



WHAT IS A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY?

Vegetation or tree management policies are commonly used by councils over privately owned land to ensure that large trees and stands of trees are retained for their ecological and landscape/ amenity values. Often known as 'Tree Preservation Orders', they require landowners to apply for a permit to remove trees or vegetation on their property.

Why do we need one?

We are experiencing growth across the MidCoast, especially in our coastal centres. While planning for this future growth, we need to ensure that the high levels of liveability and environmental amenity that our region is renowned for are maintained.

The draft MidCoast Greening Strategy outlines an over-arching approach to manage and enhance the quality and extent of vegetation across our diverse landscapes. A priority action of the draft Strategy is a targeted Vegetation Management Policy.

What's currently in place?

Right now we have a Tree Preservation Order that applies only in the Great Lakes region. This uses a 'blanket approach' where all land included in certain land use zones (eg residential, village or environmental zones) are subject to the controls - whether they need to be or not.

Interestingly, of the 22,200 properties subject to the Order (around 10,100 ha), we only receive about 130 applications to remove vegetation per year and 75% of these are approved for reasons that might include the tree outgrowing its location, considered hazardous, or causing damage to buildings.

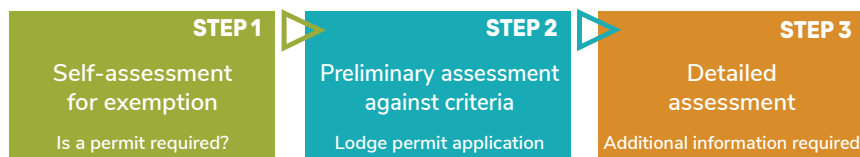
What's being proposed?

A Vegetation Management Policy that applies across the entire region using a highly targeted approach - meaning it only applies where it is needed.

Targeted mapping has taken place based on areas that contribute:

- significant ecological values, either through maintaining important habitat or corridors linking habitats enabling fauna movement; or
- landscape character and amenity... some locations are renowned for their 'leafy' character, while others provide a vegetated landscape on entry into our towns and villages.

The new approach also proposes a simple 3-step process, starting with a self-assessment to determine if a permit application is required.



WHERE WILL THE POLICY APPLY?

Based on the proposed mapping, the Vegetation Management Policy would apply to around 12,410ha and 8,800 properties.

The significant reduction in properties covered (versus the current Tree Preservation Order) reflects our targeted approach, with fewer urban areas included.

View the proposed areas being targeted, or search your property, using our online mapping tool.

Visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/HYS and click through to the Vegetation Management Policy page.

LEARN MORE

Vegetation management, and the policies and processes around it can be complex. Visit our website to view the draft Policy and map showing proposed coverage, and to get more detail about the assessment process.

You can also:

- Email us your questions
- Register for an appointment to discuss your property with our team
- Phone and speak with our team about your property

HAVE YOUR SAY

We welcome your feedback on the draft policy and areas targeted, before Thursday 24 June. Submissions can be made online, by email, or by post.