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 entactment.

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

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

Public land (MCEW[^] estate)

Strategic Assessment (delegated approval process)

Public land (non MCEW estate) and Private land

Individual site and activity applications to Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - noting that generally **routine activities do not require approval**

- Any clearance of vegetation on a neighbouring property requires the permission of the owner of the land.
- Any clearance of vegetation within a road reserve needs the permission of the local Council and is limited to 1m adjacent a fence.
- Clearance of large trees (trees with a circumference of 2m or more measured at 1m from the ground) between 10 to 20m from a dwelling requires the approval of the chief officer of the CFS.

Figure 1

Check the specific requirements with the Native Vegetation Council and <u>CFS Guide to Managing Native Vegetation</u>.

It is noted that this figure is not an exhaustive representation of all applicable environmental regulatory and policy processes.

* Land under the care and control of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (MCEW)

^ In accordance with regulation

* Native vegetation clearance on roadsides for other purposes require approval by the Native Vegetation Council Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA) and Native Vegetation Regulations 2017 (SA)

Across both private and public land

Clearance Exemptions

20m around dwelling, 10m around building, 5m around property boundary (each side)

Approval required from CFS*

Fuel reduction, Fire access tracks, fuel breaks, Prescribed burning, Roadside vegetation[#]

Approval required from Native Vegetation Council

Clearance undertaken in accordance within a Bushfire Plan (e.g. a DEW Fire Management Plan) prescribed burning for ecological management

Approval provided under BMAPs

BMAP developed by BMC and approved by SBCC under the *FES Act 2005*

In emergency situations

In emergency situations MFS, CFS and SES acting in accordance with the FES Act 2005