

Appendix D Minimum Standards for Biodiversity Assessments for Farm Water Access Plans for the Midlands Water Scheme

The table below indicates mandatory requirements for the completion of a Biodiversity Module (TFGA, 2010) for use in the development of a FWAP. The plan will cover the area of land which will be directly affected by the proposed irrigation. This includes areas which contain infrastructure required in order to receive and use the irrigation water (for example on farm dams and pipes to deliver water supplied by the MWS).

Stage of Biodiversity Assessment	Relevant Sub-Stage in Module	Mandatory Requirements
All		<p>The completion of the Biodiversity module must address (at least) the areas of the property to be directly impacted by the proposed irrigation including areas which contain infrastructure required in order to receive and use the irrigation water (the relevant area).</p> <p>It must also take into consideration the potential indirect impacts on MNES (for example – impacts associated with changes in the farming enterprise arising from irrigation).</p>
Before the Property Visit	Baseline Resource Assessment	A baseline resource assessment is required for each FWAP.
		In addition to information outlined in the Biodiversity Module, each baseline assessment must specifically take account of published literature relating to MNES including, but not limited to: recovery plans, listing statements, EPBC Act Policy Statements, EPBC Act search tool, key threatening processes.
		A field survey is required in all situations where native vegetation is identified as being likely through the completed base resource assessment (i.e. use of tools and value adding from specialist knowledge of the pre-qualified consultants).
	Goals and Management Objectives	Goals for each FWAP must include (but are not limited to):
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, where possible and practicable, all MNES.

Appendix D Minimum Standards for Biodiversity Assessments for Farm Water Access Plans for the Midlands Water Scheme

Stage of Biodiversity Assessment	Relevant Sub-Stage in Module	Mandatory Requirements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clearance and conversion of Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania, and no significant impacts on relevant MNES as a result of the operation of the Midlands Water Scheme and the associated Irrigations Districts within it unless clearance and conversion or significant impacts are otherwise approved by the Commonwealth Environment Minister.
	Risk and Opportunity Assessment	A risk and opportunity assessment is required for each FWAP.
During the Property Visit	Site Visit	Ground-truthing and mapping at an appropriate scale is required for the relevant area of all properties where a site visit is identified as being required.
	Observations and Discussion of Biodiversity Values and Management Options	<p>Extent and condition for MNES and their habitats must be documented and mapped for the relevant area.</p> <p>This information must be provided by the Water Entity to DPIPWE in a format able to be incorporated into the NVA (and relevant layers within it) on an annual basis.</p>
		Surveys must be undertaken at the appropriate time of year for MNES.
		Seasonality and the effects it may have on the identification of cryptic MNES must be taken into account during survey work.
After the Property Visit	Biodiversity Management Report	<p>Each FWAP must include a report indicating future monitoring requirements at the farm scale to monitor the effectiveness of management actions put in place to avoid impacts on MNES.</p> <p>It must also include a description of what actions will be required should management need to be changed as indicated by monitoring.</p> <p>Monitoring must be based around best practice guidelines and published literature relating to MNES including but not limited to: recovery plans, listing</p>

Appendix D Minimum Standards for Biodiversity Assessments for Farm Water Access Plans for the Midlands Water Scheme

Stage of Biodiversity Assessment	Relevant Sub-Stage in Module	Mandatory Requirements
		statements and EPBC Act Policy Statements.