
SELECTIVE CLEARING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



NORTHERN TERRITORY PLANNING SCHEME CLEARING OF NATIVE VEGETATION 2004

Selective clearing, parkland clearing or thinning are terms commonly used to describe removing parts or all of the understorey and middle storeys of native vegetation whilst retaining the larger trees and shrubs. Selective clearing can range from minor disturbance of the natural environment to comprehensive clearing of all but the largest trees in a landscape. Experience has shown that this type of clearing still has a major impact on the ecology of an area and that these environments often degrade over time with only minimal new plant recruitment.



Under the Northern Territory Planning Scheme **clearing of native vegetation** includes, *“the selective removal of a species of plant, a group of species of plants, a storey or group of storeys in whole or in part”*. This means that, subject to the general exceptions, selective or part removal of native vegetation in the Northern Territory requires consent, whether that clearing retains some native vegetation or not.

Under the native vegetation clearing controls the definition of **clearing of native vegetation** does not include, *“the removal or destruction of a declared weed within the meaning of the Weeds Management Act or of plant removed under the Plant Diseases Act”*. This means that weeds can be treated and removed from an area without a permit as long as native vegetation is not destroyed and removed at the same time.

If an area has already been authorised by permit for clearing then the landholder has the discretion to clear as much or as little of the native vegetation within the approved area, as required. A clearing permit does not require that a site be fully cleared of native vegetation and the landholder is not in breach of the legislation if they retain native vegetation on the approved clearing site.

For more information

Contact your regional Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment office at the following locations:

3rd floor, Goyder Centre
Palmerston
Phone: 8999 3631

Randazzo Centre
16 Katherine Terrace
Katherine
Phone: 8973 8111

Or visit the DIPE web-site at:

www.ipe.nt.gov.au