

FACT SHEET Remnant vegetation in Queensland

Report: Remnant vegetation in Queensland: Analysis of remnant vegetation 1997–1999–2000–2001, including regional ecosystem information

What is remnant vegetation?

Remnant vegetation is all intact and predominantly intact vegetation communities, excluding young regrowth.

What is in the report?

The report provides scientific data on the extent of remnant vegetation across the state, and for regional ecosystems across 60% of Queensland's landmass.

The report is based on detailed surveys and mapping. It provides a detailed analysis of the amount of pre-clearing and remnant vegetation in Queensland and the extent of clearing of remnant vegetation, based on individual regional ecosystems. This includes data on bioregions, subregions, local government areas, catchments and natural resource management areas.

The report provides an analysis of regional ecosystems including endangered, of-concern and not-of-concern regional ecosystems.

Is this report about tree clearing?

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy produces a separate report that assesses woody vegetation clearing, that is, the clearing of trees and shrubs. That report is called the *State Land and Trees Study* (SLATS) and does not record the clearing of non-woody vegetation.

The EPA's report has a broader focus and study parameters, as it measures the clearing of regional ecosystems, including grasslands, heathlands and closed forests.

Why have a remnant vegetation report?

The report provides maps and information to support planning and decision-making under Queensland's vegetation management legislation. For example, the data in the report supports regional planning at the local government, catchment and regional natural resource management body level. The EPA uses the data to support biodiversity planning and management, and community nature conservation.

What is the purpose of the data?

This information is essential for regional groups, non-government organisations, government departments, local government and business, for planning and management purposes.

Why is the EPA producing this report?

The Queensland Herbarium prepares the report for the EPA, which is the lead agency and custodian of regional ecosystem mapping for the state. This information complements the 2001 remnant vegetation maps released in late 2003.

Summary of key points

- ▶ After the proclamation of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the clearing rate of remnant vegetation in the 2000–2001 period reduced to 40% of the clearing rate in the 1999–2000 period.
- ▶ The average annual clearing rates for remnant vegetation across the study period were:

1997–1999	410,000 hectares per year
1999–2000	622,000 hectares per year
2000–2001	250,000 hectares per year
- ▶ In 1999 to 2000, prior to the proclamation of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the remnant regional ecosystem clearing occurred predominantly on freehold tenures (64%) and 35.6% on leasehold tenures. From 2000 to 2001, remnant regional ecosystem clearing occurred mainly on leasehold tenures (64%) with 35% on freehold tenures.
- ▶ The majority of the remnant vegetation clearing between 1999 and 2001 occurred in the Brigalow Belt bioregion (43%), the Mulga Lands bioregion (28%) and the Desert Uplands bioregion (16%).

Further information on the vegetation survey and mapping program and regional ecosystems can be found at www.epa.qld.gov.au.

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