### Vegetation management code

#### Application

This code applies to development identified as requiring assessment against the Vegetation management code by the tables of assessment in **Part 5 (Tables of assessment)**.

#### Purpose and overall outcomes

1. The purpose of the Vegetation management code is to provide for the management of vegetation in a manner which protects and enhances the biodiversity and landscape values of the Bundaberg Region.
2. The purpose of the Vegetation management code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes:-
   1. development provides for the protection of the Bundaberg Region’s ecosystems, biodiversity and environmental values, natural physical processes, landscape character and amenity;
   2. development ensures that vegetation within areas of environmental significance is conserved;
   3. development provides appropriate environmental offsets where vegetation clearing cannot practicably be avoided; and
   4. development involving vegetation clearing is undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner and does not cause adverse amenity impacts, public health and safety concerns or land degradation.

#### Specific benchmarks for assessment

Benchmarks for assessable development

| **Performance outcomes** | **Acceptable outcomes** | **Compliance / Representations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Vegetation protection*** | |  |
| **PO1**  Vegetation is protected to ensure that:-   1. ecological processes, biodiversity and the habitat values of native flora and fauna are protected and enhanced; 2. ecosystems are protected from weed invasion and edge effects; 3. the functioning and connectivity of biodiversity corridors and fauna movement networks is maintained; 4. the ecological health and integrity of riparian corridors, watercourses and wetlands are maintained; 5. soil resources are protected against the loss of chemical and physical fertility through processes such as erosion, mass movement, salinity and water logging; 6. vegetation of historical, cultural or visual significance is retained. | **AO1**  Vegetation clearing, other than exempt vegetation clearing[[1]](#footnote-1), does not occur.  **OR**  Otherwise, no acceptable outcome provided.  Note—in assessing and deciding a development application for vegetation clearing the Council may consider such matters as:-   1. any current development approval attached to the land which may include conditions or measures relating to vegetation retention or protection; 2. whether the vegetation is specifically protected by a vegetation protection order, registrable covenant, easement or similar legally binding mechanism that seeks to protect the values and functions of recognised significant vegetation; 3. whether the vegetation is identified or referred to in State or Federal legislation; 4. whether the vegetation is located on a prominent hillside, slope or ridgeline; 5. whether vegetation clearing may cause or contribute to erosion or slippage; 6. whether the vegetation is or forms part of a riparian area or other habitat network and is valuable to the functioning of that network; 7. whether the vegetation is or is capable of forming or contributing to a buffer between different land uses; 8. whether the vegetation is or is capable of forming or contributing to a visual buffer, agricultural buffer or a buffer against pollution, light spillage or noise; and 9. whether the vegetation contributes to visual amenity, landscape quality or cultural heritage significance. | Provide a brief description how your proposal complies with the relevant Acceptable outcome (if applicable) or a detailed analysis how compliance is achieved with the Performance outcome. |
| ***Management of vegetation clearing works*** | |  |
| **PO2**  Vegetation clearing works are conducted in a manner that:-   1. protects natural landforms, including steep land, watercourses, gullies and wetlands; and 2. prevents soil degradation and controls erosion, slippage and sedimentation. | **AO2**  No acceptable outcome provided.  Editor’s note—**Section 9.3.7 (Works, services and infrastructure code)** sets out requirements for sediment and erosion control. | Click and provide your representations. |
| **PO3**  Vegetation clearing works are conducted in a manner that:-   1. protects the aesthetic and environmental values of retained vegetation; and 2. minimises impacts on fauna. | **AO3.1**  The health and stability of retained vegetation is maintained or enhanced during vegetation clearing work by:-   1. clearly marking vegetation to be retained with temporary fencing and flagging tape; 2. preventing any filling, excavation, stockpiling, storage of chemicals, fuel or machinery within the fenced protection area; and 3. removing all declared noxious weeds and environmental weeds from the site.   **AO3.2**  All clearing works carried out in the vicinity of the retained vegetation are to be undertaken in accordance with *AS4970 Protection of Trees* *on Development Sites* and *AS4687 Temporary Fencing and Hoarding*.  **AO3.3**  Where clearing works are likely to result in adverse impacts upon fauna and/or fauna habitat, all work is carried out under the supervision of a registered fauna spotter/catcher. | Click and provide your representations. |
| **PO4**  Vegetation clearing is undertaken in a manner that minimises environmental harm and environmental nuisance to surrounding areas as a result of air or noise emissions. | **AO4.1**  No dust emissions extend beyond the boundaries of the site.  **AO4.2**  No other air emissions, including odours, are detectable at the boundary of the site.  **AO4.3**  Noise generating equipment is shielded or acoustically treated in a manner that ensures the equipment does not create environmental nuisance. | Click and provide your representations. |
| ***Vegetation disposal*** | |  |
| **PO5**  Vegetation cleared from a site is disposed of in a manner that:-   1. maximises reuse and/or recycling; 2. minimises impacts on public health and safety; and 3. minimises the spread of weed species and non-indigenous plants. | **AO5**  Where vegetation is cleared, vegetation waste is appropriately disposed of (other than by burning) in the following order of preference:-   1. milling for commercial timber products, landscaping or firewood; 2. on-site chipping or mulching unless it is likely to cause the spreading of non-indigenous species; and 3. transportation off-site and disposal in an approved green waste disposal facility. | Click and provide your representations. |

1. Editor’s note—the term ‘exempt vegetation clearing’ is defined in **Schedule 1 (Definitions)**. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)