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## SECTION 201 - SITE CLEARING

### 201.01 DESCRIPTION

This section covers the requirements for site clearing and grubbing and for the management of the materials generated.

### 201.02 DEFINITION

#### Clearing and Grubbing

Clearing and grubbing is the removal within specified limits of:

- (a) vegetation such as trees, tree stumps, tree roots, logs, brush, noxious weeds and decayed vegetable matter; and
- (b) refuse such as pole stumps, rubbish dumps and sawdust piles resting on or protruding from the ground surface; and
- (c) obstructions such as concrete paving, concrete edgings, drainage pits, foundations, fences and disused structures, but not underground obstructions such as drainage pipes, service conduits and fuel tanks.

### 201.03 LIMITS OF WORK

Unless otherwise specified, the limits of clearing and grubbing shall be:

- ~~(a) the whole length between the following chainages:~~
- ~~(b) the whole width between the outside edges of any batters, including any roundings, together with a further horizontal distance of 1 m beyond the outside edges of batters but not beyond the road reserve boundary or, where catch drains are required, to the outside edges of catch drains;~~
- (c) not more than the width required for completion of the work under the Contract.

### 201.04 CLEARING

Unless otherwise specified, the area within the specified limits shall be cleared of all vegetation, refuse and obstructions down to natural surface. The Contractor shall not undertake any clearing work or any type of disturbance outside of the specified limits of work unless approved by the Superintendent.

Trees shall be brought down in such manner as to avoid danger to personnel and traffic or damage to other trees, shrubs, structures or property outside the area being cleared or designated to be retained within the area being cleared.

Where the road passes through Crown Land or State Forest, royalties are payable by the Contractor to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) for all timber which in the opinion of the DSE is suitable for milling or for other commercial use.

Tree branches extending over the carriageway shall be trimmed to provide a clearance of at least 6 m above the carriageway surface. Where whole branches are to be removed, the Contractor shall use the three cut method which requires:

- (a) the under cut;
- (b) the upper cut (further away from the trunk than (a) above) to remove the branch; and
- (c) the final trim cut which is to be cut close to the main trunk but outside the branch collar.

### 201.05 GRUBBING

In areas where excavation will be made, all vegetation, refuse and obstructions shall be totally grubbed or grubbed to a depth of not less than 0.3 m below the subgrade and batters, whichever is the lesser treatment.

In areas to be covered by embankments, all vegetation, refuse and obstructions shall be grubbed to a depth of not less than 0.3 m below the stripped surface or not less than 0.6 m below the finished surface of the subgrade, whichever is the lesser treatment. In areas to be covered by embankments exceeding 1 m in height, foundations may remain if located or cut off not more than 0.4 m above the natural surface but not less than 1 m below subgrade.

Pits which are no longer required shall be removed or broken back to a depth not less than 0.3 m below the finished surface of the subgrade. Remaining pipe openings shall be sealed with concrete. Any remnants of pits shall be backfilled with material and compacted to a density ratio of not less than 95%. The calculation of density ratio shall be based on Standard compactive effort.

Holes resulting from grubbing shall be backfilled with material similar to the surrounding material and compacted to the same degree as the surrounding material.

### 201.06 CLEARING AND GRUBBING AT BRIDGE AND CULVERT SITES

Unless otherwise shown on the drawings, trees and stumps within 10 m of any portion of a proposed bridge, or proposed culvert having a waterway area greater than 6 m<sup>2</sup>, shall be cleared and grubbed.

Clearing and grubbing at bridge and culvert sites shall conform to the other relevant requirements of this section.

### 201.07 DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS

#### (a) General

Unless otherwise specified any salvageable materials shall become the property of the Contractor. Works under the Contract shall be carried out to wherever possible re-use materials generated from clearing and grubbing operations within the works area. Any materials which cannot be re-used on site shall be removed from the site.

~~Disposal of material by burning on site or burying of materials on site shall only be carried out when permitted by the relevant authorities and approved by the Superintendent.~~

#### (b) Trees

Tree trunks and large branches shall be removed from the site.

~~Small tree branches, shrubs and leaves, excluding noxious weeds, shall be disposed of by chipping and mulching to form mulch.~~

#### (c) Concrete, Bituminous and other Recyclable Materials

The Contractor shall dispose of salvaged concrete, bituminous materials and other recyclable materials at approved recycling establishments.

### 201.08 SURVEY MARKS

During clearing and grubbing operations, care shall be taken not to disturb any survey marks.

### 201.09 DAMAGE TO FENCES

Any damage to fences shall be repaired immediately by the Contractor to a condition at least equal to that existing before damage and no additional payment will be made for this work.

**201.10 PROTECTION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING VEGETATION**

(a) Protection of Existing Vegetation

Prior to commencement of any work, the Contractor and the Superintendent shall conduct a joint inspection of the site to identify vegetation to be retained and protected.

Existing trees, shrubs, native grasses and groundcovers and other areas of existing vegetation marked as 'to be protected and/or retained' on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent shall be protected by temporary fencing and incorporated into the works by the Contractor.

No earthworks, travel of equipment or storage compounds shall be established within 5 metres of the drip line of mature trees of trunk diameter greater than 200 mm.

Construction of table drains within the drip line of roadside trees shall be undertaken with no disturbance beyond the line of the table drain and no damage to the canopy of the trees.

(b) Protective Fencing

Protective fencing shall consist of, as a minimum, star pickets with three strands of wire (top, middle and bottom) and parawebbing.

**201.11 SALVAGE OF VEGETATION**

The Contractor shall co-operate with VicRoads and its agents by co-ordinating works under the Contract with activities involving the salvage of plants and the collection of cuttings and available seed from areas of native vegetation on the site.