



Appendix 4

Vegetation Clearing Protocol for the Dowe's Quarry

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**Darryl McCarthy Constructions Pty Ltd****Vegetation Clearing Protocol for Operations at the Dowe's Quarry, Tenterfield**

Management Action	Action Taken/ Comments
Weed Management	
All new machinery to arrive on site free of caked mud and dirt (which can potentially carry weed seed).	
Weed controls, such as inspection of the undercarriage of any equipment brought onto the quarry site prior to each campaign of vegetation clearing.	
Management and removal of weed species should occur immediately prior to clearing of mature trees.	
Clearing Mature Trees (including hollow-bearing trees)	
Ensure that all areas of proposed disturbance are clearly marked prior to the commencement of clearing campaigns.	
Engage a qualified or suitably experienced spotter-catcher to undertake an initial assessment of the mature trees to be cleared for threatened species and to guide and inspect the felling of hollow-bearing trees.	
Check all trees for the presence of nesting or roosting fauna before felling or pushing, then start tree removal immediately after the visual inspection.	
When a tree with hollows requires removal, the tree is to be gradually nudged at intermittent intervals so that any fauna has the chance of vacating the area after the initial disturbance. There should be a pause of at least one minute between intervals and at the end of the process.	
If no fauna appears, the tree is to be pushed over as slowly or gently as possible (known as 'soft felled').	
After the felled tree has settled, the spotter-catcher is to inspect the hollows and any other part of the tree for the presence of fauna.	
Avoid leaving trees on ground unmanaged for more than two weeks as these would quickly become habitat for hollow-dependent species.	
Where breeding threatened species are identified, works shall cease until the species is confirmed and necessary approvals are obtained. The breeding place will be fenced off and excluded from works. Works shall not continue until the breeding place is no longer active.	
Where possible avoid impact on trees that have hollows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater than 20cm (potential breeding habitat for Masked, Barking and Powerful Owl) between May-Dec; • up to 10cm (potential breeding habitat for Eastern Pygmy Possum) between Sep-March. 	
Avoid leaving trees on ground unmanaged for more than two weeks as these would quickly become habitat for hollow-dependent species.	
Salvage tree trunks, major limbs and, if practicable, minor branches for use in rehabilitation of disturbed areas within the Quarry.	
Observations for Koalas	
For each clearing campaign, the following should occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial site assessment is undertaken by a spotter-catcher to identify if any Koalas are present in the trees to be removed. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Koalas are observed within the area to be cleared, only the surrounding vegetation should be cleared (this must not include any tree with a crown overlapping a tree where a Koala is present). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing of the remaining area where Koalas are present will not recommence until the Koala has moved without human intervention. 	
Allow any other fauna that has become displaced from vegetation clearing to find its way to remnant vegetation and give suitable assistance to any injured fauna including capture and transfer to a local veterinarian or WIRES representative where necessary.	



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