

Property maps of assessable vegetation (PMAVs)

The clearing of native vegetation in Queensland is regulated by the vegetation management framework and includes the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA) and *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA).

Property maps of assessable vegetation (PMAVs) are a part of the framework. They are property-scale maps that show the location, boundary and status of vegetation. PMAVs replace regional ecosystem (RE) and regrowth maps for determining the location of vegetation assessable under the VMA.

There have been some recent changes made to the laws affecting PMAVs. These changes provide a clearer and more transparent mapping process, while continuing to provide certainty to landholders. PMAVs are now the sole means to amend vegetation management maps. The process for making a PMAV is now clearly set out and includes new appeal rights for landholders.

Importantly, landholders who hold a current PMAV can continue to rely on this to manage their vegetation.

What does a PMAV show?

Recent amendments to the VMA changed the names and definitions of vegetation categories, to make them simpler and more logical. PMAVs made under the old categories (categories 1, 2, 3, 4, and X) continue to be recognised under the VMA.

A PMAV can now show areas as category A, B, C or X according to the status of the vegetation and the regulations that apply to it. Depending on its purpose, a PMAV will show all or some of the following vegetation category areas:

- category X—not containing any assessable vegetation
- category A—vegetation subject to compliance notices, offsets, and voluntary declarations
- category B—remnant vegetation or vegetation subject to a permit that maintains vegetation
- category C—high-value regrowth vegetation.

A permit is needed to clear remnant vegetation or areas mapped as categories A or B, unless the clearing is for an exempt activity. Category C areas can only be cleared in accordance with DERM's regrowth vegetation code unless the clearing is for an exempt activity. Vegetation mapped as category X can continue to be managed without a permit.

The following table shows the change made to PMAV categories.

Table 1

Old PMAV categories (up to 8 October 2009)	New PMAV categories (from 8 October 2009)
Category 1 has been made because it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a declared area • has been unlawfully cleared • is subject to compliance or enforcement notice containing conditions about the restoration of vegetation. 	Category A
Category 1 area made for purposes not listed above	Category B
Category 2	Category B
Category 3	Category B
Category 4	Category C
Category X	Category X

PMAVs are registered on the land title and are transferred with the property if the land changes ownership.

For more information on PMAVs, refer to the *Landholders' guide to applying for a property map of assessable vegetation*, available from the DERM website <www.derm.qld.gov.au>.

What happens if I have a category 1, 2, 3 or 4 PMAV?

PMAVs made prior to October 8 2009 showing categories 1, 2, 3, 4 and X, is still valid. The old PMAV category is recognised as the new PMAV category identified in the table 1 above.

Types of PMAVs

There are two types of PMAVs:

1. PMAVs made by DERM

DERM may make a PMAV for a number of circumstances including when:

- an area has been unlawfully cleared

- an area is subject to a compliance or enforcement notice containing conditions about the restoration of vegetation
- an exchange area is identified as part of a regrowth notification
- an area becomes an offset area.
- there is a mistake in the regrowth vegetation map.

2. PMAVs requested by landholders.

There are two types of PMAVs that landholders can apply for:

- **Lock it in**—PMAVs identified as 'white' areas on the current RE and regrowth vegetation maps as category X areas.
- **Detailed**—PMAVs that may show all category areas at a property scale. These can refine the boundaries of vegetation or remove areas of vegetation that doesn't meet the criteria for what it is currently mapped.

When a landholder applies for a PMAV, DERM will assess the application, prepare the map and send them a copy for their agreement before it's certified.

If a landholder disagrees with the proposed PMAV, they can discuss vegetation categories and other mapping issues with DERM.

'Lock it in' PMAVs

Areas that are white on an RE map, remnant map or a regrowth map can be shown as category X on a PMAV. Landholders can apply to lock these areas in as category X. Vegetation can be cleared in these areas without a permit, regardless of how the area appears on the RE, remnant or regrowth map.

Applications for lock it in PMAVs are based on the RE and regrowth mapping current at the time of lodgement. They are at the same scale as RE mapping: 1:100 000 (1 cm on the map = 1 km on the ground) or 1:50 000 (1 cm = 0.5 km).

An application for a lock it in PMAV can be made by submitting:

- the current RE and regrowth map for your property
- an application form
- five or more GPS points corresponding to identifiable fixed points defined by suitable map grid coordinates.

Detailed PMAVs

RE, remnant and regrowth maps are made at a scale that does not always show vegetation or boundaries at a scale sufficient for some property management activities. A detailed PMAV can show sufficient detail at a property scale which might be better suited for some management activities.

A detailed PMAV can also be used to amend the RE, remnant or regrowth maps if a correction in the maps is required.

Applicants wanting a detailed PMAV will need to provide sufficient detailed information for the department to make the PMAV. This might include vegetation boundary details or information about the location, structure and range of species. Detailed PMAVs can show category X and vegetation categories A, B and C and regional ecosystem boundaries.

To apply for a detailed PMAV you must submit:

- an application form
- specific information about the location, structure and range of species of vegetation on your property
- spatially defined and accurate boundaries for the proposed vegetation categories.

Correcting the regrowth vegetation maps

Satellite imagery was used to make the regrowth maps and sometimes non native tree cover like orchards are mistakenly interpreted as native vegetation. This is an inevitable consequence of satellite imagery which is why the maps and the law work together. The maps should not be read in isolation and should be interpreted with the legislation. If the vegetation isn't native or there isn't a regional ecosystem, the laws do not apply.

However mistakes such as these can be corrected by a PMAV. There is no fee for a PMAV that corrects an error in the regrowth vegetation map.

A guide and application form for PMAVs can be downloaded from the DERM website <www.derm.qld.gov.au> or is available from a departmental business centre.

Where are the vegetation management maps available?

Download a free RE and remnant map, as well as a regrowth vegetation map from the DERM website, <www.derm.qld.gov.au>. These maps can also be viewed and purchased at departmental business centres.

Can I change a PMAV on my property?

PMAVs can be changed in certain situations. Landholders wanting to change their PMAV should contact DERM for more information.

How do I apply for a PMAV?

To apply for a PMAV, landholders must submit an application form and include sufficient information to allow the department to ensure the proposed vegetation categories meet the necessary criteria.

When applying for a PMAV, it is the landholder's responsibility to provide the necessary information and

pay the prescribed fee where applicable. The application form and landholders guide can be downloaded from the DERM website <www.derm.qld.gov.au>

Further information

- Fact sheet—*Vegetation management framework*
- Fact sheet - *Regional ecosystem and remnant maps*
- Fact sheet—*Managing regulated regrowth vegetation*
- Fact sheet—*Interpreting the regrowth vegetation map*
- *Landholders' guide to applying for a property map of assessable vegetation*

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For general enquiries contact the
Queensland Government call centre 13 13 04
or visit www.derm.qld.gov.au