



Land Management Code - Farm plan

This factsheet provides guidance to landholders about the Farm Plan provisions of the land management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018. The farm plan code authorises clearing of paddock tree areas and Category 2 - regulated land in exchange for establishing a set aside on the same property. However, on landholdings with less than 10% remnant native vegetation (<10% Category 2 – regulated land), clearing is restricted to paddock tree areas only.

Paddock tree areas

You may clear native vegetation from a paddock tree area in exchange for establishing a set aside.

Landholding restrictions

Clearing under this division is not permitted on landholdings in the coastal zone, unless Local Land Services is satisfied that the land is primarily used for agricultural activities, or on a smallholding.

Treatment area restrictions

Treatment area refers to the area on-farm where native vegetation is being removed.

Clearing under this division is not permitted:

- on Category 2 - vulnerable regulated land or within the buffer distance from a water body, or
- in an area that forms part of endangered or critically endangered ecological community, or
- on travelling stock reserves in the Central or Coastal Zone.

Set aside requirements

Set aside must be applied over an area that is at least 50% Category 1 – exempt land and may include establishment of new vegetation through revegetation and/or promoting natural regeneration.

What is a paddock tree area?

A paddock tree area means an area of native vegetation (Category 2 – regulated land) that is less than 500 square metres and is completely surrounded by cleared land (Category 1 – exempt land)

To maximise environmental benefits, Local Land Services will specify the revegetation requirements you will need to undertake, including the species composition and density. We may decide the land on which the set aside will be established. Revegetation requirements must be met within 12 months after the mandatory code compliant certificate is issued.

Vegetation community	Set aside requirement
Vegetation which is part of a Vulnerable Ecological Community (VEC)	0.375 ha set aside for each paddock tree area cleared
Other Vegetation (excluding Endangered Ecological Community & Critically Endangered Community)	0.25 ha set aside for each paddock tree area cleared

What is a set aside?

A set aside is an area set aside for the purposes of conservation (managed to promote vegetation integrity) and must be in addition to any current publicly funded initiative, offset or existing set aside. Set asides are managed in perpetuity and are listed on a public register.

Want to know more?

We're here to help

Find us online: lls.nsw.gov.au/slm

Call us: 1300 795 299 and ask for your nearest Sustainable Land Management officer

Email us: slm.info@nsw.gov.au

See us: drop into your nearest Local Land Services office



Local Land Services

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Removing native vegetation from regulated rural land

You may clear native vegetation from no more than a maximum of 25% of Category 2 - regulated land on your landholding.

Landholding restrictions

Clearing under this division is not permitted on landholdings with less than 10% Category 2 - regulated land, or on a small holding or in the Coastal Zone, unless Local Land Services is satisfied that the land is primarily used for agricultural activities.

Treatment area restrictions

Treatment area refers to the area on-farm where native vegetation is being removed.

Clearing under this division is not permitted:

- on Category 2 - vulnerable regulated land or within the buffer distance from a water body, or
- in a paddock tree area, or
- in an area that forms part of endangered or critically endangered ecological community, or
- on travelling stock reserves in the Central or Coastal Zone.

Set aside requirements

Set aside must be applied over an area that is at least 50% Category 1 – exempt land and may include establishment of new vegetation through revegetation and/or promoting natural regeneration.

To maximise environmental benefits, Local Land Services will specify the revegetation requirements you are required to undertake, including the species composition and density of vegetation. Local Land Services may determine the land on which the set aside will be established. Revegetation requirements must be met within 12 months after the mandatory code compliant certificate is issued.

The area of land required to be set aside is calculated according to the type of clearing, vegetation being cleared and the area of Category 2 – regulated land on the landholding:

A set aside is an area set aside for the purposes of conservation (managed to promote vegetation integrity) and must be in addition to any current publicly funded initiative, offset or existing set aside. Set asides are managed in perpetuity and will be listed on a public register.

Set aside requirement for removing native vegetation from regulated rural areas

Vegetation community	Percentage of Category 2 – regulated land on the landholding*	
	30% or more	10 - 30%
Vegetation which is part of a vulnerable ecological community	1.5 units set aside for each unit cleared (1.5:1)	4.5 units set aside for each unit cleared (4.5:1)
Other vegetation (excluding endangered ecological community & critically endangered community)	1 unit set aside for each unit cleared (1:1)	3 units set aside for each unit cleared (3:1)

*Clearing is restricted to paddock tree areas only on landholdings with less than 10% Category 2 – regulated land

Requirements prior to undertaking permitted clearing

A mandatory code compliant certificate issued by Local Land Services is required for your intended clearing. You may not clear native vegetation until Local Land Services has advised you that we are satisfied you have met the set aside requirements.

Re-categorisation of land

Areas cleared in accordance with this Code are authorised to be re-categorised to Category 1 – exempt land and set aside areas are authorised to be re-categorised to Category 2 – regulated land, on the native vegetation regulatory map.

Note: clearing of native vegetation that forms part of a critically endangered ecological community is not allowed. You cannot clear native vegetation that forms part of an EEC under the land management code.