



List of competencies used by AABR in assessing 'Bush Regeneration Practitioner' accreditation [Sep 2019]

Below is a list of competencies which a person must have in order to become an AABR accredited bush regeneration practitioner – i.e. a person implementing 'assisted regeneration'¹ treatments at the industry entry level (generally under supervision). AABR considers a practitioner should possess these competencies if they are to be given the title Bush Regenerator, irrespective of whether they are paid or work voluntarily. The list includes a broad range of competencies, covering what may traditionally be recognised as theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The Competencies are to be able to:

1. Identify processes which degrade native ecosystems and describe the basic ecological principles relating to these;
2. Discuss natural recovery capacity and specify how bush regenerators can maximise this through:
 - the strategy of working from areas of higher resilience to areas of lower resilience;
 - matching the area of primary treatment to both the site's capacity to respond and the project's follow up resources; and
 - using intervention techniques which maximise natural recovery processes;
3. Discuss basic plant and animal habitat issues;
4. Name a majority of the indigenous and weed plant species, at all life stages, on a familiar site, and be able to identify species not recognised by using a botanical key or another process of identification;
5. Perform or describe efficient, effective and safe treatment of weeds over a range of plant life forms (e.g. tree, shrub, groundcover, vine), with a range of root types (e.g. tap, fibrous) and propagule types (e.g. tuber, bulb, corm, rhizome, stolon), including herbicide and non-herbicide treatments;
6. Discuss compliance with all relevant herbicide application legislation;
7. Discuss the need for commitment to follow up weed treatments and long-term management;
8. Indicate, on site, approximate boundaries between areas natural or assisted regeneration are likely to reinstate desirable ecological communities and areas where planting or other reconstruction methods would be required;
9. Discuss the basic techniques used for reconstruction, in areas where no natural or assisted regeneration is expected;
10. Discuss the principles of genetic diversity and integrity in relation to propagule sourcing for supplementary planting in the context of maintaining biodiversity;
11. Describe a range of common WH&S hazards and specify ways to eliminate hazards or minimise risks; and
12. Communicate:
 - appropriate information about sites and programs; and
 - ideas, concepts and recommendations to the site supervisor.

¹ Assisted regeneration treatments are but one element in ecological restoration practice. They are designed to trigger natural regeneration from soil seed banks, resprouting or colonization at a restoration site. Other restoration approaches (such as reconstructing destroyed ecosystems) are not the subject of this particular AABR accreditation