

## Clearing Vegetation From Site Risk Assessment

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

## THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THE 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 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	<b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.	
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	Isolation Isolate People from the hazard	
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	<b>Administrative</b> Change	
								<b>PPE</b>	

### Risk Rating & Required Action:

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.
3H	Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
2M	Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.
1L	Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.

### Consequence Scale:

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

### Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:

Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:

1. **Eliminate**
2. Substitute
3. Isolate
4. Engineering
5. Administrative
6. PPE

Always document **why** a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.

*aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.*

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 personal protective equipment, slippery surfaces	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a pre-start safety meeting to outline tasks and identify hazards</li> <li>- Ensure all personnel are equipped with hard hats, gloves, and high-visibility vests</li> <li>- Mark slippery areas with cones or signs</li> <li>- Brief all personnel on emergency procedures and contacts</li> <li>- Establish a communication plan during work</li> <li>- Review the site safety plan</li> <li>- Ensure first-aid kits are available on-site</li> <li>- Verify all equipment has been maintained and is in safe working order</li> <li>- Restrict access to non-workers</li> <li>- Schedule work during daylight for better visibility</li> </ul>	2M
2. Site Inspection	understand hazards, understand terrain	2H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a walk-through of the site to identify potential hazards</li> <li>- Document all identified hazards in a risk assessment</li> <li>- Use maps and plans to identify terrain</li> <li>- Communicate site hazards to the team</li> <li>- Ensure local wildlife is considered</li> <li>- Have terrain navigation aids on hand</li> <li>- Assess weather conditions impact</li> <li>- Record conditions in site log</li> <li>- Ensure safe paths are marked</li> <li>- Update risk assessment if necessary</li> </ul>	1L
3. Establishment of Work Zone	undefined work boundaries, poor signage	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clearly mark work zone boundaries with rope or barriers</li> <li>- Install adequate signage to indicate workers' presence</li> <li>- Outline exclusion zones for machinery use</li> <li>- Ensure supervisors circulate through all zones</li> <li>- Provide clear signs for entry and exit points</li> <li>- Use high-visibility signs</li> <li>- Confirm barriers are stable and secure</li> <li>- Assign a safety officer on-site</li> </ul>	2M

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regularly inspect the integrity of barriers</li> <li>- Communicate zone changes to workers</li> </ul>	
4. Equipment Inspection	mechanical failure, misuse of tools	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspect equipment before use</li> <li>- Use correct tools for the job</li> <li>- Follow manufacturer's instructions</li> <li>- Wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>- Ensure equipment is in good condition</li> <li>- Report any faults or damage</li> <li>- Do not use damaged equipment</li> <li>- Keep work area clear</li> <li>- Use correct lifting techniques</li> <li>- Avoid overloading equipment</li> <li>- Ensure proper storage</li> </ul>	2M
5. Vegetation Identification	incorrect plant identification, toxic plants	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consult a qualified person</li> <li>- Use a plant identification guide</li> <li>- Take samples for identification</li> <li>- Avoid touching or ingesting plants</li> <li>- Wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>- Report any allergic reactions</li> <li>- Avoid using plants for food or medicine</li> <li>- Dispose of plants correctly</li> <li>- Keep work area clear</li> <li>- Use correct lifting techniques</li> <li>- Avoid overloading equipment</li> <li>- Ensure proper storage</li> </ul>	1L
6. Manual Clearing	musculoskeletal injury, cuts and abrasions	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use correct tools and techniques</li> <li>- Wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>- Avoid overexertion</li> <li>- Use correct lifting techniques</li> <li>- Avoid overloading equipment</li> <li>- Ensure proper storage</li> <li>- Keep work area clear</li> <li>- Use correct lifting techniques</li> <li>- Avoid overloading equipment</li> <li>- Ensure proper storage</li> <li>- Keep work area clear</li> </ul>	2M

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7. Mechanical Clearing	entrapment, overloading equipment	3H		2M
8. Vegetation Disposal	fire risk, ineffective clearing	3H		2M
9. Soil Disturbance	soil erosion, unstable ground	3H		2M

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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	
10. Wildlife Interaction	animal attacks, disease transmission	3H	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	2M
11. Hazardous Chemical Management	chemical exposure, spills	3H	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	2M
12. Noise Control	hearing damage, communication breakdown	2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	1L

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13. Dust Management	respiratory issues, reduced visibility	3H		2M
14. Extreme Weather	heat stress, hypothermia	3H		2M
15. End of Day Site Check	unclosed gates, left-over debris	2M		1L

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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>

### 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>

### 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>

### 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.

### 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>

### 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>

### 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