

**Construction Specification
for Civil Works**

C212 – Clearing and Grubbing

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GENERAL

C212.01 SCOPE

This Specification is for the clearing of all vegetation, both living and dead, all minor man-made structures (such as fences), all rubbish and other materials which are unsuitable for use in the Works, the chipping of the crowns of trees and the branches of shrubs, and the grubbing of trees and stumps from the area where clearing and grubbing is required. The work also includes the disposal of all materials that have been cleared and grubbed. All natural landscape features, including natural rock outcrops, natural vegetation, soil and watercourses are to remain undisturbed except where affected by the Works.

Extent of Work

The Constructor shall ensure that all regulatory approvals have been obtained for the Works and that the clearing of vegetation, and the removal of minor man-made structures has been adequately assessed. The Development Consent, Environmental Assessment and any other relevant documentation, along with the proposed mitigation measures, shall be adhered to at all times during clearing and grubbing operations.

Approvals

C212.02 DEFINITIONS

The Works – Defined as follows:

The Works

- **Developer Infrastructure Works** - work includes subdivisions and any public infrastructure work associated with an approved Development in the ARC local government area requiring a construction certificate.
- **Contracted Works** – infrastructure work undertaken by a Principal Contractor or subcontractor formally appointed by ARC and supervised by ARC.
- **Internal Works** - infrastructure work undertaken by ARC’s day labour workforce.

Constructor – Defined as the organisation responsible for construction of the Works and the Principal Contractor as defined in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

Constructor

ARC Representative – Defined as follows:

ARC Representative

- **Developer Infrastructure Works** – Nominated ARC officer(s) for the approved Development.
- **For Contracted Works** – the Superintendent.
- **For Internal Works** – ARC Asset Owner

Constructor’s Representative – Defined as follows:

Constructor’s Representative

- **Contracted Works** – the Principal Contractor’s nominated representative as per the relevant contract.
- **Internal Works** – ARC officer responsible for delivery.

Developer’s Representative– Defined as the person or organisation appointed by the Developer to administer the Constructor responsible for the delivery of Developer Infrastructure Works.

Developer’s Representative

C212.03 REFERENCES

Documents referenced in this Specification are listed in full below whilst being cited in the text in the abbreviated form or code indicated.

*Documents
Standards Test
Methods*

Where not otherwise specified in the relevant Armidale Regional Council (ARC) Specifications or the approved design drawings, the Constructor shall use the latest versions of the Reference documentation, including amendments and supplements, listed in the ARC Construction Specifications at the time of the Works approval.

Currency

(a) Armidale Regional Council (ARC) Specifications

- C212 - Control of Erosion and Sedimentation.
- C273 - Landscaping.

*ARC
Specifications*

C212.04 EROSION CONTROL

In advance of or in conjunction with clearing and grubbing operations, effective erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be implemented in accordance with C212 - *Control of Erosion and Sedimentation*.

Erosion Control

C212.05 LIMITS OF CLEARING

Where shown on approved design drawings, unless otherwise specified or directed by the ARC Representative, the area to be cleared is that required by site regrading works, including the area occupied by the completed road formation and associated drainage works and erosion and sedimentation measures, plus a clearance of 2m beyond tops of cuts and toes of embankments. The Constructor shall ensure that only the absolute minimum area for construction is cleared.

Limits of Clearing

Before clearing commences, the limits of clearing shall be delineated around the area to be cleared.

Indicator Pegs

C212.06 CLEARING OPERATIONS

It is the responsibility of the Constructor to remove all vegetation, minor man-made structures, rubbish and other materials and dispose of all materials, not being incorporated into the Works at a licenced waste disposal facility. The Constructor shall plan clearing operations such that wherever possible, clearing is carried out progressively and only the minimum area of land is left disturbed at any time.

Extent

The Constructor shall give the ARC Representative and/or the Developer's Representative (for Developer Infrastructure Works), written notice of the intention to clear any area of the Works site. The Constructor shall arrange for an inspection by the ARC Representative and/or the Developer's Representative (for Developer Infrastructure Works) and shall obtain the approval of the ARC Representative and/or the Developer's Representative (for Developer Infrastructure Works) to proceed with clearing and grubbing. Trees that shall be preserved shall be protected during site work by the erection of solid barricades, as shown on the approved design drawings, Environmental Management Plan or other approval processes.

Trees to be Preserved

HOLD POINT

Notification shall be given to the ARC Representative and/or the Developer's Representative (for Developer Infrastructure Works) that the limits of clearing have been pegged, trees to be preserved have adequate protection, and that all other controls and approvals are in place for the commencement of clearing and grubbing operations. Evidence pertaining to this shall be submitted at least five (5) working days prior to commencement.

Hold Point

PROCESS HELD: Commencement of clearing and grubbing.

The Constructor shall take all reasonable measures to prevent damage to existing underground and overhead utility services.

Utility Services

The erection of structures, excavation and filling, changes to soil profiles, stockpiling of spoil, storage of other materials and driving or parking of any vehicle within the drip zone of trees to be retained shall not be permitted.

Disturbance Near Trees

The Constructor shall plan all operations to ensure that there is no damage to any trees outside the limits of clearing. No growing trees shall be destroyed or damaged by the Constructor other than those designated and approved for removal.

Trees outside Limits of Work

If directed by the ARC Representative, any branch, which overhangs the road formation, shall be cut back to within 0.5m of the tree trunk and disposed of in accordance with Clause C212.09.

Overhanging branches

Every precaution shall be taken to prevent timber from falling on private property and the Constructor shall dispose of any fallen timber or produce the written consent of the owner to it remaining there. The cost of disposal of such fallen timber shall be borne by the Constructor. Prior to entering private property, the Constructor shall obtain consent from the ARC Representative and/or the Developer's Representative (for Developer Infrastructure Works) as well as the property owner.

Debris in Private Property

Damage of any kind, including damage to vegetation and minor man-made structures, occurring during clearing operations shall be made good by the Constructor. The cost of making good such damage shall be borne by the Constructor.

Damage to Property

C212.07 GRUBBING

All trees and stumps, on or within the limits of clearing, unable to be felled and removed by the clearing methods used by the Constructor shall be removed by grubbing.

Extent

Grubbing operations shall be carried out to a depth of 0.5m below the natural surface or 1.5m below the finished surface level, whichever is the lower.

Depth

Holes remaining after trees and stumps have been grubbed shall be backfilled promptly with material, which has similar characteristics to the adjacent material, to prevent the infiltration and ponding of water. The backfilling material shall be compacted to at least the relative density of the material existing in the adjacent ground.

Backfill Holes

C212.08 CHIPPING OF CLEARED VEGETATION

The Constructor shall produce a woodchip and mulch derived from crowns of trees, branches of shrubs cleared under this Specification. The wood-chip mulch produced shall be stockpiled for subsequent use in accordance with C273 - *Landscaping* or for use at other locations as appropriate.

Wood-chip Mulch

Where appropriate, or required as part of the Works approval, hollow branches may remain on the site. Where insufficient guidance is provided with the Works approval direction shall be sought from the ARC Representative and/or the Developer's Representative (for Developer Infrastructure Works).

Hollow Branches

The wood-chip mulch shall be produced from branches having a maximum diameter of 100mm and the chipped material produced shall not have two (2) orthogonal dimensions exceeding 75mm and 50mm.

Dimensions

If the woodchip mulch is not incorporated into the Works, it shall be disposed of at a licenced organics recycling facility.

C212.09 DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS

Unless otherwise specified elsewhere, all materials cleared and grubbed in accordance with this Specification shall become the property of the Constructor and shall be removed from the Works site and legally disposed of.

Removal from Site

Disposal of timber and other combustible materials by burning shall not be permitted.

Burning not Permitted

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