

# GUIDE TO USING THE INFRASTRUCTURE CODE

Accepted Development Vegetation Clearing Code  
Clearing for Infrastructure

Effective 9 December 2025

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## About this guide

This guide has been developed to help landholders operate under the *Accepted Development Vegetation Clearing Code: Clearing for Infrastructure* (Infrastructure code). It refers to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and the *Planning Act 2016*, which jointly regulate the clearing of native vegetation in Queensland.

The guide focuses specifically on operating under the Infrastructure code. It provides complementary information to the Infrastructure code, and the *General guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes* which includes the notification process, landholder obligations, and technical information that applies to all codes.

Landholders are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with local, state and federal legislation and any regulations that apply to their operations.

## Common abbreviations used in this document

- Code = accepted development vegetation clearing code
- Infrastructure code = *Accepted Development Vegetation Clearing Code: Clearing for Infrastructure*
- The department/NRMMRRD = The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development
- RE = regional ecosystem
- VM REDD = Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database

All terms in this guide have the meaning provided in the Infrastructure code or the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

## Further information

For more information:

- call 135 VEG (135 834)
- email [vegetation@nrmmrrd.qld.gov.au](mailto:vegetation@nrmmrrd.qld.gov.au)
- search 'Vegetation Management' on [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au).

## Links to other documents

[Accepted development vegetation clearing codes](#)

[General guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes](#)

[Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database \(VM REDD\)](#)

# The Infrastructure Code

The current Infrastructure code became effective on 22 November 2023. This replaced the Infrastructure code dated 7 February 2020.

If you intend to conduct clearing for necessary infrastructure on your property using the Infrastructure code, you must notify before clearing and meet the requirements of the code. For more information on the notification process, please refer to the *General guide to the vegetation clearing codes*.

## Scope

The Infrastructure code applies to a range of different land tenures, vegetation categories and infrastructure types (See section 1.2).

The code cannot be used where the clearing would be inconsistent with a condition of an existing development approval for a vegetation clearing application. It also cannot be used if a development approval is required for the clearing of vegetation under a material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application.

## Applicable land tenures

The Infrastructure code applies to the land tenures and the vegetation categories listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Areas where clearing is authorised by the Infrastructure code**

Land tenure	Vegetation categories			
	B	C	R	X
Freehold land	✓	✓	✓	<b>Note 1</b>
Indigenous land	✓	✓	✓	<b>Note 1</b>
Leasehold land granted under the Land Act—clearing must be consistent with the purposes of the lease	✓	✓	✓	<b>Note 1</b>
Unallocated state land under the Land Act—clearing must be carried out, or authorised to be carried out by the chief executive administering the Land Act	✓	✓	✓	<b>Note 1</b>
Trust land (other than indigenous land under the Land Act)—clearing must be consistent with the purpose of the trust land and must be carried out, or authorised to be carried out by the trustee	✓	✓	✓	<b>Note 1</b>
A boundary watercourse under the Land Act—access must be granted by the adjoining landholder and clearing must be carried out, or authorised to be carried out by the chief executive administering the Land Act	✓	✓	✓	<b>Note 2</b>
Dedicated roads	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Note 1:** Under the Planning Regulation 2017, clearing of vegetation in a Category X area is exempt clearing work on freehold land, Indigenous land, land leased under the Land Act, Unallocated State land and trust land under the Land Act in the circumstances listed in the Table.

**Note 2:** Under the Planning Regulation 2017, clearing of vegetation in a Category X area may be exempt clearing work, depending on other existing approvals and the area of clearing.

## Clearing for infrastructure

The Infrastructure code applies to clearing that is required to construct or maintain the types of infrastructure set out in section 1.2 of the code. It applies only to the clearing required to create the space for the infrastructure. The code does not apply to clearing to source construction timber.

Clearing for some kinds of infrastructure is exempt on some land tenures and does not need development approval.

**TIP** *Before notifying and clearing under this code, check whether your clearing qualifies as exempt clearing work under the Planning Regulation 2017. If the clearing is exempt, you do not need to notify. Clearing which is exempt under vegetation management laws may still require approval under other local, State or Commonwealth government laws or local government planning schemes. You are encouraged to check with agencies listed in Appendix 1 of the Infrastructure code.*

If you wish to clear for a type of infrastructure that is not exempt and not listed in the code, you may be able to apply for a development approval for clearing native vegetation under the *Planning Act 2016*.

## Notification limitations

Section 2.2 lists the notification limitations for the Infrastructure code. Each notification made under the Infrastructure code must meet these limitations to be considered valid.

### Dedicated roads and non-tidal watercourses

The Infrastructure code requires that each notification is limited to a single lot, however, the code also allows for some clearing activities on dedicated roads and non-tidal boundary watercourses. For this type of clearing, you will need to submit a hard copy form which can be found on the Queensland Government website. For more information, please refer to *Clearing on a dedicated road* in this guide.

**TIP** *Printable notification forms are available online (visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) and search 'printable notification form') and you can email the completed form to [vegetation@nrmrrd.qld.gov.au](mailto:vegetation@nrmrrd.qld.gov.au).*

### Clearing for more than one type of infrastructure

The clearing requirements vary for different types of infrastructure under this code. If you are constructing more than one type of infrastructure in the same location, you will need to make a separate notification for each type of infrastructure.

For example, clearing for a dam and a track on a lot requires two separate notifications.

### Clearing for more than one item of infrastructure

An item of infrastructure is distinct and separate in its purpose. Only one notification can be lodged per item of infrastructure. If you need to clear for multiple items of the same type of infrastructure, then you must lodge a separate notification for each individual item of infrastructure you want to clear for.

For example, clearing to establish two dams on a lot, will require two notifications, one for each dam. Each item of infrastructure must meet the code clearing limitations and requirements (including providing an exchange area if required).

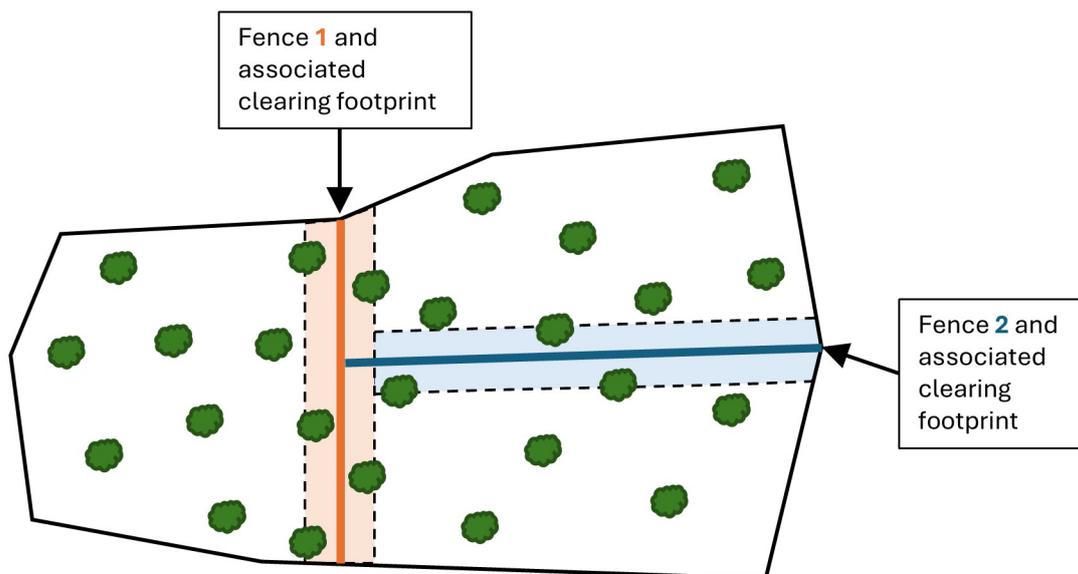
### *Intersecting infrastructure*

Items of infrastructure can intersect but will be considered separate where they act independently from each other. If sections of infrastructure connect to form part of the same purpose, the sections make up a single item of infrastructure and must be notified for under one notification. Where infrastructure of the same type intersect but are independent from each other in their purpose, separate notifications must be made for each item of infrastructure.

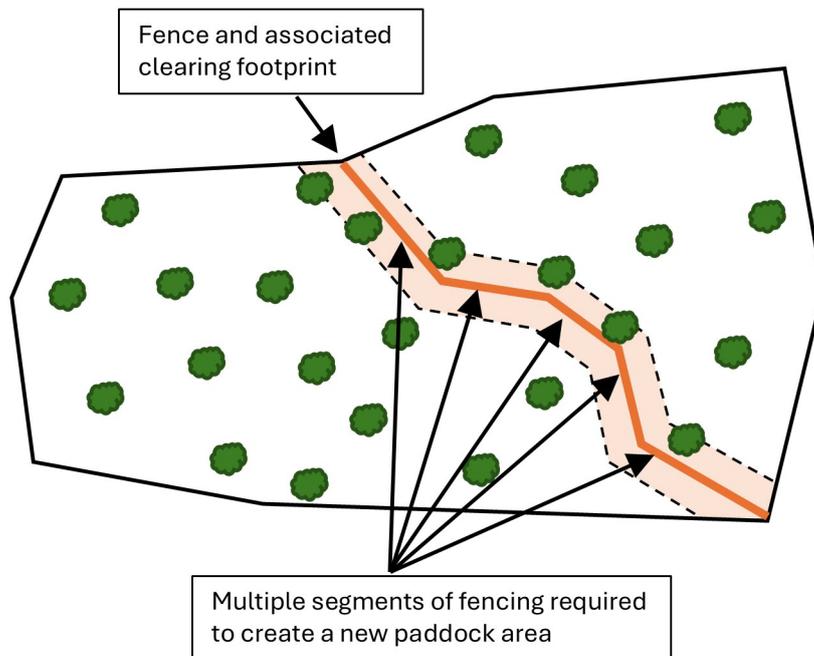
#### Example: Notifying to clear for new fencing on a lot

Separate notifications can be made where the clearing required to install fencing is for separate and distinct locations and purposes.

For example, a notification can be made to clear for an internal fence to create a paddock area and a second notification can be made to clear for another internal fence in a different location to divide the new paddock area into two (see Figure 1 below). However, separate notifications cannot be lodged for variations in alignment of a single fence (see Figure 2 below).



**Figure 1:** two notifications must be made. Each fence notification must adhere to clearing limits and/or exchange area requirements for that segment of fence.



**Figure 2:** one notification must be made. Clearing under this notification must adhere to clearing limits and/or exchange area requirements for all segments of fencing combined.

For information on determining an item of infrastructure for clearing on a dedicated road, refer to the below section on *Clearing on a dedicated road*.

### *Lodging multiple notifications*

You cannot lodge multiple notifications for one single item of infrastructure. Each item of infrastructure must include its entire clearing footprint in one notification, even if it is a large infrastructure project built in stages. This ensures clearing limits and exchange area requirements are applied correctly.

If you later need to extend the same item of infrastructure, you can lodge a new notification. However, the total clearing footprint, including the area already cleared under the previous notification, must still meet the clearing limits and if necessary, exchange area requirements.

## Necessary infrastructure

You cannot clear regulated vegetation for infrastructure unless the infrastructure is necessary (See section 4.1).

Infrastructure is 'necessary' if you need it to continue an existing operation on your property, or to commence a new operation that you have planned, and for which you have any required approvals.

Examples include:

- clearing for an internal fence to subdivide a paddock to enhance property management or improve land condition would be considered necessary.
- clearing for dams and water infrastructure on an existing grazing property where livestock have been excluded from accessing a watercourse would be considered necessary.
- clearing on a dedicated road to install telecommunication infrastructure where the road authority has provided consent would be considered necessary.
- clearing that serves the same purpose as existing clearing is not necessary. For example:
  - siting a 10 metre wide track next to existing clearing for a fence line, making the total width of clearing 20 metres, is not necessary clearing. It does not comply with the code, because the 10 metres wide fence line clearing can serve the same purpose as the track.
  - Clearing for a track where there is an existing fire management line that provides access to the same part of a property. It does not comply with the code because the fire management line can serve the same purpose as a track.
- Clearing for sheds and tracks to store and move equipment for managing a rural property, that would not otherwise require a new or changed development approval, (See section 1.2 Scope of the code) would be considered necessary.

### Avoid and minimise requirements

Whilst clearing can occur in category B areas, category C areas and category R areas, it must only occur when clearing cannot reasonably be in a category X area or in an existing cleared area (See section 4.1 for avoid and minimise requirements).

Clearing must also avoid, and if avoidance is not possible, minimise to the greatest extent possible, clearing of essential habitat, habitat trees, immature koala habitat trees, koala habitat areas and riparian protection zones.

See the *General guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes* for more information on avoid and minimise requirements.

## Clearing requirements

There are limits to the amount of clearing that can occur (sections 4.2 and 4.3). Where the limit is expressed as an area, this is the maximum area that can be cleared on a lot under one notification. As the clearing (location and extent) must be avoided and minimised (section 4.1) to the greatest extent as far as reasonably possible, it should not be taken that clearing to the maximum amount is allowed by the code.

If you need to clear a greater area in a category B area for a single item of infrastructure than the limits permitted under the code, you may be able to apply for a development approval for the clearing.

Clearing in a category C, category R or category X area must not exceed the clearing requirements of the code unless:

- an exchange area is legally secured prior to clearing  
or
- if the clearing is in a koala habitat area (SEQ Regional plan area only), a koala offset is secured for the extent of the clearing as a condition of a development approval.

For further information on securing an exchange area or a koala offset refer to the 'Exchange area' section below and the *General guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes*.

## Regional ecosystem class and structure category

Some clearing requirements depend on the class of the regional ecosystem (RE) or its structure category (see Table 1 and 2 of the Infrastructure code). The RE class indicates the REs current remnant extent within the bioregion and will be either endangered, of concern or least concern. The RE structure category relates to the woody vegetation density of the RE (e.g. very sparse, sparse, mid-dense, dense).

For more information on REs see the *General Guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes*. You can find information on the class and structure category of the REs on your property in a vegetation management property report or through the VM REDD.

 Access your vegetation management property report or search the VM REDD online at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) (search for 'vegetation management property report' or 'VM REDD').

## Clearing in category X areas under the Infrastructure code

On some tenures, clearing in category X areas will need to be undertaken in accordance with a code to avoid requiring a development approval. For example, where clearing on a road is not carried out by local government.

Where the Infrastructure code requires you to determine the regional ecosystem (RE) structure category in a category X area, you can follow the steps below to identify your RE structure category:

- Consider the likely vegetation community present in the clearing area. It may be helpful to check the *Vegetation Management pre-clear regional ecosystem map* in QLD Globe under the Vegetation Management topic to identify the pre-clear RE number in the location of the vegetation.
- Search the RE number in the VM REDD and consider whether the description of the vegetation matches the vegetation on your site. If it does, use the structure category for that RE found in the VM REDD.
- If it does not match the vegetation on site, a manual assessment of the vegetation could be undertaken by using the Queensland Herbarium "Methodology for Survey and Mapping of Regional Ecosystems and Vegetation Communities in Queensland". Once the likely RE is determined, the structure category can be found by searching the RE in the VM REDD.

 The VM REDD is available at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) (search 'VM REDD').  
The Qld Globe can be accessed at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au) (search 'Qld Globe').

**TIP** The Queensland Herbarium provides plant identification services, information and advice on Queensland's plant species and vegetation. This can include information on species' distributions, weediness and conservation status. For more information, contact the Queensland Herbarium:

**E:** [Queensland.Herbarium@qld.gov.au](mailto:Queensland.Herbarium@qld.gov.au)

**P:** (07) 3199 7699

## Crossing a watercourse or drainage feature

The code does not allow clearing within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature unless a 'crossing' of the watercourse or drainage feature is required. A 'crossing' does not run parallel to a watercourse or drainage feature, however, it may include partial crossing or access to a watercourse or drainage feature. For example, clearing to install a pipeline ending in a watercourse would be consistent with 'crossing' the watercourse.

**TIP** Before notifying and clearing under this code to clear within a watercourse, check whether your clearing may require approval under other laws like the Water Act 2000, and whether it qualifies as exempt clearing work under the Planning Regulation 2017. You are also encouraged to check with agencies listed in Appendix 1 of the Infrastructure code.

## Fire management lines and firebreaks

Fire management lines and firebreaks are different types of infrastructure and have different purposes.

The Queensland Fire Department can provide guidance about the fire risk on a property, the best location for firebreaks or fire management lines, and fuel reduction burning.

### *Firebreaks*

A firebreak is a strip of cleared land immediately adjacent to infrastructure other than boundary fences, tracks, internal fences, irrigation channels and contour banks. It is used to stop or steady a wildfire, or conduct back-burning, to protect the infrastructure from fire.

#### **Exempt clearing work:**

The Planning Regulation 2017 provides an exemption under 'essential management' for establishing or maintaining firebreaks to protect infrastructure other than a fence, road or vehicular track, which applies in some land tenures.

Under this exemption the maximum width of the firebreak is equal to 1.5 times the height of the tallest tree next to the infrastructure, or 20 metres, whichever is wider. This is for both coastal and non-coastal properties.

You do not need to notify under the Infrastructure code if you want to construct a firebreak that complies with the exemption.

#### **Infrastructure code:**

The Infrastructure code allows for clearing a wider firebreak up to 30 metres in non-coastal properties.

In category C and category R areas, the Infrastructure code allows landholders to clear firebreaks wider than 30 metres in a non-coastal area after an exchange area has been legally secured.

Exchange area requirements are detailed in the appendix of the Infrastructure code. See *General Guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes* for more information on how to identify and legally secure exchange areas.

**Development approval:**

If you want to clear a firebreak wider than permitted under the Infrastructure code or the exemptions, you may be able to apply for a development approval to clear for a firebreak.

*Fire management lines*

Fire management lines are a pathway, track or fence line clearing which can be used for fuel reduction burns, back burning operations, and to provide access around the property in the event of a fire.

**Exempt clearing work:**

The Planning Regulation 2017 provides for an exemption under 'essential management' for establishing a necessary fire management line, in some tenures. The maximum width of the clearing is 10 metres. You do not need to notify under this code if you want to construct a fire management line that complies with the exemption.

**Infrastructure code:**

In category C or category R areas, the Infrastructure code enables landholders to clear fire management lines wider than 10 metres after an exchange area has been legally secured. Exchange area requirements are detailed in the appendix of the Infrastructure code.

See *General Guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes* for more information on how to identify and legally secure exchange areas.

**Development approval:**

If you want to clear a fire management line wider than 10 metres in category B vegetation, you may be able to apply for a development approval to clear for a track.

**Construction materials**

Sourcing timber to construct new infrastructure is not authorised by the Infrastructure code.

**Exempt clearing work:**

The Planning Regulation 2017 provides an exemption for clearing to source construction timber for establishing necessary infrastructure on the same land.

- This exemption applies on freehold land and on a lease for agriculture or grazing purposes only.
- This exemption is limited to areas of regulated regrowth and least concern category B REs and requires the owner of the land (or the lessee of a lease for agricultural or grazing purposes) to ensure restoration of a similar type to, and extent of, the removed trees.
- You do not need to notify if you are sourcing construction timber in a way that complies with the exemption.

**Native forest practice code**

If you wish to source timber to construct infrastructure on other tenures or in other areas, you can do this if the work complies with the *Managing a native forest practice accepted development clearing code*.

You need to notify if you are clearing under this code.

**Further advice:** On leasehold land, lessees cannot source timber from commercial tree species for constructing new infrastructure. Lessees should contact the Department of Primary Industries to clarify the use and availability of timber on leasehold land.

## Fence lines

### Exempt clearing work:

The Planning Regulation 2017 provides an exemption for clearing to establish a necessary fence.

On freehold land, Indigenous land and leasehold for agriculture or grazing purposes, this exemption applies to areas of regulated regrowth and least concern category B REs.

On leasehold land for other purposes, the exemption only applies where the clearing is consistent with the purpose of the lease and is limited to category R areas and least concern category B areas.

The Planning Regulation 2017 also provides an exemption for maintaining an existing fence. This applies on all land tenures and in all REs; however, on a dedicated road it only applies to a boundary fence to a maximum width of three metres. You do not need to notify to do this clearing.

### Infrastructure code:

You can clear to build an internal fence on your property provided the clearing is:

- not more than 10 metres wide (including any existing clearing along the fence line)
- at least 10 metres from the defining bank of a wetland
- at least 10 metres from the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage line unless a crossing is required (see Table 1 of the Infrastructure code).

#### *Example: Clearing for a laneway*

Establishing an internal laneway by enclosing a new or expanded track with surrounding fences should limit clearing for the laneway to a maximum of 10 metres, ensuring that existing cleared areas are not widened to more than 10 metres. This would require one notification for the track, because once the area for the track is cleared, the fences can be established along the outer edges of the track without requiring additional clearing. It also appropriately locates the infrastructure in the same cleared area (see avoid and minimise principles in section 4.1 of the code).

However, in circumstances where the necessary infrastructure cannot reasonably be located together in the same maximum 10m width cleared area, three notifications may be required (one for each fence and the track).

Examples of where this may be appropriate include to resolve a construction issue presented by topography or landform, or applying avoid and minimise principles to locate as much of the clearing as reasonably possible for the infrastructure away from of concern or endangered regional ecosystems or essential habitat.

Where a greater clearing area is necessary for vehicular access along a laneway, the clearing may not meet the code limitations, and a development approval may be more appropriate. Further guidance should be sought for your circumstance before notifying to clear under the code.

Clearing between fence lines for a corridor to move stock is not covered by this code.

Under the Infrastructure code, you can clear for a boundary fence provided the clearing is not more than 10 metres wide (including any existing clearing along the fence line) on the landholder's side of the property boundary (See Table 1 of the Infrastructure code).

## Tracks, irrigation channels and contour banks

Under the Infrastructure code, you can clear to build or widen an existing track, irrigation channel or contour bank provided clearing is not more than 10 metres wide.

Clearing for a track, irrigation channel or contour bank cannot occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of a wetland. It must also be at least 10 metres from the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage line unless a crossing is required for a track or internal fence (See Table 1 of the Infrastructure code).

Contour banks are earthen structures constructed across slopes that are used to intercept runoff before it concentrates and starts to cause erosion, after which it is safely channelled into stable grassed waterways, natural depressions or grassed areas adjacent to a paddock. Unlike drainage and erosion control structures, contour banks are not associated with linear infrastructure but must be constructed across slopes and end in a natural drainage feature.

## Drainage and erosion control structures

Drainage and erosion control structures are earthen works associated with tracks, fence lines, firebreaks, fire management lines and other linear infrastructure. They are used to control and prevent erosion and are often made in a series. For example: Whoa boys may be made at regular intervals along a track. For the purpose of the Infrastructure code, drainage and erosion control structures do not include contour banks.

The *Soil Conservation Guidelines for Queensland* detail specific information on making drainage and erosion control structures. Access the *Soil Conservation Guidelines for Queensland* at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) (search for 'soil conservation guidelines').

The Infrastructure code allows clearing of up to 900 square metres per drainage and erosion control structure in areas other than a dedicated road (see Table 1 of the Infrastructure code). Each drainage and erosion control structure is a separate item of infrastructure.

Clearing to implement more complex types of erosion control programs is not permitted.

For example: Ripping gully heads to fix gully erosion. These works may be covered under the code for Necessary Environmental Clearing. If the clearing is in a category B area, you may also be able to apply for a development approval for these works.

**TIP** *If you are unsure which drainage infrastructure type applies to you, call 135 VEG (135 834) or email [vegetation@nrmmrrd.qld.gov.au](mailto:vegetation@nrmmrrd.qld.gov.au)*

## All other linear infrastructure

Linear infrastructure is a structure built or used for any purpose that is linear in nature. This could include pipelines, telecommunication lines, power lines and other linear infrastructure.

For the purpose of the Infrastructure code, linear infrastructure does not include boundary fences, tracks, internal fences, irrigation channels or drainage and erosion control structures, as these have their own specific requirements.

Clearing for linear infrastructure or widening of an existing cleared area must not:

- exceed the width limits in Appendix 2, Table A of the code
- occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of a wetland
- occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature unless a watercourse crossing is required.

## *Powerlines*

Appendix 2, Table A, sets out clearing width limitations for powerlines based on voltage. However, any powerline that exceeds the stated voltage is still considered 'linear infrastructure'.

For example: Clearing for 66kV powerlines can still be undertaken by applying the clearing limits 'For all other linear infrastructure' listed in table A.

## **Airstrips and helipads**

Clearing for the construction of an airstrip or helipad must not occur within the riparian protection zones outlined in Appendix 2, Table C of the code.

## **Non-linear infrastructure**

Non-linear infrastructure is a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose such as residential housing and associated structures, commercial and industrial buildings and structures, sheds, dams, windmills, solar panels or telecommunication towers.

For the Infrastructure code, this does not include linear infrastructure, airstrips or helipads. Clearing limits for non-linear infrastructure are outlined in Table 1 of the code.

## *Dams*

Clearing for a dam is classified as non-linear infrastructure and includes the destruction of any native vegetation killed by inundation by the dam. When calculating the clearing area for a farm dam, you must include the area of the earthworks and the area that will be inundated when the dam is full.

## *Telecommunication towers*

Clearing for a telecommunication tower can be undertaken by following the requirements for non-linear infrastructure under the code. If a development approval for an MCU is required, this should be obtained first before clearing in accordance with the code.

## **Essential habitat**

Essential habitat is the habitat of native wildlife prescribed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or near threatened (protected wildlife).

See the *General Guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes* for more information on how to identify essential habitat.

## Clearing on a dedicated road

The Infrastructure code allows clearing on dedicated roads where consent has been granted by the road authority to enter, access and undertake clearing or other works on the dedicated road. It also allows for local governments to undertake works that require clearing in category B vegetation for some infrastructure that is not covered under an exemption.

### Landholder consent for clearing on a road reserve

You must have consent to enter, access and undertake clearing or other works on a dedicated road, before you notify under the Infrastructure code.

Consent must be provided by the road authority of the dedicated road. For consent on a State-controlled road under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* contact the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

For all other dedicated roads, the local government is the road authority and should be contacted. Evidence of consent from the road authority does not need to be provided to the department.

### Determining whether clearing is for one or more items of infrastructure on a dedicated road

Under the Infrastructure code, a notification is limited to a single item of infrastructure.

The information below provides examples of infrastructure to clarify when the infrastructure is one or more items.

Where clearing on a dedicated road is for the purpose of widening or modifying the road itself, the item of infrastructure under the code is a 'track' (vehicular or pedestrian access).

If clearing is required on multiple sections of a single road, the clearing must be included under one notification.

The clearing limits of the Infrastructure code will apply to the total clearing footprint along the single road, not each individual section of clearing.

If clearing is required for widening or modifying several roads, a separate notification will be required to clear for each road.

#### Example 1: Notifying to clear within dedicated roads to widen vehicular access (a 'track')

Clearing is required on both John Street and Smith Street for the purpose of widening the road to enable construction equipment to be transported to a development site. As the item of infrastructure in this case is the road, two separate notifications are required, one for John Street and one for Smith Street. Where there are segmented patches of vegetation that need to be cleared along a road these must be notified for cumulatively within the one notification. The notification for John Street will include three patches of vegetation and the notification for Smith Street will contain a singular patch of vegetation.

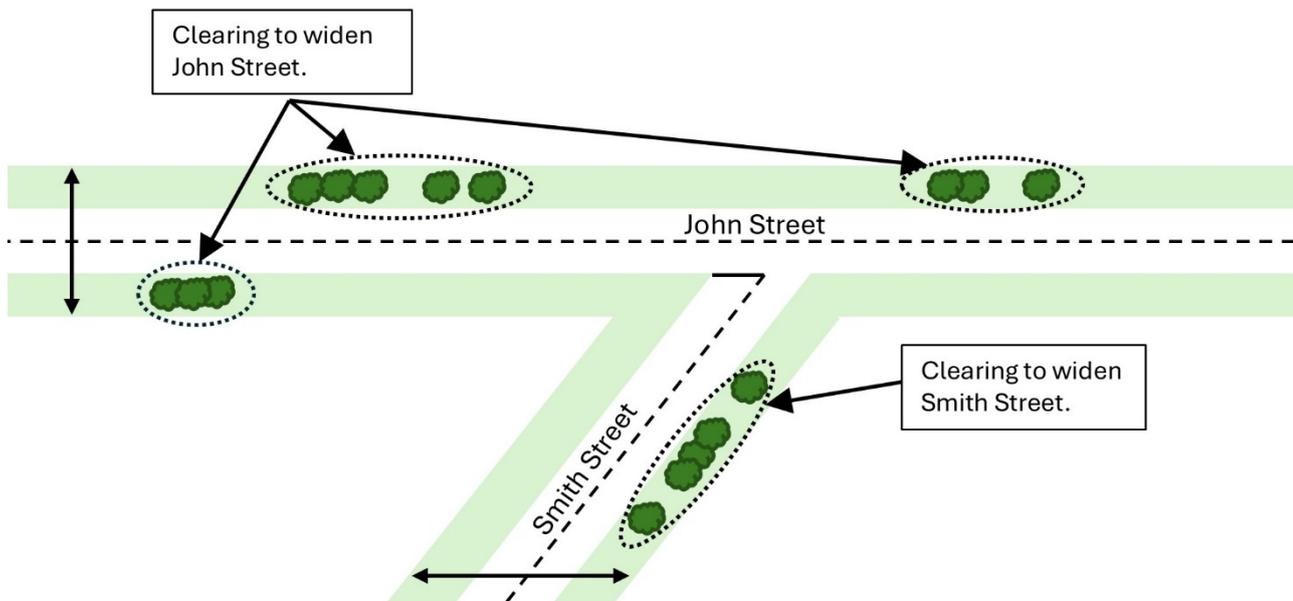


Figure 3: clearing to modify or widen a road

Where infrastructure is established on a dedicated road but is separate from the road and requires connection to function for their intended purpose (such as water pipelines or telecommunication lines), the infrastructure is considered one item, even if it extends across multiple roads.

Example2: Notifying to clear within dedicated roads for infrastructure separate to the road

Clearing is required along both John Street and Smith Street to install a water pipeline. In this case the item of infrastructure is the water pipeline. While there are two intersecting sections of pipeline in this scenario, the sections must connect for water to flow between the two sections. Therefore, both pipelines are part of the same item of infrastructure as they cannot function independently of each other. In this case, only one notification must be submitted for the total clearing on both John Street and Smith Street.

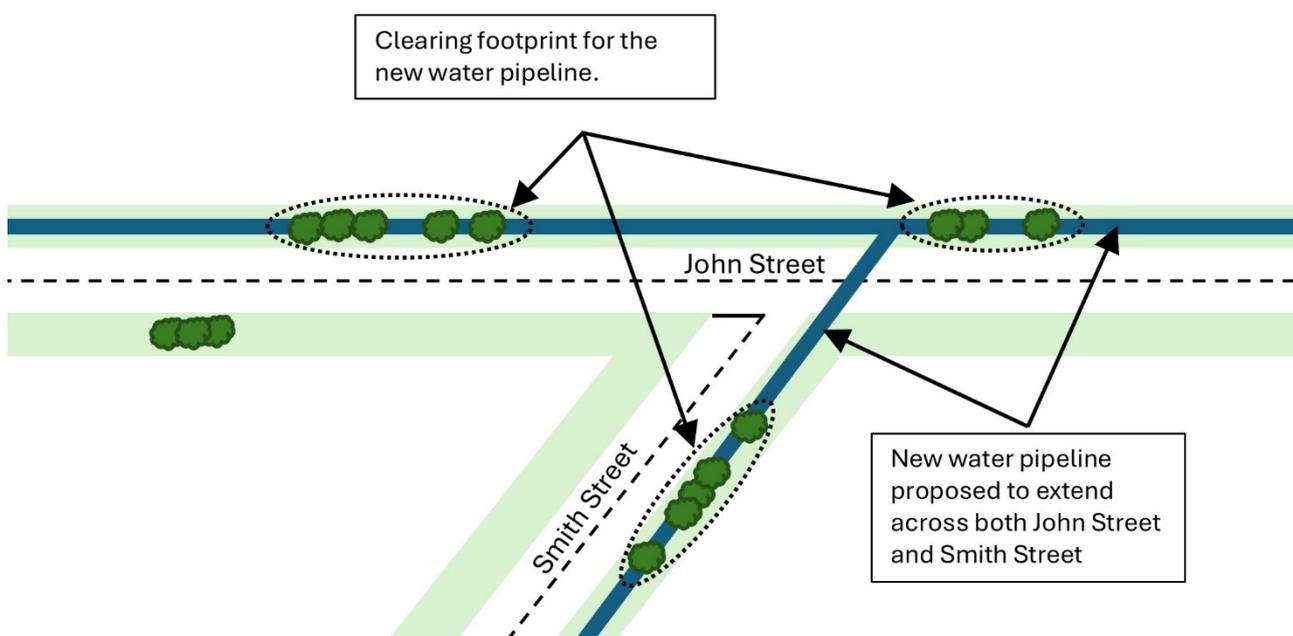


Figure 4: clearing to install a water pipeline

### Further advice

Multiple notifications cannot be used to increase the total clearing for an item of infrastructure by staging the clearing for the development.

If the total clearing for the item of infrastructure cannot adhere to clearing limitations and other requirements, the clearing will likely require a development approval.

For this reason, it may be appropriate for some projects to consider clearing impacts as a whole in a development application (not just on the development site), rather than attempting to stage some of the consequential clearing outside of the site as accepted development after the approval is issued.

## Clearing requirements on a dedicated road

There are specified widths and area limits for clearing that occurs on a dedicated road. (See section 4.3, Table 2 and Table A and B in Appendix 2 of the Infrastructure code). The width and area limits depend on the structure category of the RE.

### Identifying the structure category of the RE.

To identify the structure category of a RE on a dedicated road, visit the Queensland Globe website and use the map layers *Vegetation management regional ecosystem – all* and *Vegetation management regional ecosystem map labels* in the Vegetation Management topic.

Note that the map may show areas as category C, however on a dedicated road these areas should be treated as category X. A dedicated road is not an applicable tenure under the definition of high value regrowth under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

You can then search the RE number in the VM REDD to identify the RE structure category.

Refer to the above section '*Clearing in category X areas under the infrastructure code*' for guidance on identifying the RE structure category in a category X area.



The VM REDD is available at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) (search 'VM REDD').

The Qld Globe can be accessed at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au) (search 'Qld Globe').

## Soil and water quality protections

Soil and water quality protections are covered in section 4.4 of the Infrastructure code.

Please see the *General guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes* for further information on protections for soil and water quality.

## Exchange areas

Clearing of category C, category R or category X areas that exceeds the area or width limits specified in Table 1 and 2 of the Infrastructure code is permitted, provided an exchange area is legally secured before submitting a notification to clear under the code.

For information about how to secure an exchange area refer to the *General guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes*. (See requirements for an exchange area in section 4.5 of the Infrastructure code).

**TIP** Before undertaking clearing that requires legally securing an exchange area, it is recommended that you obtain independent legal and financial advice regarding the impact of any subsequent certification of a property map of assessable vegetation (PMAV) or declared area (voluntary).

## Exchange areas and koala habitat (SEQ only)

You may require a development approval if you intend to clear in a koala habitat area. The development approval may require an environmental offset as a condition of approval (a koala offset). You do not need to provide an exchange area for your proposed clearing where it is required under the Infrastructure code if a koala offset has already been secured for clearing that same area.

For more information on koala regulations, see the *General guide to accepted development vegetation clearing codes* or contact the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

 Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation  
**E:** [SEQKoalaStrategy@detsi.qld.gov.au](mailto:SEQKoalaStrategy@detsi.qld.gov.au)  
**W:** <https://environment.qld.gov.au>  
**P:** 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

## Example of proposed infrastructure

This section provides an example of proposed clearing for infrastructure, and how the requirements of the Infrastructure code and the Planning Regulation 2017 exemptions are applied to the proposal.

### Building infrastructure to establish a new paddock

As part of farm planning, the landholder has identified that a new paddock is required (Figure 5). As a result, the landholder wants to undertake clearing for the following infrastructure:

- shed - 0.8 ha
- firebreak around the shed
- track from the existing dedicated road to the shed
- dam (includes the inundation area) -1.8 ha
- track between the dam and shed
- fence that acts as a fire management line
- fence parallel to a boundary fence for a laneway.

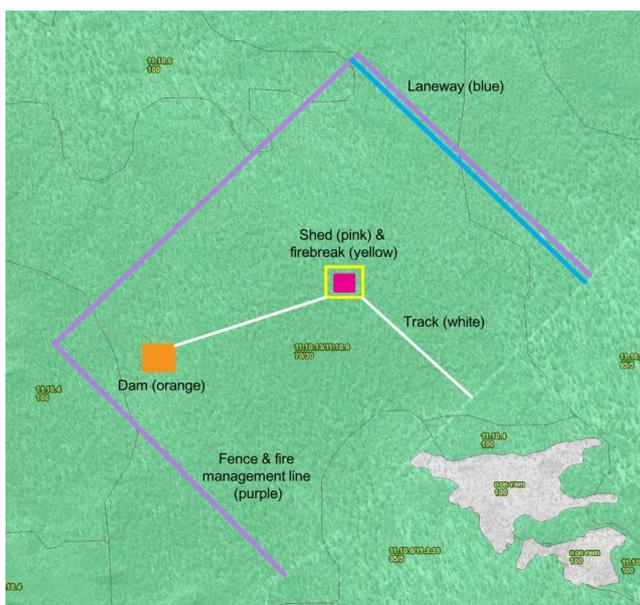


Figure 5: Example of infrastructure

#### Step 1: Check mapping

The Vegetation Management Report for this lot/plan (Figure 5) contains the following information:

- the lot is freehold land tenure
- it is located in a non-coastal location
- the lot contains RE 11.10.13/11.10.6 where proposed infrastructure is located
- RE 11.10.13 has a class of least concern, category B, mid-dense structure category
- RE 11.10.6 has a class of least concern, category B, very sparse structure category.

The landholder then undertakes a vegetation assessment that finds that all proposed infrastructure is located in RE 11.10.13.

## Step 2: Check exemptions and notification requirements

The Planning Regulation 2017 'routine management' exemptions apply because the site is located in category B least concern vegetation on freehold land. The 'routine management' exemption allows clearing up to 10 metres wide to establish the fences and tracks, and to build the shed (which is built infrastructure). *Notifications are not required for this clearing as it is covered by the exemptions.*

As the tallest adjacent vegetation is less than 13 metres in height near the proposed shed location, the 'essential management' exemption will allow clearing for the firebreak up to 20 metres wide once the shed is constructed. *A notification is not required for this clearing as it is covered by the exemptions.*

The landholder has received expert advice that a firebreak of 30 metres is necessary to protect the infrastructure. Extending the firebreak to 30 metres wide is not allowed under the 'essential management' exemption. However Table 1 of the Infrastructure code permits clearing for a necessary firebreak up to 30 metres wide in non-coastal areas. *A notification is required under the Infrastructure code before clearing the wider firebreak.*

Clearing for the dam can be done under the routine management exemption as:

- the total area cleared for the dam (and the dam's footprint) is less than 2 hectares
- the lot is freehold land
- the vegetation is a least concern RE in a category B area.

*A notification is not required for the clearing as it is covered by the exemptions.*

While the Infrastructure code provides for clearing for dams above the limits and scope of the exemptions, clearing limits do apply. In this case, the dam is located in a least concern category B area with a mid-dense RE, which is limited to 2 hectares of clearing under Table 1 of the code. If the landholder seeks to increase the size of the dam in the future, a development approval would be required as the size limit in a category B area with a mid-dense RE has already been met for the dam.