

Vegetation Management in the Northern Territory

Regrowth Management

Regrowth cannot be cleared without a permit. Regrowth describes native vegetation recurring on an area of land that has previously been cleared. Regrowth can range from very small eucalypt and acacia suckers appearing on a recently cleared paddock to significant native vegetation communities with all the diversity and structural variability that you would expect in any undisturbed bushland environment.

Under the Northern Territory Planning Scheme **Native Vegetation** is defined as:

“terrestrial and inter-tidal flora indigenous to the Northern Territory, including grasses, shrubs and mangroves”.

This means that clearing of any native vegetation in the Northern Territory requires consent, including vegetation cleared prior to the introduction of the native vegetation clearing controls.

There are some general exceptions, which include clearing for:

- fire breaks 5 m wide for properties <8 ha, or 10 m wide for properties >8 ha;
- internal fence lines (up to 10 m wide) only on properties >8 ha.

Other exceptions are listed in the Northern Territory Planning Scheme.

Under the native vegetation clearing controls the definition of clearing of native vegetation does not include:

“native vegetation occurring on a site previously cleared in accordance with a permit issued under the Act”.

This means that if an area has already been authorised by permit for clearing, a new permit is not required to re-clear any native vegetation regrowth on that site. If you have a permit to clear an area of land, you will be able to spell the area and allow it to return to native vegetation without having to reapply to clear it again.



It also does not include “*incidentally through mowing an area previously cleared of native vegetation*” – (*mowing is defined as cutting standing grass with a machine designed for this purpose*).

This means that an area that has in the past been cleared, with or without a permit, can be mown to maintain grass levels. This does not apply to mowing, slashing or selectively clearing areas that have not been cleared previously.

Other activities not included in the definition of clearing include:

1. “the removal or destruction of a declared weed within the meaning of the *Weed Management Act* or a plant removed under the *Plant Diseases Act*”
2. “the lopping of a tree”
3. “incidentally through the grazing of livestock”
4. “in the course of traditional Aboriginal use”
5. “by fire”
6. “harvesting of native vegetation planted for harvest”
7. “for road access to the land or other land”

Other Fact Sheets in this series

What is Biodiversity?

Native Vegetation Buffers and Corridors

Selective Clearing

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Sensitive Vegetation Fact Sheets

Mangrove Forest

Sandsheet Heath

Old-Growth Forest

Monsoon Rainforest

Riparian Vegetation

References and Further Reading

Land Clearing Guidelines

nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/apply-to-clear-freehold-land

Northern Territory Planning Scheme

nt.gov.au/property/building-and-development/northern-territory-planning-scheme

Further Information

Department of Environment
and Natural Resources

Rangelands Division

Ph. 08 8999 3631

[nt.gov.au/environment/soil-land-vegetation/
native-vegetation](http://nt.gov.au/environment/soil-land-vegetation/native-vegetation)

Flora and Fauna Division

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denr.nt.gov.au/about/flora-and-fauna-division