

Environment Management Series

VEGETATION CLEARANCE & SOIL MANAGEMENT

TOOLBOX PRESENTATION

WHY DO WE NEED A PERMIT TO CLEAR VEGETATION?

- Native vegetation is protected by law.
- The Native Vegetation Act (1991) and associated NV regulations (2003) in South Australia regulates all vegetation clearance activities.
- PEPR requirements in mining areas require that we manage all vegetation clearance and soil management activities
- We have 2 QP's to ensure compliance to this legislation:

[QP50_65 Vegetation Clearance](#)

[QP50_66 Soil Management Plan](#)



VEGETATION CLEARANCE & SOIL MANAGEMENT



WHEN IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

A permit is required for any land disturbance or vegetation clearance

Examples below:

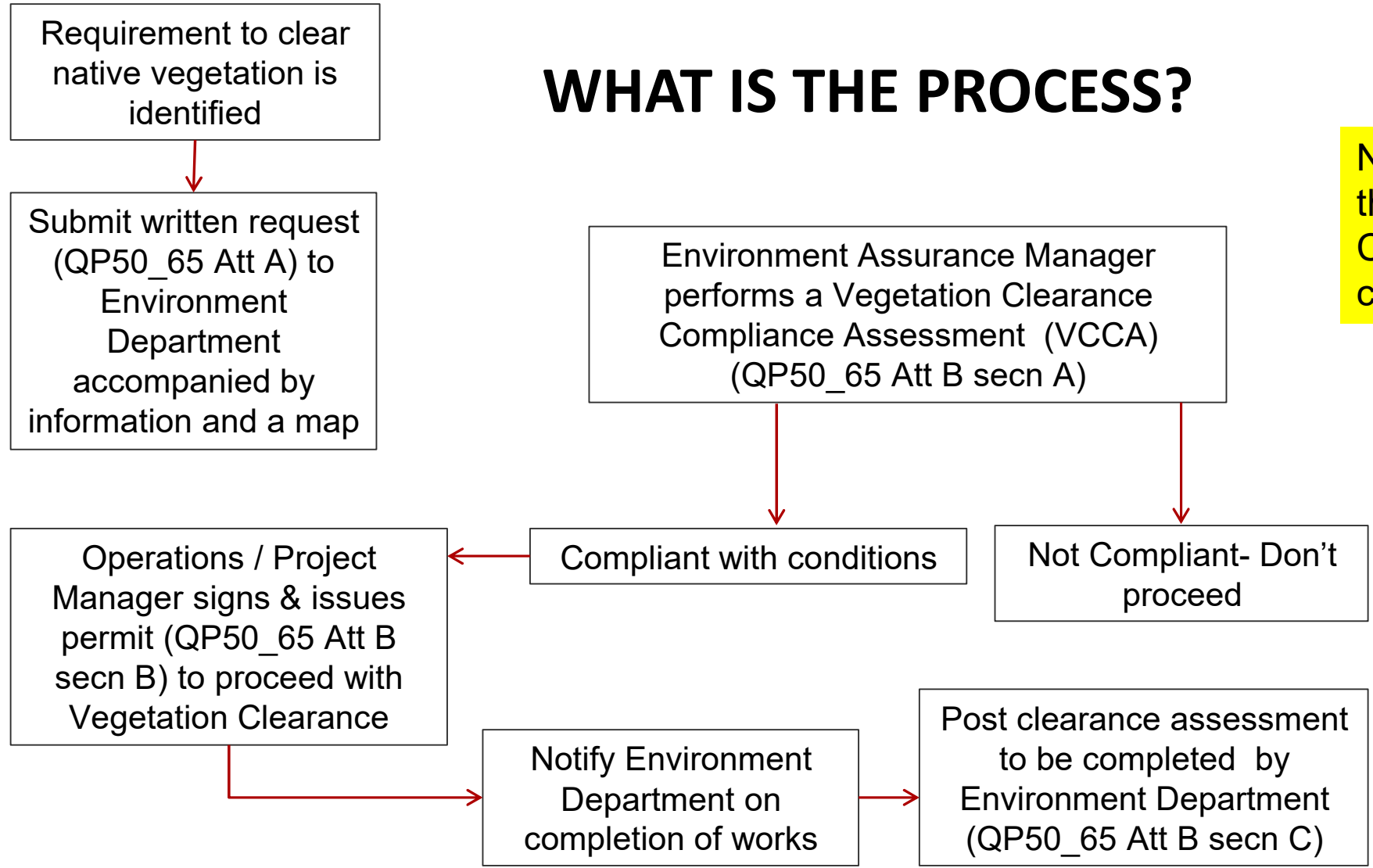
- any clearance of vegetation for exploration activities e.g. exploration access roads
- access roads
- offices
- laydown areas
- new or expansion of WRD's, TSF's
- expansion of existing excavations (mining pit areas)
- new excavations (mining pit areas)
- any other activity that will result in the removal, disturbance or clearance of native vegetation



Any vegetation clearance without the prior approvals must be reported as an environmental incident.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

NOTE to Contractors - Go through your Contractor Controller if any vegetation clearance is required



VEGETATION CLEARANCE & SOIL MANAGEMENT



WHY IS SOIL MANAGEMENT IMPORTANT?

Effective Soil Management is required to preserve soil health to enable successful rehabilitation

There are specific regulations & requirements relating to soil management

REGULATIONS -

- Mining tenements and approvals are provided by DEM (the Mining Regulator)
- Licences & approvals provide certain conditions that must be complied with
- A Programme for Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) provides specific conditions relating to soil management



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- QP50.66- Soil Management Plan contains all relevant information regarding correct soil collection & management
- The Soil Management Plan is to be applied to all Mining and Steelworks operations

The Soil Management Plan covers the management and mitigation of significant impacts related to the five main stages of soil management;

- Planning (6.1)
- Clearing (6.2)
- Stockpiling & Storage (6.3)
- Dispersal & Respreading (6.4)
- Monitoring & Reporting (6.5)



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

➤ **Planning (6.1)**

- Baseline vegetation/soil assessment
- Environment Assurance department must be consulted prior to any vegetation clearance & storage activities
- Determine clearance area as per PEPR & mine design / Site selection for stockpile areas
- Vegetation clearance permits



➤ **Clearing (6.2)**

- All requirements & conditions stated in the Vegetation Clearance Procedure (QP50.65) must be applied prior to any top soil stripping
- During land clearance activities, surface vegetation, top soil & sub soil to be stockpiled as per permit
- Soil to be stripped to agreed depth (minimum 200mm)

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

➤ Stockpiling & Storage (6.3)

- All stockpiles will be stored in designated areas with consideration to operational disturbance areas, drainage lines & surface water run-off
- Topsoil stockpiles are not to be compacted
- Stockpiles require adequate signage
- Stockpiles must not be disturbed. No vehicle activity on stockpiles
- Consider minimising timeframes for stockpile storage
- Must record all locations & volumes of stockpiles & update information as required as new stockpiles are developed
- Adequate dust management in accordance with QP50.68 (Fugitive Dust Ranking Standard)



VEGETATION CLEARANCE & SOIL MANAGEMENT



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

➤ **Dispersal & Respreading (6.4)**

- To be done in accordance to the PEPR Rehabilitation Plan
- Rehabilitation planning will include respreading considerations & in consultation with Environment Department



➤ **Monitoring & Reporting (6.5)**

- Top soil stockpile audits as per site EMP
- Ongoing inspections post rehabilitation to ensure erosion is minimised in accordance with rehabilitation plan



WHY IS VEGETATION CONSERVATION IMPORTANT?

Native vegetation plays a vital role in the health and prosperity of South Australia's ecosystems, communities and natural resource-based industries

Remnant vegetation plays a vital role in rehabilitating mine sites and industrial sites

