



Office of the Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

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1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7360
Email nrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au

08 JUN 2018

Dr Kevin Harding
Australian Forest Growers
PO Box 351
MACQUARIE ACT 2614

kevin.harding@afg.asn.au

Dear Dr Harding

I refer to your letter dated 1 May 2018 addressed to the Honourable Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries concerning category C and category R high value regrowth areas to exclude areas of planted forest.

There is nothing in the recent amendments to vegetation management laws that changes the exemptions applying to native and non-native plantation forestry or undertaking a native forest practice on freehold land.

Planting, managing, felling and removing native and non-native plantations remains exempt from the requirements of the vegetation management framework. This exemption does not include clearing regulated vegetation for the initial establishment of a plantation. Undertaking a native forest practice on freehold land in accordance with the Native Forest Practice accepted development vegetation clearing code following notification to Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (the department) also remains exempt. The recent amendments to the definition of High Value Regrowth do not change these exemptions.

For this reason, no clarifications or amendments were required in response to the submission by Australian Forest Growers (AFG) on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

As you have also indicated, plantation forestry areas are generally mapped as Category X on the Regulated Vegetation Management Map. It is the practice of the department that if a plantation forestry area is incorrectly mapped as either Category A, B or C regulated vegetation, the department will, on request, remap these areas as Category X through the Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) process. This is likely to be classified as an "obvious error" and will be done free of charge.

Some plantation forestry may be located in Category R areas (along reef watercourses and drainage features). The plantation exemption as outlined above also applies to both native and non-native plantation forestry in these areas. Outside of plantation areas, native vegetation in category R areas can be managed using the Managing category R accepted development vegetation clearing code following notification to the department.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Matthew Cox, Policy Officer, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy who will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on (07) 3199 7929.

Yours sincerely



Paul Woodland
Chief of Staff

cc The Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
PO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001