



Managing a Private Native Forestry area after a bushfire

This fact sheet provides guidance for current Private Native Forestry (PNF) Plan holders and harvesting contractors on implementing PNF Plans once a bushfire emergency has passed.

Can I remove a tree or other living native vegetation that may be presenting a safety risk following a bushfire?

Landholders can clear native vegetation, including trees, considered reasonably necessary to remove or reduce an imminent risk of serious personal injury or damage to property. Such clearing should be undertaken to the minimum extent necessary.

Your current PNF plan allows for the management of vegetation in accordance with the Code of Practice for Private Native Forestry that applies in your region. You can also remove vegetation which poses an imminent risk of serious personal injury or damage to property under the Allowable activities provisions, even where the Code would otherwise prevent this work. This Allowable activity can also apply to parts of your property not covered by your PNF plan.

Note: in order to remove vegetation under this Allowable activity, the risk must be imminent and clearing should only be undertaken to the minimum extent necessary.

If your proposed works for vegetation removal following a bushfire in your PNF Plan area are beyond the minimum extent necessary, please contact Local Land Services to discuss options under the Land Management Code.

Can I remove standing 'dead' vegetation?

A tree may be removed if it is reasonably necessary to remove or reduce an imminent risk of serious personal injury or damage to property. In non-emergency situations and where there is no risk to people or property, the usual land management rules apply.

If a dead tree does not pose an imminent risk and is on

vulnerable regulated land, for example on a steep slope or in a riparian zone, approval may be required to remove it and you should seek advice from your nearest Local Land Services office.

You should not clear 'dead' trees until you are sure the trees will not naturally regenerate. This can take months depending on weather conditions. Most native vegetation is well adapted to survive fire, especially mature Eucalypt species.

Can I clear burnt groundcover?

Where native groundcover has been burnt, landholders are required to give it an opportunity to regrow. Your approved PNF plan allows you to manage groundcover and understorey plants to encourage forest growth but does not permit the permanent removal of groundcover or understorey plants.

If your intent is to permanently remove groundcover or understorey plants you may need to consider cancelling your PNF approvals and seeking consent under the usual land management rules. Contact your nearest Local Land Services office for advice on your specific circumstances.

Want to know more?

We're here to help

Find us online: lls.nsw.gov.au

Call us: 1300 795 299 and ask for an officer to advise you on Private Native Forestry

Email us: pnf.info@nsw.gov.au

See us: drop into your nearest Local Land Services office



Local Land Services

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What if I need to clear non-burnt vegetation to get to an area impacted by the fire?

You can clear a track on your property, to the minimum extent necessary without approval. Maximum track widths of 15 metres in the Coastal Zone, 30 metres in the Central Zone and 40 metres in the Western Zone apply. Some further restrictions apply on small landholdings (under 10 hectares) and where your land has steep slopes or riparian zones.

For information on the zones and allowable activities, see the 'Allowable activities for landholders' fact sheet at www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Information in this fact sheet refers to land classified as regulated rural areas under part 5A of the LLS Act and PNF approvals under Part 5B of the LLS Act.

If you are not sure of the classification of your land you should contact Local Land Services on 1300 795 299 or call into your nearest Local Land Services office

Native vegetation is any plants native to NSW including trees, understorey plants, groundcover and plants occurring in a wetland. A plant is native to NSW if it was established in NSW before European settlement.

Are there any parts of the Private Native Forestry Code that I should treat with extra care after a bushfire?

Yes.

Regeneration and Stocking (Section 3.3): A key outcome of harvesting is to achieve successful regeneration of the forest. You may need to pay extra attention to the retained trees to ensure that sufficient seed bearing trees are retained to enable successful regeneration.

Protection of habitat and biodiversity (Section 4.2): Following a fire you should consider your ability to retain the required basal area following a harvesting operation because it may be difficult to tell which trees will survive.

Dead trees cannot be counted as Habitat trees and you may find very few hollow-bearing Habitat trees remain after a fire. This means that you will be required to retain additional Recruitment trees where Habitat trees cannot be found.

Construction and maintenance of forest infrastructure (Section 5): Following a fire, the lack of vegetation and existence of ash beds presents pollution risks. Stable discharge areas from exposed slopes, tracks and roads, may be difficult to find and other sediment control structures (such as sediment fencing, straw bales or rock armour) may be needed to avoid erosion and/or pollution from sediment occurring within drainage features and streams.

Can I get more information or help?

For support or advice to help you implement a PNF Code of practice following a bushfire please call Local Land Services on 1300 795 299

Local Land Services offers local support to landholders in the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery stages of a bushfire emergency.

We are on hand to offer advice and up-to-date information. Call Local Land Services on 1300 795 299 or contact your nearest Local Land Services office.