FACT SHEET

Managing vegetation on private property – Maryborough

How is vegetation clearing managed in Maryborough?

The Maryborough City Plan 2000 regulates all vegetation clearing in the Maryborough area including Maryborough city, the suburbs and the coastal townships from Poona to Maaroom.

The State government also has requirements for the clearing of vegetation of State significance.

How is significant vegetation protected by Council?

Significant natural ecological features, including vegetation, are identified on the Ecological Values and Features Maps (Map EP1 and Map EP2) of the Maryborough City Plan.

This mapping includes all remnant vegetation and 'of concern' regional ecosystems (identified by the State government) along with areas of identified locally-significant vegetation and ecosystems such as koala habitat.

The associated Ecology Protection Code contains specific requirements to protect and enhance Maryborough's natural ecological features.

Is my site on the Ecological Values and Features Map?

In order to determine if your property has ecological values identified on an Ecological Values and Features Map please contact Council's Duty Planner on Ph. 1300 79 49 29 to undertake a property search.

Do I need an approval to clear vegetation in Maryborough?

Under the current Maryborough City Plan 2000, all vegetation removal will trigger a ***Code Assessable Operational Works application*** to Council.

Applications are assessed against the following policy:

- ***Where a site is identified on an Ecological Values and Features Map*** – applications will be assessed against the Ecology Protection Code.
- ***Where a site contains natural features <u>not</u> identified on the Ecological Values and Features Map*** – applications will be assessed against the Conservation Strategy (and DEO17) of the Maryborough City Plan.
- ***Where clearing trees of a certain size*** – applications will be assessed for their impact on landscape character in accordance with the Tourism Strategy and DEO's 4 and 5 of the Maryborough City Plan.
- ***Where clearing is associated with managing bushfire hazards and other public safety impacts*** – applications will be assessed against the Public Health and Safety Strategy (and DEO 35) of the Maryborough City Plan.

PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay, Qld 4655
P: 1300 79 49 29 F: (07) 4197 4455
E: enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au
www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Can my application qualify for a fast-tracked assessment?

A specific 'fast-track' assessment process has been established for applications that are:

- not located on the Ecological Values and Features Map; and
- associated with a Detached House;

and where the proposed clearing is:

- on land within a footprint for a building, pool or associated infrastructure (eg. driveways); or
- necessary to remove danger to people or property and is closer to an existing or approved building or pool than it is high; or
- in a medium or high bushfire hazard area and for a necessary firebreak within a distance of an existing or approved building equal to or less than 1.5 times the height of the vegetation, or 20 metres, whichever is greater.

These applications will be processed with a 'nil' application fee and a five (5) business day turn-around time.

What State regulations apply?

Remnant vegetation

The State Government regulates vegetation removal across Queensland within areas of mapped remnant and regrowth vegetation under the *Vegetation Management Act* 1999, and specifically for development applications associated with a material change of use or reconfiguration of a lot.

For further information refer to: http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/vegetation/clearing/mcurol.html

To check whether your land includes remnant vegetation refer to: http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/biodiversity/regional_ecosystems/introduction_and_status/regional_ecosystem_maps/

Mangroves

All marine plants including mangroves are protected under Queensland law through provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994. The destruction, damage or disturbance of marine plants without prior approval from the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries is prohibited. Heavy penalties apply to any unauthorised disturbances.

For further details refer to: http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/28_9125.htm

Vegetation covenants

Vegetation can also be protected under vegetation covenants registered under the *Land Title Act* 1994. Details of covenants are included on the land title and can be checked at the time of purchase. Information about covenants can also be obtained from Council.

Require Further Information?

For further information about vegetation protection and clearing in Maryborough, please contact Council's Duty Planner on Ph. 1300 79 49 29.