

Self-audit form - managing encroachment

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

It is a requirement of this code that you undertake a self-audit of your managing encroachment 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: _____

Date version of the code: _____

Lot and plan reference of clearing activities: _____

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.

Managing encroachment code requirements	Yes	No
---	-----	----

Property details

- Clearing occurred in category B, category C and/or category R areas only.
- The property tenure is either: freehold land, indigenous land or leasehold land for agricultural or grazing purposes, or is land subject of an occupation licence, under the *Land Act 1994*.

Notification requirements and limitations

- A notification was lodged for managing encroachment 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.
- The notification was for the single lot and was limited to 400 ha.
- A confirmation of the notification was received before commencing any clearing.
- Only operated under the notification for two years from the date of confirmation of the notification.
- Where the notification was a subsequent notification to manage encroachment, a self-audit was undertaken prior to renotifying – and satisfied code requirements (where relevant).

Compliance requirements

The following records (where relevant) have been kept:

- GPS coordinates or map identifying the clearing area.
- Pre-clearing photographs noting the date and associated GPS coordinates.
- Historical imagery and recent imagery used to demonstrate encroachment.

Managing encroachment code requirements**Yes No**

- The name of the invading native woody species causing the encroachment issue.
- For chemical clearing methods, the herbicide used and details on how and where it was applied.
- 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.

Clearing requirements

- Under the notification, the total area that has been cleared to manage encroachment did not exceed 400 ha.
- Clearing only occurred in the correct regional ecosystems – listed in Table 1 of the code.
- A native woody species had invaded the regional ecosystem, to an extent that it was no longer consistent with the description of the regional ecosystem.

Demonstrating encroachment

- Provide historical imagery and recent imagery that exhibits:
 - evidence of image scale
 - identifiable areas of woody vegetation, grasses and/or bare earth.
- Encroachment was identified by locating woody vegetation present in recent imagery that was absent in historical imagery.
- Prior to clearing, four sites were established around the perimeter of the encroachment on the ground and GPS coordinates were recorded at each site, noting the site and coordinates on the recent imagery. Two pre-clearing photographs were taken at each site in the following sequence:
 - Photo one—taken facing away from the encroachment
 - Photo two—taken facing towards the encroachment.

General clearing limitations

- Clearing targeted the native woody species causing the encroachment.
- Clearing resulted in the retention of mature trees and habitat trees.
- Clearing did not result in debris being pushed up against mature or habitat trees.
- Clearing did not occur within a grove, unless it was undertaken by controlled burning methods in accordance with section 4.5 of the code.

Mechanical clearing**This section is N/A**

- Mechanical clearing was excluded from riparian protection zones as per Table 2 of the code.
- Mechanical clearing was excluded from within 10 m of the trunk of a habitat tree.
- Mechanical clearing was excluded from within 50 m of soil erosion or instability.
- Mechanical clearing was excluded on slopes greater than 5%.
- Mechanical clearing was excluded from regional ecosystems that occur on land zone 1.

Managing encroachment code requirements	Yes	No
Chemical clearing This section is N/A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial application of any herbicide did <u>not</u> occur. • Chemical clearing did <u>not</u> occur within 5 m from the trunk of a mature tree or habitat tree. • Root-absorbed broad-spectrum herbicides have been applied in accordance with the approved product label, and the safety and use conditions specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. • Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides application did <u>not</u> occur in regional ecosystem 11.4.11 or 11.8.11. • Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides application did <u>not</u> occur within 10 m from the trunk of a mature tree or habitat tree or at least two times the height of the mature tree or habitat tree, whichever is the greatest. • Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides application did <u>not</u> occur within 30 m of a grove. • Root-absorbed broad spectrum herbicides application did <u>not</u> occur within 100 m of the defining bank of a wetland, watercourse or drainage feature, or any distance specified on the approved product label, whichever is the greater. 		
Encroachment management burning This section is N/A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to undertaking encroachment management burning, all necessary fire permits were obtained. • Encroachment management burning was managed in terms of timing, intensity and lighting pattern to limit the likelihood of damage to mature trees and habitat trees. • Encroachment management burning was undertaken in accordance with the fire guideline for the regional ecosystem, as outlined by the Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD). 		
Soil and Water protection		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised best practice methods were used to prevent increased soil erosion and instability resulting from the clearing. • Recognised best practice methods were used to stabilise soil erosion and instability which has resulted from the clearing. • 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. • Clearing did <u>not</u> occur within 100 m of a salinity expression area. • In land zone 3 where the elevation is less than 5 m above sea level, top soil was <u>not</u> mechanically disturbed to a depth greater than 30 cm. 		
Self-Audit Results		
<p>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.</p> <p>For more information call the Vegetation Hub on 135 VEG (135 834), email vegetation@nrmrrd.qld.gov.au, or search ‘Vegetation Management’ on www.qld.gov.au.</p>		