

Accepted development vegetation clearing code

Managing Weeds

Effective 22 November 2023

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Landholders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Acts and regulations relevant to their operations, and to seek advice from the relevant agency if required.

Glossary

The following table of technical terms and their definitions are essential to an understanding of this accepted development vegetation clearing code (code). Any terms used in this code not included in the below Glossary table have the meaning provided for in the [Vegetation Management Act 1999](#)¹.

Term	Definition
Aerial application	Is the application of herbicide from an aircraft or drone.
Coastal lot	Is a lot that falls partly or entirely within any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigalow Belt subregions 1 (Townsville Plains), 2 (Bogie River Hills) or 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
Crossing	Is a road that crosses a watercourse or drainage feature. <u>Note:</u> A crossing does not run parallel to a watercourse or drainage feature.
Dedicated road	See section 93 of the Land Act 1994 .
Defining bank	Is the bank that confines the seasonal flows, but which may be inundated by flooding from time to time, and be either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the bank or terrace that confines the water before the point of flooding or • where there is no bank, the seasonal high water line that represents the point of flooding.
Diameter	Is the width of a tree trunk measured at 1.3 metres above the ground.
Ecological processes	Is the range of natural processes which maintain an ecosystem, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hydrological processes • soil development • nutrient cycling • chemical processes including storage of nutrients • decomposition and cycling of organic matter • pollination and seed production • seed dispersal • predator-prey relationships • germination and recruitment of species • the carbon cycle and stability of atmospheric carbon • habitats for flora and fauna (such as particular regional ecosystems, logs, rocks, debris, leaf litter, nectar, hollow bearing trees, food and shelter).

¹ A list of terms defined in the [Vegetation Management Act 1999](#) is available in the General guide to the vegetation clearing codes: Accepted development vegetation clearing codes. The general guide is available online at www.qld.gov.au (search 'General guide to the vegetation clearing codes').

Term	Definition
Exempt clearing work	Has the meaning given in Schedule 24 (Dictionary) of the Planning Regulation 2017 . Note: A list of exempt clearing work is available at: www.qld.gov.au (search 'exempt clearing work').
Foliar herbicide	Is a herbicide primarily absorbed by the foliage of plants. ²
Ground cover	Is any plant matter, either dead or alive, woody or non-woody, that covers the surface of the ground (either attached or detached). For example grasses, shrubs, tree and grass leaf litter, twigs, logs, branches etc.
Habitat tree	Is a living or dead standing native tree that contains either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one or more visible hollows positioned at least two metres above the base of the tree³ or an active bird's nest or the nest of a raptor or other bird that uses the same nest each year.
Immature tree	Is any native woody vegetation (other than a mature tree or habitat tree) that is two metres or more in height.
Immature koala habitat tree	Means a koala habitat tree that is all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is located in a koala habitat area is not a mature tree or habitat tree is two metres or more in height.
Koala habitat area	See the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017 , section 7B.
Koala habitat tree	See the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017 , schedule 2 (Dictionary).
Landholder	Is (where relevant): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the registered proprietor of freehold land a lessee of freehold land, subject to the consent of the freehold owner to make a notification a lessee of a lease under the Land Act 1994 provided the clearing is consistent with the purposes of the lease a sub-lessee of a lease under the Land Act 1994 subject to the consent of the lessee to make a notification and provided the clearing is consistent with the purposes of the lease a licensee or permittee under the Land Act 1994 provided the clearing is consistent with the conditions of the licence or permit the road authority for a dedicated road the holder of the title or tenure to the land.
Land zones	Are categories that describe the major geologies, associated landforms and geomorphic processes in Queensland. The land zone can be identified by the middle number in the three digit regional ecosystem identification code. For example, the regional ecosystem identified by the code 12.3.4 is in land zone 3.

² An example of a foliar herbicide is glyphosate.

³ Habitat trees are used, or potentially used, by hollow-dwelling fauna.

Term	Definition
Mature tree	<p>Is a native tree that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a <i>Eucalyptus</i>, <i>Corymbia</i>, <i>Lophostemon</i> or <i>Angophora</i> species ('gum' or 'box' trees) with a single trunk or several trunks with a diameter of 30 centimetres or more • another tree species such as a wattle, with: a single trunk with a diameter of 20 centimetres or more; or several trunks with a diameter of 25 centimetres or more. <p>(If there are several trunks, add the diameters of the largest two trunks.)</p>
Mechanical clearing	<p>Is the clearing of vegetation using any of the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing • Brush cutting • Machinery which disturbs the soil surface or uproots woody vegetation.
Non-coastal lot	Is a lot that is not a coastal lot.
Recognised best practice methods	Is a method recognised by a State or Federal government agency to prevent increased soil erosion and instability, stabilise soil erosion and instability and prevent increased sediment run-off. This includes a guide such as the Soil Conservation Guidelines for Queensland (3rd edition) , a fact sheet or other advice published or provided by a State or Federal government agency.
Road authority	<p>Is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a State-controlled road under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994— the chief executive under the Act or • all dedicated roads other than those declared as a state-controlled road under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 — the local government.
Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides	Are broad spectrum herbicides that are primarily absorbed by the roots of plants, rather than the shoots ⁴ .
Seasonal high water line	Is a zone that represents the usual peak seasonal flow level and can be identified by deposition, debris or characteristic vegetation zonation.
Self-audit	Is an assessment made either by the landholder, a person who cleared under the code on behalf of the landholder, or a third party to evaluate whether the clearing is consistent with this code, using the department's self-audit form for Managing Weeds, which is available at www.qld.gov.au (search 'self-audit form').
SEQ lot	Means a lot that is located partly or entirely within the SEQ Region under the Planning Regulation 2017 , section 4 and schedule 1.
Shrub	Is any native woody tree, shrub or ground cover less than two metres high.
Soil erosion and instability	Is the occurrence of gully erosion greater than 30 centimetres in depth, landslips, a scarp, soil scalding or stream bank slumping.

⁴ Examples of root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides are hexazinone (Velpar) or tebuthiuron (Graslan). Glyphosate is not considered a root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicide.

Term	Definition
Stream order	Means a numerical ordering classification of each stream segment according to its position within a catchment ⁵ . Streams are watercourses and drainage features shown on the vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map.
Weed ⁶	Is any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted or prohibited matter declared under the Biosecurity Act 2014 • A non-native plant • A “Native and naturalised” plant that is not native to the bioregion.
Weed management burn	Is a burn that is planned and undertaken for the purpose of managing weeds and which restores the range of plant species, size classes, and vegetation densities typical of the regional ecosystem. <u>Note:</u> A weed management burn is not for the purpose of reducing hazardous fuel loads. ⁷

⁵ Further information on identifying stream orders is available in the General guide to the vegetation clearing codes: Accepted development vegetation clearing codes. The general guide is available online at www.qld.gov.au (search 'General guide to the vegetation clearing codes').

⁶ The Census of the Queensland Flora and Fungi, which is updated annually by the Queensland Herbarium, identifies plants considered “Native in Queensland”, or “Native and naturalised” for particular bioregions in Queensland. The Census will include non-native plants as either: “Formerly naturalised”, “Doubtfully naturalised” or “Naturalised in Queensland”. Plants that are “Native and naturalised” for particular bioregions in Queensland, are non-native for the remaining bioregions. Further information can be found on the Queensland Government website at www.qld.gov.au (search for ‘flora and fungi census’).

⁷ Reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the [Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990](#), is exempt clearing work.

1 Introduction

The [Vegetation Management Act 1999](#) (Vegetation Management Act), in conjunction with the [Planning Act 2016](#) (the Planning Act) and subordinate legislation, regulates clearing of remnant vegetation and regulated regrowth vegetation. This code, which was made by the Minister on 5 September 2023 (effective 22 November 2023) in accordance with section 19O of the Vegetation Management Act and the State Policy for Vegetation Management⁸, is approved as an accepted development vegetation clearing code under section 3 of the [Vegetation Management Regulation 2023](#).

Clearing in accordance with this code is accepted development under schedule 7, part 3, section 12 of the [Planning Regulation 2017](#).

Note: Other legislation may also affect weed management activities. Before you notify the Department of Resources of your intention to clear native vegetation under this code, it is strongly recommended that you contact the relevant agencies listed in [Appendix 1](#) to determine whether your proposed weed management activity is allowable under other local, state and federal laws.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this code is to regulate the clearing of native remnant vegetation (category B areas) and native regulated regrowth vegetation (category C areas and category R areas) to allow for the removal of weeds, in accordance with requirements designed to meet the objectives outlined in [section 1.3](#).

If weed management will not require, or result in any clearing of native vegetation, then you do not need to comply with this code.

If clearing of native vegetation to allow for, or as a result of weed management does not comply with this code, it is classified as either assessable or prohibited development under the Planning Act and may be subject to the relevant offence provisions.⁹

Note: All sections of this code are mandatory and to ensure you are compliant with this code, you must satisfy the requirements in all sections. If your intended clearing will not comply with this code, you may be able to operate under an area management plan or apply for a development approval (both of these options are free of charge for managing weeds). Contact the Department of Resources on 135 VEG (135 834) for further information.

⁸ The State Policy for Vegetation Management is available at www.qld.gov.au (search 'state policy for vegetation management')

⁹ The Department of Resources uses satellite imagery to monitor compliance with vegetation management legislation.

1.2 Scope

This code applies to the clearing of native vegetation where it is required to effectively control a weed in a category B area, category C area and category R area only¹⁰.

This code authorises necessary clearing of native vegetation for any of the following:

- To undertake weed management using an 'effective weed management method' where the clearing of native vegetation cannot be avoided
- To provide access for weed management where no other suitable access exists

This code does not apply to any of the following activities:

- Clearing that is inconsistent with a condition of a development approval under the Planning Act that remains enforceable.
- Clearing of vegetation that is exempt clearing work under schedule 21 of the [Planning Regulation 2017](#) except where schedule 21 refers to clearing under this code.
- Clearing of vegetation that complies with schedule 7, part 3, section 13 of the [Planning Regulation 2017](#) being operational work for necessary firebreaks or fire management lines.

Note: The clearing of the weed itself is not regulated under this code or the Vegetation Management Act, and does not require any approval. This code applies to the clearing of native vegetation to allow for, or as a result of, clearing the weed.

1.3 Objective

The objective of this code is that clearing native vegetation necessary to manage weeds achieves the following environmental outcomes:

- Avoids and minimises impacts on remnant vegetation and regulated regrowth vegetation
- Prevents land degradation
- Maintains ecological processes and biodiversity
- Maintains bank stability, water quality and habitat of wetland, watercourse and drainage features
- Maintains regional ecosystems.

Note: All Queenslanders have a 'general biosecurity obligation' (GBO) under Queensland's [Biosecurity Act 2014](#). This means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks (which includes certain weed species) that are under their control, they know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about.

For more information visit www.daf.qld.gov.au.

¹⁰ Any areas cleared under this code for weed management activities will remain mapped as a category B area, category C area or category R area, as relevant, on the regulated vegetation management map.

1.4 Commencement date

This code became effective on 22 November 2023, replacing the following superseded code:

- *Managing weeds* (effective 7 February 2020)

Any current notifications made under the superseded *Managing weeds* code effective 7 February 2020 continue to be valid and allow you to clear provided you comply with all requirements of this code (effective 22 November 2023).

Note: If you notified under the 7 February 2020 superseded code, you do not need to re-notify under this code unless you want to do additional clearing to that already notified, or the notification has expired. From 22 November 2023, you must however ensure you undertake the clearing in accordance with the requirements of this code.

1.5 Assistance

Queensland Government staff are available to help you understand your obligations, so if – after reading this code – you have questions or want to make sure you are doing the right thing, contact the Department of Resources by calling 135 VEG (135 834) or emailing vegetation@resources.qld.gov.au

2 Notification requirements

Before any clearing of native vegetation is undertaken under this code, the Department of Resources must be notified of your intended clearing activity by either of the following:

1. the landholder¹¹
or
2. a third party.

Note: If you are a third party making a notification over someone else's land, you need the landholder's consent to enter, access and undertake clearing or other works on their land.

2.1 Notification process

1. Complete the online or hard copy notification form, which requires that you provide certain information, including:
 - a. contact details
 - b. the lot on plan on which the activity is proposed
 - c. the tenure of the property (i.e. whether freehold, leasehold, or other)
 - d. information that clearly identifies the location of the intended clearing.
2. Lodge the completed form with the Department of Resources.

¹¹ This includes a person authorised to notify on the landholder's behalf, such as someone who holds a power of attorney

3. Receive confirmation of your notification from the Department of Resources before commencing clearing.

Note: If you are notifying online, you should receive an email within 10 minutes that confirms receipt of your notification.

2.2 Notification limitations

1. Each notification is limited to a single lot.
2. For an SEQ lot that has one or more koala habitat areas mapped on the lot – for each notification made: 10 hectares per lot.
3. For all other lots (including an SEQ lot that has no koala habitat areas mapped on the lot) – for each notification made, the following area limits apply:
 - a. For coastal lots and non-coastal lots where the lot size is 100 hectares or less: 50 hectares per lot.
 - b. For coastal lots where the lot size is greater than 100 hectares: 50 per cent of lot area or 200 hectares per lot, whichever is the lesser.
 - c. For non-coastal lots where the lot size is greater than 100 hectares: 50 per cent of lot area or 400 hectares per lot, whichever is the lesser.
4. If your property consists of more than one lot, you may lodge a notification for each lot.
5. A notification remains in effect for two years from the date the Department of Resources issues confirmation of your notification¹².
6. You may make a subsequent notification for weed management. However, before lodging the notification, you must undertake a self-audit to ensure that the clearing already undertaken has satisfied the code requirements. If the results of the self-audit indicate that your clearing is consistent with the requirements in this code requirements, you may renotify. Otherwise, you should contact the Department of Resources.

¹² Notifications do not transfer on title. If you have recently purchased the property and intend to undertake weed management activities in remnant vegetation or regulated regrowth vegetation, you must first notify the Department of Resources.

3 Compliance requirements

To comply with this code, you must do all of the following:

1. Notify the Department of Resources in accordance with the notification requirements (see [section 2](#)).
2. Conduct your clearing activity in accordance with all of the requirements (see [section 4](#)).
3. Keep all of the following records and make these records available to the Department of Resources upon request:
 - a. For each area where you are proposing to clear native vegetation to allow for, or as a result of weed management, all of the following details:
 - i. The particular target weed species to be removed.
 - ii. Pre-clearing photographs and associated GPS coordinates to sufficiently demonstrate the proposed weed management area.
 - iii. The effective weed management method/s used, the government agency recommending the method as an appropriate and effective weed management method for the target weed species, and copies of any relevant federal, state and local government guide or best practice document for the effective weed management method.
 - iv. Any other weed management guidelines, strategies, plan or advice which supports the weed management operations for the area.
 - b. For chemical weed management methods, the herbicide used and details on how, when and where it was applied.
 - c. If you have contracted another person to undertake the clearing on your behalf:
 - i. contractor details (name, address, contact details)
 - ii. instructions to contractors, detailing location, date, time and species.
 - d. For areas that must be rehabilitated in accordance with [section 4.7](#) of this code, photographs and associated GPS coordinates taken annually of the rehabilitation and revegetation outcomes.
4. Self-audit results, where relevant, and make them available to the Department of Resources upon request.

Note: To monitor your compliance with the code, it is recommended that you undertake a self-audit after clearing a small portion of the total area under the notification. If the results indicate that there are compliance issues, discontinue clearing and contact the Department of Resources for assistance or advice on how to proceed.

4 Native vegetation clearing requirements

1. For an SEQ lot that has one or more koala habitat areas mapped on the lot – under a single notification, the total area of native vegetation on any lot that is cleared for weed management purposes must not exceed: 10 hectares per lot.
2. For all other lots (including an SEQ lot that has no koala habitat areas mapped on the lot) - under a single notification, the total area of native vegetation on any lot that is cleared for weed management purposes must not exceed:
 - a. for coastal lots and non-coastal lots where the lot size is 100 hectares or less: 50 hectares per lot
 - b. for coastal lots where the lot size is greater than 100 hectares: 50 per cent of lot area or 200 hectares per lot, whichever is the lesser
 - c. for non-coastal lots where the lot size is greater than 100 hectares: 50 per cent of lot area or 400 hectares per lot, whichever is the lesser.
3. The clearing of native vegetation under this code is only permitted for the following purposes:
 - a. to undertake weed management using an ‘effective weed management method’ (see [section 4.1](#))
 - b. to provide access for weed management where no other suitable access exists¹³.
4. When clearing native vegetation, all of the following apply:
 - a. Clearing must be for an ‘effective weed management method’.
 - b. Clearing must comply with the relevant section/s of this code for the particular weed management method (Mechanical clearing: [section 4.3](#); Chemical clearing: [section 4.4](#); Controlled burning: [section 4.5](#)).
 - c. When clearing for access, clearing must comply with [section 4.2](#) of this code.
 - d. Clearing must comply with the Soil and Water Quality Protections of this code (see [section 4.6](#)).

4.1 Effective weed management methods

For the purposes of this code, an ‘effective weed management method’ is a method which complies with all of the following:

1. is published by a State, Federal or Local government agency as an appropriate and effective weed management method for the weed species¹⁴
2. ensures the ecological processes for the native vegetation within the weed management area is maintained

¹³ You should utilise existing property tracks and fence line clearings wherever possible, and only clear for access where no suitable access tracks exists, and vehicular or machinery access is necessary to undertake the weed management activities.

¹⁴ For example, a weed fact sheet published by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Biosecurity Queensland).

3. only results in clearing that is necessary and reasonable given the nature and extent of the weed infestation, terrain and economics of weed control
4. advances the restoration of the regional ecosystems within the weed management area.

For example: Mechanical clearing of a large area of Prickly Acacia (that also contains some native vegetation that is cleared in accordance with this code), would be considered reasonable. However mechanical clearing of native vegetation to control scattered individuals of a climbing weed species would not be considered reasonable. Similarly, mechanical clearing of native vegetation to control a herbaceous weed, such as Parthenium Weed, would not be considered reasonable.

4.2 Clearing native vegetation to provide access for weed management

An access track specifically constructed for the purpose of weed management must be necessary and must not result in any of the following:

1. clearing which exceeds five metres in width.
2. clearing of a habitat tree or a mature tree unless it is necessary to remove a dead habitat tree that poses a safety risk.
3. clearing of an immature koala habitat tree in a koala habitat area unless the area is managed in a way that is conducive to natural regeneration of the number of immature koala habitat trees cleared.
4. clearing within the wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, or within 10 metres of the defining bank of the wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, unless a crossing of a watercourse or drainage feature is required.

4.3 Mechanical clearing of native vegetation

All of the following apply:

1. Mechanical clearing of native vegetation for weed management must not be undertaken using a chain or cable linked between two tractors, bulldozers or other traction vehicles.
2. Mechanical clearing of native vegetation for weed management must not result in any of the following:
 - a. removal of mature trees or habitat trees
 - b. clearing of an immature koala habitat tree in a koala habitat area unless the area is managed in a way that is conducive to natural regeneration of the number of immature koala habitat trees cleared.
 - c. clearing on slopes greater than 15 per cent, unless clearing is undertaken by brush cutting

- d. clearing in a regional ecosystem that occurs on land zone 1
 - e. clearing within a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature.
3. Mechanical clearing of native vegetation for weed management must not occur within a riparian protection zone specified in Table 2, unless either of the following are satisfied:
 - a. Clearing only involves slashing or brushcutting.
 - b. Clearing does not occur within 2 metres of the defining bank of a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature; and after the clearing, the riparian protection zone specified in Table 2 must be rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements specified in [section 4.7](#).
 4. Mechanical clearing of native vegetation for weed management must only remove immature trees and shrubs including small saplings and woody ground covers where necessary and when within a 1.5 metre radius from the edge of the canopy of the weed targeted for removal.
 5. Mechanical clearing of native vegetation for weed management must not disturb more than 50 per cent of the ground cover, or result in any hectare having less than 50 per cent ground cover, whether dead or alive, unless after the clearing the weed management area is rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements specified in [section 4.7](#).
 6. Mechanical clearing of native vegetation for weed management must retain vegetation that exhibits the full range of species typical of the regional ecosystem for the area.

Table 2: Riparian protection zones

Water feature	Riparian protection zone
Wetland	20 metres
Watercourse and drainage features	
Stream order [†] 1 or 2	10 metres
Stream order 3 or 4	15 metres
Stream order 5 or more	20 metres

Notes:

* The riparian protection zone includes the area between the defining banks of the watercourse, drainage feature or wetland, plus the specified distance measured from the defining bank away from the water body.

[†] Stream order is shown on the vegetation management supporting map.

4.4 Chemical clearing of native vegetation

All of the following apply:

1. Clearing of native vegetation for weed management using herbicides must retain all of the following:
 - a. mature trees and habitat trees unless it is necessary to remove a dead habitat tree that poses a safety risk.
 - b. clearing of an immature koala habitat tree in a koala habitat area unless the area is managed in a way that is conducive to natural regeneration of the number of immature koala habitat trees cleared.
 - c. at least 50 per cent of immature trees distributed in a pattern that is as natural as possible.
2. Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides must comply with all of the following:
 - a. not be applied by aerial application
 - b. not be used within 30 metres of a mature tree or habitat tree or within two times the height of a mature tree or habitat tree, whichever is the greater
 - c. not be used in or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, or any distance specified on the approved product label or the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, whichever is the greater.
 - d. be applied in accordance with the approved product label, or the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
3. Aerial application of a foliar herbicide is permitted only if all of the following are met:
 - a. the herbicide is selective, and will not destroy any mature trees or habitat trees
 - b. the product directions for application, and the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority provides for aerial application
 - c. the herbicide is not used within 50 metres of the defining bank of a wetland.
 - d. it is applied in accordance with the approved product label, or the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, including any specified distances from a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature.

4.5 Weed management burning in native vegetation

For a weed management burn, all of the following applies:

1. Prior to undertaking a weed management burn, all necessary fire permits must be obtained¹⁵.
2. A weed management burn must be conducted in such a way (timing, weather, fuel load and lighting pattern) to limit the likelihood of damage to mature trees and habitat trees.

¹⁵ Fire permits can be obtained by contacting your local fire warden, visit www.qld.gov.au (search 'local fire warden').

3. A weed management burn must be undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the regional ecosystem, as outlined in the Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD) at www.qld.gov.au (search 'VM REDD').

Note: You do not need to notify or conduct your burn in accordance with this accepted development vegetation clearing code when reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the [Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990](#), or when the burn area has only weeds present and there is no native vegetation present.

4.6 Soil and water quality protections

When clearing, all of the following apply:

1. Recognised best practice methods must be employed to:
 - a. prevent increased soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing
 - b. stabilise soil erosion and instability which has resulted from the clearing
 - c. prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of the clearing.
2. In land zones 2 and 3 where the elevation is less than five metres above sea level, top soil must not be mechanically disturbed to a depth greater than 30 centimetres.

4.7 Rehabilitation requirements

Where [section 4.3](#) requires rehabilitation, all of the following steps need to be undertaken:

1. Stabilise the area to prevent soil erosion and instability.
2. Prepare the area so it is in a state that is conducive to the re-establishment of native vegetation. This may involve excluding browsing animals, controlling weeds, establishing appropriate soil moisture level, mulching or covering with topsoil.
3. Revegetate with species that make up the natural floristic composition of the regional ecosystem. This may involve planting seedlings, natural regeneration, or direct seeding.
4. Maintain the area in a way that is conducive to achieving the revegetation outcomes outlined in Table 3. This may involve excluding browsing animals, controlling weeds, maintaining an appropriate soil moisture level or mulching.
5. Achieve the ground cover percentage and immature tree density in the timeframes outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Revegetation outcomes for area cleared

Regional ecosystem structural category of vegetation cleared	Ground cover % required within 12 months after clearing	Ground cover % / immature tree density required within 36 months after clearing
Grassland	70% ground cover	80% ground cover
Very sparse	70% ground cover	200 immature trees/hectare
Sparse	70% ground cover	300 immature trees/hectare
Mid-dense	70% ground cover	500 immature trees/hectare
Dense	70% ground cover	700 immature trees/hectare

Appendix 1—Other relevant legislation

Activity	Legislation	Agency	Contact details
Interference with overland flow Earthworks, significant disturbance	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (Queensland Government)	Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.rdmw.qld.gov.au
Earthworks, significant disturbance	<i>Soil Conservation Act 1986</i>	Department of Resources	Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.resources.qld.gov.au
Fire Permits	<i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i>	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	Ph: 13 QOV (13 74 68) www.qfes.qld.gov.au
Indigenous cultural heritage	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the arts (Queensland Government)	Ph. 13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au
Mining and environmentally relevant activities Infrastructure development (coastal) Heritage issues	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> <i>Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995</i> <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>		Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.des.qld.gov.au
Protected plants and protected areas ¹⁶	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Department of Environment and Science (Queensland Government)	Ph: 1300 130 372 (option 4) palm@des.qld.gov.au www.des.qld.gov.au
Koala mapping and regulations	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Department of Environment and Science (Queensland Government)	Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68) Koala.assessment@des.qld.gov.au www.des.qld.gov.au
Interference with fish passage in a watercourse, mangroves Forest activities ¹⁷	<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> <i>Forestry Act 1959</i>	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland Government)	Ph: 13 25 23 www.daf.qld.gov.au
Matters of National Environmental Significance including listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australian Government)	Ph: 1800 803 772 www.dcceew.gov.au

¹⁶ In Queensland, all plants that are native to Australia are protected plants under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, which endeavours to ensure that protected plants (whether whole plants or protected plants parts) are not illegally removed from the wild, or illegally traded. Prior to clearing, you should check the flora survey trigger map to determine if the clearing is within a high-risk area by visiting www.qld.gov.au (search 'flora survey trigger map'). For further information or assistance on the protected plants flora survey trigger map for your property, please contact the Department of Environment and Science on 13QGOV (13 74 68) or email palm@des.qld.gov.au.

¹⁷ 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 1 of the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2023* 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.

Activity	Legislation	Agency	Contact details
Development and planning processes	<i>Planning Act 2016</i> <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i>	Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Queensland Government)	Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
Road corridor permits	<i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>	Department of Transport and Main Roads (Queensland Government)	Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68) www.tmr.qld.gov.au
Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Ph: (07) 4241 0500 www.wettropics.gov.au
Local government requirements	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i> <i>Planning Act 2016</i>	Your relevant local government office	