

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.

The Victorian Government has announced temporary exemptions from the need for a planning permit to remove native vegetation to help reduce fuel load around your home 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 including in areas covered by planning overlays. 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.

You should seek advice from your local Country Fire Authority (CFA) regarding their bushfire survival plans and should seek advice from your local council about implementing a sensible balance between providing a safer home and maintaining vegetation on your 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 native vegetation around your home for bushfire protection without obtaining a planning permit. The right allows landowners to clear without a planning permit:

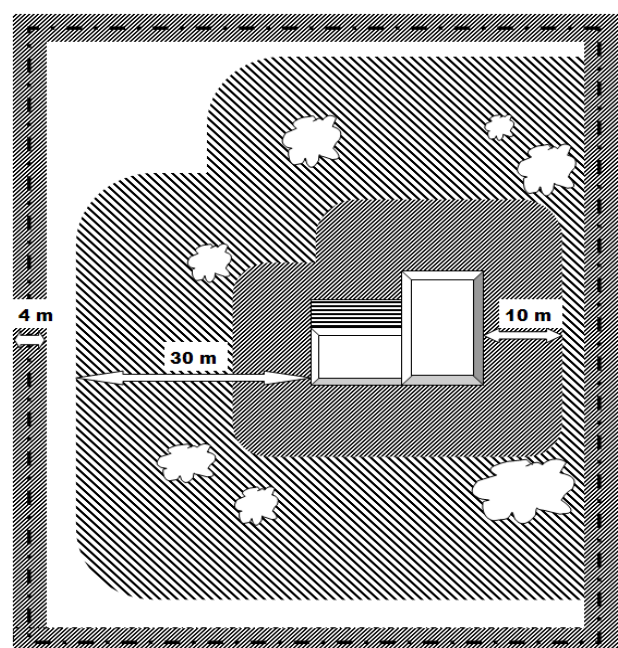
1. any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
2. any vegetation (except for trees) within 30 metres of your house. See Figure 1.

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

You can only clear 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



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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 the

Councils where the 10/30 right applies

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 Council
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	

Councils where the 10/30 right does not apply

Banyule City	Greater Dandenong City	Maroondah City	Port Phillip City
Bayside City	Hobsons Bay City	Melbourne City	Port of Melbourne
Boroondara City	Kingston City	Monash City	Stonnington City
Brimbank City	Knox City	Moonee Valley City	Whitehorse City
Darebin City	Maribyrnong City	Moreland City	Yarra City
Glen Eira City			

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

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