

OLIVE GROWING

IS017

Responsible Officer: MDS

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Under the Development Act 1993, an olive orchard is considered a form of horticulture. However, olive orchards may have particular impacts such as the spread of feral plants, bushfire hazard and water consumption.

When is a Development Application required?

A Development Application is required for:

- A new olive grove proposal;
- A change of land use (from dry land cropping or general farming to olive growing);
- Depending on the particular circumstances in each case, a change of land use may also occur between different types of horticulture where agricultural practices and potential impacts of use are clearly different;
- Any associated building work.

Who is the Relevant Authority?

In the majority of cases, Council will be the relevant authority.

Development Application Requirements

The following information should accompany a development application for Olive Growing.

Site Plan

A site plan (not less than 1:200) indicating:

- Existing and proposed structures
- Location of area for olive growing
- Direction of rows
- Contours/slope
- Location and width of proposed buffers (spray drift, windbreak, water quality etc)
- Location of any watercourses, dams and/or bores and the distance of proposed olives from these features
- Distances from native vegetation located on the subject site and adjoining land
- Distance to the nearest dwelling(s) on subject and neighbouring lands
- Location of any existing feral olives

Description of the Proposal

A written description of the proposal, including details on:

- The likely development stages
- The number of hectares to be planted with olives

- Outcomes of an olive grove risk assessment, conducted by the local Animal and Plant and Control Board or another suitably qualified person

An outline of how the olives will be managed including:

- Harvest method
- Types of chemicals to be used and the method of frequency of application
- Time of loading and unloading trucks
- Fire risk management including access, siting, water supply, vegetation
- Any audible bird scaring devices, including frequency and time of use
- Access routes of trucks and vehicles

Pollution

- Describe the chemicals to be used
- The method and frequency of chemical application
- Where chemicals will be used and how accidental spills will be controlled and contained
- The distance and direction of spray drift
- Identify if wastes will be generated, where they will be stored, treated or disposed of
- Identify any likely sources of noise (eg bird scarers, machinery, frost fans) and their location and any noise minimisation features and practices (eg hours of operation)
- Describe management or design techniques proposed to minimise the impacts of noise, odour or airborne particle sources such as landscape buffers, enclosed storage areas or pavements to reduce dust generation

Water Resources

- Estimate the amount of water that the olive grove will need per year in kilolitres and describe the method of application
- Identify sources of water (eg dam, bore, reticulated supply, treated waste water, stormwater)
- Details of any dam (construction materials, capacity etc) or bore to be constructed
- Describe the quality of water being used for irrigation (eg bacterial and salinity levels)
- Describe how waste water will be captured, stored, treated and disposed of so that it does not pollute the environment

Soil Management

- Describe the methods to manage soil erosion during the site establishment and ongoing management of the property
- Details of the type of pasture or ground cover to be established between rows and how this vegetation cover is to be maintained

Details on Fire Risk Management

- Location and width of any proposed buffers
- Proposed access for fire fighting vehicles
- Availability of water for firefighting purposes
- Details of Bird Scaring Devices including proposed time of use

Other approvals that may be required:

Under the Water Resources Act 1997 the following licences may be required:

- Water licence – a water licence is required for taking water from a prescribed watercourse, lake or well.
- Well construction licence – a permit is required for the drilling and/or construction of a well (or bore) located within either a prescribed or non prescribed area.

The relevant authority to issue permits and licences under the Water Resources Act is the Minister responsible for the Water Resources Act.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1993:

- EPA licence – a licence is required when treated sewage water, or other wastewater is used for irrigation or when an associated activity, such as an aquaculture development, produces large volumes of wastewater.

Under the Native Vegetation Act 1991:

- Clearance of Native Vegetation permit – approval is required for clearance of any native vegetation when establishing a new olive grove.

Under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004:

- In areas proclaimed for enforcement control, the Natural Resources Management Act requires landowners to control wild olives on their own land and to pay the costs and control on the adjoining road reserves.

Referrals

Council may refer olive growing applications to the Animal & Plant Control Board for comment.

Further Information

For any queries regarding olive growing please contact Council's Development Services Department on:

Maitland Office (08) 8832 0000
Yorke town Office (08) 8852 0200

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

General Enquiries
136 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000
Ph: 1800 752 664
www.dpti.sa.gov.au/planning

Useful Publications

- *Risk Management of Olives Guidelines (draft)*
March 1999, prepared by the Animal & Plant Control Commission
- *Guidelines for Irrigation Development in South Australia*, October 1998 – prepared by a working group, comprised of representatives of PIRSA, DTUPA, DEHAA and LGA.
- Introduction to Olive Growing in South Australia, Susan Sweeney, PIRSA.