

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**; and
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 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)**.

Note: Guidance on addressing code requirements is available in the State Development Assessment Provisions Guidance Material: State code 16: Native vegetation clearing, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2016.

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. For the Brisbane Port LUP, see www.portbris.com.au.

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

Development	Relevant provisions of code
Operational work	
Public safety and relevant infrastructure activities	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27
Control non-native plants or declared pests	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO14, PO21, PO27, PO34 – PO35
Necessary environmental clearing	For land restoration and natural disaster preparation : Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO9, PO12, PO18, PO20, PO22, PO25, PO27, PO32 For natural channel diversion and contaminants removal : Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO10, PO13, PO19, PO20, PO22, PO26, PO27, PO33
Extractive Industry	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4

Development	Relevant provisions of code
	Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO22 – PO24, PO27 – PO28
Encroachment	Table 16.2.2 – PO2 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO15, PO21, PO27, PO39 – PO40
Fodder harvesting	Table 16.2.2 – PO2 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO14, PO21 – PO22, PO24, PO41 – PO48
Thinning	Table 16.2.2 – PO2 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO8, PO14, PO21, PO27, PO36 – PO38
High value agriculture clearing	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO29 – PO30
Irrigated high value agriculture clearing	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO29 – PO31
Coordinated project involving an extractive industry	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27 – PO28
Coordinated project involving high value agriculture clearing	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO29 – PO30
Coordinated project involving irrigated high value agriculture clearing	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO29 – PO31
Coordinated project for all other purposes	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27
Material change of use and/or Reconfiguration of a lot	
Material change of use and reconfiguring a lot – coordinated project	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO17, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27 If involving extractive industry , then also table 16.2.2 – PO28 If involving high value agriculture clearing , then also table 16.2.3 – PO29 – PO30 If involving irrigated high value agriculture clearing , then also table 16.2.3 – PO29 – PO31
Material change of use and reconfiguring a lot involving extractive industry	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO22 – PO24, PO27 – PO28
Material change of use and reconfiguring a lot involving high value agriculture clearing	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO29 – PO30
Material change of use and reconfiguring a lot involving irrigated high value agriculture clearing	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 Table 16.2.3 – PO7, PO11, PO16, PO20, PO22 – PO24, PO27, PO29 – PO31
Material change of use and reconfiguring a lot for which there will be no clearing as a result of the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot	Table 16.2.2 – PO5
Material change of use and reconfiguring a lot for which clearing is limited to clearing that could be done under an exemption for the purposes of the development prior to the material change of use and reconfiguring a lot application being approved	Table 16.2.2 – PO1 – PO4 and PO6
Material change of use and 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
Clearing avoids or minimises impacts	
<p>PO1 Clearing and adverse impacts of clearing do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided. 	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing on land in particular circumstances	
<p>PO2 Clearing is consistent with any notice requiring compliance on the land subject to the development application, unless a better environmental outcome can be achieved.</p> <p>Note: The discharge of the vegetation management requirements under the notice requiring compliance can only occur in conjunction with the better environmental outcome being legally secured.</p> <p>Further guidance on meeting the requirements of a better environmental outcome can be found in State Development Assessment Provisions Guidance Material: State code 16: Native vegetation clearing, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2016.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<p>PO3 Clearing is consistent with vegetation management requirements for particular regulated areas unless a better environmental outcome can be achieved.</p> <p>Note: The discharge of the vegetation management requirements under the notice requiring compliance can only occur in conjunction with the better environmental outcome being legally secured.</p> <p>Further guidance on meeting the requirements of a better environmental outcome can be found in State code 16: Native vegetation clearing guidance material.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<p>PO4 Clearing of a legally secured offset area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is consistent with the offset delivery plan; or agreement for the offset area on the land subject to the development application; or 2. only occurs if an additional offset is provided that is consistent with the relevant policy in the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, 2014. <p>Note: Reference to 'agreement' above includes the 'agreed delivery arrangement' for the offset area as well as instruments associated with the legally secured offset area. Clearing should be consistent with any agreement however described.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing of vegetation as a result of the material change of use or reconfiguration of a lot	
<p>PO5 Clearing as a result of a material change of use, or clearing as a result of reconfiguring a lot does not occur.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing that could already be done under an exemption	
<p>PO6 Clearing does not occur unless it is clearing that could be done under an exemption 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.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.2.3: Specific

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing associated with wetlands (public safety and infrastructure, a coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, and irrigated high value agriculture clearing)	
<p>PO7 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any natural wetland to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. 	<p>AO7.1 Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO7.2 Clearing within 100 metres of any natural wetland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. does not occur within 50 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed widths in table 16.3.1 in this code. <p>OR</p> <p>AO7.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with a natural wetland (matter of state environmental significance).</p>
Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, encroachment, thinning, fodder harvesting)	
<p>PO8 Clearing maintains vegetation associated with a natural wetland to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. 	<p>Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:</p> <p>AO8.1 Where clearing is necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, mechanical clearing does not occur within five metres of a natural wetland.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>AO8.2 Clearing only occurs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. within a 1.5 metre radius from the base of the stem of individual non-native or declared plants; or 2. to the extent necessary to provide access for the control of the non-native plants or declared pests. <p>AND</p> <p>AO8.3 Clearing for access tracks running parallel to a natural wetland is not to be located within 10 metres of the natural wetland.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Clearing for thinning:</p> <p>AO8.4 Where the clearing is for thinning, mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of a natural wetland.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Clearing for encroachment:</p> <p>AO8.5 Where the clearing is for encroachment, mechanical clearing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland; and 2. does not include the application of soil applied broad

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	<p>spectrum herbicides within 50 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland or within the distance specified from a wetland in the directions for use on the label for the product, whichever is the greater.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Clearing for fodder harvesting:</p> <p>A08.6 Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of any natural wetland.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A08.7 Strip harvesting or block harvesting does not occur within 100 metres of any natural wetland.</p>
Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation)	
<p>PO9 Clearing maintains vegetation associated with any natural wetland or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 2. aquatic habitat; and 3. terrestrial habitat. 	<p>A09.1 Clearing does not occur in, or within 100 metres of, any natural wetland.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A09.2 Clearing within 100 metres of any natural wetland and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. does not occur within 50 metres of the natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code. <p>OR</p> <p>A09.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.</p>
Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
<p>PO10 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any natural wetland or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. 	<p>AO10.1 Clearing does not occur in, or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO10.2 Clearing within 100 metres of any natural wetland and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. does not occur within 50 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code. <p>OR</p> <p>AO10.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO10.4 Where clearing is for natural channel diversion or contaminants removal, and clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. clearing has been reasonably minimised; and 2. the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with a natural wetland (a matter of state environmental significance).
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing)	
<p>PO11 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. 	<p>AO11.1 Clearing does not occur in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO11.2 Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within five metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature. <p>OR</p> <p>AO11.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature (a matter of state environmental significance).</p>
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (necessary environmental clearing- land restoration and natural disaster preparation)	
<p>PO12 Clearing maintains vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. 	<p>AO12.1 Clearing does not occur within any watercourse or drainage feature or within the relevant distances from each defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO12.2 Clearing in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 5 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature. <p>OR</p> <p>AO12.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.</p>
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (necessary environmental clearing – natural channel diversion, and contaminants removal)	
<p>PO13 Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 	<p>AO13.1 Clearing does not occur within any watercourse or drainage feature or within the relevant distances from each defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code.</p>

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. 	<p>OR</p> <p>AO13.2 Clearing in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within five metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature. <p>OR</p> <p>AO13.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. clearing has been reasonably minimised; and 2. the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated <p>an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with a watercourse or drainage feature (a matter of state environmental significance).</p>
<p>Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, thinning, fodder harvesting)</p>	
<p>PO14 Clearing maintains vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature to protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitats; and 4. terrestrial habitats. 	<p>Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:</p> <p>AO14.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>AO14.2 Clearing only occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. within a 1.5 metre radius from the base of the stem of individual non-native or declared plants; or 2. to the extent necessary to provide access for the control of the non-native plant or declared pest. <p>AND</p> <p>AO14.3 Clearing for access tracks running parallel to a watercourse or drainage feature is not to be located within 10 metres of the defining bank of the watercourse or drainage feature.</p> <p>Clearing is for thinning:</p> <p>AO14.4 Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature.</p> <p>Clearing for fodder harvesting:</p> <p>AO14.5 Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres from the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>AO14.6 Strip harvesting or block harvesting does not</p>

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	occur within 100 metres of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature .
Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features (encroachment)	
PO15 Clearing of encroachment maintains: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> bank stability by protecting against bank erosion water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants aquatic habitat; and terrestrial habitat. 	AO15.1 Mechanical clearing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and does not include the application of soil applied broad spectrum herbicides within 50 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature or within the distance specified from a wetland in the directions for use on the label for the product, whichever is the greater.
Maintaining connectivity (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing)	
PO16 In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land, sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes .	AO16.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 in this code.
Connectivity areas (coordinated project)	
PO17 In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes; or where this not reasonably possible, the applicant provides an offset. 	AO17.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code. OR AO17.2 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided; and clearing has been reasonably minimised; an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing on vegetation that forms a connectivity area (a matter of state environmental significance).
Maintaining connectivity (necessary environmental clearing - land restoration and natural disaster preparation)	
PO18 In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land, sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes , or where this is not reasonably possible, the cleared area is rehabilitated .	AO18.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code. OR AO18.2 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated .
Connectivity areas (necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
PO19 In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes; or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area; or where this not reasonably possible, the applicant provides an offset. 	AO19.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code. OR AO19.2 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated . OR AO19.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearing has been reasonably minimised; and the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation that forms a connectivity area (a matter of state environmental significance).
Soil erosion (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing, necessary environmental clearing)	
PO20 Clearing does not result in:	AO20.1 Clearing is undertaken in accordance with a sediment and erosion control plan, which includes measures

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> accelerated soil erosion including, but not limited to – mass movement, gully erosion, rill erosion, sheet erosion, tunnel erosion, stream bank erosion, wind erosion, or scalding; 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, within or outside the land the subject of the development application. 	<p>to ensure the rates of soil loss and sediment movement are the same or less than those prior to the proposed development.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO20.2 The local government is the assessment manager for the development application.</p> <p>Note: For guidance on developing a sediment and erosion control plan, please refer to the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Document, IECA, 2008.</p>
Soil erosion (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, thinning, encroachment, fodder harvesting)	
<p>PO21 Clearing does not result in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> accelerated soil erosion – including, but not limited to - mass movement, gully erosion, rill erosion, sheet erosion, tunnel erosion, stream bank erosion, wind erosion, or scalding; 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, within or outside the land subject of the development application. 	<p><i>Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:</i></p> <p>AO21.1 Mechanical clearing retains 50 percent of the ground cover (dead or alive) in each 50 by 50 metre (0.25 hectare) area.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>AO21.2 New access tracks to gain access to a weed infestation do not exceed five metres in width or de-stabilise the banks of any watercourse or drainage feature as a result of crossing, construction or use.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><i>Clearing for thinning:</i></p> <p>AO21.3 Mechanical clearing must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> retain 50 percent of the ground cover (dead or alive) in each 50 by 50 metre (0.25 hectare) area; and not occur on slopes in excess of 10 percent. <p>AND</p> <p><i>Clearing for encroachment:</i></p> <p>AO21.4 Mechanical clearing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> is limited to slopes less than five percent; and retains 50 percent of the ground cover (dead or alive) in each 50 by 50 metre (0.25 hectare) area. <p>AND</p> <p><i>Clearing for fodder harvesting:</i></p> <p>AO21.5 Strip harvesting or block harvesting does not occur on a slope that exceeds five percent, and is aligned across the slope.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO21.6 Harvesting occurs using selective harvesting or breaker harvesting methods.</p>
Salinity (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing, necessary environmental clearing, fodder harvesting)	
<p>PO22 Clearing does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through waterlogging, or through the salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil.</p>	<p>No acceptable outcome is prescribed.</p>
Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities,	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing)	
<p>PO23 Clearing maintains the current extent of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems.</p>	<p>AO23.1 Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO23.2 Clearing in an endangered regional ecosystem or in an of concern regional ecosystem does not exceed the width or area prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO23.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems (a matter of state environmental significance).</p>
Essential habitat (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing and irrigated high value agriculture clearing, fodder harvesting)	
<p>PO24 Clearing maintains the current extent of essential habitat.</p>	<p>AO24.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO24.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO24.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of essential habitat (a matter of state environmental significance).</p>
Essential habitat (necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation)	
<p>PO25 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area.</p>	<p>AO25.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO25.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO25.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.</p>
Essential habitat (necessary environmental clearing – natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
<p>PO26 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area, or maintains the current extent of essential habitat.</p>	<p>AO26.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO26.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO26.3 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO26.4 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and:</p>

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearing has been reasonably minimised; and the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated <p>an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of essential habitat (a matter of state environmental significance).</p>
Acid sulfate soils (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing, necessary environmental clearing, necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, thinning, encroachment)	
<p>PO27 Clearing 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"> aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; or mobilisation of acid or metals. 	<p>AO27.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO27.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the 5 metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> it does not involve mechanical clearing; and acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the State Planning Policy, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, 2014, and with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual, Department of Science Information Technology Innovation and the Arts, 2014. <p>OR</p> <p>AO27.3 The local government is the assessment manager for the development application.</p>
Clearing is staged (extractive industry)	
<p>PO28 Clearing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> is staged in line with operational needs that restrict clearing to the current operational area only occurs in the area from which material will be extracted, and any reasonably associated infrastructure, within the term of the development approval; and does not occur without required permits. 	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing for agriculture (coordinated project, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing)	
<p>PO29 Clearing only occurs where the land is suitable for agriculture having regard to topography, climate and soil attributes.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for determining land suitability is provided in the Guidelines for meeting the land suitability and economic viability requirements for high value and irrigated high value agriculture applications, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2015.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<p>PO30 Clearing only occurs where there is no alternative area on the land subject to the development application for the clearing.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
<p>PO31 For applications for irrigated high value agriculture clearing, the owner of the land is an eligible owner who has, or may have, access to enough water for establishing, cultivating and harvesting the crops to which the clearing relates.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing for necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation	
<p>PO32 Clearing does not occur, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area.</p>	<p>AO32.1 Clearing does not occur.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>AO32.2 Clearing maintains the natural floristic composition</p>

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	and range of sizes across the application area . OR AO32.3 Clearing does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code. OR AO32.4 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated .
Clearing for necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal	
PO33 Clearing does not occur, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area or maintains the current extent of vegetation .	AO33.1 Clearing does not occur. OR AO33.2 Clearing maintains the natural floristic composition and range of sizes across the application area . OR AO33.3 Clearing does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code. OR AO33.4 Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems are rehabilitated . OR AO33.5 Where clearing an endangered regional ecosystem or of concern regional ecosystem cannot be reasonably avoided, minimised or rehabilitated , an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of an endangered regional ecosystem or of concern regional ecosystem (a matter of state environmental significance).
Conserving remnant vegetation that are regional ecosystems (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests)	
PO34 Clearing activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maintain the natural floristic composition and range of sizes of each species of the regional ecosystem evenly spaced across the application area; and 2. retain mature trees. 	AO34.1 Mechanical clearing does not exceed the limitations defined in table 16.3.4 of this code. OR AO34.2 Soil applied broad spectrum herbicides are not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. applied via aerial application; or 2. ground applied on a broad acre basis; or 3. used inconsistently with the product directions.
Requirements for dense regional ecosystems (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests)	
PO35 Clearing retains canopy vegetation in dense regional ecosystems .	AO35.1 Clearing does not occur in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.5 of this code. OR AO35.2 Clearing and associated soil disturbance in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.5 occurs only occurs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. within a 1.5 metre radius from the base of the stem; or

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	2. individual non-native plants or declared pests ; and 3. to the extent necessary to provide access for the control of the non-native plants or declared pests .
Conserving vegetation (thinning)	
PO36 Clearing activities: 1. maintain the natural floristic composition and range of sizes of each species of the regional ecosystem evenly spaced across the application area ; and 2. retain habitat trees .	AO36.1 Thinning retains mature trees and habitat trees . AND AO36.2 Thinning retains immature trees to: 1. return the immature tree density to a more typical level 2. retain representatives of all the species that occur in the regional ecosystem in about the proportion to what would normally exist 3. retain the range of tree sizes that would normally occur; and 4. space immature trees as evenly as possible across the thinned area. AND AO36.3 Thinning is not undertaken by ground application of soil applied broad spectrum herbicides , or aerial application of any herbicides. Note: The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation publishes technical descriptions (http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/technical-descriptions/) which provide a detailed description of the normal range in structure and floristic composition of remnant regional ecosystems and their component vegetation communities. They should be used in conjunction with the fields from the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD) (http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download) for a normal description of the regional ecosystem .
Clearing limited to specific regional ecosystems (thinning)	
PO37 Clearing does not occur in the regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.6 of this code, except where clearing is solely for removing native plants not naturally occurring within the regional ecosystem .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Retained vegetation density (thinning)	
PO38 Clearing does not occur unless the density of vegetation that is retained is consistent with the natural floristic composition of the regional ecosystem .	AO38.1 The vegetation density is consistent with a representative reference site of the same regional ecosystem . OR AO38.2 The vegetation density is consistent with the natural floristic composition of the regional ecosystem as demonstrated by BioCondition benchmarks for regional ecosystem condition assessment, and the REDD. Note: DSITI publishes Technical descriptions (http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/technical-descriptions/) which provide a detailed description of the normal range in structure and floristic composition of remnant regional ecosystems and their component vegetation communities. They should be used in conjunction with the fields from the REDD (http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download) for a normal description of the regional ecosystem .
Clearing is limited to specific regional ecosystems (encroachment)	
PO39 Clearing of encroachment does not occur, other than in the regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.7 of this code.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Retained trees (encroachment)	
PO40 Clearing of encroachment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. results in the restoration of the regional ecosystem 2. retains mature trees and habitat trees 3. retains all woody vegetation within a grove; and 4. retains representatives of all immature, non-encroaching species in a natural pattern. 	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Limits to clearing for fodder harvesting (fodder harvesting)	
PO41 Clearing occurs only in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Balonne Shire Council 2. Barcaldine Shire Council 3. Barcoo Shire Council 4. Blackall Tambo Regional Council 5. Bulloo Shire Council 6. Diamantina Shire Council 7. Goondiwindi Regional Council 8. Longreach Regional Council 9. Maranoa Regional Council 10. Murweh Shire Council 11. Paroo Shire Council 12. Quilpie Shire Council 13. Western Downs Regional Council 14. Winton Shire Council. 	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO42 Clearing is limited to the extent necessary to provide fodder for stock.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO43 Clearing only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 or table 16.3.9 of this code.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO44 Clearing consists predominantly of fodder species .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Conserving vegetation (fodder harvesting)	
PO45 Clearing retains at least: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 50 percent of the predominant canopy cover of the vegetation over each 300 metre by 300 metre (nine hectare) area when selective harvesting or narrow strip harvesting; and 2. 55 percent of the predominant canopy cover of the vegetation over each 300 metre by 300 metre (nine hectare) area when block harvesting or, wide strip harvesting maintains the range of species of the regional ecosystem at the locality. 	AO45.1 Selective harvesting does not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. harvest more than five in 10 individual fodder trees in any given area 2. remove non-fodder species beyond that needed to provide access for harvesting; and 3. involve mechanical clearing within 50 metres of a scarp or an area of instability, in the following regional ecosystems 6.7.1, 6.7.6, 6.7.14, 6.7.15, 6.7.16, 11.7.1, 11.7.2 and 11.7.5. <p>AND</p> AO45.2 Block harvesting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is limited to the harvesting area and width of retained vegetation listed in table 16.3.10 2. retains non-fodder species with height of four metres or more within the harvested area 3. does not occur in fodder regional ecosystems that are less than 10 hectares in area or 500 metres in width 4. ensures tracks between blocks are limited to a width of 10 metres; and 5. only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 of this code. <p>AND</p> AO45.3 Wide strip harvesting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. occurs where the harvested strip is 70 metres – 135 metres in width 2. retains a minimum of 165 metres wide strip of retained

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	<p>vegetation on either side of the cleared strip</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> only occurs for an 800 metre length with the retention of a 200 metre wide patch of vegetation at the end of each length does not occur in fodder regional ecosystems that are less than 10 hectares in area or 500 metres in width; and only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 of this code. <p>AND</p> <p>AO45.4 Narrow strip harvesting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> occurs where the harvested strip is 20 to 50 metres in width retains vegetation on either side of the strip a width at least equal to the width of the harvested strip does not occur in fodder regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 and table 16.3.9 of this code that are less than 10 hectares in area or 500 metres in width; and only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 of this code.
Conserving endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems (fodder harvesting)	
<p>PO46 Clearing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> does not occur in vegetation that contains endangered regional ecosystems; and is limited to vegetation that contains of concern regional ecosystems 6.5.3, 11.5.13, 6.5.5 and 4.7.3, and by selective harvesting where it does not remove more than three in 10 fodder trees. 	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Cleared vegetation (fodder harvesting)	
<p>PO47 Cleared vegetation is not moved from where it falls.</p>	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Conserving the fodder resource (fodder harvesting)	
<p>PO48 Clearing does not reduce the total extent of the fodder species in the regional ecosystem listed in table 16.3.8 and table 16.3.9 of this code on a lot to below 50 percent of its current extent within any 10 year period.</p>	<p>AO48.1 Clearing is limited to the regional ecosystems and harvesting methods listed in table 16.3.8 and table 16.3.9 of this code.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>AO48.2 Clearing is limited to areas that have not been harvested in the past 10 years.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>AO48.3 Retained vegetation is not harvested within 10 years of the harvesting of an adjacent area which has been subject to either strip harvesting or block harvesting.</p>

16.3 Reference tables

Table 16.3.1

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

* Note: Refer to the structure category within the Regional ecosystem database, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, 2016

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)
Coastal bioregions and subregions	
1 or 2	10
3 or 4	25
5 or greater	50
Non-coastal bioregions and subregions	
1 or 2	25
3 or 4	50
5 or greater	100

Table 16.3.3

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

Table 16.3.4

Clearing limitations for mechanical weed control	
Estimated percent weed cover	Clearing limitations
Up to 50 percent	Retain all habitat trees and retained trees and at least 50 percent of the trees with a diameter of 15 centimetres – 19 centimetres, measured at breast height.
More than 50 percent	Retain all retained trees or habitat trees .

Table 16.3.5

Dense regional ecosystems					
3.2.1	3.10.17	7.8.2	7.12.16	8.12.17	12.2.3
3.2.2	3.10.18	7.8.3	7.12.17	8.12.18	12.2.12
3.2.11	3.10.19	7.8.4	7.12.19	8.12.19	12.2.21
3.2.12	3.11.1	7.8.11	7.12.20	8.12.28	12.3.1
3.2.13	3.11.2	7.8.12	7.12.37	8.12.29	12.3.13
3.2.17	3.11.3	7.8.13	7.12.39	8.12.30	12.5.13
3.2.21	3.12.1	7.8.14	7.12.40	9.5.2	12.8.3
3.2.28	3.12.2	7.11.1	7.12.41	9.8.3	12.8.4
3.2.29	3.12.20	7.11.2	7.12.42	9.8.7	12.8.5
3.2.30	3.12.21	7.11.3	7.12.43	9.11.8	12.8.6
3.2.31	3.12.22	7.11.6	7.12.44	9.11.9	12.8.7
3.3.1	3.12.35	7.11.7	7.12.45	9.12.8	12.8.13
3.3.2	3.12.36	7.11.8	7.12.46	9.12.34	12.8.18

Dense regional ecosystems					
3.3.3	3.12.3	7.11.10	7.12.47	11.2.3	12.8.21
3.3.4	3.12.4	7.11.12	7.12.48	11.3.11	12.8.22
3.3.5	3.12.5	7.11.14	7.12.49	11.4.1	12.9-10.15
3.3.6	3.12.6	7.11.23	7.12.50	11.4.6	12.9-10.16
3.3.7	7.2.1	7.11.24	7.12.64	11.5.11	12.11.1
3.3.38	7.2.2	7.11.25	7.12.68	11.5.15	12.11.4
3.3.39	7.2.5	7.11.27	8.2.2	11.5.18	12.11.10
3.3.40	7.2.6	7.11.28	8.2.4	11.7.5	12.11.11
3.3.55	7.2.9	7.11.29	8.2.5	11.8.3	12.11.12
3.3.68	7.2.10	7.11.30	8.3.1	11.8.6	12.11.13
3.5.3	7.3.3	7.11.36	8.3.9	11.8.7	12.12.1
3.5.4	7.3.4	7.12.1	8.3.10	11.8.13	12.12.10
3.5.20	7.3.5	7.12.2	8.8.1	11.9.4	12.12.13
3.5.32	7.3.10	7.12.4	8.10.1	11.9.8	12.12.16
3.7.1	7.3.17	7.12.5	8.11.2	11.10.8	12.12.17
3.8.1	7.3.23	7.12.6	8.11.10	11.11.5	12.12.18
3.8.2	7.3.35	7.12.7	8.12.1	11.11.18	13.11.7
3.8.5	7.3.36	7.12.9	8.12.2	11.11.21	13.12.6
3.10.1	7.3.37	7.12.10	8.12.3	11.12.4	
3.10.2	7.3.38	7.12.11	8.12.10	11.12.18	
3.10.3	7.3.49	7.12.12	8.12.11	12.2.1	
3.10.5	7.8.1	7.12.13	8.12.16	12.2.2	

Table 16.3.6

Regional ecosystems where thinning cannot occur					
1.10.5	3.12.4	7.11.7	8.3.9	10.4.5	11.11.18
2.1.1	3.12.5	7.11.8	8.3.10	10.4.6	11.11.19
2.1.2	3.12.6	7.11.10	8.5.7	10.4.7	11.11.21
2.1.3	3.12.20	7.11.12	8.8.1	10.7.3	11.12.4
2.1.4	3.12.21	7.11.14	8.10.1	10.7.7	11.12.12
2.7.1	3.12.22	7.11.23	8.11.2	10.7.8	11.12.18
2.7.2	3.12.28	7.11.24	8.11.7	10.9.1	11.12.21
2.10.5	3.12.35	7.11.25	8.11.9	10.9.2	12.1.1
3.1.1	3.12.36	7.11.26	8.11.10	10.9.3	12.1.2
3.1.2	3.12.37	7.11.27	8.12.1	10.9.6	12.1.3
3.1.3	3.12.38	7.11.28	8.12.2	10.10.1	12.2.1
3.1.4	4.3.23	7.11.29	8.12.3	11.1.1	12.2.2
3.1.5	4.7.1	7.11.30	8.12.10	11.1.2	12.2.3
3.1.6	4.7.6	7.11.36	8.12.11	11.1.3	12.2.12
3.2.1	4.7.7	7.12.1	8.12.16	11.1.4	12.2.21
3.2.2	4.7.8	7.12.2	8.12.17	11.2.3	12.3.1
3.2.11	4.9.15	7.12.4	8.12.18	11.3.1	12.3.13
3.2.12	4.9.17	7.12.5	8.12.19	11.3.5	12.5.9
3.2.13	4.9.19	7.12.6	8.12.28	11.3.8	12.5.13
3.2.17	5.7.1	7.12.7	8.12.30	11.3.11	12.8.3
3.2.21	5.7.2	7.12.9	9.3.9	11.3.17	12.8.4
3.2.28	5.7.5	7.12.10	9.3.23	11.3.34	12.8.5
3.2.29	5.7.12	7.12.11	9.4.1	11.4.1	12.8.6
3.2.30	5.7.13	7.12.12	9.4.2	11.4.3	12.8.7
3.2.31	5.7.14	7.12.13	9.4.3	11.4.5	12.8.13
3.3.1	7.1.1	7.12.16	9.5.2	11.4.6	12.8.18
3.3.2	7.1.2	7.12.17	9.5.15	11.4.7	12.8.19
3.3.3	7.1.3	7.12.19	9.5.16	11.4.8	12.8.21
3.3.4	7.1.4	7.12.20	9.7.2	11.4.9	12.8.22
3.3.5	7.2.1	7.12.39	9.8.3	11.4.10	12.8.23
3.3.6	7.2.2	7.12.40	9.8.6	11.5.10	12.9-10.6
3.3.7	7.2.5	7.12.41	9.8.7	11.5.11	12.9-10.9
3.3.38	7.2.6	7.12.42	9.10.3	11.5.15	12.9-10.15
3.3.39	7.2.10	7.12.43	9.11.8	11.5.16	12.9-10.16
3.3.40	7.3.3	7.12.44	9.11.9	11.5.18	12.11.1
3.3.68	7.3.4	7.12.45	9.11.28	11.7.1	12.11.4

Regional ecosystems where thinning cannot occur					
3.3.69	7.3.10	7.12.46	9.11.29	11.7.2	12.11.10
3.3.70	7.3.17	7.12.47	9.11.30	11.7.5	12.11.11
3.5.3	7.3.23	7.12.48	9.12.8	11.8.3	12.11.12
3.5.4	7.3.35	7.12.49	9.12.9	11.8.6	12.11.13
3.5.20	7.3.36	7.12.50	9.12.34	11.8.7	12.12.1
3.5.32	7.3.37	7.12.54	9.12.36	11.8.13	12.12.10
3.7.1	7.3.38	7.12.57	9.12.37	11.9.1	12.12.13
3.7.2	7.3.49	7.12.64	9.12.38	11.9.4	12.12.16
3.8.1	7.8.1	7.12.65	10.3.1	11.9.5	12.12.17
3.8.2	7.8.2	7.12.66	10.3.2	11.9.6	12.12.18
3.8.5	7.8.3	7.12.68	10.3.3	11.9.8	12.12.19
3.10.1	7.8.4	8.1.1	10.3.4	11.9.11	12.12.26
3.10.3	7.8.11	8.1.2	10.3.16	11.9.12	13.11.7
3.10.5	7.8.12	8.1.3	10.3.19	11.10.3	13.12.6
3.11.1	7.8.13	8.1.5	10.3.29	11.10.8	
3.11.2	7.8.14	8.2.2	10.3.30	11.11.2	
3.11.3	7.11.1	8.2.4	10.4.1	11.11.5	
3.12.1	7.11.2	8.2.5	10.4.2	11.11.13	
3.12.2	7.11.3	8.2.14	10.4.3	11.11.14	
3.12.3	7.11.6	8.3.1	10.4.4	11.11.16	

Table 16.3.7

Grassland regional ecosystems in which encroachment can be cleared					
3.3.56	4.3.13	4.9.9	6.7.17	10.3.7	11.4.11
3.3.60	4.3.20	5.7.9	8.3.12	10.3.8	11.8.11
3.3.61	4.9.7	5.7.10	9.8.5	11.3.20	11.9.12
3.12.32	4.9.8	6.3.13	9.12.42	11.3.31	

Table 16.3.8

Regional ecosystems in which fodder species are dominant and suitable for fodder harvesting by all harvesting practices						
4.5.1	5.5.2	5.7.14	6.5.8	6.5.14	6.7.9	6.7.17
4.5.2	5.5.4	6.3.21	6.5.9	6.5.15	6.7.10	
4.5.3	5.5.6	6.5.1	6.5.10	6.5.16	6.7.11	
4.5.4	5.6.4	6.5.6	6.5.11	6.5.18	6.7.12	
5.5.1	5.7.5	6.5.7	6.5.13	6.6.1	6.7.13	

Table 16.3.9

Regional ecosystems in which fodder species are not dominant and harvesting is limited to selective harvesting only					
4.7.3	6.3.24	6.5.17	6.7.15	11.3.28	11.7.2
5.5.3	6.5.2	6.7.1	6.7.16	11.3.17	11.11.2
6.3.16	6.5.3	6.7.6	11.3.2	11.5.13	
6.3.18	6.5.5	6.7.14	11.3.20	11.7.1	

Table 16.3.10

Block harvesting	
Block harvesting area	Minimum width of retained vegetation
1 hectare – 4 hectares (100 metres by 100 metres – 200 metres by 200 metres)	100 metres
0.5 hectares (75 metres by 75 metres)	50 metres
0.25 hectares (50 metres by 50 metres)	25 metres

Table 16.3.11

Measurements of mature trees at 1.3 metres (diameter breast height)		
Clearing purpose	Bioregion/subregion	Measurement at 1.3 metres
Encroachment	N/A	Trees with a single trunk – >20 centimetres Trees with several trunks – >30 centimetres
Thinning and weed control	Coastal bioregions and subregions	Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Angophora, Lophostemon – >40 centimetres Genera other than Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Angophora and Lophostemon – >20 centimetres
Thinning and weed control	Non-coastal bioregions and subregions	Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Angophora, Lophostemon – >30 centimetres Genera other than Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Angophora and Lophostemon – >20 centimetres

Table 16.3.12

Range of size classes – trees	
Class	Diameter at breast height (1.3 metres)
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

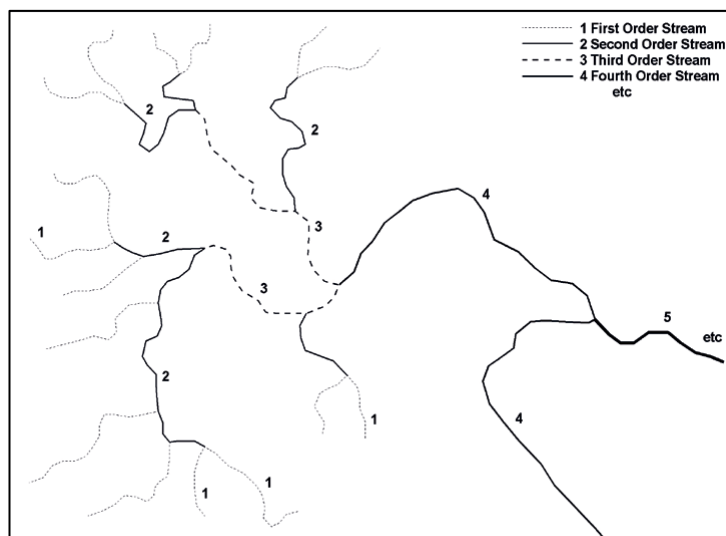
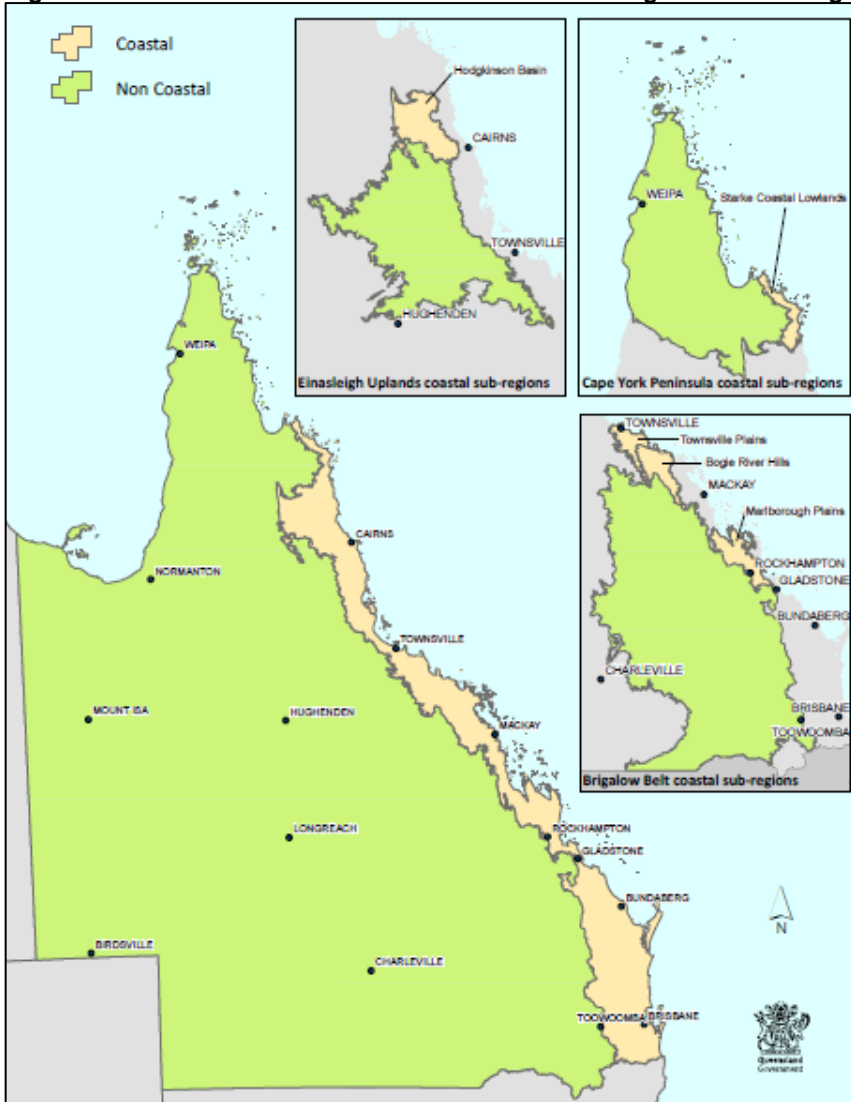


Figure 16.4.2: Diagrammatic view of stream ordering

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 2014, [Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy](#)

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

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 2016, [Regional ecosystems 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 and Mines 2015, [Guidelines for Applying to Clear for High-value or Irrigated High-value Agriculture](#)

Department of Natural Resources and Mines 2016, 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.

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.

Application area means the area identified as proposed for **clearing** in the **property vegetation management plan**.

Benchmarks means the quantitative values derived from reference sites for each condition attribute assessed in BioCondition, and are used as a reference value for comparison purposes. **Benchmarks** have been developed from information published by the State of Queensland (acting through the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts).

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 harvesting means harvesting in a patch or clump and retaining undisturbed fodder **vegetation** around the block.

Breaker harvesting means harvesting using a single tractor with a breaker bar to push down or break off the top or branches of fodder trees.

Broadacre cropping means the commercial cultivation of plants for oil; winter and summer cereals including wheat, barley, oats, triticale, sorghum, maize and millets; pulses including lupins, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, mung beans, soybeans, lentils, guar, dolichos; sugar cane; rice; or cotton; or tea; or another commercial **crop** as approved by the chief executive of the VMA.

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**.

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 infrastructure but is associated with the use applied for
2. **clearing** that will become exempt 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** 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 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** 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.

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*.

Crops see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Crops** means all or any of the following:

1. annual **horticulture**; or
2. **broadacre cropping**; or
3. perennial **horticulture**.

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 either a prohibited matter or restricted matter identified under schedules 1 or 2 of 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.

Dense regional ecosystems means **regional ecosystems** listed in table 16.3.5.

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 on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map** for the local government areas of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Redlands, excluding applications to **clear vegetation for extractive industry**; or
 - b. on the **vegetation management and drainage feature watercourse map** for all other local governments and applications to **clear vegetation for extractive industries**.

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).

Eligible owner see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, section 22DAC.

Note: **Eligible owner** means an owner of land who:

1. is authorised under the *Water Act 2000*, section 20 to take overland flow water or sub artesian water for any purpose; or
2. holds a water entitlement for the taking of water under the *Water Act 2000*; or
3. holds an existing authority for the taking of water under the *Water Act 2000*, section 1089; or
4. was, when the application was made, eligible to participate in a process for a water entitlement; or
5. is a customer of a water service provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*; or
6. holds an approval under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*, chapter 8 and the resource to which the approval relates is water; or
7. has applied for a water licence under the *Water Act 2000*, section 206; or
8. holds, or has a right to be supplied water under, an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*; or

9. is authorised to take water under a law of another State or Territory in compliance with an authorisation declared under the *Water Act 2000*, section 808(1)(b).

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 visible on aerial photographs or satellite imagery taken in the year 1950 to present.

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'.

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**.

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.

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, and/or divide the property into sub-units to allow for back burning in the event of a wildfire.

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 cibaria* (*Acacia brachystachya*)
3. *Acacia excelsa*
4. *Acacia pendula*
5. *Acacia stowardii*
6. *Alphitonia excelsa*
7. *Flindersia maculosa*
8. *Geijera parviflora*.

Groundwater means water occurring below the surface of the ground.

Grove means an area of woody **vegetation** identified by either of the following:

1. five or more trees that are either **mature trees** or **habitat trees** within an area of 0.25 hectares; or
2. a patch of woody **vegetation** that is present in aerial photography or satellite imagery that is more than 20 years of age.

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

Habitat trees means trees used for habitat, nesting and feeding. **Habitat trees** are trees used or potentially used by hollow-dwelling fauna. **Habitat trees** are identified as a living tree with one or more visible hollows of 10 cm or more in diameter that positioned at least two metres above the base of the tree. Nest trees are trees which contain an active bird's nest or the nest of a raptor or other bird which

utilises the same nest year after year. Feed trees are trees which display five or more incisions typically made by a yellow bellied glider.

Horticulture means the commercial cultivation of fruit, vegetables and flowers including berries, grapes, vines and nuts.

High value agriculture clearing see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **High value agriculture clearing** means **clearing** carried out to establish, cultivate and harvest **crops**, other than **clearing** for grazing activities or plantation forestry. For further information refer to Guidelines for applying to clear for high-value or irrigated high-value agriculture, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2015.

Immature trees means all woody plants that are greater than two metres high, other than **mature trees**.

Irrigated high value agriculture clearing see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Irrigated high value agriculture clearing** means **clearing** carried out to establish, cultivate and harvest **crops**, or pasture, other than **clearing** for plantation forestry, that will be supplied with water by artificial means. For further information refer to Guidelines for applying to clear for high-value or irrigated high-value agriculture, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2015.

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**.

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**.

Mass movement is a landslip, 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 trees means trees with a diameter at 1.3 metres (diameter breast height) as specified in table 16.3.11.

Mechanical clearing means the **clearing** of **vegetation** using 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*.

Other development associated with development approvals under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* 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.

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.

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.

Property vegetation management plan see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Note: **Property vegetation management plan** mean a plan of the area to which a **vegetation clearing** application or concurrence agency application relates showing the matters prescribed under a regulation.

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 16.3.12.

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.

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 percent of the undisturbed predominant canopy
 - b. averaging more than 70 percent 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.

Routine management see 1 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 build 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.

Scalding means:

1. a bare area formed when the surface soil is removed by wind or water erosion, exposing a more clayey subsoil which is relatively impermeable to water; or
2. where surface soil has been transformed into a hard-setting condition by exposure to raindrop impact or **wind erosion**.

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 means the harvesting of individual fodder trees in **regional ecosystems** identified in tables 16.3.8 or 16.3.9 while retaining at least 50 percent of the fodder trees in the harvesting area.

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

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 applied broad spectrum herbicides means herbicides that are taken up through the root systems of plants, such as those with hexazinone and tebuthiuron as active ingredients.

Soil erosion means **mass movement, gully erosion, rill erosion, sheet erosion**, tunnel erosion, stream bank erosion, **wind erosion**, or **scalding**; 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 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 harvesting means harvesting fodder in a strip and retaining undisturbed fodder **vegetation** along both sides of the strip.

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

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.

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 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.

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 and Redlands, excluding applications to **clear vegetation for 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*