

Clearing of Native Vegetation for Fencelines

A landholder who wishes to clear native vegetation on a road reserve, to enable construction or maintenance of a boundary fence, requires consent of the **Tatiara District Council** and may, depending on the amount of vegetation involved, also require formal Native Vegetation Council (NVC) approval.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR CLEARANCE FOR FENCELINES NVC Approval Requirements

Clearance approval from the NVC is required for any vegetation clearance along fencelines that exceeds the following standards:

- Where the roadside vegetation consists largely of trees, only branches protruding through or overhanging the fence, or trees growing on the actual fence alignment, can be removed.
- Where shrubs or bushes are growing through the fenceline, those plants growing within one metre of the fence alignment can be removed.

Note: These standards take into account that the adjoining landholder can usually clear up to five metres width on the private land abutting the road, thus allowing for vehicular access to the fence (see Regulation 5(1)(s) – NOTE that this does not provide an automatic right to clear a five-metre strip along a fence. If vegetation on an adjacent property is located within five metres but does not impede reasonable access to the fence, the regulation cannot be used to clear that vegetation).

Permission

- Removal of native vegetation on a road reserve for the purpose of construction or maintenance of a boundary fence requires consent of the **Tatiara District Council**.
- Council will only approve clearance which complies with the standards outlined above under NVC Approval Requirements. Council will refer any applications that propose clearance above the standards to the NVMU.
- Any unauthorised clearance will be referred by **Tatiara District Council** staff to the NVMU.
- Cleared vegetation should not be deposited on or amongst other native vegetation but should be disposed of in a manner that does not affect native vegetation, unless it is useful as habitat for wildlife, or is scattered sparsely amongst the remaining vegetation.

Clearance methods

- Low impact methods of clearance (e.g. minimal ground disturbance, cutting cleanly rather than breaking branches, slashing, trimming, mowing, or rolling) should only be used when clearing vegetation according to these standards, to reduce potential weed invasion and erosion problems.

Re-locating Fences

- Landholders wanting to replace boundary fences may consider re-locating the new fencing a few metres into their properties to minimise potential impacts on roadside vegetation. This can also potentially reduce construction and maintenance costs. The narrow strip between the old and the new fence can be maintained clear of any regrowth to minimise impacts on the new fence, and also act as a firebreak between the roadside and the property.
- An alternative to the removal of trees in line with the property boundary may include constructing a simple strut arrangement that allows a fence to deviate a short distance around a tree. Wires are not attached directly to the tree, thus minimising potential damage to the tree.

If any further clarification is required, please don't hesitate to contact the Council Office on (08) 8752 1044.