



RPI Act Statutory Guideline 10/14

Changes to the SCL Trigger Map: Implications for activities in the Strategic Cropping Area

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SCL trigger map

The Queensland Government amended the Strategic Cropping Land (SCL) trigger map on the 19 December 2014, using improved data from the Queensland Agricultural Land Audit, the updated Queensland Land Use Mapping Program and digital elevation modeling.

The SCL trigger map identifies the strategic cropping area. The size of the strategic cropping area has increased from about 7.23 million hectares to 10.17 million hectares.

Information about the amendment of the SCL trigger map can be accessed at www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/land/accessing-using-land/strategic-cropping-land. This link also contains information about how to propose corrections to the SCL trigger map.

This guideline has been prepared to assist those who have obtained one of the following decisions to understand the implications of the amendments SCL trigger map:

- a Regional Interests Development Approval
- a validation decision under the repealed *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011* (SCL Act).
- a Protection Decision or Compliance Certificate under the repealed SCL Act.

This guideline also addresses resource activities that are proposed to be carried out on land that is mapped on the SCL trigger map for the first time.

The strategic cropping area

The strategic cropping area is an area of regional interest under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (RPI Act).

Any new resource activities proposed in the strategic cropping area must comply with the provisions of the RPI Act.

The RPI Act requires any resource activity proposed in the strategic cropping area to obtain a Regional Interests Development Approval (RIDA), unless they are exempt.

There are three exemptions that may apply for resource activities in the strategic cropping area:

1. activities with the agreement of the land owner (RPI Act s.22)
2. activities carried out for less than 12 months (RPI Act s.23)
3. pre-existing activities (RPI Act s.24).

Refer to RPI Act Statutory Guideline 03/14: Carrying out resource activities in the Strategic Cropping Area for further information.

RIDA

Resource activities that already have a RIDA for the strategic cropping area do not need to obtain another approval in relation to SCL for the approved activities.

If any new resource activities are proposed within the expanded strategic cropping area, a RIDA must be obtained, unless they are exempt (for example 'pre-existing' activities).

Validation decisions

Validation applications that were made under the repealed SCL Act, continue to be assessed and decided under the repealed SCL Act.

Where a validation application results in the land being decided as non-SCL, that land will be removed from the SCL trigger map. Any resource activities proposed in the non-SCL area have no requirements under the RPI Act in relation to SCL.

If any new resource activities are proposed within the expanded strategic cropping area, a RIDA must be obtained, unless they are exempt (for example 'pre-existing' activities).

It is important to confirm whether the land is mapped as any other area of regional interest, such as a priority agricultural area, as new resource activities may be subject to the RPI Act.

Protection decision or compliance certificate

A protection decision or a compliance certificate that was issued under the repealed SCL Act is taken to be a RIDA for resource activities in the strategic cropping area (RPI Act sections 102 and 103).

Resource activities that were the subject of a protection decision or a compliance certificate do not need to obtain another approval in relation to SCL for the approved activities.

If any new resource activities are proposed within the expanded strategic cropping area, a RIDA must be obtained, unless they are exempt (for example 'pre-existing' activities).

Activities in the expanded strategic cropping area

Resource activities that are proposed to be carried out on land that is mapped on the SCL Trigger Map for the first time are now subject to the provisions of the RPI Act.

Any resource activity proposed in the Strategic Cropping Area must obtain a RIDA, unless they are exempt.

Further information

RPI Act

Online: www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/RPIAct

Email: RPIAct@dilgp.qld.gov.au

Phone: 1300 967 433

SCL trigger map

Online: www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/land/accessing-using-land/strategic-cropping-land

Queensland agricultural land audit

Online: www.daff.qld.gov.au/environment/ag-land-audit

Queensland land use mapping program

Online: <http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/mapping/glump/>

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