

Weed management in regulated native vegetation across Queensland November 2018

What are your options?

If proposed weed control only clears non-native species and does not impact on native woody vegetation, no development permit or notification under the Accepted Development Vegetation Clearing Code (ADVCC) for Managing Weeds is required.

The ADVCC for Managing Weeds provides for clearing of weeds in low risk situations.

Where your proposed weed control activities are unable to comply with the ADVCC for Managing Weeds, for example where the area is too steep, you can apply for a development permit (with no fee) to clear weeds.

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 Category X within a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation PMAV under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, as administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME).** Landholders should however consider whether there are other requirements applicable by local government, other State Government agencies or the Australian Government's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC). Check the Other Relevant Contacts list in section 6 of the Vegetation Management Property Report from the following link: [Request a property report and vegetation maps | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/vegetation/vegetation-map-request-form)

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 Vegetation Clearing Codes' (ADVCC), except in category A areas.

Step 2: Notify of intent to clear and abide by the relevant ADVCC. 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 DNRME. Follow the guidelines in the ADVCC for Managing Weeds. ADVCC's and notification form are available from <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/codes>.

Summary of weed management activities across ADVCC's

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

Non-native weed or pest management activity	ADVCC'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	✓		
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Non-native weed or pest management activity	Cat B remnant	Cat C regrowth	Cat R Reef
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 within 5m of habitat tree	✓		
No mechanical clearing on slopes >5%	✓	✓	✓
No mechanical clearing on dispersible or highly erodible soils (e.g. sodic soils) on >2% slopes	✓	✓	
Controlled burning	✓	✓	✓
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 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- must be used in accordance with the product label). 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 ADVCC for applicable RE's (eg. rainforest, vine thickets, tea tree or remnant brigalow communities).	✓		

Non-native weed or pest management activity	Cat B remnant	Cat C regrowth	Cat R Reef
Exempt grassland regional ecosystems RE's			
Weeds can be controlled in grassland RE's. No permit or notification required. Check Table 4 in the ADVCC 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 ADVCC for weed management. This is an exemption under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (Section 261ZE).	✓	✓	✓
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Duty of Care			
Check before soil disturbing activities in areas <u>never</u> cleared before (Category 5). Features likely to have cultural heritage significance include scarred or carved trees, quarries and artefact scatters, occupation sites with stone tools and shell middens, ceremonial places, etc. If relevant - check database, consult with Aboriginal party for the area. Stop work if an activity exposes a 'cultural heritage find'.	✓	✓	✓

NOTE: Queensland Government is currently reviewing ADVCC's. These guidelines may change over time. Always check your regulated vegetation map, protected plant trigger map and relevant ADVCC's before commencing clearing or weed activities which may affect native woody vegetation. Some coastal local governments may have a biodiversity layer that can also impact on woody weed control.

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Email: agforce@agforceqld.org.au Ph. 07 32363100