

# Vegetation Management – The Biodiversity Overlay

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Do I need a permit to remove vegetation on my property?

You need a permit from Council to remove most vegetation mapped in The Biodiversity Overlay as Environmental Protection, Environmental Enhancement or Riparian Buffer Area in The Noosa Plan.

In some few cases in the Shire, vegetation may also be protected by a covenant, development approval or vegetation property note. Please check your property search certificate or contact Council if this is the case.

Council's website mapping page shows the Biodiversity Overlay mapping and covenant areas.

### Mapping Access

To access the mapping website go to the [Biodiversity Overlay](#) map on Council's interactive mapping (use Ctrl and Click to follow link).

1. Enter the address into the search field located in the top left hand side of the screen and click the Search button.
2. Premises that contain green areas (light or dark), yellow (covenant) and/or red crosses (riparian buffer) require a permit to clear vegetation.

If any doubt exists please contact council's customer services for assistance. Contact details are listed below.

### When do I NOT need a permit?

A permit is **NOT** required if:

- If your premises is not in a Biodiversity Overlay Area and
- No covenant applies and
- No development approval or vegetation property note applies.

Also in a Biodiversity Overlay Area a permit is NOT required if the vegetation clearing is identified as an "**exempt clearing**" circumstance in the [Biodiversity Overlay of The Noosa Plan - Part 13](#) Division 2. Usually this is limited to weed species. Generally it is best to check with Council if the vegetation clearing is exempt clearing.

### Do I need a permit to remove dead or dying native vegetation?

Yes. The removal of any dead or dying trees will require a permit. Dead and dying trees are an important part of the natural environment as they provide habitat for native fauna.

### How do I apply for a permit to remove vegetation?

Vegetation removal is classified as Operational Work by the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. Therefore, if you have determined that your proposed vegetation removal requires an approval, you will need to complete:

1. IDAS form 1- Application details;
2. IDAS form 6- Building or operational work assessable against a planning scheme.
3. Provide a site plan showing the location of the vegetation on the property and the reasons for the removal.

Completed forms are to be submitted to:

- Council's offices at Level 2, 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin
- email to [mail@noosa.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@noosa.qld.gov.au)
- or via post to PO Box 141, Tewantin QLD 4565.

**Is there a fee to apply for a permit to remove vegetation?**

No, unless the vegetation is required to be retained as part of a development approval.

**How long does it take to get a permit?**

Applications are processed in accordance with timelines outlined by the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. In most cases a decision will be received in approximately 2 weeks.

**Can I clear vegetation on my property before I start building a house?**

No. A clearing permit is required before clearing for building a house or a shed. Your building certifier should be able to assist you with this.

**How long does a permit last for?**

Permits are valid for a period of 2 years. Extensions may be applied for.

**What do I do if my neighbour has vegetation that is impacting on my property?**

For matters relating to vegetation on neighbouring properties contact the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) on 1300 753 228.

**Can Council help me apply for a permit?**

Yes - there are many ways that Council can help with your permit application. These include:

- Calling Council's Planning & Environment section on 5329 6500; or
- Visiting Council at 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin.

**What if the vegetation is on council land or a road reserve?**

To remove native vegetation that is on Council land or a road reserve you will need to contact customer service on (07) 5329 6500 or [mail@noosa.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@noosa.qld.gov.au). A Council officer will conduct an assessment to determine the level of risk to people or property.