

Tree clearing can be **exempt, require a permit** or **require a development consent**.
“Clearing” includes pruning trees.

Exemptions

Tree clearing is exempt (and not require approval) if:

1. It is approved by a development consent

Contact Council’s duty planner or the Council officer who assessed the Development Application if you are not sure that the development consent authorises clearing.

2. Council has declared the tree to be a risk to life or property

To apply for a Council declaration that a tree is a risk to life or property, please use Council’s Dead, Dying and Dangerous Tree Declaration Application Form. Upon payment of the applicable fee, Council aims to make a decision within three days.

3. Council has declared the tree to be dead or dying and not required for habitat,

To apply for a Council declaration that a tree is dead or dying and not required for habitat please use Council’s Dead, Dying and Dangerous Tree Declaration Application Form. Upon payment of the applicable fee, Council aims to make a decision within 14 days.

4. The pruning or removal is authorised by an emergency services organisation,

In case of a life-threatening emergency please dial 000. This emergency number may be used to report trees blocking traffic.

For non-life threatening emergencies involving trees in storms or flood please contact the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) on 132500. The SES are exempted from requiring a permit for emergency management works.

For non-life threatening emergencies involving trees and bushfire please contact the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) on 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737). The RFS are exempted from requiring a permit for emergency management works.

5. The pruning is part of long term ongoing maintenance of the tree and is minor,

Pruning of a tree affected by heritage mapping is exempt if it does not remove a substantial part of the vegetation. All other pruning will require a permit or development consent unless it is covered by an exemption.

6. A permit from the NSW Rural Fire Service has been obtained or the clearing is exempt under the Rural Fires Act, 1997.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) can provide advice on clearing trees for bushfire protection purposes.

Part of Another Development

Clearing that is part of another development, requires the lodgement of a development application to Council. Council does not issue vegetation permits to allow other development to proceed under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Vegetation Permit

If proposed clearing is not exempt, then a vegetation permit is required. An application for a vegetation permit must include:

- a) Council's application form
- b) The fees for the application
- c) The written consent of all land owners
- d) A site plan, drawn to scale, showing the proposed clearing
- e) An arborist's report
- f) A report justifying the reason for removal (see below)
 - a. Damage to buildings → Structural Engineer's Report
 - b. Damage to pipes → Plumber's Report
 - c. Risk to powerlines → Advice from Endeavour Energy
- g) For trees on a slope greater than 20%, a soil and water management plan
- h) For trees required by as a visual screen by a development consent, a visual impact assessment
- i) For applications to remove trees, a landscaping plan, drawn to scale, showing what replacement planting is proposed

Further information

For more information please contact Council's duty planner.