

Routine Agricultural Management Activities on Private Native Forestry Land Fact Sheet

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This fact sheet only applies to a property (or that part of a property) which is covered by a private native forestry Property Vegetation Plan (PNF PVP).

If you have land covered by a PNF PVP, the vegetation on that land is intended to be managed for forestry purposes only. Any harvesting or clearing of native vegetation has to be done according to the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice.

However, you are permitted to clear a small amount of native vegetation on that land as part of the everyday running of your farm business, that is, for routine agricultural management activities.

What are routine agricultural management activities?

Routine agricultural management activities (RAMAs) include farming, safety and other activities where clearing of native vegetation does not require approval under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, so long as:

- clearing is undertaken to the minimum extent necessary and within specified distance limitations where they apply, and
- any other approvals necessary for the work, such as building approval, are first obtained.

They can cover a wide range of activities including clearing of noxious weeds, collection of firewood and lopping of native vegetation for stock fodder. Your local Catchment Management Authority has general information about RAMAs in your area.

RAMAs include the construction, operation and maintenance of rural infrastructure. The amount of clearing permitted for rural infrastructure RAMAs is limited on land subject to a PNF PVP.

This fact sheet tells you for **what type** of rural infrastructure you can clear land that is covered by a PNF PVP, and the **distance limitations** which apply to that clearing.

For what type of rural infrastructure can I clear for on land that is covered by a PNF PVP?

Under the 'rural infrastructure RAMA' you can clear land for the construction, operation and maintenance of rural infrastructure listed in the following section **only**. You cannot clear for any other type of rural infrastructure, for example, you cannot clear for construction of a windmill on land subject to a PNF PVP.

Are there any limitations as to how much native vegetation I can clear for rural infrastructure on land with a PNF PVP?

You can clear up to the following distances or areas for the **construction, operation and maintenance** of the following types of rural infrastructure:

- permanent boundary fence – 6 metres either side
- permanent internal fence – 6 metres total width of clearing
- farm roads and tracks – in accordance with the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice
- pipeline – 3 metres total width of clearing
- ground tank – 15 metres from outer edge of structure
- pumps – 3 metres from outer edge of structure
- tanks – 3 metres from outer edge of structure
- water point – 3 metres from outer edge of structure
- dam – 15 metres from outer edge of structure
- bore – 10 metres from outer edge of structure
- stockyard – 20 metres from outer edge of structure.

These distances or areas are the maximum distances allowable, and as with any other RAMA, you must only clear to the minimum extent necessary for carrying out the construction, operation or maintenance of the works.

Can any of these distances or areas be increased?

Yes. You can apply to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) for approval to increase the distances or areas specified for the types of rural infrastructure listed above. Your request may be approved if the Director General is satisfied that the clearing you are proposing is minor, for a legitimate purpose and necessary in the circumstances.

Can I clear along creeks, or on old growth forest, rainforest or steep land for rural infrastructure?

If you would like to clear land for any of the rural infrastructure projects listed above on land that is:

- a riparian exclusion zone (check the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice for your area to see the width of this zone)
- an old growth forest
- a rainforest, or
- steep land (i.e. a slope more than 30°),

you can only clear for their **operation and maintenance, not for their construction**. The same maximum distances and areas apply as specified above, however these distances and areas cannot be increased.

Can I apply to clear native vegetation to construct rural infrastructure along creeks, or on old growth forest, rainforest or steep land?

You may apply to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) for an approval to clear native vegetation for new construction of rural infrastructure within the areas or distances specified. Contact your local PNF officer or call 131 555 for further information.

Your request may be approved if the Director General of DECC is satisfied that the clearing you are proposing is minor, for a legitimate purpose and necessary in the circumstances.

Can I obtain timber from my land covered by a PNF PVP for the use in the construction of rural infrastructure?

Obtaining timber for this purpose is not permitted as a routine agricultural management activity. However you can still obtain construction timber, provided the timber is taken in accordance with your PVP and the PNF Code of Practice.

Can I clear native vegetation for any other RAMA on land with a PNF PVP?

All other RAMAs available under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005 can be used on land with a PNF PVP. See www.nativevegetation.nsw.gov.au for further details.

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