REGULATION OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

Land tenure, planning, environment protection, land use and natural resource management.

This guide provides information for farmers and others involved in the agricultural sector on environment and planning legislation, regulations and policies that affect the way they carry out their businesses.

It does NOT include legal requirements affecting animal welfare, workplace health and safety or food safety. Other pieces of applicable Queensland legislation NOT covered in this document are listed in Appendix 1.

Legislation needs to be understood in the light of common law rights and obligations of landholders. The basic right of a landholder at common law is to use their property as they wish as long as they do not interfere with their neighbours and comply with the requirements of legislation. Landholders have a duty of care not to cause foreseeable harm to their neighbours. This duty applies to the activities that landholders undertake of their own choice but also applies in respect to taking action to manage the hazard from such things as pest plants and animals or fire that come naturally to the property.

In addition to the common law duty of care, there are also statutory duties such as the duty of care to the land in the Land Act 1994 for occupiers of State land, the general environmental duty in the Environment Protection Act 1994 and the duty to not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

The introductory section describes the various requirements as they apply to the range of farm management activities normally associated with the operation of an agricultural enterprise. Table 1 provides more detailed information on each piece of legislation.
Important note: Whilst all care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this guide, it is not intended to be comprehensive and should not be seen as a substitute for professional legal advice. It should also be noted that legislation is constantly under review by the Queensland and Australian Governments and subject to change. Where a review process is known, this is noted in the attached table. Additional information, including details of relevant regulations, can also be obtained from the agencies administering the listed legislation. Access to current legislation and regulations is available through the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

**If you**

- **are grazing stock on State-Owned land:**
  - **Grazing on rural leasehold land**
    The *Land Act 1994* outlines the processes to be undertaken when dealing with State land. The landholder manages the allocated land in accordance with the conditions of the lease which covers the land. Under the Act, a person has a ‘duty of care’ to the land. A person breaches this legal obligation if they do not take ‘reasonable steps’ to avoid land degradation.
  
  - **Grazing on State Forest**
    The grazing of stock is permitted on State Forests under the provisions of a stock grazing permit issued under the *Forestry Act 1959* or a lease issued under the *Land Act 1994*.
  
  - **Grazing or moving stock on the Stock Route network**
    The movement or grazing of stock on the Stock Route network is controlled by relevant parts of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.

- **are moving stock from your property to another place:**
  The *Stock Act 1915* outlines the processes to be undertaken when transporting or selling stock.

- **intend changing land use from agriculture to another use or introducing additional land use activities**
  Land use changes (material change of use or MCU) in Queensland are regulated under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (SPA). In general there are no development approvals required for the establishment of a farming enterprise in a rural area in Local Planning Schemes, however there are exceptions:
  
  - ‘Broadacre cropping’ is a regulated activity in Strategic Environmental Areas under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*.
  
  - Development for intensive uses such as for a feedlot, piggery or other intensive animal facility or intensive horticulture will require a development approval.
  
  - Establishment or expansion of a farming enterprise in a residential or rural-residential or commercial area will require development approval.
  
  - Forestry for wood production (i.e. timber plantations) in a rural zone can be made self or code assessable by a planning scheme, in which case a mandatory code will apply.
  
  - Cropping and animal husbandry are usually self-assessable development in a Rural Zone / Precinct. Therefore, while approval from Council will not be required to establish these uses, there will usually be criteria in the planning scheme to regulate their conduct - such as providing for setbacks from boundaries and maximum heights for any buildings and structures.

  Farm diversification activities involving SPA regulated development (e.g. tourism accommodation; camping; intensive animal husbandry) in a coastal management district under the *Coastal Management and Protection Act 1995* are assessable development.

  For State leasehold land, under the *Land Act 1994* a lease may only be used for the purpose for which it is issued. However, the Act allows certain additional purposes to be undertaken where those uses are complementary to the original grazing and agricultural purpose of the lease. A leaseholder may apply to renew a lease or convert the lease to another tenure.

  - **Development in a State Development Area**
    While current uses are unaffected in State Development Areas such as Bromelton, Gladstone and Abbott Point, proposals for land use change require approval from the Coordinator-General under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1977*. 

- are facing a proposal for mining or gas development on your property

Resource activities must obtain a Regional Interests Development Approval under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 before they commence activities on properties where a regional interest has been mapped. A regional interest on agricultural land is a Priority Agricultural Area and a Strategic Cropping Area.

All resource activities must enter into a Conduct and Compensation Agreement with the landholder under the Land Access Framework prior to entering a property and commencing work and are subject to the requirements of a range of resources legislation not covered in this guideline.

- are undertaking earthworks or quarrying activities

Quarrying of sand, rock or gravel on freehold land for commercial use requires an approval from your local government.

High impact earthworks in wetland protection areas and works adjacent to a declared Fish Habitat Area may impact on the values and functions of the area and are assessable development under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009.

Earthworks associated with drainage, quarrying or pondage banks in a coastal management district under the Coastal Management and Protection Act 1995 are assessable development.

- intend to clear vegetation for production or to construct a fence or to control pests

  - General

Native vegetation clearing is regulated through the Vegetation Management Act 1999 and the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. Some clearing activities such as maintaining fence lines and constructing firebreaks to protect infrastructure are exempt under the framework and do not need approval.

  - Clearing for high-value agriculture

Vegetation management laws allow for the clearing of native vegetation for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture purposes with a permit. Note that clearing to improve the operational efficiency of existing agricultural land may be covered by a self-assessable vegetation clearing code.

  - Clearing in a watercourse

Clearing or interfering with vegetation on the banks or in a watercourse is controlled by the Vegetation Management Act 1999 and the Sustainable Planning Act 2009.

  - Clearing for weed or pest management

Clearing or interfering with vegetation to control non-native plants or pests is self-assessable under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 against the Weed Control Code.

  - Constructing a fence

If constructing a new fence involves interfering with endangered or of concern Regional Ecosystems, a development approval is required under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. If a new fenceline intersects an area defined as critical habitat a permit is required under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

  - Clearing marine plants

Clearing or interfering with marine vegetation, including mangroves, is controlled by the Fisheries Act 1994.

  - Clearing nationally threatened species

Clearing or interfering with nationally threatened species and ecological communities is controlled by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth).

  - Clearing koala habitat trees

- intend to harvest native plants or animals on your property

Harvesting of native timber on freehold land is regulated by the vegetation management framework under the Vegetation Management Act 1999. A native forest practice is self-assessable in accordance with Managing a Native Forest Practice Code - a self-assessable vegetation clearing code.

Harvesting of commercial native timber on State leasehold land is regulated by the Forestry Act 1959 and must comply with the terms and conditions of a sales permit issued under this Act. This includes the requirement for the harvesting to comply with the Code of practice for native forest timber production on the QPWS forest estate 2014.

The Nature Conservation Act 1992 provides protection for native plants and animals but allows for the commercial harvesting of a range of protected animals. The most significant ecologically sustainable use program in Queensland is the commercial macropod-harvesting program.

- are managing pest plants and animals

Landowner obligations to control and manage declared plants and animals are currently set out in the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 until the Biosecurity Act 2014 comes into force. The Act also enables local governments to enforce the management of declared weeds and pest animals. Some local governments also use local laws for the control of weeds and pest animals of local significance.

- are using agricultural chemicals

The use and management of agricultural chemicals is regulated by the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966 and the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988.

- need to use fire to reduce hazardous fuel loads or control weeds

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990 prohibits the lighting of a fire without a Permit to Light a Fire issued by a fire warden. Under nuisance provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 a local government may also have in place a local law restricting or prohibiting the lighting of a fire in part or all of the local government area.

The use of fire to reduce hazardous fuel loads and clearing to maintain fire management lines, fire breaks and fences may be permissible subject to the Vegetation Management Act 1999.
- intend accessing surface or underground water
  Taking or interfering with water from a watercourse, overland flow, underground, artesian or subartesian source is regulated under the Water Act 2000. Works for taking or interfering with water such as dams, weirs, pumps, diversion channels or bores may be considered assessable, self-assessable or exempt development under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 framework. All assessable works require development approval.

- need to coordinate soil conservation works and surface run-off across property boundaries
  The Soil Conservation Act 1986 provides for the preparation and approval of soil conservation plans that specify the location and design of run-off control structures, particularly involving cross-boundary water flow.

- have indigenous cultural heritage sites or places on your property
  There is an obligation for people to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure an activity they are undertaking does not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

- are carrying out activities with the potential to cause environmental harm
  There is an obligation on people to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure an activity they are undertaking does not cause environmental harm under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Then

The following Table provides details of each piece of legislation or regulation with links to further information. For access to the current versions of these pieces of legislation, readers should access the Queensland Government legislation website. http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/OQPChome.htm
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<td>Local</td>
<td>Sustainable Planning Act 2009. Local Government Act 2009.</td>
<td><strong>Local Government planning schemes</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cropping and animal husbandry (including extensive grazing) uses are generally exempt activities in a Rural Zone/Precinct in local government planning schemes.&lt;br&gt;Cropping and animal husbandry are usually self-assessable development in a Rural Zone/Precinct. Therefore, while approval from Council will not be required to establish these uses, there will usually be criteria in the planning scheme to regulate their conduct - such as providing for setbacks from boundaries and maximum heights for any buildings and structures.&lt;br&gt;In any other zone or precinct, such as a Rural Residential, Residential or Commercial Zone/Precinct, these types of activities will not be exempt and will almost always require approval.&lt;br&gt;Some Local Government planning schemes require planning approval for intensive farming in sensitive areas, for forestry for wood production (timber plantations) and for farm-diversification activities such as quarrying, tourism accommodation or camping. (See also Sustainable Planning Act 2009).&lt;br&gt;<strong>Local laws</strong>&lt;br&gt;Local laws may regulate the building of structures which include:&lt;br&gt;- levees&lt;br&gt;- contour banks&lt;br&gt;- fences&lt;br&gt;- roads.&lt;br&gt;Local laws may declare local weeds and pest animals for control or eradication; and control the lighting of fires.</td>
<td>Local Council</td>
<td>Development application fees if proposed use is code or impact assessable</td>
<td>Check local government requirements in local areas. A local laws database provides information on laws applying to each Local Government area. <a href="http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/local-government/laws/local-laws-database.html">http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/local-government/laws/local-laws-database.html</a></td>
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<td>State</td>
<td>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003&lt;br&gt; Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</td>
<td><strong>The Acts protect all indigenous cultural heritage in Queensland. This protection applies whether or not the cultural heritage has been identified or recorded in a database.</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Act requires anyone who carries out a land-use activity to exercise a duty of care, that is, they must take all reasonable and practical measures to ensure their activity does not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.&lt;br&gt;The duty of care applies to any activity where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage is located, including freehold land.&lt;br&gt;A land management agreement under the Land Act 1994 may include strategies for protecting indigenous cultural heritage values on State rural leasehold land.</td>
<td>Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP)</td>
<td>No fees</td>
<td>Identifying the cultural heritage values of an area can be difficult. The area may be secret or sacred, incorporated into the landscape or under the soil surface.&lt;br&gt;The Acts, together with gazetted duty-of-care guidelines, provides guidance on how to proceed.&lt;br&gt;Landowners can request a Cultural Heritage Database search for any previously recorded cultural heritage in the area of interest.</td>
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<td>State</td>
<td>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966&lt;br&gt; Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1998</td>
<td><strong>The Act and Regulation regulate the distribution (spraying, spreading and dispersing) activities of licence holders. Licensed operators must not carry out spraying with equipment or under meteorological conditions that might reasonably be expected to cause damage to off-target crops or livestock.</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Act requires ground or aerial distribution contractors to keep detailed records of each and every spraying operation they direct or authorize to be carried out by licensed operators.&lt;br&gt;Certain volatile herbicides have restrictions placed on their use in a hazardous area to protect susceptible crops. Hazardous areas have been declared on the Sunshine Coast, the Darling Downs and the Central Highlands.</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</td>
<td>Licence fees apply for obtaining a pilot chemical rating licence or an aerial distribution contractor licence. Fees are listed in the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1998 Sch 2.</td>
<td>Detailed guidance on the use and application of agricultural chemicals can be found in the Agricultural Chemical Users Manual <a href="https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/54738/AgChem-UsersManual.pdf">https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/54738/AgChem-UsersManual.pdf</a></td>
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| State | Agricultural Standards Act 1994 | The Act provides for standards to be made about agriculture, including standards that regulate the sale and supply, and limited use aspects, of agricultural requirements (e.g. fertilisers, stock foods and seeds for planting):  
- agricultural requirements must be labelled in accordance with a standard or regulation  
- false or misleading statements about agricultural requirements and the certain characteristics in relation to the sale of livestock are prohibited  
- harmful or prohibited substances for agricultural requirements are prescribed under regulation | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) | No fees | With commencement of the Biosecurity Act 2014 (prior to 1 July 2016), the Agricultural Standards Act 1994 will be repealed. |
| State | Agricultural Standards Regulation 1997 | | | | |
| State | Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995  
Coastal Protection and Management Regulation 2003 | The Act is implemented through:  
- establishing a coastal zone and coastal management district  
- a Coastal Management Plan aimed at protecting and managing coastal values  
- establishing erosion prone areas which are intended to be development-free buffers.  
The State Planning Policy (under SPA) includes a State Interest - Coastal Environment that provides planning principles and policies for coastal protection and management. Development in a coastal management district is subject to a code for development assessment (SPP Part E).  
The Act grants the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection responsibility for the allocation of State resources (quarry material) in State coastal land in a coastal management district (except land subject to a lease or licence issued by the State - see Forestry Act).  
Assessable development  
Tidal works, quarrying, dredge or solid waste disposal, constructing a waterway in a coastal management district is assessable development under the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 (Schedule 3, Part 1, Table 4 5) | Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) | Development application fees are set out in the Coastal Protection and Management Regulations 2003 | The Coastal Act framework is unlikely to apply to extensive grazing or farm management activities.  
Coastal development involving SPA regulated development (e.g. tourism accommodation; camping; intensive animal husbandry) may require planning approval from the State and/or Local Government in a coastal management district. |
| State | Environmental Protection Act 1994  
Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 | The Environmental Protection Act 1994 states that we all have a general environmental duty. This means that we are all responsible for the actions we take that affect the environment.  
We must not carry out any activity that causes or is likely to cause environmental harm unless we take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm.  
Agricultural Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERA) (e.g. feedlots or other intensive animal facilities such as a poultry farm) must obtain a licence to operate.  
High impact earthworks in a wetland protection area are assessable development under the Sustainable Planning Regulation Sch 3 Part 1, Table 4, 10. | Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) | Apart from application and licence fees for ERAs, there are no fees for agricultural activities. | The general environmental duty is a defence to offences related to causing unlawful environmental harm. If a person can show that the harm happened while an activity being carried out was lawful apart from this Act and they fulfilled their general environmental duty, then they cannot be found guilty of causing unlawful environmental harm. |
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<td>State</td>
<td>Fisheries Act 1994 Fisheries Regulation 2008</td>
<td>Queensland's declared fish habitat area (FHA) provides protection for fish habitats that are essential to sustaining Queensland fisheries. Specific declared FHA plans are available. All development, except self-assessable development, requires approval before activities start in a declared FHA. A resource allocation authority (RAA) issued under the Fisheries Act 1994 is required, as well as a development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. The State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) (see Module 5: Fisheries resources) apply to development proposals in or adjacent to a declared FHA.</td>
<td>Department Of National Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR)</td>
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<td>In most cases, provided works remain inside property boundaries and do not impact on adjacent declared FHA values and functions, no approval is required.</td>
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<td>State</td>
<td>Fisheries Act 1994 Fisheries Regulation 2008</td>
<td>All marine plants are protected from 'unlawful' damage, disturbance or removal. This means that it is illegal to damage marine plants unless you have an approval to do so. Applications for development approvals under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 to remove, damage or disturb marine plants are assessed against the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) (see Module 5: Fisheries resources) and provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994 and policies. Low-impact development activities or works can be undertaken under a self-assessable code including maintenance of farm drains and structures such as boundary fences, bridges, roads, boat ramps, jetties and walkways. An approval is not required for works performed under a self-assessable code if completed within the code's restrictions.</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</td>
<td>Development application fees are listed in Fisheries Regulation Sch 8</td>
<td>In most cases, development approvals are only issued if the disturbance to marine plants and tidal lands is minimised. In some instances 'offsets' for impacts are negotiated with the applicants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Forestry Act 1959 &amp; Forestry Regulation 1998</td>
<td>Grazing on State Forest or Timber Reserve The grazing of stock is permitted on State Forests under the provisions of a stock grazing permit issued under the Act. Most grazing on State forests and Timber Reserves is authorised under leases issued under the Land Act 1994. Harvesting commercial native timber All timber harvesting operations conducted on State lands must comply with the terms and conditions of a sales permit issued under this Act including compliance with the Code of practice for native forest timber production on the QPWS forest estate 2014. Quarry material Quarry material from State forests, timber reserves, forest entitlement areas and State plantation forests are controlled and marketed by DAF. These areas also include certain roads, leasehold land and freehold land but excludes lakes and watercourses and land below the high water mark in coastal areas, where not subject to a lease under the Land Act 1994.</td>
<td>Department of National Parks Sport and Racing (DNPSR) and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</td>
<td>• Licence fees — Act s55(3) • Permits &amp; other fees — Act s56; Reg. Sch. 6(8).</td>
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Use consistent with the lease purpose
Landholders must use the land only for the purpose for which the tenure was issued and must comply with all conditions. Landholders may apply for a change of purpose to their lease and for a change of conditions to their lease, licence or permit to occupy.

In addition, a diversification policy allows certain additional purposes to be undertaken without further amendment of the lease where those uses are complementary to the original grazing and agricultural purpose of the lease. Horticulture, viticulture, broadacre cropping, feedlots, aquaculture, farm forestry and the farming of pigs and poultry are considered “as of right” uses under the definition of agriculture in the Land Act 1994. As such diversification by lessees to these forms of primary production within agricultural leases irrespective of the scale of the enterprise do not require Land Act approval. The policy provides for low key tourism, documentaries and film making, nature conservation activities and/or vocational training in pastoral activities. The Act also allows leasehold land to be used for additional purposes relating to the production of energy from a renewable source, e.g. sun or wind.

Other approvals and charges
Landholders are responsible for obtaining any other required approvals from state or local governments or other authorities, as well as paying any additional fees that may relate to the tenure.

Duty of care
Landholders must maintain the land in good condition, for example by implementing good land management practices and preventing land degradation and contamination.

Lease renewal
Landholders can apply to renew their lease, unless the lease includes terms that specifically exclude renewal. Road licences, occupation licences and permits to occupy cannot be renewed.

You may apply at any time during the term of the lease, except for term leases, which can only be renewed after 80% of the existing term has expired (unless there are special circumstances).

Rolling term lease renewal
A rolling term lease is a lease issued for agricultural, grazing or pastoral purposes, including leases on state forests, protected areas and timber reserves (for rural leases, the lease area is 100 hectares or more).

Landholders can apply to extend their rolling term lease at any time during the last 20 years of the term of the lease, unless there are special circumstances.

Lease conversion
At any time during its term, a leaseholder can apply to convert their perpetual or term lease to freehold.

The following cannot be converted: freeholding leases; leases over reserves, leases with conditions that could restrict conversion; road and occupation licences; permits to occupy and leases over state forests and national and regional parks as they are reserved for specific purposes and are not available for conversion to freehold.

Rent
- Rent for primary production on perpetual leases is calculated by multiplying the averaged land value by 1.5%.
- Rent for primary production on term leases, licences and permits to occupy is calculated by multiplying the averaged land value by 0.75%.
- The annual rent is capped at no more than 10% above the previous year’s annual rent.

Compliance
- Compliance with lease conditions is stringent (s213).
- Various conditions need to be met e.g. duty of care conditions; improvement condition (where applicable)
- Duty of Care obligation s199 is higher than that of common law duty, with multiple statutory requirements.

Applications are required for additional activities of a non-primary production nature. Landholders should verify whether any additional activities on their lease trigger the need for any development approval from local government or requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Queensland) and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth).

Following an application from the lessee for an additional purpose, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will undertake a native title assessment of the leased land to determine if, and how, native title may need to be addressed. Depending upon the outcome, the leaseholder (as a condition of the offer) may be required to satisfactorily address any identified native title issues.

Further information on land tenure in Queensland is available from the DNRM website.
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<td>State</td>
<td>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 Land Protection (Pest Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003</td>
<td>Stock Route management: For moving stock over stock routes a stock route travel permit is required (s133). Exceptions to obtaining a permit are: If stock are driven on foot: (a) for not more than 1 day; and (b) in clear daylight hours; and (c) for animal husbandry or property management purposes; and (d) Between parcels of land having common ownership or worked as a single unit. Persons without a permit may receive a $500 fine. A person can also apply for a stock route agistment permit for relevant land in the local government’s area. Applications can only be made by: 1) a landowner of land affected by drought, fire or flood 2) a person travelling stock under a stock route travel permit These permits may have requirements around fencing, signs to show cattle on road, insurance and water availability.</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) Permits are issued by Local Councils</td>
<td>The fee payable for a stock route agistment permit is to be reasonable with consideration for • the type of country and the stock • the quality of pasture • the accessibility of water Fees for stock movement or agistment are set out in the Land Protection (Pest Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003 Sch 5.</td>
<td>The Queensland Government shares responsibility for the management of the stock route network with local governments. Some grazing access is administered under the Land Act 1994, while the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and the Stock Act 1915 also include provisions affecting network management. For food safety and animal health traceability, any stock moved off-property must be registered through the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). Every time that stock (cattle, sheep, goats) moves to a property with a different property identification code, or to a feedlot, saleyard, abattoir or other location, the PIC it moved from and to is recorded on the database so a ‘life history’ of movements for that animal is established.</td>
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State | Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 | **Pest management**<br>Local governments are responsible for ensuring control of declared weeds and pest animals on all private and public land in their area, including the 72,000 km stock route network.<br>Declared pests can be announced in Regulation. and by emergency declaration under the Act.<br>Current pests of interest to cattle producers:<br>Class 2 pests:<br>• cat, other than a domestic cat<br>• dingo<br>• dog, other than a domestic dog<br>• European fox<br>• feral pig<br>• goat, other than a domestic goat<br>• parthenium<br>• prickly acacia<br>• giant rats tail grass<br>• rubbervine<br>**Obligation of landowners**<br>A landowner must take reasonable steps to keep land free of class 1 and class 2 pests, unless the owner holds a declared pest permit.<br>Class 1 or class 2 pests cannot be moved from one place to another unless a Weed Hygiene Declaration is provided between the parties covering “things” contaminated with Class 2 prescribed weeds.<br>**Destruction of dogs**<br>Under s95, if an owner of land that is not in an urban district, or an authorised person, reasonably believes a dog on the land is not under someone’s control and is attacking, or is about to attack stock on the land, then the authorised person or owner may destroy the dog. Compensation is not payable for that destruction. | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) though local government; | Fees are set out in the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003 Sch 5.<br>All compliance costs fall onto the producer, with the need to control and manage pests within their landholdings.<br>If a producer does not comply with s 77, they may receive a pest control notice (s 78).<br>If there is non-compliance with the notice a pest controller may be able to enter the property to take action on that pest.<br>Landholders need to comply with a control notice for Class 3 pests – if they are adjacent to Environmentally Significant Areas. | Information on the Act is available here.<br>The Queensland Weed Strategy and Queensland Pest animal Strategy set the overall strategic direction for declared weed and pest animal management in Queensland.<br>Local Government Pest Area Management Plans provide the community with pest management priorities for local areas.<br>While it is not a legislative requirement the development of a Property Pest Management Plan or the inclusion of weed and pest animal actions in best management practice documentation may be a useful tool for landholders to show how they meet the obligations of landowners under s 77 of the Act. A property pest management plan is developed and implemented by a landowner and should be consistent with local/regional pest management priorities and plans.<br>The new Biosecurity Act 2014 was passed in March 2014 and will come into effect by 1 July 2016.
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<td>State</td>
<td>Nature Conservation Act 1992</td>
<td>Much of Queensland’s native wildlife is protected by legislation to ensure its survival and to protect biodiversity. All native birds, reptiles, mammals and amphibia are protected in Queensland.   - Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006 lists protected plants and animals.   - Permits are required under Nature Conservation Act 1992 s 89(1).</td>
<td>Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)</td>
<td>Fees for licences for harvesting wildlife, taking protected plants or clearing koala habitat trees.</td>
<td>Requirements and processes for creating a nature refuge are set out in the Nature Conservation Act s43-52 and on the DEHP website.</td>
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|       |            | **Harvesting of animals**  
Commercial harvesting of animals involves the taking of animals from the wild for a commercial purpose. The Nature Conservation Act 1992 allows for the commercial harvesting of a range of protected animals. The most significant ecologically sustainable use program in Queensland is the commercial macropod-harvesting program. A licensing system helps protect native wildlife from over-exploitation and the impacts of exotic species. Such controls ensure viable wild populations of plants and animals are maintained and that taking, keeping, using or moving wildlife for commercial, recreational or other purposes is monitored. |            |            | |
|       |            | **Koala habitat**  
Koala habitat in South East Queensland is protected from development by a range of policy instruments. Clearing of koala habitat trees in declared areas must comply with the requirements for sequential clearing and koala spotters as set out in the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006. |            |            | |
|       |            | **Nature refuges**  
A nature refuge is a voluntary agreement between a landholder and the Queensland Government that acknowledges a commitment to manage and preserve land with significant conservation values while allowing compatible and sustainable land uses to continue. Landholders with a nature refuge continue to own and manage their land to generate an income and in keeping with their lifestyle. |            |            | |
|       |            | **Protected Plants Framework**  
The Protected Plants Flora Survey Trigger Map shows high risk areas for protected plants that are subject to particular requirements under legislation such as the need for flora surveys and clearing permits. To meet clearing requirements or to be eligible for certain clearing exemptions a copy of the high risk area map for the area subject to clearing must be obtained and kept. A clearing permit is still required for impacts upon endangered, vulnerable and near threatened plants, regardless of whether the clearing site is identified on the trigger map. |            |            | |
<p>| State | Plant Protection Act 1989 | The Act provides powers for the State to  - declare pests,  - declare a crop plant district or pest quarantine area to control the introduction and movement of plants, soil and other things, and  - appoint inspectors with powers necessary to contain or to control pests. | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). | No fees | With commencement of the Biosecurity Act 2014 (prior to 1 July 2016), the Plant Protection Act 1989 will be repealed. |
|       | Plant Protection Regulation 2002 | The Act provides powers for the State to  - declare pests,  - declare a crop plant district or pest quarantine area to control the introduction and movement of plants, soil and other things, and  - appoint inspectors with powers necessary to contain or to control pests. |            |            | |</p>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 and Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014</td>
<td>Purpose: Identify areas of Queensland that are of regional interest; manage the impact of resource activities and other regulated activities on areas of regional interest; and manage the coexistence between regulated activities with other activities including highly productive agricultural activities.</td>
<td>Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP)</td>
<td>Application fees apply to resource companies.</td>
<td>The Regional Planning Interests Act integrates the Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011 policy framework. PAAs are identified in Regional Plans. SCA are identified on the SCL trigger map. Priority agricultural land uses are defined in Regional Plans, and may include certain types of dryland agriculture and plantations, irrigated agriculture and plantations, and intensive horticulture. Please also refer to the QFF publication Resource Activities on Agricultural Land for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Soil Conservation Act 1986 and Soil Conservation Regulation 1998</td>
<td>Purpose: Facilitate the implementation of soil conservation measures by landholders for the mitigation of soil erosion.</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)</td>
<td>No fees</td>
<td>There are legacy plans dating from the time when the preparation of approved soil conservation plans attracted a State Government subsidy. The approved plans continue to be a legal obligation on landholders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2010 and State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Regulation 2009.</td>
<td>State development areas (SDAs) are areas of land established by the Coordinator-General to promote economic development in Queensland. The Coordinator-General is responsible for the planning, establishment and ongoing management of state development areas. In a state development area, the Coordinator-General: • controls land-use activities • implements the development scheme • assesses and approves all development, or material change of use, applications • has compulsory land acquisition powers. Any proposed change of land use within an SDA requires a development, or material change of use, application. The Coordinator-General assesses and decides all material change of use applications in an SDA.</td>
<td>Coordinator-General within the Department of State Development (DSD)</td>
<td>Material Change of Use applications are subject to fees. For more information, read the Guideline for material change of use application fees.</td>
<td>The Act provides for the appointment of a Coordinator-General as a corporation sole, representing the Crown. Current SDAs that include rural areas are at: • Abbot Point • Bromelton • Callide Infrastructure Corridor • Gladstone • Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor • Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor • Townsville</td>
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| State | Stock Act 1915  
Stock Regulation 1988  
Stock Identification Regulation 2005 | **The movement of all livestock must be recorded and reported.**  
Reports of movements must contain standard information such as the date of movement, the property identification codes of the starting and ending place of the movement, the number of animals and the National Vendor Declaration (NVD)/waybill serial number.  
The waybill provides the minimal compulsory movement document that must accompany travelling stock, but for commercial reasons and to meet domestic and export food safety requirements, combined NVD/waybills are generally used when stock are moved to saleyards or to slaughter. | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) | There are no fees for moving stock but there are fees for inspectors to inspect diseased stock and other purposes set out in the Stock Regulation 1988 Sch 7. | Further information on the transport and selling livestock is available on the DAFF website.  
With commencement of the Biosecurity Act 2014 (prior to 1 July 2016), the Stock Act 1915 will be repealed. |
| State | Sustainable Planning Act 2009  
Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 | **General requirements for agriculture**  
- Existing agricultural uses are unaffected.  
- Management practices for conducting an agricultural use, including weed and pest control, fire, conservation of natural areas and forest practices, are unaffected.  
- Cropping and animal husbandry are usually self-assessable development in a Rural Zone/Precinct. Therefore, while approval from Council will not be required to establish these uses, there will usually be criteria in the planning scheme to regulate their conduct - such as providing for setbacks from boundaries, maximum heights for any buildings and structures.  
- In any other zone or precinct, such as a Rural Residential, Residential or Commercial Zone/Precinct, new agricultural activities will not be exempt and will almost always require approval.  
- Some Local Government planning schemes require planning approval for intensive farming in sensitive areas, for forestry for wood production (timber plantations) and for farm-diversification activities such as tourism accommodation or camping. | Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP)  
Local Councils | Development application fees | Does not generally apply to extensive grazing and cropping activities, however there are exceptions. Check local planning schemes.  
A new State Planning Policy took effect in December 2013 and was revised in July 2014, replacing all previous State Planning Policies.  
A new Planning Bill and Regulation are being prepared. |
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| State | Vegetation Management Act 1999 & Vegetation Management Regulation 2012   | Clearing vegetation  

Unless exempt, all clearing must be for a relevant purpose under s22A of the Vegetation Management Act. An application is required to clear vegetation for these purposes.

Exemptions apply to a range of clearing activities where approval is not required. These include:
- category X land
- fences roads and tracks on land defined as least concern regional ecosystem <10m
- built infrastructure on land defined as least concern regional ecosystem <2 ha
- fire breaks, fuel load reduction
- risk reduction
- community infrastructure
- approved development.

Some other activities are covered by self-assessable codes. These include fodder harvesting, weed control, managing a native forest practice, clearing for certain environmental works and clearing thickened vegetation in certain regions. No permit is required but landholders must notify the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) of their intention to clear.

If the property is covered by an existing Area Management Plan (AMP), clearing is allowed under the AMP as long as the DNRM is notified before starting to clear and the requirements of the AMP are followed.

Applications are assessed against a vegetation code.

Clearing may be permitted for high-value agriculture and for environmental purposes.

Clearing essential habitat

To maintain the current extent of essential habitat for protected wildlife, clearing is not permitted in an area shown as essential habit on the essential habitat map. (This applies if three habitat criteria are present.)

Certainty for property vegetation management

Property Maps of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) are property-scale maps certified by the DNRM. They show the location, boundary and categories of vegetation.

Landholders can apply for a PMAV from DNRM.

Native timber harvesting

Landholders on freehold land can undertake harvesting of native timber under a native forest practice in remnant or Category B vegetation in accordance with the Managing a Native Forest Practice – a self assessable vegetation clearing code. A permit is not required but landholders must notify DNRM. | Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) | Fees for vegetation clearing application are set out in the Vegetation Management Regulation 2012 Sch 7. | The full range of exempt activities are set out in the list of clearing vegetation exemptions. Activities subject to self assessable codes are listed on the Queensland Government website. Guidelines and further information is available on the vegetation management website (DNRM). Module 8 of the State Development Assessment Provisions sets out the assessment criteria for vegetation clearing applications. |
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<td>State</td>
<td>Water Act 2000 &amp; Water Regulation 2002</td>
<td><strong>Taking or interfering with water</strong>&lt;br&gt; In areas covered by a Water Resource Plan and an associated Resource Operations Plan, water entitlements (water licences and interim water allocations) that previously were attached to land are converted to water allocations. A water allocation is an authority to take water, and an entitlement to a share of the available water resource in a catchment. A water allocation can be bought and sold independently in a similar way to land.&lt;br&gt;In areas not covered by a Water Resource Plan, a water licence for taking or interfering with water in a watercourse, lake or spring is required for purposes such as:&lt;br&gt;• stock or domestic use&lt;br&gt;• irrigation&lt;br&gt;• industrial use&lt;br&gt;• the storage of water behind a weir&lt;br&gt;• the impounding of water behind a storage structure&lt;br&gt;• the storage of water in excavations that are within or connected to a watercourse.&lt;br&gt;In some areas of Queensland, a water licence may be needed to take or interfere with overland flow water. These areas are identified in moratorium notices and water resource plans.&lt;br&gt;A water licence is required to take or interfere with artesian water anywhere in Queensland.&lt;br&gt;Generally, a water licence is needed to take or interfere with subartesian water for purposes other than stock and domestic in:&lt;br&gt;• declared subartesian areas under the Water Regulation 2002&lt;br&gt;• groundwater management areas under the Water Regulation 2002 or a water resource plan&lt;br&gt;• subartesian management areas under a water resource plan.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Works related to taking or interfering with water</strong>&lt;br&gt;You may require an authorisation for an activity or works in a water area.&lt;br&gt;Works constructed to take or interfere with water from watercourses, lakes, springs, aquifers or overland flow could include pumping equipment, diversion channels, weirs, barrages, dams or bores.&lt;br&gt;These works may be considered assessable, self-assessable or exempt development under the Sustainable Planning Act framework.&lt;br&gt;All assessable works require development approval. Self-assessable works do not require a development permit but the work must comply with the applicable code. Exempt works do not require development approval or compliance with a code.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Excavation or filling in a watercourse, lake or spring</strong>&lt;br&gt;To excavate or place fill within a watercourse, lake or spring, a riverine protection permit may be needed.&lt;br&gt;Other authorities that may be required need to be considered before starting works including owner’s consent, quarry material allocations and vegetation clearing permits.&lt;br&gt;A riverine protection permit is not required if excavation or placement of fill is:&lt;br&gt;• exempt under section 814 of the Water Act 2000 or&lt;br&gt;• permitted under section 50 of the Water Regulation 2002 or&lt;br&gt;• undertaken in accordance with the Riverine protection permit exemption requirements.</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)</td>
<td>Fees are charged for:&lt;br&gt;• applications relating to interim water allocations and water licence dealings&lt;br&gt;• applications and lodgement of documents relating to water allocations&lt;br&gt;• applications for water bore driller’s licences&lt;br&gt;• application for unallocated water&lt;br&gt;• development applications relating to operational work&lt;br&gt;• annual water licence for all unsupplemented water other than to take water for stock or domestic purposes (unless the licence is for taking underground water from the Great Artesian Basin).&lt;br&gt;• Water harvesting by holders of unsupplemented water entitlements which allow for water harvesting in declared water management areas based on the volume of water taken.&lt;br&gt;These fees and charges are payable to the Department of Natural Resource and Mines (DNRM). A full list of these fees is found in schedule 14 and 16 of the Water Regulation 2002.</td>
<td>Information is available on development assessment and approval for works under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Water Act 2000</td>
<td>Riverine quarry material</td>
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<td>Water Regulation 2002 (cont.)</td>
<td>Riverine quarry material such as sand, gravel, rocks and soil can be extracted from the non-tidal reaches of streams (called watercourses) and freshwater natural lakes under a quarry material allocation. Persons may intend to remove material from a watercourse or lake for stream management purposes, including desilting, and bed and bank protection. This material is not considered quarry material unless it is then sold or used for any productive purpose, such as for manufacturing, building or fill. To remove waste material from a watercourse, lake or spring, a riverine protection permit may be required.</td>
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<td>Water bore drilling</td>
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<td>Water bores in Queensland deeper than 6m (including monitoring bores) must be constructed by, or under the supervision of, a licensed water bore driller. Waterbore drillers must have the correct licence endorsements for: • drilling, deepening, enlarging or casing a water bore • removing, replacing, altering, or repairing the casing, lining or screen of a water bore • decommissioning a water bore.</td>
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<td>Construction of levees</td>
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<td>The Water Act 2000 defines what a levee is and provides that the construction of a new levee or the modification of an existing levee is an ‘assessable development’ under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. This means that any person planning to construct or modify a levee must give consideration to the potential effects of their levee on the movement of floodwater, and how this could affect other people and properties.</td>
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<td>Commonwealth</td>
<td>Environment Protection &amp; Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 &amp; Regulation 2000</td>
<td>The Act defines nine matters of national environmental significance: • world heritage properties • national heritage places • wetlands of international importance • listed threatened species and ecological communities • migratory species protected under international agreements • Commonwealth marine areas • the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park • nuclear actions (including uranium mines) • a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development The Act is triggered where a development application is required in an area of national environmental significance. Protected species and ecological communities include brigalow regrowth more than 15 years old, box-gum grassy woodlands in southern Queensland, and natural grasslands in southern Queensland, the Central Highlands and northern Fitzroy Basin.</td>
<td>Department of the Environment (C’wealth)</td>
<td>Application fees</td>
<td>The Commonwealth Government has accredited State processes under the State Development and Public Works and Organisation Act 1994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Appendix 1 - Other applicable Queensland legislation

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994
Biosecurity Act 2014*
Biodiscovery Act 2004
Biological Control Act 1987
Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001
Environmental Offsets Act 2014
Gene Technology Act 2001
Health Act 1937
Marine Parks Act 2004
Native Title Act 1993
Queensland Heritage Act 1992
Wet Tropics Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993
Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995

* The Biosecurity Act 2014 was passed in Parliament on 6 March 2014 and will come into effect by 1 July 2016.

The Act will provide the flexibility to respond in a timely and effective way to emergency and ongoing animal and plant pests and diseases. It will also manage risks of biological, chemical and physical contaminants associated with carriers such as livestock, plants, machinery, animal feed and fertilisers.

With the commencement of the Act the Agricultural Standards Act 1994, the Apiaries Act 1982, the Diseases in Timber Act 1975, the Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981, the Plant Protection Act 1989 and the Stock Act 1915 will be repealed.

The Act will also amend the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Fisheries Act 1994 and the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002.


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