

<p>These areas are potentially unsuitable for development owing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - high agricultural value and preservation importance; - high production capability; - high capital investment made; and/or - unique agricultural land attributes. 	<p>2.2. The assessment must be undertaken on the preferred site and within the proposed development footprint.</p> <p>2.3. The assessment must be undertaken based on a site inspection as well as an investigation of the current production figures, where the land is under cultivation or has been within the past 5 years, and must identify:</p> <p>2.3.1. the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the agricultural resources; and</p> <p>2.3.2. whether or not the proposed development will have an unacceptable impact on the agricultural production capability of the site, and in the event where it does, whether such an impact is outweighed by the positive impact of the proposed development on agricultural resources.</p> <p>2.4. The assessment must include a description of the status quo, including the following aspects which must be considered as a minimum in the baseline description of the agro-ecosystem:</p> <p>2.4.1. the soil form/s, soil depth (effective and total soil depth), top and sub-soil clay percentage, terrain unit and slope;</p> <p>2.4.2. the soil form, soil depth (effective and total soil depth), top and sub-soil clay percentage, terrain unit and slope;</p> <p>2.4.3. where applicable, the vegetation composition, available water sources as well as agro-climatic information;</p> <p>2.4.4. the current productivity of the land based on production figures for all agricultural activities undertaken on the land for the past 5 years, expressed as an annual figure and broken down into production units;</p> <p>2.4.5. the current employment figures (both permanent and casual) for the land for the past 3 years, expressed as an annual figure; and</p> <p>2.4.6. existing impacts on the site, located on a map (e.g. erosion, alien vegetation, non-agricultural infrastructure, waste, etc.).</p> <p>2.5. The assessment must include an assessment of impacts, including the following aspects which must be considered as a minimum in the predicted impact of the proposed development on the agro-ecosystem:</p> <p>2.5.1. change in productivity for all agricultural activities based on the figures of the past 5 years, expressed as an annual figure and broken down into production units;</p> <p>2.5.2. change in employment figures (both permanent and casual) for the past 5 years expressed as an annual figure; and</p> <p>2.5.3. any alternative development footprints within the preferred site which would be of "medium" or "low" sensitivity for agricultural resources as identified by the screening tool and verified through the site sensitivity verification.</p> <p>2.6. The findings of the Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment must be written up in an Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Report that contains as a minimum the following information:</p> <p>2.6.1. details and relevant experience as well as the SACNASP registration number of the soil scientist or agricultural specialist preparing the assessment including a curriculum vitae;</p> <p>2.6.2. a signed statement of independence by the specialist;</p>
<p>HIGH SENSITIVITY RATING - Land capability evaluation values of 8 - 10 including all cultivated areas⁷ including sugar cane areas and demarcated high value agricultural areas with a priority rating of C and/or D.</p> <p>High sensitivity areas are still preservation worthy since they include land with an agricultural production potential and suitability for specific crops.</p>	

⁷ The Field Crop boundary and Land Capability dataset has been provided by DAFF. For details of the datasets, click on the options button to the right of the Field Crop Boundary layer and Land Capability layer respectively, in the Agricultural Theme to view the metadata.