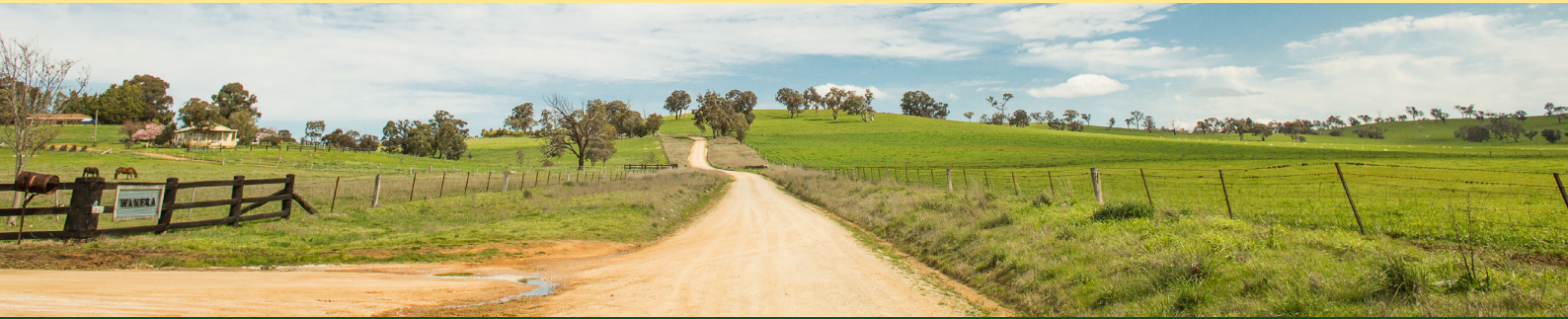


Allowable activities for public authorities



This fact sheet provides guidance for public authorities seeking to remove native vegetation (which includes trees, shrubs and grasses or other groundcover) under allowable activities provisions to allow for the operation and maintenance of infrastructure that does not require any other statutory approvals. Note: Rural land is defined as land zoned as RU1, RU2, RU3, RU4, RU6 and deferred matters. RU5 is considered not to be rural land.

It is important to note that the use of allowable activities does not re-categorise the land.

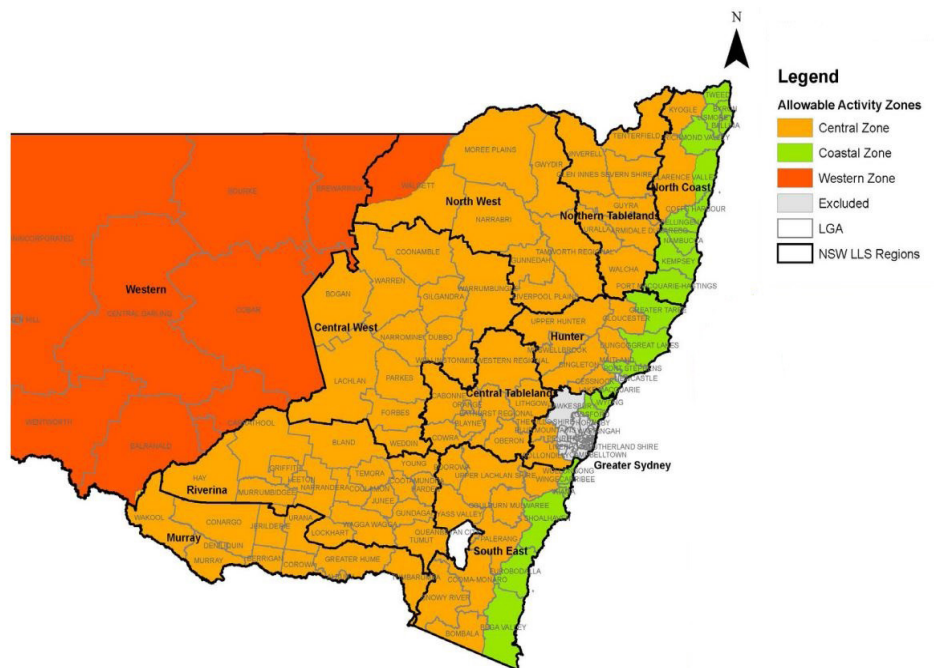
Note: allowable activities do not allow clearing without an approval or other authority required by or under another Act. Allowable activities are not an alternative approval pathway to environmental assessment requirements under Part 5 of the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Overview

Under the land management framework, greater flexibility and discretion is provided to landholders, enabling them to efficiently undertake low risk routine land management activities.

Clearing undertaken for allowable activities on a landholding must only be carried out by, or on behalf of, the landholder unless specifically stated otherwise. All other required statutory approvals must be obtained before clearing for a work (an activity), building or structure begins.

There are 3 allowable activity zones in NSW, the western, central and coastal zones. The maximum clearing distances for allowable activities are different for each zone.



Allowable activities for public authorities, local councils and utilities

The *Local Land Services Act 2013* also enables public authorities, local councils and utilities to clear native vegetation on Category 2-regulated land for the following purposes.

Public works

Allows clearing by a public or local authority for the construction, operation or maintenance of infrastructure (including cemeteries) by a public or local authority.

The native vegetation to be cleared must not be a threatened species, the habitat of a threatened species, be a protected plant under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or be part of a threatened ecological community (TEC).

Telecommunications infrastructure

Allows owners of telecommunications infrastructure, or those acting on their behalf, to clear native vegetation for the construction, operation or maintenance of telecommunications infrastructure.

Gravel pits

Allows clearing on behalf of a local council for the construction, operation or maintenance of gravel pits.

In this case, the native vegetation to be cleared is limited to a single area of land no more than 5 hectares in the western zone and no more than 2 hectares in all other zones. Additionally, the cleared native vegetation must not be a threatened species, the habitat of a threatened species, be part of a TEC or be a protected plant under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Finally, the local council must revegetate the cleared area.

Note: clearing for gravel pits cannot be undertaken in Category 2-vulnerable regulated land and Category 2-sensitive regulated land. To determine your land category visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/native-vegetation-regulatory-map

Electricity transmission infrastructure

Allows clearing for the maintenance of publicly owned power lines including:

- maintaining safety clearances under power lines and around communications sites
- minimising fuel loads under power lines
- maintaining existing roads and tracks.

Clearing under this allowable activity cannot occur for:

- the construction of new roads or tracks
- removal of groundcover
- safety clearances that exceed those listed in the following table.

Nominal operating voltage of power line	Maximum clearing distance
Not more than 11 kV	20 metres
Above 11 kV up to and including 33 kV	25 metres
Above 33 kV up to and including 66 kV	30 metres
Above 66 kV up to and including 132 kV	45 metres
Above 132 kV up to and including 330 kV	60 metres
Above 330 kV	70 metres

Additional considerations

Clearing for an allowable activity should be undertaken to the minimum extent necessary, (that is the minimum you need to clear for the type of activity) and certain allowable activities, such as gravel pits, are limited or prohibited outside of the western zone.

Want to know more?

Our website has more information, resources and factsheets on land management, or you can get in touch with your local team today.



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