



# How to measure stem diameter

There are size restrictions that apply to trees that may be cleared (by notification and certification) under the *Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018* (the Code). This fact sheet demonstrates how to measure stem diameter or 'diameter at breast height over bark' (DBHOB). By knowing how to measure stem size, you can be sure to clear safely in accordance with the Code.

## Part 3 Pasture Expansion

### Uniform thinning of woody native vegetation (notification and certification)

This part of the Code allows you to thin woody vegetation including trees and shrubs to predetermined densities to provide for improved pasture availability for grazing livestock.

#### Clearing of native vegetation allowed under this Code part

You can remove native trees and shrubs from a treatment area as long as:

- the density of remaining native trees and shrubs in the treatment area is the number of stems per hectare specified in the code,
- the retained are, as far as reasonably possible, evenly dispersed, and
- all native trees in the treatment area with a diameter at breast height over bark (DBHOB) greater than 90 centimetres are retained.

### Mosaic thinning of woody native vegetation (certification)

#### Clearing of native vegetation allowed under this Code part

You can remove native trees and shrubs from a treatment area as long as:

- the canopy cover of the remaining native over-story in the treatment area comprises at least 30% of the total treatment area,
- all native trees in the treatment area with a diameter at breast height over bark greater than 90 centimetres are retained, and
- retained native vegetation are, as far as reasonably possible, in patches of at least five hectares evenly distributed throughout the treatment area.

## Part 2 INS

### Clearing of invasive native species

Managing invasive native species (INS) provides for the removal of listed native species that have reached unnatural densities and have begun to act invasively over an area of land. INS can dominate a treatment area, and so may be cleared to promote regeneration of native vegetation.

#### Clearing of native vegetation allowed under this Code part

1. Clearing is limited to individual plants that are invasive native species, with clearing of non-INS to be to the minimum extent necessary.
2. Only INS trees with a diameter at breast height over bark of 20cm or less may be cleared, except for the following species, where only INS trees with a diameter at breast height over bark of 30cm or less may be cleared:

## Want to know more?

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You'll find other land management resources including fact sheets

**Call us:** 1300 795 299 and ask for an officer to advise you on land management

**Email us:** [slm.info@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:slm.info@lls.nsw.gov.au)

**See us:** drop into your nearest Local Land Services office



**Local Land Services**

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- *Acacia aneura* (Mulga)
- *Acacia excelsa* (Ironwood)
- *Callitris endlicheri* (Black Cypress Pine)
- *Callitris glaucophylla* (White Cypress Pine)
- *Casuarina cristata* (Belah)
- *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum)
- *Eucalyptus coolabah* (Coolibah)
- *Eucalyptus intertexta* (Red Box)
- *Eucalyptus largiflorens* (Black Box)
- *Eucalyptus populnea subsp. bimbil* (Bimble Box, Poplar Box)
- *Geijera parviflora* (Wilga)

## Measuring by tape

The diameter at breast height over bark (DBHOB) is measured 1.3 metres from the ground. If there are multiple stems on a tree then the diameter is measured on the largest stem.

Figure 1 shows a simple way of measuring DBHOB. A special DBHOB measuring tape can be used for a more accurate measure. This tree measures a diameter or 'width' of 80 centimetres at the

height as shown. Clearing under the Code allows a maximum 90cm DBHOB to be removed for pasture expansion, and a maximum of 30cm for certain INS species.

## Measuring by string or rope

A specially calibrated diameter tape, sometimes referred to as a foresters tape, displays the diameter measurement when wrapped around the outside (circumference) of a tree. They are not likely to 'be on hand' so if you don't have access to one you can still easily find the diameter of the tree using a string or rope, a measuring tape and a calculator.

3. With the measuring tape, measure 1.3m feet up the trunk of the tree from the ground and mark the height on the tree.
4. Wrap the string/rope around the tree trunk at the 1.3m height. Make sure the string is straight and tight around the trunk, and mark or cut the circumference on the string/rope.
5. Now measure the length of string. This will give you the total circumference of the tree.
6. Now divide the circumference by 3.14 to convert the circumference measurement to diameter

Figure 1: Measuring diameter at breast height over bark (1.3 metres above ground).



### Did you know?

There is a video tutorial that can help you understand the process. Visit <http://bit.ly/measuringDBHOB> to check it out.