

Self-audit form - necessary environmental clearing

This form is for clearing vegetation under the necessary environmental clearing accepted development vegetation clearing code.

It is a requirement of this code that you undertake a self-audit of your necessary environmental clearing 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.

Necessary environmental clearing code requirements

Yes No

Property details

- Clearing occurred in category B, category C and/or category R areas only.
- The property tenure is either: freehold land, Indigenous land, leasehold land, a dedicated road, unallocated state land, trust land (other than indigenous land), land subject of an occupation licence or land that is property of the State under the *Land Act 1994*.

Notification requirements

- An exchange area, or a koala offset, was legally secured prior to notifying (where relevant).
- A notification was lodged for necessary environmental clearing 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 the area limits specified in section 4.2 of the code.
- Only operated under the notification for two years from the date of confirmation of the notification.
- Where the notification was a subsequent notification for necessary environmental clearing, a self-audit was undertaken prior to renotifying – and satisfied code requirements.

Compliance requirements

The following records (where relevant) have been kept:

- GPS coordinates or map of cleared areas.
- Pre-clearing photographs and GPS location coordinates of the pre-clearing photographs.

Necessary environmental clearing code requirements	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate records detailing the progress and effectiveness of all exchange area works and management actions (where relevant). • 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, annual photographs and associated GPS coordinates of the rehabilitation and revegetation outcomes. • Self-audit results. 		
Land restoration requirements and limits	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing was only undertaken where the land degradation issue was threatening, or would threaten human health, land productivity, landscape integrity, ecosystem structure and function, habitat for protected wildlife or infrastructure condition. • The land degradation issue and vegetation preventing land restoration was identified by pre-clearing photographs and GPS coordinates. • Clearing was only undertaken where land restoration was reasonable, given the extent of the issue and the surrounding terrain. • Clearing was <u>not</u> undertaken using a chain or cable linked between two machines. • Clearing in category B did <u>not</u> exceed the limits in Table 1 of the code. • Clearing in a category B area was <u>not</u> undertaken within the riparian protection zones specified in Table 2 of the code, unless it was less than 0.5 hectares in size. 		
Flood preparation requirements and limits	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing only occurred where the area was subject to previous flood events which threatened human health, land productivity or infrastructure condition. • Clearing only occurred where vegetation within the defining banks of a watercourse or drainage feature was causing the accumulation of silt and/or debris, or preventing flood preparation. • Clearing only occurred where a future flood risk was increased by the accumulation of silt and/or debris. • Clearing only occurred where future flood events would threaten human health, land productivity or infrastructure condition. • Clearing only occurred where the vegetation causing the increased flood risk, or preventing flood preparation was identified by pre-clearing photographs and GPS coordinates of the location that the pre-clearing photographs were taken. • Clearing only occurred where flood preparation was reasonable and necessary, given extent of the issue and the surrounding terrain. • Clearing was undertaken by felling only. • Clearing did <u>not</u> exceed 100 m². • Clearing did <u>not</u> occur outside the defining banks of a watercourse or drainage feature. 		
Contaminant removal requirements and limits	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing only occurred where a contaminant was threatening, or would threaten human or animal health, land productivity, landscape integrity, ecosystem structure and function, habitat for protected wildlife or infrastructure condition. 		

Necessary environmental clearing code requirements**Yes****No**

- Clearing only occurred where vegetation was preventing contaminant removal.
- Clearing only occurred where the contaminant, and the vegetation preventing contaminant removal, was identified by pre-clearing photographs and GPS coordinates.
- Clearing only occurred where contaminant removal was reasonable and necessary, given the extent of the issue and the surrounding terrain.
- Clearing was not undertaken using a chain or cable linked between two machines.
- Clearing did not exceed the limits in Table 1 of the code, unless the clearing was within a category C or category R area and an exchange area that complied with section 4.6 of the code was legally secured prior to notifying.
- Clearing within the riparian protection zones specified in Table 2 of the code did not exceed 0.5 ha unless the clearing was within a category C or category R area and an exchange area that complied with section 4.6 of the code was legally secured prior to notifying.

Channel diversion requirements and limits**This section is N/A**

- Clearing did not occur in a category B area.
- Where reasonably possible clearing was located in category X areas or existing cleared areas.
- All possible steps were taken to avoid, or if avoidance was not possible, minimise to the greatest extent possible, clearing in essential habitat.
- All possible steps were taken to avoid, or if avoidance was not possible, minimise to the greatest extent possible, clearing of habitat trees.
- All possible steps were taken to avoid, or if avoidance was not possible, minimise to the greatest extent possible, clearing of immature koala habitat trees.
- All possible steps were taken to avoid, or if avoidance was not possible, minimise to the greatest extent possible, clearing in a koala habitat area.
- Diversion was only required for one or both of the following reasons (tick which applies):
 - ☐ The watercourse or drainage feature in its present location was no longer functioning or would no longer function in the future.
 - ☐ There was a high likelihood that the watercourse or drainage feature remaining in its current location would lead to, or was leading to, an adverse environmental outcome.
- The watercourse or drainage feature requiring diversion, and the vegetation which needed to be cleared to allow for the diversion, was identified by pre-clearing photographs and GPS coordinates.
- The new channel has replicated the existing physical form of the diverted section of watercourse or drainage feature.
- The new channel was revegetated with species typical of the diverted section of watercourse or drainage feature.
- The new channel returns water to a watercourse or drainage feature.
- Clearing only occurred where channel diversion was reasonable, given the extent of the issue and the surrounding terrain.
- Clearing was not undertaken using a chain or cable linked between two machines.

Necessary environmental clearing code requirements**Yes No**

- Clearing did not exceed the width limits in Table 1 of the code unless prior to notifying, an exchange area that complied with section 4.6 of the code was legally secured, or, the clearing was in a koala habitat area and a koala offset was secured for the extent of the clearing.

Clearing for access

- Clearing for access did not exceed 10 m in width.
- Clearing for access did not occur within 10 m of the defining bank of a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, unless it was required to provide necessary access across the wetland, watercourse or drainage feature.

Vegetation retention requirements

- Clearing resulted in the retention of all mature trees and habitat trees unless retention prevented land restoration other than the restoration of an area degraded by scalding or a salinity expression area.
- Clearing resulted in the retention of all mature trees and habitat trees unless retention prevented contaminant removal.
- Clearing resulted in the retention of all mature trees and habitat trees unless retention prevented flood preparation.
- Clearing resulted in the retention of all mature trees and habitat trees except where a dead habitat tree poses a safety risk.
- Clearing did not result in damage to, or debris pushed up against, mature trees or habitat trees.

Soil and water quality protections

- 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.
- In land zones 1, 2 or 3 where the elevation was less than 5 m above sea level, topsoil was not mechanically disturbed to a depth greater than 30 cm, unless acid sulphate soils were managed consistent with the State Planning Policy and the Soil Management Guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulphate Soil Technical Manual.

Rehabilitation requirements**This section is N/A**

- The cleared area was rehabilitated by stabilising to prevent soil erosion or instability.
- 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.

Necessary environmental clearing code requirements	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where immature koala habitat trees were cleared, the area was managed in a way that was conducive to the natural regeneration of the number of immature koala habitat trees cleared. The rehabilitated area was maintained in a state that was 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 within the timeframes outlined in Table 3 of the code. For channel diversion, both the diverted section of the original channel and the new channel were rehabilitated. The new channel was vegetated with species typical of the diverted section of watercourse or drainage feature. 		

Self-Audit Results
<p>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.</p> <p>For more information call the Vegetation Hub on 135 VEG (135 834), email vegetation@nrmmrrd.qld.gov.au, or search ‘Vegetation Management’ on www.qld.gov.au.</p>