

# State code 16: Native vegetation clearing

## 16.1 Purpose statement

The purpose of this code is to ensure development:

1. is consistent with any **notice requiring compliance** on the land subject to the development application unless a **better environmental outcome** can be achieved.
2. is consistent with **vegetation management requirements** for **particular regulated areas** unless a **better environmental outcome** can be achieved.
3. minimises contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.
4. avoids **clearing**, or **where** avoidance is not reasonably possible, minimises **clearing** to:
  - a. conserve **vegetation**
  - b. avoid **land degradation**
  - c. avoid the loss of **biodiversity**
  - d. maintain **ecological processes**.
5. avoids impacts on **vegetation** that is a **matter of state environmental significance**, and where avoidance is not reasonably possible, minimises and mitigates impacts and provides an **offset** for any acceptable **significant residual impacts** where appropriate. An **offset** is only appropriate for any acceptable **significant residual impacts** on **vegetation** that forms a connectivity area for development that is a **coordinated project** or for **necessary environmental clearing (natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)**; and
6. for **vegetation retention purposes**, is undertaken in a manner that retains or regenerates vegetation by sustainably managing the impacts of the **clearing** on **regional ecosystems, biodiversity and ecological processes** over time.

Notes: Guidance on how to comply with this code is provided in State Development Assessment Provisions Guidance material: State code 16: Native vegetation clearing, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, 2019.

Guidance for determining if the development will have a **significant residual impact** is provided in the Significant Residual Impact Guideline, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, 2014 in section 3.1 (Regulated vegetation). Where the **significant residual impact** is considered an acceptable impact on the **matter of state environmental significance** and an **offset** is considered appropriate, the **offset** should be delivered in accordance with the Environmental offsets framework, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, 2015.

Statutory note: Where an **offset** applies to development on Brisbane core port land, it only applies to areas within the area identified as E1 Conservation/Buffer, E2 Open Space or Buffer/Investigation in the [Brisbane Port LUP](#) precinct plan.

## 16.2 Performance outcomes and acceptable outcomes

Development listed in table 16.2.1 should demonstrate compliance with the relevant provisions of tables 16.2.2 and 16.2.3.

**Table 16.2.1: Development and relevant provisions of the code**

<b>Performance outcomes</b>	<b>Acceptable outcomes</b>
<b>Operational work</b>	
<b>Public safety, relevant infrastructure activities and / or consequential development of IPA approval</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27
Control non-native plants or <b>declared pests</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO14, PO21, PO27, PO33, PO44
<b>Necessary environmental clearing</b>	For <b>land restoration</b> and <b>natural disaster preparation</b> : Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO9, PO12, PO18, PO20, PO22, PO25, PO27, PO31  For <b>natural channel diversion</b> and <b>contaminants removal</b> : Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO10, PO13, PO19, PO20, PO22, PO26, PO27, PO32
<b>Extractive Industry</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO28
<b>Encroachment</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO2 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO15, PO21, PO22, PO27, PO36, PO37, PO44
<b>Fodder harvesting</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO2 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO14, PO21, PO22, PO24, PO38 – PO44
<b>Managing thickened vegetation</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO2 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO14, PO21, PO27, PO34, PO35, PO44
<b>Coordinated project</b> involving an <b>extractive industry</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO28
<b>Coordinated project</b> involving <b>clearing</b> for agriculture	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO29, PO30
<b>Coordinated project</b> for all other purposes	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27
<b>Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot</b>	
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot – <b>coordinated project</b>	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	If involving <b>extractive industry</b> , then also table 16.2.2 – PO28  If involving <b>clearing</b> for agriculture, then also table 16.2.3 – PO29, PO30
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot involving <b>extractive industry</b> .	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO28
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for which there will be no <b>clearing</b> as a result of the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot.	Table 16.2.2 – PO5
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for which <b>clearing</b> is limited to <b>clearing</b> that could be done as <b>exempt clearing work</b> for the purpose of the development (as prescribed under schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017) prior to the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application being approved.	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 and PO6
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for all other purposes.	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24 and PO27

**Table 16.2.2: General**

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
<b>Clearing avoids or minimises impacts</b>	
<b>PO1 Clearing and adverse impacts of clearing</b> do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the <b>clearing</b> and the <b>adverse impacts of clearing</b> have been: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reasonably avoided; or</li> <li>reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.</li> </ol>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>Clearing on land in particular circumstances</b>	
<b>PO2 Clearing</b> is consistent with any <b>notice requiring compliance</b> on the land subject to the development application, unless a <b>better environmental outcome</b> can be achieved.  Note: The discharge of the <b>vegetation management requirements</b> under the <b>notice requiring compliance</b> can only occur in conjunction with the <b>better environmental outcome</b> being legally secured. Further guidance on meeting the requirements of a <b>better environmental outcome</b> can be found in State Development Assessment Provisions Guidance Material: State code 16: Native vegetation clearing, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, 2019.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>PO3 Clearing</b> is consistent with <b>vegetation management requirements</b> for <b>particular regulated areas</b> unless a <b>better environmental outcome</b> can be achieved.  Note: The discharge of the <b>vegetation management requirements</b> under the <b>notice requiring compliance</b> can only occur in conjunction with the <b>better environmental outcome</b> being legally secured.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Further guidance on meeting the requirements of a <b>better environmental outcome</b> can be found in State Development Assessment Provisions Guidance Material: State code 16: Native vegetation clearing, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, 2019.	
<b>PO4 Clearing of a legally secured offset area:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is consistent with the <b>offset</b> delivery plan; or agreement for the <b>offset area</b> on the land subject to the development application; or</li> <li>only occurs if an additional <b>offset</b> is provided.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Reference to 'agreement' above includes the 'agreed delivery arrangement' for the <b>offset area</b> as well as instruments associated with the <b>legally secured offset area</b>. <b>Clearing</b> should be consistent with any agreement however described.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>Clearing of vegetation as a result of the material change of use or reconfiguration of a lot</b>	
<b>PO5 Clearing as a result of a material change of use, or clearing as a result of reconfiguring a lot does not occur.</b>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>Clearing that could already be done under an exemption</b>	
<b>PO6 Clearing</b> does not occur unless it is <b>clearing</b> that could be done as <b>exempt clearing work</b> for the purpose of the development (as prescribed under schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017) prior to the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application being approved.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.2.3: Specific

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
<b>Clearing associated with wetlands (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, consequential development of IPA approval, a coordinated project, extractive industry)</b>	
<b>PO7 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation</b> associated with any natural <b>wetland</b> to protect: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<b>A07.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in a natural <b>wetland</b> or within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b> .  OR  <b>A07.2 Clearing</b> within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b> : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>does not occur within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>does not exceed widths in table 16.3.1 in this code.</li> </ol> OR  <b>A07.3</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing</b> of <b>vegetation</b> associated with a natural <b>wetland</b> ( <b>matter of state environmental significance</b> ).
<b>Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, encroachment, managing thickened vegetation, fodder harvesting)</b>	
<b>PO8 Clearing</b> maintains <b>vegetation</b> associated with a natural <b>wetland</b> to protect: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> </ol>	<b>Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:</b> <b>A08.1 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas, unless it is required to provide

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ul>	<p>necessary access to control non-native plants or <b>declared pests</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO8.2 Clearing</b> to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or <b>declared pests</b> only occurs where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed five metres in width; and</li> <li>2. <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. the access track:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. runs parallel to a natural <b>wetland</b> and <b>clearing</b> is not within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>; or</li> <li>b. is required to provide access across the <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO8.3 Chemical clearing</b> retains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. all <b>mature trees</b>; and</li> <li>2. all <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. at least 50 per cent of <b>immature trees</b> in each 50 metre by 50 metre area.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO8.4 Root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides</b> are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 100 metres; or</li> <li>2. the distance specified on the approved product label; or</li> <li>3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO8.5 Aerial application</b> of a <b>foliar herbicide</b> does not occur within whichever is the greater distance from the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 50 metres; or</li> <li>2. the distance specified for <b>wetlands</b> on the approved product label; or</li> <li>3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p>

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	<p><b>Clearing for managing thickened vegetation:</b>  <b>AO8.6 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Clearing for encroachment:</b>  <b>AO8.7 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO8.8 Root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides</b> are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 100 metres; or</li> <li>2. the distance specified on the approved product label; or</li> <li>3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Clearing for fodder harvesting:</b>  <b>AO8.9 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO8.10 Mechanical clearing</b> that is <b>strip harvesting</b> or <b>block harvesting</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO9 Clearing</b> maintains <b>vegetation</b> associated with any natural <b>wetland</b> or <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area to protect:</p>	<p><b>AO9.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> </ol>

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>A09.2 Clearing</b> within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b> only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. clearing does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and</li> <li>2. <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. <b>clearing</b> that is for <b>flood preparation</b> complies with all of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>clearing</b> is undertaken by <b>felling</b> only; and</li> <li>b. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed 100 square metres; and</li> <li>c. <b>clearing</b> does not occur outside the <b>defining banks</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>d. <b>clearing</b> does not occur within 50 metres of other <b>clearing</b> for <b>flood preparation</b>.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>A09.3 Clearing</b> to provide necessary access to undertake <b>necessary environmental clearing</b> only occurs where <b>clearing</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. does not exceed 10 metres in width; and</li> <li>2. retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. the access track:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. runs parallel to a natural <b>wetland</b> and <b>clearing</b> is not within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>; or</li> <li>b. is required to provide access across the <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>A09.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p>

Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
<p><b>PO10 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation</b> associated with any natural <b>wetland</b> or <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO10.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b>.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO10.2 Clearing</b> within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any natural <b>wetland</b> only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and</li> </ol>

	<p>2. <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO10.3 Clearing</b> to provide necessary access to undertake <b>necessary environmental clearing</b> only occurs where <b>clearing</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. does not exceed 10 metres in width; and</li><li>2. retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li><li>3. the access track:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. runs parallel to a natural <b>wetland</b> and <b>clearing</b> is not within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a natural <b>wetland</b>; or</li><li>b. is required to provide access across the <b>wetland</b>.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO10.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO10.5</b> Where <b>clearing</b> is for <b>natural channel diversion</b> or <b>contaminants removal</b>, and <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised; and</li><li>2. the <b>cleared</b> area cannot be reasonably <b>rehabilitated</b>,</li></ol> <p>an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing</b> of <b>vegetation</b> associated with a natural <b>wetland</b> (a <b>matter of state environmental significance</b>).</p>
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<b>Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, consequential development of IPA approval, coordinated project, extractive industry)</b>	
<p><b>PO11 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation</b> associated with any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO11.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>2. within the relevant distance of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> in table 16.3.2 of this code.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><b>AO11.2 Clearing</b> within any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>, or within the relevant distance of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> in table 16.3.2 of this code:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code; and</li> <li>2. does not occur within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b>, unless <b>clearing</b> is required into or across the <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><b>AO11.3</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing of vegetation</b> associated with any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> (a matter of state environmental significance).</p>
<b>Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (necessary environmental clearing-land restoration and natural disaster preparation)</b>	
<p><b>PO12 Clearing</b> maintains <b>vegetation</b> associated with any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> or <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO12.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>2. within the relevant distance of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> in table 16.3.2 of this code.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><b>AO12.2 Clearing</b> in any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>, or within the relevant distance of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> in table 16.3.2 of this code only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and</li> <li>2. <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. <b>clearing</b> that is for <b>flood preparation</b> complies with all of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>clearing</b> is undertaken by <b>felling</b> only; and</li> <li>b. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed 100 square metres; and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>c. <b>clearing</b> does not occur outside of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; and</p> <p>d. <b>clearing</b> does not occur within 50 metres of other <b>clearing</b> for <b>flood preparation</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO12.3 Clearing</b> to provide necessary access to undertake <b>necessary environmental clearing</b> only occurs where <b>clearing</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. does not exceed 10 metres in width; and</li> <li>2. retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. the access track:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. runs parallel to a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> and <b>clearing</b> is not within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; or</li> <li>b. is required to provide access across the <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO12.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is rehabilitated.</p>
<p><b>Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (necessary environmental clearing – natural channel diversion, and contaminants removal)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO13 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation</b> associated with any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> or <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO13.1 Clearing</b> does not occur within any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>2. within the relevant distance of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> in table 16.3.2 of this code.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO13.2 Clearing</b> in any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>, or within the relevant distance of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> in table 16.3.2 of this code only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and</li> <li>2. <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO13.3 Clearing</b> to provide necessary access to undertake <b>necessary environmental clearing</b> only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed 10 metres in width; and</li> <li>2. <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> </ol>

	<p>3. the access track:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. runs parallel to a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> and <b>clearing</b> is not within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; or</li> <li>b. is required to provide access across the <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO13.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised; and</li> <li>2. the <b>cleared</b> area cannot be reasonably <b>rehabilitated</b>, an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing of vegetation</b> associated with a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> (a <b>matter of state environmental significance</b>).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, managing thickened vegetation, fodder harvesting)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO14</b> Clearing maintains <b>vegetation</b> associated with any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:</i></p> <p><b>AO14.1 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas, unless it is required to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or <b>declared pests</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 1 or 2 watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>3. within 15 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 3 or 4 watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>4. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 5 or more watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO14.2 Clearing</b> to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or <b>declared pests</b> only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> does not exceed five metres in width; and</li> <li>2. <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>habitat trees</b> and <b>mature trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. the access track:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. runs parallel to the <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> and is not within 10</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of the <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>; or</p> <p>b. is required to provide access across the <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO14.3 Chemical clearing</b> retains all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>mature trees</b>; and</li><li>2. <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li><li>3. at least 50 per cent of <b>immature trees</b> in any 50 metre by 50 metre area.</li></ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO14.4 Root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides</b> are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 100 metres; or</li><li>2. any distance specified on the approved product label; or</li><li>3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li></ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO14.5 Aerial application</b> of a <b>foliar herbicide</b> does not occur within whichever is the greater distance from the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 50 metres; or</li><li>2. any distance specified on the approved product label; or</li><li>3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li></ol> <p>AND</p> <p><i>Clearing for managing thickened vegetation:</i></p> <p><b>AO14.6 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>;</li><li>2. within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 1</b> or <b>2 watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>;</li><li>3. within 15 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 3</b> or <b>4 watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b>;</li><li>4. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse</b> or <b>drainage feature</b> that is a</li></ol>
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	<p><b>stream order 5 or more watercourse or drainage feature.</b></p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Clearing for fodder harvesting:</b>  <b>AO14.7 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO14.8 Mechanical clearing</b> that is <b>strip harvesting</b> or <b>block harvesting</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 100 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b>.</li> </ol>
<b>Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features (encroachment)</b>	
<p><b>PO15 Clearing of encroachment</b> maintains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and</li> <li>2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and</li> <li>3. aquatic habitat; and</li> <li>4. terrestrial habitat.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO15.1 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inside the <b>defining bank</b> of any <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>2. within 10 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 1 or 2 watercourse or drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>3. within 15 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 3 or 4 watercourse or drainage feature</b>; and</li> <li>4. within 20 metres of the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b> that is a <b>stream order 5 or more watercourse or drainage feature</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO15.2 Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides</b> are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the <b>defining bank</b> of a <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 100 metres; or</li> <li>2. any distance specified on the approved product label; or</li> <li>3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li> </ol>
<b>Maintaining connectivity (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, consequential development of IPA approval, extractive industry)</b>	

<p><b>PO16</b> In consideration of <b>vegetation</b> on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land, sufficient <b>vegetation</b> is retained to maintain <b>ecological processes</b> and remains in the landscape despite <b>threatening processes</b>.</p>	<p><b>AO16.1 Clearing</b> occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 in this code.</p>
<p><b>Connectivity areas (coordinated project)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO17</b> In consideration of <b>vegetation</b> on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sufficient <b>vegetation</b> is retained to maintain <b>ecological processes</b> and remains in the landscape despite <b>threatening processes</b>; or</li> <li>2. where this not reasonably possible, the applicant provides an <b>offset</b>.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO17.1 Clearing</b> occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO17.2</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided; and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised; an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing of vegetation</b> that forms a connectivity area (a <b>matter of state environmental significance</b>).</p>
<p><b>Maintaining connectivity (necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO18</b> In consideration of <b>vegetation</b> on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land, sufficient <b>vegetation</b> is retained to maintain <b>ecological processes</b> and remains in the landscape despite <b>threatening processes</b>, or where this is not reasonably possible, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p>	<p><b>AO18.1 Clearing</b> occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO18.2</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p>
<p><b>Connectivity areas (necessary environmental clearing – natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO19</b> In consideration of <b>vegetation</b> on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sufficient <b>vegetation</b> is retained to maintain <b>ecological processes</b> and remains in the landscape despite <b>threatening processes</b>; or</li> <li>2. where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area; or</li> <li>3. where this not reasonably possible, the applicant provides an <b>offset</b>.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO19.1 Clearing</b> occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO19.2</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO19.3</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised; and</li> <li>2. the <b>cleared</b> area cannot be reasonably <b>rehabilitated</b>,</li> </ol> <p>an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing of vegetation</b> that forms a connectivity area (a <b>matter of state environmental significance</b>).</p>
<p><b>Soil erosion (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, extractive industry, consequential development of IPA approval, coordinated project, necessary environmental clearing)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO20</b> <b>Clearing</b> does not result in <b>accelerated soil erosion</b> within or outside the land the subject of the development application.</p>	<p><b>AO20.1 Clearing</b> only occurs if an <b>erosion and sediment control plan</b> is developed and implemented to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. prevent <b>accelerated soil erosion</b>; or</li> </ol>

	<p>2. where prevention is not possible, minimise <b>accelerated soil erosion</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO20.2</b> The local government is the assessment manager for the development application.</p>
<p><b>Soil erosion (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, managing thickened vegetation, encroachment, fodder harvesting)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO21 Clearing</b> does not result in <b>accelerated soil erosion</b> within or outside the land subject of the development application.</p>	<p><b>AO21.1 Clearing</b> only occurs where <b>recognised best practice methods</b> are employed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. prevent increased <b>soil erosion</b> resulting from the <b>clearing</b>; and</li> <li>2. stabilise <b>soil erosion</b> which would result from <b>clearing</b>; and</li> <li>3. prevent increased sediment run-off entering a <b>wetland, watercourse or drainage feature</b> as a result of the <b>clearing</b>.</li> </ol> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><i>Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:</i></p> <p><b>AO21.2 Mechanical clearing:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. does not occur on a <b>slope</b> greater than 15 percent; and</li> <li>2. in each 50 by 50 metre area (0.25 hectares), retains 50 per cent of the <b>ground cover</b> and does not disturb more than 50 per cent of the <b>ground cover</b>.</li> </ol> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>AO21.3</b> New access tracks required to provide necessary access to control a non-native plant or <b>declared pests</b> do not exceed five metres in width or de-stabilise the banks of any <b>watercourse or drainage feature</b> as a result of crossing, construction or use.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><i>Clearing for managing thickened vegetation:</i></p> <p><b>AO21.4 Mechanical clearing</b> does not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. occur in a <b>regional ecosystem</b> in table 16.3.4 of this code that states '<b>mechanical clearing</b> not permitted';</li> <li>2. disturb more than 50 per cent of the ground surface or result in any hectare having less than 50 per cent <b>ground cover</b>;</li> <li>3. occur on a <b>slope</b> greater than five per cent; and</li> <li>4. occur within 50 metres of an area of existing <b>accelerated soil erosion</b>.</li> </ol> <p><b>AND</b></p>

	<p><b>Clearing for encroachment:</b>  <b>AO21.5 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. within 50 metres of an area of <b>soil erosion</b>; and</li> <li>2. slopes greater than 5 per cent.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Clearing for fodder harvesting:</b>  <b>AO21.6 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur on a <b>slope</b> greater than five percent.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO21.7 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur within 50 metres of an area of <b>soil erosion</b>.</p>
<p><b>Salinity (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, consequential development of IPA approval, coordinated project, extractive industry, necessary environmental clearing, encroachment, fodder harvesting)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO22 Clearing</b> does not contribute to or accelerate <b>land degradation</b> through <b>waterlogging</b>, or through the <b>salinisation</b> of <b>groundwater</b>, surface water or soil.</p>	<p><b>AO22.1 Clearing</b> does not occur within 100 metres of a <b>salinity expression area</b>.</p>
<p><b>Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, consequential development of IPA approval, coordinated project, extractive industry)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO23 Clearing</b> maintains the current extent of <b>endangered regional ecosystems</b> and of <b>concern regional ecosystems</b>.</p>	<p><b>AO23.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in an <b>endangered regional ecosystem</b> or an <b>of concern regional ecosystem</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO23.2 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems</b> combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO23.3 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems</b> combined does not exceed areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO23.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems (a matter of state environmental significance)</b>.</p>
<p><b>Essential habitat (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, consequential development of IPA approval, coordinated project, extractive industry, fodder harvesting)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO24 Clearing</b> maintains the current extent of <b>essential habitat</b>.</p>	<p><b>AO24.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in <b>essential habitat</b>.</p>



	<p>OR</p> <p><b>AO24.2 Clearing in essential habitat</b> does not exceed the widths prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO24.3 Clearing in essential habitat</b> does not exceed the areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO24.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact from clearing of essential habitat (a matter of state environmental significance)</b>.</p>
<p><b>Essential habitat (necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO25 Clearing</b> does not occur in <b>essential habitat</b>, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area.</p>	<p><b>AO25.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in <b>essential habitat</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO25.2 Clearing in essential habitat</b> does not exceed the widths prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO25.3 Clearing in essential habitat</b> does not exceed the areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO25.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p>
<p><b>Essential habitat (necessary environmental clearing – natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO26 Clearing</b> does not occur in <b>essential habitat</b>, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area, or <b>maintains the current extent of essential habitat</b>.</p>	<p><b>AO26.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in <b>essential habitat</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO26.2 Clearing in essential habitat</b> does not exceed the widths prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p>

	<p><b>AO26.3 Clearing in essential habitat</b> does not exceed the areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO26.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO26.5</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised; and</li> <li>2. the <b>cleared</b> area cannot be reasonably <b>rehabilitated</b>,</li> </ol> <p>an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing of essential habitat</b> (a <b>matter of state environmental significance</b>).</p>
<p><b>Acid sulfate soils (public safety, relevant infrastructure activities, consequential development of IPA approval, coordinated project, extractive industry, necessary environmental clearing, necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, managing thickened vegetation, encroachment)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO27 Clearing</b> does not result in, or accelerate, disturbance of acid sulfate soils or changes to the hydrology of the location that will result in either of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; or</li> <li>2. mobilisation of acid or metals.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO27.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in <b>land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO27.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3</b> in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>mechanical clearing</b> does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and</li> <li>2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the State Planning Policy, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, July 2017, and with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual, Department of Science Information Technology Innovation and the Arts, 2014.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO27.3</b> The local government is the assessment manager for the development application.</p>
<p><b>Clearing is staged (extractive industry)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO28 Clearing:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. is staged in line with operational needs that restrict <b>clearing</b> to the current operational area; and</li> <li>2. only occurs in the area from which material will be extracted, and any reasonably associated <b>built infrastructure</b>, within the term of the development approval; and</li> <li>3. does not occur without required permits.</li> </ol>	<p>No acceptable outcome is prescribed.</p>

<b>Coordinated project – involving clearing for agriculture</b>	
<b>PO29 Clearing</b> only occurs where the land is suitable for agriculture having regard to topography, climate and soil attributes.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>PO30</b> For applications for irrigated crops, the owner of the land has, or may have, access to enough water for establishing, cultivating and harvesting the <b>crops</b> to which the <b>clearing</b> relates.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>Clearing for necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation</b>	
<b>PO31 Clearing</b> does not occur, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area.	<p><b>AO31.1 Clearing</b> retains all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>habitat trees</b>;</li> <li>2. <b>mature trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. <b>the natural floristic composition and</b> range of sizes <b>across the</b> application area.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO31.2 Clearing</b> is for the purpose of <b>natural disaster preparation</b> and does not exceed the widths prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO31.3 Clearing</b> is for the purpose of <b>natural disaster preparation</b> and does not exceed the areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO31.4</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>cleared</b> area is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p>
<b>Clearing for necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal</b>	
<b>PO32 Clearing</b> does not occur, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant <b>rehabilitates</b> the <b>cleared</b> area or <b>maintains the current extent</b> of <b>vegetation</b> .	<p><b>AO32.1 Clearing</b> retains all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>habitat trees</b>;</li> <li>2. <b>mature trees</b>; and</li> <li>3. the natural floristic composition and <b>range of sizes</b> across the <b>application area</b>.</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO32.2</b> Where <b>clearing</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, and <b>clearing</b> has been reasonably minimised, the <b>regional ecosystem</b> is <b>rehabilitated</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>AO32.3</b> Where <b>clearing</b> an <b>endangered regional ecosystem</b> or <b>of concern regional ecosystem</b> cannot be reasonably avoided, minimised or <b>rehabilitated</b>, an <b>offset</b> is provided for any acceptable <b>significant residual impact</b> from <b>clearing</b> of an <b>endangered regional ecosystem</b> or</p>

	<b>of concern regional ecosystem (a matter of state environmental significance).</b>
<b>Conserving remnant vegetation that are regional ecosystems (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests)</b>	
<p><b>PO33 Clearing</b> activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintain the natural floristic composition and <b>range of sizes</b> of each species of the <b>regional ecosystem</b> evenly spaced across the <b>application area</b>; and</li> <li>retain all <b>habitat trees</b> and <b>mature trees</b>.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO33.1 Mechanical clearing:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>only occurs within 1.5 metres from the edge of the canopy of individual non-native plants, unless the <b>clearing</b> is required to provide necessary access to control a non-native plant or <b>declared pest</b>; and</li> <li>does not occur using two machines linked by chain or cable; and</li> <li>retains all <b>habitat trees</b> and <b>mature trees</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO33.2 Clearing</b> to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or <b>declared pests</b> does not exceed five metres in width.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO33.3</b> Any <b>regional ecosystem burn</b> is undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the <b>regional ecosystem</b>, as outlined in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD).</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO33.4</b> Chemical <b>clearing</b> retains all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>mature trees</b>; and</li> <li><b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>at least 50 per cent of <b>immature trees</b> in each 50 metre by 50 metre area.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO33.5 Aerial application</b> of a <b>root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides</b> does not occur.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO33.6 Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides</b> are not applied within whichever distance is the greater from a <b>mature tree</b> or a <b>habitat tree</b>;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 metres; or</li> <li>the distance specified on the approved product label; or</li> <li>the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li> </ol>
<b>Restoring the regional ecosystem (managing thickened vegetation)</b>	
<p><b>PO34 Clearing</b> activities:</p>	<p><b>AO34.1 Clearing</b> does not occur in <b>thickets</b>.</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. restore the natural floristic composition and <b>range of sizes</b> of each species of the <b>regional ecosystem</b> evenly spaced across the <b>application area</b>; and</li> <li>2. retain <b>mature trees, habitat trees</b> and <b>tall immature trees</b> and <b>thickets</b>.</li> </ol>	<p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.2 Clearing</b> retains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. all <b>mature trees</b> and <b>habitat trees</b>;</li> <li>2. a full range of sizes and species typical of the <b>regional ecosystem</b> in the area; and</li> <li>3. where the number of <b>mature trees</b> plus <b>habitat trees</b> is less than 20 per hectare, <b>tall immature trees</b> to total 20 <b>mature trees, habitat trees</b> and <b>tall immature trees</b> per hectare.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.3 Clearing</b> does not result in debris stacked or pushed against a <b>mature tree, habitat tree</b> or <b>tall immature tree</b>.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.4</b> If <b>clearing immature trees</b>, retain <b>immature trees</b> in each 50 metre by 50 metre area to at least the density specified in table 16.3.4 of this code.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.5</b> If <b>clearing low shrubs</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in <b>regional ecosystems</b> where <b>clearing</b> is restricted to <b>low shrubs</b> as specified in table 16.3.4 of this code – <b>clearing</b> retains all <b>immature trees</b>;</li> <li>2. in <b>regional ecosystems</b> where <b>clearing</b> is not restricted to <b>low shrubs</b> as specified in table 16.3.4 of this code – <b>clearing</b> retains at least the number of <b>immature trees</b> specified in table 16.3.4 of this code; and</li> <li>3. <b>clearing</b> retains at least 10 per cent of the predominate species that have thickened.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.6 Mechanical clearing</b> does not occur within 5 metres of the trunk of a <b>mature tree, habitat tree</b> or <b>tall immature tree</b>.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.7 Clearing</b> is not undertaken by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>aerial application</b> of any herbicide;</li> <li>2. application of a <b>root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicide</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.8</b> Chemical <b>clearing</b> does not occur within five metres of the trunk of a <b>mature tree, habitat tree</b> or <b>tall immature tree</b>.</p>
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	<p>AND</p> <p><b>AO34.9</b> Any <b>regional ecosystem burn</b> is undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the <b>regional ecosystem</b>, as outlined in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD).</p>
<p><b>Clearing limited to specific regional ecosystems and specific clearing methods (managing thickened vegetation)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO35</b> Clearing must be for the purpose of restoring the remnant <b>regional ecosystem</b> and only occur if all of the following apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>clearing</b> is in <b>regional ecosystems</b> prescribed in table 16.3.4 of this code; and</li> <li><b>clearing</b> is in accordance with the <b>clearing</b> restrictions for the <b>regional ecosystem</b> prescribed in table 16.3.4 of this code.</li> </ol>	<p>No acceptable outcome is prescribed.</p>
<p><b>Clearing limited to specific regional ecosystems (encroachment)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO36</b> Clearing of <b>encroachment</b> does not occur, other than in the <b>regional ecosystems</b> listed in table 16.3.5 of this code.</p>	<p>No acceptable outcome is prescribed.</p>
<p><b>Conserving vegetation (encroachment)</b></p>	
<p><b>PO37</b> Clearing activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>result in the restoration of the <b>regional ecosystem</b></li> <li>retain all <b>habitat trees</b>;</li> <li>retain all groves; and</li> <li>retain species which make up the natural floristic composition of the <b>regional ecosystem</b>, distributed in a natural pattern.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO37.1</b> Clearing retains all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all <b>mature trees</b>;</li> <li>all <b>habitat trees</b>; and</li> <li>all woody <b>vegetation</b> within a <b>grove</b>, unless it is undertaken by a <b>regional ecosystem burn</b>.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO37.2</b> Any <b>regional ecosystem burn</b> is undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the <b>regional ecosystem</b>, as outlined in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD).</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO37.3</b> Clearing does not result in debris being stacked or pushed against a <b>mature tree</b> or a <b>habitat tree</b>.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO37.4</b> Mechanical clearing does not occur within 10 metres of a <b>mature tree</b> or a <b>habitat tree</b>.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO37.5</b> Aerial application of a herbicide does not occur.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO37.6</b> Chemical clearing does not occur within five metres of a <b>mature tree</b> or a <b>habitat tree</b>.</p> <p>AND</p>

	<p><b>AO37.7 Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides</b> are not applied in any of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>regional ecosystems</b> 11.4.11 and 11.8.11; and</li> <li>2. within whichever is the greater distance from a <b>mature tree</b> or a <b>habitat tree</b>:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 10 metres; or</li> <li>b. the distance specified by the approved product label; or</li> <li>c. the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority; and</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. within whichever is the greater distance from a <b>grove</b>:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 30 metres; or</li> <li>2. the distance specified by the approved product label; or</li> <li>3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Limits to clearing for fodder harvesting (fodder harvesting)</b>	
<p><b>PO38 Clearing</b> is limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the extent necessary to provide fodder for stock; and</li> <li>2. areas where the stock is located, and the stock have sufficient water.</li> </ol>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<p><b>PO39 Clearing</b> must only occur:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in <b>regional ecosystems</b> listed in table 16.3.6 or table 16.3.7 of this code; and</li> <li>2. in accordance with the harvesting method limitations for the <b>regional ecosystem</b> listed in table 16.3.6 or table 16.3.7 of this code.</li> </ol>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<p><b>PO40 Clearing</b> consists predominantly of <b>fodder species</b>.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>Conserving vegetation (fodder harvesting)</b>	
<p><b>PO41 Clearing</b> is carried out in a way that conserves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. remnant vegetation in perpetuity; and</li> <li>2. the <b>regional ecosystem</b> in which the <b>vegetation</b> is situated.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AO41.1 Clearing</b> does not result in the removal of non-<b>fodder species</b> with a height of four metres or more.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO41.2 Selective harvesting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. retains all non-<b>fodder species</b> except where the damage is an unavoidable consequence of <b>clearing</b> the selected fodder tree; and</li> <li>2. when using a chainsaw in <b>regional ecosystems</b> listed in table 16.3.6 of this code, retains at least one fodder tree for every fodder tree <b>cleared</b>; and</li> <li>3. in <b>least concern regional ecosystems</b> listed in table 16.3.7 of this code, retains at least one fodder tree for each fodder tree <b>cleared</b>; and</li> </ol>

	<p>4. in <b>of concern regional ecosystems</b> listed in table 16.3.7 of this code, retains at least two fodder trees for each fodder tree <b>cleared</b>.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO41.3 Strip harvesting and block harvesting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. where <b>fodder harvesting</b> has previously occurred in an area of a lot, only occurs if all of the following apply:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the <b>vegetation</b> has not been <b>cleared</b> in the last 10 years; and</li> <li>b. the average height of the fodder trees is at least 70 per cent of the height of the tallest stands of <b>fodder species</b> in the <b>regional ecosystem</b>; and</li> <li>c. the fodder trees that were previously harvested have now attained an average height of at least 4 metres.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. aligns <b>clearing</b> along the contour where practical; and</li> <li>3. does not occur in patches of <b>regional ecosystems</b> that are less than 10 hectares in area or less than 500 metres wide.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO41.4 Strip harvesting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. does not result in any <b>strip harvesting area</b> exceeding 50 metres in width; and</li> <li>2. results in all <b>strip retention areas:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. being preserved along the length of <b>strip harvest areas</b> to a width of at least 1.5 times that of the adjacent <b>strip harvest area</b>; and</li> <li>b. containing <b>fodder species</b> with an average height of at least four metres; and</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. does not result in <b>clearing</b> for machinery access between <b>strip harvest areas</b> exceeding 15 metres in width.</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <p><b>AO41.5 Block harvesting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. does not result in any <b>block harvest area</b> exceeding one hectare; and</li> <li>2. results in <b>block retention areas:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. being preserved between <b>block harvest areas</b> in accordance with the widths specified in table 16.3.8 of this code; and</li> <li>b. containing <b>fodder species</b> with an average height of at least four metres; and</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. does not result in <b>clearing</b> for machinery access between <b>block harvest areas</b> exceeding 10 metres in width.</li> </ol>
<b>Cleared vegetation (fodder harvesting)</b>	



<b>PO42 Fodder harvesting</b> is carried out in a way that results in the woody biomass of the <b>cleared vegetation</b> remaining where it is <b>cleared</b> .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<b>Conserving the fodder resource (fodder harvesting)</b>	
<b>PO43 Fodder harvesting</b> is carried out in a way that will conserve the fodder resource.	<b>AO43.1, Clearing</b> does not occur: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in an area that has been cleared in the previous 10-year period; and</li> <li>2. more than once in the same area of a lot; and</li> <li>3. in more than 50 per cent of the area of the <b>regional ecosystem</b> listed in table 16.3.6 and table 16.3.7 of this code on the lot; and</li> <li>4. in areas required to be retained under this code, a development approval or any <b>accepted development vegetation clearing code</b>.</li> </ol>
<b>Duration of clearing, preventing land degradation, and maintaining biodiversity, ecological processes and regional ecosystems (Vegetation retention purposes)</b>	
<b>PO44</b> The duration of <b>clearing</b> for a <b>vegetation retention purpose</b> occurs only for a period that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. will not contribute to land degradation; and</li> <li>2. ensures the ongoing maintenance of ecological processes and biodiversity; and</li> <li>3. maintains the regional ecosystem.</li> </ol>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

## 16.3 Reference tables

Table 16.3.1

<b>Clearing limits per regional ecosystem structure category</b>		
<b>Structure category</b>	<b>Width (metres)</b>	<b>Area (hectares)</b>
Dense and mid-dense*	10	0.5
Sparse and very sparse*	20	2
Grassland*	25	5

\*Note: Refer to the structure category within the latest version of Regional Ecosystem Description Database, developed by the Queensland Herbarium and the Department of Environment and Science.

Table 16.3.2

Distance from defining banks of watercourses and drainage features	
Stream order	Distance from the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature (metres)
1 or 2	10
3 or 4	25
5 or greater	50

Table 16.3.3

Maintaining connectivity areas	
Coastal bioregions and subregions	Non-coastal bioregions and subregions
<p><b>Clearing</b> does not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>occur in areas of <b>vegetation</b> that are less than 10 hectares; and</li> <li>reduce the extent of <b>vegetation</b> to less than 10 hectares; and</li> <li>occur in areas of <b>vegetation</b> less than 100 metres wide; and</li> <li>reduce the width of <b>vegetation</b> to less than 100 metres; and</li> <li>occur where the extent of <b>vegetation</b> on the subject lot(s) is reduced to, or less than, 30 per cent of the total area of the lot(s).</li> </ol>	<p><b>Clearing</b> does not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>occur in areas of <b>vegetation</b> that are less than 50 hectares; and</li> <li>reduce the extent of <b>vegetation</b> to less than 50 hectares; and</li> <li>occur in areas of <b>vegetation</b> less than 200 metres wide; and</li> <li>reduce the width of <b>vegetation</b> to less than 200 metres; and</li> <li>occur where the extent of <b>vegetation</b> on the subject lot(s) is reduced to, or less than, 30 per cent of the total area of the lot(s).</li> </ol>

Table 16.3.4

Managing thickened vegetation – Prescribed regional ecosystems and restrictions						
In this table, regional ecosystems are grouped by vegetation density and bioregion. Use this table to determine the regional ecosystems where clearing is permitted, the tree retention rates and any clearing restrictions.						
Very sparse regional ecosystems						
Tree retention rates: Retained <b>immature tree</b> density must be at least 200 trees per hectare after <b>clearing</b> .						
Bioregion						Clearing restrictions
North West Highlands						
1.5.14	1.5.6					
Gulf Plains						
2.3.9	2.3.10	2.3.34	2.5.2	2.5.5	2.10.6	
Cape York Peninsula						
3.3.24	3.3.37	3.9.4 3.9.5	3.9.6 3.9.7	3.10.15 3.11.15	3.11.17	
Mitchell Grass Downs						
4.3.9	4.5.2	4.7.4	4.9.10	4.9.16		
4.3.10	4.5.8 4.5.9		4.9.12 4.9.14	4.9.18		
Channel Country						
5.5.2	5.5.4	5.5.6	5.9.2			
Mulga Lands						

6.3.7	6.3.24	6.5.16	6.6.2	6.7.6	6.7.17	
6.3.9	6.5.14	6.5.18		6.7.7	6.9.2	
6.3.22	6.5.15	6.5.19		6.7.9		
Wet Tropics						
7.12.28						
Einasleigh Uplands						
9.3.5	9.5.14	9.11.13	9.12.4	9.12.16	9.12.29	
9.3.22	9.7.5	9.11.17	9.12.6	9.12.21	9.12.33	
	9.8.1	9.11.21	9.12.10	9.12.23	9.12.39	
	9.8.2	9.11.23	9.12.11	9.12.27	9.12.40	
	9.8.4	9.11.24	9.12.12	9.12.28		
	9.8.9	9.12.1	9.12.14			
		9.12.15				
Desert Uplands						
10.3.6	10.3.12	10.3.26	10.5.5	10.5.9	10.5.12	
Brigalow Belt						
11.8.4	11.10.6	11.11.6	11.11.12	11.12.5		
11.8.5						
South-east Queensland						
12.11.15						
<b>Sparse regional ecosystems</b>						
Tree retention rates: Retained <b>immature tree</b> density must be at least 300 trees per hectare after <b>clearing</b> .						
<b>Bioregion</b>						<b>Clearing restrictions</b>
North West Highlands						
1.3.4	1.5.2					
Gulf Plains						
2.3.5	2.3.27	2.5.1	2.7.4	2.9.4	2.10.4	
2.3.7	2.3.36	2.5.9	2.7.5	2.9.6	2.11.1	
2.3.11		2.5.10	2.9.4	2.10.1	2.12.1	
2.3.18		2.5.12		2.10.2		
2.3.19		2.5.14				
2.3.22						
2.3.15	2.3.20	2.3.29				<b>Mechanical clearing not permitted.</b>
2.3.17	2.3.21	2.3.30				
	2.3.24					
Cape York Peninsula						
3.3.8	3.5.5	3.7.3	3.9.2	3.11.7	3.12.10	
3.3.16	3.5.6			3.11.12	3.12.11	
3.3.20	3.5.24			3.11.13	3.12.18	
3.3.28	3.5.25					
Mitchell Grass Downs						
4.3.8	4.5.4	4.5.8	4.9.6	4.9.11		
Channel Country						
5.5.1	5.5.3	5.6.2	5.6.3	5.6.4		
Mulga Lands						
6.3.5	6.5.1	6.5.6	6.5.10	6.5.17	6.7.10	
6.3.16	6.5.2	6.5.7	6.5.11	6.6.1	6.7.11	
6.3.18	6.5.3	6.5.8	6.5.13		6.7.12	
6.3.21		6.5.9			6.7.13	
Central Queensland Coast						
8.5.3	8.9.1	8.12.6	8.12.20	8.12.22		
8.5.5	8.11.1	8.12.9				
Einasleigh Uplands						

9.3.2	9.5.3	9.7.1	9.11.1	9.12.7		
9.3.6	9.5.4	9.7.2	9.11.2	9.12.13		
9.3.8	9.5.6	9.8.11	9.11.3	9.12.24		
9.3.16	9.5.7	9.10.7	9.11.5	9.12.26		
9.3.19	9.5.8		9.11.7	9.12.32		
9.3.20	9.5.9		9.11.15			
9.3.21	9.5.10		9.11.19			
	9.5.13		9.11.22			
	9.7.1		9.11.25			
	9.7.3		9.11.26			
9.3.3	9.11.16 9.11.31 9.11.32	9.12.31				<b>Mechanical clearing</b> not permitted.
<b>Desert Uplands</b>						
10.3.9	10.3.27	10.5.4	10.9.5			
10.3.10	10.3.28					
10.3.11						
10.3.14						<b>Mechanical clearing</b> not permitted.
<b>Brigalow Belt</b>						
11.3.4	11.3.19	11.4.2	11.9.2	11.10.1	11.12.1	
11.3.6	11.3.29	11.5.2	11.9.7	11.10.7	11.12.2	
11.3.7	11.3.30	11.5.3		11.10.12	11.12.3	
11.3.9	11.3.32	11.5.5		11.11.4	11.12.9	
11.3.10	11.3.35	11.5.8		11.11.7	11.12.10	
11.3.12	11.3.36	11.5.9		11.11.9	11.12.11	
11.3.14	11.3.39	11.5.12		11.11.10		
11.3.18		11.5.13		11.11.11		
		11.5.20		11.11.15		
				11.11.20		
11.7.7						Restricted to <b>clearing of low shrubs</b> only. <b>Clearing of immature trees</b> is not permitted.
<b>South-east Queensland</b>						
12.3.12	12.8.16 12.8.17	12.9-10.4 12.9-10.7	12.12.4 12.12.5			
<b>New England Tableland</b>						
13.11.1	13.11.4	13.12.2	13.12.5			
<b>Mid-dense regional ecosystems</b>						
Tree retention rates: Retained <b>immature tree</b> density must be at least 500 trees per hectare after <b>clearing</b> .						
<b>Bioregion</b>						<b>Clearing restrictions</b>
<b>Gulf Plains</b>						
2.5.4	2.5.16					

Mulga Lands						
6.7.1	6.7.2	6.7.14	6.7.15	6.7.16		
Wet Tropics						
7.11.16	7.11.21	7.12.53	7.12.55			
Central Queensland Coast						
8.12.12						
Einasleigh Uplands						
9.3.15						
Brigalow Belt						
11.3.26	11.7.4	11.9.13	11.10.4	11.11.1		
11.5.1	11.7.6		11.10.9			
11.5.4			11.10.11			
11.5.21						
South-east Queensland						
12.9-10.2	12.12.27					

**Table 16.3.5**

Grassland regional ecosystems in which encroachment can be cleared						
3.3.56	4.3.20	4.9.9	6.7.17	10.3.7	11.4.11	
3.3.60	4.9.7	5.7.9	9.8.5	10.3.8	11.8.11	
3.3.61	4.9.8	5.7.10	9.12.42	11.3.31	11.9.3	
3.12.32						

**Table 16.3.6**

Regional ecosystems in which fodder species are dominant and suitable for fodder harvesting by all harvesting practices						
4.5.1	5.5.2	5.6.4	6.5.6	6.5.11	6.5.18	6.7.12
4.5.2	5.5.3	5.7.5	6.5.7	6.5.13	6.6.1	6.7.17
4.5.3	5.5.4	5.7.14	6.5.8	6.5.14	6.7.9	
4.5.4	5.5.5	6.3.21	6.5.9	6.5.15	6.7.10	
5.5.1	5.5.6	6.5.1	6.5.10	6.5.16	6.7.11	

**Table 16.3.7**

Regional ecosystems in which fodder species are not dominant and harvesting is limited to selective harvesting only						
6.3.16	6.5.3	6.7.6	6.7.15	11.5.13		
6.3.18	6.5.17	6.7.13	6.7.16	11.7.2		
6.5.2	6.7.1	6.7.14	6.7.17	11.11.2		

**Table 16.3.8**

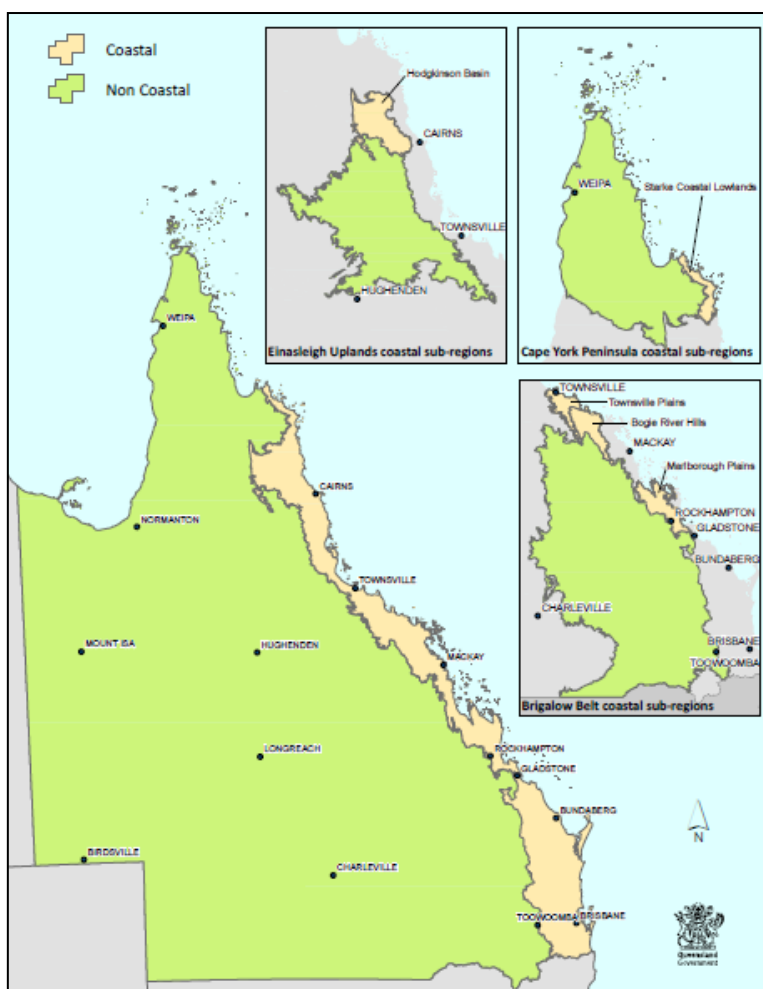
Minimum retention area and widths required for block harvesting	
Block harvesting area	Minimum width of retained vegetation
Less than 0.5 hectares (70 metres by 70 metres)	75 metres
0.5 hectares to 1 hectare (100 metres by 100 metres)	150 metres

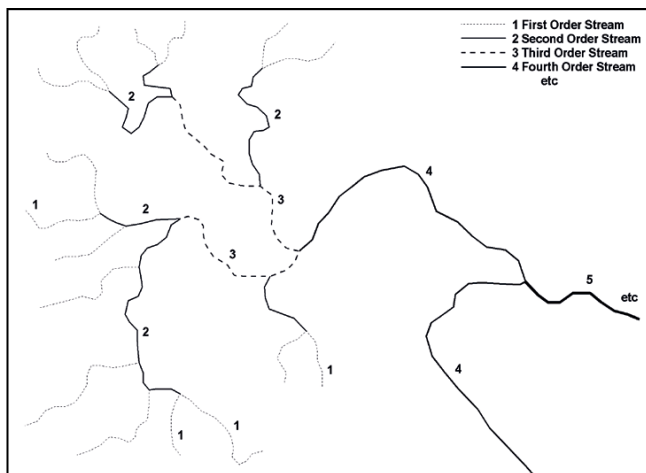
Table 16.3.9

Range of size classes – trees	
Class	Diameter
1	<5 centimetres
2	5 centimetres – 10 centimetres
3	>10 centimetres – 20 centimetres
4	>20 centimetres – 40 centimetres

## 16.4 Figures

Figure 16.4.1: Location of coastal and non-coastal bioregions and subregions





**Figure 16.4.2: Diagrammatic view of stream ordering**

When two streams of the same order join, the resulting stream becomes one **stream order** larger. If two streams of different orders join, the resultant **stream order** is that of the larger stream (note: for this diagram, streams are **watercourses** and **drainage features** shown on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map**).

## 16.5 Reference documents

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 2018, [Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy](#)

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 2015, [BioCondition Benchmarks](#)

Department of Environment and Science 2018, [Regional Ecosystem Description Database](#)

Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning 2017, [State Planning Policy](#)

Department of Natural Resources and Mines 2013, [Guidelines for Necessary Environmental Clearing](#)

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy 2019, [State Development Assessment Provisions Guidance material: State code 16: Native vegetation clearing](#)

Department of Science, Information Technology Innovation and the Arts 2014, [Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual](#)

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning 2014, [Significant Residual Impact Guideline](#)

International Erosion Control Association (IECA) 2008, [Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Document](#)

## 16.6 Glossary of terms

**Accelerated soil erosion** means **soil erosion** that exceeds the natural level and that occurs as a direct result of human activity.

**Accepted development vegetation clearing code** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: An **accepted development vegetation clearing code** is a code made under section 190 of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

**Adverse impacts of clearing** include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. the loss of **vegetation**
2. the loss of **biodiversity**
3. **land degradation**
4. loss of **connectivity**
5. altered **ecological processes**; and
6. contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.

**Aerial application** means application by aircraft or drone.

**Application area** means the area the subject of the development application that is proposed to be **cleared of vegetation**.

**Better environmental outcome** means an environmental outcome provided on land in exchange for an area to be developed which is a **particular regulated area**, or is subject to a **notice requiring compliance (impact area)**, and is legally secured using a **declared area (voluntary)** before the commencement of works.

**Biodiversity** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Biodiversity** means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, and includes:

1. diversity within species and between species; and
2. diversity of ecosystems.

**Block harvest area** means the block or clump where **block harvesting** is undertaken.

**Block harvesting** means **fodder harvesting** in blocks or clump (**block harvest areas**) while retaining undisturbed areas of **vegetation (block retention areas)** on all sides of the **block harvest area**.

**Block retention area** means an undisturbed area of vegetation required to be retained on all sides of a **block harvest area** when undertaking **block harvesting**.

**Built infrastructure** see *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

Note: built infrastructure includes a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose

**Category A area** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: A **category A area** is an area, other than a **category B area**, category C area, category R area or **category X area**, shown on the **regulated vegetation management map** as a **category A area** that:

1. is any of the following:
  - a. a **declared area**
  - b. an **offset area**
  - c. an **exchange area**; or
2. has been **unlawfully cleared**; or
3. is, or has been, subject to:
  - a. a **restoration notice**; or
  - b. an **enforcement notice** under the *Planning Act 2016* containing conditions about restoration of **vegetation**; or
4. has been **cleared** of native **vegetation** and in relation to the **clearing** a person has been found guilty by a court, whether or not a conviction has been recorded, of a **clearing** offence; or
5. the chief executive decides under section 20BA [of the VMA] is a **category A area**.

**Category B area** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: A **category B area** is an area, other than a **category A area**, category C area, category R area or **category X area**, shown on the **regulated vegetation management map** as a **category B area** that:

1. contains **remnant vegetation**; or
2. the chief executive [administering the VMA] decides to show on the **regulated vegetation management map** as a **category B area**; or
3. if section 20AN [of the VMA] does not apply to the area:
  - a. is a Land Act tenure to be converted under the *Land Act 1994* to another form of tenure, and contains:
    - i. an **endangered regional ecosystem**; or
    - ii. an **of concern regional ecosystem**; or
    - iii. a **least concern regional ecosystem**.

**Category X area** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: A **category X area** is an area, other than a **category A area**, **category B area**, category C area or category R area, shown on the **regulated vegetation management map** as a **category X area**. However, an area is not a **category X area** if the chief executive decides under section 20CA [of the VMA] that the area is not a **category X area**.

**Clear, cleared or clearing of (vegetation)** means:

1. to remove, cut down, ringbark, push over, poison or destroy in any way including by burning, flooding or draining; but



2. does not include destroying standing **vegetation** by stock, or lopping a tree.

Note: For the purpose of assessment of a material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application, any reference to **clearing** is taken to be "clearing as a result of the material change of use" or "clearing as a result of the reconfiguring a lot".

**Clearing as a result of a material change of use** means:

1. **clearing** that will result from the change in use, consisting of any of the following:
  - a. **clearing** to construct **built infrastructure** – including buildings, stormwater management systems, water supply and sewerage systems – that are proposed as part of the material change of use application
  - b. **clearing** for roads, vehicle parking, vehicle and pedestrian access, utilities corridors, services, fences, **fire breaks** and **fire management lines**
  - c. **clearing** that may not be necessary for developing **built infrastructure** but is associated with the use applied for
2. **clearing** that will become **exempt clearing work** if the development application is approved. This includes any of the following examples:
  - a. **clearing** for **routine management** and **essential management** purposes associated with the approved development including **clearing** to maintain proposed infrastructure, facilities, roads, access routes, utilities, services and fences, and **clearing** to maintain the safety of persons and property that will be associated with the development
  - b. **clearing** for necessary **fire breaks**, **fire management lines** and associated with the development. This will be assessed as follows:
    - i. all **built infrastructure** other than underground services, roads and fences will be assessed as requiring for **fire breaks** and safety buffers with a width of 20 metres or 1.5 times the height of the tallest adjacent tree to the infrastructure, whichever is the greater. The extent of **clearing** assessed will include any vegetation that may be required to be **cleared** for fire breaks distances and safety buffers on adjoining land
    - ii. all proposed allotment boundaries will be assessed as requiring **clearing** for **fire management lines** with a width of 10 metres constructed on either side of the allotment boundary unless written evidence from the relevant Area Commander of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service which confirms an alternative **fire management line** width is required or acceptable
    - iii. in the case of evidence being presented which demonstrates constraints on **clearing** for **fire management lines** as being reasonably imposed in accordance with written evidence from the relevant Area Commander or equivalent officer of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, the development may be conditioned so that the full extent of **exempt clearing work** prescribed for **essential management** under schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017 cannot be carried out by current or future landholders.

**Clearing as a result of reconfiguring a lot** means:

1. **clearing** that will result from reconfiguring a lot, consisting of any of the following:
  - a. **clearing** for boundary fence lines for each proposed allotment (whether or not the **clearing** is proposed as part of the application)
  - b. **clearing** to construct **built infrastructure**, including stormwater management systems, water supply and sewerage systems, roads, access routes or utilities corridors that are proposed as part of the reconfiguring a lot application or that will be required as a condition of approval by the assessment manager
  - c. **clearing** for excavation and filling, for example, where the lots are to be levelled
2. **clearing** of **vegetation** that will become **exempt clearing work** if the development application is approved. This includes any of the following examples:
  - a. **clearing** for a single residence and reasonably associated buildings and structures for each allotment to be created as a result of the reconfiguring a lot, where no such dwelling house already exists on the proposed allotment
  - b. all lots will be assessed as including **clearing** of two hectares for the purpose stated in 2a, or for lots smaller than two hectares the whole area of the lot, unless the application demonstrates that a greater or smaller area will be required and achieved – for example, building envelopes binding on title
  - c. **clearing** for **routine management** and **essential management** purposes associated with the approved development including **clearing** to maintain proposed infrastructure, facilities, roads, access routes, utilities, services and fences, and **clearing** to maintain the safety of persons and property that will be associated with the development

- d. **clearing** for necessary **fire breaks, fire management lines** and safety buffers associated with the development. This will be assessed as follows:
- i. all **built infrastructure** other than underground services, roads and fences will be assessed as requiring **clearing** for **firebreaks** and safety buffers with a width of 20 metres or 1.5 times the height of the tallest adjacent tree to the infrastructure, whichever is the greater. The extent of **clearing** assessed will include any vegetation that may be required to be **cleared** for **fire breaks** and **safety buffers** on adjoining land
  - ii. all proposed allotment boundaries will be assessed as requiring **clearing** for **fire management lines** with a width of 10 metres constructed on either side of the allotment boundary unless written evidence from the relevant Area Commander of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service which confirms an alternative **fire management line** width is required or acceptable
  - iii. in the case of evidence being presented which demonstrates constraints on **clearing** for **fire management lines** as being reasonably imposed in accordance with written evidence from the relevant Area Commander of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, the development may be conditioned so that the full extent of **exempt clearing work** prescribed for **essential management** under schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017 cannot be carried out by current or future landholders.

**Coastal bioregions and subregions** mean the following bioregions and subregions, as shown in figure 16.4.1:

1. Brigalow Belt Bioregion sub-regions Townsville Plains (sub-region 11.1), Bogie River Hills (sub-region 11.2), and Marlborough Plains (sub-region 11.14)
2. Central Queensland Coast Bioregion
3. Cape York Peninsula Bioregion sub-region Starke Coastal Lowlands (sub-region 3.2)
4. Einasleigh Uplands Bioregion sub-region Hodgkinson Basin
5. Wet Tropics Bioregion
6. South East Queensland Bioregion.

**Consequential development of IPA approval** means **clearing** that is a natural and ordinary consequence of other assessable development for which a development approval was given under the repealed *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, or a development application was made under that Act, before 16 May 2003.

**Contaminant** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Contaminant** includes a gas, liquid, solid or energy source, including radioactivity and electromagnetic radiation.

**Contaminants removal** means part 4 of **necessary environmental clearing**, defined as **clearing of vegetation** that is necessary to remove **contaminants** from land.

**Coordinated project** see the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

Note: A **coordinated project** is a project declared to be a **coordinated project** under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

**Declared area (voluntary)** see section 19F of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: A **declared area (voluntary)** is an area declared under the VMA to be an area of high nature conservation value or an area vulnerable to **land degradation**, at the request of the owner of the land.

**Declared pests** means restricted or prohibited matter declared under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Note: A prohibited matter is a biosecurity matter that, for the time being, is established as prohibited matter. A restricted matter is a biosecurity matter that, for the time being, is established as restricted matter.

**Defining bank** means the bank which confines the seasonal flows but may be inundated by flooding from time to time. This can be either:

1. the bank or terrace that confines the water before the point of flooding; or
2. where there is no bank, the **seasonal high water line** which represents the point of flooding.

**Diameter** means the width of a tree trunk measured at 1.3 metres above the ground.

**Drainage feature** means a natural landscape feature, including a gully, drain, drainage depression or other erosion feature that:

1. is formed by the concentration of, or operates to confine or concentrate, overland flow water during and immediately after rainfall events
2. flows for only a short duration after a rainfall event, regardless of the frequency of flow events
3. commonly, does not have enough continuing flow to create a riverine environment
4. is shown on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map**:
  - a. at a scale of 1:25 000 for the local government areas of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Noosa and Redlands, unless the application is to **clear vegetation** for an **extractive industry**; or
  - b. for all other local governments, and for applications to **clear vegetation** for an **extractive industry**.

**Ecological processes** means processes including, but not limited to, the following:

1. hydrological processes; or
2. soil development; or
3. nutrient cycling; or
4. chemical processes including storage of nutrients; or
5. decomposition and cycling of organic matter; or
6. pollination and seed production; or
7. seed dispersal; or
8. predator-prey relationships; or
9. germination and recruitment of species; or
10. the carbon cycle and stability of atmospheric carbon; or
11. habitats for flora and fauna (such as particular **regional ecosystems**, logs, rocks, debris, leaf litter, nectar, hollow bearing trees, food and shelter).

**Encroachment** means a woody species that has invaded an area of a grassland **regional ecosystem** to an extent the area is no longer consistent with the description of the **regional ecosystem** and the woody species is absent in **historical imagery** and present in **recent imagery**.

**Endangered regional ecosystem** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Endangered regional ecosystem** means a **regional ecosystem** declared to be an **endangered regional ecosystem** under the VMA.

**Enforcement notice** means a notice under the *Planning Act 2016* issued for a **clearing** offence or a notice under the *Planning Act 2016* containing conditions about restoration of **vegetation**.

**Environmental clearing management plan** means a plan that outlines management actions that will be undertaken in an area **cleared** for **necessary environmental clearing** to **rehabilitate** the area over time to ensure **endangered regional ecosystems, of concern regional ecosystems, least concern regional ecosystems, essential habitat**, connectivity is maintained, **wetlands** and **watercourses** are protected, and **clearing** does not result in **land degradation**.

Note: Refer to the Guidelines for **necessary environmental clearing** to assist with developing the **environmental clearing management plan**.

**Environmental offset agreement** see the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

Note: **Environmental offset agreements** may also be described as an 'agreed delivery arrangement' or 'delivery agreement'.

**Erosion and sediment control plan** means a plan which details all of the following:

1. the presence and location of any accelerated **soil erosion** within the proposed development area; and
2. the rates of soil and sediment movement prior to the proposed development; and
3. the estimated rates of soil loss and sediment movement after the proposed development; and
4. the **recognised best practice methods** that will be employed to:
  - a. ensure rates of soil loss and sediment movement are the same or less than those prior to the proposed development; and
  - b. prevent increased **soil erosion** resulting from the **clearing**; and
  - c. prevent increased sediment run-off entering a **wetland, watercourse** or **drainage feature** as a result of the **clearing**; and
  - d. stabilise **soil erosion** which results from **clearing**.

5. A map showing where **recognised best practice methods** will be used within and around the proposed development area to address points 4(a) to 4(d) above.

Note: For further guidance on developing an **erosion and sediment control plan**, please refer to the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Document, IECA, 2008.

**Essential habitat** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 20AC.

Note: **Essential habitat** is shown on the **essential habitat map**.

**Essential habitat** for **protected wildlife** is a **category A area**, **category B area** or category C area shown on the **regulated vegetation management map**:

1. that has at least three **essential habitat factors** for the **protected wildlife** that must include any **essential habitat factors** that are stated as mandatory for the **protected wildlife** in the **essential habitat database**; or
2. in which the **protected wildlife**, at any stage of its life cycle, is located.

**Essential habitat database** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: An **essential habitat database** means a database, listing **essential habitat factors** for **protected wildlife**, certified by the chief executive [administering the VMA] as an **essential habitat database**.

**Essential habitat factor** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Essential habitat factor**, for **protected wildlife**, is a component of the wildlife's habitat, including for example, a landform, pollinator, **regional ecosystem**, soil and water, that is necessary or desirable for the wildlife at any stage of its lifecycle.

**Essential habitat map** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 20AC.

Note: The **essential habitat map** is a map certified by the chief executive [administering the VMA] as the **essential habitat map** for the State and showing, for the State, areas the chief executive reasonably believes are areas of **essential habitat** for **protected wildlife**.

**Essential management** see schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017.

Note: **Essential management** means **clearing** native **vegetation**:

1. for establishing or maintaining a necessary **firebreak** to protect infrastructure other than a fence, road or vehicular track, if the maximum width of the **firebreak** is equivalent to 1.5 times the height of the tallest **vegetation** adjacent to the infrastructure, or 20 metres, whichever is the greater; or
2. for establishing a necessary **fire management line** if the maximum width of the **clearing** for the **fire management line** is 10 metres; or
3. necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk that the **vegetation** poses of serious personal injury or damage to the infrastructure; or
4. by fire under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* to reduce hazardous fuel load; or
5. necessary to maintain infrastructure including any core airport infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stockyards, vehicular tracks, watering facilities and constructed drains other than contour banks, other than to source construction material; or
6. for maintaining a garden or orchard, other than **clearing** predominant canopy trees to maintain underplantings established within **remnant vegetation**; or
7. on land subject to a lease issued under the *Land Act 1994* for agriculture or grazing purposes to source construction timber to repair existing infrastructure on the land, if:
  - a. the infrastructure is in need of immediate repair
  - b. the **clearing** does not cause **land degradation** as defined under the VMA
  - c. restoration of a similar type, and to the extent of the removed trees, is ensured; or
8. by the owner on freehold land to source construction timber to maintain infrastructure on any land of the owners, if:
  - a. the **clearing** does not cause **land degradation** as defined under the VMA
  - b. restoration of a similar type, and to the extent of the removed trees, is ensured.

**Exchange area** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Exchange area** means an area of **vegetation** that must be protected in the way provided under a self-assessable **vegetation clearing** code in exchange for **clearing** high value regrowth **vegetation**.

**Exempt clearing work** see the Planning Regulation 2017.

Note: **Exempt clearing work** means operational work that is the **clearing** of native vegetation as **exempt clearing work** or for particular land as prescribed in schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017, or that, under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 74, is not affected by that Act.

**Extractive industry** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Extractive industry** means one or more of the following:

1. dredging material from the bed of any waters
2. extracting, from a pit or quarry, rock, sand, clay, gravel, loam or other material
3. screening, washing, grinding, milling, sizing or separating material extracted from a pit or quarry; and
4. includes carrying out work that is the natural and ordinary consequence of carrying out the work mentioned above.

**Felling** means the cutting of **vegetation** using equipment that retains the root of the **vegetation** in the ground, such as a handsaw, axe, brush cutter or chainsaw. The term does not include using a dozer or tractor or other type of machinery to push **vegetation**.

**Firebreak** means an area that has been **cleared** and maintained in a low fuel state to either stop or steady wildfire, or back burn against.

**Fire management line** means a pathway, track or road, including existing property tracks, or fence line **clearings**, which can be used to access water for fire-fighting, divide the property into sub-units to allow a fuel reduction burning program to be carried out, or divide the property into sub-units to allow for back burning in the event of a wildfire.

**Flood** means an overflow of water rising above the **defining banks** of a **wetland, watercourse** or **drainage feature**.

**Flood preparation** means activities undertaken to reduce the likelihood or impacts of a **flood**.

**Fodder harvesting** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Fodder harvesting** is the **clearing** of **vegetation** predominantly consisting of **fodder species**:

1. necessary to provide fodder for stock
2. carried out in a way that:
  - a. conserves the **vegetation** in perpetuity
  - b. conserves the **regional ecosystem** in which the **vegetation** is situated
  - c. results in the woody biomass of the **cleared vegetation** remaining where it is **cleared**.

**Fodder species** means any of the following species:

1. *Acacia aneura*;
2. *Acacia brachystachya*;
3. *Acacia excels*;
4. *Acacia pendula*;
5. *Acacia sibirica*;
6. *Alphitonia excels*;
7. *Flindersia maculosa*;
8. *Geijera parviflora*.

**Foliar herbicide** means a herbicide primarily absorbed by the foliage of plants. For example, spraying using glyphosate'.

Note: The application of a herbicide must also comply with the approved product label or the safety and use conditions published by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

**Ground cover** means 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.

**Groundwater** means water occurring below the surface of the ground.

**Grove** means an area of woody **vegetation** that is present in **historical imagery**.

**Gully erosion** means the removal of soil by water creating large incised channels more than 30 centimetres in depth.

**Habitat trees** means a living or dead standing tree that contains either of the following:

1. one or more visible hollows positioned at least two metres above the base of the tree;
2. an active bird's nest or the nest of a raptor or other bird that uses the same nest each year.

Note: **Habitat trees** are used, or potentially used, by hollow-dwelling fauna.

**Historical imagery** means an aerial photograph or satellite image used for the purpose of demonstrating the presence of **encroachment**, that was taken more than 15 years ago.

**Immature trees** means a tree or shrub (other than a **mature tree** or **habitat tree**) that is two metres or more in height.

**Land Act notice** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 20BA(b).

Note: A **Land Act notice** is a notice issued by the chief executive [administering the VMA] for **clearing** in contravention of a tree **clearing** provision under the *Land Act 1994* as in force before the commencement of the *Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2004*, section 3.

**Land degradation** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Land degradation** includes any of the following:

1. **soil erosion**; or
2. rising water tables; or
3. the expression of **salinity**; or
4. **mass movement** by gravity of soil or rock; or
5. stream bank instability; or
6. a process that results in declining water quality.

**Land restoration** means part 1 of **necessary environmental clearing**, defined as **clearing** of **vegetation** that is necessary to restore the ecological and environmental condition of land.

**Land zone 1** means quaternary estuarine and marine deposits subject to periodic inundation by saline or brackish marine waters. This includes mangroves, salt pans, off-shore tidal flats and tidal beaches.

**Land zone 2** means quaternary coastal dunes and beach ridges. This includes degraded dunes, sand plains and swales, lakes and swamps enclosed by dunes, as well as coral and sand cays.

**Land zone 3** means quaternary alluvial systems, including floodplains, alluvial plains, alluvial fans, terraces, levees, swamps, channels, closed depressions and fine textured palaeo-estuarine deposits. This also includes estuarine plains currently under fresh water influence, inland lakes and associated dune systems (lunettes).

**Least concern regional ecosystem** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Least concern regional ecosystem** means a **regional ecosystem** declared to be a **least concern regional ecosystem** under the VMA.

**Legally secured offset area** see the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

Note: An area of land is a **legally secured offset area** if:

1. the area is:
  - a. an environmental **offset** protection area; or
  - b. an area declared as an area of high nature conservation value under section 19F of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*;
  - c. another area prescribed under a regulation; and
2. under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* or another Act, the area is subject to a delivery or management plan or agreement (however described in this Act or the other Act) to achieve a conservation outcome for a **prescribed environmental matter**.

**Low shrub** means any live woody tree, shrub or **ground cover** less than two meters high.

**Maintain the current extent** means to:

1. avoid **clearing** the **regional ecosystems**; or
2. if subparagraph 1 is not reasonably practicable, ensure the structure and function of the **regional ecosystem** is maintained (minimise the **clearing**); or
3. if subparagraphs 1 or 2 are not reasonably practicable, provide an **offset**.

**Managing thickened vegetation** means the selective **clearing** of **vegetation** at a locality that does not include clearing using a chain or cable linked between 2 tractors, bulldozers or other traction vehicles –

1. to restore a **regional ecosystem** to the floristic composition and range of densities typical the **regional ecosystem** in the bioregion in which it is located; and
2. to maintain ecological processes and prevent loss of biodiversity.

**Mass movement** is a landslide, earthflow, landslide, rock avalanche or soil creep.

**Matters of state environmental significance** see the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014, schedule 2.

Note: **Matters of state environmental significance** are **prescribed environmental matters** under the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014 that require an **offset** when a prescribed activity will have a **significant residual impact** on the matter. A **matter of state environmental significance** is any of the following matters:

1. **regional ecosystems** under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* that:
  - a. are **endangered regional ecosystems**; or
  - b. are **of concern regional ecosystems**; or
  - c. intersect with a **wetland** shown on the **vegetation management wetlands map**; or
  - d. contain areas of **essential habitat** shown on the **essential habitat map** for an animal that is endangered wildlife or vulnerable wildlife or a plant that is endangered wildlife or vulnerable wildlife; or
  - e. are located within the defined distances stated in the Environmental Offsets Policy 2014 from the **defining banks** of a relevant **watercourse** or **drainage feature** as shown on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map**; or
  - f. are areas of land determined to be required for ecosystem functioning ('**connectivity areas**'); or
2. **wetlands** in a **wetland** protection area or **wetlands** of high ecological significance shown on the Map of referable **wetlands** under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008; or
3. **wetlands** and **watercourses** in high ecological value waters as defined in the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009, schedule 2; or
4. designated precincts in strategic environmental areas under the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014; or
5. threatened wildlife under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and special least concern animals under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006; or
6. protected areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, excluding coordinated conservation areas; or
7. highly protected zones of state marine parks under the *Marine Parks Act 2004*; or
8. fish habitat areas under the *Fisheries Act 1994*; or
9. waterways that provide for fish passage under the *Fisheries Act 1994* if the construction, installation or modification of waterway barrier works carried will limit the passage of fish along the waterway; or
10. marine plants under the *Fisheries Act 1994*; or
11. **legally secured offset areas**.

**Mature tree** means a native tree that is:

1. a *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia*, *Lophostemon* and *Angophora* species (such as 'gum' or 'box' trees) with a single trunk or several trunks with a **diameter** of 30 centimetres or more;
2. any other native tree species with—a single trunk with a **diameter** of 20 cm or more; or several trunks with a **diameter** of 25 cm or more.

Note: If there are several trunks, add the diameters of the two largest trunks together.

**Mechanical clearing** means the **clearing** of **vegetation** using any of the following methods:

1. slashing; or
2. brush cutting; or
3. machinery which disturbs the soil surface or uproots woody **vegetation**.

**Natural channel diversion** means part 2 of **necessary environmental clearing**, defined as **clearing** that is necessary to divert existing natural channels in a way that replicates the existing form of the natural channels.

**Natural disaster preparation** means part 3 of **necessary environmental clearing**, defined as **clearing** that is necessary to prepare for the likelihood of a natural disaster.

**Necessary environmental clearing** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Necessary environmental clearing** means **clearing** of **vegetation** that is necessary to:

1. restore the ecological and environmental condition of land (example – stabilising banks of **watercourses** and **drainage features**, works to **rehabilitate** eroded areas, works to prevent erosion of land or for ecological fire management); or
2. divert existing natural channels in a way that replicates the existing form of the natural channels; or
3. prepare for the likelihood of a natural disaster (example – removal of silt to mitigate flooding); or
4. remove **contaminants** from land.

**Non-coastal bioregions and subregions** mean the following bioregions and subregions, as shown in figure 16.4.1:

1. Brigalow Belt Bioregion sub-regions not listed under **coastal bioregions and subregions**
2. New England Tableland Bioregion
3. Northwest Highlands Bioregion
4. Gulf Plains Bioregion
5. Cape York Peninsula Bioregion subregions not listed under coastal bioregions and subregions
6. Mitchell Grass Downs Bioregion
7. Channel Country Bioregion
8. Mulga Lands Bioregion
9. Einasleigh Uplands Bioregion subregions not listed under coastal bioregions and subregions

10. Desert Uplands Bioregion.

**Notice requiring compliance** mean any of the following notices:

1. a **restoration notice**; or
2. a **stop work notice**; or
3. a **Land Act notice**; or
4. a trespass notice if the trespass related act under the *Land Act 1994* for the notice is the **clearing of vegetation** on the relevant land; or
5. an **enforcement notice** under the *Planning Act 2016* issued for a **vegetation clearing** offence; or
6. a compliance notice containing conditions about the restoration of **vegetation**.

**Of concern regional ecosystem** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Of concern regional ecosystem** means a **regional ecosystem** declared to be an **of concern regional ecosystem** under the VMA.

**Offset** means environmental **offset** under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

Note: Environmental **offset** means an activity undertaken to counterbalance a **significant residual impact** of a prescribed activity on a **prescribed environmental matter**, delivered in accordance with the Environmental offsets Framework. The **prescribed environmental matters** assessed under the State Development Assessment Provisions are **matters of state environmental significance**.

**Offset area** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Offset area** means a **legally secured offset area** under the *Environmental Offset Act 2014*.

**Particular regulated areas** means any of the following areas:

1. an **exchange area**; or
2. an **unlawfully cleared** area; or
3. a **declared area (voluntary)** declared for purposes other than to legally secure an **offset area** under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*; or
4. an area on a **PMAV** shown to be **category A area** where the chief executive [administering the VMA] reasonably believes that a **vegetation clearing** offence is being, or has been, committed in relation to the area.

**Prescribed environmental matters** see the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

Note: A **prescribed environmental matter** is any species, ecosystem or other similar matter protected under Queensland legislation for which an **offset** may be provided. A **prescribed environmental matter** may be a matter of national, state or environmental significance, however, assessment criteria in the State Development Assessment Provisions only relate to **matters of state environmental significance**. Each of the **prescribed environmental matters** is listed under the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014.

**Prescribed regional ecosystems and restrictions** means a **regional ecosystem** or restriction prescribed in table 16.3.4 of this code for **managing thickened vegetation**.

**Property map of assessable vegetation (PMAV)** see *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note:

1. a **property map of assessable vegetation (PMAV)** is a map certified by the chief executive [administering the VMA] as a **PMAV** for an area and showing the **vegetation** category area for the area
2. the map may also show for the area the location of the boundaries of, and the **regional ecosystem** number for, each **regional ecosystem** in the area.

**Protected wildlife** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Protected wildlife** means native wildlife prescribed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as:

1. extinct in the wild wildlife; or
2. endangered wildlife; or
3. vulnerable wildlife; or
4. near threatened wildlife; or
5. least concern wildlife.

**Public safety** means **clearing** to ensure public safety.

**Range of sizes** means retaining a range of all size classes as outlined in table 16.3.9.

**Recent imagery** means an aerial photograph or satellite image used for the purposes of demonstrating **encroachment**, that was taken less than 15 years ago.



**Recognised best practices method** means a method to mitigate **accelerated soil erosion**, recognised by any of the following:

1. a Federal or State government agency published advice or guide, such as the Soil Conservation Guidelines for Queensland (3rd edition)
2. the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Document, IECA, 2008.

**Regional ecosystem** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Regional ecosystem** means a **vegetation** community in a bioregion that is consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil.

**Regional ecosystem burn** means a burn that is planned and undertaken for the purpose of restoring the range of plant species, size classes, and **vegetation** densities typical of the regional ecosystem.

Note: A **regional ecosystem burn** is for purposes other than reducing hazardous fuel loads. Reducing hazardous fuel loads by fire under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, is **exempt clearing work**.

A permit under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* is required for a **regional ecosystem burn**.

**Regulated vegetation management map** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 20A.

Note: The **regulated vegetation management map** is the map certified by the chief executive [administering the VMA] as the **regulated vegetation management map** for a part of the State and showing the **vegetation** category areas for the part.

**Rehabilitate** means undertaking management actions in accordance with an **environmental clearing management plan** to ensure:

1. **clearing vegetation** associated with a **wetland** protects:
  - a. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and pollutants
  - b. aquatic habitat
  - c. terrestrial habitat.
2. **clearing vegetation** associated with a **watercourse** or **drainage feature** protects:
  - a. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion
  - b. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and pollutants
  - c. aquatic habitat
  - d. terrestrial habitat
3. **connectivity areas** are maintained
4. **essential habitat** is maintained
5. **endangered regional ecosystems, of concern regional ecosystems and least concern regional ecosystems** are maintained.

Note: Refer to the Guidelines for **necessary environmental clearing**, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2013 to assist with developing relevant management actions to ensure the **application area** is appropriately **rehabilitated**.

**Relevant infrastructure activities** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Relevant infrastructure activities** means:

1. establishing and maintaining a necessary fence, **firebreak**, road, or vehicular track; or
2. constructing and maintaining necessary **built infrastructure**.

**Remnant vegetation** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Remnant vegetation** means **vegetation**:

1. that is:
  - a. an **endangered regional ecosystem**; or
  - b. an **of concern regional ecosystem**; or
  - c. a **least concern regional ecosystem**
2. forming the predominant canopy of the **vegetation**:
  - a. covering more than 50 per cent of the undisturbed predominant canopy
  - b. averaging more than 70 per cent of the **vegetation's** undisturbed height
  - c. composed of species characteristic of the **vegetation's** undisturbed predominant canopy.

**Restoration notice** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 54B.

Note: A **restoration notice** means a notice given to a person by an official requiring the person to rectify the matter if the official reasonably believes the person has committed a **vegetation clearing** offence and the matter can be rectified.

**Retained tree** means any native tree that has a diameter at 1.3 metres above ground level which is 20 centimetres or more. For multi-stemmed trees, add the diameters of the two largest stems.

**Retained vegetation** means an area of a fodder **regional ecosystem** that has an average canopy height of **fodder species** that is more than four metres.

**Rill erosion** means the removal of soil by runoff water to create small channels up to 30 centimetres deep.

**Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicide** means a broad spectrum herbicide that is primarily absorbed by the roots of plants, rather than the shoots.

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

The application of a herbicide must also comply with the approved product label or the safety and use conditions published by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

**Routine management** see schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017.

Note: **Routine management** means the **clearing** of native **vegetation**:

1. to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track if the maximum width of **clearing** for the fence, road or track is 10 metres; or
2. to construct necessary built infrastructure, 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 extent of **clearing** is less than two hectares
  - c. the total extent of the infrastructure is less than two hectares; or
3. by the owner on freehold land to source construction timber for establishing necessary infrastructure on any land of the owner, if:
  - a. the **clearing** does not cause **land degradation** as defined under the VMA
  - b. restoration of a similar type, and to the extent of the removed trees, is ensured; or
4. by the lessee of land subject to a lease issued under the *Land Act 1994* for agriculture or grazing purposes to source construction timber, other than commercial timber, for establishing necessary infrastructure on the land if:
  - a. the **clearing** does not cause **land degradation** as defined under the VMA
  - b. restoration of a similar type, and to the extent of the removed trees, is ensured.

**Salinisation** means the process of salts accumulating in soils or waters.

**Salinity** means **waterlogging** or the **salinisation** of **groundwater**, surface water or soil.

**Salinity expression area** means an area containing more than one of the following **salinity** indicators:

1. plant species tolerant of saline conditions, shallow water tables or poor drainage (**waterlogging**);
2. wet areas in lower parts of the landscape or bare soil (soil **scalding**);
3. dieback of larger trees in low, wetter parts of the landscape (outside drought conditions or the effects of fire);
4. salt accumulations on the surface (often white and powdery, sometimes crystalline); or
5. areas of shallow **groundwater**.

Note:

1. For example—*Melaleuca* spp. (in particular *Melaleuca bracteata* and *Melaleuca quinquenervia*), *Sporobolus* spp. (in particular saltwater or marine couch), *Salsola kali* (soft roly-poly), *Sclerolaena* spp. (in particular prickly roly-poly), *Cyperus* spp. (sedges), *Juncus* spp. (rushes), *Atriplex* spp. (saltbushes), *Halosarcia* spp. (samphires), *Chloris* spp. (Rhodes grasses), *Cynodon dactylon* (common couch), *Enchylaena tomentosa* (ruby saltbush), *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (purslane), *Tecticornia* spp. (samphires), *Phragmites* spp.
2. A water table less than five metres from the surface would generally be considered as shallow for this purpose. One mechanism to identify this is from a nearby bore.

**Scald** means a bare area formed when the surface soil is removed by wind or water erosion, exposing a more clayey subsoil which is devoid of vegetation and relatively impermeable to water.

Note: Definition from the National Committee on Soil and Terrain, (2009). Australian soil and land survey handbook. (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). (CSIRO Publishing: Melbourne, Victoria)

**Seasonal high water line** means the zone which represents the usual peak seasonal flow level and can be identified by deposition, debris or characteristic **vegetation** zonation. If this is not obvious, project a horizontal line from the **seasonal high water line** on the opposite bank.

**Selective harvesting** involves felling individual fodder trees using a chainsaw, or selectively pushing individual fodder trees using a tractor or dozer. This practice should cause minimal damage to the surrounding **vegetation**.

**Sheet erosion** is the removal of a relatively uniform layer of soil from the surface with generally no obvious channel created.

Note: Definition from the National Committee on Soil and Terrain, (2009). Australian soil and land survey handbook. (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). (CSIRO Publishing: Melbourne, Victoria)

**Significant residual impact** see the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

Note: **Significant residual impact** is an impact, whether direct or indirect, of a prescribed activity on all or part of a **prescribed environmental matter** that:

1. remains, or will or is likely to remain, (whether temporarily or permanently) despite on-site mitigation measures for the prescribed activity;
2. is, or will or is likely to be, significant.

Guidance for determining if a prescribed activity will have a **significant residual impact** on a **matter of state environmental significance** is provided in the Significant Residual Impact Guideline, Department State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, 2014.

**Slope** means a measure of the upward or downward incline of the land surface over any 30 metre length in the **application area**.

**Soil erosion** means, for the purpose of this code, forms of accelerated soil erosion, including **mass movement, gully erosion, rill erosion, sheet erosion**, tunnel erosion, stream bank erosion, **wind erosion**, or **scald**; and any associated loss of chemical, physical or biological fertility – including, but not limited to water holding capacity, soil structure, organic matter, soil biology, and nutrients.

**Stream bank erosion** means the removal of soil from a stream bank, typically during periods of high stream flow.

Note: Definition from the National Committee on Soil and Terrain, (2009). Australian soil and land survey handbook. (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). (CSIRO Publishing: Melbourne, Victoria)

**Stream order** means a numerical ordering classification of each stream segment according to its position within a catchment, as shown in figure 16.4.2. Streams are **watercourses** and **drainage features** shown on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map**.

**Stop work notice** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 54A.

Note: A **stop work notice** means a notice given to a person by an official requiring the person to stop committing a **vegetation** offence if the official reasonably believes the person is committing a **vegetation clearing** offence.

**Strip harvest area** means a strip where **strip harvesting** is undertaken.

**Strip harvesting** means fodder harvesting in strips (**strip harvest areas**), while retaining undisturbed areas of **vegetation (strip retention areas)** on both sides of a **strip harvest area**.

**Strip retention area** means an undisturbed area of **vegetation** required to be retained on all sides of a **strip harvest area** when undertaking **strip harvesting**.

**Tall immature tree** means the tallest immature trees retained as ‘surrogate’ **mature trees**.

**Thicket** means thick or dense patches of **vegetation** such as vine-scrub, gidgee (*Acacia cambagei*) or brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) that naturally occur in sparse to mid-**dense regional ecosystems**.

Note: **Thickets** are generally too small to be mapped as distinct vegetation communities, but may be visible on satellite or aerial imagery. The species composition within vine-scrub **thickets** may differ from the surrounding vegetation.

**Threatening processes** are natural or human induced process that adversely affect or may adversely affect regulated **vegetation**, populations, ecological communities or species. A threatening process threatens or may threaten the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a native species or ecological community and may include but are not limited to:

1. fragmentation
2. land clearing
3. climate change
4. weather events
5. weeds and pests (animal and plant) infestations
6. fire
7. disease

8. **land degradation**
9. **predation.**

**Tunnel erosion** means the removal of subsoil by water while the surface soil remains relatively intact.

Note: Definition from the National Committee on Soil and Terrain, (2009). Australian soil and land survey handbook (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). (CSIRO Publishing: Melbourne, Victoria)

**Unlawfully cleared** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: means **cleared** of **vegetation** by a person in contravention of:

1. a **vegetation clearing provision**, if the person:
  - a. has not contested an infringement notice given for the contravention; or
  - b. has been convicted of the contravention, whether or not the conviction is recorded; or
2. a tree **clearing** provision under the *Land Act 1994*, as in force before the commencement of the *Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2004*, section 3.

**Vegetation** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: For the purpose of this code, **vegetation** is limited to **vegetation** where it is identified as assessable under the Planning Regulation 2017.

**Vegetation clearing provision** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: A **vegetation clearing provision** is any of the following to the extent the provision relates to the **clearing** of **vegetation**:

1. the *Planning Act 2016*, section 162, 163(1), 164, 165 and 168(5);
2. for the **clearing** of **vegetation** that happened before the repeal of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* – section 578(1), 580(1), 581(1), 582 or 594(1) of that Act.

**Vegetation management requirements** means any conditions, restrictions, management requirements or outcomes identified in a **particular regulated area** which must be undertaken or complied with to achieve compliance with the **particular regulated area**.

**Vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: The **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** is the map certified by the chief executive [administering the VMA] as the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** showing particular **watercourses** and **drainage features** for the State. The map consists of the following documents:

1. the document called **Vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** (1:25 000)
2. the document called **Vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** (1:100 000 and 1:250 000).

**Vegetation management wetlands map** see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: The **vegetation management wetlands map** is the map certified by the chief executive [administering the VMA] as the **vegetation management wetlands map** showing particular **wetlands** for the state.

**Vegetation retention purposes** means **clearing** that is not intended to permanently remove **vegetation** or change **remnant vegetation** to non-remnant **vegetation**, but retains **vegetation** or allows it to regenerate over time. **Vegetation retention purposes** are:

1. **fodder harvesting**
2. **controlling non-native plants or declared pests**
3. **managing thickened vegetation**
4. **clearing of encroachment**
5. **necessary environmental clearing.**

**Watercourse** means a **watercourse** as defined under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, other than an artificial channel, that is shown:

1. at a scale of 1:25 000 on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** for the local government areas of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Noosa and Redlands, unless the application is to **clear vegetation** for an **extractive industry**; or
2. on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** for all other local governments and applications to **clear vegetation** for **extractive industries**.

**Waterlogging** means to soak or saturate with water.

**Weed cover** means the estimated percentage of the area that is covered by weeds, measured over a 30 metre by 30 metre (0.09 hectare) area.

**Wetland** means 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, and are shown on the **vegetation management wetlands map**.

**Wind erosion** means the movement of soil by wind.

## 16.7 Abbreviations

**PMAV** – Property map of assessable vegetation

**VMA** – *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

**REDD** – Regional Ecosystem Description Database