Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 2 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 5.0. |
| Release 1 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

| AHCNAR301 | Maintain natural areas |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to plan and implement maintenance work on natural areas.  The unit applies to individuals who work on land management projects under broad supervision and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources and for solving problems  No licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Natural Area Restoration (NAR) |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Plan maintenance works | 1.1 Plan access to the site to minimise disturbance and degradation  1.2 Identify legislative requirements, codes of practice and the relevant management strategy and plan  1.3 Identify relevant environmental factors in maintenance works  1.4 Consult stakeholders of pending maintenance works  1.5 Determine and obtain equipment, machinery and materials for maintenance works  1.6 Conduct pre operational machinery checks according to environmental, biosecurity and safety requirements |
| 2. Undertake maintenance | 2.1 Follow workplace health and safety, environmentally sustainability and biosecurity policies and procedures when undertaking maintenance work  2.2 Undertake maintenance and rehabilitation works according to plans  2.3 Ensure maintenance works conform to relevant risk control measures and practices  2.4 Take interim protective measures to avoid degradation and disturbance during maintenance works  2.5 Monitor activities of personnel and visitors to reduce risks to the significance of site |
| 3. Complete of activities | 3.1 Clean and restore site on completion of works  3.2 Clean and store equipment and machinery  3.3 Remove and store or dispose of excess materials from site according to workplace requirements  3.4 Report completed maintenance works to supervisor according to workplace and legislative requirements |

| Foundation Skills  This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria. | |
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| Skill | Description |
| Reading | * Interpret plans, specifications, and legislative requirements and consolidate information to determine maintenance tasks and performance standards |
| Oral communication | * Participate in verbal exchanges with stakeholders using appropriate collaborative and inclusive techniques relevant to the individual, including active listening, questioning and reading of verbal and non-verbal signals to convey and clarify maintenance activities |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| AHCNAR301 Maintain natural areas  Release 2 | AHCNAR301 Maintain natural areas  Release 1 | Change to Application  Minor changes to performance criteria for clarity and consistency  Updated Performance evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions | Equivalent unit |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:  https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72 |

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for AHCNAR301 Maintain natural areas |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has planned and prepared resources to maintain a natural area in any 2 different ecological environments.  There must also be evidence that the individual has:   * accessed the site to minimised damaging impact * consulted with stakeholders, including traditional owners about pending maintenance works * carried out planned maintenance works with minimal damaging impacts to environment, and according to workplace health and safety practices * selected and applied protective structures, devices and signs * cleaned site and removed surplus materials and waste * reported completion of activities to supervisor * applied biosecurity measures and sustainable practices during work | |

| Knowledge Evidence |
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| An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:   * ecological principles related to maintaining natural areas, including: * recognition of fundamental ecosystem structures and required maintenance * interactions between flora and fauna and impact on ecological stability when poorly maintained * vegetation types and their general characteristics for replication in maintenance activities * importance of biodiversity in an ecologically stable community * terrestrial plants and basic plant community structures * marine and water plants and interaction with marine creatures * contribution of maintenance works on preserving biodiversity * intricate relationships between microbiota including, insects, molluscs, worms and microbes and impact on maintenance practices * environmental factors to be considered in maintenance works, including: * ecology in land based, coastal zones or marine parks * marine, shore and terrestrial species * natural and human threats to places of natural significance * pollution sources and damage potential * soil type and geology for access and performing maintenance activities * basic protection and rehabilitation methods * seeding techniques, including: * hand seeding * broad cast sowing * ripping trailed machinery * vegetation replacement methods and their application in restoration programs, including: * assisted natural regeneration * planting * seeding * transplanting * recognition of common weeds and pests and their impact on natural areas, including: * weed control methods and application including use of herbicides * basic plant protection, fences and guards from impact of animals * damaging effects on natural areas caused from pests * purpose and processes for natural area restoration, including implementing biosecurity procedures to minimise the transfer of pests and diseases into natural areas including, weed seed, plants, animals and microbial organisms * standards and procedures for planting nursery stock and transplants into natural areas, including: * basic soil or substrate identification * soil or substrate preparation and amelioration * soil or substrate and plant root contact * irrigation methods and procedures for watering in planted materials * workplace health and safety procedures, including: * safety hazards and associated risks on restoration sites * personal protective equipment * mixing and using herbicides   sun protection.   * communicating with stakeholders, including recognising diversity of natural area usage, including: * traditional land owners * government and non-government agencies * natural areas on private land * natural areas on public land * commercial use * special interest users, such as recreation and four wheel drive clubs, bush walkers, fisher persons, hunters and boat operators * applicable State or Territory and Commonwealth legislation covering parks, conservation, environmental protection and heritage. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated on a natural area as specified in the Performance Evidence * resources, equipment and materials: * use of tools appropriate to the maintenance tasks identified in the maintenance plan * use of personal protective equipment * specifications: * use of workplace policies and procedures for safety, biosecurity and maintenance tasks * use of workplace instructions, and natural area maintenance plan with specifications specific to the site * access to legislative requirements for records * relationships: * supervisor   Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. |

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