

Guidelines for applying to clear for high-value or irrigated high-value agriculture

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IMPORTANT: As a result of the new *Planning Act 2016*, which commenced on 3 July 2017, there are a number of changes to the vegetation management framework. This includes:

- Self-assessable vegetation clearing codes, which are now known as accepted development vegetation clearing codes; and
- Exemptions, which are now known as exempt clearing work.

For more information, please visit www.dilgp.qld.gov.au

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1. Introduction

This guideline has been prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) to assist landholders applying for a permit to clear native vegetation for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture under section 22DAB of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA).

Before you start preparing a permit application, ensure you read the Managing clearing to Improve operational efficiency of existing agriculture accepted development vegetation clearing code available at: www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/management/. This code may allow for landholders to clear vegetation without a permit in order to improve operational efficiency of existing agriculture.

High-value and irrigated high-value agriculture are two clearing purposes that allow landholders to clear native vegetation for cropping or irrigated pasture, where it can be demonstrated that they have suitable land available and they have met clearing performance outcomes.

High-value agriculture clearing is clearing of native vegetation to establish, cultivate and harvest crops. It does not include clearing for:

- grazing activities; or
- plantation forestry.

Irrigated high-value agriculture clearing is clearing of native vegetation to establish, cultivate and harvest crops, or pasture (e.g. a dairy producer irrigating pasture) that will be supplied with water by artificial means. It does not include clearing for plantation forestry.

Crops mean annual and perennial horticulture, and broad acre cropping.

Horticulture is the commercial cultivation of fruit, vegetables and flowers including berries, grapes, vines and nuts.

Broadacre cropping is the commercial cultivation of plants for oil; winter and summer cereals including wheat, barley, oats, triticale, sorghum, maize and millets; pulses including lupins, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, mung beans, soybeans, lentils, guar and dolichos; sugar cane; rice; cotton; tea; or another commercial crop as approved by the Chief Executive.

A summary of agricultural activities that are permitted under high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of permitted agricultural activities

Agricultural activity	High-value agriculture	Irrigated high-value agriculture
Broad acre cropping (including sugarcane)	✓	✓
Annual horticulture	✓	✓
Perennial horticulture	✓	✓
Grazing	X	✓ (irrigated pasture)
Plantation forestry	X	X

2. How to use this guideline

This guideline has been designed to give landholders an explanation of the information required for high-value and irrigated high-value clearing applications. A summary of these information requirements is provided in Table 2 (page 3).

This guideline should be read in conjunction with the **development plan template** (Attachment 1). By working through the **assessment pathway flowchart** (Figure 1) and development plan template, you will finish with a completed application that can be submitted to the State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) for assessment. The SARA is the single point of contact for lodgement and assessment of State Government level development applications.

You are also able to lodge the development plan directly to DNRM, to receive confirmation that the proposed clearing is high-value or irrigated high-value agriculture. This confirmation can then be provided to SARA along with the statement addressing Table 16.2.2 of the State Development Assessment Provisions State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing.

Some parts of the development plan template require additional information to be provided. This is because these parts require more involved assessment that cannot be addressed entirely within the template. These parts are:

Part 3.4: Clearing footprint

Part 4: Irrigated high-value agriculture – water rights

Part 5: Land suitability

Part 6: Economic viability

This guideline outlines the additional information requirements for each of these parts.

In some situations, more detailed information is required for land suitability and economic viability. A second guideline (*Land suitability and economic viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture*) has been prepared to assist landholders in providing this information.

In the majority of cases, you should first prepare information required to show that the land is suitable for the proposed crops, so that any costs associated with this aspect of your development proposal are accurately accounted for in your business plan. Similarly, if you intend to meet a performance outcome of the State Development and Assessment Provisions State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing by providing a Significant Beneficial Outcome (SBO) or an environmental offset, you will need to obtain preliminary endorsement or approval of this by DNRM and SARA, prior to preparing your business plan. The reason for this is that any costs associated with providing the SBO or the environmental offset will need to be reflected in the business plan. Also, the acceptance or not of the SBO or environmental offset in meeting a performance outcome may result in changes to the area proposed to be cropped and your proposed development.

Please note that the information you submit with your application will be assessed by DNRM, and if necessary, DNRM may engage an appropriately qualified independent person or entity to assess or audit the information that comprises your application. If an independent assessment or audit is required, the independent person or entity would be subject to a confidentiality agreement.

3. Pre-lodgement meetings

Prior to application lodgement, you are strongly advised to arrange a formal **pre-lodgement meeting** through the State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) to discuss application requirements.

Pre-lodgement meetings will improve your understanding of what level of detail is required in the application, potentially reducing the requirement for information requests, ensuring your application is processed as efficiently as possible.

Please note prior to lodging an application with SARA you must first obtain written confirmation from DNRM that the proposed clearing meets the requirements for high value agriculture clearing or irrigated high value agriculture clearing in accordance with section 22A of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (s22A determination).

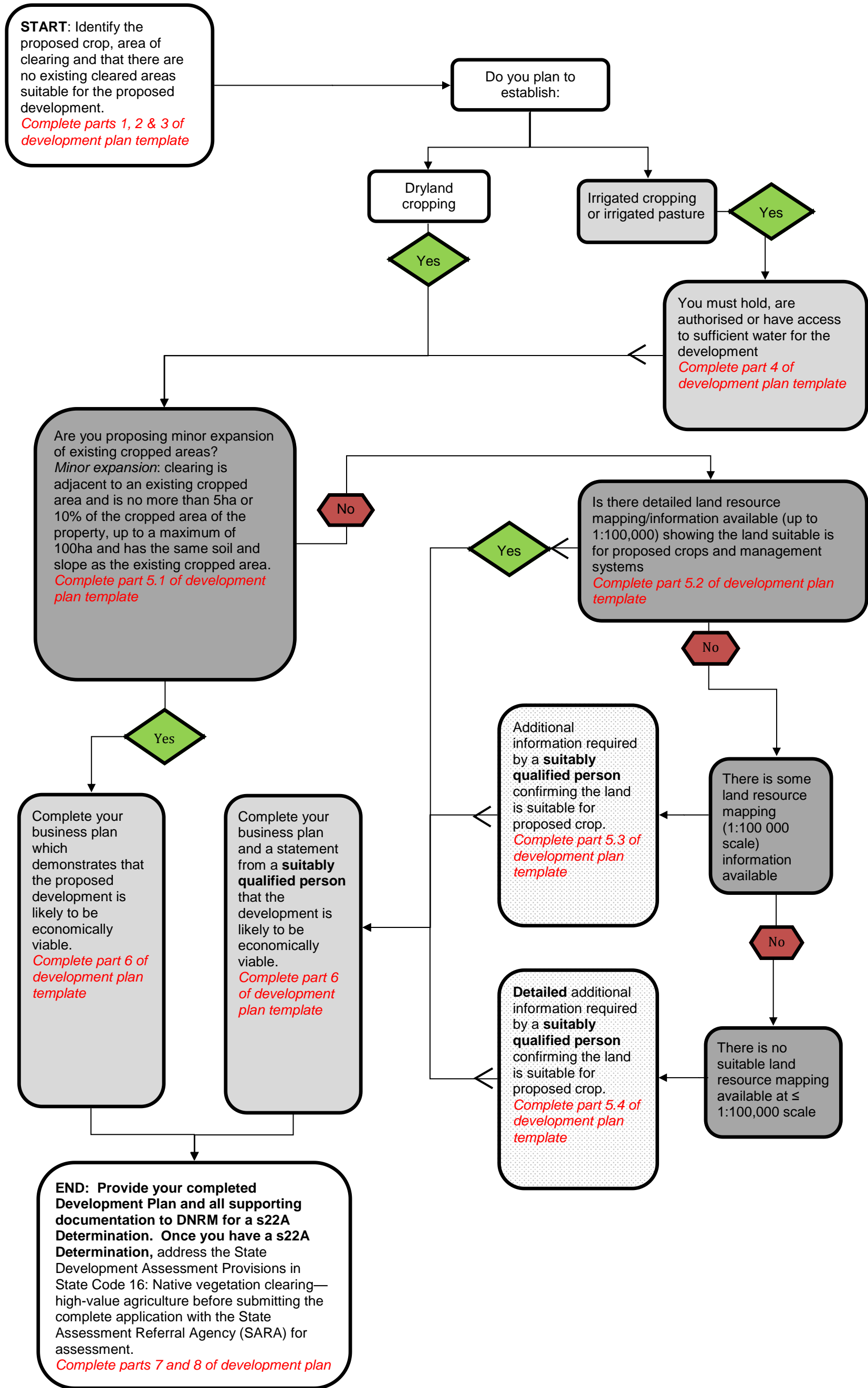
You can also contact your local DNRM office with general vegetation management enquiries and to help you determine if an application is required.

Go to www.dilqp.qld.gov.au for more information on pre-lodgement meetings.

Table 2: Summary of information requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture

Criteria	Information requirements			
1. Particulars of the clearing	Are you applying for high-value and/or irrigated high-value agriculture? What crops are you going to grow? When will clearing be undertaken?			
2. Location and extent of the clearing	Lot/plan information. Show where the clearing will be undertaken on a map or using GPS points.			
3. Land suitability	<p>Minor expansion of existing cropped areas. Information to provide includes— :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the proposed clearing is adjacent to an existing cropped area and is no more than 5ha, or 10% of the cropped area of the property up to a maximum of 100ha and has the same soil and slope as the existing cropped area; soil attributes and soil properties such as drainage, permeability, rockiness, soil depth, texture, colour, pH and EC where possible. 	Detailed land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100,000) showing the land suitable is for the proposed crop/s and management system/s.	Some land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100 000) but it does not fully cover the area proposed to be cropped, or it does not confirm that the land is suitable for the proposed crops and management systems. additional information required from suitably qualified person confirming that the land is suitable for proposed crop/s and management system/s (using <i>the Guideline for meeting the Land Suitability and Financial Viability requirements for high-value and Irrigated high-value Agriculture</i>).	No suitable land resource mapping available ($\leq 1:100,000$) so provision of a land suitability report prepared by a suitably qualified person that demonstrates and confirms the land is suitable for the proposed crop/s and management systems (<i>using Guideline for meeting the Land Suitability and Economic Viability requirements for high-value and Irrigated high-value Agriculture</i>)
4. No suitable alternative site for the clearing	Is there any already cleared area on the property where the land is suitable for the proposed development? If so, why can't it be used?			
5. Business plan showing the viability of the development	Provision of a business plan that demonstrates that the proposed development is likely to be viable and can be supported by their existing enterprise.	Provision of a business plan and signed statement from a suitably qualified person that the development is likely to be economically viable (and the business plan was prepared using the <i>Guideline for meeting the Land suitability and economic viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture</i>)		
6. Irrigated high-value agriculture	You hold, are authorised to hold, or have access to enough water for the proposed development. How much water is required for the development and does the applicant have access to it?	Signed statement from a suitably qualified person that the volume of water that the applicant holds, is authorised or has access to hold is sufficient for the proposed development and any existing irrigated agriculture.	Provision of a land suitability report prepared by a suitably qualified person that demonstrates and confirms the volume the applicant holds, is authorised or has access to hold is sufficient for the proposed development and any existing irrigated agriculture.	
7. Restricted areas	There are currently no restricted areas.			
8. High risk species	You must sign a statement that you are not planting any species that are declared plants under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> .			
9. State Development Assessment Provisions	All applications must be assessed through the SARA and address the requirements in the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP).			

Figure 1: Assessment pathway for high value agriculture and irrigated high value agriculture



4. Clearing details (development plan template parts 1, 2 and 3)

This information assists DNRM to understand the scope, clearing schedule and location of your proposed clearing. It is straightforward information that can be provided directly by the applicant, however more detailed guidance for part 3.4 and 3.5 of the application form is provided below.

4.1 Development plan part 3.4 – method used to supply clearing location and extent

The clearing location and extent should be provided in a form that will allow for the accurate identification of the clearing footprint, to assist with assessment and permit creation. There are three options for providing this information, outlined in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Options for supplying clearing location

<p>Option 1: Using an image map to show the location and extent of proposed clearing by defining the boundary of the area to be cleared on an image base</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour photocopy of an aerial photograph or satellite image. • Boundary of the area proposed to be cleared. • Grid coordinates for five or more fixed point features (use GPS unit – MGA94) that are visible on the image base (e.g. the coordinates of property boundary corners, dams and houses) and a description of what each features represents. • Map details (e.g. title, applicant’s name, north arrow, legend, scale bar)
<p>Option 2: Define every boundary of the area you propose to clear using MGA94 coordinates</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a drawing and a table of GPS coordinates and zone references, which define the clearing area; or • Provide a digital copy of a tracklog from a GPS unit defining the boundary of the area. You can provide this file digitally on a CD.
<p>Option 3: Provide a digital mapping layer of the clearing area, suitable for use in a GPS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital mapping must be projected using MGA94. • File formats for line work, polygons and points must be either: ESRI shapefile or coverage; MapInfo; CAD DXF; or KML. • File formats for graphics (e.g. aerial photographs, satellite imagery) must be either: TIFF; GeoTIFF; JPG; GeoJPG; Endas Imagine IMG format (no BMP); or Arc Grid.

4.2 Development plan template part 3.5 – no suitable alternative site

The template asks the question: *Are there existing cleared areas on the property where the land is suitable for the proposed development?*

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure there are no other sites on the property where the proposed agricultural activity could occur without the need for vegetation clearing. If there are some cleared areas (mapped as Category X) on your property that would be suitable for the proposed agricultural activity, these areas are a suitable alternative site and should be used instead of the area proposed to be cleared.

If the answer to this question is **no**, simply tick the box and move on to part 4 of the development plan.

If the answer to this question is **yes**, you will need to either:

- explain on the template why these areas cannot be used, or
- re-position your proposed development to the existing cleared areas.

If the reason why the existing cleared areas cannot be used relates to the suitability of these lands for cropping, you will need to provide relevant information to support this.

If you re-position your proposed development, it may mean that you no longer need to apply for vegetation clearing development approval.

5. Irrigated high value agriculture – water rights (development plan template part 4)

If you are planning to irrigate your proposed cropping or pasture area, you need to hold an entitlement or authority (i.e. a water licence or water allocation) to take a sufficient amount of water for the proposed crop or pasture area. The most common options are:

- holding a water entitlement (i.e. water license or water allocation) for the taking of water under the Water Act 2000; and
- being the customer of a water service provider.

If you do not hold a water entitlement or authority there are some circumstances in which you may still be eligible. These circumstances are where you can demonstrate that:

- at the time your vegetation clearing application was made, you were participating in a process to obtain access to an unallocated water release process; or
- you have applied for a water licence under section 206 of the Water Act 2000.

A list of the options by which you can meet the water right requirements, and the information you need to provide for each option is outlined in Attachment 2. You will also need to provide details about—

- the water right in relation to the proposed development (that the vegetation clearing area is of a size that is consistent with the amount of water available). For example, if you are planning to cultivate 100 hectares to crop cotton, you should provide details of the total irrigation amount on a per hectare basis and demonstrate that there is sufficient water available to grow 100 hectares of cotton.
- the water right in relation to your existing farming enterprise. If you have existing irrigated cropping, you will need to demonstrate that your water right is sufficient for the existing and the proposed development. You should provide details of your existing irrigation volumes, the water requirements of your existing crops or irrigated pasture and the proposed development; and link these to the water right you hold or have applied for.
- the water requirements of the proposed crop in terms of any temporary nature of the water right you hold or have applied for. For example, if you have applied for an unallocated water release, you will need to demonstrate that the proposed crop does not require a permanent water right.
- The infrastructure on your property that enables the capture and storage of the overland flow, if the water right is for overland flow.
- the longevity of your water right in relation to your business plan. For example, if you have a temporary water right, the water would need to be available for the duration of your business plan, or your business plan would need to outline associated changes in management systems.

Depending on which land suitability category applies (see section 6 of this Guideline), you may also need to provide confirmation from a suitably qualified person that the volume of water that the applicant holds, is authorised, or has access to hold is sufficient for the proposed development and any existing irrigated areas.

Information source: crop water use tool

To assist with gathering some of this information, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has developed a crop water use tool that allows farmers to undertake an approximate calculation of crop irrigation requirements at various localities at different times of the year.

This tool uses a number of assumptions and data sets, including historic rainfall data up to 2009. It also allows for modification of assumptions such as irrigation efficiency to tailor results to better suit individual situations. The tool has a help guide, including a video tutorial to help farmers use the tool.

Once you have a clear idea of the crop you intend to plant, you can use this tool to determine its irrigation requirements. Reports from the tool can then be printed and submitted with your application to support your analysis.

The tool is available at: www.cropwateruse.net.au

6. Land suitability (development plan template part 5)

Land suitability is the suitability of an area to grow crops based on a range of natural and physical variables such as topography, climate and soil attributes. There are four categories to this criterion, to cater for the range of scenarios and information available to demonstrate that an area of land is suitable for your proposed high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture development:

Category 1: Minor expansion of existing cropped areas.

Category 2: Detailed land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100,000 scale) showing land is suitable for proposed crop and management system.

Category 3: Some land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100 000 scale).

Category 4: No suitable land resource mapping available

Categories 1 and 2 represent areas where the land can easily be identified as suitable and therefore only basic information, provided by the applicant, is needed to demonstrate the land is suitable.

Areas that fall under categories 3 and 4 are less easily identified as suitable, based on existing information, and therefore a "suitably qualified person" will need to provide further information confirming the land as suitable for the proposed crops. A supporting *Guideline for meeting the land suitability and economic viability requirements for high value and irrigated high value agriculture* has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for these categories.

6.1 Mapping tools for land suitability

Two mapping tools have been developed to assist in the land suitability assessment:

- **Land suitability maps - available online at www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/agriculture/**
By entering your lot and plan, and selecting the crop type, you will receive a series of PDF maps by email. This mapping tool identifies the land resource information and

mapping the Queensland Government has available in the vicinity of your property to help determine if your land is suitable for the proposed crops.

It also provides a link to related land resource reports that will contain key crop and soil information to help you assess your proposal against the land suitability categories.

- **Queensland Globe vegetation management maps – available online at:** www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/mapping-data/queensland-globe This interactive mapping product contains the same mapping data as the land suitability mapping tool however it also has an image base to assist with identifying property features. Other related vegetation management maps are also available on this globe.

6.2 Category 1: Minor expansion of existing cropped areas

This category applies if you are proposing to—

- clear adjacent to an existing cropped area and the clearing is no more than 5ha or 10% of the cropped area of the property, up to a maximum of 100ha, and has the same soil and slope as the existing cropped area.

You will need to provide the following information:

- aerial or satellite imagery showing the existing cropped area under cultivation, e.g. Google map; and
- the size of the existing cropped area and the size of the proposed clearing; and
- a description of the topsoil, subsurface and subsoil of the soil texture (clay, clay loam, loam, sand etc.), soil colour, thickness (depth) and slope for both the existing and proposed cropping areas to demonstrate they are similar.

6.3 Category 2: Detailed land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100,000 scale) showing land suitable for proposed crop

This category is for situations where there is detailed and fine scale land suitability mapping of up to 1:100,000 for the entire area that is proposed to be cleared, that shows that an area is suitable for a particular crop. The mapping and supporting information to help determine if this category applies can be obtained by using one of the two mapping tools described in section 6.1.

If the land is identified on the *Land Suitability Overview Map* as a Category 2 Area, you should then review the *Land Suitability Category 2 Area* map and, using the unique identifier (i.e. map label), determine if the land is suitable for the crop you are proposing, as described in the associated land resource report. Suitable land is represented as land suitability levels 1, 2 or 3. Importantly, the crop and management system (e.g. rain fed or irrigated, furrow irrigated or overhead spray, summer or winter, etc.) you are proposing must also be included alongside these levels. Where an agronomically similar crop is proposed, this crop may also be suitable.

You will need to print out the Land Suitability Overview Map and supporting information and submit as part of your application.

If the land is not identified as a Category 2 Area on the Land Suitability Overview Map, or the land is not identified as suitable for the proposed crop or the management system/s, you will need to consider whether categories 3 and 4 apply.

Note that if your application is for irrigated high-value agriculture and category 2 applies, you will need to obtain a signed statement from a suitably qualified person that the volume of water that the applicant holds, is authorized or has access to hold is sufficient for the proposed development and any existing irrigated agriculture. Refer to section 2.1 of the *Guidelines for meeting the economic viability and land suitability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* for the criteria for suitably qualified person.

6.4 Category 3: Some land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100,000 scale)

This category applies to applications where there is some land resource mapping or information available however it either does not cover the entire area that is proposed to be cleared, or the land suitability mapping and information does not identify the land as suitable for the proposed crop and management systems. Therefore, further information is required from a **suitably qualified person** to demonstrate and confirm that the land is suitable for the proposed crops and management systems (e.g. whether the crop is rain fed or irrigated, furrow irrigated or overhead spray, summer or winter etc.). This additional information needs to fill in the gaps between the available land resource mapping and information to make it clear that the land is suitable for the proposed high-value agriculture development.

You will need to engage a suitably qualified person to provide additional information that demonstrates and confirms the land is suitable for the proposed crops and management systems. A supporting *Guideline for meeting the Land suitability and economic viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for this category.

6.5 Category 4: No suitable land resource mapping available

This category applies to locations or agricultural activities for which land suitability information is either unavailable or is at such a broad scale (e.g. 1:250 000 scale) that it does not provide sufficient information for the purposes of this assessment.

With reference to the mapping tools described in section 6.1, Category 4 areas should be identified on the land suitability overview map.

You will need to provide a detailed land suitability study, prepared by a suitably qualified person, for the area the subject of the application. A supporting *Guideline for meeting the Land suitability and economic viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for this category.

7. Economic viability (development plan template part 6)

A business plan is required to ensure the proposed development involving vegetation clearing and establishment of crops will be economically viable. In all cases, the business plan must be submitted, attached to your development plan.

For development under land suitability Category 1 (minor expansion of existing cropped areas), the applicant must incorporate the proposed expansion into their existing farm enterprise business plan to ensure the enterprise remains financially viable.

For development under land suitability Categories 2, 3 and 4, recognising that the development is either an expansion of an existing enterprise or a new farming enterprise altogether, a business plan undertaken by a suitability qualified person will be required to demonstrate the proposed development is financially viable.

A supporting *Guideline for meeting the Land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for this business plan.

For development under land suitability Categories 2, 3 and 4, the suitably qualified person must:

- outline how they meet the suitably qualified person requirements; and
- certify that the business plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Guideline for meeting the land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* and the proposal is likely to be financially viable.

For all developments (including those under land suitability Category 1) the business plan must be provided and accompany the development plan.

8. Development assessment against State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing (development plan template part 7)

The second stage of the application process requires assessment of the proposed development against the Performance Outcomes listed in State Development Assessment Provisions State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing. You will need to provide a statement addressing each of the performance outcomes.

These performance outcomes are for:

- wetlands
- watercourses
- connectivity area
- soil erosion
- salinity
- conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems
- essential habitat
- acid sulphate soils

To avoid any delays or issues in developing and lodging your application, you should consider assessment against the SDAP State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing at the same time as you prepare the development plan. This is because in certain situations, some performance outcomes may require the provision of an offset.

For more information on the SDAP, including the link to SDAP State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing, please go to <http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning/development-assessment/state-development-assessment-provisions.html>

Attachment 1: Development plan template



This template contains all the requirements for lodging a development plan. Once you have completed this template and attached the required additional information, you need to first submit the development plan and additional information to DNRM for a s22A determination to confirm the proposed clearing meets the requirements for high value agriculture clearing or irrigated high value agriculture clearing in accordance with section 22A of the Vegetation Management Act 1999.

Once you have your s22A determination, will be able to lodge your development application with the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) for assessment.

Prior to lodgement, you are strongly advised to arrange a pre-lodgement meeting through SARA to discuss application requirements. Visit this website for more information:

<http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning/development-assessment/state-assessment-and-referral-agency.html>

Development plan Stage 1	
Part 1: Applicant's information	
1.1 Applicant's name:	
1.2 Contact name:	
1.3 Postal address:	
1.4 Telephone number:	
1.5 Mobile:	
1.6 Email:	
Part 2: Vegetation clearing particulars	
2.1 Proposed vegetation clearing is for:	<input type="checkbox"/> High-value agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated high-value agriculture (you will need to complete part 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated cropping <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated pasture
2.2 Are you proposing one or more of the following: Note: You can select more than one option.	<input type="checkbox"/> Broadacre cropping <input type="checkbox"/> Annual horticulture <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial horticulture
2.3 Type of crop/s proposed to be cultivated as a result of the vegetation clearing:	
2.4 Proposed timeframe for completing vegetation clearing:	

Part 3: Vegetation clearing location, extent and no suitable alternative	
3.1 Lot/Plan description/s for property you are proposing to clear	
3.2 Local Government Area	
3.3 Size of area proposed to be cleared in hectares	
3.4 Method used to supply clearing location and extent:  Ensure you attach information which identifies the vegetation clearing footprint. Refer to section 4.1 of the Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Image base to show area to be cleared and five reference coordinates (GPS points) for the department to spatially reference the data. <input type="checkbox"/> Providing reference coordinates (GPS points) around the entire area of the proposed clearing. <input type="checkbox"/> Providing a digital mapping layer of the proposed clearing, suitable for use in a Geographic Information System.
3.5 Are there existing cleared areas on the property that would also be suitable for the proposed development? <i>Refer to section 4.2 of the Guidelines for applying for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No ► Go to Part 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes ► Why can't these cleared areas be used? Provide details below or in an attachment.
Part 4: Irrigated high-value agriculture – water entitlements	
Note: You only need to complete this section if you indicated in section 2.1 that the proposed vegetation clearing is for irrigated high-value agriculture. <i>Refer to section 5 of the Guidelines for applying for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture</i>	
4.1 Do you hold, are you authorised, or do you have access to enough water for the proposed development?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  Attach: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> details of water entitlement or authorisation and the water requirements of the proposed development (<i>refer to section 5 of the Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture</i>); and for land suitability categories 2 and 4, a signed statement from a suitably qualified person that the volume of water is sufficient to irrigate the proposed crop/s. <input type="checkbox"/> No You cannot apply for irrigated high-value agriculture and will need to consider applying for dry land cropping under the high-value agriculture clearing purpose.

Part 5: Land suitability

Refer to section 6 of the Landholders guide to high-value agriculture applications for more information

5 Please indicate the land suitability category you are applying for:



Attach details of how you meet the selected land suitability category.

- For 5.1 provide a map showing the development is limited to minor expansion and a copy of the land suitability map and report.
- For 5.2 provide a copy of the land suitability map and report.
- For parts 5.3 and 5.4 attach the Land Suitability Report prepared by a suitably qualified person in accordance with the supporting *Guidelines for meeting the land suitability and economic viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture*.

- 5.1 Minor expansion of existing cropped areas: Clearing is adjacent to an existing cropped area and is no more than 5ha or 10% of the cropped area of the property, up to a maximum of 100ha, and has same soil and slope as the existing cropped area.
- 5.2 Detailed land resource mapping / information available (up to 1:100,000 scale) showing land suitable for proposed crop and management system.
- 5.3 Some land resource mapping / information available (up to 1:100,000 scale)
- 5.4 No suitable land resource mapping available. (no suitable imagery $\leq 1:100,000$)


Part 6: Economic viability

Refer to section 7 of the Guidelines for applying for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture

6.1 A business plan is required to ensure the proposed development involving vegetation clearing and establishment of crops will be economically viable.

The business plan must be provided with the application to ensure this obligation is met.


For developments other than minor expansion of existing cropped areas, the business plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified person in accordance with the *Guideline for meeting the land suitability and economic viability*

 For development proposing minor expansion of existing cropped areas (part 5.1), attach the business plan for your farming enterprise and sign below: *I certify that the development proposal is likely to be economically viable and can be supported by the existing farming enterprise.*

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Date: ___/___/___

 For all other development (5.2-5.4), attach a:

1. business plan prepared by a suitably qualified person; and
2. statement provided and signed by a suitably qualified person—
 - a) outlining how they meet the suitably qualified person requirements, including a copy of their qualifications, membership, and curriculum vitae;

Date: ___/___/___

Privacy Notice

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (the Department) is collecting the information in the application to assess your application for the clearing of native vegetation for the purpose of High Value Agriculture / Irrigated High Value Agriculture and to carry out departmental functions relevant to the Vegetation Management framework. This information will only be accessed by authorised employees within the Department. Some information may be provided to an appropriately qualified independent person / entity bound by a confidentiality agreement / deed to assess and / or audit any part/s of this application including any supporting material. The information provided will include the application and supporting material. Your information will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law. If you have any questions regarding your privacy, please contact privacy@dnrm.qld.gov.au.

Attachment 2: Water right options and information requirements for irrigated high-value agriculture (Section 22DAC(2) of *Vegetation Management Act 1999*)

s. 22DA C(2)	Water Right – An owner of land who...	Background <i>For more information on these water rights, you may need to contact regional water service offices. – https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/our-department/contact-us/water-related-applications-and-enquiries</i>	Information required
(a)	Is authorised under section 20 of the Water Act to take overland flow or sub-artesian water for any purpose.	Section 20 of the Water Act outlines where water can be taken without a water entitlement.	Provide details of your property and the relevant water resource plan area your property is located in.
(b)	Holds a water entitlement for the taking of water under the Water Act.	A water entitlement includes any of the following: Article I. water licences Article II. interim water allocations Article III. water allocations	Provide a copy of the water entitlement relating to the property.
(c)	Holds an existing authority for the taking of water under section 1089 of the Water Act.	Section 1089 of the Water Act applies if a former water board, customer of a former water board or the chief executive was authorised under a repealed water-related Act or another Act to take or interfere with water.	Evidence that the taking or interfering with water is appropriately authorised.
(d)	When the vegetation clearing application was made, was eligible to participate in a process for a water entitlement Act.	A process under the Water Act 2000 can be a public auction, public ballot or public tender that may have eligibility requirements.	Evidence that the applicant is participating in a process to obtain access to water through, for example, a tender process being conducted by DNRM.
(e)	Is a customer of a water service provider under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act.	Registered water service providers include local governments, water authorities and other entities that supply bulk water, water for irrigation, stock and domestic, industrial and urban uses. An 'irrigation service' means the supply of water or drainage services for irrigation of crops or pastures for commercial gain Most customers of water service providers that provide bulk water or water for irrigation are likely to hold a water entitlement under part (b) above. However, water service providers that provide a bulk water service or irrigation service may hold entitlements to water which they sell to customers under contract.	If part (b) above does not apply (that is, a customer <u>does not</u> hold a water entitlement), a third party agreement or contract between the water service provider and the owner of the land for the purchase of water for irrigation, which identifies the volume and period of supply.
(f)	Holds an approval under the Water Reduction and Recycling Act, chapter 8 and the resource to which the approval relates is water.	Waste water can be re-assigned as a 'resource' through a beneficial use approval. There are two types of beneficial use approvals: general approvals and specific approvals. General approvals do not need to be applied for and allow anyone to benefit where the conditions of the approval are met. Specific approvals must be applied for and can only apply to a stated project and person.	You will need to provide: Article I. a copy of the 'General Authority' or a copy of the specific approval for the activity that names the owner as having the benefit of the resource. Article II. an assessment of your irrigation proposal against the

s. 22DA C(2)	Water Right – An owner of land who...	Background <i>For more information on these water rights, you may need to contact regional water service offices. – https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/our-department/contact-us/water-related-applications-and-enquiries</i>	Information required
		<p>There is currently a 'general approval' in place for associated water (CSG water). This general approval lists standard conditions on the water producer (i.e. CSG operator) and water user (i.e. the irrigator). It also lists the water quality criteria and limitations of water use for irrigation.</p>	<p>elements of the 'limitation of use for irrigation' condition 6 of the general authority. Article III. details of the producer (i.e. CSG operator) Article IV. a copy of the written certification you have provided to the producer, containing the information stated in condition 23 of the general approval.</p>
(g)	<p>Application for a water licence under section 206 of the Water Act.</p>	<p>An owner of land can apply for a water licence to take water from surface, overland flow or underground water. The application process for a water licence is significant, requiring public notification and native title assessment.</p>	<p>Provide a copy of the water licence application.</p>
(h)	<p>Holds, or has a right to be supplied water under an environmental authority (EA) under the Environmental Protection Act.</p>	<p>This category relates to environmental approvals issued under the Environmental Protection Act where water is available for purposes such as irrigation.</p>	<p>Applicant to provide: Article I. The EA of the supplier which includes a condition identifying that the EA holder can supply the water for irrigation purposes; and Article II. The third party agreement or contract between the EA holder and owner which states volume and period of supply.</p>
(i)	<p>Is authorised to take water under a law of another State or Territory in compliance with an authorisation declared under the Water Act 2000, section 808(1)(b).</p>	<p>This currently only applies along the Border Rivers where an interstate trade between NSW and Qld has taken place in accordance with the <i>NSW-Qld Border Rivers IGA 2008</i> and the <i>Border Rivers Resource Operations Plan</i>. A "NSW access licence" is considered to be of a similar nature to Qld water allocation.</p>	<p>Applicant to provide copy of NSW access licence which must: Article I. be owned by the <i>eligible owner</i> – ie cannot be a temporary trade Article II. must state authorised works for taking water in Queensland</p>