ten plots within a zone”.</p>	<p>IN ADDITION TO AMENDMENTS</p> <p>Site value following clearing is determined by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • predicting the impact of clearing on each condition variable according to the type of clearing, using the information provided with BioMetric

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
39	Section 5.3.2 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th and 6 th paragraphs (on page 39)	[See "Suggested Changes" column.]	<p>In the 5th paragraph, delete second dot point "multiplying the predicted condition in the vegetation zone(s) with clearing by the area of zones(s)".</p> <p>In the 6th, immediately after the words "using the above equations for calculating site value", add the following sentence: "The change in site value with clearing is calculated as the difference between the current site value and site value with clearing".</p> <p>Delete "current site condition" wherever it appears, and replace it with "current site value" (such references occur in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Paragraphs).</p> <p>In the 6th paragraph, delete "site condition" and replace with "site value".</p>	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
40	Section 5.4 2 nd Paragraph	"This Chapter Section does not apply to coastal Catchment Management Authorities other than the following parts of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority; on grazing properties within Tenterfield, Kyogle and the former Copmanhurst and Nymboida local government council areas within the Northern Rivers CMA. In these areas its use is limited to eucalypt and acacia species (not in rainforest) only."	<p>Delete the text set out in the "Current wording" column and replace it with the following text:</p> <p>"This Chapter Section does not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area of operations of the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority or • the area of operations of the Northern Rivers Catchment Authority (except as set out below). <p>In the area of operations of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, this Chapter Section applies only to grazing properties within Tenterfield, Kyogle and the former Copmanhurst and Nymboida local government areas. In these areas the</p>	<p>NOTE</p> <p>Section 5.4 and 5.4.1 IS BEING REWRITTEN PENDING STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION</p>

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
			use of this Chapter Section is limited to eucalypt and acacia species (not in rainforest) only.”	
41				<p>NOTE</p> <p>Section 5.4.2 BEING REWRITTEN PENDING STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION</p>
42	Section 5.5	<p>“Stem density. Number of stems per hectare, measured in plots as number of stems per 0.1 hectare.”</p> <p>“Plot. Area in which condition assessment is undertaken, usually 0.1 hectare or 0.04 hectare depending on the condition variable being measured.”</p>	<p>In “Stem density” definition, delete the words, “as number of stems per 0.1 hectare”.</p> <p>In the “Plot” definition, delete the words “,usually 0.1 hectare or 0.04 hectares depending on the condition variable being measured”.</p>	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
44	Section 5.7, 1 (c)	<p>Identify whether any threatened species occur or are likely to occur</p> <p>1. A threatened species is likely to occur on the area proposed to be cleared if the:</p> <p>(a) Threatened Species Profile Database indicates that the species is known or likely to occur in the Catchment Management Authority Area Sub-region (See Appendix A) and is associated with any of the vegetation types within the area to be cleared; and</p> <p>(b) area proposed to be cleared is within the specified geographic constraints for the species as defined in the Threatened Species Profile Database. For some species there is additional information that describes in more detail the geographical constraints on a species beyond vegetation type and sub-region. In certain circumstances this will enable the location of a threatened</p>	OMITTED FROM DNR TABLE OF AMENDMENTS	<p>NOTE CORRECTION TO AMENDMENTS</p> <p>“>25% of the lower projected mature overstorey foliage expected for the vegetation type or has >50% of the vegetation in ground layer comprising of indigenous native plant species and there is >10% ground cover”</p>

Page Number	Chapter Section and/or Paragraph (if applicable)	Current wording	Suggested Changes	Corrections to Amendments (submitted by the Minister for the Environment)
		<p>species to be more effectively predicted; and</p> <p>(c) The Threatened Species Profile Database indicates that the species is likely to occur in the vegetation type if it is in moderate to good condition, low condition or paddock tree condition. Many species are only likely to occur if the vegetation is in moderate to good condition and therefore do not need to be considered further if the vegetation on the area proposed to be cleared is low condition or paddock trees.</p> <p>The condition categories are:</p> <p>i) Moderate to Good Condition vegetation defined as: Native woody vegetation having a mature overstorey projected foliage cover that is >25% of the lower projected mature overstorey foliage expected for that vegetation type and has >50% of the vegetation in the ground layer comprising of indigenous native plant species and there is > 10% ground cover.</p> <p>Native grassland, wetland or herbfield having >50% of the ground layer comprising of indigenous native species and there is > 10% ground cover);</p>		
44	Sections 5.7.1(c)	[See "Suggested Changes" column.]	In subparagraphs i), ii) and iii) in dot point (c) in Section 5.7.1, delete "projected foliage cover" wherever it appears and replace it with "per cent foliage cover".	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT
67	Table 7.1	[See "Suggested Changes" column.]	In the first column delete "Central West—CP" wherever it appears and replace it with "Central West--All"	NO CORRECTIONS NOTED FOR THIS AMENDMENT

The **Landscape Value** formulae for the clearing site are:

$$\left(\text{Landscape Value}_{\text{Current}} \right)_{\text{Clearing site}} = \left(\sum_{v=a}^e (s_v w_v) \right)$$

$$\left(\text{Landscape Value}_{\text{With clearing}} \right)_{\text{Clearing site}} = \left(\sum_{v=a}^d (s_v w_v) \right)$$

where

s_v is the score for v th variable (a - e) as defined below and in Table 5.1

w_v is the weighting for the v th variable (a - e) as defined below and in Table 5.1

a = % cover of native vegetation within a 1.75km radius of the site (1000ha)

b = % cover of native vegetation within a 0.55km radius of the site (100ha)

c = % cover of native vegetation within a 0.2km radius of the site (10ha)

d = connectivity value

e = total adjacent remnant area

The **Landscape Value** formulae for the offsets site are:

$$\left(\text{Landscape Value}_{\text{With clearing}} \right)_{\text{Offset site}} = \left(\sum_{v=a}^d (s_v w_v) \right)$$

$$\left(\text{Landscape Value}_{\text{With clearing \& offsets}} \right)_{\text{Offset site}} = \left(\sum_{v=a}^f (s_v w_v) \right)$$

where

s_v is the score for v th variable (a - f) as defined below and in Table 5.1

w_v is the weighting for the v th variable (a - f) as defined below and in Table 5.1

a = % cover of native vegetation within a 1.75km radius of the site (1000ha)

b = % cover of native vegetation within a 0.55km radius of the site (100ha)

c = % cover of native vegetation within a 0.2km radius of the site (10ha)

d = connectivity value

e = total adjacent remnant area

f = % within riparian area

Site Value is calculated as:

$$\sum_{z=1}^n \left(\left(\frac{\left(\sum_{v=a}^j (s_v w_v) \right) + 5 \left((s_a s_g) + (s_b s_i) + (s_h s_j) + (s_c s_k) \right) \times 100}{c} \right) \times (\text{ZoneArea}) \right)_z$$

where

z is the *n*th Vegetation Zone

s_v is the score for *v*th variable (*a-j*) as defined in Table 5.4

w_v is the weighting for the *v*th variable (*a-j*) as defined in Table 5.4

$k = (s_d + s_e + s_f) / 3$

c is the maximum score that can be obtained given the variables *a-j* that occur in the benchmark for the vegetation type (i.e., this varies depending on which variables are in the benchmark)

ZoneArea is the total area of the *n*th Vegetation Zone in hectares.

Existing Table 4.1 Criteria for determining Land and Soil Capability Class for Salinity Hazard for all Slopes and Tablelands Catchment Hazard Areas and the Hawkesbury - Nepean Coastal Plains Catchment Hazard Area.

Evidence of salinity outbreaks in the Land and Soil Capability Zone	Evidence of salinity outbreaks downslope from the Land and Soil Capability Zone	Salt Store Class	Land and Soil Capability Class	
No salt outbreaks	No salt outbreaks	Very Low; Very Low to Low	1	
		Low; Low to Moderate	2	
		Moderate	3-6	
		Moderate to High; High	7	
		High to Very High; Very High	8	
	Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding	Very Low; Very Low to Low; Low; Low to Moderate; Moderate	Moderate to High; High	3-6
			High to Very High; Very High	7
			High to Very High; Very High	8
	Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding	Any	7-8	
	Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding	No salt outbreaks	Very Low; Very Low to Low; Low; Low to Moderate; Moderate	3-6
Moderate to High; High			7	
High to Very High; Very High			8	
Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding		Very Low; Very Low to Low; Low; Low to Moderate; Moderate	Moderate to High; High	3-6
			High to Very High; Very High	7
			High to Very High; Very High	8
Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding		Not Required	7-8	
Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding		Not Required	Not Required	7-8

Revised Table 4.1 Criteria for determining Land and Soil Capability Class for Salinity Hazard for all Slopes and Tablelands Catchment Hazard Areas and the Hawkesbury - Nepean Coastal Plains Catchment Hazard Area.

Evidence of salinity outbreaks in the Land and Soil Capability Zone	Evidence of salinity outbreaks downslope from the Land and Soil Capability Zone	Salt Store Class	Land and Soil Capability Class	
No salt outbreaks	No salt outbreaks	Very Low	1	
		Very Low to Low ; Low	2	
		Low to Moderate; Moderate; Moderate to High	3-6	
		High; High to Very High	7	
		Very High	8	
	Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding	Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding	Very Low; Very Low to Low; Low; Low to Moderate; Moderate	3-6
			Moderate to High; High	7
			High to Very High; Very High	8
	Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding	Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding	Any	7-8
	Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding	No salt outbreaks	Very Low; Very Low to Low; Low; Low to Moderate; Moderate	3-6
Moderate to High; High			7	
High to Very High; Very High			8	
Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding		Salt outbreaks observed but not extensive and no severe scalding	Very Low; Very Low to Low; Low; Low to Moderate	3-6
			Moderate; Moderate to High; High	7
			High to Very High; Very High	8
Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding		Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding	Not Required	7-8
Salt outbreaks extensive and severe scalding		Not Required	Not Required	7-8

Table 5.4 Explanation of the way each variable in site valuation is scored

Variable	Score in <i>BioMetric</i>				Percent weighting
	0	1	2	3	
Native plant species richness	0	0-<50% of benchmark	50-<100% of benchmark	≥benchmark	25
Native over-storey cover	0-10% or >200% of benchmark	>10-<50% or <150-200% of benchmark	50-<100% or >100-150% of benchmark	within benchmark	10
Native mid-storey cover	0-10% or >200% of benchmark	>10-<50% or <150-200% of benchmark	50-<100% or >100-150% of benchmark	within benchmark	10
Native ground cover (grasses)	0-10% or >200% of benchmark	>10-<50% or <150-200% of benchmark	50-<100% or >100-150% of benchmark	within benchmark	2.5
Native ground cover (shrubs)	0-10% or >200% of benchmark	>10-<50% or <150-200% of benchmark	50-<100% or >100-150% of benchmark	within benchmark	2.5
Native ground cover (other)	0-10% or >200% of benchmark	>10-<50% or <150-200% of benchmark	50-<100% or >100-150% of benchmark	within benchmark	2.5
Exotic plant cover (calculated in <i>BioMetric</i> as % of total ground and mid-storey cover)	>66%	<33-66%	<5-33%	0-5%	5
Number of trees with hollows	0 (unless benchmark includes 0)	>0-<50% of benchmark	50-<100% of benchmark	≥ benchmark	20
Proportion of over-storey species occurring as regeneration	0%	>0-<50%	50-<100%	≥100%	12.5
Total length of fallen logs	0-10% of benchmark	10-50% of benchmark	50-100% of benchmark	≥ benchmark	10