



# Relevant Purpose Determination Application Form

Section 22A of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

## Applicant details

|                          |   |          |  |
|--------------------------|---|----------|--|
| Name                     |   |          |  |
| Postal address           |   |          |  |
|                          |   | Postcode |  |
| Phone                    |   |          |  |
| Email                    |   |          |  |
| Contact person           |   |          |  |
| Preferred contact method | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> phone <input type="checkbox"/> email |          |  |

## Property details

|   |  |               |  |
|---|--|---------------|--|
| Names of all registered owners on title |  |               |  |
| Real property description (Lot/Plan)    |  |               |  |
| Tenure (e.g. freehold, leasehold)       |  | Lot size (ha) |  |
| Street address                          |  |               |  |
|   |  | Postcode      |  |
| Local government area                   |  |               |  |

## Will the application meet referral requirements for clearing native vegetation?

### Step 1: Does the proposed development have application under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*?

Is the proposed development on:

- a. Forest Reserve under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*?
  - No ► [Continue to b.](#)
  - Yes ► [Application not required because the \*Vegetation Management Act 1999\* does not apply.](#)
- b. Protected Areas (under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*) being a National Park (Scientific), National Park, National Park (Aboriginal land) National Park (Torres Strait Islander land), National Park Cape York Peninsula (Aboriginal land), Conservation Park or Resource Reserve?
  - No ► [Continue to c.](#)
  - Yes ► [Application not required because the \*Vegetation Management Act 1999\* does not apply.](#)
- c. State Forest or Timber Reserve under the *Forestry Act 1959*?
  - No ► [Continue to d.](#)
  - Yes ► [Application not required because the \*Vegetation Management Act 1999\* does not apply.](#)
- d. Forest Entitlement Area under the *Land Act 1994*?
  - No ► [Continue to Step 2.](#)
  - Yes ► [Application not required because the \*Vegetation Management Act 1999\* does not apply.](#)

### Step 2: Is the vegetation proposed to be cleared regulated under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*?

Is the vegetation proposed to be cleared a native tree or plant other than the following:

- a. grass or non-woody herbage
- b. a plant within a grassland regional ecosystem prescribed under a regulation (see Schedule 5 of the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012*); or
- c. a mangrove?
  - Yes ► [Continue to Step 3.](#)
  - No ► [Application not required because the vegetation is not regulated under the \*Vegetation Management Act 1999\*.](#)

### Step 3: Is the proposed development 'clearing' under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*?

Will the proposed development involve works that will remove, cut down, ringbark, push over, poison or destroy vegetation in any way including by burning, flooding or draining (but not including destroying standing vegetation by stock; and does not include merely lopping a tree)?

- Yes ► [Continue to next question.](#)
- No ► [Application not required because the proposed activity \(e.g. lopping a tree without causing the death of the tree\) is not 'clearing' regulated under the \*Vegetation Management Act 1999\*.](#)

### Step 4: What are the categories of the proposed area you want to clear as mapped on the RVM map? (Tick all that apply.)

- Category A ► [Continue to next category.](#)
- Category B ► [Continue to next category.](#)
- Category C ► An application is not for a relevant purpose to the extent the proposed development is clearing in a category C area. [Clearing vegetation in a Category C area does not require a development approval and may be undertaken under an accepted development vegetation clearing code. The code is available online at \[www.qld.gov.au\]\(http://www.qld.gov.au\) \(search for 'Managing Category C Regrowth Vegetation'\).](#)
- Category R ► An application is not for a relevant purpose to the extent the proposed development is clearing in a category R area, and the land the subject of the application is freehold land, Indigenous land or a lease issued under the *Land Act 1994* for agriculture or grazing purposes. [Clearing vegetation in a Category R area on these tenures does not require a development approval and may be undertaken under an accepted development vegetation clearing code. The code is available online at \[www.qld.gov.au\]\(http://www.qld.gov.au\) \(search for 'Managing Category R Regrowth Vegetation'\).](#)
- Category X ► [Continue to next category.](#)
- An area shown as Water ► [Continue to Step 5.](#)

### Step 5: Is the proposed development or any part of the proposed development Exempt Clearing Work—see Schedule 21 of the *Planning Act 2016*?

- No ► [Continue to Step 6.](#)
- Yes ► [Any part of the proposed development that is Exempt Clearing Work will not require development approval.](#)

**Step 6:** Is the proposed development likely to meet referral requirements for a Material Change of Use under Schedule 10 of the Planning Regulation 2017?

Is your proposed development for a material change of use?

- No ► Your proposed development is likely to meet referral requirements under the Planning Regulation 2017. Proceed to the checklist that follows and provide the relevant evidence/material to support your application.
- Yes ► Continue to next question.

Is the proposed development application:

- a. relating to a lot that is 5 ha or larger; and
- b. for a preliminary approval that includes a variation request; and
- c. relating to a lot that contains native vegetation shown on the regulated vegetation management map as Category A or Category B; and
- d. is for a material change of use other than a non-referrable material change of use<sup>1</sup>?

**OR**

Does the proposed development application relate to a lot that is 5 ha or larger and all of the following apply:

- a. the material change of use does not involve prescribed clearing<sup>2</sup>; and
  - b. accepted operational work<sup>3</sup> may be carried out because of the material change of use, or the material change of use involves operational work that is assessable development under Schedule 10, Part 3, Division 2, Section 5 of the Planning Regulation 2017; and
  - c. the accepted operational work or assessable operational work includes development other than the clearing of regulated regrowth vegetation (Category C areas or Category R areas) on freehold land, Indigenous land, land the subject of an occupation licence under the *Land Act 1994*, or land the subject of a lease given under the *Land Act 1994* for agricultural or grazing purposes?
- Yes ► Your proposed development is likely to meet referral requirements under the Planning Regulation 2017. Proceed to the checklist that follows and provide the relevant evidence/material to support your application.
- No ► Application is not likely to meet referral requirements. Contact the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to discuss your proposed activity. Call **135 VEG (135 834)**.

<sup>1</sup> For 'non-referrable material change of use' see Schedule 24 (Dictionary) of the Planning Regulation 2017. A non-referrable material change of use means a material change of use for an urban purpose in an urban area, and is carried out on a lot other than a lot that: contains an endangered regional ecosystem (mapped as a Category B area on the regulated vegetation management map); or is dedicated as a road under the *Land Act 1994*; or is unallocated State land.

<sup>2</sup> For 'prescribed clearing' see Schedule 24 (Dictionary) of the Planning Regulation 2017. Prescribed clearing means:

- a. clearing vegetation on freehold land or land leased under the *Land Act 1994* if the clearing is necessary for building a single dwelling on a lot, and any reasonably associated building or structure; and there is no other dwelling on the lot; or
- b. clearing on Indigenous land if the clearing is necessary for building one or more dwellings, and any reasonably associated building or structure for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander inhabitants of land; or persons providing educational, health, police or other community services for the inhabitants.

<sup>3</sup> For 'accepted operational work' see Schedule 24 (Dictionary) of the Planning Regulation 2017. Accepted operational work for material change of use means operational work that is clearing native vegetation for essential management; routine management or, on freehold land, or land leased under the *Land Act 1994*, if the clearing is necessary for prescribed building work; and would be assessable development under Schedule 10, Part 3, division 2, section 5 if it were carried out on the lot immediately before the material change of use happened, but because of the material change of use is exempt clearing work. For 'essential management' and 'routine management' see Schedule 24 (Dictionary) of the Planning Regulation 2017.

# Checklist

## Evidence and material in support of Relevant Purpose application

Submit this checklist with your application.

| General requirements for all applications  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Details for the location and extent of the development and clearing footprint by providing either:<br>a. digital data in a format such as shapefile (.shp, .shx and .dbf) or .kml (preferred); or<br>b. a map showing all of the following:<br>i. The boundary of the area on an image base.<br>ii. Five or more points visible in the image base that correspond to identifiable fixed features.<br>iii. The Map Grid of Australia 1994 coordinates and zone references for each point, acquired by GPS or similar system of satellites that receives and processes information.<br>iv. A description of the feature that each point represents; or<br>c. a description of the boundary of the area by reference to Map Grid of Australia 1994 coordinates and zone references for the area. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Coordinated Project</b>                                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Demonstrate how the proposed development is a project declared to be a coordinated project under section 26 of the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i> .  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests</b> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Provide details on all of the proposed methods for clearing.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Demonstrate and provide evidence detailing why the proposed clearing is necessary to control the non-native plant or declared pest.<br><b>Note:</b> The proposed method of control must be appropriate to the nature of the infestation of the non-native plant or declared pest. For example declared pests may require different methods of control, and the control may depend on the stage of the plant or pest's life cycle. If required liaise with the local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Biosecurity Officer for more information or advice on methods of control for the specific non-native plant or declared pest.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Demonstrate that the species to be targeted is not a native Australian plant, or the pest to be managed is either a 'prohibited matter' or a 'restricted matter' identified under Schedule 1 or 2 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> .<br><b>Note:</b> The Census of the Queensland Flora, which is undertaken annually by the Queensland Herbarium, provides a current list of plants considered non-native to Queensland. Further information can be found on the Queensland Government website at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search for 'flora census').  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ensure public safety</b>                                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Provide details on all of the proposed methods for clearing.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Demonstrate how the proposed clearing is for the sole purpose of ensuring public safety. This should include details and evidence for all of the following:<br>a. Identify the risk<br>b. Demonstrate the extent (location) of the risk.<br>c. Demonstrate that the vegetation poses the risk (not other factors).<br>d. Identify the persons of the public at risk.<br>e. Demonstrate how other solutions to ensure public safety that would not require the clearing of native vegetation are not available/possible.<br>f. Demonstrate how the removal of the vegetation will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public.   |

| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant infrastructure activities</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Provide details on all of the proposed methods for clearing.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p><b>For establishing or maintaining a necessary fence (if relevant)</b><br/>           Demonstrate how the fence is reasonably necessary. For example, the fence is a boundary fence, or is an internal fence for a stated purpose.</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p><b>For establishing or maintaining a necessary firebreak (if relevant)</b><br/>           Demonstrate how the firebreak is reasonably necessary. For example, the fire management strategy/plan for the property, recommendation from local Rural Fire Brigade etc.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 'Firebreak' means an area that has been cleared and maintained in a low-fuel state to either stop or steady a wildfire, or back burn against.</p>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p><b>For establishing or maintaining a necessary road or vehicular track (if relevant)</b><br/>           Demonstrate how the road or vehicular track is reasonably necessary. For example, what does the road or vehicular track provide access to, or what is the road or vehicular tracks stated purpose? Is there an existing track that provides this access/purpose?</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For 'road' see Schedule 6 of the <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>. A road includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an area of land dedicated to public use as a road; or</li> <li>b. an area that is open to or used by the public and is developed for, or has as one of its main uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles; or</li> <li>c. a bridge, culvert, ferry, ford, tunnel or viaduct; or</li> <li>d. a pedestrian or bicycle path; or</li> <li>e. a part of an area, bridge culvert, ferry, ford, tunnel, viaduct or path mentioned in (a) to (d) above.</li> </ol> <p>'Vehicular tracks' means pathways providing permanent or temporary vehicular access.</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p><b>For constructing or maintaining necessary built infrastructure (if relevant)</b><br/>           Demonstrate how the infrastructure is necessary. Consider what is the purpose of the infrastructure? Is there existing infrastructure for the stated purpose? If the infrastructure is associated with development that requires other approvals, confirm whether you have the approvals, or if you have applied for the approval/s?</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 'Built infrastructure' means infrastructure fixed to the land which involves complex construction or assembly using multiple components and/or materials including buildings, stormwater management systems, water supply, sewerage systems, roads, vehicle parking, vehicle and pedestrian access, utility corridors, services, firebreaks, fire management lines, safety buffers, any areas associated with the proposed use of the lot including boundary fence lines and any excavation and filling.</p>  |

Checklist (continued)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate and provide evidence as to how the clearing has been reasonably avoided, and, where it cannot be avoided, how clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been minimised.</p> <p><b>GUIDANCE</b></p> <p>Where it is not reasonable to undertake the necessary clearing entirely in category X areas or existing cleared areas, you must apply the following 'avoid and minimise' principles to the location and extent of clearing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First – locate as much of the clearing in category X areas or existing cleared areas as reasonably possible.</li> <li>2. Second – locate as much of the remaining clearing in a category C area or category R area where reasonably possible.</li> <li>3. Third – where necessary to clear in a category B area, locate the clearing within least concern regional ecosystems where reasonably possible.</li> <li>4. Four – take all possible steps to avoid, or if avoidance is not possible, minimise to the greatest extent possible, clearing in the following areas:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Within 100 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland.</li> <li>b. Within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature for a stream order 1 or 2 watercourse or drainage feature.</li> <li>c. Within 25 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature for a stream order 3 or 4 watercourse or drainage feature.</li> <li>d. Within 50 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature for a stream order 5 or greater watercourse or drainage feature.</li> <li>e. Essential habitat.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Mapping regulated under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> is available by requesting a Property Report available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search for 'Property Report') or on Queensland Globe at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search for 'Queensland Globe').</p> |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Natural and ordinary consequence of other assessable development for which a development approval was given or made under the <i>Integrated Planning Act 1997</i></b></p>  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate how the development is a natural and ordinary consequence of other assessable development for which a development approval was given or made under the <i>Integrated Planning Act 1997</i> (IPA). That is, demonstrate how the proposed clearing is required to conduct the activities in the development approval / application.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 'Other assessable development' is clearing for operational works. Other assessable development does not include assessable development that is a Material Change of Use or Reconfiguring a Lot application.</p> <p>Under section 73 of the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> (VMA), if the development was approved under the IPA prior to the commencement of the VMA—15 September 2000—then an application under section 22A(2)(e) is not required, because any clearing that is a natural and ordinary consequence of the development approval is exempt.</p>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/><br>OR<br><br><input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate development approval was given under the repealed <i>Integrated Planning Act 1997</i>, and provide a copy of the development approval.</p> <p>Demonstrate an application under the repealed <i>Integrated Planning Act 1997</i> was lodged prior to 16 May 2003, and provide a copy of the development application.</p>  |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fodder harvesting</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>Note:</b> 'Fodder harvesting' is defined under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> to mean the clearing of vegetation predominantly consisting of fodder species:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. necessary to provide fodder for stock; and</li> <li>b. carried out in a way that:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. conserves the vegetation in perpetuity; and</li> <li>ii. conserves the regional ecosystem in which the vegetation is situated; and</li> <li>iii. results in the woody biomass of the cleared vegetation remaining where it is cleared.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate how the fodder harvesting will only occur in the regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 or 16.3.9 of the State Development Assessment Provisions: State Code 16 (SDAP).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The SDAP is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'State Development Assessment Provisions').</p>   |

Checklist (continued)

|                                  |  |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>         | <p>Demonstrate how the fodder harvesting is in accordance with the harvesting method limitations for the specified regional ecosystem/s listed in table 16.3.8 or 16.3.9 of the State Development Assessment Provisions: State Code 16 (SDAP).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The SDAP is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'State Development Assessment Provisions').</p>  |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>         | <p>Demonstrate that the vegetation (on the ground) for the proposed fodder harvesting area predominantly consists of fodder species listed in the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> (VMA).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Fodder species are defined in the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> as any of the following:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">a. <i>Acacia aneura</i>;</td> <td style="width: 50%;">e. <i>Acacia sibirica</i>;</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. <i>Acacia brachystachya</i>;</td> <td>f. <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>;</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. <i>Acacia excelsa</i>;</td> <td>g. <i>Flindersia maculosa</i>; and</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. <i>Acacia pendula</i>;</td> <td>h. <i>Geijera parviflora</i>.</td> </tr> </table>  | a. <i>Acacia aneura</i> ; | e. <i>Acacia sibirica</i> ; | b. <i>Acacia brachystachya</i> ; | f. <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i> ; | c. <i>Acacia excelsa</i> ; | g. <i>Flindersia maculosa</i> ; and | d. <i>Acacia pendula</i> ; | h. <i>Geijera parviflora</i> . |
| a. <i>Acacia aneura</i> ;        | e. <i>Acacia sibirica</i> ;  |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| b. <i>Acacia brachystachya</i> ; | f. <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i> ;   |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| c. <i>Acacia excelsa</i> ;       | g. <i>Flindersia maculosa</i> ; and  |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| d. <i>Acacia pendula</i> ;       | h. <i>Geijera parviflora</i> .   |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>         | <p>Demonstrate why the fodder harvesting is necessary, and that the sole purpose is to provide fodder for stock. For example, carrying capacity and particular climatic factors that directly relate to the need to harvest fodder.</p>  |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>         | <p>Demonstrate how the proposed fodder harvesting will conserve the vegetation in perpetuity. This evidence and information should include all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the location and amount of fodder species cleared on the property over the 10 years prior to this Relevant Purpose Determination Application</li> <li>b. the location and extent of the proposed fodder harvesting</li> <li>c. the proposed clearing methods</li> <li>d. the proposed clearing configuration</li> <li>e. how the proposed configuration will ensure the remnant status of the vegetation will be maintained and conserved into the future</li> <li>f. the proposed regeneration and retention strategies of the fodder resource including the location, extent and description of the vegetation that will be retained.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> An application for fodder harvesting cannot be accepted over areas that are mapped as non-remnant (Category X areas) on the regulated vegetation management map.</p>   |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>         | <p>Demonstrate how the proposed fodder harvesting will conserve the regional ecosystem in which the vegetation is situated. The evidence and information should include all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the location and amount of fodder species cleared on the property over the 10 years prior to this Relevant Purpose Determination Application</li> <li>b. the location and extent of the proposed fodder harvesting</li> <li>c. the proposed clearing methods</li> <li>d. the proposed clearing configuration</li> <li>e. information on how the proposed configuration will ensure the remnant status of the vegetation will be maintained and conserved into the future</li> <li>f. the proposed regeneration and retention strategies of the fodder resource including the location, extent and description of the vegetation that will be retained.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> An application for fodder harvesting cannot be accepted over areas that are mapped as non-remnant (Category X areas) on the regulated vegetation management map.</p> |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>         | <p>Demonstrate how the harvesting practices will ensure the cleared vegetation will remain where it falls.</p>   |                           |                             |                                  |                                |                            |                                     |                            |                                |

| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Managing thickened vegetation</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Note:</b> 'Managing thickened vegetation' is defined in the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> (VMA) to mean 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):</p> <p>a. 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</p> <p>b. to maintain ecological processes and prevent loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>The VMA does not permit clearing for the purpose of grazing.</p> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p>Demonstrate the proposed clearing will only occur in the regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.6 of the State Development Assessment Provisions: State Code 16 (SDAP).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The SDAP is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'State Development Assessment Provisions').</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p>Demonstrate the proposed clearing is limited to the specified clearing methods and clearing restrictions for the specified regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.6 of the State Development Assessment Provisions: State Code 16 (SDAP), except where clearing is solely for removing native plants not naturally occurring within the regional ecosystem.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The SDAP is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'State Development Assessment Provisions').</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p>Provide details on the proposed clearing methods, and demonstrate the proposed clearing methods are selective methods.</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p>Demonstrate how the proposed clearing methods will not include the use of a chain or cable linked between two tractors, bulldozers or other traction vehicles.</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p>Demonstrate how the regional ecosystem has thickened in comparison to the same regional ecosystem in the bioregion. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:</p> <p>a. the location and extent of the proposed clearing activities</p> <p>b. evidence/data that the regional ecosystem has thickened within the proposed clearing areas, and the extent to which those regional ecosystems have thickened</p> <p>c. evidence and data of a representative site (a similar area with the same regional ecosystem within the same bioregion), which the proposed clearing area will be restored to.</p> <p>Your application will be assessed by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to determine if the tree cover for the proposed clearing area has increased by comparing the most recent suitable imagery with past suitable imagery. Accordingly you may want to include and reference imagery to demonstrate thickening, and further evidence to support that thickening is impacting on biodiversity. Imagery is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'QImagery').</p> <p><b>Note:</b> See guidance for estimating canopy cover for low shrubs, and example transect / plot field sheets for the minimal data required to demonstrate thickening. For a practical demonstration on how to do a transect / plot to measure tree density, there is a video guide available at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/LandQueensland">YouTube.com/user/LandQueensland</a>.</p> <p>The number and location of the transects / plots for the proposed clearing area and the representative site should be sufficient depending on the extent of clearing, the number of regional ecosystems and the variability within the regional ecosystem.</p> <p>Transects / plots should be located in areas that are representative of the area being assessed (for both the proposed clearing area and the reference site).</p> <p>Transects / plots should also be at least 50 metres from any major disturbance (e.g. road, dam).</p> <p>Transects / plots for both the proposed clearing area and the reference sites should be done at approximately the same time.</p> |



Checklist (continued)

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Demonstrate how the clearing will restore the regional ecosystem to the floristic composition and range of densities typical of the regional ecosystem in the bioregion in which it is located. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the location and extent of the proposed clearing activities</li> <li>b. details of the vegetation proposed to be removed in the proposed clearing areas</li> <li>c. the presence of species which are not a natural component of the regional ecosystem and how the proposed selective methods will target these species to avoid natural components of the regional ecosystem</li> <li>d. the intended outcome of the proposed clearing activities (e.g. stems retained per hectare)</li> <li>e. evidence and data of a representative site (a similar area with the same regional ecosystem), within the bioregion of the proposed clearing area, that the proposed clearing area will be restored to.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> See note above for requirements and guidance regarding transects / plots to measure tree density for both the proposed clearing area and reference sites.</p> <p>Clearing should not remove representation of any species, size class or structural elements. For example, removal of an entire mid and lower strata from a regional ecosystem where these strata are typically represented is not consistent with 'managing thickened vegetation' under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>.</p>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Demonstrate how the clearing will maintain ecological processes. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the location and extent of the proposed clearing activities</li> <li>b. details of the vegetation proposed to be removed within the proposed clearing areas</li> <li>c. the presence of species which are not natural components of the regional ecosystem and how the proposed selective methods will target these species while avoiding natural components of the regional ecosystem</li> <li>d. the intended outcome of the proposed clearing activities (e.g. stems retained per hectare)</li> <li>e. evidence and data of a representative site (a similar area with the same regional ecosystem), within the bioregion of the proposed clearing area, that the proposed clearing area will be restored to.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> 'Ecological processes' are defined in the State Development Assessment Provisions: State Code 16 (SDAP) to include but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. hydrological processes;</li> <li>b. soil development;</li> <li>c. nutrient cycling;</li> <li>d. chemical processes including storage of nutrients;</li> <li>e. decomposition and cycling of organic matter;</li> <li>f. pollination and seed production;</li> <li>g. seed dispersal;</li> <li>h. predator-prey relationships;</li> <li>i. germination and recruitment of species;</li> <li>j. the carbon cycle and stability of atmospheric carbon; and</li> <li>k. habitats for flora and fauna (such as particular regional ecosystems, logs, rocks, debris, leaf litter, nectar, hollow-bearing trees, food and shelter).</li> </ol> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Demonstrate how clearing will prevent loss of biodiversity. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the location and extent of the proposed clearing activities</li> <li>b. details of the vegetation proposed to be removed within the proposed clearing areas</li> <li>c. the presence of species which are not a natural component of the regional ecosystem and how the proposed selective methods will target these species and avoid natural components of the regional ecosystem</li> <li>d. the intended outcome of the proposed clearing activities (e.g. stems retained per hectare)</li> <li>e. evidence and data of a representative site (a similar area with the same regional ecosystem), within the bioregion of the proposed clearing area, that the proposed clearing area will be restored to.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> 'Biodiversity' is defined in the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> to mean the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. diversity within species and between species; and</li> <li>b. diversity of ecosystems.</li> </ol>  |

Checklist (continued)

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Confirm if you intend to apply for a development application for the proposed clearing under the FastTrack5 development assessment process.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The SDAP is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'State Development Assessment Provisions'). See Appendix 2: FastTrack5 qualifying criteria.</p>   |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Encroachment</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Note:</b> 'Encroachment' is defined in the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> to mean a woody species that has invaded an area of a grassland regional ecosystem to an extent that the area is no longer consistent with the description of the regional ecosystem.</p>  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Provide details on all of the proposed methods for clearing.</p>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate the clearing of encroachment will only occur in the regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.7 of the State Development Assessment Provisions: State Code 16 (SDAP).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The SDAP is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'State Development Assessment Provisions').</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate the encroaching species is a woody species.</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate the proposed clearing for encroachment will only occur in a grassland regional ecosystem prescribed in Schedule 4 of the Vegetation Management Regulation 2012.</p> <p>Provide evidence to demonstrate the grassland regional ecosystem is currently subject to invasion by a woody species.</p> <p>Identify the invasive woody species.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Check the regional ecosystem description database (REDD) for the grassland regional ecosystem. The woody species invading that regional ecosystem cannot be listed in its associated description.</p> <p>REDD is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'Regional Ecosystem Description Database').</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Demonstrate how the invading woody species has caused the grassland regional ecosystem to be inconsistent with its regional ecosystem description.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Check the regional ecosystem description database (REDD) for the regional ecosystem description. REDD is available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au">www.qld.gov.au</a> (search 'Regional Ecosystem Description Database').</p>   |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Extractive industry</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>Note:</b> 'Extractive industry' is defined in the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> to mean one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dredging material from the bed of any waters;</li> <li>extracting, from a pit or quarry, rock, sand, clay, gravel, loam or other material;</li> <li>screening, washing, grinding, milling, sizing or separating material extracted from a pit or quarry.</li> </ol> <p>It includes carrying out work that is the natural and ordinary consequence of carrying out the work mentioned above, for example, constructing roads, buildings and other infrastructure.</p> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p>Provide details on all of the proposed methods for clearing.</p>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p><b>For dredging material from the bed of any waters (if relevant)</b></p> <p>Provide information to demonstrate the proposed development is dredging material from the bed of any waters.</p> <p>Provide details regarding the proposed method of dredging and the type of material to be mobilised.</p>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p><b>For extracting from a pit or quarry, rock, sand, clay, gravel, loam or other material (if relevant)</b></p> <p>Provide information to demonstrate the proposed development is extracting from a pit or quarry, rock, sand, clay, gravel, loam or other material.</p> <p>Provide information regarding the method of extraction and the type of material to be extracted.</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <p><b>For screening, washing, grinding, milling, sizing or separating material extracted from a pit or quarry (if relevant)</b></p>   |

Checklist (continued)

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|  | <p>Provide information to demonstrate the proposed development is for screening, washing, grinding, milling, sizing or separating material extracted from a pit or quarry.</p> <p>Provide information regarding all of the proposed activities, the type of material to be extracted, and the methods of treating the extracted material.</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p>Provide the details, extent and location of all works that is a natural and ordinary consequence of the extractive industry, for example, constructing roads, buildings and other infrastructure. This should include details on the purpose of all works associated to the extractive industry, and demonstrate how the purpose of the works are directly associated with the extractive industry.</p>   |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Necessary environmental clearing</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>Note:</b> 'Necessary environmental clearing' is defined in the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> to mean clearing of vegetation that is necessary to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>restore the ecological and environmental condition of land (e.g. stabilising banks of watercourses, works to rehabilitate eroded areas, works to prevent erosion of land or for ecological fire management); or</li> <li>divert existing natural channels in a way that replicates the existing form of the natural channels; or</li> <li>prepare for the likelihood of a natural disaster (e.g. removal of silt to mitigate flooding); or</li> <li>remove contaminants from land.</li> </ol> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <p>Provide details on all of the proposed methods for clearing.</p>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/><br>OR   | <p><b>For clearing that is necessary to restore the ecological and environmental condition of land (if relevant)</b></p> <p>Demonstrate how the proposed clearing is necessary to restore the ecological and environmental condition of land. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information on the nature, location and extent of the problem (e.g. erosion, poor soil condition, salinisation)</li> <li>the cause of the problem</li> <li>reasons why is clearing necessary to resolve the problem (as opposed to any available works that do not involved the clearing of native vegetation)</li> <li>how the proposed works will resolve the problem, prevent the problem from recurring and restore the ecological and environmental condition of the land</li> <li>the intended environmental outcome and the benefits of this outcome.</li> </ol> |
| <input type="checkbox"/><br>OR   | <p><b>For clearing that is necessary to divert existing natural channels in a way that replicates the existing form of the natural channels (where relevant)</b></p> <p>Demonstrate how the proposed clearing is necessary to divert existing natural channels in a way that replicates the existing form of the natural channels. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>why the clearing is necessary for the diversion</li> <li>copies of <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> or <i>Water Act 2000</i> approvals, or confirmation they will be obtained</li> <li>how the diversion will replicate the form of the existing natural channel (e.g. engineer's report, hydrologist report).</li> </ol>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/><br>OR   | <p><b>For clearing that is necessary to prepare for the likelihood of a natural disaster (where relevant)</b></p> <p>Demonstrate that the proposed clearing is necessary to prepare for the likelihood of a natural disaster. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evidence to support the likelihood of a natural disaster occurring (e.g. historical weather events, damage from previous weather events)</li> <li>why the clearing is necessary for the proposed preparatory works</li> <li>how the clearing/works will benefit the environment, or better protect people and property in the event of a natural disaster.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> A 'natural disaster' is a natural event such as a flood, earthquake or cyclone that causes severe damage to people and property, or loss of life.</p>   |



**For clearing that is necessary to remove contaminants from land (where relevant)**

Demonstrate that the proposed clearing is necessary to remove contaminants from land. This should include providing/demonstrating all of the following:

- a. information on the type of contaminant
- b. details on the location of the contaminant, and the extent of contamination
- c. why clearing is necessary to clean up the contamination
- d. the processes, activities, methods and staging for decontamination of the area.

**Note:** 'Contaminant' is defined under section 11 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to be a gas, liquid, solid, odour, organism (whether alive or dead) including a virus, energy including noise, heat, radioactivity and electromagnetic radiation, or a combination of contaminants.