



## Determining whether groundcover has been significantly disturbed – Part 5 Equity, Division 2 Clearing compromised groundcover

NUMBER	VERSION 1.0
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### Policy Statement

The aim of this policy is to provide guidance on determining whether groundcover has been significantly disturbed when determining percentages of native composition of groundcover.

### Context

Part 5 Equity Division 2 Clearing compromised groundcover of the Code states that when calculating the proportion of native composition of groundcover, the percentage must not be calculated if the groundcover has been significantly disturbed in the preceding six months, for example by fire, drought or heavy grazing.

Clear guidance is needed so that LLS can advise landholders, or undertake assessments themselves, under this division of the Code whether an area is significantly disturbed. If a treatment area is significantly disturbed in the preceding six months, this division of the Code cannot be applied.

### Scope

This policy applies to areas of the State to which the *LLS Act* has effect.

### Policy Position

In the context of making determinations of compromised groundcover under Part 5 Equity Division 2, the main issue when considering whether groundcover has been significantly disturbed is the ability to distinguish native from exotic groundcover vegetation.

When a landholder, or a suitably experienced professional, is calculating the percentage of vegetation cover in a treatment area the area is taken to be significantly disturbed when the individual undertaking the assessment is unable to reliably distinguish the groundcover vegetation as native or exotic.

However, the person undertaking the assessment must ensure that they are able to meet the remaining requirements outlined in this division, including: calculations undertaken in a scientific and objective manner; and, calculated at the time of the year when the proportion of native groundcover is likely to be at its maximum (e.g. not during winter, and not during an flush of annual exotic species).



**Roles and responsibilities**

LLS has responsibility for ensuring landholders apply the Land Management Framework consistent with the LLS Act

**Legislation**

*Local Land Services Act 2013*

**Related references**

*Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018*

**Revision history**

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	5/10/2018	N/A	Acting Group Director

**Review date**

This policy will be reviewed in 6 months.

**Contact**

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