

Preparing for bushfire

10/30 rule, 10/50 rule and fence line clearing

Planning permit exemptions are provided for in Victoria's planning schemes to enable residents to manage vegetation for bushfire protection around their property, and adjacent to fences on property boundaries. Permit exemptions for vegetation removal only apply to existing buildings and fences built or approved before certain dates.

Protecting homes against bushfire — clearing of native vegetation

After the February 2009 Black Saturday bushfires the Victorian Government introduced temporary planning controls for bushfire protection including the 10/30 rule. The 10/30 rule simplified residents' entitlements to clear native vegetation around their property for bushfire protection.

In November 2011, the Victorian Government introduced permanent planning controls as part of implementing the recommendations of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission.

These changes include new exemptions from the need for a planning permit to remove native vegetation to help reduce fuel load around existing homes.

These new exemptions are in keeping with the Commission's view that the right to remove vegetation for fire protection should be more closely aligned with risk.

This fact sheet explains the new exemptions for fire protection and where they apply.

Preparing your property

Bushfires rely on fine fuels including leaf litter, twigs and shrubs on the surface to develop speed and intensity.

The new exemptions are intended to enable residents to reduce the amount and availability of fine fuels, without the need for a planning permit.

In addition to vegetation management, the ability to defend your house and property from a bushfire can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- the preparation of your household's bushfire survival plan
- house location, including aspect and surrounding land form
- the building structure and materials, and
- available water supply, including tanks and swimming pools, pumps or sprinkler systems.

The 10/30 and 10/50 rules enable clearing around buildings built or approved before 10 September 2009 only. For new buildings, clearing for bushfire protection will be considered through the planning permit

10/30 rule for existing dwellings

The 10/30 rule applies state-wide except for in 21 metropolitan municipalities listed on page 2 of this fact sheet. It allows landowners to clear without a planning permit:

1. any vegetation, including trees, within **10** metres of your house
2. any vegetation (except for trees) within **30** metres of your house.

10/50 rule for existing dwellings

In all areas in Victoria within the Bushfire Management Overlay*, including where it applies in metropolitan municipalities, landowners can clear without a permit:

1. any vegetation, including trees, within **10** metres of your house
2. any vegetation (except for trees) within **50** metres of your house.

*To determine if your property is within the Bushfire Management Overlay, visit www.land.vic.gov.au.

Metropolitan municipalities

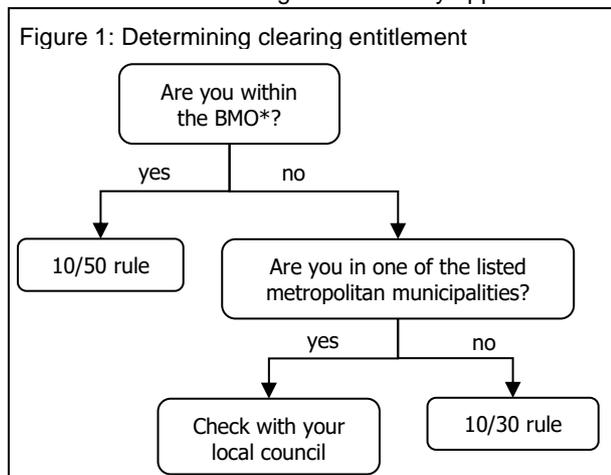
In the metropolitan municipalities listed on page 2, the 10/30 rule does not apply. However, in the future, some councils may identify specific areas of bushfire risk where the 10/30 rule can apply. Affected residents will be notified.

If you live in one of the metropolitan municipalities listed in page 2 of this fact sheet and wish to undertake clearing for

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bushfire protection, contact your local council to check if the 10/30 rule applies in your area.

Where the Bushfire Management Overlay applies in areas



of metropolitan municipalities, the 10/50 rule will also apply.

* BMO – Bushfire Management Overlay

The Bushfire Management Overlay

As well as identifying areas where the 10/50 rule applies, the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) implements planning requirements for building in areas of identified bushfire risk.

You can find out if your property is within the Bushfire Management Overlay by contacting your local council's planning department, or visiting planning maps online at www.land.vic.gov.au or by entering "Victorian Planning Maps Online" into your favourite internet search engine.

Metropolitan municipalities where the state-wide 10/30 rule does not apply

Banyule City	Greater Dandenong City	Melbourne City	Stonnington City
Bayside City	Hobsons Bay City	Monash City	Whitehorse City
Boroondara City	Kingston City	Moonee Valley City	Yarra City
Brimbank City	Knox City	Moreland City	
Darebin City	Maribyrnong City	Port Phillip City	
Glen Eira City	Maroondah City	Port of Melbourne	

Clearing along boundary fences

In areas where the 10/30 rule applies you can also clear any vegetation for a combined maximum width of 4 metres across existing boundary fences.

Fire prevention notice

You can still remove native vegetation without a permit to comply with a fire prevention notice issued by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) or Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).

Fuel reduction burns

You need a permit from DEPI or CFA to carry out fuel reduction burning on your property. You should also be aware of fire restrictions in your area before lighting any fire. If in doubt, please check the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

You can only clear vegetation on your property if you own it. If you are renting or want to clear vegetation on other properties including neighbouring public land, you need the written permission of the landowner.

Further information

- For further information contact: your local council
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit www.depi.vic.gov.au
- Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667
- Or visit <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/plansandpolicies/bushfire-planning-and-building-resource/building-for-bushfire-protection>.

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