



Managing Native Vegetation

# How to reduce the impact of bushfire

and the steps you need to take

*August 2020*





# Foreword

Bushfire is a natural part of the South Australian landscape, and we will continue to experience bushfires every fire season. But we can reduce their impact by being Bushfire Ready. Reducing bushfire risk is an ongoing and shared responsibility and everyone has a role.

Managing fuel is a key part of being Bushfire Ready. If we manage the fine fuel we improve the chances of controlling the intensity of a bushfire. However, managing native vegetation presents us with particular challenges as we try to balance, reducing the likelihood and severity of bushfire on communities and the environment, with conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

This Guide, which has been developed by the South Australian Government, the South Australian Country Fire Service, and the Native Vegetation Council, outlines the actions you may take to manage native vegetation to reduce the impact of bushfires.

You can remove native vegetation around homes, strategically reduce fuel across the landscape, and construct fuel breaks and fire access tracks, as part of your overall preparedness. You can also discuss with your CFS Regional Staff how to manage bushfire risks while minimising the affects on native plants and animals.

Please take the time to read the Guide as part of preparing yourself for the next bushfire season. We also urge you to become Bushfire Ready by developing a Bushfire Action Plan.



**Emily Jenke**  
Presiding Member  
Native Vegetation Council



**Mark Jones QFSM**  
Chief Officer  
SA Country Fire Service

## Acknowledgment of country

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people have to Country.

We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.





A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a forest scene. In the foreground, there is a metal bucket with a handle, partially visible. The ground is covered with green grass and some dry leaves. In the background, there are several tall trees with green foliage, and the scene is lit with soft, natural light.

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# Managing Native Vegetation for Bushfire Safety:

## A summary

Bushfire preparedness is a shared responsibility. Reduce the impact of bushfire today.

**prepare. act. survive.**

The table on the right provides a brief summary of some of the actions you can do to manage native vegetation on your property for bushfire safety. Use the page references to find out more detailed information that you will need to consider BEFORE undertaking any activities on your property.



**Are you Bushfire Ready?**

**Actions you can take today:**  
**Reduce • Remove • Dispose • Replace**



## Quick reference guide

Reason?	What can be done?	Is approval needed?	For more information on the requirements you must meet with your approval, go to...
<b>To protect a building</b>	You can reduce, modify or remove native vegetation within 10m of a <b>building</b> (including overhanging limbs or entire trees if deemed a fire risk). See the Glossary for a definition of 'reduce' and 'modify'.	No	Pg 5
<b>To protect a dwelling</b>	<p>A further 10m (totalling 20m) of clearance of vegetation is permitted from a dwelling. Clearance does not include large trees - 2 metres circumference measured at 1 metre in height.</p> <p>You can modify or remove native vegetation further than 20m from a dwelling to reduce fuel loads.</p>	Yes - CFS	Pg 5
<b>To protect a dwelling pre-construction</b>	<p>Submit an application to the Native Vegetation Branch for the direct and in-direct clearance associated with the construction of a new dwelling, building or infrastructure – including clearance for fire.</p> <p>Clearance of vegetation for fire management and control in accordance with these guidelines only applies to existing buildings, dwellings or infrastructure and must not be applied to proposed developments.</p>	Yes - NVC	<a href="https://environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation">environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation</a>
<b>To clear large trees to prevent fire</b>	Removal of large/significant trees between 10 - 20 metres of a dwelling for the purpose of fire prevention and control.	Yes - CFS	Pg 5
<b>To reduce fuel in the landscape</b>	Fuel loads can be strategically reduced or modified on private land, including through prescribed burning or by removing vegetation mechanically.	Yes - CFS	Pg 6
<b>To construct a fuel break</b>	<p>You can remove vegetation to construct a fuel break up to 5m wide along a fence line.</p> <p>On a property used for primary production, you can remove native vegetation to construct a fuel break up to 20m wide.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes - CFS</p>	<p>Pg 7</p> <p>Pg 7</p>
<b>To construct fire access tracks</b>	You can remove native vegetation to construct fire access tracks up to 15m wide. Standards detailed in Appendix 4.	Yes - CFS	Pg 8
<b>To enhance biodiversity</b>	Prescribed burning to improve the ecological outcomes for native plant and animal habitats, and to help with weed control.	Yes - NVC	Pg 9

This Guide has been prepared in accordance with the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and therefore only permits you to manage native vegetation in accordance with the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* or *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*. Some activities you may want to undertake to manage native vegetation on your property may require approval under different legislation, for example the *Development Act 1993* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1991*.



# Managing Native Vegetation for Bushfire Safety: What you can do

This section outlines what you can do to manage native vegetation for bushfire safety. Throughout this Guide, there is mention made of different Fire Management Zones. These zones are applied during bushfire planning as a useful way to devise a strategy to help protect your property or community. The zones also define the primary purpose for fire management in a given area of land. The four Bushfire Management Zones identified throughout this Guide are the Asset Protection Zone, Bushfire Buffer Zone, Strategic Fuel Management Zone, Conservation Zone, Exclusion Zones.

**Please take the time to read this.**

**It is your responsibility to find out if the actions you are proposing to undertake require approval under other legislation.**



## Managing native vegetation:

# To protect a dwelling

Bushfire is a real risk for all South Australians and you can't predict when a bushfire will strike. But your chances of survival are increased if you are well prepared. The State Government, SA Country Fire Service, the Native Vegetation Council and Local Councils are working together to protect life and property, while still recognising the value of native vegetation to people and the environment.

## Other Considerations

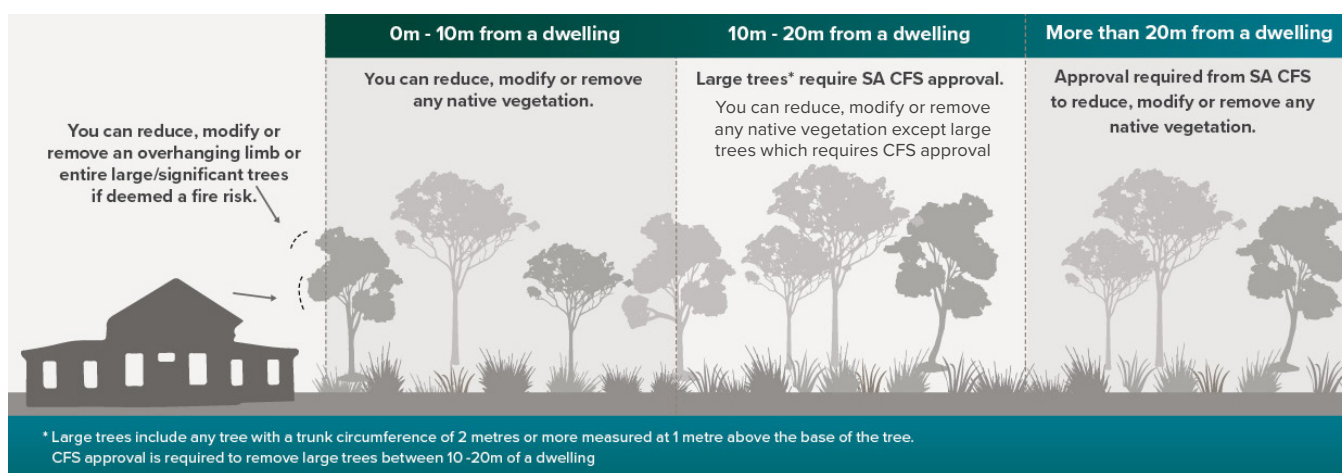
### Native Vegetation Regulation 8(1) – Vegetation within 10 metres of existing building (including dwellings).

This regulation permits clearance of all vegetation within 10m of a building (except within the River Murray Flood Plain Zone) for the purpose of maintaining the building.

### Significant or Regulated Trees

Before undertaking any clearance, you need to confirm if any of your proposed clearance will include significant or regulated trees as per the *Development Regulations 2008*.

To do this, contact your local Council for further information and direction.



## What can I do without approval?

You can reduce, modify or remove native vegetation (excluding large trees between 10-20m) within 20 metres of a dwelling to help protect your home in a bushfire. Be aware that this does not permit clearance of vegetation on adjoining properties without the landowner's permission

This type of fuel management provides a defensible space around your house and can contribute to the establishment and maintenance of an Asset protection zone. When combined with other measures it will help to reduce the impact of radiant heat during a bushfire.

You may love your native trees and plants and want to retain as much as possible on your property. Discuss this with the SA CFS staff and you will receive good advice on the most suitable activities to reduce fuel on your property. In some circumstances, fuel loads can be reduced by simply removing weeds. In others, retaining trees in strategic areas offers protection for your building. Please refer to Appendix 1 for further information relating to the management of native vegetation within an Asset Protection Zone.

## What activities do I need approval for?

### Large Trees

To remove large trees situated between 10-20 metres of a dwelling you will need approval from the SA CFS. A large tree is considered a tree that has a trunk circumference of 2 metres or more (measured at a point 1 metre above the base of the tree).

### Beyond 20m

You may be concerned about the fuel load in native vegetation that is further than 20m from your dwelling. In these instances you will need approval to reduce, modify or remove native vegetation. You can download the application form (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)) to apply to the SA CFS for approval.

In considering your application the SA CFS will refer to the Australian Standard Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas AS3959 2009 that recommends distances to manage native vegetation around a building dependent upon the surrounding type of vegetation and slope (see Appendix 2 of this Standard.)

## Fire Management Plans

All activities must be compliant with any applicable Fire Management Plan, or other plan for managing bushfires approved by the Native vegetation Council (see page 17 for definitions).



## Managing native vegetation:

# Reduce fuel in the landscape

To provide further protection for existing assets, additional strategic clearance of native vegetation may be required to reduce fuel loads across a property. This is aimed at slowing the fire's rate of spread, reducing its intensity, and minimising fire spotting potential over short to medium distances.

### Things you will need to consider:

If you want to remove or modify a Regulated or Significant Tree beyond 10m from a dwelling, you will need approval as outlined in the Development Regulations 2008. Once you have identified if you have a Significant Tree contact your Local Council for further information on how to apply.



## What activities do I need approval for?

If you want to strategically reduce the amount of fuel on your property, you need to do so according to your local approved bushfire management plan. If there is no bushfire management plan in place, or if your proposed fuel reduction activities are not incorporated under the plan, you can download the application form (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)) to apply to the SA CFS for approval.

The SA CFS will only consider applications for strategic fuel management in relation to existing assets. Any clearance associated with new developments requires the approval of the Native Vegetation Council.

You may want to conduct a prescribed burn to reduce fuel on your property. If these prescribed burns are to take place during the fire danger season then an application will need to be made for a schedule 9 permit from SA CFS.

For further information relating to vegetation management within a buffer zone, refer to Appendix 1.

In considering your application the SA CFS will look at ways to manage bushfire risks whilst minimising the impacts on native plants, animals and their ecosystems. As an example, removing weeds may be the most suitable method to reduce the fuel load on your property.

Note: Strategic fuel reduction activities are often included in a Bushfire Buffer Zone or a Strategic Fuel Management Zone, occurring on larger areas of land, and can be undertaken on any private or public land.

## Bushfire Management Plans

All activities must be in compliance with a bushfire management plan, or other plan for the management of bushfires approved by the Native Vegetation Council (see page 17 for definitions).



## Managing native vegetation:

# To construct a fuel break

Fuel breaks can be used to help stop or slow the spread of fires and should be used strategically in the landscape to provide the SA CFS opportunities to suppress active fires and provide additional protection to existing assets.



## Are you Bushfire Ready?

Actions you can take today:  
Reduce • Remove • Dispose • Replace



## What activities can I do without approval?

### Fence-line fuel breaks

Fence-line fuel breaks can be constructed up to 5m in width along an existing fence line. 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.

## What activities do I need approval for?

### Primary Production Fuel Breaks

A Primary Production fuel break may only be located within the area of a rural council as defined in the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* and on a property where one of the main uses is for primary production. A Primary Production fuel break can be constructed up to 20m in width, and:

- must be at least 200m from another fuel break, except for fuel breaks that run at approximate right angles
- when measuring the width of the fuel break, 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.

If you want to construct a Primary Production fuel break you need to do so according to a local, approved bushfire management plan for and in line with approval from the SA CFS, you can download the application form (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)).

### Any other fuel break

You can remove native vegetation to construct a fuel break that is more than 20m in width, only if the fuel break is specified within an approved bushfire management plan.

In considering your application the SA CFS will look at ways to manage bushfire risks whilst minimising the impacts on native plants, animals and their ecosystems.

If you want to remove or modify a Regulated or Significant Tree you will need approval as outlined in the Development Regulations 2008. Once you have identified if you have a Significant Tree, contact your Local Council for further information on how to apply.

## Bushfire Management Plans

All activities must be in compliance with a bushfire management plan, or other plan for the management of bushfires approved by the Native Vegetation Council (see page 17 for definitions).

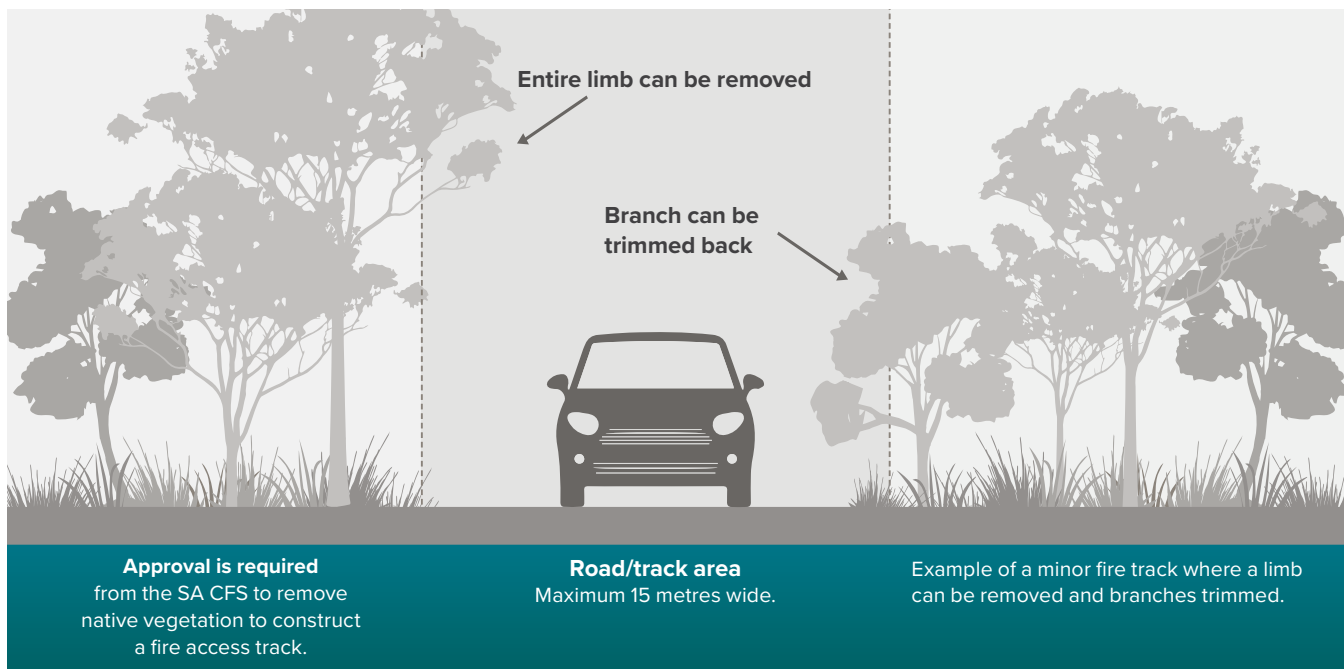


## Managing native vegetation:

# To construct a fire access track

Fire access tracks are important to allow safe access and egress to property, particularly where SA CFS may need access during an active fire.

It is your responsibility to find out if the actions you are proposing to undertake require approval under other legislation.



## What activities do I need approval for?

You can remove native vegetation to construct a fire access track. Approvals for fire access tracks differ from standard vehicle access tracks because they are constructed and maintained to allow the safe passage of firefighting vehicles.

Fire access tracks should be constructed according to the standards included in Appendix 4 of this Guide and any local, approved bushfire management plan. You will need to apply to the SA CFS for approval and can download the application form (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](https://cfs.sa.gov.au)).

In considering your application the SA CFS will look at ways to manage bushfire risks whilst minimising the impacts on native plants, animals and their ecosystems.

\* For this activity you will need SA CFS approval.

\* Definitions provided in the Glossary on Page 29.

### Things you will need to consider:

If you want to remove or modify a Regulated or Significant Tree\* you will need approval as outlined in the Development Regulations 2008. Once you have identified you have a Significant Tree contact your Local Council for further information on how to apply.

**If you are constructing a fire access track**, it means a track (not exceeding 15 metres in width) constructed for use by vehicles undertaking firefighting activities.

## Bushfire Management Plans

All activities must be in compliance with a bushfire management plan, or other plan for the management of bushfires approved by the Native Vegetation Council (see page 17 for definitions).



## Managing native vegetation:

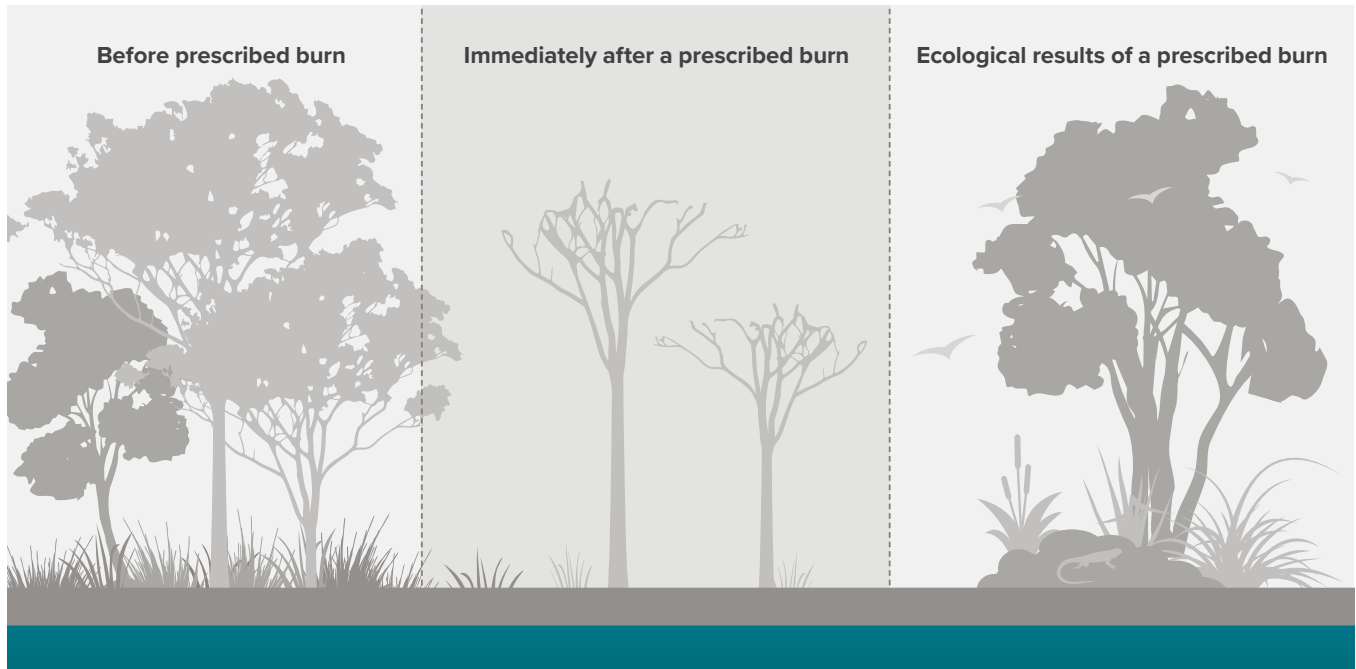
# To enhance biodiversity

Bushfire has been a part of the Australian landscape for millions of years. Australian ecosystems have successfully adapted to the presence of bushfire on a regular basis. Fire plays an important role in the ecology of the environment, and is needed to trigger some natural processes, such as stimulating seed germination. This has long been recognised and is why prescribed burning is sometimes used to help regenerate plant and animal habitats.



## Are you Bushfire Ready?

Actions you can take today:  
Reduce • Remove • Dispose • Replace



## What activities do I need approval for?

You may conduct a prescribed burn in an area of native vegetation if the burn is intended to improve ecological processes.

However, this type of prescribed burn **must** be undertaken according to a management plan approved by the Native Vegetation Council. Unless another plan to manage bushfires has been approved by the Native Vegetation Council or developed in accordance with a standard operating procedure determined or approved by the Native Vegetation Council.

You can find more information about prescribed burning and ecological management in Appendix 5 of this Guide or contact the Native Vegetation Council (see page 19 for contact details).

To seek approval for your management plan to undertake a prescribed burn or to seek further information, email the NVC at [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au)



# Do you want to know more about native vegetation and bushfire safety?

**The Government of SA is committed to reducing the impact of bushfires on the community and the environment. As such the Government has developed a clear and consistent approach to manage native vegetation to reduce the impact of bushfires throughout the State. This is delivered by the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017, which lists the actions that can be undertaken to manage native vegetation for bushfire prevention purposes.**

The Regulations promote a planned approach to bushfire protection activities, including native vegetation management, around houses, other built assets and across the landscape.

In particular the Government recognises the need for you, the landowner, to be able to protect your property from the impacts of bushfires by responsibly managing vegetation on your property. Planning and being prepared for a bushfire is a shared responsibility and it is important for community members to have a Bushfire Survival Plan, prepare their properties well prior to the fire danger season, and have a plan in place for total fire ban days.

## **Why should native vegetation be managed to reduce the impact of bushfires?**

### **To conserve and enhance water quality and yield, soil fertility and stability, seed availability, habitat and more**

Native vegetation is important to South Australians and the environment, but it also has wider social, economic, spiritual and cultural values. It sustains critical ecological processes upon which we all rely, including protecting water quality, catchment water yield, and soil fertility and stability.

Carefully managed native vegetation often helps to protect assets from bushfire and at the same time provides significant habitat for native fauna after a bushfire has passed.

For example, native vegetation along road reserves is important because it can form a significant habitat corridor that links blocks of native vegetation and provides a source of seed for revegetation projects and habitat for threatened species. As we are all custodians of native vegetation in South Australia, we all have a duty of care to manage native vegetation responsibly.

### **To protect the things you love**

Making your house and property bushfire safe is your responsibility and is important for your family, your business and for the environment. Well-planned bushfire management activities on private property can reduce the risk of bushfire.

### **To protect your neighbours and community**

The SA CFS cannot provide every person and home with individual protection during a major bushfire and recognises that many people may have to face a bushfire without its support. Building community safety through greater community self-reliance means that you and your neighbours can work together to develop strategies to manage fuel levels to reduce the impact of bushfires in your area.

### **To reduce the risks of a major bushfire occurring**

It is vital that we are proactive in managing fuel hazards and native vegetation across the landscape. When considered at a broad scale, the actions of each individual will contribute to more effective Statewide bushfire management and suppression activities.

**Contact the SA CFS if you would like more information on how to make your property 'Bushfire Ready'. Visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](https://cfs.sa.gov.au) or phone (08) 8463 4200.**

# Application to manage Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire

## Cut down the impact of bushfires

**Bushfire is a real risk for all South Australians and you can't predict when a bushfire will strike. But your chances of survival are increased if you are prepared.**

The State Government, SA CFS, the Native Vegetation Council and Local Councils are working together to protect life and property, while still recognising the value of native vegetation to people and the environment.

Use the following application form to seek approval for activities as specified throughout this guide for managing Native Vegetation: how to reduce the impact of bushfire, and the steps you need to take (2020) (download a copy from [www.nvc.sa.gov.au](http://www.nvc.sa.gov.au)). It is important that you provide adequate information about the activities you are proposing to carry out when completing your application. Applications must be signed by an owner of the property where the works are to be carried out.

### Things you will need to consider:

- If there is a bushfire management plan that applies to your area, the activities you are proposing to reduce the impact of bushfire on your property may already be approved. Contact the SA CFS and Native Vegetation Council to find out (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au) and [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au) for details).
- If you want to remove or modify a Regulated or Significant Tree you will need approval as outlined in the Development Regulations 2008. Once you have identified if you have a Significant Tree, contact your Local Council for further information on how to apply.



# Application to manage Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire

## 1. Your Details

Name:

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Postal Address:

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Postcode:

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Phone (Home):

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Phone (Business):

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Mobile:

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Fax:

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Email:

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## 2. Location of Works

Give details of the property where the proposed works are to be conducted.

Location Address:

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**AND/OR**

Section:

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Hundred:

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Lot Number:

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## 3. Why do you want to manage native vegetation?

To protect a dwelling – Go to Section A

To reduce fuel – Go to Section B

To construct a fuel break – Go to Section C

To construct a fire access track – Go to Section D

To remove large trees for prevention – Go to Section E

Page 12 – To be completed by all applicants

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received:

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Received by:

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Application number:

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Return completed form to the Regional CFS Headquarters (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au) for contact details).

## A. Managing native vegetation to protect a dwelling

### DWELLING<sup>1</sup>:

You can manage native vegetation within 20m of a dwelling, without seeking approval (excluding large trees between 10-20m). Why would you like to carry out work greater than 20m from the dwelling?

(Go to Part E to apply to remove large trees between 10m- 20m of a dwelling)

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What do you want to do? Please attach with email or hard copy application, a sketch and/or photos of your property outlining where you intend to carry out the works.



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Total area (approx) for proposed works:

.....ha

Distance of proposed clearing around building/structure:

.....metres

Is the building/structure on a slope?

Yes      No

If yes, please estimate what the slope is:

Upslope:      0-5°      5-10°      10-15°      >15°

Downslope:      0-5°      5-10°      10-15°      >15°

What is the main direction the slope is facing?  
(Nth, East, Nth-West, etc.)

How do you propose to undertake these works<sup>2</sup>?

Mechanical Method  
(e.g. hand clearing with tools, brushcutting, tree removal/pruning)

Prescribed Burn – Go to Section F

Other – Please describe:

If using a mechanical method of vegetation removal, how do you intend to dispose of the vegetation?

Mulching & leaving on site

Licensed Recycling / Waste Transfer Centre

Storage on site

Pile Burn – Go to Section F

Other – Please Describe:

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**Note:** If you want to conduct a burn during the Fire Danger Season, a permit is required under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (for more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)) see Section F.

<sup>1</sup>**Dwelling** means a building or part of a building used as a self-contained residence.

<sup>2</sup>See Guiding principles for bushfire management in native vegetation (Appendix 4) for more information on methods to undertake fuel reduction on your property.



## B. Managing native vegetation to reduce fuel strategically

Why do you think your proposed fuel reduction works are needed and what existing asset are you trying to protect?

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What do you want to do? Please attach a sketch and/or photos of your property outlining where you intend to carry out the works.



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Total area (approx): .....ha

How do you propose to undertake these works?

- Mechanical Method  
(e.g. with tools, brushcutting,  
tree removal/pruning, herbicide use)
- Prescribed Burn – Go to Section F
- Other – Please describe:

If using a mechanical method of vegetation removal, how do you intend to dispose of the vegetation?

- Mulching & leaving on site
- Licensed Recycling / Waste Transfer Centre
- Storage on site
- Pile Burn – Go to Section F
- Other – Please Describe:

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**Note:** If you want to conduct a burn during the Fire Danger Season, a permit to burn is required under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* from your Local Government (for more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)).

## C. Managing native vegetation to construct a fuel break

Why do you think your proposed fuel break(s) is needed?

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Is the property mainly used for primary production?

Yes No

What do you want to do? Please attach with email or hard copy application, a sketch and/or photos of your property outlining where you intend to carry out the works.



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Total area (approx): .....ha

Are there any existing fuel breaks on the property?  
If yes, provide details and include on your sketch.

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How do you propose to undertake these works?

- Mechanical Method  
(e.g. with tools, brushcutting,  
tree removal/pruning, herbicide use)
- Prescribed Burn – Go to Section E
- Other – Please describe:

If using a mechanical method of vegetation removal, how do you intend to dispose of the vegetation?

- Mulching & leaving on site
- Licensed Recycling / Waste Transfer Centre
- Storage on site
- Pile Burn – Go to Section F
- Other – Please Describe:

**Note:** If you want to conduct a burn during the Fire Danger Season, a permit to burn is required under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* from your Local Government (for more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)).

## D. Managing native vegetation to construct fire access tracks

All fire access tracks should be constructed in accordance with guidelines for constructing fire access tracks (Appendix 4), download a copy from [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au).

Why do you think your proposed fire access track(s) is needed?

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What do you want to do? Please attach with **email or hard copy application**, a sketch and/or photos of your property outlining where you intend to carry out the works.



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Total area (approx): .....ha

Are there any existing fire access tracks on the property?  
If yes, provide details and include on your sketch.

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How do you propose to undertake these works?

Mechanical Method  
(e.g. with tools, brushcutting,  
tree removal/pruning, herbicide use)

Prescribed Burn – Go to Section E

Other – Please describe:

If using a mechanical method of vegetation removal, how do you intend to dispose of the vegetation?

Mulching & leaving on site

Licensed Recycling / Waste Transfer Centre

Storage on site

Pile Burn – Go to Section F

Other – Please Describe:

**Note:** If you want to conduct a burn during the Fire Danger Season, a permit to burn is required under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* from your Local Government (for more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)).

## E. Managing native vegetation - remove large trees for fire prevention and control

Why do you think your proposed removal of a large tree is needed?

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What do you want to do? Please attach with **email or hard copy application**, a sketch and/or photos of your property outlining where you intend to carry out the works.



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Total area (approx): .....ha

How do you propose to undertake these works?

Mechanical Method  
(e.g. with tools, brushcutting,  
tree removal/pruning, herbicide use)

Prescribed Burn – Go to Section E

Other – Please describe:

If using a mechanical method of vegetation removal, how do you intend to dispose of the vegetation?

Mulching & leaving on site

Licensed Recycling / Waste Transfer Centre

Storage on site

Pile Burn – Go to Section F

Other – Please Describe:

**Note:** If you want to conduct a burn during the Fire Danger Season, a permit to burn is required under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (for more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)).



### F. Prescribed Burning

#### Please read before completing:

If you want to conduct a prescribed burn to *improve ecological processes* you will need to have a management plan approved by the Native Vegetation Council. You can contact the Native Vegetation Council on (08) 8303 9777.

If you want to conduct a burn during the Fire Danger Season, a Schedule 9 Permit to burn is required under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (for more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)). However, there is no guarantee that a permit to burn will be issued as it is dependent on an assessment by Local Council.

When conducting a prescribed burn the SA CFS may provide specific advice. The SA CFS will not provide resources to conduct these burns.

**Note:** You may be found liable for any loss or damage caused by a fire lit under the authority of a permit to burn, even if you have complied with the conditions of that permit.

#### What do you want to do?

Pile Burn to dispose of mechanically removed vegetation – Where on the property will you burn (mark on map)?

Prescribed Burn to reduce fuel strategically

**Total area (approx):** .....ha

#### When do you propose to undertake the burn?

**If you want to undertake any burning during the Fire Danger Season, you will require a Schedule 9 Permit to burn.** Contact your Local Council to apply. If you are undertaking a prescribed burn you may consider developing an operation burn plan using the template provided by the SA CFS (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)).

**Please provide the following information for any burn that you are proposing to undertake, whether in the Fire Danger Season or not:**

#### Who is going to undertake the burn?

Name:

Phone:

Email:

#### Who is the nominated contact person before, during and after the proposed burn?

Name:

Mobile phone:

The SA CFS should be contacted on the day prior to your intended burn (refer to [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au) for your relevant Regional CFS Office).

### 4. Urgency

**Do you think your proposed works are a matter of urgency?**

**If yes, please provide a reason.**

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### 5. Authorisation by landowner(s):

**As the owner of this land, I consent to the above proposed bushfire hazard reduction works, and advise that the information on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.**

I hereby consent to an authorised officer of the SA CFS to enter the property to undertake a site inspection for the purpose of assessing the application, compliance, or any other follow-up purpose.

**Signature/s**

**Date**

Note: You need written authority from each landowner should your proposed works cross into any other person's property.

#### OFFICE USE ONLY

Cross out as appropriate:

This application      has      has not been approved  
by the SA CFS with/without conditions attached.

Signature

Name of SA CFS delegated officer:

Date

**Upon completion please submit to your relevant CFS region (see Contacts on page 18).**

### Definitions

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

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

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

**Fire Access Track** means a track (up to 15m in width) constructed for use by vehicles undertaking firefighting activities.

**Fuel break** means an area where vegetation has been removed or modified to reduce the risk of bushfires starting and to assist in reducing the intensity and rate of spread of bushfires. Fuel breaks provide protection from fire for personnel, equipment and property, and provide an edge from which fire crews can undertake fire suppression or prescribed burning activities.

**Bushfire Management Plan** means:

- (a) a plan prepared by a bushfire management committee for its bushfire management area as required under section 72B of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*; or
- (b) a plan for bushfire prevention prepared by a Bushfire Management committee under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, as in force from time to time; or
- (c) plan for the management of bushfires approved by the Native Vegetation Council or developed in accordance with a standard operating procedure determined or approved by the Native Vegetation Council for the purposes of this definition.

**Prescribed burn** means the controlled use of fire to achieve planned native management objectives. A prescribed burn is only undertaken:

- (i) in specified environmental conditions
- (ii) over a defined area
- (iii) at a particular time, and
- (iv) within a predetermined fire intensity and rate of spread.

**Primary Production** means production resulting directly from the cultivation of land; the maintenance of animals or poultry for the purpose of selling them or their bodily produce; fishing operations; forest operations (which include the planting or tending in a plantation or forest of trees intended for felling and the felling of trees in a plantation or forest) or horticulture. It includes the manufacture of dairy produce by the person who produced the raw material used in that manufacture.

**Significant Tree** means any native or non-native tree that has a trunk with a circumference of 3m or more at a point 1m above natural ground level. In the case of trees with multiple trunks, the total circumference of the trunks must be 3m or more and the average circumference of each trunk must be 62.5cm or more.

**Regulated/Large Tree** means any native or non-native tree that has a trunk with a circumference of 2m or more at a point 1m above natural ground level. In the case of trees with multiple trunks, the total circumference of the trunks must be 2m or more and the average circumference of each trunk must be 62.5cm or more.



# Contacts

## South Australian Country Fire Service

In an emergency, please call **000**.

**Headquarters:** (08) 8115 3300

**Building and Bushfire Safety:** (08) 8115 3372

**Region 1 – Southern Mount Lofty Ranges  
and Kangaroo Island:**  
(08) 8391 1866

**Region 2 – Northern Mount Lofty Ranges  
and Yorke Peninsula:**  
(08) 8522 6088

**Region 3 – Murraylands and Riverland:**  
(08) 8532 6800

**Region 4 – Flinders, Mid North  
and Pastoral Areas:**  
(08) 8642 2399

**Region 5 – South East:**  
(08) 8762 7100

**Region 6 – Eyre Peninsula and West Coast:**  
(08) 8682 4266

[cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)

## South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

In an emergency, please call **000**.

**General enquiries during business hours**  
(08) 8204 3600

**Country callers (toll free)**  
1300 737 637  
Fax: (08) 8204 3675

## Department for Environment and Water

### Adelaide Region

Black Hill, Athelstone (08) 8336 0901

### Kangaroo Island Region

Kingscote (08) 8553 4444

### SA Murray-Darling Basin

Berri (08) 8580 1800

### SA Arid Lands

Pt Augusta (08) 8648 5300

### South East Region

Mt Gambier (08) 8735 1177

### Eyre Peninsula

Port Lincoln (08) 8688 3111

Ceduna (08) 8625 3144

### Northern and Yorke Region

Clare (08) 8841 3400

[environment.sa.gov.au](http://environment.sa.gov.au)

## Native Vegetation Council

(08) 8303 9733

Fax: (08) 8303 9780

Email: [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au)

[nvc.sa.gov.au](http://nvc.sa.gov.au)

# Appendices

## Appendix 01

### Bushfire risk management planning and zones

#### Bushfire Management Plans

Bushfire management activities are most effective when bushfire risks are assessed at a landscape scale and strategies are devised to reduce the risks at this scale. South Australia's bushfire management planning framework, as directed by the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, develops bushfire risk management plans at a State-wide level, as well as regional and local levels.

A State Bushfire Coordination Committee oversees nine regional bushfire management committees who draw on the State direction to develop practical plans to deal with the unique conditions and risks in their part of the State.

These regional plans are based on local knowledge of landscape, property and community assets and ensure that local communities are involved in decision making.

The plans aim to manage overall fuel hazards at a level that increases the opportunity to successfully suppress a bushfire. Bushfire plans also work alongside fire management zoning standards set by the SA CFS. These zones help define the threshold of a certain area for fuel loads or conservation considerations, so it's understood when action needs to be taken.

The application of Fire Management Zones (FMZ), as referred to in this Guide, is a primary way to devise a strategy to help protect your property or community. In particular, they can be used to identify where fire management activities are considered a priority to mitigate the identified risk/s.

**Fire Management Zones comprise the following categories:**

- Asset Protection Zone (A-zone)
- Bushfire Buffer Zone (B-zone)
- Strategic Fuel Management Zone (S-zone)
- Conservation Zones (C-zones)
- Exclusion Zones (X-zone)

The zones relevant to this Guide are discussed below. For further details refer to the Fire Management Zone Standard and Guidance for Use (<https://safecom-files.s3.amazonaws.com/current/docs/2020%20Bushfire%20Management%20Zone%20Standard%20and%20Guidance%20for%20Use%20-%20Final%20v2.pdf>)

*\*You should be aware that under extreme fire weather conditions, zoning strategies will not prevent a high intensity bushfire across the landscape but are intended to reduce the spread of a bushfire.*

#### Asset Protection Zone (A-zone)

An A-zone is an area actively managed for fuel reduction, that surrounds or is adjacent to assets. It's purpose is to minimise risks to life, property, and environmental assets, with a particular focus on stopping the spread of fire and preventing direct flame contact, intense radiant heat, and reducing short distance ember attack from the immediate environment.

A-zones should be maintained so that the overall fuel hazard (as an average throughout the zone) does not exceed Moderate.

Where possible and appropriate, an A-zone should incorporate existing cleared areas, roads and driveways which already have low fuel levels rather than clearing further land.

Within an A-zone, fine fuels (fuel particles less than 6 mm in diameter – such as leaves, twigs, and small sticks up to pencil size) are the priority for management as it's these fuels which ignite and carry a fire.

Fuel levels should be managed for the duration of the fire danger season using the methods identified below. Action will depend on land use and vegetation type.

- Tree canopies within the A-zone should be separated by at least 2m. Keep the lower branches on mature trees pruned to a minimum of 2m above the ground.
- Manage understorey plants in the A-zone so that the leaf area of the vegetation is not vertically or horizontally continuous. A disconnected 'clumping' of shrubs is more desirable than even connected coverage. Separate shrubs and trees to minimise vertical fuel 'ladders'.
- Dead shrubs/understorey plants within the A-zone should be removed.
- Grasses within the A-zone should be reduced to an average height of 10cm.
- No heath or shrub understorey species are to be within 2m of the asset to be protected.
- Where the asset is a building, tree branches overhanging the roof should be removed or trimmed to at least 2m clear of the roof.

**Note** that mature trees are not fine fuel. Loose bark and dead leaf litter from mature trees are included in fine fuel assessment. This is because larger fuels such as tree branches and fallen logs typically don't burn in the fire front or carry the fire, and are far less combustible. Also, larger branches and logs don't contribute to the rate of spread or flame size.

Management of vegetation within an Asset Protection Zone should be accompanied by other measures to maximise your safety in bushfires. These can include:

- appropriate building location, design, construction and maintenance
- use of appropriate building materials
- installation and use of sprinklers
- Implementation of Bushfire Buffer Zones to further reduce fuel loads and minimise ember attack.

For more information on these contact your local SA CFS Office (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au) for details).

### Bushfire Buffer Zone (B-zone)

A B-zone is an area maintained to not exceed High overall fuel hazard levels (as an average throughout the zone) and is aimed at minimising risks to life, property, and environmental assets by slowing the fire's rate of spread, reducing its intensity, and minimising fire spotting potential over short to medium distances.

B-zones may complement an A-zone, where necessary or to replace an A-zone where keeping fuel levels below High is sufficient to protect the asset and may result in a lower environmental impact.

The location of a B-zone should incorporate existing fuel reduced areas such as cleared areas, roads, golf courses, and ovals where available.

Fuel levels within a B-zone maybe managed by implementing a range of activities, including but not limited to;

- prescribed burning
- targeted woody weed control
- selective thinning, or
- mechanical treatment.

The selection of treatment methods is influenced by the effectiveness of the technique, the environmental impact of the activity, and cost of the operation.

### Strategic Fuel management zone (S-zones)

S-zones are defined as areas where fire management activities are undertaken to reduce bushfire risk to life, property, and the environment. However, an S-Zone provides a more flexible approach to managing fuel hazard levels as opposed to applying thresholds as is the case for A-zones and B-zones.

Bushfire risk mitigation treatments within a S-zone consider local landforms, vegetation, fuel loads and arrangement, land uses, and environmental assets to deliver treatments that achieve a particular performance criteria of the fire management strategy.

An example of a fire management strategy within an S-zone is rotations prescribed burning to prevent a whole reserve from burning in a single fire incident.

### Conservation Zone (C-zones)

C-zones are defined areas where fire management activities are carried out to maintain and enhance environmental assets and ecological systems. These areas may include native vegetation, significant trees, endangered species, and ecological communities.

The primary management objective in a C-zone is to assist in the conservation of species, populations, ecological communities, or cultural heritage values, through the application of appropriate fire regimes.

**Note;** Fuel hazard levels are determined in accordance with the following document - *Overall Fuel Hazard Guide for South Australia - Department for Environment Water and Natural Resources, 2012*

### Exclusion Zone (X-zone)

The purpose of Exclusion zones (X-zones) is to specify areas where human induced fire is to be excluded for a nominated period. Reasons include:

- environmental impact to or loss of e.g. fire sensitive species or ecological communities, erosion, water quality
- impact to, or loss of, cultural values and assets
- economic impacts e.g. to apiarists, water supply, infrastructure
- scientific purposes
- other special purposes



## Appendix 02

### Protecting your house and assets: Recommended distances to manage native vegetation around your property

Reducing the impact of radiant heat is key to improving the protection of your house and property during a bushfire. This can be done by reducing, modifying or removing the vegetation around your house and property. However, the location of your house and built assets provides the greatest opportunity to maximise your safety. When planning a new building you should consider:

- appropriate building location, design, construction and maintenance
- use of appropriate building materials; and
- installation and use of sprinklers.

Nationally, 96% of house losses during bushfires occur on days where the Fire Danger Index<sup>1</sup> (FDI) is greater than 70. Therefore, planning to protect your house and built assets should be based on scenarios of an FDI greater than 70.

The Standards Australia (2005) *Construction of buildings in bushfire – prone areas AS 3959 -1999* recommends that protecting your house and built assets be focussed on limiting radiant heat exposure to 12.5kW/m<sup>2</sup>. The survival of your building is unlikely if exposure to radiant heat is greater than this. In contrast, to increase the likelihood of personal survival, exposure to radiant heat should not exceed 2-3 kW/m<sup>2</sup>. Beyond this intensity, you will not survive more than three minutes.

To maximise the protection for your built assets, such as buildings and structures, you should take into account the slope and type of vegetation or fuel surrounding the block. These have a direct link to the amount of radiant heat your built assets are exposed to. Table 1 outlines the recommended distances around a built asset for you to manage native vegetation. These distances have been developed to limit radiant heat exposure to 12.5kW/m<sup>2</sup> in situations where the FDI is 80 and the flame temperature is 816.85°C, therefore increasing the chances of building survival.

**Table 1:** Recommended minimum distances (in metres) to clear between an asset and the predominant vegetation (Adapted from Table G4.2 in AS3959 (2009)).

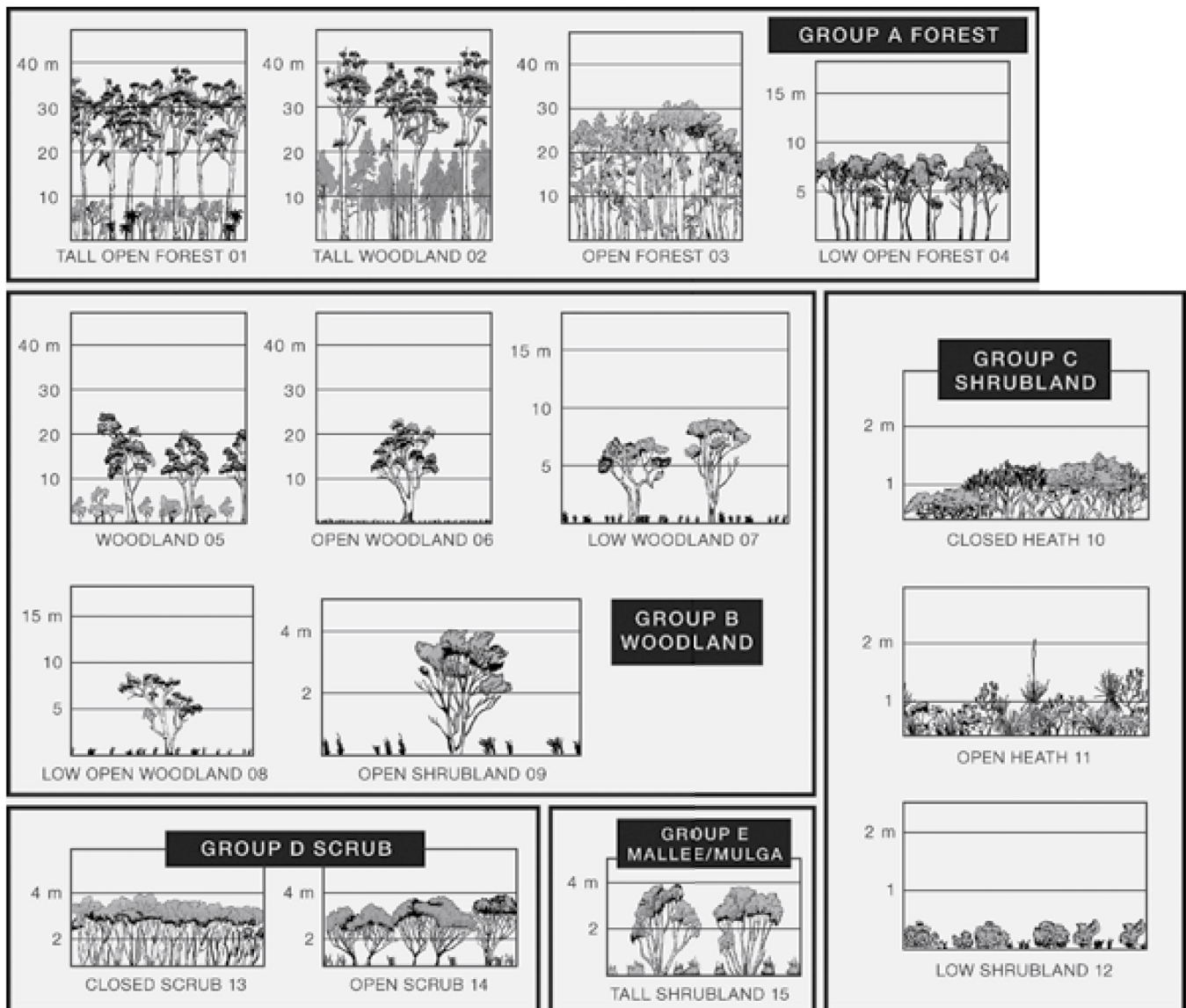
		Slope				
		Upslope & flat	0-5°	5-10°	10-15°	15-20°
Vegetation Class	Forest	42	50	61	73	87
	Woodland	29	35	43	53	64
	Shrubland	19	22	25	28	31
	Scrub	27	31	35	39	43
	Mallee	17	20	23	26	29

<sup>1</sup>Fire Danger Index – A relative number denoting an evaluation of rate of spread, or suppression difficulty for specific combinations of temperature, relative humidity, drought effects and wind speed. The numbers range from 1 to 100 (AFAC, Wildfire Glossary, 2009).

## Appendix 03

As a guide, diagrams representing each vegetation class are shown in Figure 1 below.

\*Note: You should consult your nearest SA CFS Office (see [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)) to gain an accurate determination of the Australian Standard, AS3959 (2005).



**Figure 1:** Guide to identifying vegetation classes (AS 3959-1999 Fig 2.3 (images 1 – 15))

# Appendix 04

## Guidelines for constructing and maintaining fire access tracks

Below you will find information about how to construct fire access tracks. This information has been developed by the SA Government Agencies Fire Liaison Committee (GAFLC).

Fire access tracks are intended to allow for the safe passage of firefighting vehicles undertaking fire suppression activities. Thus, fire access tracks must be designed, constructed, and maintained in order to permit access by 4WD fire vehicles.

There are three types of fire access tracks that must meet the following minimum standards:

### 1. Minor Fire Tracks:

- must be maintained to a width between 4 and 5 metres
- must be sufficiently clear of vegetation (both at the sides and overhead, see Figure 1) to allow ready and safe access
- must ensure that single lane access is permitted on through roads.

### 2. Standard Fire Tracks:

- must be maintained to a width between 4 and 5m
- must be sufficiently clear of vegetation (both at the sides and overhead, see Figure 1) to allow ready and safe access
- must be constructed with passing bays permitting two-way access (see Figure 2)
- must provide passing bays with a minimum length of 17m, a minimum width of 6m and a maximum width in native vegetation of 8m (see Figure 2)
- must provide opportunities to pass no less than once every 400m.

### 3. Major Fire Tracks:

- must be maintained to a minimum width of 7m
- must be sufficiently clear of vegetation to allow ready and safe two-way access.

### 4. Location of fire access tracks

When selecting a location for any fire access tracks, the following must be considered:

Fire access tracks should:

- wherever possible, be established on land where native vegetation has already been modified
- be incorporated within a fuel break, where possible
- be positioned so that they complement other fire access tracks outlined in relevant bushfire management plans.

### 5. Construction of fire access tracks

When constructing a fire access track, the following should be taken into consideration:

- **Erosion Control:** Where possible, access tracks should be located to minimise soil disturbance and to retain sufficient vegetation cover to reduce erosion. Track design should include erosion control measures. Formed or cut tracks should be designed and constructed to maintain natural drainage lines. All tracks should be designed to allow run-off, and any tracks across a watercourse should allow safe vehicle crossing, but not interfere with stream flow.
- **Vehicle Trafficability:** Tracks used for fire access should be as straight as possible and allow easy passage for firefighting vehicles. Entry points to tracks that do not allow passage for firefighting vehicles should be clearly identified.
- **Curves:** All tracks used for fire access should have curves with a minimum inside radius of 8.5m (see Figure 2).
- **No Through Roads and Dead Ends:** No through roads are only permitted providing appropriate signage and turnaround points are in place. **No through roads without turnaround points are to be barricaded at their entrances and not included on fire maps.**



Appendix 04 cont

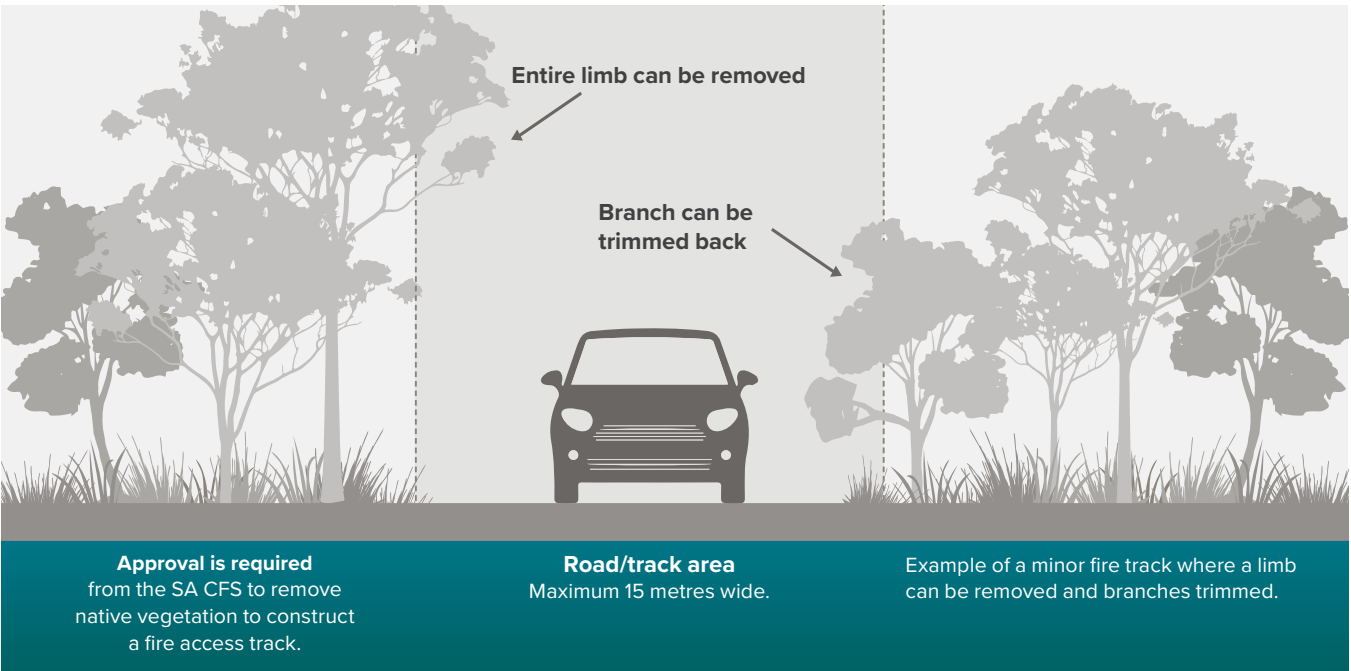
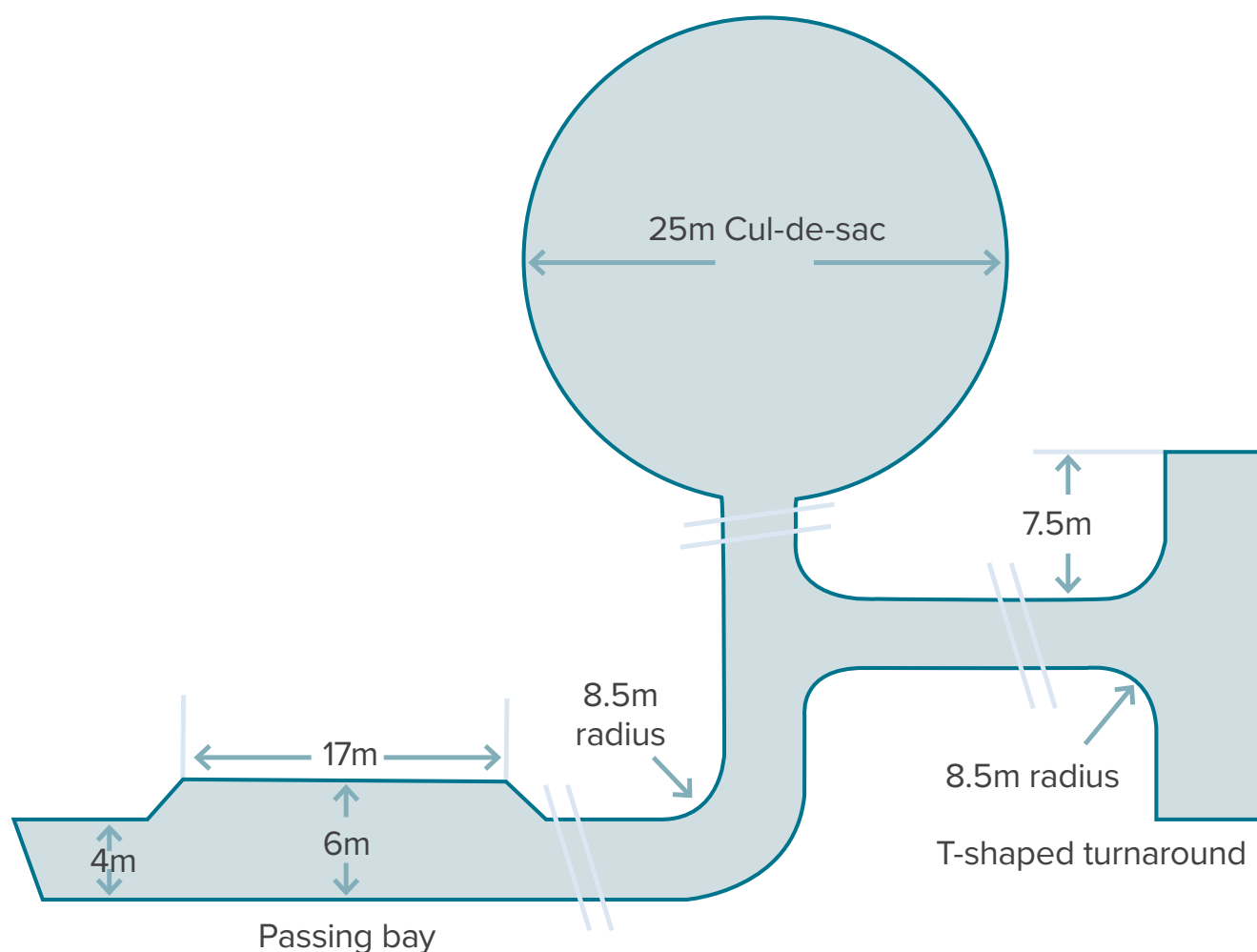


Figure 1: Removal of vegetation for fire access tracks

## Appendix 04 cont



**Figure 2:** Minimum specifications for passing bays and turnaround points on fire access tracks<sup>7</sup>.

### Turnaround Points

In line with the above, construction of tracks with dead ends should be avoided. Where this is not possible, safe, suitable turnaround points must be provided to accommodate large firefighting vehicles by the construction of either:

- a turnaround point with a minimum diameter of 25m
- a "T" or "Y-shaped" turnaround point with minimum leg lengths of 7.5m and a minimum inside road radius of 8.5m (See Figure 2).

### Sign posting

All tracks should be named and sign posted. Signage should meet with Australian Standard 1743 (2001), and track names/ numbers should be shown on maps. Sign posts should include the following where applicable:

- Track name, or number or destination (if specifically named)
- No Through Road (dead-end)
- Appropriate signage to indicate local variations in track (e.g. Roads Narrows, Localised Hazard, Steep Gradient etc.)
- Load limits (e.g. for bridges)
- Signs with grid references.

<sup>7</sup>As published in the Guidelines for State Government Agencies: Firebreaks & Fire Access Tracks, GAFLC (2005), page 14.

# Appendix 05

## Guiding principles for bushfire management in native vegetation

### A: Overarching principles

1. Bushfire management in native vegetation should be planned to ensure appropriate bushfire regimes, protection of assets and the potential impacts of large bushfires is reduced.
2. Large blocks of native vegetation provide a much higher biodiversity value that allows for the continuation of natural processes (including bushfire) when compared to small fragmented areas.
3. It is important to retain trees and other vegetation to provide habitat for a variety of native animals.
4. It is preferable to “Contain” bushfires as quickly as possible to avoid burning an entire block in one bushfire event.
5. Strategic fuel breaks should be maintained across the landscape to assist bushfire suppression activities.
6. Access for bushfire suppression into a large block should be located where it minimises the need to remove vegetation, in accordance with Appendix 3 of this Guide.
7. The issuing authority will review the Heritage Sites Database maps supplied by the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD) in order to identify whether there are any registered heritage sites within the area of the hazard reduction application. If there are, the matter will need to be referred to AARD within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for further assessment. The applicant must be advised if such a referral is required.

### Prescribed Burning:

8. Prescribed burns should only be undertaken by competent and experienced personnel.
9. Prescribed burning to achieve stated management objectives will be planned, follow safe working practices and be controlled. The outcomes should be monitored and recorded.
10. Prescribed burning can be a useful tool that:
  - assists management programs for the regeneration, rehabilitation, protection and conservation of native vegetation, including listed threatened species and ecological communities under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
  - enhances biodiversity by modifying or maintaining vegetation communities for specific plant or animal species
  - aids pest control programs
  - reduces hazards by the lowering of fuel loads, such as bark, and by doing so reduces the intensity and rate of spread of bushfires
  - reduces the impact of bushfires on specific built or natural assets
  - reduces the impact of large bushfires on the landscape and ecosystem processes.

### Ecological Burning:

11. Ecological fire regimes for South Australia should take into account the tolerable fire frequencies, interval, intensity and season for flora and fauna in an area.
12. Any burning conducted in Conservation Land Management Zones will be in accordance with an approved bushfire management plan and should aim to meet the following objectives:
  - managing ecological communities to improve natural processes
  - managing weeds where appropriate for that ecosystem
  - using fire regimes that maximise a “patchwork” or “mosaic” arrangement across the landscape.



## B: Methods of reducing fuel

There are a number of methods that you can use to reduce the level of vegetation fuel in an area. Some methods are even more effective when combined with others.

Various methods can be used to create and maintain effective fuel breaks on your property. These include the following methods:

### Mechanical methods

#### Hand Clearing

Hand clearing is often used to remove or reduce fine fuels (e.g. twigs less than a finger's width) and leaf litter close to a dwelling. These hazards can be removed by hand tools such as rakes, hoes and leaf blowers and then disposed of (e.g. composting, mulching or green waste collection).

#### Brushcutting / mowing

Hand held machinery (such as mowers and brush cutters) is very effective and often used to keep grass and other vegetation low.

#### Slashing / trittrering

Large mechanical slashers including ride-on-mowers and tractor-towed implements are another economical way to reduce fuel levels. Slashing can leave grass in rows, increasing fuel in some places. To be most effective, the cut material should be removed or allowed to decompose well before summer. Trittrering or turbo mowing also mulches leaving the fuel where it is cut.

It is important to note that mechanical fuel removal is not permitted on slopes of greater than 18°, because of the potential to create soil erosion.

#### Tree pruning / removal

Pruning by thinning the tree canopy and removing branches that are over-hanging or are very close to a building can help significantly reduce fire risk. In most instances pruning will be sufficient to reduce fire risk, but in some circumstances the complete removal of a tree may be necessary. Removal or modification of a Significant or Regulated Trees is subject to the Development Regulations 2008. You will need to contact your Local Council for further information about what you can do with any Significant Trees.

### Herbicide Use

Herbicides can be sprayed onto areas where other methods of fuel reduction may be difficult, such as around buildings, sheds, alongside fence lines and around fuel supplies. Spraying should be conducted after the autumn or at the end of winter to be effective on actively growing plants. Check regrowth of sprayed fuel breaks and if necessary re-spray or slash.

### Prescribed Burning

A prescribed burn involves the controlled use of fire to achieve planned native management objectives. A prescribed burn is only undertaken:

- In specified environmental conditions
- over a defined area
- at a particular time
- within a predetermined fire intensity and rate of spread.

### Prescribed burning for fuel reduction purposes

Reducing fuel loads will assist in reducing the rate of spread and intensity of a bushfire and will assist in providing some protection for assets for a period of time. The GAFLC *Prescribed Burning Code of Practice* (2004) provides information on how to plan and conduct a prescribed burn in South Australia.

There are three main types of prescribed burns:

- **Low intensity:** must be conducted in accordance with the Government Agencies Liaison Committee Prescribed Burning Code of Practice (2004).
- **Moderate and High intensity:** must be conducted with a firefighting agency in attendance and in accordance with an agency approved burn plan.
- **Pile burning and windrow burning:** must be conducted in accordance with the Environment Protection (Burning) Policy 1994.

Prescribed burns must be contained within planned control lines. The closest natural/existing control lines to the intended perimeter of the burn should be used where available. Construction of additional control lines must be limited to the minimum number needed to carry out the burn safely. Where control lines are to remain for use for follow up work or suppression they must be constructed to GAFLC standards.

Control lines must be constructed in a manner that minimises the potential for soil erosion. In addition, they should be constructed where native vegetation has already been disturbed, in preference to undisturbed vegetation. In Conservation Land Management Zones control lines constructed in native vegetation must be allowed to regenerate following the burn.

Once you have your approved application you must notify the issuing authority prior to lighting a fire for bushfire hazard reduction work. In turn, the issuing authority will notify the relevant SA CFS Group Officer as soon as possible.

**Note:** Mechanical removal of native vegetation may be a preferred option in cases where prescribed burning could increase the growth of weeds, exotic grasses and fast growing native plants that will re-establish fuel loads.

### **Prescribed burning to enhance ecological processes**

Australian ecosystems have successfully adapted to the presence of bushfire on a regular basis. Because of this, prescribed burning is an important tool that can be applied to Australian landscapes in order to enhance ecological processes.

There are two key points that must be considered when planning an ecological burn:

1. An issuing authority must determine whether any threatened species, populations or ecological communities are present, or are likely to be present, at the site of the proposed works. Where threatened species or ecological communities are present, advice must be sought from the Native Vegetation Council (see Page 22 for contact details).
2. Where a species is listed under the *Environments Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* the issuing authority must advise the applicant that the application will need to be referred to the Australian Government's Agriculture, Water and the Environment Department for assessment in accordance with provisions under that legislation.

# Glossary

**Building** 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.

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

**Bushfire Management Plan** means:

- a plan prepared by a bushfire management committee for its bushfire management area as required under section 72B of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*; or
- a plan for bushfire prevention prepared by a district bushfire prevention committee under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, as in force from time to time; or
- another plan for the management of bushfires approved by the Council or developed in accordance with a standard operating procedure determined or approved by the Council for the purposes of this definition.

**Fire access track** means a track (up to 15m in width) constructed for use by vehicles undertaking firefighting activities.

**Fuel** means any fine material such as grass, leaf litter and live vegetation that can be ignited and sustains a fire.

**Fuel break** means an area where vegetation has been removed or modified to reduce the risk of bushfires starting and to assist in reducing the intensity and rate of spread of bushfires. Fuel breaks provide protection from fire for personnel, equipment and property, and provide an edge from which fire crews can undertake fire suppression or prescribed burning activities.

**‘Going’ bushfire** means any fire that is expanding or that is continuing to require an active or escalating response.

**Large tree** means a tree (including a dead tree) where the circumference of the trunk of the tree is 2 metres or more, when measured at a point of 1 metre from the base of the tree.

**Management of native vegetation** is used in this Guide in the context of: modification, reduction and removal of native vegetation for the purpose of reducing fuel loads, creating fuel breaks or for ecological purposes.

**Management plan** means any management plan that is approved by the Native Vegetation Council or under delegation from the Native Vegetation Council.

**Modify** means the manipulation of native vegetation to reduce the likelihood of bushfires starting, and/or to increase the likelihood of successful fire suppression (e.g. pruning, prescribed burning, removal of leaf litter).

**Native vegetation** means a plant or plants of a species indigenous to South Australia.

**Overall fuel hazard** means the combined influences of bark hazard, elevated fuel hazard and surface fine fuel hazard (for more information refer to the *Overall fuel hazard guide for South Australia, DEH 2008*).

**Prescribed burn** means the controlled use of fire to achieve planned native vegetation management objectives. A prescribed burn is only undertaken:

- (i) in specified environmental conditions
- (ii) over a defined area
- (iii) at a particular time
- (iv) within a predetermined fire intensity and rate of spread.

**Primary production** means production resulting directly from the cultivation of land; the maintenance of animals or poultry for the purpose of selling them or their bodily produce; fishing operations; forest operations (which include the planting or tending in a plantation or forest of trees intended for felling and the felling of trees in a plantation or forest) or horticulture. It includes the manufacture of dairy produce by the person who produced the raw material used in that manufacture.

**Reduce** means the manipulation of native vegetation to lessen the likelihood of a bushfire starting and/or to increase the likelihood of successful fire suppression. This may include the removal or the modification of native vegetation.

**Regulated or significant tree** means any native or non-native tree that has a trunk with a circumference of 2m (for Significant Tree 3m) or more at a point 1m above natural ground level. In the case of trees with multiple trunks, the total circumference of the trunks must be 2m (for Significant Tree 3m) or more and the average circumference of each trunk must be 62.5cm or more.

**Remove** means the killing or destruction of native vegetation, removal of a plant or plants from the ground, or any other action that stops a plant or plants from surviving in their current location. This includes any other activity that causes the killing or destruction of native vegetation.





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**Government  
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Department for  
Environment and Water