

Weed management in regulated native vegetation across Queensland May 2018

Step 1: What is the status of the surrounding native vegetation?

Before managing non-native woody weeds, declared pests or clearing access tracks to control all weeds, land managers should check the status of their native vegetation. **There are no restrictions on managing weed infestations across non-remnant vegetation (Category X) or Cat X within a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation PMAV.**

The regulated vegetation map <https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/vegetation/vegetation-map-request-form> will show any coloured areas of remnant (Cat B), high value regrowth (Cat C) and reef regrowth watercourses (Cat R) on freehold, leasehold or Indigenous land. Clearing for some purposes, including weed control, can be conducted under the 'Accepted Development Management Clearing Codes', commonly known as **Self Assessable Codes (SAC's)**.

Step 2: Notify of intent to clear and abide by the relevant SAC

If managing weeds in regulated native vegetation will result in some clearing of native woody vegetation, send the 'Notification form for intention to clear' to the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy DNRME. Follow the guidelines in the Self Assessable Code. SAC's and notification form are available from <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/codes> or phone 135 834.

Summary of weed management activities across SAC's

DISCLAIMER: *This is a summary of activities and clearing practices relevant to non-native weed management, which apply to specific SAC's (✓). Check each SAC for more detail.*

| Non-native weed or pest management activity | Self Assessable Codes - SAC's | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| | Cat B remnant | Cat C regrowth | Cat R Reef |
| Notification form of intention to clear sent to DNRME | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Limit clearing to extent necessary to manage weeds | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Access tracks < 5m wide | ✓ | | |
| Drainage measures to minimise soil erosion from tracks | ✓ | | |
| Retain native trees >20cm diameter measured at 1.3m high | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| If weed cover <50%, retain 50% of trees <20cm DBH | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| If weed cover > 50%, can clear up to 100% of trees <20cm DBH | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Retain habitat trees (10cm diam hollows or active bird nest) | ✓ | | |
| Maintain 50% ground cover | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| No mechanical clearing in essential habitat or within 5m of habitat tree | ✓ | | |
| No mechanical clearing on slopes >5% or on sodic soils | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ecological burning as per guidelines for Regional Ecosystem Description Database | | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Continued over the page.....</i> | | | |

| Non-native weed or pest management activity | Cat B remnant | Cat C regrowth | Cat R Reef |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Watercourses | | | |
| No mechanical clearing within 2m of defining bank of watercourse. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| No mechanical clearing within wetland protection area. | ✓(5m) | ✓(2m) | ✓(2m) |
| Clearing within watercourses/wetlands - check if <i>Water Act 2000</i> regulations apply. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| If <i>Water Act 2000</i> does not apply to clearing in watercourses:- (a) access tracks are parallel to bank and >10m from bank. (b) tracks in beds and banks <10m wide and at least 50m apart and at right angles to flow. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Records | | | |
| Keep records of clearing, before and after photos from known locations, instructions to operators/contractors. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Soil-applied, broad spectrum herbicides | | | |
| Soil-applied, broad spectrum herbicides (eg. tebuthiuron, hexazinone) are not to be applied aerially, used in a wetland or watercourse protection area or used on a 'broadacre basis'. NOTE: Herbicides that do not kill woody shrubs or trees are not 'broad spectrum' (eg. grass or broadleaf herbicides) | ✓ | | |
| Only use soil-applied, broad spectrum herbicides where retained trees or habitat trees are >30m apart (eg. open woodlands). Spot application near retained trees must not occur with distance specified on label. | ✓ | | |
| Aerial-applied foliar herbicides | | | |
| Aerial application of foliar herbicides only permitted, if native woody vegetation not affected and label/APVMA permit enables aerial application. | ✓ | | |
| Dense, closed canopy regional ecosystems RE's | | | |
| Do not open up tree canopy of dense RE's, unless weed dominates canopy. Herbicide application methods restricted to cut stump, basal bark, injection, splatter gun, foliar spray. See SAC for applicable RE's (eg. rainforest, vine thickets, tea tree or remnant brigalow communities). | ✓ | | |
| Exempt grassland regional ecosystems RE's | | | |
| Weeds can be controlled in grassland RE's. No permit or notification required. Check Table 4 in the SAC for list of exempt grassland RE's. | ✓ | | |
| Other | | | |
| Protected plant trigger map – Nature Conservation Act | | | |
| No flora survey for protected plants is required, if clearing complies with the SAC's for weed management. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

NOTE: Queensland Government is currently reviewing SAC's. These guidelines may change over time. Always check your regulated vegetation map, protected plant trigger map and relevant SAC's before commencing clearing or weed activities which may affect native woody vegetation.