FACT SHEET

Managing vegetation on private property – Tiaro

How is vegetation clearing managed in Tiaro?

The Tiaro Planning Scheme 2005 regulates all vegetation clearing in Tiaro - from the removal of individual trees on residential blocks, to larger scale vegetation clearing on rural land.

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

How is significant vegetation protected by Council?

Significant vegetation is identified on the Natural Features and Resources Overlay Maps OM1, OM2, and OM3 of the Tiaro Shire Planning Scheme.

The associated Natural Features and Resources Overlay Code of the Tiaro Shire Planning Scheme contains specific requirements to protect and enhance these significant natural features and resources.

Furthermore, the Natural Hazard Overlay mapping also identifies hazard areas where vegetation protection is warranted for overall environmental management and hazard protection.

Is my site within the Natural Features and Resources overlay?

Council's online mapping tool can be used to search for overlaymapping on specific properties in Tiaro. To view the online mapping visit: http://pdonline.frasercoast.qld.gov.au.

What are the requirements for clearing vegetation?

A ***Code Assessable Operational Works application*** is required for clearing vegetation, even where no other form of development is being undertaken, in the following circumstances:

- The site is identified on the Natural Features and Resources Overlay mapping and is:
  - within 100 metres of the top bank of a major watercourse shown on Map OM3; or
  - on a slope of 15% or greater.
- The site is identified on the Natural Hazards Overlay mapping and is:
  - below 20 metres AHD as shown on Map OM5 and where associated with the excavation of more than 100m^3 of land below 5 metres AHD; or
  - on or within 100 metres of land with a gradient of 15% or greater.

Such an application needs to be submitted to Council with the correct IDAS Application Forms and supporting material. Applications are assessable against the applicable overlay code/s.

How can my application qualify for a fast-tracked assessment?

A specific 'fast-track' assessment process has been established for certain applications that are associated with a Detached House.

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

Applications in this instance can qualify for the fast-tracked assessment process 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 a site includes remnant vegetation refer to: http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/biodiversity/regional_ecosystems/introduction_and_status/regional_ecosystem_maps/

Marine Plants and Mangroves

All marine plants, including mangroves, are protected under the *Fisheries Act* 1994. The destruction, damage or disturbance of marine plants without 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.

Further Information?

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

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