

Purpose

Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) are seeking an exemption from Building Approval for tree or vegetation clearing under clause 2.24(f) of the Airports (Building Control) Regulations 1996

(f) Minor works, being a work that the Airport Building Controller determines, in writing, should be exempt from the subdivision because:

- i) The interference with the airport site is minor, and
- ii) No danger arises of injury to a person using the Airport

Objectives

The overall aim of land clearing is to:

- Minimise impacts to flora and fauna resulting from land clearing activities
- Address the controls required in keeping with BAC environmental best practice
- Ensure that threatened fauna are not adversely affected by land clearing activities
- Ensure compliance with the Airports Act 2006, AEPR 1997, and ABCR 1996

Definitions

For the purpose of the Airports Act 1996, land clearing is defined as the removal of vegetation from any site, parcel, or lot on a leased federal airport, and includes:

- The cutting down, felling, thinning, logging or removal of vegetation
- Killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning vegetation
- Infilling of wetlands or dumping material on dry land vegetation
- The drowning of vegetation through the construction of impoundments
- Substantially damaging or injuring vegetation in any other way

Brisbane Airport Vegetation

The findings of the Brisbane Airport Vegetation and Habitat Assessment (2002) identified the following vegetation communities on Airport

- Casuarina plantation
- Open grassland
- Mangroves
- Saltmarsh
- Freshwater wetlands and sedge communities
- Coastal dunes and foreshores

Most vegetation on Airport has a low conservation value and includes man-made habitats such as grasslands, casuarina plantations and landscaped areas.

However, mangroves and other marine plant communities have a higher value.

Mangroves and other marine plant communities are protected under Section 123 of the Fisheries Act 1994 because of their importance to fisheries. This is due to the habitats they provide and detritus and food sources they contribute to marine food chains. As a result their conservation value is considered high.

There are no species of plant on Airport which can be listed as 'rare', 'threatened' or 'endangered' under Commonwealth, Queensland or Brisbane City Council (BCC) Legislation. In addition, no plant species found on airport are listed as 'of concern' or 'endangered' under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act (1999).

Actions

In consultation with the AEO and the ABC, the following activities might be considered minor building activities and are exempt:

- mowing and pruning so as to maintain vegetation in a healthy, viable, condition
- weed control
- works relating to the maintenance of garden beds and street scapes
- disturbance of exotic grasses or exotic pastures
- maintaining clearances around air navigation aids, aprons, taxiways and runways as stipulated in MOS 139
- clearing of vegetation due to an obvious safety risk affecting airport operators and/or users that requires immediate action to prevent serious injury
- ensuring that the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) is not intruded
- clearing undertaken solely for the purposes of fire control where the requirements are specified in an Airport Master Plan or Environment Strategy and/or where a State or Local Fire Act and/or regulation is in force, which mandates the undertaking of fire risk prevention measures such as clearing around assets
- the trimming or removal of vegetation that poses a security risk
- clearing vegetation for implementing wildlife management control measures as identified in an approved management plan



Land Clearing Exemption Application and Checklist

A. Applicant

BAC Project Manager:
Date of works to commence:
Duration (no. days):

B. Proposal

Description of Works:
Reason it is required:
Site Location :
Provided a Map of the proposed works location and extent of works Yes No N/A

1. Marine Plant Disturbance

1.1	Are marine plants to be disturbed	Yes	No	N/A	1.3	Type of Marine plant disturbance				
1.2	Type of Marine plant to be disturbed					Pruning	Trimming	Removal	Other	N/A
	Mangrove	Salt Couch	Succulent	Other						

2. Contaminated Sites

2.1	Is the site on or adjacent to a contaminated sites as per the Contaminated Site Register (CSR)	Yes	No		2.2	Is the site on or adjacent to an area identified as having asbestos contamination under the CSR	Yes	No
	<i>If yes discuss further with Approvals and Environmental & Sustainability</i>					<i>If yes discuss further with Approvals and Environmental & Sustainability</i>		

3. Biodiversity Zone/Environmentally Sensitive Area

3.1 Is the site located within or adjacent to a Biodiversity Zone or Environmentally Significant Area Yes No
If yes discuss further with Approvals and Environmental & Sustainability

4. Other Conditions

4.1 Any other conditions/concerns for works Yes No
Details

Once this form is completed please submit with relevant documents to: Approvals@bne.com.au, or print the completed form and post to PO BOX 61 Hamilton Central QLD 4007 Australia

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