

Managing vegetation on your property to reduce bushfire risk.



Bushfire Planning Regulations

Under the 10/30 rule, owners of homes built before September 2009 are exempted from some vegetation clearance restrictions.

For the 10/30 rule to apply the dwelling must have been either constructed or a permit obtained before September 2009 or be a replacement for a dwelling damaged or destroyed by the 2009 bushfires. The rules are:

- All vegetation, including trees, can be removed within 10 metres of the house.
- Vegetation (except for trees), can be removed within 30 metres of the house.

If your property/dwelling falls within a bushfire management overlay the planning provisions allow finer fuels to be managed up to a distance of 50 metres (10/50 rule). Trees can also be removed within 10 metres of your home.

The 10/30 and 10/50 rules were introduced by the Victorian Government to enable landowners to enhance bushfire protection by managing native vegetation without the need for obtaining a planning permit.

We urge you to think before you remove. If you are not sure about what your legal requirements are, please contact the Council's planning and environment department on the contact details below.

Did you know?

Removing native vegetation without a permit or outside exemptions allowed for in the planning scheme is illegal and can result in heavy penalties.

If unrestricted vegetation clearance prevailed, our picturesque environment would change to a scarred landscape subject to landslip and erosion risks. It can also lead to unintended consequences such as:

- Emergence of unwanted weeds.
- Destruction of important biodiversity.
- Decrease in population and visitors (due to loss of amenity and environment values).
- Possible increase of wind speed and bushfire intensity

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Murrindindi Shire Council www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au or 5772 0317

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What can I do?

You can clear trees within 10 metres of your home.

You can remove vegetation (that is not trees) within 30 metres of your home or within 50 meters if your property is in an area covered by a Bushfire Management Overlay.

Think before you remove!

Bushfire relies on the fine fuels on the surface to develop speed and intensity. Carefully managing fuel loads around your home is an important step towards getting fire ready, and has the least impact on the surrounding environment. Some tips include:

- Cleaning your gutters.
- Removing debris from your roof.
- Removing wood piles away from your home.
- Pruning overhanging tree limbs.
- Cutting long grass.
- Removing leaf litter from around your home.
- Cutting long dry grass and cleaning up leaf litter.



Bushfire planning provisions such as the 10/30 rule only apply on your property. They do not give you legal right to clear vegetation on property outside your ownership such as a roadside reserve. If you are concerned about fuel loads on roadside reserves (such as reserves adjacent to your property) please contact Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer to have an assessment carried out.

Removal of canopy trees can actually exacerbate the impact of fires as a result of increased wind speeds and fire intensity. The CFA has advised in their 'Planning for Bushfire in Victorian– Guidelines for meeting Victoria's Bushfire Planning Requirements':



"Vegetation management does not require the removal of all fuels. Plants and trees can provide protection from strong winds, intense heat and embers. Ground cover is also needed to prevent erosion"

If everybody in Murrindindi clear felled trees and other vegetation under the 10/30 rule, the Shire would not only lose much of its wonderful biodiversity, but one of its greatest attractions for residents and visitors.

WHO IS INVOLVED:

