

## **Operational policy - Vegetation management map certification and release dates**

**ABC/2021/5791**

**Version 2.00**

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## Version History

Version	Date	Comments
1.00	23/11/2021	Document approved
2.00	12/01/2024	Minor amendments from the VM Framework Improvements 2023

## Approval

Position	Name	Date
Executive Director, Lands Policy and Support	Lyall Hinrichsen	23/11/2021
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# 1 Purpose

This operational policy outlines how to apply version dates of vegetation management maps to applications or alleged offences under the vegetation management framework.

## 2 Policy

Vegetation management maps include the:

- Regulated Vegetation Management Map
- Vegetation Management Supporting Map
- Essential Habitat Map
- Vegetation Management Watercourse and Drainage Feature Map
- Vegetation Management Wetland Map.

The regulated vegetation management map and the vegetation management supporting map identify the vegetation categories and regional ecosystems, wetlands, watercourse and drainage features and essential habitat needed to determine clearing requirements as specified in the vegetation management framework.

When maps are updated under the vegetation management framework there are generally two relevant dates: the certification date and the publication date. These dates are explained below.

### 2.1 Certification date

Section 20HC of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA) provides for when a vegetation management map takes effect. The provision states that the vegetation management map does not take effect until the map is certified by the chief executive. See extract below:

**20HC When vegetation management map takes effect**

A vegetation management map or a map replacing a vegetation management map does not take effect until the map is certified by the chief executive.

### 2.2 Publication time and date

After a map is certified there is generally a period of time before the map data can be made publicly available (publication date). The publication date is generally between 5 and 10 business days following certification by the chief executive of Department of Resources or delegate. This period of time allows mapping data to be prepared for release through the various data portals used by the department such as the Queensland Globe, maps online and QSpatial. Map updates are generally publicly available through data portals by 12 pm (publication time) on the publication date.

### 2.3 Policy position

The department's policy position is that 12 pm (midday) on the publication date is to be used when determining which version of vegetation management mapping applies to an application or an alleged offence which is being assessed or investigated by the department. Using the publication time and date in decision making where relevant, as opposed to the certification date, provides a more fair, just and reasonable approach for clients.

### 3 Further information

For publication dates after 10 May 2018 and all certification dates and historical data please contact the vegetation data team via the JIRA service: [Vegetation Data request - Resources - Jira Service Management](#).

For publication dates prior to 10 May 2018 please contact the vegetation policy and support team via email: [VMEnquiries@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:VMEnquiries@resources.qld.gov.au). These dates will require consideration on a case by case basis as the publication dates were not consistently recorded and will require further research.

For department officers, where an issue or scenario arises that you need assistance with, please raise with your supervisor, manager or relevant working group for clarification.

The Vegetation Management Supporting Map labels regional ecosystem numbers that should be read in conjunction with information contained within the Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (or VM REDD). Further information about the certified database and its date of effect are provided in sections 22I, 22J, 22K, and 22L of the VMA.

### 4 Legislation

- Section 20HC, *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA), When vegetation management map takes effect
- Section 22I, VMA, What is the Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (or VM REDD)
- Section 22J, VMA, Certification of database
- Section 22K, VMA, When database in effect as VM REDD
- Section 22L, VMA, Publication of VM REDD

### 5 Review

Review of this document will be undertaken every 2 years.

### 6 Keywords

VEG/2021/5791; Vegetation Management; Resources; Department of Resources; vegetation management map; map; certification date; certification; certified map; publication date; Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database; VM REDD; certified database.