



Standard Operating Procedure



Planning and Conducting a Planned Burn or Burn Off

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Scope	This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) applies to all CFA members involved in planning and conducting burns. This Standard Operating Procedure does not apply to back burning or burning out operations at bushfires.
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Definitions	<p>The following definitions apply to this SOP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Burn Controller: The individual designated to have overall management of the burn and is responsible for all burn activities. ▪ Burn off: The controlled application of fire for the purpose of removing accumulated class A type flammable material vegetation. Works are only deemed to be a burn off when all the following conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does not include living native vegetation; ▪ Expected time taken to actively burn – is less than 2 hours (not including patrol/mop up time); ▪ Compliance with Municipal local laws and relevant legislation including environmental and cultural requirements; ▪ Area of burn in the peri urban area is less than 0.1ha (1000m²) with stubble burns in rural areas up to 100 ha. ▪ For the duration the fire remains alight, no smoke, neighbour, exposures or weather issues are expected. <p>Examples of fires that could be considered a burn off are small stubble burns, burning off heaps and burning small windrows.</p> ▪ Complexity Rating (CR): method to access the complexity and risks of the identified Burn project. ▪ Land owner: In this SOP means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the owner or occupier of any land; ▪ a government Minister in whom any land is vested; ▪ a Municipal Council or Public Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in which any land is vested; ▪ that has any land under its control or management; or ▪ that is responsible for the care and management of any road. ▪ Planned burn: An area of land where planned burning will be applied. ▪ Planned burning: The controlled application of fire
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under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity, and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

Objective To assist CFA members in planning and conducting burns effectively and safely and to ensure positive outcomes for the community and environment.

Procedure**1. Burn Planning**

Burn planners must have the appropriate level of competency and endorsement relevant to the Complexity Rating (CR) identified for the planned burn.

- 1.1 All proposed planned burns must:
- be assessed using the Planned Burning Complexity Rating Guide;
 - have a plan developed to the level determined by the CR guide;
 - conform to the templates for CR 1, 2 or 3 burns (available on CFA Online/Brigades Online);
 - be allocated a unique "Burn Number", use the District number (DXX), the year the burn was planned in, then a unique 3 digit sequence controlled by the District (e.g. D02-13-001, D02-13-002);
 - comply with relevant legislation including the:
 - Country Fire Authority Act 1958;
 - Forests Act 1958;
 - Summary Offences Act 1966;
 - CFA Guidelines; and
 - be approved by the Operations Manager or delegate.

Note: Any burn not defined as a burn off must have a burn plan developed in accordance with the procedure 1.1.

2. Conducting a Burn Off

- 2.1 When conducting a burn off, the Burn Controller shall:
- Ensure that all required pre-ignition tasks and notifications (including VICFIRE) have been completed prior to authorising ignition;
 - Be in possession of authorisations and permits as required prior to and at the time of ignition.
 - Ensure all personnel are briefed prior to commencing burn off operations;
 - Ensure all burning off is carried out in a safe and responsible manner; and
 - Ensure the burn off is considered safe before the last crew leaves or ensure management and responsibility for the burn off is passed onto the owner or occupier of the land or their nominated representative before leaving.

3. Conducting a Planned Burn

Burn controllers must have the appropriate level of

competency and endorsement relevant to the CR identified for the planned burn.

- 3.1 Planned burns shall only be carried out by brigades with the written consent of the land owner.
- 3.2 Any planned burns carried out during the declared fire danger period must have a permit.
- 3.3 The Burn Controller should:
 - Ensure that all required pre-burn works and notifications (including VICFIRE) have been completed prior to authorising ignition;
 - Be in possession of a full copy of the current approved burn plan and any authorisations/permits as applicable at the time of ignition;
 - Follow the intent of the burn plan;
 - Ensure all personnel are briefed prior to commencing burning operations and are wearing appropriate PPC and PE for bushfire suppression operations;
 - Ensure all planned burning is carried out in a safe and responsible manner;
 - Ensure that the required records and results are entered on the burn plan;
 - Ensure all personnel involved with conducting the planned burn are appropriately qualified for the role they are to perform; and
 - Ensure that required post burn works are carried out as required by the burn plan.

4. Reporting

The Burn Controller should ensure that the completed burn plan is sent to the relevant Vegetation Management Officer for reporting and filing.

Safety notes

- When undertaking the planning process, the burn planner must ensure that all safety considerations are identified and either mitigated or managed in the plan.
- When conducting any burning, the Burn Controller shall ensure a Risk Assessment is incorporated into all burning activities.

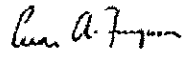
Environmental notes

- The planning of a planned burn will be consistent with the CFA Health, Safety and Environment Policy Statement and Chief Officer's Standing Order 16 – *Environmental Care*.
- The burn planner must seek advice on matters of conservation significance, which need to be addressed in a planned burn operation, including threatened flora and fauna. This includes ideal fire intervals identified in ecological burning strategies.
- Plan any use of class A foam in accordance with CFA procedures.
- The planned burn must be planned to manage the impact of smoke on the community. Appropriate notifications should be made in advance.
- Plan control lines to minimise soil disturbance, and ensure rehabilitation of control lines where necessary after the burn has been declared safe.

SOP

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Related Documents			Other Links and References	Delegations
Policies	Standing Orders	SOPs		
Health, Safety and Environment Policy Statement Prescribed Burning	Training and Competence Fires and Incidents – Management of Health and Safety Environmental Care	Incident Controller (CFA as Control Agency)	Country Fire Authority Act 1958 Country Fire Authority Regulations 2004 Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 Summary Offences Act 1966 Forests Act 1958 Planned Burning Complexity Rating Guide	Operations Manager

Date to be Reviewed:	Date to Cease:	Date Endorsed:	Endorsed By:
TBA		10 July 2014	 Euan Ferguson Chief Officer

Bushfire Mitigation (Fire Prevention) Works Program 2016 - 2017

Bushland and Wetland Reserves:

Reserve Name	Suburb	Bushfire Mitigation Works for 2016-17
240 Haley Gully Road	Hurstbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushcut grass and treat regenerating Kunzea in existing fuel management zone • Cut, paint and chip woody weeds under power lines. • Cut and paint woody weeds throughout reserve.
Barak Bushland	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash and brushcut open areas
Booyan Reserve	Greensborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushcut grass in existing fuel management zone • Cut and paint Broom and other woody weeds
Bradleys Lane Environment Reserve	North Warrandyte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zone through brushcutting and woody weed fuel reduction
Browns Lane	Plenty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woody weed control • Maintain vehicle access track • Slash grasses in open areas
Bulwidj Reserve	Smiths Gully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash open areas • Brushcut grass and treat regenerating Kunzea in existing fuel management zone
Bunjil Reserve	Panton Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash open area Bishops Rd. • Maintain fire access tracks. • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Crest Reserve	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones • Woody weed control
David Hockney Environmental Reserve	Diamond Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Eastern ECB Colony	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones • Reduce woody weed fuel.

Reserve Name	Suburb	Bushfire Mitigation Works for 2016-17
Gawa reserve	Watsons Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash open areas.
Gumtree Road Reserve	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain vehicle access track. • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Heard Ave	Plenty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Hohnes Road Environmental Reserve	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Ironbark Road Reserve	Diamond Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Jack Bassett Reserve	Doreen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush cut open areas
Kalbar Road Reserve	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones • Reduce woody weed fuel.
Lakeview Road Reserve	St Andrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush cut boundary • Woody weed control
Eltham Lower Park	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing to open grassed areas
Lenister Farm	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing to open grassed areas
McMahon Ball Paddock	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Meruka Reserve	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Mine Road Reserve	Nutfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Nillumbik Reserve	Diamond Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Peppers Paddock	Wattle Glen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing and maintaining fuel management zones
Pigeon Bank Reserve	Kangaroo Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Pitt Street Environmental Reserve	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Proctor Street Reserve	St Andrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for Autumn prescribed burn in partnership with Parks Victoria

Reserve Name	Suburb	Bushfire Mitigation Works for 2016-17
Professors Hill Reserve	North Warrandyte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Quarry Reserve	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Reynolds Road Linear Reserve	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones • Maintain vehicle access track.
Ryans Reserve	Diamond Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones • Woody weed control
Smiths Gully/Salter's Rush Reserve	Smiths Gully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushcut grass and treat regenerating Kunzea in existing fuel management zone • Cut and paint and chip woody weeds
Swiper Gully Reserve	Swipers Gully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushcut grass in existing fuel management zone
Temple Ridge	Hurstbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones and fire access track
The Chase Reserve	North Warrandyte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones and fire access track
Western ECB Colony	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones.
Wild Cherry Reserve	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Wimbi Reserve	Panton Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Woodridge Linear Reserve	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones
Yanggai Reserve	Panton Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash open/paddock area. • Maintain existing fuel management zone through treatment of regenerating Kunzea, Blackberry and Woody weeds. • Maintain access trail
Yarra Valley Water ECB	Eltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zone
Yarramie Reserve	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing fuel management zones: Brushcutting and woody weed fuel reduction.

Reserve Name	Suburb	Bushfire Mitigation Works for 2016-17
Yirrip Reserve	Kangaroo Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash open areas and fuel management zones. • Maintain fire access track. • Follow-up weed control in burnt area

Primary and Secondary Roads:

Treatments will be applied where practicable:

Slashing

Box clearance

Proactive Hazardous trees assessment

Woody weed removal

Primary Road	Rationale
Arthurs Creek Road	Provides primary access/egress to Arthurs Creek and linking to Strathewen Rd. Listed in both Local response Plan (LRP) and Community Information Guide(CIG).
Bannons Lane	Links Yan Yean Rd providing primary access/egress from Yarrambat to Hurstbridge and linking to Bannons Lane North, listed in LRP/CIG.
Bannons Lane North	Bannons Lane North provides primary link to Mine Road and also links to Doctors Gully Road and Bannons Lane.
Buttermans Track	Buttermans Track provides only link to Christmas Hills/Yarra Glen. This track also provides access in to remote areas. i.e. Everad track.
Cottles Bridge-Strathewen Rd	Provides primary access/egress from Hurstbridge to Strathewen and listed in LRP/CIG of both Hurstbridge and Arthurs Creek FBs.
Cherry Tree Rd	Provides primary access/egress from Pantom Hill to Hurstbridge. Also listed in both Hurstbridge and Pantom Hill FB CIG/LRPs.
Diamond Creek Rd	Arterial road which provides access/egress to all areas north of Greensborough.
Doctors Gully Rd	Provides alternative access/egress from the intersection of Mine Road/ Hurstbridge-Arthurs Creek Nutfield to Doreen.
Broad Gully Rd	Provides primary access form Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge and is listed in Diamond Creek LRP.
Eltham Yarra Glen Rd (Vic Roads)	Arterial road provides major access/egress to all areas north of Eltham and also provide access to Yarra Glen, listed in

	LRP/CIG.
Greens Road	Provides a link between Arthurs Creek Rd and Strathewen-Cottles Bridge Rd providing primary access/egress from Strathewen west to Yan Yean Rd.
Haley Gully Rd	Continuation of Bannons Lane providing access/egress from Yarrambat to Hurstbridge and listed in LRP/CIG.
Heidelberg/Kinglake Rd (Vic Roads)	Arterial road provides access/egress to all areas north of Greensborough provides major access to Kinglake, listed in LRP/CIG.
Hurstbridge-Arthurs Creek Rd	Provides a primary link to Mine Rd and also to Arthurs Creek area. The road is listed in both the Arthurs Creek and Hurstbridge Fire Brigades' LRP/CIG.
Ironbark Rd	Provides access/egress route from Diamond Creek to Yarrambat.
Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Rd	Arterial road providing access/egress form Eltham to St Andrews. and listed in LRP/CIG.
Kurrak Rd (Vic Roads)	Arterial road provides major access/egress form Yan Yean Rd Plenty to Gorge Rd South Morang, listed in LRP/CIG
Nankervis Rd	Provides link between Arthurs Creek Rd and Cottles Bridge-Strathewen Rd.
Research-Warrandyte Rd (Vic Roads)	Arterial road provides major access/egress form Eltham to Warrandyte, listed in LRP/CIG
Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Rd (Vic Roads)	Arterial road provides access/egress form Warrandyte to Kangaroo Ground, listed in LRP/CIG
Kangaroo Ground-Wattle Glen Rd (Vic Roads)	Arterial road provides access/egress form Wattle Glen to Kangaroo Ground, listed in LRP/CIG
Yan Yean Rd (Vic Roads southern section)	Arterial road provides access/egress from Greensborough to the north.
Secondary Road	Rationale
Clintons Road	Provides access/egress in to the areas of One Tree Hill and Smiths Gully, links to Kangaroo Ground Rd St Andrews Road
Eagles Nest Rd	Eagles Nest Rd provides an alternative access/egress from Strathewen to Arthurs Creek
Flat Rock Rd	Provides an alternative access/egress from Hurstbridge to Kangaroo Ground

Heard Ave	Provides alternative link to Yan Yean Rd in the event that the road is block and also as part of the Plenty Gorge Traffic Management Plan
Henley Rd	Provides access/egress in to Christmas Hill/Bend of Island, listed in the Eltham LRP
Hewitts Rd	Provides alternative link to St Andrews and also links to Hildebrand Rd
Hildebrand Rd	Provides alternative access/egress from Strathewen and areas north west of St Andrews.
Memorial Drive	Provides access east/west from Yan Yean Rd and is the main access to Plenty Gorge /Yellow Gum Park, listed in Plenty's LRP
Mittons Bridge Rd	Provides alternative link from Strathewen to St Andrews.
Mount Pleasant Rd	Provides access/egress to areas along the Yarra River and into the east side of Research, listed in the Eltham's LRP
Sutherland Road	Provides access east/west from Diamond Creek to Plenty.
Wilson Rd	Provides an alternative access/egress Wattle Glen to the southern area of Yarrambat
Worns Lane	Provides access east/west from Yan Yean Rd and provides access to the Plenty Gorge.

In addition to work done on primary and secondary roads additional work will be done where there is an identified benefit. Refer following tables.

Fuel modified roadside/areas	Treatment: Slashing where possible
Allendale Road	Ryans Road to Donaldson Road
Alma Road	Main Rd to Rodger / Cracknells Rd
Anzac Road Reserve	Approx. 500m
Aqueduct Track	Main Rd. to Ingrams Rd ,Ingrams Rd. to Afton St., Afton St. to Allendale Rd.1,550m
Astons Lane	Approx. 1,600m
Blackgully Road	Approx. 4 400m.
Broadgully Road	Landex Dr to Haleys Gully Road.
Bourchiers Lane	Approx. 340m

Cassells Road	Ingrams Rd to Crest Rd.
Chase Road, North Warrandyte	Approx. 300m
Carter Lane, Kangaroo Ground	Approx. 820m
Church Road, Hurstbridge	Approx. 300m
Christian Road	Approx. 2,400m
Cochranes Lane	Approx. 450m open area beneath electric line
Dawsons Road, Kangaroo Ground	Approx. 2,000m
Flatrock Road, Hurstbridge	Approx. 4,000m
Gosfield Road	North side approx. 2,00m
Gumtree Road	Approx. 1,400 m
Hacketts Lane	North from Ironbark Road both sides
Herberts Lane	Approx 1,000m
Hillmartin Lane	Approx. 1,470 m
Hurstbridge-Arthurs Creek Road	From Main Hurstbridge Road to Patullos Road
Ingrams Road, Research	Margaret Street to Allendale Road
Ironbark Road, Diamond Creek	From No.76 to Yan Yean Road including small road reserve at the intersection of Ironbark and Murray Road and under the power line easement
Lambert Street	Approx. 500m
Licola Street, Yarrambat	Approx.
Manuka Road	South end of Cherry Tree Road
Margaret Street, Research	From the Aqueduct to Ingrams Road
Menzies Road, Kangaroo	Approx. 6,800m

Ground	
Middle Hut Road	Approx. 2554 m
Mills Road	Cherry Tree Road to the creek area off Gosfield Road
Milthorpe Road	Approx. 3,000m
Mooney Road	Approx. 600m
Murray Road	Approx. 3,600
Ness Lane, Kangaroo Ground	Approx. 600m
Nicholas Lane, Kangaroo Ground	Approx. 1,586m
Pullen Drive	North end off Heidelberg-Kinglake Road
Research Avenue / Esplanade area	Approx. 500m
Reynolds Road, Eltham	Approx. 1,050m
Reynolds Road, Wattle Glen	West side only 1,050 Lorimer Road to Kangaroo Ground-Wattle Glen Road
Ridge Road, Yan Yean	From 885 to the intersection of Yan Yean Road and Arthurs Creek Road)
Ridge Road, Christmas Hills	Approx. 1,000m
Starling Road, Diamond Creek	Approx. 600m
St Andrews Street, St Andrews	Approx. 500m
Smiths Gully Road	Approx. 2,800m
Electricity transmission easement, Research	4Ha Parsons Road to Main Road, Main Road to Nyora Rd
Worns Lane, Yarrambat	(both sides) 2,400m

Regrowth Management in Fire Affected Area:

Location	Type of work
Mittons Bridge Road St Andrews	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Hewits Rd St Andrews	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Muller Road St Andrews	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Bowden Spur Road Strathewen	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Jacksons Road St Andrews	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Arthur St Strathewen	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Wild Dog Creek Road St Andrews	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Olives Lane St Andrews	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees
Black Calf Creek Road St Andrews	Dead Heading 2009 Fire Trees

Other Open Space Areas:

If requested by local CFA brigades, other agencies or residents, consideration will be given to carrying out mitigation works not listed in this. The application of other treatments or works in locations not specified will be, considered on a case by case basis. These additional treatments will be applied if they are consistent with the aims of the Municipal Fire Management Plan and within available budget.

Planned Burns:

The following sites have been identifies as potentially benefiting from conducting controlled burns. Conducting these burns is dependent on a number of factors especially prevailing weather conditions.

Near Panton Hill Tennis Club
Mine Road Nutfield
Reynolds Road Research
Zig Zag road reserve Research

BURNING OFF IN NILLUMBIK

FACT SHEET

Burning off is one way Nillumbik residents can dispose of vegetation (grass, weeds, branches and leaves) they've removed from around their property as part of their fire preparedness activities.

Reducing the level of fine fuels around your house and property reduces the impact a fire will have, greatly increasing the likelihood your property will survive a potentially devastating bushfire.

Burning off (a fire in the open air) on private property is governed by the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* and the *Summary Offences Act 1966*. Nillumbik Shire Council's Local Law – *Amenity Local Law* further sets out local fire restrictions which govern burning off in Nillumbik.

Lighting any open air fire is a dangerous undertaking and there are strict rules about when you are legally allowed to burn off and whether or not you will require a permit.

Permits to burn off

A permit is required to burn off in Nillumbik if your property is **less than 0.4 hectares (1 acre)**. You are only permitted to burn off for fuel reduction purposes from 1 October to the start of the Fire Danger Period (FDP) which is commonly declared in November or December.

A permit is not required to burn off in Nillumbik if your property is **0.4 hectares (1 acre) or larger**, but you can only do so outside the declared Fire Danger Period.

If you wish to burn off a **large heap**, a pile that occupies an area greater than 10 square metres or over 25 cubic metres in volume, then you may require a permit. Please contact Council's Regulatory Services Unit on 9433 3111 to discuss the requirements for burning large heaps.

Residents can apply for a permit by calling Council on 9433 3111. All permits to burn off are **FREE** and can be posted or emailed to you. Please note permit applications may take up to a week to be processed.

The Fire Danger Period

The CFA declares the Fire Danger Period (FDP) for each municipality based on local environmental conditions. The FDP is announced on www.cfa.vic.gov.au and also publicised on www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



Burning off is prohibited on all properties, regardless of size, during a declared FDP. In exceptional circumstances permits may be granted. Please contact the CFA or Council's Fire Prevention Officer for further information.

Burning off during the FDP without a permit is a serious offence and can incur a penalty of over \$17,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment.

Incinerators

The use of incinerators is not allowed under any circumstances in Nillumbik.

Burning off on days of total fire ban or smog alert

Under no circumstances may a fire be lit on a total fire ban or smog alert day, with or without a permit regardless of property size.

GUIDELINES FOR BURNING OFF LEGALLY AND SAFELY

- Ensure you are aware of local laws and CFA regulations relating to a burn on your property including the declared FDP. Remember no property in Nillumbik can burn off during the FDP without a permit.
- Ensure you have an approved permit if required and are able to produce it upon request by a Nillumbik Shire Council Authorised Officer, Victoria Police, or member of the Fire Brigade.
- Notify Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on **1800 668 511** before starting the burn.
- Notify your neighbours at least two hours before starting the burn.
- Check weather conditions and avoid burning off when winds over 10km per hour are predicted for the day of the burn or the days following. Monitor wind conditions during the burn.
- Establish a fire break of no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material.
- Consider the safety of the burn location – taking into consideration any overhead power lines and trees.
- Ensure you have an adequate water supply such as a hose connected to constant water supply or a minimum of 10 litres at the site of the burn.
- Only burn dry materials as green or wet vegetation produces excessive smoke.
- No solvents, petroleum products, rubber or any substance that may give off toxic smoke is to be burnt or used to start or maintain the fire.
- Ensure there is an adult supervising the burn at all times who has the means and ability to contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively. Never leave a burn unattended.
- It is your responsibility to ensure your burn is fully extinguished (with water, not dirt) by 6pm on the day of the burn. Embers blown from a smouldering fire can alight nearby grass and trees causing a fire to spread very quickly.

NOTE: Some materials (e.g. tree stumps/roots) can smoulder for days if not fully extinguished creating embers which may alight nearby vegetation.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

May 2014



CLEARING VEGETATION FOR FIRE PROTECTION IN NILLUMBIK

FACT SHEET

In November 2011 new planning controls called the 10/30 and 10/50 Rule were introduced. These Rules enable property owners to clear vegetation around their homes and fences to reduce fire risk.

The rules were introduced following the recommendations of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. The rules apply to properties built prior to 10 September 2009. Please note: the clearing of vegetation for bushfire protection for new buildings is considered through the planning permit process.

10/30 Rule

This rule applies to properties that are **NOT** in a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) Area.* The 10/30 Rule means you can clear any vegetation on your property including trees, within 10 metres of a house and clear any vegetation except for trees within 30 metres for bushfire protection purposes.

10/50 Rule

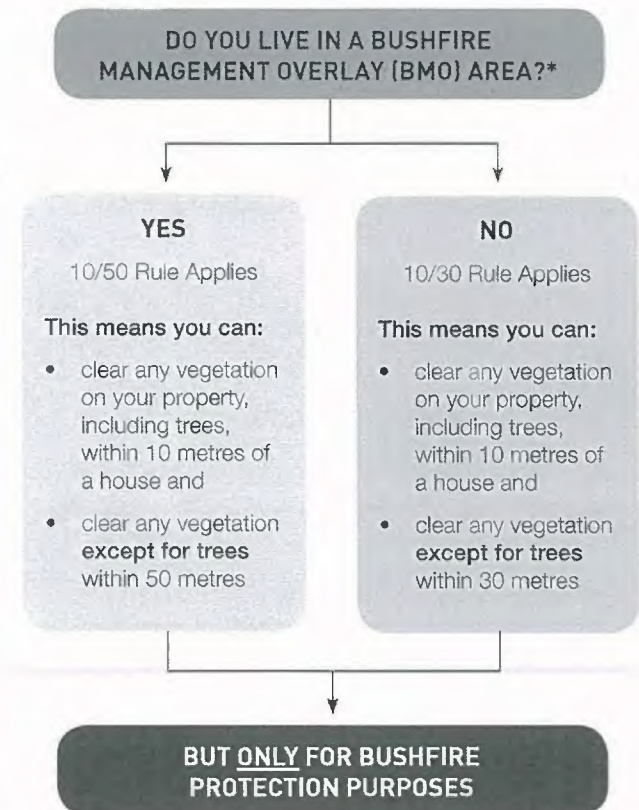
This rule applies to properties in a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) Area.* The 10/50 rule means you can clear any vegetation on your property, including trees, within 10 metres of a house and clear any vegetation except for trees within 50 metres for bushfire protection purposes.



Planning overlays

The 10/30 and 10/50 Rules apply even if there is a planning overlay on your property.

How do I know which rule applies to me?



*Bushfire Management Overlays

To find out if there is a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) on your property visit www.dtpli.vic.gov.au and select the link to obtain a free Planning Property Report or alternatively contact Nillumbik on 9433 3111.

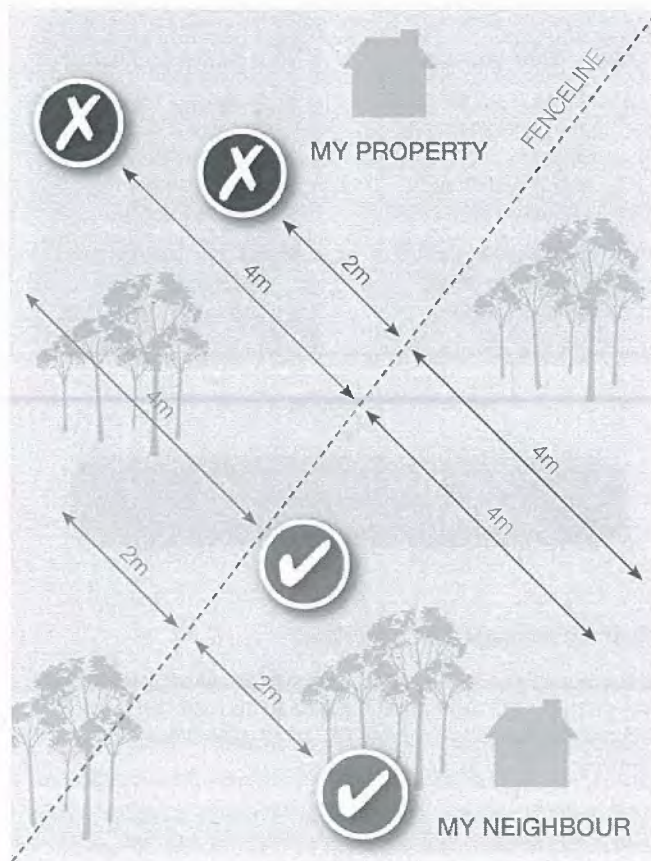
Clearing along boundary fences

Vegetation can be removed (to reduce fire risk) to create a maximum width of four cleared metres across an existing property fence. Residents are encouraged to liaise with their neighbours to come to an agreement about the area cleared on each side of the fence. The total cleared area must not exceed four metres, unless a planning permit has been granted.

If you require advice or are concerned there may be significant fire hazard vegetation on an adjoining property please contact Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 9433 3111.

The Fire Prevention Officer is able to assess vegetation on private property. A Fire Prevention Notice will be issued to the land holders if it is considered necessary for fuel hazard reduction purposes.

Please note: if you have written consent from the land owner of an adjoining property, this includes roadsides and reserves, you can clear the vegetation on their side of the fence, as long as the total area along the fenceline does not exceed four metres.



Section 173 Agreements

Over 3,000 properties within the Shire of Nillumbik have a Section 173 Agreement registered on their title. This is a legal agreement made between Council and the landowner under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which may protect vegetation on your property. Some Section 173 Agreements afford landowners the opportunity to seek Council consent to vary some requirements contained within the agreement.

If you are contemplating removing vegetation that may be in contravention of your Section 173 Agreement, it is imperative that you discuss your proposal with officers of Council's Planning Unit **before** commencing such work. Please note that substantial penalties apply for breaches to Section 173 Agreements. For further information refer to Planning Advice No 18: Section 173 Agreements which is available on www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > **Building and Planning > Planning > Forms advice sheets.**

Rules for leased properties

Leasees must have the written consent of the land owner or public authority before clearing any vegetation.

Aboriginal scarred trees

Aboriginal scarred trees are protected by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2009*. A cultural heritage permit from the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure must be obtained before you undertake any action that may harm a scarred tree. Visit or contact Aboriginal Affairs Victoria for more information www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/aav



Penalties for illegally clearing vegetation

The maximum penalty for clearing native vegetation without a permit or outside the scope of an exemption, such as the 10/30 rule and 10/50 Rule, is approximately \$173,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

May 2014

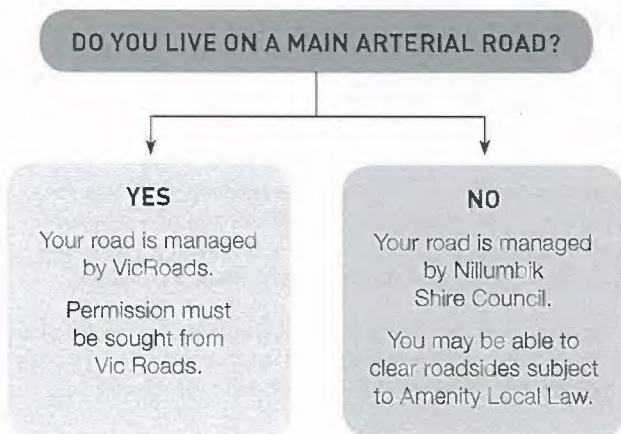


REMOVING VEGETATION ON ROADSIDES IN NILLUMBIK

FACT SHEET

Vegetation may be cleared on roadsides adjoining your property if you have permission from the relevant road authority.

The following chart may assist in determining who manages the roadside adjacent to your property and what regulations are in place. All roads, other than the main arterial roads come under Councils jurisdiction. To check your road type visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au



Vegetation that can be removed from the roadside

Most of the roadside vegetation in Nillumbik has been mapped into categories based on its environmental significance which determines what vegetation can be removed.

You can check the environmental significance of your road on www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Living_in_Nillumbik/Emergencies/Preparing_for_fire – Classification of Roadside Vegetation Map.

A person must not remove any tree or vegetation from any Council land without a permit, including dead trees and fallen timber, other than to prevent the spread of declared noxious weeds as deemed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and those weeds listed in Nillumbik Shire Council publication *'Live Local Plant Local'*.

A permit is not required if the need to remove vegetation is:

- for the maintenance and mowing of nature strips comprising exotic vegetation (i.e. vegetation which is not native to Victoria) within urban areas, where there is kerb and channel drainage construction
- for the removal of vegetation that has fallen onto the road from abutting private land; or

- for the reduction of fine fuels (which include dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark, but does not include larger logs or branches) by immediately abutting landowners for fire hazard reduction purposes, provided that the section of the road is not classified as High Conservation Significance
- for the removal of dead vegetation (including dead indigenous vegetation) up to 1.5m in height provided that the section of the road is not classified as High Conservation Significance
- for fire hazard reduction purposes when in accordance with a fire prevention notice issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or an Assistant Fire Prevention Officer under Section 41 of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*
- works undertaken by 'Friends Of', Landcare Groups and community fireguard groups in accordance with a land management agreement approved by Council.

Permits to remove vegetation

A permit may be required to remove vegetation from the roadside directly adjoining your property. Nillumbik Shire Councils Amenity Local Law which is available at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Living_in_Nillumbik/Local_Laws_Permits_and_Parking/Local_Law specifies what vegetation is able to be removed from roads managed by Nillumbik Shire Council with or without a permit.

To apply for a permit please contact Council on 9433 3111. Please note permits are free of charge.

Trees on the roadside in front of property

It is illegal to remove trees from the roadside in front of your property. If you think a tree is a danger to road users contact Council on 9433 3111 or VicRoads Customer Service on 131 171 if the road is a main arterial road.

Removal of weeds from the roadside

To find out what weeds can be removed without a permit you can download a copy of the *Live Local Plant Local* publication from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or you can request a list of exempt weeds from Council on 9433 3111.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I live on a corner with both high and low environmental significance what do I have to do?

If your property is on a corner block and adjoins both a high and low environmental significant roadside you will need to follow the individual rules that apply to each type of roadside.

If I rent my property can I clear the roadside in front of it?

Yes, you may clear vegetation on roadsides adjoining your rented property if you have permission from the relevant road authority. The same regulations and restrictions apply to rental properties as landowners.

Is all vegetation a fire risk?

All plants will provide fuel for a bushfire. However, research shows that fine fuels (thinner than a finger) contribute most to the heat and speed of a fire. Fine fuels include dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark, but do not include larger logs, branches and trees. It should be remembered that such materials can provide habitat for a range of wildlife, such as echidnas, blue-tongue lizards and a range of native invertebrates.



Why can't all vegetation on the roadside be removed?

Roadsides are an integral part of maintaining biodiversity in the Shire of Nillumbik. Vegetation on roadsides provides wildlife with corridors for movement between larger areas of habitat; they can be the remaining refuge for many native floral and faunal species; provide a source of seed for regeneration and revegetation, and provide shade and shelter for livestock on adjoining land.



How can I dispose of the vegetation I remove?

It is the responsibility of the resident to dispose of the vegetation removed from the roadside. Removed material cannot be stacked into piles along the roadside or burnt off on the roadside.

The Recycling and Recovery Centre at 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty will accept garden green waste throughout the year at a fee, refer to www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au for details.

Council will from time to time provide residents with days for disposing of garden green waste FREE of charge – details on www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Living in Nillumbik > Waste and Recycling > Hard waste & free green waste drop off days.

Please note that only tree prunings, garden clippings and leaf litter will be accepted. Residents will need to show either a rates notice or their driver's licence as proof of residency within the Shire.

Burning off within the boundary of your property may be an option for disposing of material – please refer to *Burning off in Nillumbik* for more information.

Is a nature strip different to a roadside?

Yes a nature strip has different regulations. Nature strips are in residential areas and are part of our Green Wedge environment. They are designed to complement the neighbourhood's natural setting and are public land, not part of a residential property.

There are specific management requirements and restrictions for maintaining nature-strips, refer to the *Footpaths and Nature-strips in Nillumbik* factsheet.

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