

# Biodiversity Standard

AGL-HSE-STD-008.6

This standard applies to all activities carried out by AGL employees and contractors, in AGL controlled sites, that:

- Result or potentially result in clearing of native vegetation;
- Directly or indirectly may harm threatened plant and/or animal species, ecological communities and their habitats;
- Result or potentially result in the control of pests; and
- Result or potentially result in biodiversity impacts (e.g. habitat loss and/or fragmentation, disturbance/disruption of animal movements and behaviour, soil contamination, dust smothering and surface water/groundwater quality degradation).

The use of Glyphosate based herbicides (such as 'Round Up') is indefinitely suspended on all AGL sites from 30 September 2020.

The reference numbers given to minimum controls provide a direct linkage between this standard and the Risk and Control Matrix. The Biodiversity Methodology AGL-HSE-SDM-008.6 provides further explanation of how to achieve the minimum controls.

STD Ref No.	Minimum Controls
<b>GENERAL</b>	
8.6.1.1	<p>Prior to the commencement of activities or works that cause or may cause material environmental harm, a permit, licence or authorisation must be obtained, where required, to disturb, take or destroy any biodiversity related activities which includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protected flora and fauna species;</li> <li>• protected habitats;</li> <li>• native vegetation; and</li> <li>• pest species.</li> </ul>
8.6.1.2	<p>Notices or orders, issued by the regulatory authority, related to the management of biodiversity including protected flora and fauna, protected habitats, native vegetation and pest management, must be complied with, and all requirements adhered to.</p>
<b>BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT</b>	
8.6.1.3	<p>Areas of high conservation value or special biodiversity significance, as defined by applicable legislation, that are likely to be affected by AGL controlled site activities must be identified and evaluated.</p>
8.6.1.4	<p>Potential or actual impacts on biodiversity from AGL controlled sites activities must be managed in accordance with the following management hierarchy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid;</li> <li>• Minimise;</li> <li>• Remedy; and</li> <li>• Offset.</li> </ul>

STD Ref No.	Minimum Controls
8.6.1.5	Control measures must be implemented at AGL controlled sites to prevent and minimise potential or actual impacts from operations on biodiversity.
8.6.1.6	Wherever applicable, AGL controlled sites must comply with the relevant codes of practice and guidelines prescribed by the regulatory authority(ies) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking and using threatened plant species;</li> <li>• Protecting and conserving threatened and other protected plant and animal species, and protected areas; and/or</li> <li>• Restoring and offsetting biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>Clearing of Native Vegetation</b>	
8.6.1.7	AGL controlled sites must develop and implement control measures to manage the clearing of native vegetation.
<b>Dealing with Protected Animals</b>	
8.6.1.8	AGL controlled sites must not use any substance, animal, firearm, explosive, net, trap, spotlight, hunting device or instrument or other means whatever for the purpose of harming or relocating any protected animals, unless authorised.
8.6.1.9	Protected animal fatalities, as a result of AGL activities, or injured/sick protected animals or abandoned juvenile protected animals found within AGL controlled site boundaries must be reported to the relevant Leader and/or site Environment representative.  If required by legislation, AGL controlled sites must also notify the relevant regulatory authority(ies).
<b>PEST MANAGEMENT</b>	
8.6.1.10	Control measures for preventing the introduction of, and controlling pests present in AGL controlled sites, must be developed and implemented.
8.6.1.11	Declared pests must be managed in accordance with relevant protocols and guidelines prescribed by the regulatory authority(ies), wherever applicable.
8.6.1.12	Declared and emergency declared pests, identified or suspected to be present at AGL controlled sites must be reported to the regulatory authority(ies), in accordance with the notification requirements established by applicable legislation.
<b>INCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES</b>	
8.6.1.13	Incidents and emergencies resulting in significant impacts on biodiversity must be reported to the regulatory authority, in accordance with the notification requirements established by applicable legislation.
8.6.1.14	Incidents resulting in potential or actual biodiversity impacts must be investigated and reported using the AGL Incident Management System.

STD Ref No.	Minimum Controls
<b>TRAINING AND COMPETENCE</b>	
8.6.1.15	Ecological surveys and other biodiversity field work, biodiversity studies and assessments (e.g. revegetation and biodiversity offsets) must be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced professionals.

Version	Date	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date approved	Next Review	Comments
3.0	09/05/2018	HSE Systems Manager	Senior Manager, Environment Operations	30/09/2020	09/03/2021	Version 3.0