



WHY DO WE NEED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT?

Large trees are important, they can provide shade, wind protection, a 'leafy' character, a sense of place and contribute to the local ecology. Vegetation management controls are commonly used by councils over privately owned land to ensure that large trees and significant vegetation communities are retained for their landscape, amenity and ecological values. Under the proposed Vegetation Management Policy, an assessment is required prior to the pruning or removal of a tree or vegetation on land covered by this Policy.

Do I need a permit to remove vegetation?

We are proposing a 3-step process for landowners within the area covered by the Policy, that starts with self-assessment to determine if a permit application is required.

STEP 1

Self-assessment
for
exemption

Determine if a permit is required

Completing an online self-assessment form will determine if an exemption applies, in which case you won't need to lodge an application for a permit. Your assessment will be logged in our system as evidence of your exemption for the removal of the vegetation or tree/s identified during the self-assessment.



STEP 2

Preliminary
assessment
against criteria

Lodge a permit application

If you are not exempt, you'll need to lodge a Vegetation Permit Application Form so we can assess your request based on the 'assessment criteria' as listed in the Policy. An application fee, currently \$75, applies at this stage. We may conduct an on-site inspection to help us determine whether your permit can be issued.



STEP 3

Detailed
assessment

Provide additional information if required

In some cases, we're unable to make a decision after the preliminary assessment, and more information is needed which might include an arborist or ecological report. The additional information will help us determine if your permit can be issued, or if the application should be refused in which case no works can be undertaken.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE EXEMPTIONS?

Pruning of less than 10% of the tree

Removal of priority weeds or an exempt species (eg Camphor Laurel)

Where the land is eligible under the 10/50 scheme, you can clear trees on your property within 10 metres of a home

Where the tree or vegetation is:

- (a) not a Koala food tree;
- (b) not a threatened species or contain hollows;
- (c) a Cabbage Tree Palm less than 2m high;
- (d) within 5m of a lawful habitable building and meets (a), (b) and (c) above; or
- (e) less than 5m in height or less than 600mm in girth at 1m above the ground, and meets (a), (b) and (c) above.

Vegetation management can be complex and there are instances where the Policy won't apply at all, or on its own:

When the removal of a tree or vegetation is associated with development it will be considered in the development application process. This includes building, subdivision, rezoning or the removal of trees on a heritage-listed site or conservation area.

When tree clearing controls are applied through other legislation and programs, many of which are administered by the NSW Government, these controls should be considered in addition to the Policy.

Why is it important to adhere to the process?

This 3-step process has been developed to make it easier for people to apply for a permit. Legislation outlined in the Vegetation Management Policy applies when clearing is undertaken without seeking the relevant approval.

Non-compliance will be investigated and hefty fines can be issued where it is found that the permit process has not been followed.

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.