List of exempt clearing work



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IMPORTANT:

This document lists exempt clearing work under the *Planning Regulation 2017* and the *Vegetation Management Act 1999.* Some clearing work may be made assessable development by a local government planning scheme, or may require approval under another Act or a local law. Landholders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Acts and regulations relevant to their operations, and to seek advice from the local government.

This version reflects amendments to the *Planning Regulation 2017* made by the *Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019* in May 2019.

For more information, please visit www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au

Introduction

The following tables provide a list of exempt clearing work.

The following three steps will assist you to determine if your proposed activity is exempt clearing work:

- 1. Locate the applicable table below that relates to your land tenure (e.g. freehold, leasehold etc.) Note: Table 1 applies to all land tenures generally.
- 2. Find any applicable clearing activity / purpose in the first column of the table.
- 3. Check the Regulated Vegetation Management Map or regional ecosystem mapping to determine if the mapped vegetation category or status of remnant vegetation for the proposed clearing area is listed in the second column of the table. These maps are available on the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) website at www.gld.gov.au

For further information call **135 VEG (135 834)** email <u>vegetation@dnrme.qld.gov.au</u> or search 'Vegetation Management' on <u>www.qld.gov.au</u>

Table 1: Exempt clear	ing work on	land generally
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Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
 Clearing under a development approval for a material change of use or reconfiguring a lot, if the approval is given for a development application and: a. for which the chief executive is a referral agency for clearing vegetation; or b. relates to a lot of less than 5 ha – for which a local government is the assessment manager. Clearing vegetation in an area declared under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>, section 19F if the clearing is carried out under the management plan for the area and for either: a. one or more of the following purposes listed in section 22A of the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>; controlling non-native plants or declared pests; ensuring public safety; fodder harvesting; managing thickened vegetation; clearing for encroachment; necessary environmental clearing; or b. establishing a necessary fence, firebreak, road or vehicular track and the clearing can not reasonably be avoided or minimised. Clearing vegetation under a land management agreement for a lease under the <i>Land Act 1999</i>; a. controlling non-native plants or declared pests; b. ensuring public safety; c. relevant infrastructure activities where the clearing can not reasonably be avoided or minimised. Clearing vegetation under a land management agreement for a lease under the <i>Land Act 1999</i>; a. controlling non-native plants or declared pests; b. ensuring public safety; c. relevant infrastructure activities where the clearing can not reasonably be avoided or minimised; d. fodder harvesting; e. managing thickened vegetation; f. clearing for encroachment; g. necessary environmental clearing. A traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural activity, other than a commercial activity. A traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural activity,	 Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> or <i>Planning Act 2016</i> Category B Category C Category R

Cleari	ng activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
•	 Development for geothermal exploration carried out under a geothermal exploration permit under the <i>Geothermal Energy Act 2010.</i> Clearing vegetation, for an airport-related purpose, on airport premises. An activity under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i>, section 53, 68 or 69. An activity under: a. the <i>Electricity Act 1994</i>, section 101 or 112A; or b. the <i>Electricity Regulation 2006</i>, section 17. An activity authorised under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i>. Clearing vegetation on premises in an area for which an area management plan under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>, section 20J is in force at the time of the clearing if: a. the owner of the premises, within the meaning of that Act, or a person authorised by the owner, does 	
	 the clearing; and b. the clearing complies with the area management plan, including any condition of the plan requiring the owner to give notice of the clearing to the chief executive of the department in which that Act is administered. 	
•	Clearing vegetation on land stated in the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> , section 55 (1) (b), (c) or (d) to the extent the clearing is for accessing and extracting quarry material for road works under the <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> .	
•	Clearing vegetation for the construction or maintenance of infrastructure stated in schedule 5 of the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> , if: a. The clearing is on designated purposes; or b. the infrastructure is government supported transport infrastructure.	
•	Clearing vegetation in an area for which a disaster situation declaration has been made if the clearing: a. is necessary to prevent or minimise: Ioss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or property loss or damage; or damage to the environment; and b. happens during the period that started when the disaster situation declaration was made and ends on the later of the following days:	

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
 the day that is one year after the day on which the disaster situation declaration was made; another day decided by the chief executive by written notice. 	
 Clearing vegetation that is necessary to carry out a cadastral survey of an existing property boundary, a geotechnical survey or a geological survey if the area cleared is: a. for an area in which a survey is conducted—a maximum area of 10m²; and b. for an area necessary for reasonable access to an area in which a survey is conducted—a maximum of 10m wide. Clearing vegetation that is necessary to remediate contaminated land recorded in the environmental management register or contaminated land register. Clearing vegetation that is necessary to carry out activities authorised to be carried out at land on which an abandoned mine exists under the <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i>, section 344A. Clearing vegetation for the construction or maintenance of infrastructure stated in schedule 5 of the <i>Planning Regulation 2017</i> if: a. the clearing is on designated premises; or b. the infrastructure is government supported transport infrastructure. 	
 Clearing an area of vegetation within a watercourse or lake for an activity (other than an activity relating to a material change of use or reconfiguring a lot) if the clearing is: a. subject to an approval process, and is approved under the Act or another Act; b. a necessary or unavoidable consequence of an activity allowed by a permit given under section 221 of the Water Act; or c. a necessary and unavoidable consequence of an activity carried out under the 'Riverine Protection Permit Exemption Requirements'. 	 Clearing under a self- assessable vegetation clearing code other than Category A Less than 0.5ha of Category B (Least Concern regional ecosystems only) OR Less than 0.5ha of Category X, C or R.

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
For any purpose.	Category X
 For a forest practice. For residential clearing, where: a. the building work for the dwelling that necessitic clearing is carried out: under a development permit; or by, or for, the State or a public sector ere or b. the dwelling that necessitates the clearing is for housing. For establishing or maintaining a necessary firebreak to infrastructure¹, other than a fence, road or vehicular track maximum width of firebreak is 1.5 times the height of the vegetation next to the infrastructure¹, or 20m, whichever wider. For establishing a necessary fire management line up to wide. Necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk that th vegetation poses of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure¹. For reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the <i>Fire Emergency Services Act 1990</i>. Necessary for maintaining infrastructure¹ including core a infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stockya vehicular tracks, water facilities and constructed drains or than contour banks, unless the clearing is for sourcing construction material. For maintaining a garden or orchard, provided the predo canopy trees are retained. By the owner of freehold land to source construction time maintain infrastructure¹ on any land of the owner, if: a. the clearing does not cause land degradation; b. restoration of a similar type to, and to the exter the removed trees, is ensured. 	issued under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 or Planning Act 2016 • Category B • Category C • Category R •
 To establish a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up wide. To establish necessary built infrastructure¹ (including con airport infrastructure) other than contour banks, fences, nor vehicular tracks if: 	Concern regional re ecosystems only)

b. th c. th th • By the own establishing a. th b. re	the clearing is not to source construction timber; the total area cleared is less than 2ha; and the total area covered by the infrastructure ¹ is on less than 2ha. The of freehold land to source construction timber for g infrastructure ¹ on any land of the owner, if: the clearing does not cause land degradation; and the storation of a similar type to, and to the extent of, the removed trees, is ensured.		
 clearing coordinates of the clearing coordina	nducted under an accepted development vegetation de. bus land only, clearing required for gathering, digging forest products for use under the <i>Aboriginal and</i> <i>it Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other</i> <i>t 1984</i> , section 62.	• C	ategory B ategory C ategory R
	irpose (e.g. residential, industrial, sporting, commercial) in an urban area.	Corre or • Ca	ategory B (Least oncern or Of Concern gional ecosystems hly) ategory C ategory R
•	an extractive industry in a Key Resource Area. a Significant Community Project.		ategory C ategory R

Clearing acti	vity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
For any purpo	se.	Category X
 For reside a. For reside b. For estable infrastruct maximum vegetation wider. For estable wide. Necessar vegetation infrastruct For reduct <i>Emergent</i> Necessar infrastruct vehicular than conte constructi For maint canopy true By the less infrastruct a. b. c. 	 ential clearing, where: the building work for the dwelling that necessitates the clearing is carried out: under a development permit; or by, or for, the State or a public sector entity; or the dwelling that necessitates the clearing is for public housing. lishing or maintaining a necessary firebreak to protect ture¹, other than a fence, road or vehicular track, if the width of firebreak is 1.5 times the height of the tallest in next to the infrastructure¹, or 20m, whichever is the lishing a necessary fire management line up to 10m y to remove or reduce the imminent risk that the n poses of serious personal injury or damage to 	Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the <i>Vegetation Managemer</i> <i>Act 1999</i> or <i>Planning A</i>
wide.To establi airport inf	sh a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up to 10m sh necessary built infrastructure ¹ (including core rastructure) other than contour banks, fences, roads ar tracks if:	 Category B (Least Concern regional ecosystems only) Category C

Table 3: Exempt clearing work on leasehold land for agriculture and grazing

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
 a. the clearing is not to source construction timber; b. the total area cleared is less than 2ha; and c. the total area covered by the infrastructure¹ is on less than 2ha. By the lessee to source construction timber, other than commercial timber, for establishing necessary infrastructure¹ on the land, if: a. and the clearing does not cause land degradation; and b. restoration of a similar type to, and to the extent of, the removed trees, is ensured. 	Category R
 Clearing conducted under an accepted development vegetation clearing code. Clearing for an extractive industry in a Key Resource Area. Clearing for a Significant Community Project. 	 Category B Category C Category R Category C Category R

Table 4: Exempt clearing work on leasehold land other than a lease for agriculture and
grazing

Clearing activity/purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
For any purpose consistent with the purposes of the lease.	Category RCategory X
 Consistent with the purposes of the lease, and is one of the following: for residential clearing, where: a. the building work for the dwelling that necessitates the clearing is carried out: under a development permit; or by, or for, the State or a public sector entity; or b. the dwelling that necessitates the clearing is for public housing; for establishing or maintaining a necessary firebreak to protect infrastructure¹, other than a fence, road or vehicular track, if the maximum width of firebreak is 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation next to the infrastructure¹, or 20m, whichever is the wider; for establishing a necessary fire management line up to 10m wide; necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk that the vegetation poses of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure¹; for reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i>; necessary for maintaining infrastructure¹ including core airport infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stockyards, vehicular tracks, water facilities and constructed drains other than contour banks, unless the clearing is for sourcing construction material; or for maintaining a garden or orchard, provided the predominant canopy trees are retained. 	 Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> or <i>Planning Act 2016</i> Category B Category R
 Consistent with the purposes of the lease, and is one of the following: to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up to 10m wide. to establish necessary built infrastructure¹ (including core airport infrastructure) other than contour banks, fences, roads or vehicular tracks if: a. the clearing is not to source construction timber; b. the total area cleared is less than 2ha; and c. the total area covered by the infrastructure¹ is on less than 2ha. 	 Category B (Least Concern regional ecosystems only) Category R

Clearing activity/purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
Clearing conducted under an accepted development vegetation clearing code where the clearing is consistent with the purposes of the lease.	Category BCategory R
Clearing in an urban area for an urban purpose (e.g. residential, industrial, sporting, recreational or commercial) where the clearing is consistent with the purposes of the lease.	Category B (Least Concern or Of Concern regional ecosystems only)

Table 5: Exempt clearing work on land dedicated as a road under the Land Act 1994

Clearing activity/ purposes	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
Clearing vegetation that is carried out by a local government, or by or for the chief executive (transport).	Category RCategory X
Clearing vegetation that is carried out by a local government, or by or for the chief executive (transport), and is necessary to construct or maintain road transport infrastructure or to source construction material for roads.	 Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 or Planning Act 2016 Category B
 Clearing vegetation that is carried out by a local government to remove: a. vegetation that is not native vegetation; or b. in accordance with a biosecurity plan made by the local government under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>. 	 Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the <i>Vegetation</i> <i>Management Act 1999</i> or <i>Planning Act 2016</i> Category B Category R Category X
 Clearing vegetation that is: necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk that the vegetation poses of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure; by fire under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i> to reduce hazardous fuel loads; necessary to maintain infrastructure located on the road, other than fences; necessary to maintain an existing boundary fence to the maximum width of 3m; necessary for reasonable access to adjoining land from the formed road for a maximum width of 10m; or necessary to maintain a firebreak or garden located on the road. 	 Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the <i>Vegetation</i> <i>Management Act 1999</i> or <i>Planning Act 2016</i> Category B Category R Category X
Clearing conducted under an accepted development vegetation clearing code.	Category BCategory R

Table 6: Exempt clearing work on trust land under the Land Act 1994 (other thanindigenous land)

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
Consistent with achieving the purposes of the trust, any vegetation clearing carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the trustee.	Category RCategory X
 Consistent with achieving the purposes of the trust, clearing vegetation carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the trustee: for establishing or maintaining a necessary firebreak to protect infrastructure¹, other than a fence, road or vehicular track, if the maximum width of firebreak is 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation next to the infrastructure¹, or 20m, whichever is the wider; for establishing a necessary fire management line up to 10m wide; necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk that the vegetation poses of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure¹; for reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i>; necessary for maintaining infrastructure¹ including core airport infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stockyards, vehicular tracks, water facilities and constructed drains other than contour banks, unless the clearing is for sourcing construction material; for maintaining a garden or orchard, provided the predominant canopy trees are retained; to remove vegetation that is not native vegetation; or is in accordance with a relevant biosecurity plan under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>. 	 Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the <i>Vegetation Management</i> <i>Act 1999</i> or <i>Planning Act</i> 2016 Category B Category R Category X
Clearing in an urban area for an urban purpose (e.g. residential, industrial, sporting, recreational or commercial) where the clearing is consistent with achieving the purposes of the trust, and is carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the trustee.	Category B (Least Concern or Of Concern regional ecosystems only)

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
 Consistent with achieving the purposes of the trust, clearing carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the trustee: to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up to 10m wide; or to establish necessary built infrastructure¹ (including core airport infrastructure) other than contour banks, fences, roads or vehicular tracks if: a. the clearing is not to source construction timber; b. the total area cleared is less than 2ha; and c. the total area covered by the infrastructure¹ is on less than 2ha. 	Category B (Least Concern regional ecosystems only)
Clearing conducted under an accepted development vegetation clearing code where the clearing is consistent with achieving the purposes of the trust, and the clearing is carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the trustee.	 Category B Category C Category R

Table 7: Exempt clearing work on unallocated State land

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
Clearing for any purposes carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the chief executive administering the <i>Land Act 1994</i> .	Category RCategory X
 Clearing carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the chief executive administering the <i>Land Act 1994</i>: for establishing or maintaining a necessary firebreak to protect infrastructure¹, other than a fence, road or vehicular track, if the maximum width of firebreak is 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation next to the infrastructure¹, or 20m, whichever is the wider; for establishing a necessary fire management line up to 10m wide; necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk that the vegetation poses of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure¹; for reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i>; necessary for maintaining infrastructure¹ including core airport infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stockyards, vehicular tracks, water facilities and constructed drains other than contour banks, unless the clearing is for sourcing construction material; for maintaining a garden or orchard, provided the predominant canopy trees are retained; to control declared pests or vegetation that is not native vegetation; or 	 Category A area unless stipulated by the department on a notice issued under the <i>Vegetation Management</i> <i>Act 1999</i> or <i>Planning Act</i> <i>2016</i> Category B Category R
Clearing carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the chief executive administering the Land Act 1994:	Category B (Least Concern regional ecosystems only)
 to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up to 10m wide; or to establish necessary built infrastructure¹ (including core airport infrastructure) other than contour banks, fences, roads or vehicular tracks if: a. the clearing is not to source construction timber; b. the total area cleared is less than 2ha; and c. the total area covered by the infrastructure¹ is on less than 2ha. 	

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
Clearing conducted under an accepted development vegetation clearing code carried out, or authorised to be carried out, by the chief executive administering the <i>Land Act 1994</i> .	Category BCategory R

Table 8: Exempt clearing work on a land subject to a licence or permit under the LandAct 1994

Clearing activity / purpose	Applicable vegetation category / status or clearing requirement / limitation
Clearing for any purpose carried out by the licensee or permittee.	Category RCategory X
 Clearing carried out by the licensee or permittee: for establishing or maintaining a necessary firebreak to protect infrastructure¹, other than a fence, road or vehicular track, if the maximum width of firebreak is 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation next to the infrastructure¹, or 20m, whichever is the wider; for establishing a necessary fire management line up to 10m wide; necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk that the vegetation poses of serious personal injury or damage to infrastructure¹; for reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i>; necessary for maintaining infrastructure¹ including core airport infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stockyards, vehicular tracks, water facilities and constructed drains other than contour banks, unless the clearing is for sourcing construction material; for maintaining a garden or orchard, provided the predominant canopy trees are retained; or for development related to priority development areas. 	Category R Category R
 Clearing carried out by the licensee or permittee: to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicle track up to 10m wide; or to establish necessary built infrastructure¹ (including core airport infrastructure) other than contour banks, fences, roads or vehicular tracks if: a. the clearing is not to source construction timber; b. the total area cleared is less than 2ha; and c. the total area covered by the infrastructure¹ is on less than 2ha. Clearing in an urban area for an urban purpose (e.g. residential, industrial, sporting, recreational or 	Category B (Least Concern regional ecosystems only)
commercial) carried out by the licensee or permittee. Clearing conducted under a self-assessable vegetation clearing code carried out by the licensee or permittee.	or Of Concern regional ecosystems only) • Category B • Category R

ⁱ Infrastructure, for this exemption, includes a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose.