

State code 16: Native vegetation clearing

Purpose statement

The purpose of this code is to ensure development:

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

Using this code

The assessment benchmarks for this code comprise:

- a purpose statement which identifies the overall intent of the code;
- performance outcomes which set benchmarks to achieve the purpose statement of the code;
- acceptable outcomes which identify one way to achieve the relevant performance outcome.

Development complies with the code where:

- it complies with the acceptable outcomes for the performance outcome; or
- it complies with all the performance outcomes, where not complying with the acceptable outcomes; or
- development does not meet relevant performance outcome(s) and SARA determines, on balance, that the development complies with the purpose statement.

This code also includes the glossary of terms for definitions relevant to this code and reference documents; including the guideline **State Development Assessment Provisions guideline - State Code 16: Clearing native vegetation**, which provides direction on how to address this code.

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.

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.

Performance outcomes and acceptable outcomes

Table 16.1: Relevant code provisions for each type of development

Clearing purpose	Relevant provisions
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot and / or operational work	
Public safety, relevant infrastructure activities and / or consequential development of IPA approval	Table 16.2 and Table 16.3
Extractive industry	Table 16.2 and Table 16.4
Coordinated project (agriculture)	Table 16.2 and Table 16.5
Coordinated project (extractive industry)	Table 16.2 and Table 16.6
Coordinated project (all other purposes)	Table 16.2 and Table 16.7
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for all other purposes	Table 16.2 and Table 16.8
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for which there will be no clearing as a result of the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot	Table 16.9
Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for which clearing is limited to clearing that could be done as exempt clearing work for the purpose of the development prior to the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application being approved	Table 16.2 and Table 16.10
Operational work	
Necessary environmental clearing	Table 16.2 and Table 16.11
Control non-native plants or declared pests	Table 16.2 and Table 16.12
Encroachment	Table 16.2 and Table 16.13
Fodder harvesting	Table 16.2 and Table 16.14
Managing thickened vegetation	Table 16.2 and Table 16.15

Table 16.2: General

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO1 Clearing of vegetation is consistent with any notice requiring compliance on the land subject to the development application, unless a better environmental outcome can be achieved.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO2 Clearing of vegetation is consistent with vegetation management requirements for particular regulated areas unless a better environmental outcome can be achieved.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO3 Clearing of vegetation in a legally secured offset area : 1. is consistent with the offset delivery plan; or 2. is consistent with an agreement for the offset area on the land subject to the development application; or 3. only occurs if an additional offset is provided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.3: Public safety, relevant infrastructure activities and / or consequential development of IPA approval

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO4 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	
Clearing associated with wetlands	
PO5 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO5.1 Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland . OR AO5.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland : 1. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed widths in reference table 1 in this code.
PO6 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features	
PO7 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature , maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem associated with the watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO7.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and 2. within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO7.2 Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature , or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code: 1. does not exceed the widths in reference table 1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.
PO8 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity	
PO9 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land retain sufficient vegetation to: 1. maintain ecological processes; and	AO9.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with reference table 3 in this code.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
2. ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes .	
Soil erosion if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO10 Clearing of vegetation does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land the subject of the development application.	AO10.1 Clearing only occurs if an erosion and sediment control plan is developed and implemented to prevent increased soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing .
Salinity	
PO11 Clearing of vegetation within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: 1. waterlogging ; 2. the salinisation of groundwater , surface water or soil.	AO11.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
Conserving least concern regional ecosystems - Minimising clearing of areas temporarily required to enable construction of the infrastructure	
PO12 Clearing of vegetation for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure, such as temporary use roads or access tracks, maintains the composition, structure and function of least concern regional ecosystems .	AO12.1 Clearing for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure does not occur in a least concern regional ecosystem . OR AO12.2 Total clearing for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure in any regional ecosystem combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR AO12.3 Total clearing for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure in any regional ecosystem combined does not exceed areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO13 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area is rehabilitated .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems	
PO14 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of endangered regional ecosystems and/or of concern regional ecosystems .	AO14.1 Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem . OR AO14.2 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AO14.3 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO15 Where clearing of vegetation in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystems does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: 1. is rehabilitated ; or 2. where the cleared area cannot reasonably be rehabilitated , an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Essential habitat excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO16 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO16.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat . OR AO16.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO16.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO17 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO18 Clearing of vegetation 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO18.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 . OR AO18.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.

Table 16.4: Extractive industry

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO19 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with wetlands	
PO20 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO20.1 Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland . OR AO20.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland : 1. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed widths in table reference table 1 in this code.
PO21 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features	
PO22 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature , maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem associated with the watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO22.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and 2. within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO22.2 Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature , or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code: 1. does not exceed the widths in table reference table 1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.
PO23 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO24 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land retain sufficient vegetation to maintain: ecological processes; and - ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.	AO24.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with reference table 3 in this code.
Soil erosion if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO25 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land the subject of the development application.	AO25.1 Clearing only occurs if an erosion and sediment control plan is developed and implemented to prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing .
Salinity	
PO26 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: waterlogging; - the salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil.	AO26.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems	
PO27 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of endangered regional ecosystems and/or of concern regional ecosystems .	AO27.1 Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem . OR AO27.2 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR AO27.3 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO28 Where clearing of vegetation in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystems does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: - is rehabilitated; or - where the cleared area cannot be rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Essential habitat excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO29 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO29.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat . OR

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AO29.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR AO29.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO30 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO31 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO31.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3. OR AO31.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.
Staged clearing	
PO32 Clearing of vegetation: 1. is staged in line with operational needs that restrict clearing to the current operational area; and 2. only occurs in the area from which material will be extracted, and any reasonably associated built infrastructure, within the term of the development approval; and 3. does not occur without required permits.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.5: Coordinated project (agriculture)

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO33 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with wetlands	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO34 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO34.1 Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland . OR AO34.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland : 1. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed widths in table reference table 1 in this code.
PO35 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features	
PO36 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature , maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem associated with the watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO36.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and 2. within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO36.2 Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature , or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code: 1. does not exceed the widths in table reference table 1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.
PO37 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity	
PO38 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land retain sufficient vegetation to: 1. maintain ecological processes; and 2. ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.	AO38.1 Clearing occurs in accordance reference table 3 of this code.
PO39 Where: 1. clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem does not maintain ecological processes; and	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
2. the regional ecosystem does not remain in the landscape despite threatening processes ; and 3. the clearing cannot be avoided; and 4. the clearing has been mitigated an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	
Soil erosion if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO40 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land the subject of the development application.	AO40.1 Clearing only occurs if an erosion and sediment control plan is developed and implemented to prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing .
Salinity	
PO41 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: 1. waterlogging ; 2. the salinisation of groundwater , surface water or soil.	AO41.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems	
PO42 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of endangered regional ecosystems and/or of concern regional ecosystems .	AO42.1 Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem . OR AO42.2 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR AO42.3 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO43 Where clearing of vegetation in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystems does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: 1. is rehabilitated ; or 2. where the cleared area cannot be rehabilitated , an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Essential habitat excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO44 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO44.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat . OR

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AO44.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR AO44.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO45 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO46 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO46.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3. OR AO46.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.
Clearing for agriculture	
PO47 Clearing of vegetation only occurs where the land is suitable for agriculture having regard to topography, climate and soil attributes.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO48 For applications for irrigated crops, the owner of the land has, or may have, access to enough water for establishing, cultivating and harvesting the crops to which the clearing of vegetation relates.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.6: Coordinated project (extractive industry)

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO49 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with wetlands	
PO50 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and	AO50.1 Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland .

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	OR AO50.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland : 1. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed widths in reference table 1 in this code.
PO51 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features	
PO52 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature , maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem associated with the watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO52.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and 2. within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO52.2 Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature , or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code: 1. does not exceed the widths in reference table 1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.
PO53 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity	
PO54 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land retain sufficient vegetation to: 1. maintain ecological processes; and 2. ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.	AO54.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with reference table 3 of this code.
PO55 Where: 1. clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem does not maintain ecological processes; and 2. the regional ecosystem; and 3. the clearing cannot be avoided; and 4. the clearing has been mitigated an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Soil erosion if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO56 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land the subject of the development application.	AO56.1 Clearing only occurs if an erosion and sediment control plan is developed and implemented to prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing .
Salinity	
PO57 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: 1. waterlogging ; 2. the salinisation of groundwater , surface water or soil.	AO57.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems	
PO58 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of endangered regional ecosystems and/or of concern regional ecosystems .	AO58.1 Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem . OR AO58.2 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO58.3 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO59 Where clearing of vegetation in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystems does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: 1. is rehabilitated ; or 2. where the cleared area cannot be rehabilitated , an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Essential habitat excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO60 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO60.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat . OR AO60.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO60.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO61 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO62 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO62.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1 , land zone 2 or land zone 3 . OR AO62.2 Clearing in land zone 1 , land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.
Staged clearing	
PO63 Clearing : 1. is staged in line with operational needs that restrict clearing to the current operational area; and 2. only occurs in the area from which material will be extracted, and any reasonably associated built infrastructure , within the term of the development approval; and 3. does not occur without required permits.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.7: Coordinated project (all other purposes)

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO64 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with wetlands	
PO65 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO65.1 Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland . OR AO65.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland : 1. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland ; and 2. does not exceed widths in table reference table 1 in this code.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO66 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features	
PO67 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature , maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem associated with the watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO67.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature ; and 2. within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO67.2 Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature , or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code: 1. does not exceed the widths in table reference table 1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank , unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature .
PO68 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity	
PO69 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land retain sufficient vegetation to: 1. maintain ecological processes ; and 2. ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes .	AO69.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with reference table 3 of this code.
PO70 Where: 1. clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem does not maintain ecological processes ; and 2. the regional ecosystem ; and 3. the clearing cannot be avoided; and 4. the clearing has been mitigated an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Soil erosion if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO71 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land the subject of the development application.	AO71.1 Clearing only occurs if an erosion and sediment control plan is developed and implemented to prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing .
Salinity	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO72 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: 1. waterlogging; 2. the salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil.	AO72.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
Conserving least concern regional ecosystems - Minimising clearing of areas temporarily required to enable construction of the infrastructure	
PO73 Clearing of vegetation for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure, such as temporary use roads or access tracks, maintains the composition, structure and function of least concern regional ecosystems .	AO73.1 Clearing for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure does not occur in a least concern regional ecosystem . OR AO73.2 Total clearing for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure in any regional ecosystem combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR AO73.3 Total clearing for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure in any regional ecosystem combined does not exceed areas prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code.
PO74 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem for temporary use areas to construct necessary infrastructure does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area is rehabilitated .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems	
PO75 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of endangered regional ecosystems and/or of concern regional ecosystems .	AO75.1 Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem . OR AO75.2 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in table reference table 1 of this code. OR AO75.3 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO76 Where clearing of vegetation in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystems does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: 1. is rehabilitated ; or 2. where the cleared area cannot be rehabilitated , an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	
Essential habitat excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO77 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO77.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat . OR AO77.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO77.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO78 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO79 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO79.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 . OR AO79.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.

Table 16.8: Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for all other purposes

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO80 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with wetlands	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO81 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO81.1 Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland . OR AO81.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland : 1. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed widths in reference table 1 in this code.
PO82 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features	
PO83 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature , maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem associated with the watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO83.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and 2. within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO83.2 Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature , or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code: 1. does not exceed the widths in table reference table 1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.
PO84 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity	
PO85 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land, retain sufficient vegetation to maintain: 1. ecological processes; and 2. ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.	AO85.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with reference table 3 in this code.
Soil erosion if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO86 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land the subject of the development application.	AO86.1 Clearing only occurs if an erosion and sediment control plan is developed and implemented to prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing .
Salinity	
PO87 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: 1. waterlogging ; 2. the salinisation of groundwater , surface water or soil.	AO87.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems	
PO88 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of endangered regional ecosystems and/or of concern regional ecosystems .	AO88.1 Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem . OR AO88.2 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO88.3 Total clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems combined does not exceed areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO89 Where clearing of vegetation in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystems does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: 1. is rehabilitated ; or 2. where the cleared area cannot be rehabilitated , an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Essential habitat excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO90 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO90.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat . OR AO90.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO90.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO91 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO92 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO92.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1 , land zone 2 or land zone 3 . OR AO92.2 Clearing in land zone 1 , land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.

Table 16.9: Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for which there will be no clearing as a result of the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO93 Clearing as a result of a material change of use or clearing as a result of reconfiguring a lot does not occur.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.10: Material change of use and / or reconfiguring a lot for which clearing is limited to clearing that could be done as exempt clearing work for the purpose of the development prior to the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application being approved

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO94 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing that could already be done under an exemption	
PO95 Clearing of vegetation does not occur unless it is clearing that could be done as exempt clearing work for the purpose of the development prior to the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application being approved.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.11: Necessary environmental clearing

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO96 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	
Clearing associated with wetlands (Land Restoration and Natural Disaster Preparation)	
PO97 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO97.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland. OR AO97.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland only occurs where: 1. clearing does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and 2. clearing retains all mature trees and habitat trees; and 3. clearing that is for flood preparation complies with all of the following: a. clearing is undertaken by felling only; and; b. clearing does not exceed 100 square metres; and c. clearing does not occur outside the defining banks of a natural wetland. OR AO97.3 Clearing to provide necessary access to undertake necessary environmental clearing only occurs where clearing: 1. does not exceed 10 metres in width; and 2. retains all mature trees and habitat trees; and 3. the access track: a. runs parallel to a natural wetland and clearing is not within 10 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland; or b. is required to provide access across the wetland.
PO98 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem, and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area is rehabilitated.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with wetlands (natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
PO99 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO99.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland. OR AO99.2 Clearing within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland only occurs where:

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	clearing does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and clearing retains all mature trees and habitat trees. OR AO99.3 Clearing to provide necessary access to undertake necessary environmental clearing only occurs where clearing: - does not exceed 10 metres in width; and - retains all mature trees and habitat trees; and - the access track: - runs parallel to a natural wetland and clearing is not within 10 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland; or - is required to provide access across the wetland.
PO100 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem, and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: - is rehabilitated; or - where the cleared area cannot reasonably be rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (Land Restoration and Natural Disaster Preparation)	
PO101 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: - bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; - water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; - aquatic habitat; - terrestrial habitat.	AO101.1 Clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: - inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and - within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO101.2 Clearing in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code only occurs where: clearing does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and clearing retains all mature trees and habitat trees; and clearing that is for flood preparation complies with all of the following: clearing is undertaken by felling only; and clearing does not exceed 100 square metres; and clearing does not occur outside of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature. OR

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AO101.3 Clearing to provide necessary access to undertake necessary environmental clearing only occurs where clearing: 1. does not exceed 10 metres in width; and 2. retains all mature trees and habitat trees; and 3. the access track: a. runs parallel to a watercourse or drainage feature and clearing is not within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; or b. is required to provide access across the watercourse or drainage feature.
PO102 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem, and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area is rehabilitated.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
PO103 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any watercourse or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO103.1 Clearing does not occur within any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and 2. within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code. OR AO103.2 Clearing in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in reference table 2 of this code only occurs where: 1. clearing does not exceed 0.5 hectares; and 2. clearing retains all mature trees and habitat trees. OR AO103.3 Clearing to provide necessary access to undertake necessary environmental clearing only occurs where: 1. clearing does not exceed 10 metres in width; and 2. clearing retains all mature trees and habitat trees; and 3. the access track: a. runs parallel to a watercourse or drainage feature and clearing is not within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; or b. is required to provide access across the watercourse or drainage feature.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO104 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem associated with a watercourse and/or drainage feature does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: 1. is rehabilitated; or 2. where the cleared area cannot reasonably be rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity (land restoration and natural disaster preparation)	
PO105 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land retain sufficient vegetation to: 1. maintain ecological processes; and 2. ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.	AO105.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with reference table 3 of this code.
PO106 Where: 1. clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem does not maintain ecological processes; and 2. the regional ecosystem does not remain in the landscape despite threatening processes; and 3. the clearing cannot be avoided; and 4. the clearing has been mitigated; the cleared area is rehabilitated .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Connectivity (natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
PO107 Regional ecosystems on the subject land and any adjacent land retain sufficient vegetation to: 1. maintain ecological processes; and 2. ensure the regional ecosystem remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.	AO107.1 Clearing occurs in accordance with reference table 3 of this code.
PO108 Where: 1. clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem does not maintain ecological processes; and 2. the regional ecosystem does not remain in the landscape despite threatening processes; and 3. the clearing cannot be avoided; and 4. the clearing has been mitigated; the cleared area: a. is rehabilitated; or b. where the cleared area cannot reasonably be rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Soil erosion if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO109 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land the subject of the development application.	AO109.1 Clearing only occurs if an erosion and sediment control plan is developed and implemented to prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing .
Salinity	
PO110 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: 1. waterlogging; 2. the salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil.	AO110.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Essential habitat (land restoration and natural disaster preparation) excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO111 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO111.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat. OR AO111.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO111.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO112 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually, and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area is rehabilitated.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Essential habitat (natural channel diversion and contaminants removal) excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO113 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO113.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat. OR AO113.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO113.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO114 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually, and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area: 1. is rehabilitated; or 2. where the cleared area cannot reasonably be rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO115 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:	AO115.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3. OR

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO115.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.
Maintaining the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem (land restoration and natural disaster preparation)	
PO116 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem .	AO116.1 Clearing retains all of the following: 1. habitat trees; 2. mature trees; and 3. the natural floristic composition and range of sizes across the application area. OR AO116.2 Clearing is for the purpose of natural disaster preparation and does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO116.3 Clearing is for the purpose of natural disaster preparation and does not exceed the areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO117 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area is rehabilitated .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Maintaining the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem (natural channel diversion and contaminants removal)	
PO118 Clearing of vegetation maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem .	AO118.1 Clearing retains all of the following: 1. habitat trees; 2. mature trees; and 3. the natural floristic composition and range of sizes across the application area.
PO119 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, the cleared area:	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
1. is rehabilitated; or 2. where the cleared area cannot reasonably be rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact.	
Duration of clearing, preventing land degradation, and maintaining biodiversity, ecological processes and regional ecosystems (Land Restoration, Natural Disaster Preparation and Contaminates Removal)	
PO120 Clearing occurs only during a period that:	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
1. will not contribute to land degradation; and 2. ensures the ongoing maintenance of ecological processes and biodiversity; and	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
3. maintains the regional ecosystem .	

Table 16.12: Control non-native plants or declared pests

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing avoids and minimises impacts	
PO121 Clearing of vegetation and adverse impacts of clearing vegetation do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been: 1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Clearing associated with wetlands	
PO122 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO122.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas, unless it is required to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or declared pests: 1. inside the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. within 20 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland. AND AO122.2 Clearing to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or declared pests only occurs where: 1. clearing does not exceed five metres in width; and 2. clearing retains all mature trees and habitat trees; and 3. the access track: a. runs parallel to a natural wetland and clearing is not within 10 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland; or b. is required to provide access across the wetland. AND AO122.3 Chemical clearing retains: 1. all mature trees; and 2. all habitat trees; and 3. at least 50 per cent of immature trees in each 50 metre by 50 metre area. AND AO122.4 Root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the defining bank of a natural wetland: 1. 100 metres; or

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	- the distance specified on the approved product label; or - the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. AND AO122.5 Aerial application of a foliar herbicide does not occur within whichever is the greater distance from the defining bank of a natural wetland; 50 metres; or - the distance specified for wetlands on the approved product label; or - the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features	
PO123 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: - bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; - water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; - aquatic habitat; - terrestrial habitat.	AO123.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas, unless it is required to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or declared pests: - inside the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature; and - within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 1 or 2 watercourse or drainage feature; and - within 15 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 3 or 4 watercourse or drainage feature; and - within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 5 or more watercourse or drainage feature. AND AO123.2 Clearing to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or declared pests only occurs where: clearing does not exceed five metres in width; and clearing retains all habitat trees and mature trees; and - the access track: - runs parallel to the watercourse or drainage feature and is not within 10 metres of the defining bank of the watercourse or drainage feature; or - is required to provide access across the watercourse or drainage feature. AND

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AO123.3 Chemical clearing retains all of the following: 1. mature trees; and 2. habitat trees; and 3. at least 50 per cent of immature trees in any 50 metre by 50 metre area. AND AO123.4 Root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature: 1. 100 metres; or 2. any distance specified on the approved product label; or 3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. AND AO123.5 Aerial application of a foliar herbicide does not occur within whichever is the greater distance from the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature: 1. 50 metres; or 2. any distance specified on the approved product label; or 3. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
Soil erosion	
PO124 Clearing of vegetation does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land subject of the development application.	AO124.1 Clearing only occurs where recognised best practice methods are employed to: 1. prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing; and 2. stabilise soil erosion and instability which would result from clearing; and 3. prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of the clearing. AND AO124.2 Mechanical clearing: 1. does not occur on a slope greater than 15 percent; and 2. in each 50 by 50 metre area (0.25 hectares), retains 50 per cent of the ground cover and does not disturb more than 50 per cent of the ground cover. AND

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AO124.3 New access tracks required to provide necessary access to control a non-native plant or declared pests 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.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO125 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; 2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO125.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3. OR AO125.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: 1. mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.
Conserving remnant vegetation that is a regional ecosystem	
PO126 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 all habitat trees and mature trees.	AO126.1 Mechanical clearing: 1. only occurs within 1.5 metres from the edge of the canopy of individual non-native plants, unless the clearing is required to provide necessary access to control a non-native plant or declared pest; and 2. does not occur using two machines linked by chain or cable; and 3. retains all habitat trees and mature trees. AND AO126.2 Clearing to provide necessary access to control non-native plants or declared pests does not exceed five metres in width. AND AO126.3 Any regional ecosystem burn is undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the regional ecosystem, as outlined in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD). AND AO126.4 Chemical clearing retains all of the following: 1. mature trees; and 2. habitat trees; and 3. at least 50 per cent of immature trees in each 50 metre by 50 metre area. AND AO126.5 Aerial application of a root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides does not occur.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AND AO126.6 Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides are not applied within whichever distance is the greater from a mature tree or a habitat tree; 30 metres; or - the distance specified on the approved product label; or - the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
Duration of clearing, preventing land degradation, and maintaining biodiversity, ecological processes and regional ecosystems	
PO127 Clearing occurs only during a period that: - will not contribute to land degradation; and - ensures the ongoing maintenance of ecological processes and biodiversity; and - maintains the regional ecosystem.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.13: Encroachment

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing associated with wetlands	
PO128 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland to protect all of the following: - bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; - water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; - aquatic habitat; - terrestrial habitat.	AO128.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: - inside the defining bank of any natural wetland; and - within 20 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland. AND AO128.2 Root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the defining bank of a natural wetland: 100 metres; or - the distance specified on the approved product label; or - the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features	
PO129 Clearing of encroachment maintains: - bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and - water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and - aquatic habitat; and - terrestrial habitat.	AO129.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: - inside the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature; and - within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 1 or 2 watercourse or drainage feature; and - within 15 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 3 or 4 watercourse or drainage feature; and

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	4. within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 5 or more watercourse or drainage feature. AND AO129.2 Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides are not applied within whichever is the greater distance from the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature: 100 metres; or - any distance specified on the approved product label; or - the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
Soil erosion	
PO130 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land subject of the development application.	AO130.1 Clearing only occurs where recognised best practice methods are employed to: - prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing; and - stabilise soil erosion and instability which would result from clearing; and - prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of the clearing. AND AO130.2 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: - within 50 metres of an area of soil erosion and instability; and slopes greater than five per cent.
Salinity	
PO131 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following:	AO131.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
waterlogging; - the salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil.	
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO132 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:	AO132.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 .
- aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; or - mobilisation of acid or metals.	OR AO132.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.
Clearing limited to specific regional ecosystems	
PO133 Clearing of encroachment does not occur, other than in the regional ecosystems listed in reference table 5 of this code.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Conserving vegetation	
PO134 Clearing activities: 1. result in the restoration of the regional ecosystem; and 2. retain all habitat trees; and 3. retain all groves; and 4. retain species which make up the natural floristic composition of the regional ecosystem, distributed in a natural pattern.	AO134.1 Clearing retains all of the following: 1. all mature trees; and 2. all habitat trees; and 3. all woody vegetation within a grove, unless it is undertaken by a regional ecosystem burn. AND AO134.2 Any regional ecosystem burn is undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the regional ecosystem, as outlined in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD). AND AO134.3 Clearing does not result in debris being stacked or pushed against a mature tree or a habitat tree. AND AO134.4 Mechanical clearing does not occur within 10 metres of a mature tree or a habitat tree. AND AO134.5 Aerial application of a herbicide does not occur. AND AO134.6 Chemical clearing does not occur within five metres of a mature tree or a habitat tree. AND AO134.7 Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides are not applied in any of the following areas: 1. regional ecosystems 11.4.11 and 11.8.11; and 2. within whichever is the greater distance from a mature tree or a habitat tree: a. 10 metres; or b. the distance specified by the approved product label; or c. the distance specified in the safety and use conditions prescribed by the Australian

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority; and 3. within whichever is the greater distance from a grove: 30 metres; or - the distance specified by the approved product label; or - the distance specified in the safety and use conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
Duration of clearing, preventing land degradation, and maintaining biodiversity, ecological processes and regional ecosystems	
PO135 Clearing occurs only during a period that: - will not contribute to land degradation; and - ensures the ongoing maintenance of ecological processes and biodiversity; and - maintains the regional ecosystem.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.14: Fodder harvesting

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing associated with wetlands	
PO136 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland to protect all of the following: - bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; - water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; - aquatic habitat; - terrestrial habitat.	AO136.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: - inside the defining bank of any natural wetland; and - within 20 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland. AND AO136.2 Mechanical clearing that is strip harvesting or block harvesting does not occur in any of the following areas: - inside the defining bank of any natural wetland; and - within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland.
Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features	
PO137 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: - bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; - water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; - aquatic habitat; - terrestrial habitat.	AO137.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: - inside the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature; and - within 20 metres of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature. AND AO137.2 Mechanical clearing that is strip harvesting or block harvesting does not occur in any of the following areas: - inside the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature; and

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	2. within 100 metres of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature .
Soil erosion	
PO138 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land subject of the development application.	AO138.1 Clearing only occurs where recognised best practice methods are employed to: 1. prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing; and 2. stabilise soil erosion and instability which would result from clearing; and 3. prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of the clearing. AND AO138.2 Mechanical clearing does not occur on a slope greater than five percent. OR AO138.3 Mechanical clearing does not occur within 50 metres of an area of soil erosion and instability.
Salinity	
PO139 Clearing within 100 metres of a salinity expression area does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through either of the following: 1. waterlogging; 2. the salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil.	AO139.1 Clearing does not occur within 100 metres of a salinity expression area .
Essential habitat excluding essential habitat for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koalas) if development is assessable under Schedule 10, Part 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017	
PO140 Clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat maintains the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem for each protected wildlife species individually.	AO140.1 Clearing does not occur in essential habitat. OR AO140.2 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths prescribed in reference table 1 of this code. OR AO140.3 Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the areas prescribed in reference table 1 of this code.
PO141 Where clearing of vegetation in a regional ecosystem that is an area of essential habitat does not maintain the composition, structure and function of the regional ecosystem , and cannot be avoided and has been mitigated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact for each protected wildlife species individually.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Limits to clearing for fodder harvesting	
PO142 Clearing is limited to: 1. the extent necessary to provide fodder for stock; and	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
2. areas where the stock is located, and the stock have sufficient water.	
PO143 Clearing must only occur: 1. in regional ecosystems listed in reference table 6 or reference table 7 of this code; and 2. in accordance with the harvesting method limitations for the regional ecosystem listed in reference table 6 or reference table 7 of this code.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO144 Clearing consists predominantly of fodder species .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Conserving vegetation	
PO145 Clearing is carried out in a way that conserves: 1. remnant vegetation in perpetuity; and 2. the regional ecosystem in which the vegetation is situated.	AO145.1 Clearing does not result in the removal of non-fodder species with a height of four metres or more. AND AO145.2 Selective harvesting: 1. retains all non-fodder species except where the damage is an unavoidable consequence of clearing the selected fodder tree; and 2. when using a chainsaw in regional ecosystems listed in reference table 6 of this code, retains at least one fodder tree for every fodder tree cleared; and 3. in least concern regional ecosystems listed in reference table 7 of this code, retains at least one fodder tree for each fodder tree cleared; and 4. in of concern regional ecosystems listed in reference table 7 of this code, retains at least two fodder trees for each fodder tree cleared. AND AO145.3 Strip harvesting and block harvesting: 1. where fodder harvesting has previously occurred in an area of a lot, only occurs if all of the following apply: a. the vegetation has not been cleared in the last 10 years; and b. the average height of the fodder trees is at least 70 per cent of the height of the tallest stands of fodder species in the regional ecosystem; and c. the fodder trees that were previously harvested have now attained an average height of at least 4 metres; and 2. aligns clearing along the contour where practical; and 3. does not occur in patches of regional ecosystems that are less than 10 hectares in area or less than 500 metres wide. AND

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AO145.4 Strip harvesting: 1. does not result in any strip harvesting area exceeding 50 metres in width; and 2. results in all strip retention areas: a. being preserved along the length of strip harvest areas to a width of at least 1.5 times that of the adjacent strip harvest area; and b. containing fodder species with an average height of at least four metres; and 3. does not result in clearing for machinery access between strip harvest areas exceeding 15 metres in width. AND AO145.5 Block harvesting: 1. does not result in any block harvest area exceeding one hectare; and 2. results in block retention areas: a. being preserved between block harvest areas in accordance with the widths specified in reference table 8 of this code; and b. containing fodder species with an average height of at least four metres; and 3. does not result in clearing for machinery access between block harvest areas exceeding 10 metres in width.
Cleared vegetation	
PO146 Fodder harvesting is carried out in a way that results in the woody biomass of the cleared vegetation remaining where it is cleared .	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
Conserving the fodder resource	
PO147 Fodder harvesting is carried out in a way that will conserve the fodder resource.	AO147.1 Clearing does not occur: 1. in an area that has been cleared in the previous 10-year period; and 2. more than once in the same area of a lot; and 3. in more than 50 per cent of the area of the regional ecosystem listed in reference table 6 and reference table 7 of this code on the lot; and 4. in areas required to be retained under this code, a development approval or any accepted development vegetation clearing code.
Duration of clearing, preventing land degradation, and maintaining biodiversity, ecological processes and regional ecosystems	
PO148 Clearing occurs only during a period that: 1. will not contribute to land degradation; and 2. ensures the ongoing maintenance of ecological processes and biodiversity; and 3. maintains the regional ecosystem.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Table 16.15: Managing thickened vegetation

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
Clearing associated with wetlands	

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO149 Clearing of vegetation within a natural wetland and/or within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with a natural wetland to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO149.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of a natural wetland; and 2. within 20 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland.
Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features	
PO150 Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse and/or drainage feature and/or within the relevant distance (listed in reference table 2) of a watercourse and/or drainage feature maintains the composition, structure and function of any regional ecosystem associated with any watercourse and/or drainage feature to protect all of the following: 1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; 3. aquatic habitat; 4. terrestrial habitat.	AO150.1 Mechanical clearing does not occur in any of the following areas: 1. inside the defining bank of any watercourse drainage feature; 2. within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 1 or 2 watercourse or drainage feature; 3. within 15 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 3 or 4 watercourse or drainage feature; 4. within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature that is a stream order 5 or more watercourse or drainage feature.
Soil erosion	
PO151 Clearing does not result in accelerated soil erosion within or outside the land subject of the development application.	AO151.1 Clearing only occurs where recognised best practice methods are employed to: 1. prevent soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing; and 2. stabilise soil erosion and instability which would result from clearing; and 3. prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of the clearing. AND AO151.2 Mechanical clearing does not: 1. occur in a regional ecosystem in reference table 4 of this code that states 'mechanical clearing not permitted'; 2. disturb more than 50 per cent of the ground surface or result in any hectare having less than 50 per cent ground cover; 3. occur on a slope greater than five per cent; and 4. occur within 50 metres of an area of soil erosion and instability.
Acid sulfate soils if the local government is not the assessment manager for the development application	
PO152 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: 1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides;	AO152.1 Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3. OR

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
2. mobilisation of acid or metals.	AO152.2 Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the five metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where: mechanical clearing does not disturb the soil to a depth greater than 30 centimetres; and - acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the soil management guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual.
Restoring the regional ecosystem	
PO153 Clearing activities: - restore the natural floristic composition and range of sizes of each species of the regional ecosystem evenly spaced across the application area; and - retain mature trees, habitat trees and tall immature trees and thickets.	AO153.1 Clearing does not occur in thickets. AND AO153.2 Clearing retains: - all mature trees and habitat trees; - a full range of sizes and species typical of the regional ecosystem in the area; and - where the number of mature trees plus habitat trees is less than 20 per hectare, tall immature trees to total 20 mature trees, habitat trees and tall immature trees per hectare. AND AO153.3 Clearing does not result in debris stacked or pushed against a mature tree, habitat tree or tall immature tree. AND AO153.4 If clearing immature trees, retain immature trees in each 50 metre by 50 metre area to at least the density specified reference table 4 of this code. AND AO153.5 If clearing low shrubs: - in regional ecosystems where clearing is restricted to low shrubs as specified in reference table 4 of this code – clearing retains all immature trees; - in regional ecosystems where clearing is not restricted to low shrubs as specified in reference table 4 of this code – clearing retains at least the number of immature trees specified in reference table 4 of this code; and clearing retains at least 10 per cent of the predominate species that have thickened. AND AO153.6 Mechanical clearing does not occur within 5 metres of the trunk of a mature tree, habitat tree or tall immature tree.

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
	AND AO153.7 Clearing is not undertaken by: 1. aerial application of any herbicide; and/or 2. application of a root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicide. AND AO153.8 Chemical clearing does not occur within five metres of the trunk of a mature tree, habitat tree or tall immature tree. AND AO153.9 Any regional ecosystem burn is undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the regional ecosystem, as outlined in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD).
Clearing limited to specific regional ecosystems and specific clearing methods	
PO154 Clearing must be for the purpose of restoring the remnant regional ecosystem and only occur if all of the following apply: 1. clearing is in regional ecosystems prescribed in reference table 4 of this code; and 2. clearing is in accordance with the clearing restrictions for the regional ecosystem prescribed in reference table 4 of this code.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO155 Clearing occurs only during a period that: 1. will not contribute to land degradation; and 2. ensures the ongoing maintenance of ecological processes and biodiversity; and 3. maintains the regional ecosystem.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

Reference tables

Table 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 latest version of Regional Ecosystem Description Database, developed by the Queensland Herbarium and the Department of Environment and Science.

Table 2

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

Table 3

Maintaining connectivity areas	
Coastal bioregions and subregions	Non-coastal bioregions and subregions
Clearing does not: 1. occur in areas of vegetation that are less than 10 hectares; and 2. reduce the extent of vegetation to less than 10 hectares; and 3. occur in areas of vegetation less than 100 metres wide; and 4. reduce the width of vegetation to less than 100 metres; and 5. occur where the extent of vegetation on the subject lot(s) is reduced to, or less than, 30 per cent of the total area of the lot(s).	Clearing does not: 1. occur in areas of vegetation that are less than 50 hectares; and 2. reduce the extent of vegetation to less than 50 hectares; and 3. occur in areas of vegetation less than 200 metres wide; and 4. reduce the width of vegetation to less than 200 metres; and 5. occur where the extent of vegetation on the subject lot(s) is reduced to, or less than, 30 per cent of the total area of the lot(s).

Table 4

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

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

Einiasleigh Uplands						
9.3.2	9.5.3	9.7.1	9.11.1	9.12.7		
9.3.6	9.5.4	9.7.2	9.11.2	9.12.13		
9.3.8	9.5.6	9.8.11	9.11.3	9.12.24		
9.3.16	9.5.7	9.10.7	9.11.5	9.12.26		
9.3.19	9.5.8		9.11.7	9.12.32		
9.3.20	9.5.9		9.11.15			
9.3.21	9.5.10		9.11.19			
	9.5.13		9.11.22			
	9.7.1		9.11.25			
	9.7.3		9.11.26			
9.3.3	9.11.16	9.12.31				Mechanical clearing not permitted.
	9.11.31					
	9.11.32					
Desert Uplands						
10.3.9	10.3.27	10.5.4	10.9.5			
10.3.10	10.3.28					
10.3.11						
10.3.14						Mechanical clearing not permitted.
Brigalow Belt						
11.3.4	11.3.19	11.4.2	11.9.2	11.10.1	11.12.1	
11.3.6	11.3.29	11.5.2	11.9.7	11.10.7	11.12.2	
11.3.7	11.3.30	11.5.3		11.10.12	11.12.3	
11.3.9	11.3.32	11.5.5		11.11.4	11.12.9	
11.3.10	11.3.35	11.5.8		11.11.7	11.12.10	
11.3.12	11.3.36	11.5.9		11.11.9	11.12.11	
11.3.14	11.3.39	11.5.12		11.11.10	11.12.13	
11.3.18		11.5.13		11.11.11		
		11.5.20		11.11.15		
				11.11.20		
11.7.7						Restricted to clearing of low shrubs only. Clearing of immature trees is not permitted.
South-east Queensland						
12.3.12	12.8.16	12.9-10.4	12.12.4			
	12.8.17	12.9-10.7	12.12.5			
New England Tableland						
13.11.1	13.11.4	13.12.2	13.12.5			
Mid-dense regional ecosystems						
Tree retention rates: Retained immature tree density must be at least 500 trees per hectare after clearing .						
Bioregion					Clearing restrictions	
Gulf Plains						
2.5.4	2.5.16					
Mulga Lands						
6.7.1	6.7.2	6.7.14	6.7.15	6.7.16		
Wet Tropics						

7.11.16	7.11.21	7.12.53	7.12.55			
Central Queensland Coast						
8.12.12						
Einasleigh Uplands						
9.3.15						
Brigalow Belt						
11.3.26	11.7.4	11.9.13	11.10.4	11.11.1	11.12.6	
11.5.1	11.7.6		11.10.9			
11.5.4			11.10.11			
11.5.21						
South-east Queensland						
12.9-10.2	12.12.27					

Table 5

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

Table 6

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

Table 7

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

Table 8

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

Table 9

Range of size classes – trees	
Class	Diameter
1	<5 centimetres
2	5 centimetres – 10 centimetres

Range of size classes – trees	
Class	Diameter
3	>10 centimetres – 20 centimetres
4	>20 centimetres – 40 centimetres

Figures

Figure 16.1: Location of coastal and non-coastal bioregions and subregions

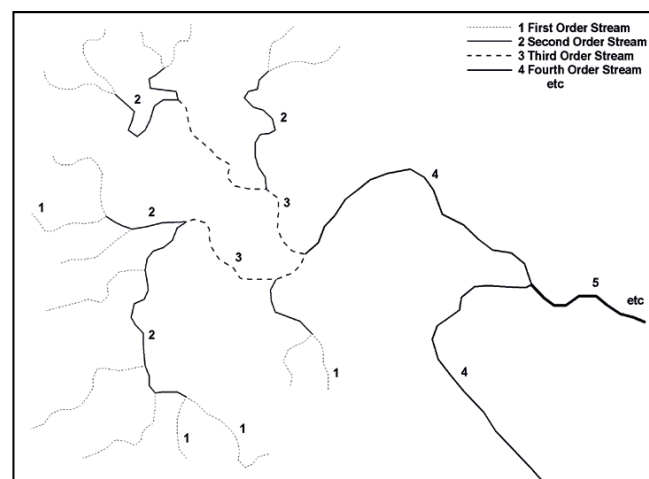
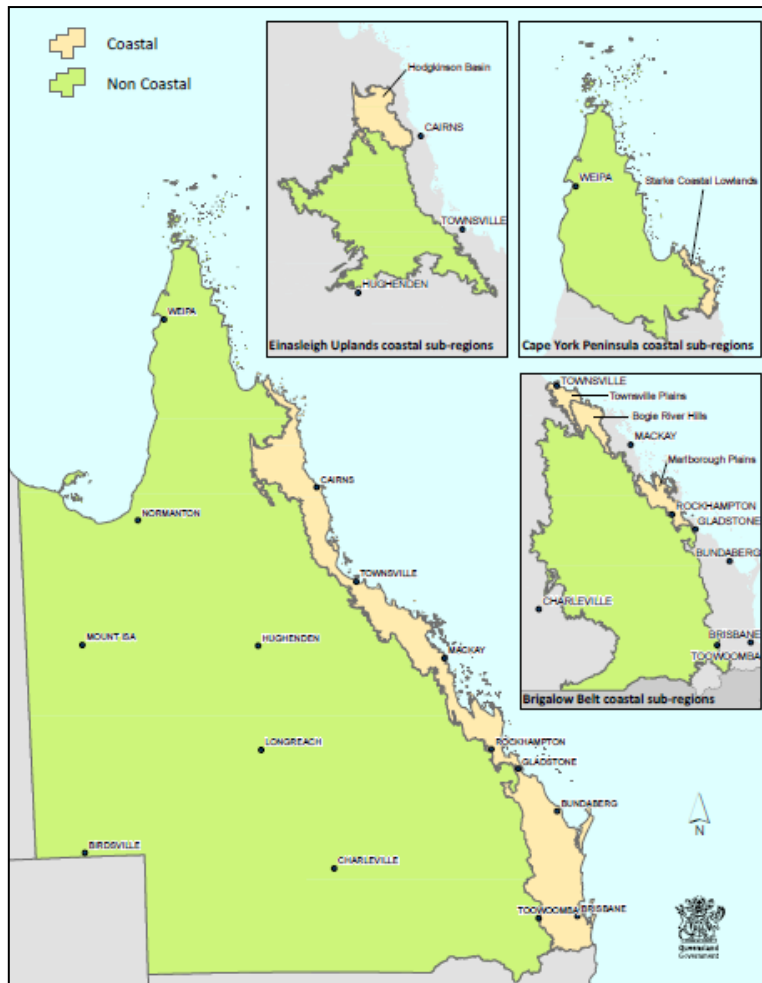


Figure 16.2: Diagrammatic view of stream ordering

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**).

Reference documents

Department of Resources, State Development Assessment Provisions guideline - State Code 16: Clearing native vegetation.

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning 2014, Significant Residual Impact Guideline

Department of Environment and Science 2021, Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy

Department of Environment and Science 2021, General guide for the Queensland Environmental Offsets Framework V1.03

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 2014, Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy Significant Residual Impact Guideline

Department of Environment and Science 2021, BioCondition Benchmarks

Department of Environment and Science, Regional Ecosystem Description Database Refer to the Queensland Government website for the most up to date version

Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning 2017, State Planning Policy

Department of Natural Resources and Mines 2017, Necessary environmental clearing under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 A guideline for development applications

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

Department of Science Information Technology Innovation and the Arts, Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual. Refer to the Queensland Government website for the most up to date version

Glossary of terms

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

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

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

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

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

Aerial application means application by aircraft or drone.

Agreement means an agreed delivery arrangement under the *Environmental Offsets Act* including any **offset** delivery plan and or any other instrument associated with a **legally secured offset area** however described.

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

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

1. the commencement of works; and
2. prior to any amendment, partial discharge or discharge of any **notice requiring compliance** or instrument securing a **particular regulated area**.

Biodiversity see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

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

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

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

Built infrastructure see *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clear, cleared or clearing of vegetation means:

1. to remove, cut down, ringbark, push over, poison or destroy in any way including by burning, flooding or draining; but
2. does not include destroying standing **vegetation** by stock, or lopping a tree.

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

Clearing as a result of reconfiguring a lot means:

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

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

Coastal bioregions and subregions mean the following bioregions and subregions, as shown in figure 16.1:

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

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

Contaminant see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. is formed by the concentration of, or operates to confine or concentrate, overland flow water during and immediately after rainfall events
2. flows for only a short duration after a rainfall event, regardless of the frequency of flow events

3. commonly, does not have enough continuing flow to create a riverine environment
4. is shown on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map**:
 - a. at a scale of 1:25 000 for the local government areas of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Noosa and Redlands, unless the application is to **clear vegetation** for an **extractive industry**; or
 - b. for all other local governments, and for applications to **clear vegetation** for an **extractive industry**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Essential management see schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017.

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

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

Exchange area see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

Exempt clearing work see the Planning Regulation 2017.

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

Extractive industry see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fodder harvesting see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

Fodder species means any of the following species:

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

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

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

Ground cover means plant matter, either dead or alive, woody or non-woody, that covers the surface of the ground (either attached or detached). For example grasses, shrubs, tree and grass leaf litter, twigs, logs, branches etc.

Groundwater means water occurring below the surface of the ground.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Land degradation see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

1. **soil erosion**; or
2. rising water tables; or
3. the expression of **salinity**; or

4. **mass movement** by gravity of soil or rock; or
5. stream bank instability; or
6. a process that results in declining water quality; or
7. disturbance of acid sulfate soils.

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*; or
 - c. another area prescribed under a regulation; and
2. under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* or another Act, the area is subject to a delivery or management plan or agreement (however described in this Act or the other Act) to achieve a conservation outcome for a **prescribed environmental matter**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **regional ecosystems** under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* that:
 - a. are **endangered regional ecosystems**; or
 - b. are **of concern regional ecosystems**; or
 - c. intersect with a **wetland** shown on the **vegetation management wetlands map**; or
 - d. contains an area of essential habitat on the essential habitat map for an animal that is critically endangered wildlife, endangered wildlife or vulnerable wildlife or a plant that is critically endangered wildlife, 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 2019; or
3. **wetlands** and **watercourses** in high ecological value waters as defined in the Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019, schedule 2; or
4. designated precincts in strategic environmental areas under the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014; or
5. threatened wildlife under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and special least concern animals under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006; or
6. protected areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, excluding coordinated conservation areas; or
7. highly protected zones of state marine parks under the *Marine Parks Act 2004*; or
8. fish habitat areas under the *Fisheries Act 1994*; or

9. waterways that provide for fish passage under the *Fisheries Act 1994* if the construction, installation or modification of waterway barrier works carried will limit the passage of fish along the waterway; or
10. marine plants under the *Fisheries Act 1994*; or
11. **legally secured offset areas**.

Mature tree means a native tree that is:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Non-coastal bioregions and subregions mean the following bioregions and subregions, as shown in figure 16.1:

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*. In accordance with the offset principles under the Environmental Offsets Policy, an **offset** can only be considered to meet a Performance Outcome

or a purpose under then Purpose Statement of this code where **clearing** and the impacts of **clearing** have first been reasonably avoided, then reasonably mitigated.

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

Offset area see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

Particular regulated areas means any of the following areas:

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

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

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

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

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

Note:

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

Protected wildlife see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

- 1. Critically endangered wildlife; or
- 2. endangered wildlife; or
- 3. vulnerable wildlife; or
- 4. near threatened wildlife.

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

Range of sizes means retaining a range of all size classes as outlined in reference table 9.

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

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

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

Regional ecosystem see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rehabilitate or **Rehabilitated** means, where **clearing** and the impacts of **clearing** have first been reasonably avoided, and then reasonably mitigated, undertaking management actions, to the extent required under this code, in accordance with an **environmental clearing management plan** to ensure:

1. **regional ecosystems** associated with a **wetland** are **rehabilitated** to maintain the composition, structure and function of the **regional ecosystem** to protect all of the following:
 - a. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and pollutants
 - b. aquatic habitat
 - c. terrestrial habitat.
2. **regional ecosystems** associated with a **watercourse** or **drainage feature** are **rehabilitated** to maintain the composition, structure and function of the **regional ecosystem** to protect all of the following:
 - 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 **rehabilitated** to maintain **ecological processes**, and the **regional ecosystem/s** remain in the landscape despite **threatening processes**.
4. **regional ecosystems** that are areas of **essential habitat** are **rehabilitated** to maintain the composition, structure and function of the **regional ecosystem**.
5. **endangered regional ecosystems, of concern regional ecosystems** and **least concern regional ecosystems** are **rehabilitated** to maintain the composition, structure and function of the **regional ecosystem**.

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

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

Note: **Relevant infrastructure activities** means:

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

Remnant vegetation see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Routine management see schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017.

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

1. to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track if the maximum width of **clearing** for the fence, road or track is 10 metres; or
2. to build necessary built infrastructure, including core airport infrastructure, other than contour banks, fences, roads or vehicular tracks, if:
 - a. the **clearing** is not to source construction timber; and
 - b. the total area **cleared** is less than two hectares; and
 - c. the total area covered by 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; and
 - 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; and
 - b. restoration of a similar type, and to the extent of the removed trees, is ensured.

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

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

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

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

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soil erosion and instability means the occurrence of **gully erosion** greater than 30 centimetres in depth, landslips, a scarp, soil scalding or stream bank slumping.

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

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

Stream order means a numerical ordering classification of each stream segment according to its position within a catchment, as shown in figure 16.2. Streams are **watercourses** and **drainage features** shown on the **vegetation management watercourse and drainage feature map**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unlawfully cleared see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

Vegetation see the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waterlogging means to soak or saturate with water.

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

Wetland means an area of land that supports plants or is associated with plants that are adapted to and dependent on living in wet conditions for at least part of their life cycle, and are shown on the **vegetation management wetlands map**.

Wind erosion means the movement of soil by wind.

Abbreviations

PMAV – Property map of assessable vegetation

VMA – *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

REDD – Regional Ecosystem Description Database