

## Clearing Scrubland With Scythes Or Machetes Risk Assessment

|                   |        |        |  |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Business Name:    |        | ABN:   |  |
| Business Address: |        |        |  |
| Contact Person:   | Phone: | Email: |  |

### THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THIS PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.

|            |        |       |
|------------|--------|-------|
| Full Name: |        |       |
| Signature: | Title: | Date: |

### CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Client:   | SCOPE OF WORKS |
| Project Name:                                     |                |
| Project Address:                                  |                |
| Project Manager:                                  |                |
| Contact Phone:                                    |                |
| Date Risk Assessment supplied to Project Manager: |                |

| RISK MATRIX  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   |  |  |
|--|---|---------------|--------------------|------------|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| LIKELIHOOD   | INSIGNIFICANT                               | MINOR         | MODERATE           | MAJOR      | CATASTROPHIC   | SCORE          | ACTION                            | HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS  |  |
| ALMOST CERTAIN   | 3<br>HIGH                                   | 3<br>HIGH     | 4<br>ACUTE         | 4<br>ACUTE | 4<br>ACUTE   |                |                                   | <b>Elimination</b><br>Remove the hazard.   |  |
| LIKELY   | 2<br>MODERATE                               | 3<br>HIGH     | 3<br>HIGH          | 4<br>ACUTE | 4<br>ACUTE   | 4A<br>ACUTE    | DO NOT PROCEED                    | <b>Substitution</b><br>Replace the hazard.   |  |
| POSSIBLE   | 1<br>LOW                                    | 2<br>MODERATE | 3<br>HIGH          | 4<br>ACUTE | 4<br>ACUTE   | 3H<br>HIGH     | Review before work starts.        | Isolation<br>Isolate People from the hazard  |  |
| UNLIKELY   | 1<br>LOW                                    | 1<br>LOW      | 2<br>MODERATE      | 3<br>HIGH  | 4<br>ACUTE   | 2M<br>MODERATE | Ensure control measures in place. | <b>Engineering</b><br>Isolate the hazard   |  |
| RARE   | 1<br>LOW                                    | 1<br>LOW      | 2<br>MODERATE      | 3<br>HIGH  | 3<br>HIGH  | 1L<br>LOW      | Monitor and keep records.         | <b>Administrative</b><br>Change  |  |
|  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | <b>PPE</b>   |  |
| <b>Risk Rating &amp; Required Action:</b>  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | <b>Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:</b>   |  |
| 4A Stop work. The risk is intolerable. Eliminate the hazard or redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or higher-level authorisation is required. |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:   |  |
| 3H Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.   |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | 1. <b>Eliminate</b>  |  |
| 2M Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.   |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | 2. Substitute  |  |
| 1L Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.   |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | 3. Isolate   |  |
|  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | 4. Engineering   |  |
|  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | 5. Administrative  |  |
|  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | 6. PPE   |  |
| <b>Consequence Scale:</b>  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | Always document <b>why</b> a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable. |  |
| Consequence  | People (injury/illness)                     |               | Project / Assets   |            | Compliance / Reputation                                  |                |                                   |  |  |
| Catastrophic   | Fatality or permanent total disability      |               | project shutdown   |            | Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution |                |                                   |  |  |
| Major  | Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)  |               | critical delay     |            | Improvement notice; major media coverage                 |                |                                   |  |  |
| Moderate   | Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day |               | moderate delay     |            | Minor breach; adverse client comment                     |                |                                   |  |  |
| Minor  | First-aid only, no lost time                |               | negligible delay   |            | Isolated non-conformance                                 |                |                                   |  |  |
| Insignificant  | No injury                                   |               | no schedule impact |            | Deviation caught and corrected on site                   |                |                                   |  |  |
|  |   |               |                    |            |  |                |                                   | <i>aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.</i>      |  |

| JOB STEP            | POTENTIAL HAZARDS                                       | IR           | CONTROL MEASURES  | RR            |
|---------------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|
| SPECIFIC WORK STEPS | HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE                                  | INITIAL RISK | SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS  | RESIDUAL RISK |
| 1. Preparation      | Lack of equipment knowledge, Inadequate protective gear | 3H           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct thorough training on tool use</li> <li>- Issue and enforce use of appropriate PPE</li> <li>- Ensure availability of first aid kits</li> <li>- Emphasise importance of clear communication among workers</li> <li>- Check all equipment for readiness</li> <li>- Establish emergency procedures</li> <li>- Confirm weather conditions are acceptable</li> <li>- Allow adequate rest periods</li> <li>- Implement buddy system</li> <li>- Review and confirm risk assessment to all workers</li> </ul> | 2M            |
| 2. Site Inspection  | Hidden obstacles, Uneven terrain                        | 3H           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perform initial walk-through of site</li> <li>- Mark and remove any visible hazards</li> <li>- Use cone marking for uneven surfaces</li> <li>- Ensure team aware of high-risk areas</li> <li>- Document unusual site features</li> <li>- Alert all workers to high-traffic areas</li> <li>- Measure and assess slope gradients</li> <li>- Establish boundaries for safe work zones</li> <li>- Use spotters where necessary</li> <li>- Ensure clear communication protocols</li> </ul>                        | 2M            |
| 3. Tool Selection   | Inappropriate tool choice, Defective equipment          | 3H           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use tools suited to vegetation type</li> <li>- Inspect tools before use</li> <li>- Maintain tools regularly</li> <li>- Provide workers with tool selection guidance</li> <li>- Ensure backup tools are available</li> <li>- Implement a tool checklist system</li> <li>- Provide storage solutions to avoid damage</li> <li>- Regularly sharpen and clean blades</li> </ul>  | 1L            |

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|  |   |              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow manufacturer's guidance</li> <li>- Educate workers on tool limitations</li> </ul>   |               |
| 4. Clearing Plan Development           | Ineffective planning, Overlapping tasks | 3H           | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> | 2M            |
| 5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | Inadequate PPE, incorrectly worn PPE    | 3H           | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>                   | 1L            |
| 6. Beginning of Work                   | Slip and trip, Startle responses        | 3H           | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>   | 2M            |

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|                                 |                                |              |  |               |
| 7. Tool Maintenance During Work | Dull blades, Improper repairs  | 3H           |  | 1L            |
| 8. Terrain Navigation           | Falls, Trips over debris       | 4A           |  | 2M            |
| 9. Communication Protocols      | Miscommunication, Lost contact | 3H           |  | 1L            |

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|--|--|--------------|---|---------------|
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|  |  |              | <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>   |               |
| 10. First Aid and Emergency Procedures | Injury delays, Ineffective response      | 4A           | <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> | 2M            |
| 11. Controlling Fire Hazard            | Tool sparks, Flammable vegetation        | 4A           | <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> | 2M            |
| 12. End of Day Tasks                   | Tool misplacement, Inadequate securement | 3H           | <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>   | 1L            |

| JOB STEP                           | POTENTIAL HAZARDS                                   | IR           | CONTROL MEASURES   | RR            |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|---------------|
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|                                    |   |              |  |               |
| 13. Weather Condition Adjustments  | Heat stress, Wet equipment                          | 3H           |  | 2M            |
| 14. Wildlife and Insects           | Animal attacks, Insect stings                       | 3H           |  | 1L            |
| 15. Disposal of Cleared Vegetation | Accumulation leading to blockages, Unsecured debris | 3H           |  | 2M            |

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|                     |                        |              | <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> |               |
|                     |                        |              |   |               |

SAMPLE



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

### Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

### New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

### Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

### Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

### Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

### South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

### Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.