

Vegetation Management

Logan City features many areas with significant biodiversity values. These values are an important part of the city's natural environment and contribute to its character and appeal.

Council uses the *Logan Planning Scheme 2015's* Biodiversity Areas Overlay and Waterway Corridors and Wetland Overlay to protect and improve a range of environmental values including wildlife habitat and movement, biodiversity corridors, native vegetation, and landscape values.

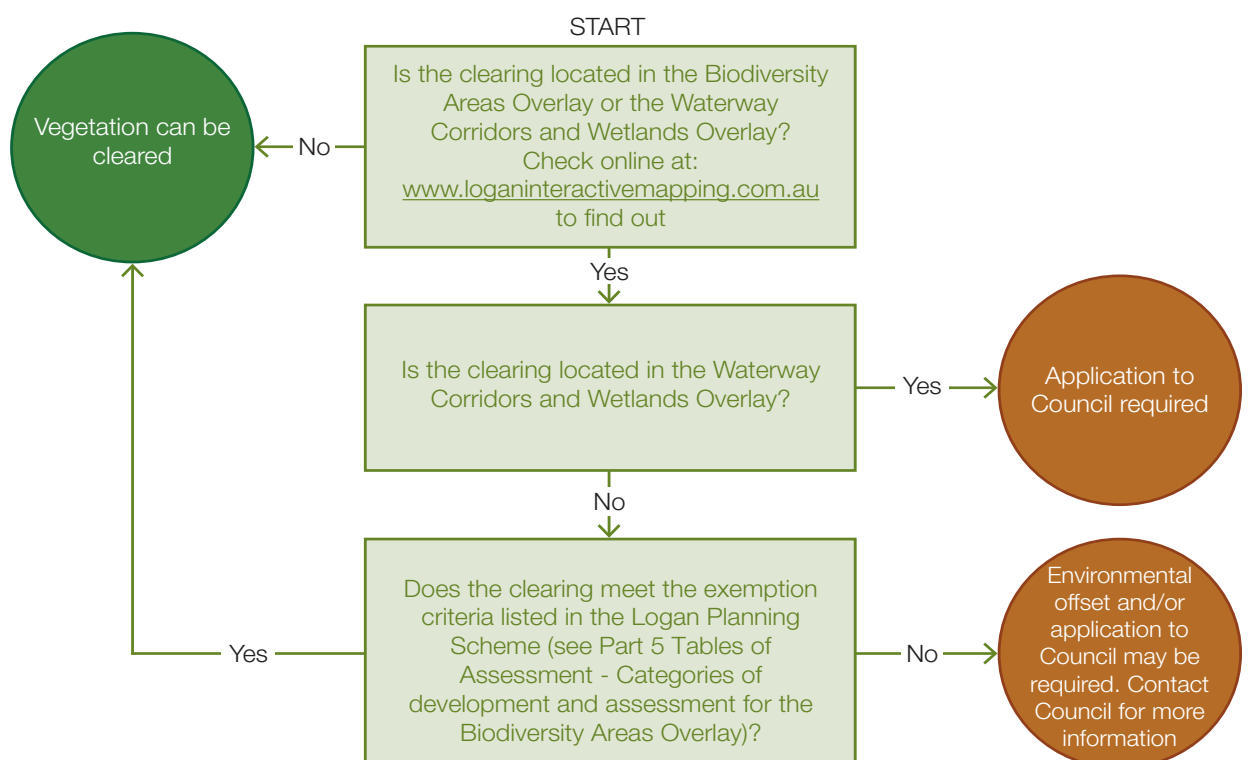
The Biodiversity Areas Overlay and Waterway Corridors and Wetlands Overlay include provisions that restrict the clearing of vegetation to preserve and enhance biodiversity values.

What is clearing of vegetation?

Clearing of vegetation means to remove, cut down, ringbark, push over, poison, or destroy vegetation in any way (including by burning, flooding or draining), but does not include destroying standing vegetation by stock, or lopping a tree (e.g. trimming and pruning provided the vegetation is not at risk of dying).

Can I clear vegetation on my property?

This depends on a number of factors including the location and size of your property, the type of vegetation to be cleared, and the purpose of the clearing. The flowchart below provides an overview of when you can clear, and when you may need Council approval.



Exemption tables

The following tables (from Part 5 of the Logan Planning Scheme - Categories of development and assessment for the Biodiversity areas overlay) list the situations where vegetation clearing is exempt. This means you can clear vegetation provided the clearing meets the criteria listed in one of the following tables, and that the clearing is not located within the Waterway Corridors and Wetlands Overlay.

Development outside a specific area in the biodiversity areas overlay

The development meets all of the following circumstances:	
1	There is no development within any of the following areas: (a) as identified on Biodiversity areas overlay map—OM-02.02: (i) an Environmental management and conservation area; (ii) a Biodiversity corridor; (iii) a Koala corridor; (b) the areas identified on Biodiversity areas overlay map—OM-02.03.
2	There is no clearing of native vegetation in the Primary vegetation management area identified on Biodiversity areas overlay map—OM -02.01.
3	There is no clearing of native trees and native habitat trees in the Secondary vegetation management area identified on Biodiversity areas overlay map—OM-02.01.

Clearing on a lot less than 5,000m² outside specified zones/areas

Clearing is limited to the following circumstances:	
1	Clearing (other than of remnant endangered regional ecosystem mapped under the Vegetation Management Act 1999) is on a lot less than 5,000m ² in area and is not located in: (a) the Environmental management and conservation zone; (b) the Rural zone; (c) the Rural residential zone; (d) the Acreage precinct in the Low density residential zone; (e) the Emerging community zone; (f) a Koala corridor identified on Biodiversity areas overlay map—OM-02.02.

Clearing for, or for services or access to, approved development

Clearing falls within one or more of the following circumstances:	
1	Clearing is limited to within an approved development envelope area.
2	Clearing is in accordance with an infrastructure agreement.
3	Clearing is for construction or maintenance of: (a) a service corridor to provide an above or underground utility service to an existing or approved dwelling or approved development envelope area, and the clearing is limited to two metres in width from the centre point of the corridor; or (b) an accessway to an existing or approved dwelling or approved development envelope area, and the clearing is limited to five metres in width.

Definitions

The Logan Planning Scheme 2015 defines the following terms as:

Native tree: A tree, whether dead or alive, that is indigenous to Australia: that is greater than four metres in height, or has a trunk circumference of 31.5 cm or greater measured at 1.3 metres from the ground.

Native habitat tree: A tree, whether dead or alive, that is indigenous to Australia: that has a trunk circumference of 220 cm or more measured at 1.3 metres above ground level, or that contains a hollow.

Native vegetation: A tree, a bush, a shrub, a grass or other vascular plant and includes any part of a tree, a bush, a shrub, a grass or other vascular plant that is indigenous to Australia.

Clearing for bushfire protection

Clearing falls within one or more of the following circumstances:	
1	Clearing is for the establishment or maintenance of a fire maintenance trail required by a condition of a development approval and the clearing is limited to width of the trail.
2	Clearing is for the establishment of fire control lines where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) on a lot between one hectare and five hectares: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) within three metres of the lot boundary; (ii) for the turning of a vehicle within a 12 metre radius of the corner of the lot; (iii) does not include a native habitat tree; (b) on a lot greater than five hectares: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) within five metres of the lot boundary; (ii) for the turning of a vehicle within an area that is no greater than 30m² in area and adjoins an existing or proposed fire control line located no closer than 200 metres from another vehicle turning area; (iii) for the turning of a vehicle within a 12 metre radius of the corner of the lot; (iv) does not include a native habitat tree.
3	Clearing is for fuel reduction around an existing or approved class 1 building (a habitable building such as a house), limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the removal of native vegetation in the inner zone (within 10 metres of the outermost projection of the building) (b) the removal of native vegetation other than a native tree from the outer zone (within 10 metres of the outer edge of the inner zone); (c) for a building on a sloping site, removal of native vegetation other than native trees for the following further distance beyond the outer zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) one metre for every degree of average natural slope, down slope of the building; (ii) 0.5 metres for every degree of average natural slope, upslope of the building.
4	Clearing is for fuel reduction around an existing or approved class 10 building or structure (such as a garage or shed) limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the removal of native vegetation in the inner zone (within five metres of the outermost projection of the building or structure); (b) the removal of native vegetation other than a native tree from the outer zone (within five metres of the outer edge of the inner zone) ; (c) for a building or structure on a sloping site, removal of native vegetation other than a native tree for the following further distance beyond the outer zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) one metre for every degree of slope, down slope of the building or structure; (ii) 0.5 metres for every degree of slope, upslope of the building or structure.

Clearing for management of native vegetation or control of problem species

Clearing falls within one or more of the following circumstances:	
1	Clearing is limited to management and maintenance of native vegetation (other than native trees or native habitat trees): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in connection with the maintenance of an existing lawful garden; or (b) as part of a regular ongoing maintenance program for the mowing and slashing of grass.
2	Clearing is of the following native species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cadaghi (<i>Corymbia torelliana</i>); or (b) Umbrella tree (<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>).

I think I need to make an application to clear vegetation. What do I do next?

It is recommended that you contact Council if you believe you need to lodge an application or if you are not sure if an application is needed. Council can help you to determine if an application is needed and what you need to do next. You can contact Council's environmental assessment team on (07) 3412 3412 or via email at council@logan.qld.gov.au.

What is an environmental offset?

Council has policies to ensure that development in the city results in a net gain in native vegetation. This means it may be possible to get approval to clear protected vegetation if clearing is unavoidable, and if revegetation is carried out in other places. For more information about environmental offsets, please see the [Environmental Offsets Fact Sheet](#), or contact Council on (07) 3412 3412.

State vegetation management

The *Vegetation Management Act 1999* also controls vegetation clearing. This legislation is administered by the Queensland Government's Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM). It is recommended that you confirm with DNRM if you require a permit from the Queensland Government to clear vegetation on your property. For more information, please contact DNRM on 13 74 68 or visit their website at: <https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/>

For more information

You can find out more information about vegetation management:

- Online: <http://www.logan.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/plants-and-trees/vegetation-management>
- By phone: (07) 3412 3412
- By email: council@logan.qld.gov.au

