

Confidentiality Requested: yes

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Content:

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

I am unclear and require clarification in regards to "exempt development"

In Division 4 Exempt development 15 General requirements for exempt development (g) must not involve the removal or pruning of a tree or other vegetation that requires a permit or development consent for removal or pruning, unless that removal or pruning is undertaken in accordance with a permit or development consent and Note. A permit for the removal or pruning of a tree or other vegetation may be granted under a local environmental plan. A development consent for the removal of native vegetation may be granted under the Native Vegetation Act 2003.

This statement is quite clear that a permit or consent is required.

However it states in Part 4 Schools "specific development controls, 32 Existing schools " exempt development (1) (g) a sporting field, tennis court, basketball court or any other type of court used for sport, and associated awnings or canopies, if the development does not involve the clearing of more than 2 hectares of native vegetation,

my question is, does the school still require a permit or consent should the local control authority of that area have such a requirement in place? Or are they exempt if it is under 2 hectares in size?

Also it would seem in such a time of environmental awareness and concern and knowing the value and importance of native vegetation in regards to habitat (i.e. the removal of habitat has been identified as the biggest threat to biodiversity), that an area of up to two hectares being cleared without approval would be extreme and have enormous negative consequences. This is particularly true for Urban areas where these smaller areas of bushland not only provide scarce habitat but are also "Stepping Stones" of habitat that provide connectivity (wildlife corridors) between larger habitat areas.

Thank you for your consideration and waiting with anxious concern for your response.