

Making Victoria Fire Ready - Preparing for bushfire

Protecting homes against bushfire — clearing of native vegetation

Native vegetation is important to many Victorians and its removal is carefully regulated by the planning system. A planning permit is required to remove native vegetation unless a relevant exemption applies.

The Victorian Government has announced temporary exemptions to help landowners reduce fuel load around their homes as part of their preparations for the 2009/10 bushfire season. This fact sheet explains the temporary exemptions for fire protection and how they will apply this summer.

These exemptions have been introduced to all regional, rural and selected Melbourne metropolitan areas. Check the back of this fact sheet to see if the interim measures apply to your local council area.

If you do not live in one of these areas the existing planning provisions continue to apply. See Fact sheet: *Clearing of native vegetation for Bushfire protection* available on www.dse.vic.gov.au.

Getting your property Fire Ready

The '10/30 right' is part of a suite of measures to help Victorians in areas of risk from bushfire prepare for the season ahead.

Residents should seek advice from their local CFA regarding their bushfire survival plans and should seek advice from their local council about implementing a sensible balance between providing a safer home and maintaining vegetation on their property.

In addition to vegetation management, the ability to defend your house and property from bushfire can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- the preparation of your household's bushfire survival plan
- house location, including aspect and surrounding land form
- the building structure and materials and
- available water supply, including tanks and swimming pools, pumps or sprinkler systems.

10/30 right and fenceline clearing

The 10/30 right simplifies the right to clear vegetation around your home for bushfire protection without obtaining a planning permit. The right allows landowners to clear without a planning permit:

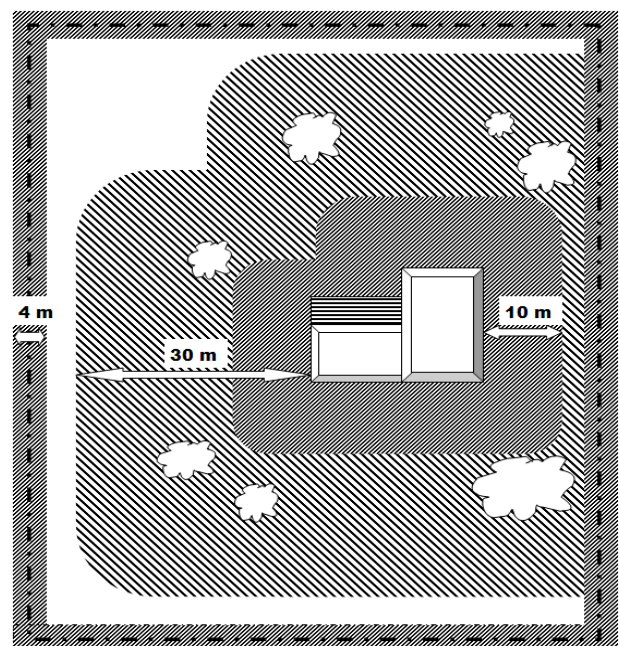
1. all vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
2. all vegetation (except for trees) within 30 metres of your house. See Figure 1.

You can also remove all native vegetation either side of your property boundary fence to a combined maximum width of 4 metres without a permit.

You can only clear native vegetation on your property if you own it. If you are renting or want to clear vegetation on other properties including public reserves or roadsides, you need the written permission of the landowner or relevant public land manager.

Bushfires rely on fine fuels including leaf litter, twigs and shrubs on the surface to develop speed and intensity. The 10/30 right will help residents reduce the amount and availability of fine fuels, reducing fire intensity and risk.

Figure 1: Applying the 10/30 right



Making Victoria Fire Ready - Preparing for bushfire

Firewood collection

You can remove fallen wood from certain roadsides without a permit during "firewood collection periods". Designated firewood collection periods will be advertised in your local paper and will occur two weeks prior to planned fuel reduction burns. There will be signs along roadsides showing you where fallen wood may be collected during these periods. If in doubt, check with your local council. Designated firewood collection periods will be organised by road management authorities. Outside the advertised firewood collection periods, you may need permission to collect fallen wood from roadsides.

Safety

Planned fuel reduction burns will only apply to roadside reserves selected by road management authorities in consultation with the CFA and DSE because of an identified fire risk and minimal

biodiversity impacts. All stages of the planned burns and roadside firewood collection will be undertaken at an appropriate date and time using a VicRoads endorsed traffic management plan to manage road safety and traffic congestion.

Fire prevention notice

You can still remove native vegetation without a permit to comply with a *fire prevention notice* issued by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) or the Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE).

Fuel reduction burns

You need a permit from DSE or CFA to carry out fuel reduction burning on your property. You should also be aware of fire restrictions in your area before lighting any fire. If in doubt, please check with your local council.

Councils where the interim vegetation management provisions apply

Alpine Shire	Gannawarra Shire	Mansfield Shire	Southern Grampians Shire
Ararat Rural City	Glenelg Shire	Melton Shire	Strathbogie Shire
Ballarat City	Golden Plains Shire	Mildura Rural City	Surf Coast Shire
Bass Coast Shire	Greater Bendigo City	Mitchell Shire	Swan Hill Rural City
Baw Baw Shire	Greater Geelong City	Moira Shire	Towong Shire
Benalla Rural City	Greater Shepparton City	Moorabool Shire	Wangaratta Rural City
Buloke Shire	Hepburn Shire	Mornington Peninsula Shire	Warrnambool City
Campaspe Shire	Hindmarsh Shire	Mount Alexander Shire	Wellington Shire
Cardinia Shire	Horsham Rural City	Moyne Shire	West Wimmera Shire
Casey City	Hume City	Murrindindi Shire	Whittlesea Shire
Central Goldfields Shire	Indigo Shire	Nillumbik Shire	Wodonga City
Colac Otway Shire	Latrobe City	Northern Grampians Shire	Wyndham City
Corangamite Shire	Loddon Shire	Pyrenees Shire	Yarra Ranges Shire
East Gippsland Shire	Macedon Ranges Shire	Queenscliffe Borough	Yarriambiack Shire
Frankston City	Manningham City	South Gippsland Shire	

For more information: Contact your local council or visit www.dse.vic.gov.au

DSE Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment Melbourne, August 2009, © The State of Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment 2009. This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968. Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne. ISBN 978-1-74242-162-9 (online)

For more information contact the DSE Customer Service Centre 136 186. This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.