



Forestry on private property

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Clearing on private property for forestry

Forest management on private property is subject to the clearing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). This includes commercial harvesting, silvicultural thinning and associated activities such as scrub rolling, creation of access tracks and log landings.

Any clearing of native vegetation for purposes associated with forestry management requires a clearing permit (except for that material to be sold).

Selling harvested timber

Where logs or other harvested material is to be sold, a Commercial Producer's licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* is required. A requirement of this legislation is having regard for the 10 principles contained in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (further information on these principles is contained in Fact Sheet No. 1). If a clearing permit has previously been issued, the requirement to have regard to the clearing principles will have been met.

A management plan for the sustainable use of native vegetation should be submitted with an application for a Commercial Producer's licence.

Plantations

Plantations, which are one or more group of trees, shrubs or plants that have been intentionally sown, planted or propagated with a view to commercial exploitation, are not considered to be 'native vegetation' by definition in the EP Act, and a clearing permit is not required to harvest plantations. Contact DEC's Nature Protection Branch to determine whether a Commercial Producer's licence is required.

Clearing in a CAWS Catchment

Six defined catchments within the southwest are regulated under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWS Act), and since the 1970s restrictions

on clearing within these areas have applied (further information is contained in Fact Sheet No. 8).

Generally, if a clearing permit under the EP Act is granted, it is not necessary to also obtain a licence under the CAWS Act except when the land has been previously compensated.

What if I clear without a permit?

Information about penalties and inspections is available in Fact Sheets 2 and 3.

More information

Legislation

This document is provided for guidance only. It should not be relied upon to address every aspect of the relevant legislation. Please refer to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004, available from the State Law Publisher. Free electronic copies are available from www.slp.wa.gov.au.

Compliance assistance documents

Additional publications relating to clearing laws, clearing permits and application forms are available online from www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvc or can be requested by phoning 9219 8744.

Compliance advice

For advice on complying with your permit, or any other related matter, please contact DEC's Native Vegetation Conservation Branch on 9219 8744.

