



# Strategic Cropping Land

## Standard conditions code for resource activities

*This standard conditions code has been made under the Strategic Cropping Land Regulation 2011.  
This code contains standard conditions that apply to certain resource activities that are triggered for  
assessment under the Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*



© State of Queensland, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2012.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY) licence.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek permission from DNRM, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.

You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland, Department of Natural Resources and Mines as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>

# Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Application requirements</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. Authorisation of this Code</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Scope of this Code</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. When this Code takes effect</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Enforcement of this Code</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7. Other requirements</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8. Amendment of this Code</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9. Further information or enquiries</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>10. Part 1 – Standard conditions code and advisory notes</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11. Part 2 – Standard conditions and advisory notes</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>12. Part 3–Standard conditions and advisory notes</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>13. Definitions</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Schedule 1: Financial assurance</b>	<b>33</b>

# 1. Introduction

The *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011* (SCL Act) allows for certain **resource activities** that have a temporary impact on SCL or potential SCL to apply for a compliance certificate to operate under a standard conditions code.

Under section 81 of the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*, this code cannot be used for a resource activity that will have a permanent impact in a protection area.

The SCL standard conditions code for resource activities (the Code) expedites the assessment process while still ensuring that there are appropriate standards of management and protection of SCL and potential SCL. Where a proponent intends to undertake a **resource activity** on SCL or potential SCL that is not provided for within this Code, or where the proponent can not comply with the conditions of this Code, a full SCL development assessment will be required, that is, an SCL protection decision.

The conditions of this Code seek to protect SCL and potential SCL by conditioning resource activities to avoid and minimise the impacts on SCL or potential SCL (SCL principles). The potential impacts include for example:

- surface area disturbance
- mixing of soil layers
- compaction of soil
- erosion
- subsidence
- changing the physical, biological and chemical structure of the soil
- temporary impedance of cropping.

In the first instance, proponents should avoid locating **resource activities** directly on SCL or potential SCL. Where this is not possible, strategies to minimise the impacts of **resource activities** on SCL or potential SCL should be employed (e.g. working with the landholder to develop an agreed farm management plan which could address key issues such as the timing of activities, minimal disturbance well leases, directional drilling, multi well pad drilling, reducing exploration drill pad size, using existing **access tracks** and co-locating infrastructure).

This Code works on the basis that the holder must first avoid, then minimise the impacts on SCL and potential SCL through prescribing the types of **resource activities** that are permissible under this Code and the way in which those activities are to be carried out.

## How the code works

The code contains three parts, with each part providing for different resource activities. The resource activities for each part are listed in the first column; the standard conditions are in the second column and advisory notes are in the third column.

An applicant for a compliance certificate must decide which part of the code to apply for based on the resource activities that are proposed to undertaken on SCL or potential SCL and the conditions for undertaking those activities.

The applicant must then complete a compliance certificate application form (which forms part of the environmental authority application form) and declare in that form which part of the code they are applying for and certify that they will comply with the conditions of that part of the code.

Provided all application requirements are met, the chief executive (or delegate) will give the applicant a compliance certificate which will clearly identify which part of the code the applicant must comply with. The applicant is bound by the conditions of that part of the code which are taken to be conditions of the environmental authority or resource authority.

### Part 1

Part 1 of this Code applies to resource activities that will have no additional impact on SCL or potential SCL beyond what was previously authorised for the land.

This Part applies to situations where there was an approved resource activity under the environmental authority and the activity, footprint size and impact are not changing but an amendment is required in how the activity is conducted (e.g. the location of the footprint is changing).

An application for a compliance certificate under Part 1 of the Code is required. Financial assurance is not required.

### Part 2

Part 2 of this Code applies to **resource activities** that are considered to have a minimal and temporary impact on SCL or potential SCL. They are generally surface **resource activities** that are limited to excavations using hand-held tools and **light vehicles**. These **resource activities** do not require the construction of **formed, gravelled or sealed access tracks**. An application for a compliance certificate under Part 2 of the Code is required. Financial assurance is not required.

The **resource activities** provided for under Part 2 of this Code are focussed on a subset of the types of activities carried out under a survey licence, authority to prospect, water monitoring authority or data acquisition authority under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*; prospecting permit, exploration permit, or small mining claim under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*; a greenhouse gas (GHG) exploration permit or GHG injection and storage data acquisition authority under the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*; or a geothermal exploration permit under a Geothermal Act (*Geothermal Energy Act 2010* and *Geothermal Exploration Act 2004* – repealed).

Proponents operating under Part 2 of this Code are also entitled to conduct the activities provided for in Part 1 of this Code, in accordance with those conditions.

Some **resource activities** under higher tenures (e.g. petroleum lease, mineral development licence or mining lease) may be able to comply with Part 2 of this Code where the only activities undertaken directly on SCL or potential SCL are the activities provided for in Part 2 (or Part 1) of this Code.

The following activities are only provided for under Part 2 of this Code, in accordance with the conditions:

- Hand mining and excavation (size limited)
- **Sample pits** and **geotechnical pits** (size limited)
- Stockpiling soil
- **Access tracks** (slashed only - not **formed, gravelled or sealed**)
- Dust suppression
- Surveying not involving site preparation (aerial, electrical, geophysical and environmental surveys, pegging)
- Exploratory drilling and core holes (size and method limited)
- Water monitoring activities

### Part 3

Part 3 of this Code applies to **resource activities** that are considered to have a low and temporary impact on SCL or potential SCL and provides for a wider range of **resource activities** than those activities provided for in Part 2 of this Code. A compliance certificate application for Part 3 of this Code has a higher fee than Parts 1 and 2; and financial assurance may be required.

The resource activities provided for under Part 3 of this Code are focussed on a subset of the types of activities carried out under an authority to prospect or petroleum lease under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004; an exploration permit, mining claim or mining lease under the Mineral Resources Act 1989; a GHG injection and storage lease under the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009; or a geothermal production lease under the Geothermal Energy Act 2010.

Proponents operating under Part 3 of this Code are also entitled to conduct the activities provided for in Parts 1 and 2 of this Code, in accordance with those conditions.

Some **resource activities** under higher tenures (e.g. mineral development licence or mining lease) will be able to comply with Part 3 of the Code where the only activities undertaken directly on SCL or potential SCL are the activities provided for in Part 3 (and Part 1 and 2) of this Code.

The following activities are only provided for under Part 3 of this Code, in accordance with the conditions:

- Excavation
- Buried linear infrastructure including gathering lines, power lines
- **Sample pits and geotechnical pits**
- Stockpiling soil
- **Well leases**
- **Lay down areas**
- Chemical and fuel storage
- Sumps
- **Access tracks (formed or gravelled)**
- **Geophysical surveying**
- Exploratory drilling and core holes
- Water monitoring bores
- Temporary camps and accommodation

Part 3 of this Code contains conditions that require financial assurance for particular resource activities, which are outlined in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1 of this Code must be used to calculate the required financial assurance payable to the State. Where required by this Code, financial assurance must be paid prior to commencement of the **resource activity** on SCL or potential SCL. Financial assurance may be used by the State to restore temporary impacts on SCL back to pre-development condition, should the proponent default on their obligations. Financial assurance required under this Code is in addition to any other security required under a **resource authority** or **environmental authority**. Financial assurance obligations transfer to any new **holder** of an **environmental authority** or **resource authority**.

Advisory notes for many of the standard conditions of this Code provide explanatory material and suggest practices and measures that may be adopted by the **holder** to meet the requirements of the condition. Advisory notes are intended as a guide only. These advisory notes have no regulatory status and are not a mandatory compliance requirement.

Key terms and phrases used in this Code are bolded and defined at the end of this Code. Where a term is not defined in this Code, the definition in the SCL Act and its Regulation must be used. If a word remains undefined, its ordinary meaning applies.

## 2. Application requirements

Applicants applying under Part 1, 2 or 3 of this Code should submit their SCL compliance certificate application at the same time as their application for an **environmental authority** (or application to amend an environmental authority). The application for a compliance certificate is contained within the environmental authority application form.

The applicant, as part of their application, must declare that resource activities will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant part of the Code.

Statutory compliance certificate application requirements for Parts 1, 2 and 3 of this Code:

<b>Application requirement (ss. 84, 85 &amp; 117 of the <i>Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011</i>)</b>	<b>How to satisfy application requirement</b>
Be made to the chief executive in the approved form	Use the SCL compliance certificate application form available on the Department's website <a href="http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au">www.dnrm.qld.gov.au</a>
Describe the land on which the activity is to be carried out, and state the real property description of each lot that forms it	Use a general location description e.g. 10km SW of Dalby; and Provide resource authority numbers; blocks and sub-blocks or real property descriptions to identify the land.  The real property descriptions do not need to be provided if the resource authority number or blocks and sub-blocks have been provided.
Describe the resource activity	Provide as much detail as possible about the specific resource activities proposed to be undertaken on SCL or potential SCL.
Be accompanied by the fee prescribed under a regulation.	Pay the relevant fee at the time of application.
Requirement that land be, or elected to be, treated as SCL	Complete the relevant part of the application form.
Location requirements (a) The location of all SCL or potential SCL on the land (b) Where the development is proposed to be carried out on SCL or potential SCL, wherever possible (c) All of the footprint of the development	Provide a map(s) that identifies the resource authority boundaries and the SCL and potential SCL within those boundaries.  Provide the specific locations of resource activities wherever possible, particularly for resource activities on SCL or potential SCL and major infrastructure.  As a minimum the applicant should provide information describing the maximum possible footprint on SCL or potential SCL and the general location of the footprint.

When the administering authority is satisfied that the application contains all of the required information, an SCL compliance certificate will be given to the applicant either before, or at the same time as, the environmental authority. An environmental authority (including an amended environmental authority) can not be issued until the SCL compliance certificate has been given.



### 3. Authorisation of this Code

The Code is provided for under section 81 of the SCL Act, and made under the Strategic Cropping Land Regulation 2011.

### 4. Scope of this Code

A proponent may apply for a compliance certificate under Parts 1, 2 or 3 of this Code for an application for:

- a new environmental authority; or
- an amendment to an existing environmental authority.

This Code does not serve to authorise the carrying out of **resource activities**. The conditions imposed by this Code operate to prevent or manage impacts on SCL or potential SCL that, in the absence of this Code, may be authorised to occur under the **environmental authority** or **resource authority**.

The conditions of this Code only apply to the **resource activities** on SCL or potential SCL and the subject of the compliance certificate application. In other words, the conditions do not have any effect on **resource activities** on SCL or potential SCL that have already received approval. For example, the conditions of this Code do not apply to an application for a temporary camp that was approved prior to the commencement of the SCL Act (30 January 2012).

Conditions of this Code only apply to those **resource activities** that occur directly on SCL or potential SCL. For example, where multiple wells are proposed within a project area, only those wells that occur directly on SCL or potential SCL are subject to the conditions of Part 3 of this Code.

All conditions of the Part of this Code that the applicant elected to comply with are imposed on the **environmental authority**, and must be complied with. If there is any inconsistency between the conditions of the relevant Part of this Code and another condition of, or imposed on, the **environmental authority** or **resource authority**, this Code prevails to the extent of the inconsistency. For example, where the code has more restrictive conditions than the environmental authority, the conditions of this Code prevail.

However, in cases where the **environmental authority** places more restrictive conditions on a **resource activity** than a condition of this Code, by complying with the conditions of the **environmental authority**, the activity will comply with the conditions of this Code. Therefore no inconsistency exists.

### 5. When this Code takes effect

This Code is in effect from 21 December 2012.

## 6. Enforcement of this Code

Sections 76, 77 and 78 of the SCL Act outline offences and penalties for permanently or temporarily impacting on SCL or potential SCL without a **resource authority** for the **resource activity**.

Proponents can apply to operate under the conditions of this Code. Conditions are imposed on the **environmental authority** for the **resource activity**. If the conditions of the relevant part of the Code are not complied with, it is a breach of a condition of the **environmental authority** for that resource activity, and therefore a breach of the SCL Act.

The conditions of this Code do not prevent the **holder** from using the emergency activity defence under section 79 of the SCL Act if, due to an emergency endangering the life or health of a person or the structural safety of a building or structure or the safety of infrastructure, SCL or potential SCL is permanently or temporarily impacted by the development.

## 7. Other requirements

In addition to the conditions in this Code, the proponent must comply with all other relevant Commonwealth, State or local government legislative requirements. Operating under this Code does not remove the requirement to gain a resource authority to undertake resource activities under relevant resource legislation and an environmental authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

## 8. Amendment of this Code

This Code may be amended from time to time; however, amendments do not take effect until they are made by the Strategic Cropping Land Regulation 2011.

## 9. Further information or enquiries

Further information is available at [www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the relevant Department of Natural Resources and Mines regional office.

General enquiries regarding this Code should be directed to [sclenquiries@dnrm.qld.gov.au](mailto:sclenquiries@dnrm.qld.gov.au), or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

## 10. Part 1 – Standard conditions code and advisory notes

COLUMN 1 Resource Activity	COLUMN 2 Standard Conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
<p>1. Permitted resource activities provided for in Part 1 of this Code</p>	<p>1.1 The only resource activities permitted to be undertaken on SCL or potential SCL under Part 1 of this Code are activities that have already been authorised by the environmental authority and the change to that resource activity will have no additional impact on SCL or potential SCL beyond the impact already authorised by the environmental authority.</p> <p>1.2 Any SCL conditions (conditions of the Code or SCL protection conditions) that applied to a resource activity that is now operating under Part 1 of this code continue to apply to that resource activity.</p> <p>1.3 Conditions of Part 1 of this Code do not apply to any land that is SCL or potential SCL, and is subsequently recorded in the <b>decision register</b> as decided non-SCL, when that land is recorded as decided non-SCL.</p>	<p>Under section 81 of the <i>Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011</i>, this code cannot be used for a resource activity that will have a permanent impact in a protection area.</p> <p>A change to the location of a resource activity, where there is no increase in the size of the footprint or intensity of the activity, is acceptable under Part 1, condition 1.1.</p> <p>Guidance material regarding the application of Part 1 of this code is available on the Department's website <a href="http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au">www.dnrm.qld.gov.au</a></p>

## 11. Part 2 – Standard conditions and advisory notes

COLUMN 1 Resource Activity	COLUMN 2 Standard Conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
<p>1. Permitted resource activities provided for in Part 2 of this Code</p>	<p>1.1 <b>Resource activities</b> must not be located directly on SCL or potential SCL, unless there is no reasonable or practicable alternative location for the activity that is not directly on SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>1.2 The only <b>resource activities</b> permitted to be undertaken on SCL or potential SCL under Part 2 of this Code are those activities that are explicitly provided for in the conditions of Part 2 of this Code.</p> <p>1.3 Part 2 authorises the conduct of resource activities explicitly provided for in Part 1 of this Code in accordance with the conditions under Part 1.</p> <p>1.4 Conditions of Part 2 of this Code do not apply to any land that is SCL or potential SCL, and is subsequently recorded in the <b>decision register</b> as decided non-SCL, when that land is recorded as decided non-SCL.</p> <p>1.5 The <b>holder</b> must keep a record of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all <b>resource activities</b> undertaken on SCL or potential SCL;</li> <li>the date the <b>resource activity</b> commenced;</li> <li>the precise location of the <b>resource activity</b>;</li> <li>the date the <b>resource activity</b> ended;</li> <li>restoration activities undertaken to return the site to pre-development condition; and</li> <li>the date restoration was completed.</li> </ol> <p>1.6 The holder must keep records for a minimum of five (5) years after the completion of restoration activities.</p> <p>1.7 The holder must provide records to the <b>administering authority</b> upon request.</p>	<p>The <b>resource activities</b> not provided for in Part 2 of this Code include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>those considered to have a permanent impact on SCL or potential SCL; or</li> <li>those that have a temporary impact but require a case-by-case assessment (i.e. protection decision); or</li> <li><b>resource activities</b> to which Part 3 of this Code applies.</li> </ul> <p>For example, the following <b>resource activities</b> are not provided for under Part 2 of this Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>well construction</li> <li>machine mining (surface and underground)</li> <li>coal handling and preparation plants and related surface infrastructure</li> <li>rigid surface pipelines (does not include lay flat hoses)</li> <li>buried linear infrastructure (e.g. pipelines)</li> <li>rail lines</li> <li>haul roads</li> <li>levee banks</li> <li>creek diversions</li> <li>camps and accommodation</li> <li>waste disposal and waste landfill</li> <li>dams, ponds and sumps</li> <li>compressor stations</li> <li>water treatment plants</li> <li>sewerage treatment plants</li> <li>borrow pits</li> <li>chemical or fuel storage</li> <li><b>sealed, gravelled or formed access tracks</b></li> <li><b>lay down areas</b></li> <li>seismic survey using explosives</li> <li>clear felling vegetation</li> <li>bulk sampling</li> </ul> <p>For the purposes of condition 1.1</p>

		<p>'no reasonable or practicable alternative location' means that the resource activity can not practically be located off SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>For the purposes of condition 1.4 (d), records of each <b>resource activity</b> should include, as a minimum, georeferenced map or GPS coordinates sufficient to identify where activities are or have occurred. For example, a GPS log of points along a seismic survey line.</p>
<p>2. Hand mining, <b>sample pits</b>, <b>geotechnical pits</b> and soil sampling (not including exploratory drilling)</p>	<p>2.1 The total surface area impacted by soil excavation at any one time must not exceed:  (a) 4m<sup>2</sup> per hectare (pro rata) for a resource authority that is greater than one hectare in size; or  (b) 4m<sup>2</sup> for a resource authority that is less than one hectare in size.</p> <p>2.2 Excavation must only be conducted using hand-held tools.</p> <p>2.3 The excavation and storage of soil must be done in a way that prevents mixing of <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b>.</p> <p>2.4 <b>Topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> may only be removed from the site for the purposes of, and in quantities required for, assaying.</p>	<p>This condition is particularly applicable to holders of small mining claims and prospecting permits.</p> <p>The 4m<sup>2</sup> surface area impact limit (per hectare or resource authority) on soil excavations manages the cumulative impact of the <b>resource activity</b> and encourages progressive restoration.</p> <p>For <b>resource authorities</b> over 1 ha in size, the 4m<sup>2</sup> limit would apply per hectare.</p> <p>For the purposes of condition 2.4, materials such as gemstones, metals or minerals found do not constitute part of the <b>topsoil</b> or <b>subsoil</b>.</p>
<p>3. Any <b>resource activity</b> carried out under Part 2 of this Code that requires soil to be stockpiled.</p>	<p>3.1 Excavated <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> must be stockpiled separately.</p> <p>3.2 Stockpiles of <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> originating from SCL or potential SCL must remain uncompacted.</p> <p>3.3 Stockpiles of <b>topsoil</b> or <b>subsoil</b> originating from land other than SCL or potential SCL must not be located on SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>3.4 Stockpiling soil under conditions 3.1 – 3.3 is limited to the soil excavated for <b>resource activities</b> under Part 2 of</p>	<p>Stockpiles of SCL or potential SCL are permitted to be located on SCL or potential SCL, in accordance with the conditions of Part 2 of this Code.</p> <p>Stockpiles of non-SCL or non-potential SCL are not permitted to be stockpiled on SCL or potential SCL.</p>

	<p>this Code.</p>	
<p>4. Access tracks</p>	<p>4.1 <b>Access tracks</b> must not be <b>sealed, gravelled</b> or <b>formed</b>.</p> <p>4.2 Existing access tracks must not be upgraded to <b>formed, gravelled</b> or <b>sealed</b> access tracks.</p> <p>4.3 <b>Access tracks</b> must not result in the concentration of run-off water to the extent that it causes visible soil erosion.</p>	<p><b>Slashing</b>, using hand-held tools, a tractor or mower to establish and maintain a clear path of travel or line of sight is acceptable under this Code.</p> <p>Existing <b>access tracks</b> should be used wherever possible to minimise additional impacts.</p> <p>This condition does not limit the repair or maintenance to existing <b>access tracks</b>, even if the existing track is <b>formed, gravelled</b> or <b>sealed</b>.</p> <p>Temporary roadway, in the form of rubber matting or sheet metal, to assist with access on rain affected ground during the wet season, is acceptable under this condition.</p>
<p>5. Surveying</p>	<p>5.1 Surveying must not involve site preparation, clearing, explosives, or earthworks, using equipment other than hand-held tools.</p>	<p>Surveying includes geophysical (e.g. seismic), environmental and other surveys for siting of infrastructure and routes; for example, walking the area, remote sensing techniques, aerial reconnaissance surveys, ground surveys for flora and fauna studies (e.g. pitfall traps), cultural heritage surveys and assessment of river and creek crossings.</p> <p>Surveying requiring higher impact activities such as clearing or mechanical earthworks is provided for under Part 3 of this Code.</p> <p>Slashing or trimming of vegetation, using hand-held tools, a tractor or mower to establish and maintain a clear path of travel or line of sight is acceptable under this condition.</p> <p>Vehicles may be used to undertake surveying, but must not be used for site preparation.</p>
<p>6. Drilling</p>	<p>6.1 Drilling may only be conducted using</p>	<p>This condition may apply to the</p>

	<p>a soil auger or coring rig mounted on a <b>light vehicle</b>; or using hand-held tools.</p> <p>6.2 Drilling holes or core holes must not exceed 300 mm in diameter.</p> <p>6.3 Drilling holes or core holes must not be cased.</p>	<p>petroleum, gas and minerals industries.</p> <p>Drilling for the purposes of geotechnical surveys is provided for in this condition.</p> <p>Condition 6 relates to drilling core holes and does not provide for the construction of a well. Well construction is an activity provided for in Part 3 of this code.</p>
7. Water monitoring activities	<p>7.1 Water monitoring activities are limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gathering information about, or undertaking an assessment of, a water bore;</li> <li>monitoring effects of the exercise of underground water rights for the tenure;</li> <li>plugging and abandoning a water observation bore;</li> <li>gathering information for preparing an underground water impact report or final report under the <i>Water Act 2000</i>, chapter 3.</li> </ol>	<p>Existing water bores should be used wherever possible, in agreement with the landholder.</p> <p>Construction of new water bores is provided for under Part 3 of this Code.</p> <p>This condition may apply to the petroleum, gas and minerals industries.</p>
8. Dust suppression	<p>8.1 Water or liquid used for dust suppression on land that must be restored to SCL must satisfy the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the maximum electrical conductivity (EC) must not exceed 1,300 <math>\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}</math>;</li> <li>the maximum sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) must not exceed 6;</li> <li>the maximum bicarbonate ion concentration must not exceed 100 mg/L; and</li> <li>the pH range must be between 6.5 and 9.0.</li> </ol> <p>8.2 Water or liquid used for dust suppression on land that is not required to be restored to SCL must satisfy the dust suppression requirements in the environmental authority.</p>	<p>Repeated applications of water for dust suppression is similar to frequent, light applications of irrigation water.</p> <p>Land that is not required to be restored to SCL may include land that is already permanently impacted or land that is being used for resource activities that were approved prior to the commencement of the SCL Act (and hence a compliance certificate or protection decision was not required for the activity). For example, if access tracks were approved under the environmental authority prior to the SCL Act commencement (30 January 2012), the land used for access tracks would not need to be restored to SCL in accordance with SCL conditions (instead it would need to be rehabilitated in</p>



		<p>accordance with the environmental authority) and dust suppression on these roads should be in accordance with the environmental authority conditions.</p> <p>Condition 8.1 does not negate the need to comply with any other dust suppression or water quality parameters conditioned under the environmental authority.</p>
<p>9. Restoration requirements for resource activities under Part 2 of this Code.</p>	<p>9.1 All <b>resource activities</b> carried out under Part 2 of this Code must end and any impacts to SCL or potential SCL must be restored back to pre-development condition within 50 years of the activity commencing or as required by the <b>environmental authority</b> or <b>resource authority</b>, whichever is sooner.</p> <p>9.2 As soon as practicable, but within 3 months after the completion of <b>resource activity</b>, restoration must be commenced in accordance with (a) to (f):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) All equipment and materials used for the <b>resource activity</b> must be removed, unless provided for in another condition of Part 2 of this Code.</li> <li>b) Equipment and material removed under condition 9.2(a) must not be disposed of in any way on SCL or potential SCL.</li> <li>c) All <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> excavated for the <b>resource activity</b> must be reinstated in a manner which ensures the <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> is consistent with <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> in adjacent soil undisturbed by the <b>resource activity</b>; except for soil excavated under condition 2.4.</li> <li>d) The soil surface must be re-contoured to a level consistent to that of surrounding land.</li> <li>e) Where soil has been compacted by a <b>resource activity</b>, it must be cultivated or ripped and returned to a level of compaction equivalent to that of adjacent</li> </ol>	<p>Restoration of <b>resource activities</b> should commence as soon as the <b>resource activity</b> has ended (for example; where operations at one <b>sample pit</b> have ended, restoration should commence even though other <b>sample pits</b> may still be in operation) unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. extreme weather conditions) that delay restoration activities.</p> <p>Soil excavated for sampling or assaying under this Code does not need to be reinstated.</p> <p>Equipment and materials refers to what is brought or generated on site, for example, equipment and structures, sheeting and waste.</p>



	<p>undisturbed soils.</p> <p>f) A self-sustaining vegetative ground cover species should be promoted.</p>	
--	---	--

## 12. Part 3—Standard conditions and advisory notes

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
<p>1. Permitted resource activities under Part 3 of this Code.</p>	<p>1.1 <b>Resource activities</b> must not be located directly on SCL or potential SCL, unless there is no reasonable or practicable alternative location for the activity that is not directly on SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>1.2 The only <b>resource activities</b> permitted to be undertaken on SCL or potential SCL under Part 3 of this Code are those activities that are explicitly provided for in the conditions of Part 3 of this Code.</p> <p>1.3 Part 3 authorises the conduct of resource activities explicitly provided for in Parts 1 and 2 of this Code in accordance with the conditions under Parts 1 and 2 respectively.</p> <p>1.4 Conditions of Part 3 of this Code do not apply to any land that is SCL or potential SCL, and is subsequently recorded in the <b>decision register</b> as decided non-SCL, when that land is recorded as decided non-SCL.</p> <p>1.5 The <b>holder</b> must keep a record of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all <b>resource activities</b> undertaken on SCL or potential SCL;</li> <li>the pre-development condition of the site on which a <b>resource activity</b> occurs;</li> <li>the date the <b>resource activity</b> commenced;</li> <li>the precise location of the <b>resource activity</b></li> <li>the date the resource activity ended;</li> <li>restoration activities undertaken to return the site to pre-development condition; and</li> <li>the date restoration was completed.</li> </ol> <p>1.6 The <b>holder</b> must keep records for a minimum of five (5) years after the</p>	<p>Resource authority <b>holders</b> who elect to comply with Part 3 of this Code are also eligible to undertake the activities provided for in Part 2 of this Code, in accordance with those conditions—only one application under Part 3 of the Code is required.</p> <p>The <b>resource activities</b> not provided for in Part 3 of this Code include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>those that will have a permanent impact on SCL or potential SCL; or</li> <li>those that have a temporary impact but require case-by-case assessment under the <i>Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011</i> (i.e. protection decision).</li> </ul> <p>For example, the following <b>resource activities</b> are not provided for under Part 3 of this Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mining (surface and underground)</li> <li>coal handling and preparation plants and related surface infrastructure</li> <li>rigid surface pipelines (not including lay flat pipes)</li> <li><b>sealed access tracks</b></li> <li>rail lines</li> <li>haul roads</li> <li>levee banks</li> <li>creek diversions</li> <li>waste disposal and waste landfill</li> <li>dams and ponds</li> <li>compressor stations</li> <li>water treatment plants</li> <li>fixed sewerage treatment plants</li> <li>borrow pits</li> </ul>

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	<p>completion of restoration activities.</p> <p>1.7 The <b>holder</b> must provide records to the <b>administering authority</b> upon request.</p>	<p>For the purposes of condition 1.1 'no reasonable or practicable alternative location' means that the resource activity can not practically be located off SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>For the purposes of condition 1.4 (d), records of each <b>resource activity</b> should include, as a minimum, georeferenced map or GPS coordinates sufficient to identify where activities are or have occurred. For example, a GPS log of points along a seismic survey line.</p>
<p>2. Financial assurance for resource activities under Part 3 of this Code</p>	<p>2.1 The <b>holder</b> operating under Part 3 of this Code must submit financial assurance to the <b>administering authority</b> for the resource activities provided for in Schedule 1 of this Code.</p> <p>2.2 Financial assurance must be provided to the <b>administering authority</b> prior to carrying out, or allowing the carrying out of, the <b>resource activity</b> on SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>2.3 The <b>holder</b> operating under Part 3 of this Code must review and maintain the amount of financial assurance based on the maximum area of impact from the proposed and existing <b>resource activities</b> on SCL or potential SCL. Any additional financial assurance required for an increase in the area of impact on SCL or potential SCL, must be submitted to the <b>administering authority</b> prior to carrying out the additional impact.</p> <p>2.4 The calculation of financial assurance must be in accordance with Schedule 1 of this Code.</p> <p>2.5 The financial assurance must be in the form of an unconditional bank guarantee.</p>	<p>Where the <b>holder</b> of an <b>environmental authority</b> or <b>resource authority</b> changes, the new <b>holder</b> must not carry out, or allow the carrying out of, a <b>resource activity</b> under the authority unless the new <b>holder</b> has submitted adequate financial assurance to the <b>administering authority</b>.</p> <p>Resource proponents may review and submit financial assurance at any point in time, provided that the financial assurance is provided before the particular <b>resource activity</b> is undertaken on SCL or potential SCL. However, adequate financial assurance (calculated in accordance with Schedule 1), must be held by the <b>administering authority</b> at any point in time.</p> <p><b>Holders</b> may consider submitting financial assurance as part of a rolling 3 – 5 year plan. The calculation may take into consideration progressive restoration that has been completed.</p> <p>Calculation of financial assurance should be done with reference to any guideline developed by the <b>administering authority</b>.</p>

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	<p>2.6 The financial assurance must remain in place until:</p> <p>a) a <b>third party auditor</b> has certified that the conditions of this Code have been met; and</p> <p>b) the <b>administering authority</b> is satisfied that the conditions of this Code have been met and that no claim is likely to be made on the assurance.</p>	<p>Financial assurance requirements under this Code do not apply to resource activities that are not subject to the SCL Act (e.g. projects considered to be transitional under the SCL Act).</p> <p>Reference to “existing <b>resource activities</b>” in condition 2.3 refers to those <b>resource activities</b> subject to the SCL Act where financial assurance is required (financial assurance may already be held but not discharged). This is important to consider during the review of financial assurance as progressive restoration occurs.</p> <p>Records and photos of restoration activities may be kept to aid in demonstrating their completion for the purposes of discharging financial assurance. Records could include information about the area that has been restored, general site characteristics and benchmark information (restoration parameters).</p>
<p>3. Permitted resource activities carried out under Part 3 of this Code that require soil excavation</p>	<p>3.1 <b>Topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> must be excavated in a way that prevents mixing of:</p> <p>(a) <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b>; and</p> <p>(b) <b>topsoil</b> or <b>subsoil</b> with any other excavated material.</p> <p>3.2 Excavated <b>topsoil</b> may be either stockpiled in accordance with conditions 4.1 to 4.9 of Part 3 of this Code; or spread to a depth of no more than 100 mm across surrounding land.</p>	<p>Spreading <b>topsoil</b> is an alternative to stockpiling which is subject to condition 4.</p>
<p>4. Permitted resource activities carried out under Part 3 of this Code that requires soil to be stockpiled</p>	<p>4.1 Excavated <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> must be stockpiled separately.</p> <p>4.2 Stockpiles must be constructed and maintained in a way that preserves the biological and chemical integrity of the <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b>.</p>	<p>Wherever practicable, stockpiles should be located away from SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>Stockpiles should not be located in the flooding zone of drainage lines and waterways.</p>

<b>COLUMN 1 Resource activity</b>	<b>COLUMN 2 Standard conditions</b>	<b>COLUMN 3 Advisory notes</b>
	<p>4.3 Individual stockpiles that will remain in place for longer than six (6) months must remain uncompacted and be no more than 2 m in height.</p> <p>4.4 Suitable erosion and sediment control measures must be installed, maintained and monitored around stockpiles at all times to prevent erosion of soil from the stockpile.</p> <p>4.5 Within six (6) weeks of the establishment of a stockpile, the <b>holder</b> must promote the establishment of a self-sustaining vegetative ground cover species on the stockpile.</p> <p>4.6 Following establishment, a self-sustaining vegetative ground cover of at least 70% must be maintained for the life of the stockpile.</p> <p>4.7 Stockpiles must not result in the concentration of run-off water to the extent that it causes visible soil erosion.</p> <p>4.8 Livestock must be prevented from accessing stockpiles.</p> <p>4.9 Excavated <b>subsoil</b> which will not be reinstated to its originating location must not be stored or stockpiled on SCL or potential SCL for more than six (6) months; and must not be spread or disposed of on SCL or potential SCL.</p>	<p>Temporary stockpiles (i.e. in place for less than 6 weeks) may be managed for erosion by using alternative measures e.g. geotextile cover or similar. Stockpiles in place for longer than 6 weeks will need a self-sustaining vegetative ground cover, as provided for in conditions 4.5 and 4.6.</p> <p>The selection of an appropriate vegetative ground cover species should be agreed with the landowner. Crops, such as forage crops and deep rooted crops such as lucerne and clover, may help to alleviate compaction, improve soil structure and increase soil organic material.</p> <p>The method for measuring the vegetative ground cover percentage (foliage cover) is defined in the publication: The National Committee on Soil and Terrain. 2009. Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook, Third Edition. CSIRO Publishing.</p> <p>Condition 4.9 refers to the excess <b>subsoil</b> that has been excavated for activities such as pipelines which will not be reinstated.</p>
<p>5. Cumulative impact of resources activities (undertaken in accordance with Part 3 of this Code)</p>	<p>5.1 At any time during the <b>operational phase</b> of the <b>resource activity</b>, the combined area of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>formed or gravelled access tracks;</b></li> <li>b) <b>formed or gravelled well leases;</b></li> <li>c) <b>sample pits and geotechnical pits;</b></li> <li>d) <b>sumps and voids;</b></li> <li>e) <b>formed or gravelled lay down areas;</b></li> <li>f) <b>formed or gravelled drill pads;</b></li> </ul>	<p>The purpose of this condition is to ensure that impacts on SCL and potential SCL are avoided and minimised to the greatest extent practicable. For example, operations should be staged in a way that the cumulative impact on SCL or potential SCL is minimised; and that best practice is employed to minimise the area of impact of the <b>resource activity</b>. Further, progressive restoration of temporarily impacted SCL or</p>

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	<p>g) <b>buried linear infrastructure</b> right of way; and  h) stockpiles;  must not exceed 2.5% of the total area of SCL and potential SCL within the <b>resource authority</b>.</p>	<p>potential SCL should occur as soon as possible.</p> <p>Possible ways to minimise the cumulative impact may include: Avoid locating resource activities directly on SCL and potential SCL in the first instance; or minimal disturbance well leases, directional drilling, multi well pad drilling, using existing <b>access tracks</b>, co-locating infrastructure (e.g. pipeline right of way and <b>access tracks</b>).</p> <p>The following are examples of infrastructure and activities that are not included in the cumulative impact calculation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surveys (e.g. seismic)</li> <li>• slashed <b>access tracks</b></li> <li>• lay down areas that are not <b>formed, gravelled or sealed</b></li> <li>• construction footprint of any <b>resource activity</b></li> <li>• <b>resource activities</b> that have been fully restored to pre-development condition;</li> <li>• <b>resource activities</b> not subject to the SCL Act (e.g. <b>resource activities</b> considered to be transitional under the SCL Act)</li> </ul> <p>If a pre-existing <b>access track</b> is widened, the additional area must be included in the cumulative impact calculation. For example, if the width of an existing <b>access track</b> is 2 m and is widened to 6 m, the area included in the 'combined area' is 4 m multiplied by the length of the widened <b>access track</b>.</p>
<p>6. Buried linear infrastructure, including: water pipelines, gas gathering lines, powerlines</p>	<p>6.1 Buried linear infrastructure must not be greater than 750 mm in diameter.</p> <p>6.2 Buried linear infrastructure and any material (other than <b>topsoil</b> or <b>subsoil</b>) such as gravel, concrete or sand encasing the infrastructure, must be located deeper than 900 mm from the land surface.</p>	<p>Buried linear infrastructure should be co-located with <b>access tracks</b> and/or other linear infrastructure where practicable to minimise surface disturbance.</p> <p>Where strip cropping or controlled traffic farming systems are in place, buried linear infrastructure should</p>

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
		be located parallel with typical farm machinery paths.
7. Access tracks	<p>7.1 <b>Access tracks</b> must not exceed 6 m in width, except for passing lanes of no more than 50 m in length and an additional 4 m in width (bringing the <b>access track</b> to a total width of no more than 10 m), spaced not less than every 1000 m along the <b>access track</b>.</p> <p>7.2 <b>Access tracks</b> must not be <b>sealed</b>.</p> <p>7.3 <b>Access tracks</b> must not result in the concentration of run-off water to the extent that it causes visible soil erosion.</p> <p>7.4 Any <b>gravelled</b> area must be managed to prevent mixing with soil.</p>	<p>Wherever possible, existing <b>access tracks</b> should be used or upgraded instead of constructing new <b>access tracks</b>.</p> <p><b>Access tracks</b> crossing <b>overland flow paths</b> should be located perpendicular to the flow of water and should not be built up more than 100 mm above the adjacent soil surface.</p> <p><b>Access tracks</b> crossing <b>grassed waterways</b> should be perpendicular to the flow of water and should not disrupt the flow of water in the waterways.</p> <p>Geotextile or similar material may be appropriate to prevent mixing of construction material with soil.</p>
8. Exploratory drilling for coal and minerals	<p>8.1 <b>Drill pads</b> must not result in the concentration of run-off water to the extent that it causes visible soil erosion.</p> <p>8.2 <b>Drill pads</b> must not exceed 1 ha each.</p> <p>8.3 <b>Drill pads</b> must not be <b>sealed</b>.</p> <p>8.4 Any <b>gravelled</b> area must be managed to prevent mixing with soil.</p>	<p>This condition applies to exploratory drilling for coal and minerals.</p> <p>Geotextile or similar material may be appropriate to prevent mixing of construction material with soil.</p>
9. Well leases for petroleum and gas	<p>9.1 <b>Well leases</b> must not result in the concentration of run-off water to the extent that it causes visible soil erosion.</p> <p>9.2 <b>Well leases</b> must not exceed 1 ha per well during the establishment or <b>maintenance</b> of the well.</p> <p>9.3 Within six months of establishment or maintenance of wells, the size of the <b>well lease</b> must be reduced to</p>	<p>This condition applies to petroleum and gas wells.</p> <p>The <i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i> and regulation requires that CSG wells must be constructed in accordance with the Code of practice for constructing and abandoning coal seam gas wells in Queensland (2011). The Code of practice is available on the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website at</p>



COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	<p>no more than 200 m<sup>2</sup> per well.</p> <p>9.4 <b>Well leases</b> must not be <b>sealed</b>.</p> <p>9.5 Any <b>gravelled</b> area must be managed to prevent gravel mixing with soil.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au">www.dnrm.qld.gov.au</a></p> <p>Wells should not be located on the inside area of any pivot or lateral move irrigation footprint or on irrigation infrastructure (e.g. head ditches, supply channels or tail drains).</p> <p>Geotextile or similar material may be appropriate to prevent mixing of construction material with soil.</p>
<p>10. Sumps, <b>voids</b>, mobile storage tanks</p>	<p>10.1 Waste must not be disposed of in, on, or under SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>10.2 Sumps or <b>voids</b> for temporarily storing waste or other material must only be located on <b>well leases</b> or <b>drilling pads</b>.</p> <p>10.3 Sumps and voids for temporarily storing waste must be lined to prevent the movement of the wetting front.</p> <p>10.4 Mobile storage tanks; sumps and <b>voids</b> must be managed to prevent overflow of waste onto SCL or potential SCL.</p>	<p>Sumps and <b>voids</b> are typically used for the temporary storage of drill muds or stimulation fluids, and flare pits.</p> <p>Lining sumps and voids using a compacted heavy clay liner with appropriate physico-chemical properties may be suitable to meet condition 10.3 unless a higher standard is required by the environmental authority.</p> <p>Temporary storage tanks may be located on SCL or potential SCL in accordance with the conditions, and do not need to be located on the well lease or drill pad.</p> <p>The holder should also take appropriate measures to prevent overland flow from entering the sump or <b>void</b> to reduce the likelihood of overflow occurring, in accordance with condition 10.4.</p>
<p>11. <b>Lay down area</b> and chemical and fuel storage</p>	<p>11.1 <b>Lay down areas</b> must not be <b>sealed</b>.</p> <p>11.2 Any <b>gravelled</b> area must be managed to prevent mixing with soil.</p> <p>11.3 <b>Lay down areas</b> must not result in the concentration of run-off water to the extent that it causes visible soil erosion.</p> <p>11.4 Chemical and fuel storage must</p>	



COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	be managed to prevent contamination of SCL or potential SCL.	
12. Surveys involving site preparation	12.1 Any site preparation for surveys and the carrying out of any surveys must maintain the land surface at a level consistent of that of surrounding landscape.	Site preparation may involve the use of stick raking, small blade or small subsurface explosive charge.
13. <b>Sample pits and geotechnical pits</b> for soil, minerals, rock, coal or other geological material	13.1 The total surface area of each <b>sample pit</b> and <b>geotechnical pit</b> must not exceed 10 m <sup>2</sup> in size.	
14. Construction of water monitoring bore	14.1 The <b>holder</b> may construct a water monitoring bore.	Water monitoring activities under Part 3 of this Code may apply to various <b>resource authority</b> types, including water monitoring authorities.  Other activities related to water bores are provided for in Part 2 of this Code (e.g. monitoring).
15. Temporary camps and mobile sewage treatment plants	15.1 Temporary camps and associated mobile sewage treatment plants must be located on lay down areas.  15.2 Mobile <b>sewage treatment</b> plant(s) associated with a temporary camp is limited to a total daily peak design capacity of 21 equivalent persons or less per camp.  15.3 Temporary camps must not accommodate more than the number of people accommodated by a mobile sewage treatment plant provided for in condition 15.2.  15.4 Mobile sewage treatment plants	The threshold for the mobile <b>sewage treatment</b> plant total daily peak design capacity is in accordance with the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.  The conditions that pertain to lay down areas apply to the site for temporary camps and associated sewage treatment plants.  Financial assurance calculations must take account of the lay down area on which the camp and mobile sewage treatment plant are located.  Subject to the conditions of the environmental authority, condition 15.5 does not limit the discharge of

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	<p>that are not associated with a temporary camp are limited to a total daily peak design capacity of 21 equivalent persons or less.</p> <p>15.5 Effluent from sewage treatment plants may only be discharged to land that is SCL or potential SCL if it satisfies the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the maximum electrical conductivity (EC) must not exceed 1,300 µS/cm;</li> <li>b) the maximum sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) must not exceed 6;</li> <li>c) the maximum bicarbonate ion concentration must not exceed 100 mg/L;</li> <li>d) the pH range must be between 6.5 and 9.0;</li> <li>e) the maximum fluoride concentration must not exceed 1 mg/L;</li> <li>f) the maximum total phosphorus must not exceed 20mg/L;</li> <li>g) the maximum total nitrogen must not exceed 30mg/L;</li> <li>h) the maximum biological oxygen demand must not exceed 20mg/L; and</li> <li>i) the maximum irrigation rate must not exceed 4 mm/day across the irrigation area.</li> </ul>	<p>effluent to land that is not SCL or potential SCL.</p>
<p>16. Restoration requirement for <b>resource activities</b> under Part 3 of this Code.</p>	<p>16.1 All resource activities carried out under Part 3 of this Code must end and any impacts to SCL and potential SCL must be restored back to pre-development condition within 50 years of the activity commencing or as required by the <b>environmental authority</b> or <b>resource authority</b>, whichever is sooner.</p> <p>16.2 All buried pipelines must be decommissioned in accordance with Australian Standard 2885</p>	<p>Any <b>resource activity</b> and the associated restoration back to pre-development condition that is of longer than 50 years total duration is considered a permanent impact under the SCL Act and cannot be undertaken under this Code.</p> <p>The 50 year timeframe is taken to start from the construction of each particular <b>resource activity</b> (e.g. well, <b>access track</b> establishment).</p> <p>The <i>Petroleum and Gas</i></p>

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	<p>current at time of decommissioning.</p> <p>16.3 Restoration, in accordance with conditions 16.4 – 16.9, must be commenced as soon as practicable, but within the timeframes specified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Exploratory drill holes and <b>drill pads</b> - within 6 months of completion of drilling.</li> <li>b) <b>Access tracks</b> - within 6 months of the decommissioning of the infrastructure that the track provided access to.</li> <li>c) Buried linear infrastructure – within 6 months of the installation of the infrastructure.</li> <li>d) <b>Sample pits</b> and <b>geotechnical pits</b> - within 3 months of completion of sampling or testing.</li> <li>e) All other <b>resource activities</b> – within 6 months of operation of the <b>resource activity</b> ceasing.</li> </ul> <p>16.4 All equipment and materials used for the <b>resource activity</b> (e.g. road base, under track drainage systems) must be removed following decommissioning, unless provided for in another condition of this Code.</p> <p>16.5 Equipment and material removed under condition 16.4 must not be disposed of in any way on SCL or potential SCL.</p> <p>16.6 On completion of the exploration or production activity, the well or drill hole must be plugged with the upper surface of the plug located at least 1000 mm below the soil surface.</p> <p>16.7 Where soil has been compacted by a <b>resource activity</b> under this</p>	<p><i>(Production and Safety) Act 2004</i> and regulation requires that CSG wells must be abandoned in accordance with the Code of practice for constructing and abandoning coal seam gas wells in Queensland (2011). The Code of practice is available on the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website at <a href="http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au">www.dnrm.qld.gov.au</a></p> <p>The method for measuring the vegetative ground cover percentage is defined in the publication: The National Committee on Soil and Terrain. 2009. Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook, Third Edition. CSIRO Publishing.</p> <p>When undertaking ripping activities in compacted areas, consideration should be given to the moisture level of the soil to ensure that ripping is effective i.e. not contributing to further compaction. Deep tillage is only recommended when soils are dried to the depth of the tillage.</p> <p>Vegetative ground cover may be established through seeding, planting or promoting germination of soil seed stock.</p> <p>The selection of an appropriate vegetative ground cover species should be agreed with the landowner. Crops, such as forage crops and deep rooted crops such as Lucerne and Clover, may help to alleviate compaction, improve soil structure and increase soil organic material.</p> <p>Monitoring of restoration activities should include monitoring for subsidence, erosion and vegetative cover.</p>

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	<p>Code at any depth up to 600 mm, it must be cultivated or ripped and returned to a level of compaction equivalent to that of adjacent undisturbed soils.</p> <p>16.8 Filling <b>voids</b> must be done in a way that ensures the <b>topsoil</b> and <b>subsoil</b> is reinstated consistent with the adjacent soil undisturbed by the <b>resource activity</b>.</p> <p>16.9 The soil surface must be re-contoured to a level consistent to that of the surrounding land.</p> <p>16.10 Within six weeks of the work being completed under conditions 16.4 to 16.9, the <b>holder</b> must promote the establishment of a self-sustaining vegetative ground cover species or crop.</p> <p>16.11 Following establishment, if the land is not returned to crop, a self sustaining vegetative ground cover of at least 50% must be maintained for a minimum of one year.</p> <p>16.12 Despite conditions 16.1 to 16.11, the <b>holder</b> may leave <b>access tracks</b> in place (without restoration) where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) it has been agreed to, in writing, by the <b>holder</b>, landholder and the <b>administering authority</b>, current at the time restoration is due to take place; and</li> <li>b) it can be demonstrated that the <b>access track</b> will support the landholder's operation of the property.</li> </ul> <p>16.13 Despite conditions 16.4, the <b>holder</b> may leave buried linear infrastructure in place where there is a low risk of future subsidence.</p>	

COLUMN 1 Resource activity	COLUMN 2 Standard conditions	COLUMN 3 Advisory notes
	16.14 The <b>holder</b> must undertake monitoring of restoration activities for at least one (1) year following the completion of restoration activities to demonstrate that all impacts to SCL or potential SCL are restored back to pre-development condition.	

## 13. Definitions

### **Access track**

Route of passage for machinery, vehicles or other plant equipment.

### **Administering authority**

The chief executive or their authorised delegate (e.g. an authorised officer) of the department administering the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*.

### **Buried linear infrastructure**

Linear infrastructure installed underground - includes buried pipelines (water, gas and transmission), power lines and communication cables.

### **Decision register**

The decision register as defined under the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*.

### **Drill pad**

The discrete area set aside for all activities associated with the drilling of an exploratory drill hole for coal and minerals. This includes the area required for sumps.

### **Environmental authority**

An environmental authority as defined under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, schedule 4.

### **Footprint**

For the purposes of Part 1, condition 1.1, footprint means the footprint of the authorised resource activity, including the resource activity infrastructure or proposed infrastructure relating to the resource activity (where proposed infrastructure, this includes the construction footprint of the proposed resource activity infrastructure).

### **Formed**

An area that has been constructed using earthworks, including grading, surface levelling, compaction, adding drains etc, without the addition of gravel, road base or similar material. Formed does not include the slashing of grass.

### **Geotechnical pit**

A pit excavated for the purposes of geotechnical testing.

### **Grassed waterways**

Constructed waterways that convey runoff water in cropped areas. These waterways are typically uncropped with a perennial grass cover maintained on them.

### **Gravelled**

An area that has been constructed with the use of gravel, road base or similar material.

### **Holder**

The **holder** of an authority refers to the current **environmental authority** or **resource authority holder(s)**.

### **Lay down area**

An area of land that is used to temporarily store materials and equipment such as pipes, during construction; and temporary camps.

**Light vehicle**

A vehicle that is 5 tonnes or less (based on Australian Driver Licence Gross Vehicle Weight (GVM) for a light vehicle).

**Maintenance**

For the purposes of **well leases**, maintenance refers to the workover of a well.

**Operational phase**

For the purposes of cumulative impact, the operational phase of a resource activity:

- a) starts when the construction phase of the resource activity has been completed; and
- b) ends when restoration of the resource activity has been completed; or
- c) for the purposes of an access track, ends when the access track fulfils the requirements of condition 16.12 in Part 3 of the Code.

Construction is taken to be completed when a resource activity is capable of being functional, regardless of whether or not, at that point in time, it is functional. For example the following resource activities would be considered to be in the operational phase:

- a well lease, after a well has undergone well completion, regardless of whether the well has been connected to a gathering network or not;
- a sump, after a void has been excavated and is ready to be used for storing drilling muds, regardless of whether it is currently storing drilling muds or not;
- a drill pad (for exploratory mineral/coal drilling), after the drill pad has been constructed to the point where a drill rig could get access and commence exploratory drilling, regardless of whether a drill rig is present on the drill pad or not.

Restoration is taken to be completed when all restoration conditions (under the relevant part of this Code) for a particular resource activity have been met.

**Overland flow path**

Areas, such as on the Darling Downs, that are subject to erosive flooding, with the characteristics of very gentle slopes (commonly slopes of <0.5%.) that carry shallow sheets of water during rainfall events, ranging from tens to hundreds of metres wide. In these areas, strip cropping is the generally practiced as a soil conservation measure.

**Pre-development condition**

Pre-development condition as defined under the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*.

**Resource Act**

A Resource Act as defined under the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*.

**Resource activity**

Resource activity as defined under the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*.

**Resource authority**

Resource authority as defined under the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*.

**Sample pit**

A pit excavated for the purposes of soil sampling.

**Sealed**

Bitumen, concrete or similar material applied to a surface.

**Sewage treatment**

As defined under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

### **Slashing**

The cutting of grass, crop residue or other vegetation using a tractor mounted slasher, a mower or hand-held tool to provide a clear path of travel or establish a line of sight.

### **Subsoil**

Soil material from below the 'A' horizons<sup>i</sup> of a soil profile but above bedrock<sup>ii</sup>, weathered rock<sup>2</sup>, a hard pan<sup>2</sup> or continuous gravel layer<sup>2</sup>.

### **Suitably qualified person**

A person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis of performance relative to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.

### **Sump**

See definition for **void**.

**Temporary camp** is defined as:

- (a) carried out at various locations (unfixed) using transportable buildings (e.g. dongas) and or equipment; and
- (b) that does not result in the building of any permanent structures or any physical change of the landform at the locations (other than minor alterations solely necessary for access and setup including, for example, access ways, footings and temporary storage areas).

### **Third party auditor**

A **suitably qualified person** who is either a certified **third party auditor** or an internal auditor employed by the **holder**, and the person is independent of the day-to-day management and operation of the **resource activity(ies)** operating under this Code.

### **Topsoil**

Soil from the 'A' horizons<sup>iii</sup> of a soil profile.

### **Void**

Any man-made open excavation in the ground. Includes sumps and pits but not the excavation hole associated with a well or drill hole (which have specific conditions for restoration).

### **Well lease**

The discrete area set aside for all activities associated with the drilling and operation of a petroleum or gas well. This includes the area required for sumps and **voids** (e.g. for the temporary storage of drilling muds) and flare pits.

---

<sup>i</sup> Soil horizons are defined in: The National Committee on Soil and Terrain. 2009. Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook, Third Edition. CSIRO Publishing

<sup>ii</sup> Terms defined in Schedule 1 of the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*

<sup>iii</sup> Soil horizons are defined in: The National Committee on Soil and Terrain. 2009. Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook, Third Edition. CSIRO Publishing



## Schedule 1: Financial assurance

The final assurance required under Part 3 of this Code must be calculated using the values in Table 1 to 3 below, and is based on the year the impact commences and the period of impact. Where financial assurance has been calculated under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the component covering the rehabilitation costs for **resource activities** on SCL or potential SCL may be deducted from the SCL financial assurance calculated in accordance with Table 1 to 3.

### Example

- If a 20-year coal seam gas project commences in 2013, has 50 wells and 10.5 hectares of **gravelled well lease** and **access tracks**, then the total assurance is \$1,048,604.50 (i.e. wells =  $\$6,455 \times 50$  + gravelled **well lease**/tracks  $\$69,129 \times 10.5$ ).
- If a 5-year coal exploration project commences in 2013, has 50 drill holes and 10.5 hectares of **gravelled drill pads** and **access tracks**, then the total assurance is \$673,045.50 (i.e. drill holes =  $\$4,143 \times 50$  + gravelled **well lease**/tracks  $\$44,371 \times 10.5$ ).

Table 1: Financial assurance for wells and exploratory drill/core holes (\$/well or drill hole)

Year the impact commences	\$/well, drill or core hole for period of impact (years)									
	1–5 years	6–10 years	11–15 years	16–20 years	21–25 years	26–30 years	31–35 years	36–40 years	41–45 years	46–49 years
2012	\$4,023	\$4,663	\$5,406	\$6,267	\$7,265	\$8,423	\$9,764	\$11,319	\$13,122	\$14,769
2013	\$4,143	\$4,803	\$5,568	\$6,455	\$7,483	\$8,675	\$10,057	\$11,659	\$13,516	\$15,212
2014	\$4,268	\$4,947	\$5,735	\$6,649	\$7,708	\$8,936	\$10,359	\$12,009	\$13,921	\$15,669
2015	\$4,396	\$5,096	\$5,907	\$6,848	\$7,939	\$9,204	\$10,669	\$12,369	\$14,339	\$16,139
2016	\$4,528	\$5,249	\$6,085	\$7,054	\$8,177	\$9,480	\$10,990	\$12,740	\$14,769	\$16,623
2017	\$4,663	\$5,406	\$6,267	\$7,265	\$8,423	\$9,764	\$11,319	\$13,122	\$15,212	\$17,121
2018	\$4,803	\$5,568	\$6,455	\$7,483	\$8,675	\$10,057	\$11,659	\$13,516	\$15,669	\$17,635
2019	\$4,947	\$5,735	\$6,649	\$7,708	\$8,936	\$10,359	\$12,009	\$13,921	\$16,139	\$18,164
2020	\$5,096	\$5,907	\$6,848	\$7,939	\$9,204	\$10,669	\$12,369	\$14,339	\$16,623	\$18,709
2021	\$5,249	\$6,085	\$7,054	\$8,177	\$9,480	\$10,990	\$12,740	\$14,769	\$17,121	\$19,270
2022	\$5,406	\$6,267	\$7,265	\$8,423	\$9,764	\$11,319	\$13,122	\$15,212	\$17,635	\$19,848

Table 2: Financial assurance for buried linear infrastructure, sumps, voids, formed drill pads, formed well leases, formed lay down areas and formed access tracks (\$/ha)

Year the impact commences	\$/ha for period of impact (years)									
	1–5 years	6–10 years	11–15 years	16–20 years	21–25 years	26–30 years	31–35 years	36–40 years	41–45 years	46–49 years
2012	\$8,300	\$9,622	\$11,155	\$12,932	\$14,991	\$17,379	\$20,147	\$23,356	\$27,076	\$30,475
2013	\$8,549	\$9,911	\$11,490	\$13,320	\$15,441	\$17,901	\$20,752	\$24,057	\$27,889	\$31,389
2014	\$8,806	\$10,208	\$11,834	\$13,719	\$15,904	\$18,438	\$21,374	\$24,779	\$28,725	\$32,330
2015	\$9,070	\$10,515	\$12,189	\$14,131	\$16,382	\$18,991	\$22,015	\$25,522	\$29,587	\$33,300
2016	\$9,342	\$10,830	\$12,555	\$14,555	\$16,873	\$19,560	\$22,676	\$26,288	\$30,475	\$34,299
2017	\$9,622	\$11,155	\$12,932	\$14,991	\$17,379	\$20,147	\$23,356	\$27,076	\$31,389	\$35,328
2018	\$9,911	\$11,490	\$13,320	\$15,441	\$17,901	\$20,752	\$24,057	\$27,889	\$32,330	\$36,388
2019	\$10,208	\$11,834	\$13,719	\$15,904	\$18,438	\$21,374	\$24,779	\$28,725	\$33,300	\$37,480
2020	\$10,515	\$12,189	\$14,131	\$16,382	\$18,991	\$22,015	\$25,522	\$29,587	\$34,299	\$38,604
2021	\$10,830	\$12,555	\$14,555	\$16,873	\$19,560	\$22,676	\$26,288	\$30,475	\$35,328	\$39,762
2022	\$11,155	\$12,932	\$14,991	\$17,379	\$20,147	\$23,356	\$27,076	\$31,389	\$36,388	\$40,955

Table 3: Financial assurance for gravelled drill pads, gravelled well leases, gravelled lay down areas and gravelled access tracks (\$/ha)

Year the impact commences	\$/ha for period of impact (years)									
	1–5 years	6–10 years	11–15 years	16–20 years	21–25 years	26–30 years	31–35 years	36–40 years	41–45 years	46–49 years
2012	\$43,079	\$49,940	\$57,894	\$67,115	\$77,805	\$90,197	\$104,563	\$121,217	\$140,524	\$158,161
2013	\$44,371	\$51,438	\$59,631	\$69,129	\$80,139	\$92,903	\$107,700	\$124,854	\$144,740	\$162,906
2014	\$45,702	\$52,981	\$61,420	\$71,202	\$82,543	\$95,690	\$110,931	\$128,599	\$149,082	\$167,793
2015	\$47,073	\$54,571	\$63,262	\$73,338	\$85,019	\$98,561	\$114,259	\$132,457	\$153,554	\$172,827
2016	\$48,485	\$56,208	\$65,160	\$75,539	\$87,570	\$101,518	\$117,687	\$136,431	\$158,161	\$178,012
2017	\$49,940	\$57,894	\$67,115	\$77,805	\$90,197	\$104,563	\$121,217	\$140,524	\$162,906	\$183,352
2018	\$51,438	\$59,631	\$69,129	\$80,139	\$92,903	\$107,700	\$124,854	\$144,740	\$167,793	\$188,853
2019	\$52,981	\$61,420	\$71,202	\$82,543	\$95,690	\$110,931	\$128,599	\$149,082	\$172,827	\$194,518
2020	\$54,571	\$63,262	\$73,338	\$85,019	\$98,561	\$114,259	\$132,457	\$153,554	\$178,012	\$200,354
2021	\$56,208	\$65,160	\$75,539	\$87,570	\$101,518	\$117,687	\$136,431	\$158,161	\$183,352	\$206,364
2022	\$57,894	\$67,115	\$77,805	\$90,197	\$104,563	\$121,217	\$140,524	\$162,906	\$188,853	\$212,555