

Accepted development vegetation clearing code

Managing category C regrowth vegetation

8 March 2018

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1. How to use this document

This code states the required outcomes for clearing Category C area, the practices that must be complied with and provides guidance on how to comply with each practice. The practices are shaded blue throughout the document.

There is a glossary at the end of the document that defines specific terms used in the code. If a term is not included in the glossary, it may be defined in the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Other resources that are referred to in this code and will assist your compliance with its requirements are available by searching vegetation management on www.qld.gov.au

- regulated vegetation management map
- vegetation management supporting map
- vegetation management wetlands map
- vegetation management watercourse map
- essential habitat map
- State policy for vegetation management
- full regional ecosystem descriptions contained in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database—available at www.des.qld.gov.au
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999*—available at www.legislation.qld.gov.au

2. Introduction

2.1 Commencement date

This code commenced on 8 March 2018, replacing the following superseded accepted development vegetation clearing code:

- **Managing Category C regrowth vegetation**, dated 2 December 2013.

From the commencement date of this code, all rights and privileges conferred by any notification under the superseded code cease.

Even if you have been managing Category C regrowth vegetation under the superseded code, you need to notify under this code and comply with the requirements of this code.

2.2 Accepted development vegetation clearing code

This is an accepted development vegetation clearing code (code) for the clearing of vegetation in a category C area made in accordance with the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*. It is based on the purposes of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA) and the principles and required outcomes of the *State Policy for Vegetation Management*. It sets out the required outcomes and practices for managing regulated regrowth in a Category C area.

Required outcomes

This code will achieve the following required outcomes for clearing regrowth vegetation:

- high value regrowth vegetation conserved
- wetland and watercourse bank stability, water quality and habitat maintained
- landscape stability maintained.

Practice

The required outcomes will be achieved if you comply with the practices in this code, which are shaded blue throughout the document.

2.3 Scope of the code

This code applies to the clearing of vegetation in a category C area for the following purposes:

- public safety
- necessary infrastructure
- control of non-native plants and declared pests
- encroachment on native grasslands
- thinning of thickened regrowth vegetation
- fodder harvesting
- extractive industry
- necessary environmental clearing.

Note that some exempt clearing work listed under Schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017 may apply to regrowth vegetation.

3. Notification and compliance

3.1 Notification

Practice

Landholders intending to clear vegetation in a category C area under this code must notify DNRME before clearing. All of the following limitations apply to notifications made under this code:

- a. A notification is limited to a single lot. If your property consists of multiple lots, you may lodge a notification for each lot.
- b. Clearing must not commence until DNRME provides written confirmation of your notification.
- c. A notification under this code ceases to have effect when this code is no longer scheduled in the Vegetation Management Regulation 2012.
- d. All rights and privileges conferred by notification under this code cease when this code is replaced or revoked.

Guidance

Prior to conducting any clearing, you must notify DNRME. Refer to the website at www.dnrme.qld.gov.au for options and instructions on how to notify. There is no notification fee.

For some clearing activities, you will need to specify:

- the size of the area you intend to clear (in hectares)
- the location of the exchange area.

DNRME will give you a receipt of the notification.

If your property is sold, the new land owner must notify DNRME if they wish to manage vegetation in a category C area under this code.

3.2 Compliance

Practice

Landholders clearing vegetation in a category C area must comply with the practices in this code.

Guidance

You are required to comply with the practices specified (shaded blue) in this code. Before clearing, you should consult the DNRME website to ensure you are operating under the current version of the code.

Compliance with this code does not exempt landholders from requirements under other legislation (see Appendix 1 for a list of other relevant legislation).

You should keep a record of any clearing activity. This could be a diary note of clearing operations, supported by before and after photographs from known locations, which clearly illustrate what has been cleared and when this was done.

You should also document your instructions to operators and supervise any clearing activity undertaken by contractors.

Note: Contractors are advised to sight a copy of the DNRME notification receipt before commencing clearing, and then to operate in accordance with code requirements.

4. Identifying Category C vegetation

Category C areas are shown on the regulated vegetation management map which is available on the DNRME website.

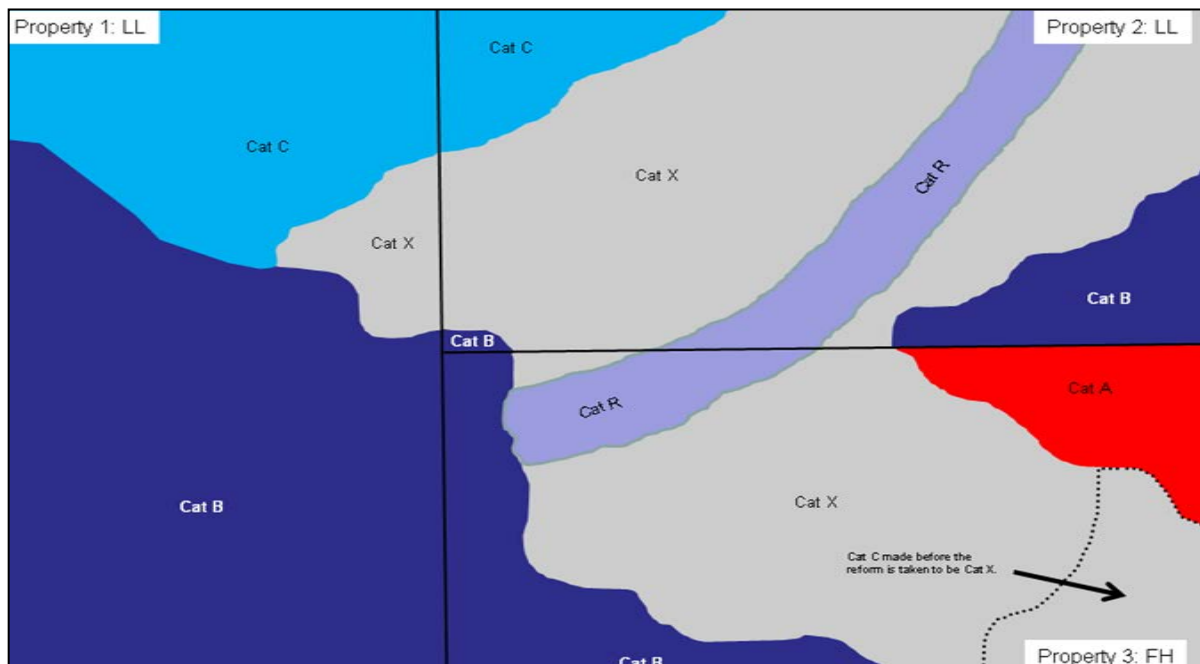


Figure 1: Example of the regulated vegetation management map

The mapping of category C areas is generally accurate, however if there are inaccuracies, they may be in regard to the vegetation possibly not being native vegetation - for example an orchard or weed infestation may have been mapped as regrowth. If this is the situation, you should take photographs of the area and GPS points and discuss the matter with a DNRME officer. If the mapping is incorrect, the matter will be corrected without a fee.

The conservation status of the regulated regrowth vegetation (whether it is endangered, of concern or least concern) is shown on the vegetation management supporting map at www.dnrme.qld.gov.au.

5. Clearing practices

5.1 Avoiding soil degradation

Mechanical clearing of vegetation has potential to cause soil degradation—particularly soil erosion and bank instability of watercourses. The following practice applies to clearing for all purposes in section 5.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a category C area must employ measures to avoid soil degradation.

Guidance

Land degradation includes any of the following—

- soil erosion
- the expression of salinity
- mass movement by gravity of soil or rock
- stream bank instability
- a process that results in declining water quality.

Preventing land degradation involves assessing the risk and taking all necessary measures to avoid any of the above occurring.

To prevent erosion, you should:

- maintain at least 50 per cent ground cover (living vegetation or debris from clearing) over any 50 by 50 metre area
- not clear in areas of sodic, dispersible or highly erodible soils (where erosion and instability is evident); or apply effective soil erosion control measures
- limit mechanical clearing to slopes less than five per cent.

Warning signs of salinity include:

- any current surface expression of salting
- vegetation indicative of wet or saline conditions
- seepages at the soil surface or in the soil or
- a water table depth of less than five metres.

Acid sulphate soils are largely confined to coastal area less than 5 metres above sea level in areas such as estuaries, flood plains, tidal mangrove flats, lakes, wetlands and swamps.

Acid sulphate soils generally do not pose a threat where:

- the area is more than 5 metres above sea level and is not land zone 1, 2 or 3 or
- the DNRME Acid sulphate maps indicate that acid sulphate soils are not present.

In other situations you should:

- construct access tracks at ground level and not construct side drains that will disturb the soil to a depth that will activate acid sulfate or expose the water table
- utilise mechanical techniques that will not disturb the soil to a depth that will activate acid sulfate or expose the water table.

Where these requirements cannot be met, landholders are required to operate in accord with the Soil Management Guidelines in the **Queensland Acid Sulphate Soil Technical Manual**.

5.2 Public safety

Category C vegetation can be cleared to the extent necessary to ensure public safety.

Clearing for public safety means ensuring vegetation poses no risk to the public or clearing that is required in conjunction with other actions to ensure public safety.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a Category C area for the purpose of public safety must be limited to the extent necessary to ensure public safety.

5.3 Necessary infrastructure

Category C vegetation can be cleared to establish or maintain a fence, firebreak, road or vehicular track, or to construct necessary built infrastructure.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a Category C area for the purpose of necessary infrastructure:

- is limited to the extent necessary to establish a fence, firebreak, road or vehicular track, or to construct necessary built infrastructure, if there is no alternative site
- must be in accordance with the practices in the accepted development vegetation clearing code for managing clearing for necessary property infrastructure.
- must provide an exchange area if the total area cleared of endangered and of concern vegetation exceeds 2 hectares.

Guidance

Refer to section 7 for guidance on providing an exchange area.

5.4 Weed control

Category C vegetation can be cleared to the extent necessary to control declared pests and non-native plants.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a category C area for the purpose of controlling non-native plants or declared pests:

- is limited to the extent necessary to:
 - control non-native plants or declared pests
 - provide access for the control of non-native plants or declared pests if no alternative route exists.
- must retain native vegetation that is:
 - more than 20 cm in diameter measured at 1.3 metres above the ground
 - less than 20 cm in diameter measured at 1.3 metres above the ground, in accordance with Table 1
- must not occur using mechanical methods within 2 metres of a defining bank of a wetland or watercourse.

Table 1: Retention requirements of trees less than 20 cm diameter

Weed cover (percentage)	Retention requirement
Up to 50%	Retain at least 50% of trees less than 20 cm diameter (measured at 1.3 metres above the ground)
More than 50%	Clear up to 100% of the trees less than 20cm diameter (measured at 1.3 metres above the ground)

For the purposes of this code, Cadaghi (*Corymbia torelliana*) and Umbrella tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*) are considered non-native plants in South East Queensland (and therefore, can be cleared under this code).

5.5 Encroachment

Encroachment refers to the invasion of a grassland regional ecosystem by native, woody vegetation to the extent that the area is no longer consistent with the description of that regional ecosystem.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a category C area for the purpose of encroachment must:

- occur only in the grassland regional ecosystems listed in Table 2
- be limited to vegetation that is less than 20 cm diameter at 1.3 metres above the ground
- not occur using mechanical methods within 5 metres of a defining bank of a wetland or watercourse

Table 2: Grassland regional ecosystems in which encroachment can be cleared under this code

3.3.56	4.3.20	5.7.10	9.12.42	11.4.11
3.3.60	4.9.7	6.3.13	10.3.7	11.8.11
3.3.61	4.9.8	6.7.17	10.3.8	11.9.12
3.12.32	4.9.9	8.3.12,	11.3.20	
4.3.13	5.7.9	9.8.5	11.3.31	

Guidance

The grassland regional ecosystems listed in Table 3 are not regulated under the VMA and may be cleared for any purpose without a permit or notification under the VMA.

Table 3: Grassland regional ecosystems that are not regulated by the VMA

1.3.10	3.5.29	4.3.15	4.9.2	6.3.15	11.3.24
1.9.1	3.5.29	4.3.16	4.9.3	7.3.32	11.4.4
2.3.3	3.8.4	4.3.17	4.9.4	7.11.39	11.8.10
2.3.4	3.9.8	4.3.18	4.9.5	9.3.25	12.8.27
2.3.32	3.11.19	4.3.19	4.9.20	9.3.26	
2.9.1	3.12.48	4.4.1	5.9.3	9.8.13	
2.9.2	3.12.30	4.4.2	5.9.4	10.4.8	
3.3.57	4.3.14	4.9.1	6.3.14	11.3.21	

5.6 Thinning

Thinning refers to the selective clearing of vegetation to restore the regional ecosystem to a floristic composition and range of densities typical of that regional ecosystem in that area.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a category C area for the purpose of thinning:

- must not occur in the regional ecosystems listed in Table 4; and
- must retain all native trees greater than 20 cm in diameter (measured at 1.3 metres above the ground) and native woody trees less than 20 cm in diameter (measured at 1.3 metres above the ground), spread evenly across the mapped area according to the following density:
 - 100 trees per hectare in non-coastal areas
 - 300 trees per hectare in coastal areas
- using mechanical methods, must not occur within 5 metres of a defining bank of a wetland or watercourse.

Table 4: Regional ecosystems in which thinning must not occur

Brigalow Belt and New England tablelands bioregions		Coastal bioregions			South East Queensland bioregions		Western bioregions		
7.12.11	11.9.4	3.11.3	7.12.45	7.8.12	11.11.18	12.8.22	3.10.1	3.3.4	10.7.7
7.12.16	11.9.8	3.3.2	7.12.46	7.8.13	11.11.5	12.8.3	3.10.2	3.3.10	10.7.8
8.11.2	12.11.11	7.11.1	7.12.47	7.8.14	11.12.4	12.8.4	3.10.5	3.3.5	11.11.5
8.12.10	12.11.12	7.11.12	7.12.48	7.8.2	11.3.11	12.8.5	3.11.1	3.3.6	11.12.18
8.12.11	12.11.4	7.11.14	7.12.49	7.8.3	11.5.15	12.8.6	3.11.2	3.3.68	11.12.4
8.12.16	12.12.10	7.11.2	7.12.5	7.8.4	11.8.3	12.8.7	3.11.3	3.5.20	
8.12.3	12.12.13	7.11.23	7.12.50	8.11.2	11.9.4	12.9-10.15	3.12.1	3.5.3	
8.2.2	12.12.18	7.11.24	7.12.54	8.11.7	12.11.1	12.9-10.16	3.12.2	3.5.4	
8.2.4	12.12.19	7.11.25	7.12.57	8.12.1	12.11.10	12.9-10.9	3.12.20	3.7.1	
8.3.1	12.3.1	7.11.26	7.12.6	8.12.10	12.11.11		3.12.21	3.8.2	
9.11.8	12.8.13	7.11.27	7.12.64	8.12.11	12.11.12		3.12.22	3.8.5	
9.12.34	12.8.19	7.11.28	7.12.65	8.12.16	12.11.13		3.12.28	5.7.12	
9.12.8	12.8.21	7.11.29	7.12.66	8.12.17	12.11.4		3.12.3	7.11.3	
10.7.7	12.8.4	7.11.3	7.12.68	8.12.18	12.12.1		3.12.35	7.11.7	
11.10.8	12.8.5	7.11.30	7.12.7	8.12.19	12.12.10		3.12.36	9.8.3	
11.11.18	12.9-10.15	7.11.36	7.2.1	8.12.2	12.12.13		3.12.4	9.8.7	
11.11.21	12.9-10.16	7.11.7	7.2.10	8.12.28	12.12.16		3.3.38	10.3.16	
11.11.5	13.11.7	7.12.1	7.2.2	8.12.3	12.12.17		3.3.39	10.3.29	

Guidance

The regional ecosystems listed in Table 4 are generally either rainforest, heathland or dry scrub ecosystems.

5.7 Fodder harvesting

Fodder harvesting means the harvesting of fodder species to feed stock.

Practice

Clearing vegetation in a category C area is limited to selective methods, and must:

- occur only in the regional ecosystems listed in Table 5
- not harvest more than 5 out of 10 of the fodder trees in any area
- not remove non-fodder species beyond that needed to provide access for harvesting;
- not re-harvest a selectively harvested area in less than 10 years from the previous harvest
- not involve mechanical clearing in regional ecosystems 6.7.1, 6.7.6, 6.7.14, 6.7.15, 6.7.16, 11.7.1, and 11.7.2, within 50 metres of a scarp or an area of instability.



Figure 2: Selective fodder harvesting using a chainsaw

Guidance

Selective harvesting includes the use of chainsaws to fell individual trees or selective pushing of individual trees using a tractor or dozer.

Regional ecosystems in which mechanical harvesting must not occur within 50 metres of a scarp or area of instability are shaded orange in Table 5.

Table 5: Regional ecosystems in which selective fodder harvesting can occur

4.5.1	5.5.4	6.3.24	6.5.9	6.5.18	6.7.12	11.3.17
4.5.2	5.5.6	6.5.1	6.5.10	6.6.1	6.7.13	11.3.20
4.5.3	5.6.4	6.5.2	6.5.11	6.7.1	6.7.14	11.3.28
4.5.4	5.7.5	6.5.3	6.5.13	6.7.6	6.7.15	11.5.13
4.7.3	5.7.14	6.5.5	6.5.14	6.7.9	6.7.16	11.7.1
5.5.1	6.3.16	6.5.6	6.5.15	6.7.10	6.7.17	11.7.2
5.5.2	6.3.18	6.5.7	6.5.16	6.7.11	11.3.2	11.11.2
5.5.3	6.3.21	6.5.8	6.5.17			

5.8 Extractive industry

This code applies to clearing for an extractive industry that is not in a key resource area. Clearing of regulated regrowth vegetation for an extractive industry in a key resource area is not regulated under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a Category C area for an extractive industry:

- can only occur if there is no alternative extractive site or access route on the lot(s)
- in essential habitat, or an endangered or of concern regional ecosystem, must provide an exchange area is limited to the extent necessary for any of the following:
 - dredging material from the bed of any waters
 - extracting rock, sand, clay, gravel, loam or other material, from a pit or quarry
 - screening, washing, grinding, milling, sizing or separating extracted material
 - establishing infrastructure to permit access and any necessary screening, washing, grinding, milling, storage, dams and containment ponds reasonably associated with the extraction and processing of the material
- must be staged in line with operational needs in a way that restricts clearing to the current operational area
- must not occur until all required permits or authorities have been obtained under other relevant legislation.

Guidance

Refer to section 7 for guidance on providing an exchange area.

6. Necessary environmental clearing practices

6.1 General

Necessary environmental clearing is clearing that is necessary to:

- restore the ecological and environmental condition of land
- divert existing natural channels in a way that replicates the existing natural channel
- prepare for the likelihood of a natural disaster
- remove contaminants from land

The practice below applies to all necessary environmental clearing operations.

Practice

Clearing of vegetation in a Category C area for necessary environmental clearing must:

- not cause accelerated soil erosion
- be limited to the extent necessary to allow the physical removal, stabilization, preparation and/or repair of an area
- leave the area in a state that:
 - is stable in terms of soil erosion and degradation
 - will naturally re-vegetate or be re-vegetated with native species.

Guidance

You should take photographs of the site before, during and after you have completed the necessary environmental clearing, to clearly demonstrate the condition of the site pre and post works.

6.2 Restoring the land

Restoring the ecological and environmental condition of the land may include:

- rehabilitating scalded areas
- rehabilitating or stabilizing areas of soil erosion or gullying
- stabilizing the banks of wetlands, watercourse or gullies
- rehabilitating areas degraded by salinity or acid sulfate
- using ecological burning to restore a regional ecosystem to a more natural state

Practice

Necessary environmental clearing in a Category C area:

- to rehabilitate a scalded area, is limited to the size of the scalded area and mature trees must be retained
- to restore a regional ecosystem using ecological burning, must be in accordance with the guidelines for the regional ecosystem contained in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (available at www.des.qld.gov.au)
- for a purpose other than rehabilitating a scalded area or restoring a regional ecosystem using environmental burning, must:
 - not exceed 2 hectares, for non-linear clearing
 - not exceed 10 metres wide and 200 metres in length for linear clearing
- in a wetland or watercourse that is subject to the *Water Act 2000*, must be in accordance with necessary approvals
- in a wetland or watercourse that is not subject to the *Water Act 2000*, any access tracks:
 - that run parallel to the wetland or watercourse must be more than 10 metres from the defining bank
 - into the bed and banks of a watercourse or wetland must be at right angles to the water flow, and no wider than 10 metres and a minimum of 50 metres apart.

Guidance

Works to restore the land should be consistent with recognized best practice as recommended by a Government agency, a university, industry organisation, natural resource management group or similar body.

6.3 Diverting a channel

Clearing vegetation to divert a natural channel under this code must be necessary environmental clearing—such as, diverting an existing natural channel because the surrounds of the channel mean the watercourse in its present location is no longer functioning as an ecosystem; or the channel remaining in its current location may lead to an adverse environmental outcome.

Practice

Necessary environmental clearing to divert an existing natural channel:

- must replicate the existing form (shape) of the natural channel
- must stabilize all areas cleared and revegetate the new channel with native species;
- in a wetland or watercourse subject to the *Water Act 2000* or *Fisheries Act 1994* must be in accordance with necessary approvals; or
- in a wetland or watercourse not subject to the *Water Act 2000* or *Fisheries Act 1994*, the new channel:
 - must be no longer than 100 metres and no wider than 10 metres
 - if longer than 100 metres or wider than 10 metres, an exchange area must be provided.

Guidance

Refer to section 7 for guidance on providing an exchange area.

6.4 Natural disaster

Necessary environmental clearing for the purpose of preparing for the likelihood of a natural disaster is generally associated with the clearing of vegetation to remove debris or silt from a watercourse to mitigate flooding.

Clearing in an area in which a disaster situation declaration has been made that is necessary to prevent or minimize—loss of human life, illness or injury to humans; property loss or damage; or damage to the environment—is exempt clearing work under the Planning Regulation 2017.

Section 5.2 and 5.3 of this code also provides practices and guidance for clearing vegetation in a Category C area for public safety and establishing infrastructure such as a fire break.

Practice

Clearing in a wetland or watercourse subject to the *Water Act 2000*, must be in accordance with necessary approvals.

In a wetland or watercourse not subject to the *Water Act 2000*, a tree in the bed of the watercourse can be felled and removed where:

- removal of the tree will reduce the accumulation of debris and silt which would otherwise exacerbate flooding; or
- the tree is causing diversion of water and is destabilizing adjacent banks; and
- any access tracks around the wetland or along the watercourse are more than 10 metres from the defining bank; and
- any access tracks into the bed and banks of a watercourse or wetland are at right angles to the water flow, no wider than 10 metres and not less than 50 metres apart.

6.5 Removing contaminants from the land

Practice

Necessary environmental clearing to remove contaminants from land must:

- be limited to the extent necessary to allow removal of the contaminants
- involve stabilization and revegetation with native species; or.
- provide an exchange area.

Guidance

Refer to section 7 for guidance on providing an exchange area.

7. Exchange area

7.1 Type, extent and location

An exchange area is an area of land with native vegetation that is provided in exchange for the area to be cleared. It will be secured via a voluntary declaration and will become a Category A area on the regulated vegetation management map.

The exchange area must occur on the same land as the land being cleared under this code.

Where section 5 or 6 of this code requires an exchange area, its type and extent should be in accordance with Table 6.

Table 6 – Exchange area extent and type

Type:	Extent
Vegetation in a Category C or R area that could otherwise be cleared under an accepted development code for managing regrowth vegetation.	Equal to the cleared area and a minimum of 1 hectare
An area of Category X native vegetation that has not been cleared for 10 years or is 2 metres or more in height, and will provide a significant biodiversity outcome such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the same regional ecosystem as that being cleared; or • an endangered or of concern regional ecosystem; or • well developed and dense regrowth, or • within a wetland or watercourse protection area that is currently mapped category X and has regrowth vegetation, or • in a location that creates a corridor between a category B area and/or a category C or category R area; or • an area that adjoins a category B and/or category C or category R area. 	Equal to the cleared area and a minimum of 1 hectare
An area other than those described above (a Category X area that is less than 10 years old or 2 metres in height).	Twice the cleared area and a minimum of 1 hectare

7.2 Delineating the exchange area

The location and extent of the exchange area must be accurately defined and provided in a form that will allow DNRME to prepare a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation. There are three options for delineating the exchange area, as set out in Table 7.

Table 7: Options for identifying the location of the exchange area

Option 1: Use a rectified image, or a map to show the location and extent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour photocopy the map, aerial photograph or satellite image • Draw the boundary of the area on the image/map • Provide grid co-ordinates for five or more fixed point features (use GPS unit–MGA94) that are visible on the image base (e.g. the coordinates of property boundary corners, dams and houses) and a description of what each features represents • Include relevant details (e.g. title, applicant’s name, north arrow, legend, scale bar)
Option 2: Collect reference coordinates (GPS points using MGA94) around the boundaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a drawing and a table of GPS co-ordinates, that define the exchange area • Provide a digital copy of a tracklog from a GPS unit of the boundary of the area
Option 3: Provide a digital mapping layer of the exchange area, suitable for use in a GPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital mapping must be projected using MGA94 • File formats for line work, polygons and points must be either: ESRI shapefile or coverage; MapInfo; CAD DXF; or KML • File format for graphics (e.g. aerial photographs, satellite imagery) must be either: Tiff; GeoTiff; jpg; GeoJpg; Endas Imagine IMG format (no BMP); or Arc Grid

Guidance

You should plan the clearing in advance so you can provide the specific location of the exchange area and the size of the area to be cleared when you notify DNRME under section 3.1.

Appendix 1: Other relevant legislation

Other legislation may affect clearing practices and you should contact the agencies below to determine if your intended clearing activity will be affected. Of particular importance, note that:

- all native plants in Queensland are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, and you must contact the nature conservation area of the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) before clearing vegetation.
- you must also contact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 13 QGOV (13 74 68) before clearing:
 - any sandalwood on State-owned land (including State leasehold land, reserves, roads, etc).
 - more than five hectares on State-owned land (including State leasehold land, reserves, roads, etc.) that contains commercial timber species (hardwood species or white cypress pine) as listed in Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 6 of the Vegetation Management Regulation 2012 if you are within the local government area of any of the following Councils:

Banana Shire	Fraser Coast Regional	Rockhampton Regional
Barcaldine Regional	Gladstone Regional	Somerset Regional South
Blackall Tambo Regional	Goondiwindi Regional	Burnett Regional
Bundaberg Regional	Isaac Regional	Southern Downs Regional
Central Highlands Regional	Mackay Regional	Tablelands Regional
Charters Towers Regional	Maranoa Regional	Toowoomba Regional
Cook Shire	Murweh Shire	Western Downs Regional
Fraser Coast Regional	North Burnett Regional	Whitsunday Regional

Table 8: Relevant legislation and agency contact details

Legislation	Agency	Contact details
<i>Water Act 2000</i> <i>Soil Conservation Act 1986</i>	Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Queensland Government)	13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.dnrme.qld.gov.au
<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Queensland Government)	13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.datsip.qld.gov.au
<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> <i>Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995</i> <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Department of Environment and Science (Queensland Government)	13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.des.qld.gov.au
<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> <i>Forestry Act 1959¹</i>	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland Government)	13 25 23 www.daf.qld.gov.au
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Department of the Environment (Australian Government)	1800 803 772 www.environment.gov.au
<i>Planning Act 2016</i>	Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning (Queensland Government)	13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
<i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i>	Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning (Queensland Government)	13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>	Local government	Contact your relevant local government office

¹ Contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries before **clearing**:

- Any sandalwood on state-owned land (including leasehold land)
- On freehold land in a 'forest consent area'
- More than five hectares on state-owned land (including leasehold land) containing commercial timber species listed in parts 2 or 3 of Schedule 6 of the Vegetation Management Regulation 2012 and located within any of the following local government management areas—Banana, Bundaberg Regional, Fraser Coast Regional, Gladstone Regional, Isaac Regional, North Burnett Regional, Somerset Regional, South Burnett Regional, Southern Downs Regional, Tablelands Regional, Toowoomba Regional, Western Downs Regional

Glossary

Accelerated soil erosion is soil erosion that occurs as a result of human activity.

Coastal areas include:

- Brigalow Belt subregions 1 (Townsville Plains), 2 (Bogie River Hills) and 14 (Marlborough Plains)
- Cape York Peninsula subregion 2 (Starke Coastal Lowlands)
- Einasleigh Uplands subregion 3 (Hodgkinson Basin)
- Central Queensland Coast bioregion
- Southeast Queensland bioregion
- Wet Tropics bioregion

Declared pests are pests declared under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Declared pests can be plants or animals.

Defining bank is:

- the bank or terrace that confines water before flooding, or
- if there is no bank or terrace, the point where water is confined before flooding

Land is an area—

- (a) consisting of a lot or lots that are—
 - (i) owned by the same person or that have 1 or more common owners
- (b) for an area mentioned in paragraph (a) that consists of more than 1 lot—are contiguous, other than for any road or watercourse between any of them.

Leasehold land for agriculture and grazing purposes is land subject to a lease under the *Land Act 1994* granted for agriculture or grazing purposes.

Owner of land generally means—

- for freehold land, the registered owner, or
- for a lease, license or permit under the *Land Act 1994*, the lessee, licensee or permittee; or
- for Indigenous land, the holder of title to the land; or
- for any tenure under any other Act, the holder of the tenure.

Mechanical clearing is the clearing of vegetation using machinery which disturbs the soil surface or uproots woody vegetation.

Non-coastal areas are those other than coastal areas. Advice can be sought from DNRME in identifying whether land is within a western area.

Regional ecosystems are vegetation communities in a bioregion that are consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil.

Slopes greater than 12 per cent is where the land increases or decreases in height by four metres or more over any 30 metre length.

Watercourses are natural rivers, creeks or channels represented on the Vegetation management watercourse map. In the field, a watercourse may be comprised of multiple channels or anabranches.

Wetland is an area of land that supports plants or is associated with plants that are adapted to and dependent on living in wet conditions for at least part of their life cycle. Wetlands that require protection under this code are shown on the vegetation management wetlands map.