## State code 16: Native vegetation clearing

**Table 16.2.2: General**

| Performance outcomes | Acceptable outcomes | Response |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Clearing avoids or minimises impacts | | |
| **PO1** Clearing and adverse impacts of clearing do not occur unless the application has demonstrated that the clearing and the adverse impacts of clearing have been:   1. reasonably avoided; or 2. reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. | ***Complies with PO# / AO#***  *Use this column to indicate whether compliance is achieved with the relevant PO or AO (or if they do not apply), and explain why* |
| Clearing on land in particular circumstances | | |
| **PO2** Clearing is consistent with any notice requiring compliance on the land subject to the development application, unless a better environmental outcome can be achieved.  Note: The discharge of the vegetation management requirements under the notice requiring compliance can only occur in conjunction with the better environmental outcome being legally secured.  Further guidance on meeting the requirements of a better environmental outcome can be found in State code 16: Native vegetation clearing guidance material. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed |  |
| **PO3** Clearing is consistent with vegetation management requirements for particular regulated areas unless a better environmental outcome can be achieved.  Note: The discharge of the vegetation management requirements under the notice requiring compliance can only occur in conjunction with the better environmental outcome being legally secured.  Further guidance on meeting the requirements of a better environmental outcome can be found in State code 16: Native vegetation clearing guidance material. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed |  |
| **PO4** Clearing of a legally secured offset area:   1. is consistent with the offset delivery plan; or agreement for the offset area on the land subject to the development application; or 2. only occurs if an additional offset is provided that is consistent with the relevant policy in the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, 2014.   Note: Reference to ‘agreement’ above includes the ‘agreed delivery arrangement’ for the offset area as well as instruments associated with the legally secured offset area. Clearing should be consistent with any agreement however described. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed |  |
| Clearing of vegetation as a result of the material change of use or reconfiguration of a lot | | |
| **PO5** Clearing as a result of a material change of use, or clearing as a result of reconfiguring a lot does not occur. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Clearing that could already be done under an exemption | | |
| **PO6** Clearing does not occur unless it is clearing that could be done under an exemption for the purpose of the development (as prescribed under Schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017) prior to the material change of use or reconfiguring a lot application being approved. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |

**Table 16.2.3: Specific**

| Performance outcomes | Acceptable outcomes | Response |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Clearing associated with wetlands (public safety and infrastructure, a coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, and irrigated high value agriculture clearing) | | |
| **PO7** Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any natural wetland to protect:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. | **AO7.1** Clearing does not occur in a natural wetland or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland.  OR | ***Complies with PO# / AO#***  *Use this column to indicate whether compliance is achieved with the relevant PO or AO (or if they do not apply), and explain why* |
| **AO7.2** Clearing within 100 metres of any natural wetland:   1. does not occur within 50 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed widths in table 16.3.1 in this code.   OR |  |
| **AO7.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with a natural wetland (matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, encroachment, thinning, fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO8** Clearing maintains vegetation associated with a natural wetland to protect:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. | *Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:*  **AO8.1** Where clearing is necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, mechanical clearing does not occur within 5 metres of a natural wetland.  AND |  |
| **AO8.2** Clearing only occurs:   1. within a 1.5 metre radius from the base of the stem of individual non-native or declared plants; or 2. to the extent necessary to provide access for the control of the non-native plants or declared pests.   AND |  |
| **AO8.3** Clearing for access tracks running parallel to a natural wetland is not to be located within 10 metres of the natural wetland.  AND |  |
| *Clearing for thinning:*  **AO8.4** Where the clearing is for thinning, mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of a natural wetland.  AND |  |
| *Clearing for encroachment*:  **AO8.5** Where the clearing is for encroachment, mechanical clearing:   1. does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland; and 2. does not include the application of soil applied broad spectrum herbicides within 50 metres of the defining bank of a natural wetland or within the distance specified from a wetland in the directions for use on the label for the product, whichever is the greater.   AND |  |
| *Clearing for fodder harvesting:*  **AO8.6** Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of any natural wetland.  AND |  |
| **AO8.7** Strip harvesting or block harvesting does not occur within 100 metres of any natural wetland. |  |
| Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation) | | |
| **PO9** Clearing maintains vegetation associated with any natural wetland or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:   1. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 2. aquatic habitat; and 3. terrestrial habitat. | **AO9.1** Clearing does not occur in, or within 100 metres of, any natural wetland.  OR |  |
| **AO9.2** Clearing within 100 metres of any natural wetland and:   1. does not occur within 50 metres of the natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code.   OR |  |
| **AO9.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated. |  |
| Clearing associated with wetlands (necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal) | | |
| **PO10** Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any natural wetland or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. | **AO10.1** Clearing does not occur in, or within 100 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland.  OR |  |
| **AO10.2** Clearing within 100 metres of any natural wetland and:   1. does not occur within 50 metres of the defining bank of any natural wetland; and 2. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code.   OR |  |
| **AO10.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.  OR |  |
| **AO10.4** Where clearing is for natural channel diversion or contaminants removal, and clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and:   1. clearing has been reasonably minimised; and 2. the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with a natural wetland (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing) | | |
| **PO11** Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature to protect:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. | **AO11.1** Clearing does not occur in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO11.2** Clearing within any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code:   1. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 5 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.   OR |  |
| **AO11.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with any  watercourse or drainage feature (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (necessary environmental clearing - land restoration and natural disaster preparation) | | |
| **PO12** Clearing maintains vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. | **AO12.1** Clearing does not occur within any watercourse or drainage feature or within the relevant distances from each defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO12.2** Clearing in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this  code:   1. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within 5 metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.   OR |  |
| **AO12.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated. |  |
| Clearing associated with watercourses and drainage features (necessary environmental clearing – natural channel diversion, and contaminants removal) | | |
| **PO13** Clearing maintains the current extent of vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature or rehabilitates the cleared area to protect:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. | **AO13.1** Clearing does not occur within any watercourse or drainage feature or within the relevant distances from each defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO13.2** Clearing in any watercourse or drainage feature, or within the relevant distance of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature in table 16.3.2 of this code:   1. does not exceed the widths in table 16.3.1 of this code; and 2. does not occur within five metres of the defining bank, unless clearing is required into or across the watercourse or drainage feature.   OR |  |
| **AO13.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and:   1. clearing has been reasonably minimised; and 2. the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation associated with a watercourse or drainage feature (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, thinning, fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO14** Clearing maintains vegetation associated with any watercourse or drainage feature to protect:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitats; and 4. terrestrial habitats. | *Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:*  **AO14.1** Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature.  AND |  |
| **AO14.2** Clearing only occurs:   1. within a 1.5 metre radius from the base of the stem of individual non-native or declared plants; or 2. to the extent necessary to provide access for the control of the non-native plant or declared pest.   AND |  |
| **AO14.3** Clearing for access tracks running parallel to a watercourse or drainage feature is not to be located within 10 metres of the defining bank of the watercourse or drainage feature. |  |
| *Clearing is for thinning:*  **AO14.4** Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature. |  |
| *Clearing for fodder harvesting:*  **AO14.5** Mechanical clearing does not occur within 20 metres from the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature.  AND |  |
| **AO14.6** Strip harvesting or block harvesting does not occur within 100 metres of the defining bank of any watercourse or drainage feature. |  |
| Clearing associated with watercourses or drainage features (encroachment) | | |
| **PO15** Clearing of encroachment maintains:   1. bank stability by protecting against bank erosion 2. water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants 3. aquatic habitat; and 4. terrestrial habitat. | **AO15.1** Mechanical clearing:   1. does not occur within 20 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature; and 2. does not include the application of soil applied broad spectrum herbicides within 50 metres of the defining bank of a watercourse or drainage feature or within the distance specified from a wetland in the directions for use on the label for the product, whichever is the greater. |  |
| Maintaining connectivity (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing) | | |
| **PO16** In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land, sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes. | **AO16.1** Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 in this code. |  |
| Connectivity areas (coordinated project) | | |
| **PO17** In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land:   1. sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes; or 2. where this not reasonably possible, the applicant provides an offset. | **AO17.1** Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO17.2** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided; and clearing has been reasonably minimised; an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing on vegetation that forms a connectivity area (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Maintaining connectivity (necessary environmental clearing - land restoration and natural disaster preparation) | | |
| **PO18** In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land, sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes, or where this is not reasonably possible, the cleared area is rehabilitated. | **AO18.1** Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO18.2** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated. |  |
| Connectivity areas (necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal) | | |
| **PO19** In consideration of vegetation on the land subject to the development application and on adjacent land:   1. sufficient vegetation is retained to maintain ecological processes and remains in the landscape despite threatening processes; or 2. where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area; or 3. where this not reasonably possible, the applicant provides an offset. | **AO19.1** Clearing occurs in accordance with table 16.3.3 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO19.2** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.  OR |  |
| **AO19.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and   1. clearing has been reasonably minimised; and 2. the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated 3. an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of vegetation that forms a connectivity area (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Soil erosion (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing, necessary environmental clearing) | | |
| **PO20** Clearing does not result in:   1. accelerated soil erosion including, but not limited to – mass movement, gully erosion, rill erosion, sheet erosion, tunnel erosion, stream bank erosion, wind erosion, or scalding; and 2. any associated loss of chemical, physical or biological fertility – including, but not limited to water holding capacity, soil structure, organic matter, soil biology, and nutrients, within or outside the land the subject of the development application. | **AO20.1** Clearing is undertaken in accordance with a sediment and erosion control plan, which includes measures to ensure the rates of soil loss and sediment movement are the same or less than those prior to the proposed development.  OR |  |
| **AO20.2** The local government is the assessment manager for the development application.  Note: For guidance on developing a sediment and erosion control plan, please refer to the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Document, IECA, 2008. |  |
| Soil erosion (necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, thinning, encroachment, fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO21** Clearing does not result in:   1. accelerated soil erosion – including, but not limited to - mass movement, gully erosion, rill erosion, sheet erosion, tunnel erosion, stream bank erosion, wind erosion, or scalding; and 2. any associated loss of chemical, physical or biological fertility – including, but not limited to water holding capacity, soil structure, organic matter, soil biology and nutrients, within or outside the land subject of the development application. | *Clearing necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests:*  **AO21.1** Mechanical clearing retains 50 percent of the ground cover (dead or alive) in each 50 by 50 metre (0.25 hectare) area.  AND |  |
| **AO21.2** New access tracks to gain access to a weed infestation do not exceed 5 metres in width or de-stabilise the banks of any watercourse or drainage feature as a result of crossing, construction or use.  AND |  |
| *Clearing for thinning:*  **AO21.3** Mechanical clearing must:   1. retain 50 percent of the ground cover (dead or alive) in each 50 by 50 metre (0.25 hectare) area; and 2. not occur on slopes in excess of 10 percent.   AND |  |
| *Clearing for encroachment:*  **AO21.4** Mechanical clearing:   1. is limited to slopes less than 5 percent; and 2. retains 50 percent of the ground cover (dead or alive) in each 50 by 50 metre (0.25 hectare) area.   AND |  |
| *Clearing for fodder harvesting:*  **AO21.5** Strip harvesting or block harvesting does not occur on a slope that exceeds 5 percent, and is aligned across the slope.  OR |  |
| **AO21.6** Harvesting occurs using selective harvesting or breaker harvesting methods. |  |
| Salinity (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing, necessary environmental clearing, fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO22** Clearing does not contribute to or accelerate land degradation through waterlogging, or through the salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing) | | |
| **PO23** Clearing maintains the current extent of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems. | **AO23.1** Clearing does not occur in an endangered regional ecosystem or an of concern regional ecosystem.  OR |  |
| **AO23.2** Clearing in an endangered regional ecosystem or in an of concern regional ecosystem does not exceed the width or area prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO23.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Essential habitat (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing and irrigated high value agriculture clearing, fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO24** Clearing maintains the current extent of essential habitat. | **AO24.1** Clearing does not occur in essential habitat.  OR |  |
| **AO24.2** Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO24.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of essential habitat (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Essential habitat (necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation) | | |
| **PO25** Clearing does not occur in essential habitat, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area. | **AO25.1** Clearing does not occur in essential habitat.  OR |  |
| **AO25.2** Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO25.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated. |  |
| Essential habitat (necessary environmental clearing – natural channel diversion and contaminants removal) | | |
| **PO26** Clearing does not occur in essential habitat, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area, or maintains the current extent of essential habitat. | **AO26.1** Clearing does not occur in essential habitat.  OR |  |
| **AO26.2** Clearing in essential habitat does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO26.3** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated.  OR |  |
| **AO26.4** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and:   1. clearing has been reasonably minimised; and 2. the cleared area cannot be reasonably rehabilitated 3. an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of essential habitat (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Acid sulfate soils (public safety and relevant infrastructure activities, coordinated project, extractive industry, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing, necessary environmental clearing, necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests, thinning, encroachment) | | |
| **PO27** Clearing does not result in, or accelerate, disturbance of acid sulfate soils or changes to the hydrology of the location that will result in either of the following:   1. aeration of horizons containing iron sulphides; or 2. mobilisation of acid or metals. | **AO27.1** Clearing does not occur in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3.  OR |  |
| **AO27.2** Clearing in land zone 1, land zone 2 or land zone 3 in areas below the 5 metre Australian Height Datum only occurs where:   1. it does not involve mechanical clearing; and 2. acid sulfate soils are managed consistent with the State Planning Policy, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, 2014, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, 2014 and with the Soil Management Guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual, Department of Science Information Technology Innovation and the Arts, 2014.   OR |  |
| **AO27.3** The local government is the assessment manager for the development application. |  |
| Clearing is staged (extractive industry) | | |
| **PO28** Clearing:   1. is staged in line with operational needs that restrict clearing to the current operational area 2. only occurs in the area from which material will be extracted, and any reasonably associated infrastructure, within the term of the development approval; and 3. does not occur without required permits. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Clearing for agriculture (coordinated project, high value agriculture clearing, irrigated high value agriculture clearing) | | |
| **PO29** Clearing only occurs where the land is suitable for agriculture having regard to topography, climate and soil attributes.  Note: Guidance for determining land suitability is provided in the Guidelines for meeting the land suitability and economic viability requirements for high value and irrigated high value agriculture applications, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2015. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| **PO30** Clearing only occurs where there is no alternative area on the land subject to the development application for the clearing. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| **PO31** For applications for irrigated high value agriculture clearing, the owner of the land is an eligible owner who has, or may have, access to enough water for establishing, cultivating and harvesting the crops to which the clearing relates. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Clearing for necessary environmental clearing – land restoration and natural disaster preparation | | |
| **PO32** Clearing does not occur, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area. | **AO32.1** Clearing does not occur.  OR |  |
| **AO32.2** Clearing maintains the natural floristic composition and range of sizes across the application area.  OR |  |
| **AO32.3** Clearing does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO32.4** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the cleared area is rehabilitated. |  |
| Clearing for necessary environmental clearing - natural channel diversion and contaminants removal | | |
| **PO33** Clearing does not occur, or where this is not reasonably possible, the applicant rehabilitates the cleared area or maintains the current extent of vegetation. | **AO33.1** Clearing does not occur.  OR |  |
| **AO33.2** Clearing maintains the natural floristic composition and range of sizes across the application area.  OR |  |
| **AO33.3** Clearing does not exceed the widths or areas prescribed in table 16.3.1 of this code.  OR |  |
| **AO33.4** Where clearing cannot be reasonably avoided, and clearing has been reasonably minimised, the endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems are rehabilitated.  OR |  |
| **AO33.5** Where clearing an endangered regional ecosystem or of concern regional ecosystem cannot be reasonably avoided, minimised or rehabilitated, an offset is provided for any acceptable significant residual impact from clearing of an endangered regional ecosystem or of concern regional ecosystem (a matter of state environmental significance). |  |
| Conserving vegetation (thinning) | | |
| **PO36** Clearing activities:   1. maintain the natural floristic composition and range of sizes of each species of the regional ecosystem evenly spaced across the application area; and 2. retain habitat trees. | **AO36.1** Thinning retains mature trees and habitat trees.  AND |  |
| **AO36.2** Thinning retains immature trees to:   1. return the immature tree density to a more typical level 2. retain representatives of all the species that occur in the regional ecosystem in about the proportion to what would normally exist 3. retain the range of tree sizes that would normally occur; and 4. space immature trees as evenly as possible across the thinned area.   AND |  |
| **AO36.3** Thinning is not undertaken by ground application of soil applied broad spectrum herbicides, or aerial application of any herbicides.  Note: The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation publishes technical descriptions ([[http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/technical-descriptions](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/technical-descriptions/)/](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/descriptions/)) which provide a detailed description of the normal range in structure and floristic composition of remnant regional ecosystems and their component vegetation communities. They should be used in conjunction with the fields from the [Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD)](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download/) ([http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download/)) for a normal description of the regional ecosystem. |  |
| Clearing limited to specific regional ecosystems (thinning) | | |
| **PO37** Clearing does not occur in the regional ecosystems listed in Table 16.3.6 of this code, except where clearing is solely for removing native plants not naturally occurring within the regional ecosystem. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Retained vegetation density (thinning) | | |
| **PO38** Clearing does not occur unless the density of vegetation that is retained is consistent with the natural floristic composition of the regional ecosystem. | **AO38.1** The vegetation density is consistent with a representative reference site of the same regional ecosystem.  OR |  |
| **AO38.2** The vegetation density is consistent with the natural floristic composition of the regional ecosystem as demonstrated by BioCondition benchmarks for regional ecosystem condition assessment, and the Regional ecosystem description database.  Note: DSITI publishes Technical descriptions (http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/technical-descriptions) which provide a detailed description of the normal range in structure and floristic composition of remnant regional ecosystems and their component vegetation communities. They should be used in conjunction with the fields from the [Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD)](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download/) ([http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/download/)) for a normal description of the regional ecosystem. |  |
| Clearing is limited to specific regional ecosystems (encroachment) | | |
| **PO39** Clearing of encroachment does not occur, other than in the regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.7 of this code. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Retained trees (encroachment) | | |
| **PO40** Clearing of encroachment:   1. results in the restoration of the regional ecosystem 2. retains mature trees and habitat trees 3. retains all woody vegetation within a grove; and 4. retains representatives of all immature, non-encroaching species in a natural pattern. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Limits to clearing for fodder harvesting (fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO41** Clearing occurs only in the following areas:   1. Balonne Shire Council 2. Barcaldine Shire Council 3. Barcoo Shire Council 4. Blackall Tambo Regional Council 5. Bulloo Shire Council 6. Diamantina Shire Council 7. Goondiwindi Regional Council 8. Longreach Regional Council 9. Maranoa Regional Council 10. Murweh Shire Council 11. Paroo Shire Council 12. Quilpie Shire Council 13. Western Downs Regional Council 14. Winton Shire Council. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| **PO42** Clearing is limited to the extent necessary to provide fodder for stock. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| **PO43** Clearing only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 or table 16.3.9 of this code. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| **PO44** Clearing consists predominantly of fodder species. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Conserving vegetation (fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO45** Clearing retains at least:   * 1. 50 percent of the predominant canopy cover of the vegetation over each 300 metre by 300 metre (9 hectare) area when selective harvesting or narrow strip harvesting; and   2. 55 percent of the predominant canopy cover of the vegetation over each 300 metre by 300 metre (9 hectare) area when block harvesting or wide strip harvesting maintains the range of species of the regional ecosystem at the locality. | **AO45.1** Selective harvesting does not:   1. harvest more than 5 in 10 individual fodder trees in any given area 2. remove non-fodder species beyond that needed to provide access for harvesting; and 3. involve mechanical clearing within 50 metres of a scarp or an area of instability, in the following regional ecosystems 6.7.1, 6.7.6, 6.7.14, 6.7.15, 6.7.16, 11.7.1, 11.7.2 and 11.7.5.   AND |  |
| **AO45.2** Block harvesting:   1. is limited to the harvesting area and width of retained vegetation listed in table 16.3.10 2. retains non-fodder species with height of four metres or more within the harvested area 3. does not occur in fodder regional ecosystems that are less than 10 hectares in area or 500 metres in width 4. ensures tracks between blocks are limited to a width of 10 metres; and 5. only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 of this code.   AND |  |
| **AO45.3** Wide strip harvesting:   1. occurs where the harvested strip is 70 metres – 135 metres in width 2. retains a minimum of 165 metres wide strip of retained vegetation on either side of the cleared strip 3. only occurs for an 800 metre length with the retention of a 200 metre wide patch of vegetation at the end of each length 4. does not occur in fodder regional ecosystems that are less than 10 hectares in area or 500 metres in width; and 5. only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 of this code.   AND |  |
| **AO45.4** Narrow strip harvesting:   1. occurs where the harvested strip is 20 to 50 metres in width 2. retains vegetation on either side of the strip a width at least equal to the width of the harvested strip 3. does not occur in fodder regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 and table 16.3.9 of this code that are less than 10 hectares in area or 500 metres in width; and 4. only occurs in regional ecosystems listed in table 16.3.8 of this code. |  |
| Conserving endangered regional ecosystems and of concern regional ecosystems (fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO46** Clearing:   1. does not occur in vegetation that contains endangered regional ecosystems; and 2. is limited to vegetation that contains of concern regional ecosystems 6.5.3, 11.5.13, 6.5.5 and 4.7.3, and by selective harvesting where it does not remove more than three in 10 fodder trees. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Cleared vegetation (fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO47** Cleared vegetation is not moved from where it falls. | No acceptable outcome is prescribed. |  |
| Conserving the fodder resource (fodder harvesting) | | |
| **PO48** Clearing does not reduce the total extent of the fodder species in the regional ecosystem listed in table 16.3.8 and table 16.3.9 of this code on a lot to below 50 percent of its current extent within any 10 year period. | **AO48.1** Clearing is limited to the regional ecosystems and harvesting methods listed in table 16.3.8 and table 16.3.9 of this code.  AND |  |
| **AO48.2** Clearing is limited to areas that have not been harvested in the past 10 years.  AND |  |
| **AO48.3** Retained vegetation is not harvested within 10 years of the harvesting of an adjacent area which has been subject to either strip harvesting or block harvesting. |  |