Division 4—Vegetation Management Code

12.4.1 Vegetation Management Code

The provisions in this division comprise the Vegetation Management Code. They are—

- compliance with the Vegetation Management Code (section 12.4.2);
- overall outcomes for the Vegetation Management Code (section 12.4.3);
- specific outcomes, probable solutions and acceptable solutions for the Vegetation Management Code (section 12.4.4).

12.4.2 Compliance with the Vegetation Management Code

Development that, in the local government's opinion is consistent with the specific outcomes in section 12.4.4 complies with the Vegetation Management Code.

12.4.3 Overall Outcomes for the Vegetation Management Code

(1) The overall outcomes are the purpose of the Vegetation Management Code.

NOTE 12.4.3A

Sub-section (1) provides the link between the overall outcomes sought for the code and the IPA code assessment rules which refer to the 'purpose' of the code [see IPA s.3.5.13(2)].

(2) The overall outcomes sought for the Vegetation Management Code are the following—

(a) Significant areas of native vegetation and their associated wildlife habitats and linkages are conserved and appropriately managed.

(b) Vegetation within defined water catchment areas, riparian areas or wetlands is conserved and appropriately managed.

(c) Vegetation within environmentally sensitive areas including steeply sloping land and areas prone to erosion or salinity is conserved and appropriately managed.

(d) Vegetation which is of cultural heritage, ecological, horticultural, scientific, educational, recreation or aesthetic (including streetscape, townscape or landscape) significance or value is conserved and appropriately managed.

12.4.4 Specific Outcomes, Probable Solutions and Acceptable Solutions for the Vegetation Management Code

The specific outcomes sought for the management of Vegetation are set out in column 1 of Table 12.4.1 and the acceptable solutions (if self assessable) and the probable solutions (if code assessable) are set out in column 2 of Table 12.4.1.

NOTE 12.4.4A

(1) The provisions of the Vegetation Management Act (VMA) 1999 apply regardless of the vegetation measures included in the Ipswich Planning Scheme.

(2) For further information on the VMA, please contact the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Table 12.4.1: Specific Outcomes, Acceptable Solutions and Probable Solutions for the Management Of Vegetation

Column 1 Specific Outcomes	Column 2 Acceptable / Probable Solutions
Environmentally Sensitive Areas **(1)** The clearing of vegetation does not cause or exacerbate land degradation within environmentally sensitive areas including steeply sloping land, areas prone to erosion or salinity, riparian corridors, wetlands or water catchment areas.	**Environmentally Sensitive Areas** **(1)** The clearing does not involve the removal of native vegetation from— (a) land with a slope of 15% or more; or (b) land within a Designated Watercourse or land within 30m of a Designated Watercourse or within 10 metres of the top of the bank of a Designated Watercourse where the slope of the bank exceeds 15% (see Figure 12.4.1).
Environmental Weeds, Commercial/Sustainable Resources **(2)** Declared environmental weeds or pest species and vegetation which has been planted and grown for commercial purposes or as a sustainable resource may be cleared.	**Environmental Weeds, Commercial/Sustainable Resources** **(2)** The clearing involves— (a) the removal of vegetation which is— (i) listed by the local government as an Environmental Weed; or (ii) a declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Routes Management) Act 2002;* unless the vegetation is specifically listed in Schedule 2 for its cultural heritage or aesthetic significance or value; (b) vegetation which was planted and grown for commercial purposes; or (c) vegetation which is subject to a scheme or plan approved by the local government providing for its management and use as a sustainable resource.
Bona Fide Agricultural or Animal Husbandry Activities **(3)** Vegetation may be removed for the purposes of bona fide, existing and ongoing agricultural or animal husbandry activities.	**Bona Fide Agricultural or Animal Husbandry Activities** **(3)** (a) The removal of the vegetation involves a continuation of existing agricultural or animal husbandry activities, including the management of understorey vegetation to maintain existing grazing activities (e.g. through removing early regrowth such as fast growing wattles). (b) The removal of vegetation under Clause (a) above does not involve the removal of— (i) species identified as endangered, vulnerable or rare under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and associated subordinate legislation; or (ii) species identified as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or conservation dependent under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and associated subordinate legislation; or (iii) other vegetation which has a circumference of 50cm measured at a height of 1.2m above the ground.
Risks to Health and Safety **(4)** Vegetation which is dangerous may be removed.	**Risks to Health and Safety** **(4)** Vegetation which is dangerous and which presents a risk to the health and safety of people and property (including as a result of age, disease, impact or wind damage) may be removed.
Clearing of Fire Breaks, Building Envelopes and Fence Lines **(5)** Cleared areas are provided in order to reduce bush fire risks and to enable effective use and maintenance of buildings and fence lines.	**Clearing of Fire Breaks, Building Envelopes and Fence Lines** **(5)** The clearing does not involve the removal of native vegetation from— (a) beyond an area identified in a fire management plan endorsed by the Rural Fire Brigade; (b) beyond 5m from a building on an allotment less than 2000m² in area; (c) beyond 10m from a building on an allotment more than 2000m² in area, but less than one hectare in area; (d) beyond 20m from a building on an allotment more than one hectare in area; (e) beyond 3m from a lot boundary or an internal fence within a lot.
Wildlife Habitat **(6)** Important areas of wildlife habitat (including watercourses and wetlands) are maintained and protected from edge effects.	**Wildlife Habitat** **(6)** An ecological assessment, prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person is provided to the local government which— (a) identifies important habitat areas; (b) demonstrates they are being retained in a manner that optimises the viability and connectivity of the retained vegetation, e.g. significant habitat is retained in a compact form or in corridors of sufficient width to protect species viability.

Column 1 Specific Outcomes	Column 2 Acceptable / Probable Solutions
	(7) (a) An Environmental Management Plan is prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s) which incorporates elements relating to— (i) vegetation management and rehabilitation; (ii) buffering to minimise edge effects; (iii) weed control and management; (iv) management/control of feral animals (including foxes, cats, dogs and pigs) and grazing practices (including intensity and frequency); and (v) bushfire management and control. (b) The size of buffer areas is determined based on the potential impact of the development and the function(s) of the habitat area. **NOTE 1** A buffer of at least 50m of remnant or regrowth vegetation is recommended where adjoining an endangered regional ecosystem, migratory bird habitat or other highly significant habitat area. **(8)** Fragmentation of habitats is avoided by locating fence lines, roadways and infrastructure outside important habitat areas or alternatively these works are co-located within a combined utility corridor. **(9)** Old and dead trees with hollows are retained unless they present a significant risk to the health and safety of people and property. **(10)** Retained vegetation contributes, where possible, to a linked network of remnant and regrowth vegetation by connecting— (a) across property boundaries; (b) across the local government area; (c) into adjoining local government areas; (d) along riparian corridors or ridgelines; and (e) to larger areas, including protected state lands. **(11)** Low impact construction techniques are used where possible in sensitive areas. **(12)** Important vegetation areas, or other sensitive areas (including areas prone to erosion or salinity) are protected from damage resulting from clearing or construction activities by— (a) being fenced off, from the balance of the development area; and (b) ensuring stockpiling, storage and vehicle parking occur outside the protected areas. **(13)** Site landscaping complements important habitats by— (a) utilising food and habitat vegetation native to the site; (b) replicating adjacent remnant habitats as closely as possible (including understorey, mid-storey and canopy species) and density of planting; (c) creating or enhancing linkages between existing habitats; (d) planting the edge of riparian corridors and wetlands to filter stormwater run-off in order to remove sediments, nutrients and pollutants; and (e) avoiding the use or introduction of invasion species which could displace native flora. **(14)** Particular attention is given to the maintenance of bank stability within riparian areas and protecting against bank erosion and slumping.
Soil Fertility **(7)** The soil resource is protected against the loss of chemical or physical fertility through erosion, land slippage or increased salinity. **Scenic Amenity** **(8)** The scenic values and leafy character of important vegetated areas within the City are retained.	**Soil Fertility** **(15)** Vegetation is retained, and where necessary supplementary planting is undertaken— (a) in areas prone to erosion (including gully erosion) or land slippage; (b) on slopes greater than 15%; or (c) in areas prone to salinity. **Scenic Amenity** **(16)** Native vegetation along prominent ridgelines, hillsides and water courses is retained. **(17)** Established vegetation which makes a positive contribution to the streetscape is retained where possible.

Figure 12.4.1: Defining Extent of Riparian Corridor for Protection of Native Vegetation