

FACT SHEET

Preparing for a bushfire: Clearance of native vegetation

Clearing around your house

Any vegetation within 10m of your dwelling¹ can be cleared **without Native Vegetation Council approval**

Any vegetation except for large trees can be cleared between 10-20m from your dwelling **without Native Vegetation Council approval** (excluding properties within the River Murray Floodplain). Large tree means a tree (including a dead tree) where the circumference of the trunk of the tree is 2m or more, when measured at a point of 1m from the base of the tree.

Clearing around buildings (excluding dwellings)



Any vegetation within 10m of the building (definition includes structures² used for primary production, the housing or feeding of animals, the storage of fodder, and the storage of vehicles or vessels, pump sheds, can be removed **without Native Vegetation Council approval**.

¹Dwelling means a building or part of a building used as a self-contained residence.

²Structure means a building or structure that is permanently fixed to land so that it cannot be moved without dismantling or destroying it and;

Includes a transportable building if the building is connected to a sewage system or a septic tank and then is not moved after it is first connected to that sewage system or septic tank; but

Does not include a building or structure erected or placed on land in contravention of the Development Act 1993 or a corresponding previous enactment.

Clearance for a fence-line fuel break

Fence-line fuel breaks can be constructed up to 5m in width along an existing fence line without approval. When measuring the width of the fuel break, you should include any immediately adjoining land where the vegetation has been removed as this reduces the amount of native vegetation you may need to remove overall.

Clearance with CFS approval

If clearance is required beyond what's permitted without approval as presented above, additional clearance can be applied for from the SA Country Fire Service (CFS).

Clearance may relate to the following;

- Fuel reduction, including additional clearance around existing dwellings or buildings
- Fire breaks
- Fire access tracks
- Prescribed burning for fuel reduction

For information, including application forms and contact detail, please see the following guide -

[Managing Native Vegetation - How to reduce the impact of bushfire and the steps you need to take](#)

Clearance to enhance biodiversity

You may conduct a prescribed burn in an area of native vegetation if the burn is intended to improve ecological processes. This type of prescribed burn must be undertaken according to a management plan approved by the Native Vegetation Council.

For further details please see the following websites:

cfs.sa.gov.au or nvc.sa.gov.au



Overview of environmental approvals for bushfire hazard reduction in South Australia

