

Vegetation Damage Signage

Policy

July 2018



PO Box 220 / DX 70506
19 King Edward Street
Ulverstone Tasmania 7315
Tel 03 6429 8900
Fax 03 6425 1224
admin@centralcoast.tas.gov.au
www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au

Table of Contents

POLICY	1
PURPOSE	1
SCOPE	1
PROCESS	1
PROCEDURE	1
SIGNAGE:.....	2
GUIDELINES:.....	2
REVIEW	2
RELATED DOCUMENTS	2

POLICY

The Vegetation Damage Signage Policy is to support the Council's vision and strategic objectives to protect and enhance Council-managed natural areas. Without stricter controls the ongoing, unauthorised vegetation clearance or damage to vegetation on Council-managed land will continue to cause deterioration, habitat modification and fragmentation of the coastal and riparian environments. Such activity is the greatest threat to local biodiversity.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to reduce and deter the occurrence of illegal removal or other disturbance to vegetation on public land.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to Council-managed Crown land and Council-owned parks and reserves with particular focus on coastal and riparian zones.

PROCESS

The Council will provide clear, accurate and consistent advice through correspondence and an ongoing education and awareness program to the community regarding the requirement for formal prior approval regarding the removal and/or trimming of trees or vegetation.

In the case of unauthorised removal of vegetation occurring, the Council may erect large billboard type signage on public land to educate the public about illegal clearing/damage.

These signs will contain a message regarding the consequences of removal of vegetation or revegetation from public land and may be installed for a period of up to five years or until the vegetation has regrown or been restored to its original state, whichever is the shorter period.

Additionally, other action available to the Council under the Crown Lands Act 1976 in response to unauthorised clearing may include rehabilitation of the site. In cases where the offender is caught in the act of unauthorised clearing, legal action may be initiated via the Forest Practices Authority.

PROCEDURE

Educational signage will be erected when clear breaches of the Crown Lands Act 1976 Part VI – Unlawful Acts relating to Crown Land have been identified.

- . Signage will be erected regardless of whether the identity of those responsible for the damage has been identified.
- . Replacement vegetation will be planted at the site of the damage to aid recovery where suitable.

- . Signage will remain in place up to a maximum period of five years. During this period, the signage can be removed following a review based on the rate of regrowth and recovery of the vegetation.
- . The sign size (Category) and height will depend on the extent and type of damage. There may be cases where more than one sign is installed.

SIGNAGE:

There are two size categories which are dictated by the scale of unauthorised vegetation damage:

- . Category A: 900mm x 600mm or 600mm x 900mm on posts up to 3m high.
- . Category B: 1,200mm x 900mm or 900mm x 1,200mm on posts up to 5m high.

Refer to Appendix for example of sign wording/layout.

GUIDELINES:

Category A –

Signage will be used where vegetation has been damaged (not including declared weeds), including new plantings and is deemed by a responsible Council Officer to have been between 0m and 1.5m in height prior to being damaged.

Category B –

Signage will be used where vegetation has been damaged (not including declared weeds) and is deemed by a responsible Council Officer to have been greater than 1.5m in height prior to being damaged (may have been a single tree). Height of posts will depend on the original height of the vegetation/tree.

Where a large area has been damaged more than one sign may be installed.

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three years, unless organisational and legislative changes require more frequent modification.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- . Crown Lands Act 1976 Part VI – Unlawful Acts relating to Crown Land;
- . Central Coast Strategic Plan 2014–2024.

Date of approval:/...../.....

Approved by:

.....

Sandra Ayton
GENERAL MANAGER

Appendix

Example for sign wording

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO DAMAGE
VEGETATION**

**Native vegetation provides increasingly valuable habitat for
native animals and prevents landslips and erosion**

**Damaging vegetation without a permit is illegal under the Crown Lands Act 1976 Part VI.
Report suspicious activity to the Central Coast Council on tel. 6429 8900.**

This sign will be removed when the vegetation re-establishes to its previous condition.

 **CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL**