

# ASSESSMENT OF HABITAT QUALITY Self-assessment method

## Site Score Sheet 21. WETLAND

Component & Benchmark	Observations	Quality Range	Score
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### LARGE TREES

Defined as trunk diameter or circumference at breast height. **ONLY APPLY** this benchmark to treed WETLANDS as:

Diameter (Circum.)  
treed WETLAND 80cm (250cm)

Number of **LARGE TREES** /ha (100m x 100m)

<i>no large trees</i>		0
<i>up to</i>	7 LARGE TREES /ha in treed WETLAND	1
<i>more than</i>	7 LARGE TREES /ha in treed WETLAND	2

### CANOPY COVER

Defined as the tallest stratum of native trees greater than 5m. CANOPY COVER Benchmarks for WETLANDS have been established as:

WETLANDS 10% cover

% CANOPY COVER

<i>less than</i>	2.5% CANOPY COVER	0
<i>between</i>	2.5% - 5% CANOPY COVER	0.5
<i>more than</i>	5% CANOPY COVER	1

### UNDERSTOREY

(B) Tick appropriate boxes for PRESENCE of native vegetation **UNDERSTOREY** (i.e. different life forms)

(A) % cover (of native species)

Large herb more than 0.5m	Large grass or grasslike more than 1m	other
Small herb less than 0.5m	Small grass or grasslike less than 1m	

<i>minimal</i>	(A) % COVER <i>less than</i> 10%	0
<i>low</i>	(A) % COVER <i>between</i> 10% - 25%	2
<i>reduced</i>	(A) % COVER between 25% - 75% <b>AND</b> (B) <i>less than</i> 2 boxes ticked <b>or</b> 2 <b>or more</b> boxes ticked	3 4
<i>adequate</i>	(A) % COVER more than 75% <b>AND</b> (B) <i>less than</i> 2 boxes ticked <b>or</b> 2 <b>or more</b> boxes ticked	4 5

### WEEDINESS

% WEED COVER

	50% <b>or more</b> WEED COVER	0
<i>between</i>	25% - 50% WEED COVER	1
<i>between</i>	5% - 25% WEED COVER	2
<i>less than</i>	5% WEED COVER	3

### RECRUITMENT

A woody species is considered to be recruiting when the number of immature plants (i.e. not flowering or fruiting) of an individual woody species is at least 10% of the total population of that species

(A) Number of woody species present

(B) Number of woody species recruiting

% RECRUITMENT = (B/A X 100)

<i>less than</i>	30% of woody species RECRUITING	0
<i>between</i>	30% - 70% woody species RECRUITING	1
	70% <b>or more</b> woody species RECRUITING	2

### ORGANIC LITTER

Defined as small branches (less than 10 cm diameter), twigs, leaves and other fallen or dead organic matter

% cover of **ORGANIC LITTER**

<i>less than</i>	5% ORGANIC LITTER	0
<i>more than</i>	5% ORGANIC LITTER	1

### LOGS

Defined by the length of stumps, fallen trees or branches at least 10cm diameter (30cm circumference)

Length of **LOGS** in 1 ha

<i>no logs</i>		0
<i>less than</i>	25m LOGS /ha in treed WETLAND	0.5
<i>more than</i>	25m LOGS /ha in treed WETLAND	1

### SIZE

Defined by the size of the area being assessed **AND** any adjoining native vegetation

<i>less than</i>	2 ha	0
<i>between</i>	2 - 10 ha	1
<i>more than</i>	10 ha	2

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

Defined by the % area covered by native vegetation within 1 km of the centre point of the site being assessed (include wetlands, lakes, estuaries and rivers in the 'percentage of native vegetation')

<i>less than</i>	10% of the area covered	0
<i>between</i>	10% - 50% of the area covered	1
<i>more than</i>	50% of the area covered	2

### CORE AREA

Defined by the distance of the site being assessed from a block of native vegetation greater than 50 ha (If the site is part of a remnant patch greater than 50 ha, the distance to core area is scored as 1)

1 km <b>or more</b>	from a 50 ha block of native vegetation	0
<i>less than</i>	1 km from a 50 ha block of native vegetation	1