

R0001984493

Environmental Standard for Vegetation Management and Clearing

Approval

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Environmental Standard for Vegetation Management and Clearing

HSEQ Management System

1. Purpose

This standard specifies TasNetworks minimum requirements for managing environmental and cultural heritage risks associated with the management or clearing of vegetation in line with [TasNetworks Environment and Sustainability Policy](#), [TasNetworks Risk Appetite Statement](#) and any applicable environmental law, regulations, guidelines and industry codes of practice.

2. Background

TasNetworks is required to manage and maintain vegetation clearances around electricity and telecommunication infrastructure. Maintaining vegetation clearances around overhead power lines to the required standard, is critical for managing network reliability, and bushfire and public safety risk.

In addition, the clearing or removal of vegetation may be necessary to repair, replace or upgrade existing assets (e.g. poles, transformers, underground cables), restore power supply or protect electricity infrastructure in emergency situations.

In delivering the program of work, TasNetworks must balance the management of its' business risks whilst minimising impacts on environmental and cultural heritage values near our assets.

Where TasNetworks is constructing new power lines to support the connection of new customers or generation (including any ancillary infrastructure), TasNetworks seeks to design new assets so any potential impacts on threatened species values are minimized over the entire life of the asset. This includes retaining areas of remnant native vegetation, streamside reserves and areas identified as having significant value for threatened species where practical.

3. Scope

This standard applies to anyone working for, or on behalf of TasNetworks, while planning or undertaking any work that will directly impact vegetation. This includes all contractors and approved subcontractors.

Work that directly impacts vegetation includes, but is not limited to:

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- Trimming or pruning of vegetation near existing overhead power lines, substations or telecommunications assets to maintain vegetation clearances.
- Any mechanical clearing, mulching or slashing to maintain vegetation clearances and/or fuel load.
- The clearing, management, or removal of vegetation.
- The use of herbicides.
- Any other method used to manage, clear or remove vegetation not otherwise mentioned above.

3.1 Exclusions

The Standard does not apply to:

- Any inadvertent impact to vegetation by vehicles or personnel while travelling to site off formed roads or access tracks, excluding the mobilisation of *heavy machinery*.
- Garden or other maintenance work undertaken within the fenced area of any TasNetworks owned or managed facilities or substations.
- The removal of fallen vegetation for the purposes of easement access or outage restoration.

Any work that will directly impact vegetation during a *fault* or *emergency*, does not require a documented environmental risk assessment prior to work commencing. However, best endeavours must be made to identify and minimise environmental impact as far as reasonably practical during any fault or emergency work.

4. Requirements for all work

An environmental risk assessment must be completed for all work that will directly impact vegetation. The environmental risk assessment must meet all requirements specified in section 5, unless otherwise agreed.

All work that directly impacts vegetation, must comply with all applicable environmental and heritage law. This includes, but is not limited to, state and federal legislation, regulations and agreements made between a regulatory authority and TasNetworks (e.g. the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forest Practices Authority).

Other requirements that must be complied with during any planned works includes:

- Commitments and conditions granted as part of any regulatory approvals, development application, or *permit to take*.
- All applicable policies, standards, procedures and work practices which form part of TasNetworks integrated (environmental) management system (IMS/EMS).

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- Any formal environmental advice received from the Environment and Sustainability Team (E&S team), qualified environmental consultant or regulatory authority.
- All applicable requirements described in the Forest Practices Code (e.g. maintenance of streamside reserves).

Vegetation management and clearing work must be undertaken in a manner which minimises impact on environmental and cultural heritage values as far as reasonably practical. This includes the identification or any detrimental impact to *important vegetation* and *important locations* as per [Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code \(TEC\)](#). Where detrimental impact is identified, advice should be sought from the relevant land manager, landowner or regulatory authority prior to undertaking work.

TasNetworks team members and contractors should comply with any applicable council by-laws and/or any land manager or landowner requirements where practicable.

Work that will deviate from the requirements in this standard, must be risk assessed, documented and then, authorised by the applicable Head-of or Executive.

The requirements set out in this standard (highlighted in bold) must be specified in any applicable tender documents, contracts functional specifications and scopes of work, unless otherwise agreed.

5. Environmental risk assessments

TasNetworks takes a risk-based approach to managing environmental and cultural heritage risks. The level of effort to identify, assess and control impacts on environmental and cultural heritage values depends on the type of work to be undertaken (e.g. routine maintenance work vs. new developments, tree pruning vs. mechanical clearing) and the significance of the values which are known to occur near the worksite.

In all instances, the agreed environmental risk assessment process for any maintenance works programs, must consider the level of environmental risk posed, in conjunction with any other applicable business risk management plans, objective and targets.

5.1 Minimum requirements for environmental risk assessments

Unless otherwise agreed, an environmental risk assessment must be completed and documented prior to work commencing.

The environmental risk assessment must consider:

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- The environmental and cultural heritage values known to occur within, and in immediate proximity to the work site (e.g. values recorded on the Natural Values Atlas or LISTmap).
- Whether the work is within, or outside of an existing power line easement.
- The type of work to be undertaken (e.g. pruning or mechanical clearing).
- The total area of impact including any access tracks and lay-down areas required to complete the work.

All environmental risk assessments must be completed as early as practical during the works planning process. Assessing environmental risks during the planning of any on-ground works will help ensure that any significant risks to environmental or cultural heritage values (e.g., listed threatened species) can be managed appropriately. It will also minimise additional costs or delays associated with Natural Values Surveys and/or regulatory approvals that may be required before work commences.

Any team member, or contractor (including approved subcontractors), undertaking work that will directly impact vegetation, must complete, or have documentation which demonstrates that a site-specific environmental risk assessment has been completed prior to work commencing. Where applicable, the environmental risk assessment must include a copy of any permits to take, and any other required approvals.

Any environmental risk assessment processes which are program, or project specific, must developed in consultation with TasNetworks E&S Team. The process must satisfy the requirements, set out in section 5 of this standard. **Any composite environmental layers used as part of an environmental risk assessment process, must use current data available via the NVA or LISTmap, unless otherwise agreed.**

5.2 Desktop environmental risk assessments

Desktop environmental risks assessments are the cornerstone of TasNetworks risk-based approach to environmental management. Desktop environmental risk assessments utilise GIS applications and publicly available data sets to determine:

- The environmental and cultural heritage values known to occur in proximity to a proposed worksite.
- The level of environmental risk posed by a job or project.
- Whether an in-field natural values survey is needed (see section 5.3).
- Whether escalation to the E&S team is required before the work proceeds (see section 5.4).

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Unless otherwise agreed, a desktop environmental risk assessment must be completed prior to commencing any work that will directly impact vegetation¹. The assessment must check all applicable environmental and heritage values using NetMaps, the Natural Values Atlas or LISTmap, to determine the level of risk posed. **The desktop environmental risk assessment must record the source used (e.g. NetMaps) to determine which values are known, or not known, to occur near the worksite².** The desktop environmental risk assessment must record the date the assessment was completed.

Any composite environmental layers used as part of a desktop environmental risk assessment process, must use current data available via the NVA or LISTmap.

5.3 On-site environmental risk assessments and stakeholder consultation

Unless otherwise agreed, an on-site environmental risk assessment, including customer and land manager consultation, must be completed and documented prior to any work commencing. If the controls requested by a land manager cannot be adhered to, work must not commence until authorised by the works manager, project manager or the E&S team. Where practical, the on-site environmental risk assessment and customer consultation should be undertaken prior to mobilisation.

5.4 Environmental escalation and advice

Any job or project requiring, or potentially requiring, approvals by a government agency prior to work commencing (e.g. Parks and Wildlife Service, NRE Tas.), must be escalated to the TasNetworks E&S team (or endorsed environmental consultant) for further assessment.

Escalating work for further environmental advice as early as possible during project scoping or works planning, will minimise any potential project delays and/or additional costs.

Environmental advice sought from the E&S team, or endorsed environmental consultant, must be provided within any agreed timeframes, or as otherwise negotiated. Where applicable, allowances must be made for any specialist environmental advice from environmental consultants, natural values surveys, regulatory approvals or, *permits to take*.

¹ All publicly available environmental values recorded in Tasmania (available via the NVA or LISTmap), are deemed to be present until proven otherwise. Only a qualified environmental specialist can determine the presence of previously unrecorded, or suspected, threatened species values (e.g. threatened plant species), or the absence of previously recorded values.

² For the purposes of a desktop environmental risk assessment, The NVA and LISTmap are considered sufficiently authoritative sources of where environmental values are known to occur, as they are recorded by, or validated by, qualified environmental specialists. However, not all areas within Tasmania have been surveyed for threatened species values.

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5.5. Natural values surveys (NVS)

NVS's involve an on-ground assessment, or survey, of a proposed worksite for the presence, or absence, of threatened species values, usually completed by an environmental consultant (See section 5.6). The NVS should also consider any other relevant environmental values which may be impacted. **Unless there is alternative process or agreement in place, the need for an NVS (or not), will be made by the E&S team in consultation with the works manager or project manager.**

For work within existing power line easements, the need for an NVS will depend on:

- The proximity of threatened species values to the worksite,
- The species type (e.g. tree or ground cover) and its habitat,
- The type of work to be undertaken (use of heavy machinery vs. hand clearing).

For any vegetation clearing work outside of an existing powerline easement (e.g. new capital works or new developments), an NVS must be completed where:

- There are known threatened species values in proximity to the worksite (threatened species records) or,
- The area is mapped as a threatened vegetation community or,
- There is potential clearing of *significant* threatened species habitat (refer to section 10.1) or,
- The job or project requires the clearing or removal of more than 0.5ha of priority vegetation (or Biodiversity Protection Area) as per the [Tasmanian Planning Scheme Overlays](#).

The scope of the NVS should be determined by the E&S team, in consultation with the project manager/works owner and the environmental services provider. The scope of work must consider the needs of the works owner and project manager, in conjunction with the risk to be managed. The cost of an NVS is to be costed to the applicable program or project, unless otherwise agreed.

All NVS's must comply with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania's (NRE Tas.) [Guidelines for Terrestrial Natural Values Surveys related to Development Proposals](#).

NVS results are valid for a period of two years from when the in-field survey was completed. All NVS results obtained on behalf of TasNetworks, must be uploaded to the NVA within 3 months.

NVS's to determine the presence, or absence, of listed threatened species values prior to commencing work, can only be completed by a qualified consultant or environmental specialist (e.g. botanist or ecologist). There may also be seasonal considerations around when the survey can be completed (e.g. can only be identified while in flower).

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5.5. Engaging environmental consultants

Environmental consultants are generally used where:

- An NVS is required for a job or project.
- Specialist advice is required (e.g. to protect a particular plant or animal species).
- A project requires a detailed environmental assessment and/or environmental management plan.
- Regulatory approvals are required (e.g. a reserve activity assessment).
- The E&S team determine that an environmental consultant is needed for the job or project.

Any environmental consultants used by TasNetworks, or its contractors, must be endorsed by the leader of the TasNetworks E&S team. For support with engaging an environmental consultant, contact TasNetworks E&S team (environment@tasnetworks.com.au).

5.6 Specifying controls.

If the job or project will impact environmental or cultural heritage values, controls must be specified to minimise the risk to as low as reasonably practical. TasNetworks' preference is to avoid or eliminate any impact in line with the hierarchy of controls - see figure 1.

All relevant TasNetworks team members and contractors must consider the hierarchy of controls when planning any work that will directly impact vegetation. This includes:

- Siting and aligning network assets (poles, transformers, substations and transmission towers), telecommunications assets and/or facilities so that the impact on environmental or cultural heritage is eliminated or minimised over the entire life cycle of the asset.
- Selecting a work method that causes the least impact to environmental or cultural heritage, particularly in areas where threatened species values are known to occur (i.e. pruning versus mechanical clearing).
- Scheduling work to limit disturbance to threatened species values and to minimise biosecurity risks.
- *Permits to take*, or any other regulatory approvals, should only be considered if there's no other reasonably practical measure to avoid the impact.

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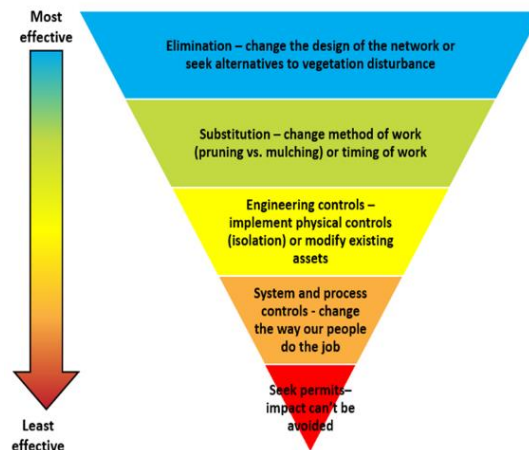


Figure 1 – The hierarchy of controls.

All specified controls (including permit to take conditions) must be communicated to all applicable contractors, team members and personnel prior to work commencing.

5.7 Offsets

TasNetworks preference is to minimise environmental impact and avoid any offsetting requirements associated with any environmental or planning approvals. Where offsets are required as part of any agreements or approvals conditions, all applicable costs must be attributed to the relevant program or project.

5.8 Implementing and evaluating environmental controls.

All controls specified as part of an environmental risk assessment, environmental management plan, environmental approvals, permit to take or other approvals, must be implemented and remain effective for the duration of work.

If at any point during work the controls are absent or, the controls implemented become ineffective, work must cease until all the specified controls can be re-instated or, until authorised by the E&S Team. Where applicable, the works manager must seek advice from the E&S team prior to work resuming.

The effectiveness of any controls specified and implemented should be evaluated at the completion of work. Feedback on the effectiveness and suitability of any environmental controls, should be provided to the works manager, project manager or the E&S team as part of the job or project close-out.

6. Contractor specific requirements

In addition to the requirements specified in this document, all contractor delivered work must comply with the requirements specified in TasNetworks [Contractor HSE Management Procedure](#) and all contract specific environmental requirements.

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Any contracts, or scopes of work, that involves the management or clearing of vegetation, are to be treated as, or classified as, Class 1 or Class 2 contracts as defined in the [Contractor HSE Management Procedure](#).

In addition to the requirements specified by TasNetworks [Contractor HSE Management Procedure](#), any contractor, must provide an environmental performance report demonstrating how the requirements of this standard, and/or applicable EMP are/have been met on the request of TasNetworks.

7. Systems and processes

At a minimum, TasNetworks, and any applicable contractor’s management systems must:

- Be able to demonstrate compliance with all applicable environmental and heritage law.
- Enable the documentation of environmental assessments which meets the requirements of this standard.
- Support robust document management and record keeping.
- Enable all work to be inspected and audited by TasNetworks in a timely manner.

Unless otherwise agreed by the E&S team.

All records of environmental risk assessments must be retained for a period of not less than seven years. All records should include any associated documentation such as NVA reports, natural values surveys and CEMPs.

8. Training, awareness and competency

All people who have responsibilities under this Standard should be made aware of their environmental responsibilities. Relevant TasNetworks team members may be provided with training and awareness to implement their responsibilities are per this Standard. Refer to the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) Competency Matrix and the E&S Training and Awareness Framework to review the current training requirements. It is the responsibility of Team Leaders and contractors to ensure their team members and any personnel (incl. subcontractors) participate in any required TasNetworks training.

Contractors, and any approved subcontractors, must ensure that all applicable personnel are competent and able to implement the requirements in this Standard. Where applicable, they must complete the required TasNetworks training as per TasNetworks Learning Management System.

Additionally, contractors, and any approved subcontractors, should consider arranging and providing their team members with training on how to manage impacts on vegetation depending on their level of risk exposure and their own EMS requirements.

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9. Reporting incidents, near misses and conducting investigations.

All environment and heritage related incidents and near misses, must be reported to TasNetworks as per TasNetworks [Contractor HSE Management Procedure](#). TasNetworks contract manager or works delivery team leader will then notify TasNetworks E&S Team.

All incidents requiring investigations will be investigated in accordance with TasNetworks [Incident Management Procedure](#). A site visit should be arranged with all the applicable stakeholders as soon as practical after the incident has occurred.

Unless otherwise agreed, contractors must investigate any known or suspected environmental incidents while performing work on TasNetworks behalf. The primary contractor is responsible for completing an incident investigation if the work was performed by a subcontractor.

10. Other requirements

10.1 Threatened species habitat management requirements.

As well as complying with all requirements under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, and Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021, TasNetworks also aims to protect and conserve the habitat of Tasmania's listed threatened species, particularly those covered by the [Forest Practices Authorities Significant Habitat Planning Guideline](#).

Retaining significant habitat (high value breeding and foraging habitat) is critical for ongoing species maintenance and survival. Therefore, TasNetworks priority is to prevent the conversion of *significant habitat* outside of existing power line easements during new developments.

Work within existing power line easements.

Any work within TasNetworks existing power line easements will as far as reasonably practical:

- Seek to minimise the impact on significant breeding and foraging habitat of listed threatened species.
- Aim to comply with all nest management requirements for listed threatened bird species.
- Only impact or manage vegetation to the extent required to maintain fuel loads, power line clearances and access, in areas of significant habitat.
- Retain potential denning sites for quolls and Tasmanian devils.
- Retain shrubs and ground covers in areas of 'significant' habitat.
- Retain hollow bearing trees.
- Maintain streamside reserves (riparian vegetation) as per the [Forest Practices Code 2020](#) section D2.1.

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- Comply with the [Forest Practices Code 2020](#) sections C7 and D2 (the exclusion of heavy machinery from streamside reserves with the exception of designated waterway crossings).

Natural Values Surveys for significant habitat are only required for work in existing power line easements where:

- Heavy machinery is to be used to undertake the mechanical clearing of vegetation or
- Heavy machinery will cause ground disturbance in areas with susceptible threatened species and,
- The work site is within the ‘known’ range of a listed threatened species (particularly those covered by [the Forest Practices Authorities Significant Habitat Planning Guideline](#)) and,
- The impact cannot be otherwise avoided.

Routine vegetation management work that only requires the trimming or pruning of vegetation regrowth, or removal or hazard trees within existing easements, will not trigger a requirement for an NVS for threatened species habitat.

Work outside of existing power line easements.

For all new capital work outside of existing power line easements, TasNetworks will seek to avoid or eliminate any impact on any significant threatened species habitat. If the impact cannot be avoided, TasNetworks will:

- Undertake an NVS for any work (with the potential to damage or disturb vegetation or cause significant ground disturbance) that will impact the habitat of a listed threatened animal species within the ‘known’ or ‘core’ range or,
- Undertake an NVS for any new capital work that will impact more than 1ha of remnant native vegetation in areas of ‘potential’ habitat or, impact an area with suitable nesting habitat (areas flagged as high or moderate hollow class on the FPAs Mature Habitat model),
- Apply for permits to take as required under the *Threatened Species Protection act 1995* or *Nature Conservation act 2002* where applicable.

Work outside of existing power line easements may also require a ‘significant impact assessment’ as per section 10.4 of this Standard.

10.2 Regulatory approvals

Unless otherwise agreed, TasNetworks will arrange and apply for any environmental or regulatory approvals (including permits to take and reserve activity assessments) required prior to executing any work that will directly impact vegetation.

Work requiring environmental approvals must be escalated as soon as practicable to the E&S team.

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The works owner, or contractor, are then responsible for ensuring that all approvals conditions are adhered to for the duration of work. This includes the development of a EMP in line with section 10.3 of this Standard.

10.3 Contractor Environmental Management Plans (EMP) and Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs)

Routine vegetation management work

Any contractor executing, or managing, any routine vegetation maintenance or management work on-behalf of TasNetworks, must develop and provide an EMP which meets the requirements of this standard and the [Contractor HSE Management Procedure](#). The EMP must be endorsed by TasNetworks Environment and Sustainability Team prior to commencing work.

Project specific EMPs

Any work covered by this standard that:

- requires a reserve activity assessment or permit to take,
- requires the clearing or removal of any special timber species or,
- requires the permanent removal or conversion of a threatened vegetation community,

may require the development of a CEMP or similar, for endorsement by TasNetworks prior to work commencing. Advice must be sought from the E&S Team.

Any work which involves the clearing, conversion, or permanent removal of more than 5ha of native vegetation, requires a CEMP which meets an equivalent standard of a Forest Practices Plan (FPP).

10.4 Significant impact on matters of national environmental significance

Vegetation management or clearing work may require approval under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation act 1999* (EPBC). Approval from the minister is required if the action has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance (MNES).

If any work will impact a matter of national environmental significance (threatened fauna, flora, the habitat and threatened vegetation communities), then a significant impact assessment must be completed prior to work being undertaken. Further advice must also be sought from the Environment and Sustainability Team. See the [Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant Impact Guidelines](#) for more information.

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10.5 Requirements for the use of herbicides

When using herbicides for, or on behalf of TasNetworks, the following requirements must be met:

- An environmental assessment must be completed prior to the application of any herbicides.
- No boom or broadacre spraying without prior authorisation from the E&S team.
- Comply with all relevant legislation including the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995* (Tas)).
- Comply with all requirements in NRE Tas’s [Guidelines for Safe and Effective Herbicide Use near Waterways](#) , the [Code of Practice for Ground Spraying](#) and the Forest Practices Code 2020.
- No use of herbicides within 50m of any *sensitive receptors* unless authorized by TasNetworks. *Sensitive receptors* include but are not limited to; schools, childcare centres, waterways, drinking water intakes, organic farms, aged care homes, parks, sports grounds and any other ‘no spray’ areas.
- Use all herbicides in accordance with Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) guidelines and manufacturer safety data sheets (SDS).
- Record the type, location and quantity of any herbicide used while undertaking work for, or on behalf of TasNetworks.
- Comply with all herbicide label instructions, or APVMA’s off label permit for environmental weed control.
- All herbicides must be applied so that any off-target impacts are minimised as far as reasonably practical.
- All contractors, and their employees using herbicides, must be suitably licensed and qualified for the application of herbicide, including a Commercial Operators License.
- Comply with all applicable requirements as specified in [TasNetworks Hazardous Materials Procedure](#)
- Where practical, notify the landowners or land manager prior to any herbicide spraying.

10.6 Special Species Timber (SST) recovery

Where mature SST are to be removed as part of any new capital work or development, the recovery of any identified timber must be coordinated and facilitated between the landowner, the Forest Practices Authority and TasNetworks prior to work commencing. The agreed approach must be documented in the EMP/CEMP.

See [Tasmanian Special Species Management Plan 2017](#) for more information about the species that require consideration during new developments/capital works.

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10.7 Retention of amenity and habitat trees

Excluding fault or emergency work including hazard tree removal, TasNetworks aims to retain any amenity and habitat trees in line with the [Standard for the protection of trees on development sites and Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code](#). However, this should be weighed-up against the costs, and safety and reliability risks, associated with retaining the tree(s). Any applicable risk assessments, or on-site monitoring during works, must be undertaken by a qualified arborist.

11. Responsibilities

Refer to the [HSE Accountabilities and Responsibilities Procedure](#)

12. Related Documents and Compliance Requirements

11.1 Internal documents and requirements

Document Number	Document Title
	TasNetworks Risk Appetite Statement
	TasNetworks Risk Management Framework
	TasNetworks Environment and Sustainability Policy
R0002091338	Biosecurity Standard
R0000112530	Environmental Handbook
R0000502409	Animal Interactions with Power Infrastructure
	TasNetworks Cutting Instruction Distribution
	TasNetworks Assessment Instruction Distribution
R0000502011	Environmental Considerations: Distribution – Design, Construction and Decommissioning
R0002126923	Contractor HSE management procedure
R0000480105	Vegetation Asset Management Plan
R0001050776	Vegetation Operations Management Plan
R0000346829	Vegetation Management Scope of Work for Authorised Service Providers
R0000094015	Incident Management Procedure
R0000502077	Hazardous Substances Management Procedure

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	HSE Documents & Records Management Procedure
	One Hour Rule
R0001599490	Environment and Sustainability Risk Register
R0002383718	Environmental risk assessment for access track construction and maintenance
R0002383730	Environmental risk assessment for vegetation management and clearing
R0002143258	Biosecurity hygiene work practice

External documents and compliance requirements

Refer to the [Summary of TasNetworks external environmental obligations](#) for more information

Document Title, Section or Part
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995 (Tas)
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975
Biosecurity Act 2019
Crown Lands Act 1976
Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995
Electricity Wayleaves and Easements Act 2000
Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Forest Practices Act 1985
Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995
Litter Act 2007
Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
Nature Conservation Act 2002
Threatened Species Protection Act 1995
Wellington Park Act 1999

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Document Title, Section or Part
Water Management Act 1999
Biosecurity Regulations 2022
Forest Practices Regulations 2017
Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021
Forest Practices Code 2020
Forest Practices Act Exemption - Distribution
Forest Practices Act Exemption - Transmission
Tasmanian Electricity Code – Chapter 8A
Parks and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding - Distribution
Parks and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding - Transmission
Public Authority Management Agreement for Threatened Species
FPA Fauna Technical Notes
Guidelines for terrestrial Natural Values Surveys related to Development Proposals
NRE Tas. guidelines for the safe and effective use of herbicide near waterways
Tasmanian Wash-down Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control
Code of Practice for Ground Spraying
NRE Tas. (2015) Weed and Disease Planning & Hygiene Guidelines
NRE Tas. (2010) Keeping It Clean - A Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens
Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant Impact Guidelines
Standard: Protection of trees on development sites

13. Definitions

Term	Definition
AHT	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
Clearing	Clearing means any broad scale removal or impact on vegetation, usually involving the use of heavy machinery. Includes broadacre herbicide spraying
CEMP	Construction environmental management plan

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Term	Definition
Core range	The area, within the known range , known to support the highest densities of the species and/or thought to be of highest importance for the maintenance of breeding populations of the species.
Cutting (cut) Pack	Means a work pack issued by TasNetworks for the cutting works to be completed on a particular Feeder or Feeder segment
Ecology survey	An on-ground survey to determine the presence or absence of threatened species, or threatened species habitat within, the proposed work area
Emergency work	As defined under <i>section 55 of the Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> ;
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
Environment and heritage (incl. community values)	'Environment and heritage' includes the definition of 'Important Vegetation' and 'Important Locations' under Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code as well all environmental and cultural heritage aspects, definitions and obligations under applicable legislation, regulations, codes of practice, agreements and guidelines.
EPBC Act	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
Fault work	Work to restore electricity supply or rectify defects that pose an immediate threat to the community, safety or the environment
Hazard Tree	Any tree or part of a tree that is likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electrical asset due to its physical condition
High-risk (environment)	Any work that requires regulatory approvals or, Any work with the potential to result in an external non-compliance with environmental law or significant environmental incident (i.e. impacting a protected species or the spreading of declared weeds in a sensitive area) or, May result in significant reputational damage
Heavy machinery	Heavy machinery includes any equipment used to perform the mechanical clearing of vegetation or, undertake access track construction or maintenance work. Excludes the use of hand-held equipment (e.g. whipper snippers, chainsaws, pole saws).
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
Important vegetation	As defined in Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code (Appendix A).
Important locations	As defined in Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code (Appendix A).

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Term	Definition
Known range	(or actual range) is the area within which the species is most likely to occur, being the area of land within a minimum convex polygon of all known localities of the species. This term is synonymous with 'extent of occurrence' as referred to in the Guidelines for Eligibility for Listing under the <i>Threatened Species Protection act 1995</i>
NVA	Natural Values Atlas
NVS	Natural Values Survey
NRE Tas.	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Permit to take	Where work involves an impact on a species listed as threatened under the <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i> a permit to 'take' is required. 'Take' includes kill, injure, pursue, catch, damage, destroy and collect. A permit under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 is also required to take any type of protected wildlife defined under the Nature Conservation (wildlife) regulations 2021).
Potential range	Includes the known range, but also includes the area within which the species has not been found but may occur based on environmental conditions
Pruning	Generally, the trimming of trees to retain power line clearances and manage regrowth in existing power line easements
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
RAA	Reserve activity assessment
Remnant vegetation	Remnant vegetation or bushland can be defined as those patches of native trees, shrubs and grasses still left. Remnant vegetation can be any shape or size and can include all types of native vegetation communities, including forest, woodland, native grasslands, coastal heathlands, or rainforest.
Threatened flora (threatened plant)	Any plant species listed as threatened under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation act 1999</i> or <i>Threatened Species Protection act 1995</i>
Sensitive receptor	Sensitive receptors are people, places or organisms that may have a significantly increased sensitivity or exposure to contaminants
Special species timber	As defined in the Tasmanian Special Species Management Plan (October 2017)
Significant habitat	Significant habitat is habitat within the known range of a species that (1) is known to be of high priority for the maintenance of breeding populations

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Term	Definition
	throughout the species range and/or (2) conversion, of which, to non-native vegetation is considered to result in a long-term negative impact on breeding populations of the species. It may include areas that do not currently support breeding populations of the species but that need to be maintained to ensure the long-term future of the species. Significant habitat is determined from published and unpublished scientific literature and/or via expert opinion, agreed by the Threatened Species Section (NRE Tas.) in consultation with species specialists.
Work site (includes work area or job site)	The work site is the area in which vegetation management or vegetation clearing work is to be performed. It includes all access routes, tracks and lay-down areas.

13 Document Control

13.1 Document history

Version	Date	Amended by	Comments
0.1	18/08/2021	Thomas Webster	First draft for feedback
0.2	21/11/2021	Thomas Webster	Minor changes following stakeholder consultation
0.3	24/02/2022	Thomas Webster	Final version for sign-off
1.0	27/04/2022	Thomas Webster	Approved version
1.1	04/07/2023	Thomas Webster	Added Biosecurity Regulations, removed Weed Management Act
2.0	6/06/2024	Thomas Webster	Major review

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