

Self-audit form – managing weeds

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

It is a requirement of this code that you undertake a self-audit of your managing weeds activities, prior to notifying for a second or subsequent notifications. You must keep your self-audit results as they may be requested in the future. If a copy of the results is requested, the information collected will be for the purpose of considering legislative requirements under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

Date/s of clearing activities:	_____
Date version of the code:	_____
Lot and plan reference of clearing activities:	_____
Date notification lodged:	_____
Date confirmation received:	_____
Confirmation reference number:	_____

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

Managing weeds code requirements	Yes	No
Property details		

- Weed management occurred in category B, category C and category R areas only.

Notification requirements

- A notification was lodged for managing weeds by either the landholder or a third party.
- The notification was lodged online or with a completed hard copy notification form and provided all the requested information.
- A confirmation of the notification was received before commencing any clearing.
- The notification was limited to one of the following area limits (tick which applies)

For a notification lodged before 7 February 2020 on a:

lot that is 100 ha or less in area – 50 ha

coastal lot greater than 100 ha in area – 50 % of the lot area or 200 ha, whichever is the lesser

non-coastal lot greater than 100 ha in area – 50 % of the lot area or 400 ha, whichever is the lesser

For a notification lodged on or after 7 February 2020:

SEQ lot that has one or more koala habitat areas mapped on the lot – 10 ha

lot that is 100 ha or less in area – 50 ha

coastal lot greater than 100 ha in area – 50 % of the lot area or 200 ha, whichever is the lesser

non-coastal lot greater than 100 ha in area – 50 % of the lot area or 400 ha, whichever is the lesser

Managing weeds code requirements**Yes No**

- Only operated under the notification for two years from the date of confirmation of the notification.
- Where the notification was a subsequent notification for weed management, a self-audit was undertaken prior to renotifying – and satisfied code requirements (where relevant).

Compliance requirements

The following records (where relevant) have been kept:

- GPS coordinates or map of weed management and access areas.
- Pre-clearing photographs and GPS coordinates to demonstrate weed management and access areas.
- Weed species removed.
- Weed management method/s used including the government agency recommending the method and copies of any relevant federal, state and local government guide or best practice document for the effective weed management method.
- Any other weed management guidelines, strategies, plan or advice which supports the weed management activities.
- For chemical weed management methods (where relevant), the herbicide used and details on how, when and where it was applied.
- Contractor details e.g. name, address and contact details (where relevant).
- Instruction to contractors, detailing location, date, time and species (where relevant).
- In rehabilitation areas (where relevant), annual photographs and associated GPS coordinates of the rehabilitation and revegetation outcomes.
- Self-audit results.

Native vegetation clearing limitations

- The total area of native vegetation cleared for weed management purposes did not exceed the notification area (see 'notification requirements' above).
- Clearing of native vegetation to provide access to the weed management area (where relevant) was only undertaken where no other suitable access exists.

Effective weed management methods

- Clearing of native vegetation was undertaken using an 'effective weed management method' published by a State, Federal or Local government agency as an appropriate and effective weed management method for the weed species.
- The method ensured ecological processes for the native vegetation within the weed management area was maintained.
- The method resulted in clearing that was necessary and reasonable given the nature and extent of the weed infestation, terrain and economics of weed control.
- The method advanced the restoration of the regional ecosystems within the weed management area.

Clearing native vegetation to access the weed management area**This section is N/A**

- The clearing was necessary for an access track specifically constructed for the purpose of weed management.
- Clearing did not exceed 5 m in width.

Managing weeds code requirements	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing did <u>not</u> result in the clearing of mature trees or habitat trees, unless it was necessary to remove a dead habitat tree that posed a safety risk. Clearing did <u>not</u> result in clearing an immature koala habitat tree in a koala habitat area unless the area was managed in a way that supports the natural regeneration of the number of immature koala habitat trees cleared. Clearing did <u>not</u> result in clearing within a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, or within 10 m of the defining bank of the wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, unless a crossing of a watercourse or drainage feature was required. 		
Mechanical clearing of native vegetation	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanical clearing was <u>not</u> undertaken using a chain or cable linked between two tractors, dozers or other traction vehicles. Mechanical clearing did <u>not</u> result in the removal of mature trees or habitat trees. Mechanical clearing did <u>not</u> result in the clearing of an immature koala habitat tree in a koala habitat area unless the area was managed in a way that supports the natural regeneration of the number of immature habitat trees cleared. Mechanical clearing did <u>not</u> occur on slopes greater than 15 %, unless the clearing was undertaken by brush cutting. Mechanical clearing did <u>not</u> occur in regional ecosystems that occur on land zone 1. Mechanical clearing did <u>not</u> occur within a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature. Mechanical clearing did <u>not</u> occur in a riparian protection zone unless clearing (by slashing or brush cutting only) did <u>not</u> occur within 2 m of the wetland, watercourse or drainage feature and after the clearing, the riparian protection zone was rehabilitated. Mechanical clearing was only undertaken to remove immature trees and shrubs including small saplings and woody ground covers where necessary, and was within a 1.5 m radius from the edge of the canopy of the weed targeted for removal. Mechanical clearing did <u>not</u> disturb more than 50 % of the ground cover, or result in any hectare having less than 50 % ground cover, whether dead or alive, unless after the clearing the weed management area was rehabilitated. Mechanical clearing resulted in the retention of vegetation that contains the full range of species typical of the regional ecosystem for the area. 		
Chemical clearing of native vegetation	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical clearing did <u>not</u> result in the removal of mature trees or habitat trees, unless it was necessary to remove a dead habitat tree that posed a safety risk. Chemical clearing did <u>not</u> result in the clearing of an immature koala habitat tree in a koala habitat area unless the area was managed in a way that supports natural regeneration of the number of immature koala habitat trees cleared. Chemical clearing resulted in the retention of at least 50 % of immature trees distributed as naturally as possible. Any root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides used complied with all of the following (leave section blank if root absorbed broad spectrum herbicides were <u>not</u> used): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>not</u> applied through aerial application 		

Managing weeds code requirements	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>not</u> used within 30 m of a mature tree or habitat tree or within two times the height of a mature tree or habitat tree, whichever is the greater ▪ <u>not</u> used within 100 m of the defining bank of a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, or any distance specified on the approved product label or the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, whichever is the greater ▪ were applied in accordance with the approved product label, or the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any aerial application of foliar herbicides used complied with all of the following (leave section blank if aerial application of foliar herbicides was <u>not</u> undertaken): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the herbicide was selective and did <u>not</u> destroy any mature trees or habitat trees ▪ the product directions for application and the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority provided for its use via aerial application ▪ the herbicide was <u>not</u> used within 50 m of the defining bank of a wetland ▪ the herbicide was applied in accordance with the approved product label, or the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, including any specified distances from any wetland, watercourse or drainage feature. 		
Weed management burning in native vegetation	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All necessary fire permits were obtained prior to undertaking a controlled burn. • Weed management burning was managed in terms of timing, weather, fuel load and lighting pattern to ensure any mature trees and habitat trees were <u>not</u> inadvertently damaged. • Weed management burning was undertaken in accordance with the fire guidelines for the regional ecosystem, as outlined by the Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD). 		
Soil and water quality protections		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised best practice methods were used to prevent increased soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing. • Recognised best practice methods were used to stabilise soil erosion and instability which resulted from the clearing. • Recognised best practice methods were used to prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of clearing. • Top soil was <u>not</u> mechanically disturbed to a depth greater than 30 cm in land zones 2 and 3 where elevation is less than 5 m above sea level. 		
Rehabilitation requirements (where section 4.3 requires rehabilitation)	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cleared area was rehabilitated by stabilising the area to prevent soil erosion and instability. 		

Managing weeds code requirements	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cleared area was rehabilitated by preparing the area, so it was in a state conducive to the re-establishment of native vegetation. This may have involved excluding browsing animals, controlling weeds, establishing appropriate soil moisture level, ripping, mulching or covering with topsoil. The cleared area was rehabilitated by revegetating with species that make up the natural floristic composition of the regional ecosystem. This may have involved planting seedlings, natural regeneration, or direct seeding. The rehabilitated area was maintained in a state conducive to achieving the revegetation outcomes outlined in Table 3 of the code. This may have involved excluding browsing animals, controlling weeds, maintaining an appropriate soil moisture level or mulching. The rehabilitated area achieved the groundcover percentage and immature tree density in the timeframes outlined in Table 3 of the code. 		

Self-Audit Results

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

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