

Vegetation Management in the Northern Territory

Selective Clearing

Selective clearing, parkland clearing or thinning are terms used to describe removing parts or all of the understorey and middle storeys of native vegetation whilst retaining the larger trees and shrubs.

Selective clearing can range from minor disturbance of the natural environment to comprehensive clearing of all but the largest trees in a landscape.

Experience has shown that this type of clearing still has a major impact on the ecology of an area and that these environments often degrade over time with only minimal new plant recruitment.

Under the Northern Territory Planning Scheme **clearing of native vegetation** includes:

“the selective removal of a species of plant, a group of species of plants, a storey or group of storeys in whole or in part”.

This means that, subject to the general exceptions, selective or part removal of native vegetation in the Northern Territory requires consent, whether that clearing retains some native vegetation or not.

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 weeds can be treated and removed from an area without a permit as long as native vegetation is not destroyed and removed at the same time.



If an area has already been authorised by permit for clearing then the landholder has the discretion to clear as much or as little of the native vegetation within the approved area, as required. A clearing permit does not require that a site be fully cleared of native vegetation and the landholder is not in breach of the legislation if they retain native vegetation on the approved clearing site.

Applicants are reminded that a permit is required to salvage plants or timber from clearing operations. Contact the Parks and Wildlife permit office on 08 8999 4795.

Other Fact Sheets in this series

What is Biodiversity?
Native Vegetation Buffers and Corridors
Regrowth Management
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

Flora and Fauna Division

Ph: 08 8995 5000

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