



EIANZ-SEQ Vegetation Management Update: Property Map of Assessable Vegetation

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“If you don’t have a PMAV, you are a bloody idiot”

PMAVs deliver essential asset protection says Marland

14 Oct 2016, 7:41 p.m.

News



Topics

- What is a PMAV?
- Types of PMAVs
- Information required
- PMAVs and the VMOLA
- Case studies

Queensland Country Life, 14 Oct 2016

[https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/4229690/no-pmav-youre-a-](https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/4229690/no-pmav-youre-a-bloody-idiot/)

[bloody-idiot/](https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/4229690/no-pmav-youre-a-bloody-idiot/)



 "If you don’t have a PMAV, you are a bloody idiot," says rural landholder lawyer Tom Marland.

What is a PMAV

- Regulated vegetation management map is provided legal status under the VM Act (s.20A)
- Identifies areas of regional ecosystems and non-remnant vegetation, types and boundaries
- Categorises vegetation
 - Category A - (i) a declared area; (ii) an offset area; (iii) an exchange area; or (b) has been unlawfully cleared
 - Category B – remnant vegetation
 - Category C – high value regrowth
 - Category R – regrowth watercourse
 - Category X – non-remnant vegetation
- PMAV allows changes to the map

Vegetation Management Act 1999

Section 20AK

- (1) A property map of assessable vegetation (or PMAV) is a map certified by the chief executive as a PMAV for an area and showing the vegetation category area for the area.
- (2) The map may also show for the area the location of the boundaries of, and the regional ecosystem number for, each regional ecosystem in the area.

Types of PMAV applications



Bunya Waste Management Facility, Moreton Bay Regional Council.
Queensland Globe, Queensland Government 2018

- Three types of PMAV
 - Lock-in PMAV
 - Correct an obvious map error
 - Correct the RE type, boundaries or Category of regulated vegetation
- Generally, want to change other Categories to Category X (non-remnant)

Information that must be provided

Complete section 6 if you selected 'Option 1: PMAV' at section 4 and wish to modify a vegetation management map.

6. PMAV supporting information

You may wish to discuss the supporting information requirements with your local Natural Resource Management Officer:
Go to www.dnrm.qld.gov.au
or phone 13 58 34

Required:

1. Provide information that defines the boundaries of the vegetation category areas (i.e. B, C, R and/or X) you are propose

Option 1—Supply a map showing:

- i. The vegetation category areas and the boundaries of the areas proposed for the PMAV; and
- ii. A description of the boundaries of the areas by reference to Map Grid of Australia 1994 coordinates and zone references for the areas.

OR

Option 2—Supply a map showing:

- iii. The vegetation category areas and the boundaries of the areas proposed for the PMAV; and
- iv. Five or more points that correspond to identifiable fixed features; and
- v. The Map Grid of Australia 1994 coordinates and zone references for each point, acquired by GPS or similar system of satellites that receives and processes information; and
- vi. A description of the feature that each point represents.

OR

Option 3—Provide a dataset, which can be used in a Geographic Information System, showing the vegetation category areas and the boundaries of the areas proposed for the PMAV.

If you propose to show regional ecosystem codes and boundaries on the PMAV, please also include this information on your map or with your dataset.

AND

2. If you are proposing to change the vegetation boundaries shown on the Regulated Vegetation Management Map, please attach information to demonstrate that the proposed boundaries are accurate. Suitable information may include valid clearing permits, site photographs taken at recorded GPS locations, aerial imagery or Google Earth screenshots with boundaries shown, flora and vegetation structure assessments.

AND

3. If you are proposing to change the regional ecosystem/s described for an area, please attach information to demonstrate that the vegetation's floristic composition and structure is consistent with the proposed regional ecosystem/s. Suitable information may include photographs of identified tree species (with corresponding GPS coordinates) and a description of the land zone and soil type of the area.

- Lock-in PMAV
 - No evidence required
- Correct an obvious map error
 - valid clearing permits, site photographs taken at recorded GPS locations, aerial imagery or Google Earth screenshots with boundaries shown, flora and vegetation structure assessments.
- Correct the RE type, boundaries or Category of regulated vegetation
 - Flora survey, geological/soils assessment, transect data (canopy cover / height)

PMAVs and the VMOLA

- Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Bill (VMOLA) 2018 introduced 8 March 2018
- Passed 3 May 2018
- Restores vegetation protection for Category R (reef regrowth watercourse) and Category C (regrowth) on freehold land (and other tenures)
- PMAVs properly made prior to 8 March 2018 not affected by VMOLA
- Category X on PMAVs not affected

VMOLA

s.130

- (1) This section applies if, during the interim period, an application was made under section 20C to show an area on a PMAV as a category X area that, after 8 March 2018, becomes a category C area or category R area.
- (2) A decision of the chief executive to show the area as a category X area on a PMAV during the interim period is taken to have no effect.
- (3) The chief executive may reconsider and decide the application and remake the PMAV after the date of assent.

PMAVs under threat: Extreme greens flag new attack



Mark Phelps
@MarkQCL

13 Mar 2018, 10:38 a.m.

News



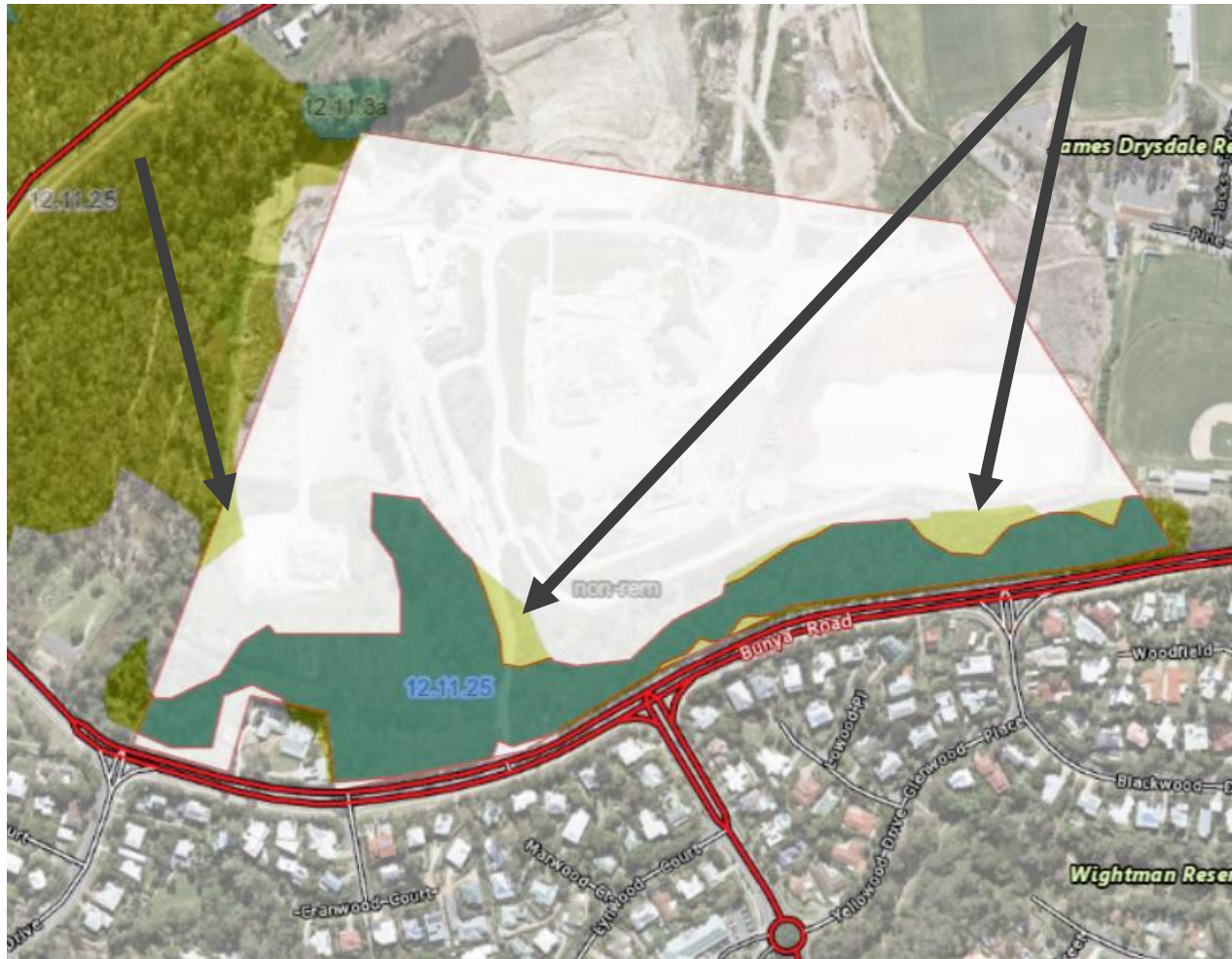
Lock-in PMAVs?

“This time the property map of assessable vegetation (PMAVs) system is under attack with extreme green claiming up to a quarter of land certified by the Department of Natural Resources as Category X should not be able to be touched by farmers.”

Queensland Country Life, 13 March 2018,
<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5280656/though-your-pmav-offered-certainty-think-again/>

 LNP opposition agriculture spokesman Tony Perrett says the push for more restrictive changes to vegetation management laws should ring alarm bells.

Making Category X areas



VMOLA

(3) Also, the chief executive can not make the relevant area a category X area on the PMAV if—

- (a) the vegetation in the relevant area is not remnant vegetation or high value regrowth vegetation because of clearing that happened because of burning, flooding or natural causes; or
- (b) the chief executive is satisfied the clearing of vegetation for the relevant area after 29 November 2013 was not lawfully carried out.

Case Study 1

- PMAV on agricultural property in Marlborough Ranges
- PMAV submitted to change areas of Category B vegetation to Category X
- PMAV going to be refused due to a Native Forest Practice existing on the title (s.20AH(c)(i))
- Landholder did not divulge / was aware of the NFP
- NFP is supposed to exist on title, but title searches by the client did not show the NFP
- NFP was not restricted to defined areas, so DNRME could not make Category X areas
- Additional survey work completed to show no evidence of logging within proposed Category X areas since 2013
- Historical aerial photo investigation
- DNRME has accepted the proposed changes
- Some areas of proposed Category X were not accepted due to presence of extensive canopy tree death

Case Study 2



Regulated vegetation management map prior to PMAV



Regulated vegetation management map after PMAV

Case Study 3

- Area of mapped natural grassland (11.9.3)
- Field survey showed area dominated by buffel grass and other exotic pasture species
- Transect data submitted to DNRME to support Category B change to Category X
- Only some areas of Category B changed to Category X due to DNRME interpretation of aerial photography
- But, DNRME also cannot make Category B grassland to Category X where the area has not been cultivated for 15 years. No evidence of cultivation (gradual conversion to pasture)

Case Study 4

- Urban development site in SEQ
- Area of RE 12.5.3, listed as endangered
- However, if the land zone changes to 9-10 then it is RE 12.9-10.4 – least concern
- Under the ‘urban exemption’ areas of least concern excluded from VM Act
- Needed to show that the soils were derived from underlying bedrock
- Land zone 5 soils can be many metres deep and usually has a duricrust (hard mineralised crust) at depth
- PMAV not supported by DNRME



Case Studies Summary

Case Study

- Case study 1 – native forest practice is a form of legal clearing and areas subject to a NFP cannot be made Category X
- Case study 2 – mapping thresholds and scale
- Case study 3 – remaking mapped native grasslands as Category X requires evidence of cropping
- Case study 4 – changing RE type through a landzone assessment

Results

- PMAV generally accepted
- PMAV accepted
- PMAV not accepted
- PMAV not accepted

Recommendations

- Due diligence for clearing approvals (eg. NFP, clearing permits)
- Consider scale
- Sufficient evidence to support your proposed changes

Thank You



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