

Trees and native plants are beautiful and part of the Shire of Coolgardie local character.

The legislative provisions relating to clearing of native vegetation, is managed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and includes various exemptions.

Non-native trees are not covered by the above legislation.

Who is responsible for trees on private property?

The landowner is responsible for any trees growing on their land; to be sure where your land ends, you may have to obtain a survey report (at your expense).

Can I cut down a tree from my private property?

In Western Australia: -

- Clearing of native vegetation is an offence, unless done in accordance with a clearing permit or an exemption under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- most non-native trees are allowed to be cut without a permit, this also goes for invasive trees as they compete with native vegetation and trees for space and nutrients.

The Shire has no policy position on non-native trees as these can be removed without Shire permission.

Can I clear vegetation from my property?

Clearing **native vegetation is an offence**, unless done in accordance with a clearing permit or an exemption under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Under this legislation, clearing is not generally permitted where the biodiversity values, land conservation and water protection roles of native vegetation would be adversely impacted. Contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to check if a clearing permit is required.

Can I clear land for a fire break on my property?

All property owners are required to comply with the annual Fire break Notice issued by the Shire, or risk penalties.

Property owners may be required to carry out some clearing activities to make their property safe and accessible during bushfire season, including:

- Asset Protection Zone maintenance
- Firebreaks

For more information on bushfire compliance, please contact the Shire Ranger Service.

Are there any exemptions for clearing on my property?

Yes. The exemptions that can be found in Schedule 6 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act) and are outlined in the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) document "A guide to the exemptions and regulations for clearing native vegetation". This guide explains

what the exemptions are, the circumstances in which they apply and what is defined as intentionally planted vegetation. A copy of can be found on DWER website.

It is **an offence to clear native vegetation** without the authority of a permit or an exemption. The types of exemptions. Are listed in Schedule 6 of the EP Act and Regulation 5 – Prescribed clearing in the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Regulations).

Clearing less than five hectares should still be discussed with the department (DWER) as it may still require approval, though some exemptions exist.

Exemptions from requiring development approval for tree removal are as follows:

Any tree which:

- constitutes an immediate threat to life of property
- within two metres of a sewer, water main, effluent disposal system, storm water or power network, where the tree has caused damage (proof is required to be provided to the Shire prior to removal).
- is located within three metres of a building.
- within an approved building envelope.
- within the perimeter line of a proposed building which has a building permit.
- is required for removal for the purposes of a firebreak or asset protection zone.
- within a one-metre-wide corridor for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a fence.
- is required to be removed for the purposes of an approved effluent disposal system.
- grown for commercial purposes.
- required to comply with conditions of subdivision approval; and
- related to public works by a public authority.

For further information, visit DWER Native Vegetation Clearing page.

Site details

Information on your property, lot sizes, dimensions and recent aerial imagery is available from: -

- Shire's website – public mapping
- Landgate Viewer Plus map website

Further information.

For further information on native vegetation clearing please visit DWER website.

Alternative for general enquiries visit the Shire website www.coolgardie.wa.gov.au or Customer Service Counters at the Coolgardie and Kambalda Recreation Centre or by phoning the Development Services on 9080 2111 or email (planning@coolgardie.wa.gov.au)