

NATURAL ASSETS LOCAL LAW WEEDS, HAZARDOUS VEGETATION AND BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT



Brisbane City Council's *Natural Assets Local Law 2003* (NALL) helps to protect our city's natural assets, including bushland areas, wetlands, waterway corridors and trees.

Brisbane is a thriving, world-class city, enjoyed for its subtropical climate. Protecting our natural assets is key to preserving our city's way of life, wildlife and character.

The NALL protects Brisbane's natural vegetation and delivers a balance between protecting the city's environment and people, property and lifestyle.

Weed management

Many plants are considered weeds because they cause harm to our natural environment and are costly to manage. The Brisbane Invasive Species Management Plan (BISMP) lists the plants Council has declared as weeds. The BISMP also identifies weeds that are declared under Queensland Government legislation. Visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'BISMP' to download the plan.

Council supports residents managing weeds on their property. However, Council does not endorse damaging protected vegetation when work to manage weeds is conducted.

A permit under NALL is not required to manage weeds as long as property owners are not impacting protected vegetation or disturbing soil in a way that could cause erosion.

Contact Council for advice if there is a large area of weeds to be cleared, or where such work involves a waterway corridor or wetland.

For help identifying weeds visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search Council's 'weed identification tool'.

Hazardous vegetation management

Hazardous vegetation is any vegetation that constitutes a fire, health or public safety hazard. All property owners have a responsibility to take appropriate steps to manage potential fire, health or public safety risks. Under NALL, Council may notify property owners to remove or prune hazardous vegetation.

Bushfire management

In many parts of the city, bushfire management is necessary for the protection of property and the well-being of the community. Regular controlled burning also helps to maintain or increase vegetation diversity, protect fauna habitat and reduce the risk of wildfire due to a build-up in leaf litter.

Queensland's bushfire season traditionally runs from August to November each year. Property owners who live in bushland areas are encouraged to prepare and protect their property from bushfire. For more information on preparing for bushfire hazards visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'bushfires'.

Under NALL, if bushfire management is planned in an area of protected vegetation, property owners are required to apply for a permit. Bushfire management works can include installing firebreaks, carrying out vegetation clearing for fire hazard management and/or planning for a controlled burn.



Planning for bushfire management

A number of factors should be taken into account before property owners undertake bushfire management. Applying for a permit is just one of the steps that may be required. Consider the following tips about Council and Queensland Government requirements before starting work.

- Consider bushfire management strategies suited to the property.
- Apply for a permit to carry out works under NALL. The proposed fire management strategies are to be part of the 'Application to Carry Out Works to (including interfere with) Protected Vegetation – long term permit'. Permits of up to 10 years, for ongoing work, are available.
- Obtain permission to carry out a controlled burn from the local Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) station. Council's approved permit will need to be provided to QFRS.
- Following permission from QFRS, advise Council of your intent to undertake a controlled burn. It is also recommended that property owners talk to their neighbours about the intended work.

For more information about bushfire management, visit the following websites.

- QFRS at www.fire.qld.gov.au for help with developing a bushfire emergency plan.
- Rural Fire Service at www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au for help with preparing a bushfire survival plan.
- South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium at www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au to learn about fire management.

How to apply for a permit

Permits can be lodged with Council online, mail, email or in person. For permit forms and more information visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'protected vegetation permits', call (07) 3403 8888 or visit your nearest Council regional business centre.



Further information



Scan the QR code to visit Council's *Natural Assets Local Law 2003* webpage.

For more information, visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au or phone Council on (07) 3403 8888.

