

Self-audit form - managing fodder harvesting

This form is for clearing vegetation under the clearing for managing fodder harvesting accepted development vegetation clearing code.

It is a requirement of this code that you undertake a self-audit of your clearing for managing fodder harvesting prior to notifying for a second or subsequent notifications. You do not need to send this self-audit to the department but it may be requested in the future.

Date/s of clearing for managing fodder harvesting activities: _____

Note: Some aspects of this audit can be assessed by undertaking a desktop assessment, however most will need to be assessed infield or onsite.

Fodder harvesting code requirement

	No	Yes
Property details		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing for fodder harvesting has only occurred in Category B, C or R areas. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property located in the local government areas of — Balonne, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall Tambo, Bulloo, Diamantina, Goondiwindi, Longreach, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Western Downs, Winton. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The property tenure is either: freehold land, indigenous land or leasehold land granted for agricultural and grazing purposes. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notification requirements and limitations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified for fodder management. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landholder, a person authorised by the landholder or a third party with the consent of the landholder is the notifier. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the online or hard copy notification form, which requires you to provide certain information. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive confirmation of your notification from DNRME before commencing <i>fodder harvesting</i>. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each notification was limited to a single lot and limited to 500 ha, including both harvested and retained areas. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each notification was only utilised for two years from the date DNRME issues confirmation of your notification. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-audit conducted prior to renotifying – and was compliant. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compliance requirements - Keep all of the following records including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPS coordinates or map of proposed fodder harvesting area. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of Regulated Vegetation Management Map and the Vegetation Management Supporting map. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of the fodder species being harvested. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-audit results. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Contractor details (name, address and contact details).
- Instruction to contractors, detailing location, date, time and species.

Fodder harvesting practices

- Correct regional ecosystems – listed in appendix 1 of the code.
- Areas where stock have access to sufficient water.

Limitations

- Total area (harvested plus retained) in any lot not exceeded 500 ha.
- Harvesting has not occurred essential habitat unless the area is a category C area or a category R area and an exchange area is legally secured
- Harvesting has not occurred in regional ecosystems on land zones 7, unless all other resources used.
- No more than 50% of any regional ecosystem harvested over a 10 year period.
- Harvesting has not occurred in retained areas over the 10 year period.
- No removal of non-fodder species with a height of 4 m or more.
- Fodder harvesting has not resulted in wastage of fodder because the rate of harvest exceeds the amount necessary to feed the number of stock on the lot.
- Fodder harvesting has not resulted in raking or moving harvest debris from where it falls, except for essential and routine management.

Mechanical harvesting

This section is N/A

- Mechanical fodder harvesting has not occurred on slopes greater than 5%.
- Mechanical fodder harvesting has not occurred within 50 m of an area of soil erosion or instability.
- Mechanical fodder harvesting has not occurred inside the defining bank of wetlands, watercourses or drainage features.
- Mechanical fodder harvesting has not occurred within 20 m of the defining bank of wetlands, watercourses or drainage features when utilising selective harvesting.
- Mechanical fodder harvesting has not occurred within 100 m of the defining bank of wetlands, watercourses or drainage features when utilising strip or block harvesting.

Selective harvesting

This section is N/A

- Where fodder harvesting has previously occurred in an area of a lot, selective harvesting has only occurred where Fodder harvesting has not occurred in the area in the last 10 years.
- Where fodder harvesting has previously occurred in an area of a lot, selective harvesting has only occurred where the average height of the fodder trees is at least 70 per cent of the height of the tallest stands of fodder species in the regional ecosystem.

- All non-fodder species, except where damage is an unavoidable consequence of harvesting the selected fodder tree, have been retained.
- In a least concern regional ecosystem listed in Table A1-1 or A1-2 (appendix 1 of the code) retain at least one fodder tree for each fodder tree harvested.
- In an of concern regional ecosystem listed in Table A1-2 (appendix 1 of the code) retain at least two fodder trees for each fodder tree harvested.
- Retain the full range of plant sizes and species typical of the regional ecosystem in the area, distributed evenly over the harvested area.

Strip and block harvesting

This section is N/A

- When strip or block harvesting fodder harvesting, the harvested area has not been harvested or cleared in the last 10 years.
- Areas that have previously been harvested are not strip or block harvested again until the regeneration has attained a height of 70% of the height of the tallest fodder species in that regional ecosystem.
- Areas of fodder that were previously harvested have attained (regrown) an average height of at least 4 m before re-harvesting for fodder.
- Strip or block harvesting has been aligned along the contour, where practical.
- No strip or block harvesting in regional ecosystems that are less than 10 ha in area or 500 m in width.

Strip harvesting

This section is N/A

- A strip harvest area has not exceeded 50 m wide.
- A strip retention area, of 1.5 times the width of the harvested area, has been retained along the length of the strip as per table 1 of the code.
- Strip retention areas do contain fodder species with an average height of at least 4 m.
- Clearing for machinery access between strip harvest areas has not exceed 15 m wide.

Block harvesting

This section is N/A

- A block harvest area has not exceeded 1 ha.
- A block retention area has been preserved between block harvest areas, in accordance with the widths specified in table 2 of the code.
- Block retention areas contain fodder species with an average height of at least 4 m.
- Clearing for machinery access between block harvest areas has not exceeded 10 m wide.

Soil and water protection - Undertake recognised best practice to:

- Prevent increased soil erosion and instability resulting from the harvesting.
- Stabilise soil erosion and instability which has resulted from the harvesting.

- Prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of the harvesting.
- Clearing has not occurred within 100 m of a salinity expression area.

Exchange areas

This section is N/A

- An exchange area has been provided in a category X area, category C area, category R area, or category B area.
- The exchange area contains a predominant vegetative layer which is at least 2 meters in height.
- The exchange area is consistent with one of the three options listed in Table D, Appendix 3 of the code.
- The exchange area was legally secured using the relevant mechanism outlined in Table D, Appendix 3 of the code, before commencement of clearing the impact area.
- The exchange area was located within the same bioregion as the impact area, or where it is not reasonably possible, located in an adjacent bioregion.
- The exchange area was configured in a way that maintains ecosystem functioning and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.
- The exchange area has been shown as a category A area on the regulated vegetation management map until the area becomes remnant vegetation and is mapped as a category B area on the regulated vegetation management map.
- The exchange area has been managed in accordance with a management plan.
- The management plan for the exchange area has included the property owners' details.
- The management plan for the exchange area includes a description of the area and a map showing the location and extent.
- The management objective is either of the following:
 - If the exchange area is located in a category X area, category C area or category R area - to return the exchange area to remnant vegetation (a category B area on the regulated vegetation management map) as soon as possible and within 20 years.
 - If the exchange area is located in a category B area – to achieve the nominated substantial conservation outcome or address the nominated significant land degradation issue as soon as possible.
- For the exchange area a description of the works / management actions that will be undertaken to achieve the management objective, including the methods, timing, frequency, intended benefits etc.
- For the exchange area, the conservation outcomes that will be achieved by the works / management actions.
- For the exchange area, a description of the management actions that will be undertaken to ensure that the effects of the works do not result in land degradation.

- For the exchange area details of who is responsible for all works and management actions, and the estimated length of time the area/s will be managed.
- For the exchange area the monitoring and auditing processes including adaptive management approaches to rectify negative results from the monitoring and auditing processes.
- For the exchange area the record keeping process for retaining appropriate records for monitoring and auditing processes.

Where an activity is assessed as “No” i.e. non-compliant, landholders should cease operations to reassess code requirements, refer to the relevant landholder guide or to seek advice from the department if required.

Contact us

For more information call **135 VEG** (135 834), email vegetation@dnrme.qld.gov.au, or search ‘Vegetation Management’ on www.qld.gov.au