# Do I need a permit?

Before applying for a permit, check to see if there are any relevant exemptions under the *Natural Assets Local Law 2003* (NALL) that apply to you. The table below identifies exemptions which allow you to carry out certain activities without a permit. If you are unsure if an exemption applies to your situation, or to find out what NALL protection categories are on your property, please contact Council on 3403 8888. Penalties apply for the unlawful removal of protected vegetation. A full list of exempt activities is set out in the NALL is available from the Queensland Government website.

| Proposed Work | Protection categories present | Is a permit required? |
|---|---|---|
| **Pruning or trimming** vegetation for the purpose of maintenance or hazard management on your property. | WWV<br>SNV<br>SUV (except significant landscape trees) | **A permit is not required** to prune as long as:<br>- no more than 20% of the live foliage volume of a tree or shrub is removed in any 12month period; and<br>- the part removed is distributed evenly over the whole crown and the tree or shrub is not left lop-sided<br>Pruning means maintenance or remedial pruning in accordance with AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees |
| | Significant landscape trees | **A permit is required** |
| **Pruning or trimming a street tree** for the purpose of maintenance or hazard management or removing a street tree or part of a street tree. | Council Vegetation (street trees) | **A permit is required**<br>Refer to the minor street tree pruning fact sheet for more information. Street Tree maintenance can also be requested. Find out more. |
| **Removing or pruning trees that are causing an immediate and significant threat** to persons or property | WWV<br><br>SNV<br><br>SUV | **A permit is not required** if a tree is demonstrating obvious signs of immediate hazard (split tree trunks; leaning tree(s) with soil upheaval). **The signs of hazard must be demonstrated by adequate photographic evidence, and if requested an arborist report, submitted within 10 business days of the occurrence of the threat event *.** Failing to demonstrate that any trees removed were causing an immediate and significant threat can result in compliance action.<br><br>***Email:** CARS-NALL@brisbane.qld.gov.au **Mail:** Compliance & Regulatory Services Environmental Management Team GPO Box 1434 BRISBANE QLD 4001 |

Protection categories: Waterway and Wetland Vegetation (WWV), Significant Native Vegetation (SNV), Significant Urban Vegetation (SUV). To find out what NALL protection categories are on your property, please contact Council on 3403 8888.

| Proposed Work | Protection categories present | Is a permit required? |
|---|---|---|
| **Emergencies**- removal of vegetation where the removal is essential for emergency access or emergency works; or where the removal is immediately required in response to an accident or emergency. | All protection categories | **A permit is not required** to remove vegetation that is essential to immediately respond to an accident or emergency or to provide essential access in an accident or emergency response. |
| **Planting a tree or shrub** or making a hole or excavation. | Council Vegetation (street trees) | **This activity is not permitted** unless it is in accordance with a street tree planting plan approved by Council, or complies with Verge Garden Guidelines.<br><br>Contact Council on 3403 8888 for further information about requesting a street tree or planting in the verge or footpath area. |
| **Removing a tree or part of a tree** from around occupied dwellings and buildings | WWV<br>SNV<br>SUV (except significant landscape trees) | **A permit is not required** to remove a tree or part of a tree as long as:<br>- the whole trunk is located within 3m of an existing lawfully constructed and occupied dwelling on a property less than or equal to 4000m$^2$ in area.<br>- the whole trunk is located within 6m of an existing lawfully constructed and occupied dwelling on a property greater than 4000m$^2$ in area. |
| | Significant landscape trees | **A permit is required** |
| **Interference with pasture vegetation** | WWV<br>SNV<br>SUV | **A permit is not required**<br>Pasture vegetation means vegetation like grasses, crops and forbs that have traditionally been subject to grazing, mowing or slashing at regular intervals. |
| **Maintenance, trimming or pruning garden vegetation** and mowing lawn on a property | WWV<br>SNV<br>SUV (except significant landscape trees) | **A permit is not required** for the maintenance of any garden vegetation with a trunk diameter (measured at 1.4m above ground level) less than 30cm. Garden vegetation means any vegetation planted and maintained in a formal garden area for food or ornamental purposes, including lawn. |
| | Significant landscape trees | **A permit is required** for maintenance, trimming or pruning of any tree identified as a significant landscape tree. |

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| Proposed Work | Protection categories present | Is a permit required? |
|---|---|---|
| **Constructing a boundary fence around a property** | SNV<br>SUV (except significant landscape trees) | **A permit is not required** to construct a boundary fence as long as the vegetation that is interfered with:<br>- is located within 3m of a property boundary; and<br>- is smaller than 20cm in trunk diameter when measured at 1.4m above the natural ground level.<br>Fence construction must not interfere with surrounding protected vegetation. |
| | Significant landscape trees<br>WWV | **A permit is required** |
| **Clearing or managing pest vegetation (weeds)** | WWV<br>SNV<br>SUV | **A permit is not required** to clear pest vegetation as long as the work;<br>- is done without damage to adjacent protected vegetation;<br>- minimises disturbance to the soil profiles and the potential for soil erosion; and<br>- otherwise complies with guidelines for managing pest vegetation issued by Council. |
| **Clear a firebreak*** | WWV<br>SNV<br>SUV | **A permit is required** unless the clearing is in accordance with a written (or oral, in emergency circumstances) direction to clear a firebreak given by a Fire Warden, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. |

Protection categories: Waterway and Wetland Vegetation (WWV), Significant Native Vegetation (SNV), Significant Urban Vegetation (SUV). To find out what NALL protection categories are on your property, please contact Council on 3403 8888.

Council shall not be liable for technical or other errors or omissions contained herein. The reader/user accepts all risks and responsibility for losses, damages, costs and other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from using this information.

*Vegetation clearing for fire management/essential management that may be considered exempted activity under the Queensland State Government *Planning Regulation 2017* may still require approval under NALL. If you are uncertain please contact Council on 3403 8888 to discuss prior to undertaking clearing works.