

**The Redlands is home to different types of trees and vegetation that form an essential part of our distinctive character and environmental culture.**

There are many reasons Redland City Council encourages the community to treasure and nurture local vegetation.

Our trees and vegetation:

- help shape the natural beauty and colour that is Redlands
- provide and protect the habitat for plants and animals
- provide shade to buildings to reduce energy consumption
- are of historical, cultural, recreational and horticultural value
- help complement, and provide a place and space for, recreational activities
- provide green space and protect wildlife corridors
- protect waterways, prevent erosion and help improve air quality
- help diminish traffic noise and provide environmental screens
- help encourage a sense of peace and tranquility.

Did you know?  
We have many plant species that are distinctive to the Redlands.



## Here are some of the ways vegetation is protected

### Local Law 6 – Protection of Vegetation

Vegetation protection order

A vegetation protection order applies set criteria to protect vegetation on freehold (residential/business) land. It is administered by Council.

*Example, a property with a rare tree species.*

### Protected vegetation on land with potential for development (s24) or land approved for development (s25).

If your land has the potential to be subdivided under its current zoning or is approved for development (and has conditions imposed in relation to retaining vegetation), the vegetation on the property is protected.

It's worth checking with Council's Environmental Assessment Team, in case exemptions apply to your property.

### Redlands Planning Scheme

#### Habitat protection overlay

A habitat protection overlay is an area of land that is protected because of its valuable habitat and/or corridor linkages; this is protected under local and state government planning schemes.

*Example, an area that has koala habitat.*



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# The value of trees and vegetation in the Redlands



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## Can I cut down or trim a tree/vegetation on my property in the Redlands?

A large portion of Redland City is covered by vegetation protection.

There are a number of ways a property can be protected, which means you may have to request permission to cut down, trim or remove a tree or vegetation on your property.

Vegetation is protected by Council's local laws and policies, the Redlands Planning Scheme, and/or federal and state-based legislation in a number of ways.

Council recommends you check if vegetation is protected on your property before you trim or remove it.

## Who do I need to contact to find out if my property has protected vegetation?

Fines and penalties apply for damaging protected vegetation so, even if you are sure you are entitled to clear vegetation contact Council to ensure you are following the correct procedures for your property.

**Contact Council's Environment Assessment Team on 3829 8943.**

## What can I do if I have protected vegetation on my property?

**Step 1** - Contact Council's Environment Assessment Team on 3829 8943 to see if your property is protected.

**Step 2** - If you wish to remove vegetation it may be necessary to lodge a clearing application and gain approval (Council officers can tell you if this is the case for your property).

*There are conditions that are specific to individual properties, so you may have to do something different to your neighbour!*

Council can let you know what you need to do for your property.

**Step 3** - Lodge a clearing application and pay the associated fee.

**Step 4** - Remove/trim vegetation, only with conditioned approval from the relevant authorities.

## Movement of wildlife when felling or trimming trees

Under the Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- if a koala or other wildlife is identified in a tree or adjacent to a tree that is to be removed, no work can be undertaken until the koala or other wildlife has moved on of its own accord
- if the tree is a habitat tree, contains an active nest and/or supports hollows, it is the responsibility of the person authorised to fell or trim the tree to appoint a registered wildlife spotter to relocate the nest and/or inspect the hollows
- the person authorised to fell or trim the tree must follow the practices recommended by the registered wildlife spotter.

## Fences and trees

For information on conflict with your neighbours about fences and trees please contact the Department of Justice on 3239 6269.



## Other acts and information

In addition to Council's Local Law No. 6 and Local Law Policy No. 6, the trimming or lopping of trees in the Redlands is also governed by federal and state legislation.

### Federal legislation

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

### State legislation

Vegetation management and clearing is regulated by several state government Acts and regulatory provisions, including:

- *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- *Integrated Planning Act 1997*
- *South East Queensland Koala State Planning Regulatory Provisions 2010*
- *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031 Regulatory Provisions*
- *Neighbourhood Disputes Resolution Act 2011.*

Each Act/provision has a different function and any person proposing to clear vegetation may need approvals under one or more Act/provision, depending upon the geographic area, tenure of the land, whether or not the ecosystem is identified as a remnant ecosystem, and/or if the activity involves rare or threatened plants.

These Acts/provisions are regularly updated, so please check them for the most recent information.

Council recommends you check if vegetation is protected on your property before you trim or remove it.

