



Fodder harvesting

IMPORTANT

This fact sheet does not incorporate requirements under the *Vegetation Management (Regrowth Clearing Moratorium) Act 2009* (Moratorium Act). A moratorium is in place for clearing all native regrowth vegetation within 50 metres of a watercourse in a priority reef catchment and for clearing endangered regrowth vegetation. This came into effect on 8 April 2009. Further information on the moratorium is available on the department's website – www.derm.qld.gov.au. This fact sheet must be read in conjunction with requirements under the Moratorium Act.

Queensland's vegetation management framework regulates the clearing of native vegetation. It protects the state's biodiversity and, by conserving native vegetation, addresses land degradation problems such as salinity, soil degradation, erosion and declining water quality.

Under the framework, the Queensland Government brought broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation to an end in December 2006. However, vegetation clearing is still allowed for certain purposes.

Fodder harvesting plays an important role in the grazing industry in south-west Queensland. The framework allows landholders to apply to clear native vegetation for fodder harvesting in those regions.

What is fodder harvesting?

Under the framework, fodder harvesting is the clearing of vegetation that:

- is necessary to provide food for stock
- is predominantly any of the following fodder species: Mulga (*Acacia aneura*); Ironwood (*Acacia excelsa*); Myall (*Acacia pendula*); Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*); Leopardwood (*Flindersia maculosa*); Wilga or Tree Wilga (*Geijera parviflora*); Umbrella Mulga or Bastard (turpentine) Mulga (*Acacia cibia*, *Acacia Brachystachya*, *Acacia stowardii*)
- is planned to ensure the conservation of the fodder resource in perpetuity
- results in the conservation of remnant regional ecosystems (REs)
- results in the trunk and branches of the vegetation remaining where they fall.

When do I need approval?

Landholders on freehold land could previously harvest fodder without approval provided they were drought declared. This exemption ended on 30 June 2004.

Since 30 June 2004, clearing for fodder harvesting in areas mapped as remnant vegetation on all land tenures must be approved by the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW).

Approval is also needed to clear fodder on all non-freehold tenures where vegetation is not mapped as remnant, and for vegetation on leasehold land used for agriculture or grazing that has not been cleared since 31 December 1989.

Approval to clear native vegetation for fodder is not needed when the clearing is on:

- freehold land and the vegetation is not mapped as remnant vegetation
- leasehold land used for agriculture or grazing, provided the vegetation was last cleared after 31 December 1989.

Landholders on all tenures can lop tree branches without approval, provided the trunk is not removed and the tree is not cut so severely that it is likely to die.

RE maps

RE maps show the location and status of remnant REs. NRW uses RE maps to determine if an approval to clear vegetation is needed.

RE maps are amended from time to time, therefore it is advised that landholders check the status of the map before carrying out any clearing.

Applying for approval

To apply for fodder harvesting, you must submit a property vegetation management plan that includes:

- the location and extent of the area you propose to clear (either on a map or by reference to Map Grid of Australia 1994 coordinates and zone references)



- how the proposed clearing meets the requirements of Part F (requirements for Fodder harvesting) of the relevant regional vegetation management code—available from the NRW website <www.nrw.qld.gov.au>
- the application fee and a completed application form—available from the NRW website.

There are two types of fodder harvesting approvals available—a standard five-year approval and an expedited 12-month approval.

Applications for expedited approvals need to address the same requirements as applications for standard five-year approvals.

However, an application for fodder harvesting cannot be accepted for an area that has been declared under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VMA)* as an area:

- of high nature conservation value
- vulnerable to land degradation.

What are the benefits of a five-year approval?

A standard fodder harvesting approval covers all forms of harvesting, including chain pulling and may allow vegetation clearing on larger areas.

It also allows for longer term property planning because the approval is valid for five years.

Can I get approval quickly?

Landholders can apply for an expedited approval. This allows quick access to fodder for 12 months while the application for a standard approval is assessed.

An expedited approval permits the clearing of no more than five per cent of the total area of remnant vegetation remaining on the property or 500 hectares, whichever is greater.

An expedited approval is only given when the area is harvested by selective felling, pushing, cutting and breaking (not by chain pulling).

The vegetation must also be harvested in a way that ensures its remnant status is maintained.

Applications for an expedited approval will be assessed within 10 working days, as long as the applicant provides all necessary information and no property inspection is required.

An expedited approval for fodder harvesting is valid for a maximum of 12 months and only one expedited application is allowed per property in that period.

Expedited to five-year approval

Landholders are urged to apply for a standard fodder harvesting approval once an expedited approval is in place.

Landholders who apply for a standard fodder harvesting approval while an expedited approval is in place do not need to pay another application fee.

If an expedited approval is in place, a standard fodder harvesting approval will be current for five years from the date of issue of the original expedited approval.

Assessing applications

Applications to clear fodder are assessed against the regional vegetation management codes that set out performance requirements.

For an application to be approved, it must meet each of the performance requirements for the relevant part of the code (Part F— requirements for Fodder harvesting).

These assessments ensure that the clearing:

- is in fact fodder harvesting
- will maintain biodiversity and conserve REs
- will not cause land degradation, such as salinity or waterlogging.

Property maps of assessable vegetation

When approval is given for fodder harvesting, NRW will develop a property map of assessable vegetation (PMAV) for the area approved for clearing.

The PMAV will only show category 1, 2 and 3 areas (i.e. endangered, of concern and not of concern regional ecosystems).

For a PMAV showing vegetation that is not remnant as a category X area, a separate application must be made.

Further information

The Landholders' guide to fodder harvesting applications is available on the NRW website <www.nrw.qld.gov.au>.

For more information about fodder harvesting, contact NRW on 1800 999 367, speak to a vegetation management officer at a regional service centre, or go to the NRW website <www.nrw.qld.gov.au>.

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For further information phone 13 13 04