

## Managing Vegetation on Your Property: The 10/30 and 10/50 rules and fence line clearing

The Victoria Planning Provisions regarding vegetation removal have changed as a result of recommendations made by the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission.

### **Bushfire Management Overlay**

This is a land management overlay on land which is of high bushfire risk. It will ensure that bushfire issues are fully considered in any new developments within this overlay and it can have an impact on the siting of a building, providing defensible space, on-site water availability and emergency vehicle access. If risk to life and property from bushfire cannot be reduced to an acceptable level the development will not be approved.

Please contact Council's Planning Unit on (03) 5772 0317 for information on whether your property is subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay or visit *Planning Maps Online* at [www.land.vic.gov.au](http://www.land.vic.gov.au)

### **Vegetation and bushfire**

Removal of vegetation is only one way to reduce bushfire risk. You should have a good understanding of the risks at your property and also have a comprehensive bushfire survival plan.

The CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) has some good resources under the *Plan & Prepare* tab.

### **Finding the balance**

We encourage residents to think carefully about tree and vegetation removal and to contact our Planning Unit on (03) 5772 0317 or [planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) to check if you need a permit.

When considering the removal of trees and vegetation, please think about their value. Are they fire retardant varieties? Do they provide shading or screening? What will replace them and will their removal cause problems with land slip or erosion? Also, research has shown that fine fuels such as long dry grass, dry leaves and twigs add to fire intensity so it is important to manage those hazards at all times.

### **Vegetation removal around buildings built or approved after 10 September 2009**

Please contact us on (03) 5772 0317 or [planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) to check whether you need a permit to remove vegetation.

## Vegetation removal around buildings built or approved before 10 September 2009

If there is no Bushfire Management Overlay on the property the 10/30 rule applies and you do not need a planning permit to clear:

- any vegetation, including trees, within **10 metres** of your house\*
- any vegetation, except for trees, within **30 metres** of your house\*

If there is a Bushfire Management Overlay on the property the 10/50 rule applies and you do not need a planning permit to clear:

- any vegetation, including trees, within **10 metres** of your house\*
- any vegetation, except for trees, within **50 metres** of your house\*

\*House refers to any building used for accommodation

Check your property title to ensure that there are no covenants or other legal agreements which may conflict with the above rules. If you're not sure please contact us on (03) 5772 0317.

You can check your title particulars at the Land Information Centre, 570 Bourke Street Melbourne, (03) 8636 2456 or [www.landata.vic.gov.au](http://www.landata.vic.gov.au).

## Clearing along boundary fences

You can also clear any vegetation for a combined maximum width of 4 metres across existing boundary fences. You need to obtain permission from the landholder to clear vegetation on land which does not belong to you.

Permission is required from Council or VicRoads where the vegetation is on a road reserve.

If unsure please contact our Planning Unit on (03) 5772 0317 or [planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au).

*This advice sheet is to be used as a general guide only. Council has made all reasonable effort to ensure the information provided in this is true and accurate. However, we recommend that you seek professional advice before acting or making decisions on the basis of this information. For any questions or clarification, please contact Council's Planning Unit on (03) 5772 0317.*