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## Retaining vegetation within development

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### PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Policy position

- (1) As far as practical, trees and other mature vegetation existing on a site shall be retained through integration with the development of the site.
- (2) As part of its assessment of development, Council will consider vegetation existing on a site and subject to Chapter 3, Part 5, Division 6 of the Act, may condition a development permit for the retention of existing vegetation and/or the enhancement of a site with replacement vegetation or landscaping.
- (3) Council's assessment of the practicality of retaining trees and other mature vegetation for integration with proposed site development may be influenced by expert advice on the suitability and compatibility of existing vegetation with the proposed development.

### PART 2 - IMPLEMENTATION

#### 2.1 Applicant to provide details

- (1) An application for development involving the clearing of existing vegetation shall include:
  - (a) an accurately drawn site plan and/or other information that identifies trees and other mature vegetation on a site the subject of a development proposal and the proposal for clearing of such vegetation; and
  - (b) details of the method proposed for the processing and disposal of cleared vegetation.
- (2) An applicant may provide expert advice about the suitability and compatibility of existing vegetation within the proposed development to support proposals for its clearing in concert with details of landscaping proposals for the enhancement of a site that is proposed to be cleared.

#### 2.2 Integrating existing vegetation into design and layout

- (1) Development shall as far as practical, retain existing trees and other mature vegetation within a proposed development by integrating the vegetation within the design and layout.
- (2) This shall include the retention of vegetation within:
  - (a) existing road reserves adjacent to a site;
  - (b) proposed road reserves, except if removal is required to facilitate construction;
  - (c) car parking areas;
  - (d) areas proposed to be transferred for public purposes such as parks and drainage reserves, etc.,
  - (e) areas over which a proponent may agree a vegetation covenant;



- (f) areas proposed to be landscaped as part of a development;
- (g) areas of significant remnant vegetation including areas identified by the State under the Vegetation Management Act and on PSM 10 as locally significant vegetation;
- (h) at least 20 metres of the banks of watercourses<sup>1</sup>; and
- (i) within the building setback distances to proposed property boundaries of allotments in proposed new subdivisions;

## 2.3 Processing and disposal of cleared vegetation

- (1) At no cost to Council, vegetation cleared pursuant to a development permit shall be:
  - (a) processed by an acceptable method; and
  - (b) removed from a site.
- (2) The acceptable method for disposal of cleared vegetation will be nominated by Council by condition of an approval and may include:
  - (a) woodchipping or preparation/use for landscape purposes;
  - (b) preparation/use as firewood
  - (c) transportation off site for processing by another lawful process.
- (3) Generally, burning of cleared vegetation is not an acceptable method of disposal.



<sup>1</sup> Proponents are advised to refer to guidelines for clearing pursuant to the Vegetation Management Act prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines which can be sourced at [www.nrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au).