

Local Law (No 19) Protection of Vegetation

Fact sheet

The value of Maroochy's vegetation

Maroochy Shire is home to some of Southeast Queensland's most beautiful and ecologically valuable landscapes and habitats, and is enjoyed universally for recreation, education, inspiration and tourism.

We also need Maroochy's vegetation to maintain healthy ecosystems, wildlife corridors and biological diversity (the variety of plants and animals). The shire's myriad of plant and animal life sustains the quality of our soil, water and air. Excessive clearing of land not only results in the loss of valuable habitat but also contributes to soil erosion, salinity, degraded water quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits of living in areas where natural bush still exists:



- Vegetation provides valuable protection from sunlight and strong winds
- Greater variety and quantity of native wildlife
- Vegetation provides fresher and cleaner air
- Well vegetated areas fare better during severe storms and cyclones
- Cooler in summer and warmer in winter than cleared areas
- Increased value of properties, particularly as bushland areas become more scarce

When native vegetation is replaced with lawns and non native garden plants, numbers of feral animals (e.g. Indian mynas, spotted turtle-doves) and aggressive native birds increase, driving away other important native species.

Why do we need Local Law No 19?

Protection of our valuable natural assets is the key to preserving our wildlife and maintaining the unique way of life Maroochy residents currently enjoy. Council implemented Local Law No 19 in 1997, and amended it in 2007, to better protect significant vegetation on private property. Such vegetation can provide vitally important links between our fragmented natural areas.

Local Law No 19 aims to balance the needs of landholders with environmental issues. It enables Council to manage any necessary vegetation damage to ensure it occurs in an environmentally sensitive manner, and assists in prevention of unnecessary vegetation clearing.

Will I need a permit to clear trees on my property?

Under Local Law No 19, Maroochy's significant vegetation has been mapped as Vegetation Preservation Areas (VPAs). A Permit to Damage Vegetation will be required to carry out damage to native vegetation if your property lies within a VPA, unless your proposed work is considered to be Permitted Damage.

Log on to www.maroochy.qld.gov.au/environment for more information such as:

- Vegetation Preservation Areas (VPA) map
- Native vegetation and weed lists
- Interpretation of Permitted Damage and definitions
- Application for Permit to Damage Vegetation forms
- Suggested native species replanting information

Alternatively, contact Council on 07 5475 8501 or call in to a customer service centre at either Cnr Currie and Bury Streets, Nambour or Ocean Street, Maroochydore.