

Self-audit form - managing fodder harvesting

This form is for clearing vegetation under the managing fodder harvesting accepted development vegetation clearing code.

It is a requirement of this code that you undertake a self-audit of your fodder harvesting activities prior to notifying for a second or subsequent notifications. You must keep your self-audit results as they may be requested in the future. If a copy of the results is requested, the information collected will be for the purpose of considering legislative requirements under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

Date/s of clearing activities: _____

Lot and plan reference of clearing activities: _____

Date version of the code: _____

Date notification lodged: _____

Date confirmation received: _____

Confirmation reference number: _____

Note: Some aspects of this audit can be assessed by undertaking a desktop assessment, however most will need to be assessed in the field or onsite.

Fodder harvesting code requirements	Yes	No
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Property details

- Fodder harvesting occurred in category B, category C and/or category R areas only.
- The property is in the local government areas of — Balonne, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall Tambo, Bulloo, Diamantina, Goondiwindi, Longreach, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Western Downs, or Winton.
- The property tenure is either: freehold land, indigenous land or leasehold land granted for agricultural and grazing purposes.

Notification requirements and limitations

- An exchange area was legally secured prior to notifying (where relevant).
- A notification was lodged for fodder harvesting by either the landholder or a third party.
- The notification was lodged online or with a completed hard copy notification form and provided all the requested information.
- A confirmation of the notification was received before commencing any clearing or fodder harvesting.
- The notification was for the single lot and limited to 500 ha, including both harvested and retained areas.
- Only operated under the notification for two years from the date of confirmation of the notification.
- Where the notification was a subsequent notification to harvest fodder, a self-audit was conducted prior to renotifying – and satisfied code requirements (where relevant).

Fodder harvesting code requirements	Yes	No
Compliance requirements - The following records (where relevant) have been kept:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS coordinates or map of fodder harvested areas and cleared machinery access areas. • Copies of the Regulated Vegetation Management Map and the Vegetation Management Supporting map. • List of the fodder species being harvested. • Contractor details e.g. name, address and contact details (where relevant). • Instruction to contractors, detailing location, date, time and species (where relevant). • Self-audit results. 		
Fodder harvesting practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting only occurred in the regional ecosystems listed in appendix 1 of the code. • Harvesting only occurred in areas where stock have access to sufficient water. 		
Limitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total area (harvested plus retained) under the notification did <u>not</u> exceed 500 ha. • Harvesting has <u>not</u> occurred in essential habitat unless the area is a category C or category R area and an exchange area was legally secured. • Harvesting did <u>not</u> occur in regional ecosystems on land zone 7, unless all other resources were used. • No more than 50% of any regional ecosystem has been harvested over a 10 year period. • Harvesting has <u>not</u> occurred in retained areas over a 10 year period. • Removal of non-fodder species with a height of 4 m or more did <u>not</u> occur. • Harvesting did <u>not</u> result in wastage of fodder because the rate of harvest did <u>not</u> exceed the amount necessary to feed the number of stock on the lot. • Harvesting did <u>not</u> result in raking or moving harvest debris from where it fell, <u>except</u> where required for essential and routine management. 		
Mechanical harvesting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical harvesting did <u>not</u> occur on slopes greater than 5%. • Mechanical harvesting did <u>not</u> occur within 50 m of an area of soil erosion or instability. • Mechanical harvesting did <u>not</u> occur inside the defining bank of wetlands, watercourses or drainage features. • Mechanical harvesting did <u>not</u> occur within 20 m of the defining bank of wetlands, watercourses or drainage features when utilising selective harvesting. • Mechanical harvesting did <u>not</u> occur within 100 m of the defining bank of wetlands, watercourses or drainage features when utilising strip or block harvesting. 	This section is N/A	

Fodder harvesting code requirements	Yes	No
Selective harvesting	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where fodder harvesting has previously occurred in an area of a lot, selective harvesting only occurred where fodder harvesting has <u>not</u> occurred in the area in the last 10 years. • Where fodder harvesting has previously occurred in an area of a lot, selective harvesting only occurred where the average height of the fodder trees is at least 70 % of the height of the tallest stands of fodder species in the regional ecosystem. • All non-fodder species, <u>except</u> where damage is an unavoidable consequence of harvesting the selected fodder tree, have been retained. • In a least concern regional ecosystem listed in table A1-1 or A1-2 (appendix 1 of the code), at least one fodder tree was retained for each fodder tree harvested. • In an of concern regional ecosystem listed in table A1-2 (appendix 1 of the code) at least two fodder trees were retained for each fodder tree harvested. • The full range of plant sizes and species typical of the harvested regional ecosystem in the area were retained and distributed evenly over the harvested area. 		
Strip harvesting	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting did <u>not</u> occur in a previously harvested area, or, harvesting only occurred in a previously harvested area where all of the following applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The vegetation had <u>not</u> been harvested or cleared in the last 10 years. ○ The average height of the fodder trees was at least 70% of the height of the tallest stands of fodder species in the regional ecosystem. ○ The fodder trees that were previously harvested had attained an average height of at least 4 m. • Harvesting was aligned along the contour, where practical. • Harvesting did <u>not</u> occur in patches of regional ecosystems that are less than 10 ha in area or 500 m in width. • Strip harvest areas did <u>not</u> exceed 50 m in width. • Strip retention areas, of 1.5 times the width of the harvested areas, were retained along the length of the strips as per table 1 of the code. • Strip retention areas contain fodder species with an average height of at least 4 m. • Clearing for machinery access between strip harvest areas did <u>not</u> exceed 15 m in width. 		
Block harvesting	This section is N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting did <u>not</u> occur in a previously harvested area, or, harvesting only occurred in a previously harvested area where all of the following applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The vegetation had <u>not</u> been harvested or cleared in the last 10 years. ○ The average height of the fodder trees was at least 70% of the height of the tallest stands of fodder species in the regional ecosystem. ○ The fodder trees that were previously harvested had attained an average height of at least 4 m. • Harvesting was aligned along the contour, where practical. 		

Fodder harvesting code requirements

Yes No

- Harvesting did not occur in patches of regional ecosystems that are less than 10 ha in area or 500 m in width.
- Each block harvest area did not exceed 1 ha.
- Block retention areas were preserved between block harvest areas, in accordance with the widths specified in table 2 of the code.
- Block retention areas contain fodder species with an average height of at least 4 m.
- Clearing for machinery access between block harvest areas did not exceed 10 m in width.

Soil and Water protection

- Recognised best practice methods were used to prevent increased soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing or harvesting.
- Recognised best practice methods were used to stabilise soil erosion and instability which has resulted from the clearing or harvesting.
- Recognised best practice methods were used to prevent increased sediment run-off entering a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature as a result of the clearing or harvesting.
- Clearing did not occur within 100 m of a salinity expression area.

Exchange areas**This section is N/A**

- An exchange area has been provided in a category X, category C, category R, or category B area.
- The exchange area contains a predominant vegetative layer which is at least 2 m in height.
- The exchange area is consistent with one of the three options listed in Appendix 3 of the code.
- Before harvesting commenced, the exchange area was legally secured using the relevant mechanism outlined in Appendix 3 of the code.
- The exchange area was located within the same bioregion as the impact area, or where it was not reasonably possible, located in an adjacent bioregion.
- The exchange area was configured in a way that maintains ecosystem functioning and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes.
- The exchange area has been shown as a category A area on the regulated vegetation management map until the area becomes remnant vegetation and is mapped as a category B area on the regulated vegetation management map.
- The exchange area has been managed in accordance with a management plan.
- The management plan for the exchange area includes:
 - Property owners' details.
 - Description of the exchange area and a map showing the location and extent.

Fodder harvesting code requirements

Yes No

The management objective is either of the following (tick which applies):

The exchange area is located in a category X area, category C area or category R area - to return the exchange area to remnant vegetation (a category B area on the regulated vegetation management map) as soon as possible and within 20 years.

The exchange area is located in a category B area – to achieve the nominated substantial conservation outcome or address the nominated significant land degradation issue as soon as possible.

Description of works / management actions that will be undertaken to achieve the management objective, including the methods, timing, frequency, intended benefits etc.

Conservation outcomes that will be achieved by the works / management actions.

Description of the management actions that will be undertaken to ensure that the effects of the works do not result in land degradation.

Details of who is responsible for all works and management actions, and the estimated length of time the area/s will be managed.

Monitoring and auditing processes including adaptive management approaches to rectify negative results from the monitoring and auditing processes.

Record keeping process for retaining appropriate records for monitoring and auditing processes.

Self-Audit Results

Where a relevant requirement is assessed as “No” i.e. non-compliant, landholders should cease operations to reassess code requirements, refer to the relevant landholder guide or seek advice from the Vegetation Hub if required.

For more information call the Vegetation Hub on **135 VEG** (135 834), email vegetation@nrmmrrd.qld.gov.au, or search ‘Vegetation Management’ on www.qld.gov.au.