

Managing native vegetation during a bushfire emergency



This fact sheet provides landholders with guidance on native vegetation management during a bushfire emergency in rural areas. A bushfire emergency is one which endangers or threatens the safety or health of people or animals, destroys or damages property or causes essential services to fail or be significantly disrupted.

What clearing can I do during a bushfire?

- emergency firefighting
- emergency bushfire hazard reduction.

What is emergency firefighting?

Emergency firefighting is any activity done or authorised by a firefighting authority (such as the Rural Fire Service), during bushfire fighting operations, other than general bushfire hazard reduction work.

What bushfire hazard reduction work can I do during a bushfire?

Emergency bushfire hazard reduction work is carried out to protect people, property or the environment from an existing or imminent danger as a result of a bushfire. No approvals are required when you are clearing vegetation for hazard reduction during a bushfire emergency under the direction of the Rural Fire Service.

You can also check the Rural Boundary Clearing Code and associated tool, which helps rural landholders in identified areas to prepare for fire or help prevent fires from spreading.

It allows up to 25 metres to be cleared on a boundary of a holding that is within the Boundary Clearing Code Vegetation Map.

The Boundary Clearing Tool will help you identify if the Code applies to your landholding.

Scan the QR code or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/boundary-clearing-tool to find out how the scheme works and access the tool.



What can I do with native vegetation during a bushfire if my property is not zoned rural?

Emergency firefighting and bushfire hazard reduction clearing do not require additional approvals during a bushfire emergency.

Once the emergency has passed you should contact your local council.

What do I do once a bushfire emergency has passed?

Once a bushfire emergency has passed, approvals may be required to manage vegetation on your property in the recovery phase.

Scan the QR code or visit lls.nsw.gov.au/land-management-resources for more resources and to find out what approvals you may require or call your nearest Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299.



Note: Information in this fact sheet refers to land classified as regulated rural areas. If you are not sure of the classification of your land, contact Local Land Services. 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.



Want to know more?

We're here to help.

Find us online: lls.nsw.gov.au

You'll find other land management and native vegetation resources including fact sheets on our website.

Call us: 1300 795 299 and ask for an officer to advise you on land management

Email us: lm.info@lls.nsw.gov.au

Visit us: drop into your nearest Local Land Services office.