

Additional information

Provided by Col Rob Manton, Local Recovery Coordinator – Kangaroo Island, Disaster Recovery and Resilience, Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Received on 30 September 2020, following the committee's hearing on Kangaroo Island (29 September 2020).

A couple of matters and some information that might assist the Committee's deliberations and report.

Vegetation Clearance:

There was some discussion yesterday regarding property owners challenges understanding their rights and obligations under the various pieces of legislation. This is an issue that has regularly been raised with me in my Local Recovery Coordinator's role.

In my statement yesterday I referred to a community meeting on 5 September. The meeting had two aims: update on recovery efforts, and fire preparation. The attached document was prepared to provide some basic clarity about what property owners can do and is available on our fire recovery FB site at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KIFireRecovery/>

Telecommunications Infrastructure:

An application for funding is being prepared under the Local Economic Recovery (LER) initiative I mentioned yesterday by a local firm Beam (<https://beaminternet.com.au/>). Of course the success of the application is dependent on passage through an evaluation working group comprising state and commonwealth officials (Department of Premier and Cabinet's Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience agency and the National Bushfire Recovery Agency).

Community Debrief:

A community debrief on what happened last summer with senior officials is an issue that has been regularly raised with me. As a result we have pressed CFS and DEW officials to visit the Island to undertake small group debriefs in regional town centres and one on one 'listening posts' to allow Islanders to have their voice heard. This is in the planning stage currently and I anticipate will occur in October.

FACT SHEET

Preparing for a bushfire: Clearance of native vegetation

Clearing around your house

Any vegetation within 10m of your dwelling can be cleared **without Native Vegetation Council approval**

Any vegetation except for large trees can be cleared between 10-20m from your dwelling **without Native Vegetation Council approval** (Large Tree means a tree (including a dead tree) where the circumference of the trunk of the tree is 2 metres or more, when measured at a point of 1 metre from the base of the tree)

Clearing around buildings



(excluding dwellings)

Any vegetation within 10m of the building (definition includes structures used for primary production, the housing or feeding of animals, the storage of fodder, and the storage of vehicles or vessels, pump sheds, garden and pool sheds and fixed aviaries.) can be removed **without Native Vegetation Council approval**.

Structure means a building or structure that is permanently fixed to land so that it cannot be moved without dismantling or destroying it and;

Includes a transportable building if the building is connected to a sewage system or a septic tank and then is not moved after it is first connected to that sewage system or septic tank; but

Clearance for a fence-line fuel break

Fence-line fuel breaks can be constructed up to 5m in width along an existing fence line without approval. When measuring the width of the fuel break, you should include any immediately adjoining land where the vegetation has been removed as this reduces the amount of native vegetation you may need to remove overall.

Clearance with CFS approval

If clearance is required beyond what's permitted without approval as presented above, additional clearance can be applied for from the SA CFS.

Clearance may relate to the following;

- Fuel reduction, including additional clearance around existing dwellings or buildings
- Fire breaks
- Fire access tracks
- Prescribed burning for fuel reduction

For information, including application forms and contact detail, please see the following guide -

https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/native_veg/cfs_guidelines/dew_native_vegetation_cfs_guidelines_sept_2020.pdf

Clearance to enhance biodiversity

You may conduct a prescribed burn in an area of native vegetation if the burn is intended to improve ecological processes. *This type of prescribed burn must be undertaken according to a management plan approved by the Native Vegetation Council.

For further details please see the following websites:

cfs.sa.gov.au or nvc.sa.gov.au

Does not include a building or structure erected or placed on land in contravention of the Development Act 1993 or a corresponding previous enactment.

Dwelling means a building or part of a building used as a self-contained residence.



Native Vegetation Clearance for Fire Management

Authorising

The Native Vegetation Council, supported by DEW is responsible for administering the Native Vegetation Act 1991, which provides protection for native vegetation in the state and establishes the legislative framework for its management and removal. This applies across all land tenure, both public and private.

Regulating

The Native Vegetation Regulations prescribes the circumstances in which native vegetation may be cleared and the process that is to be followed.

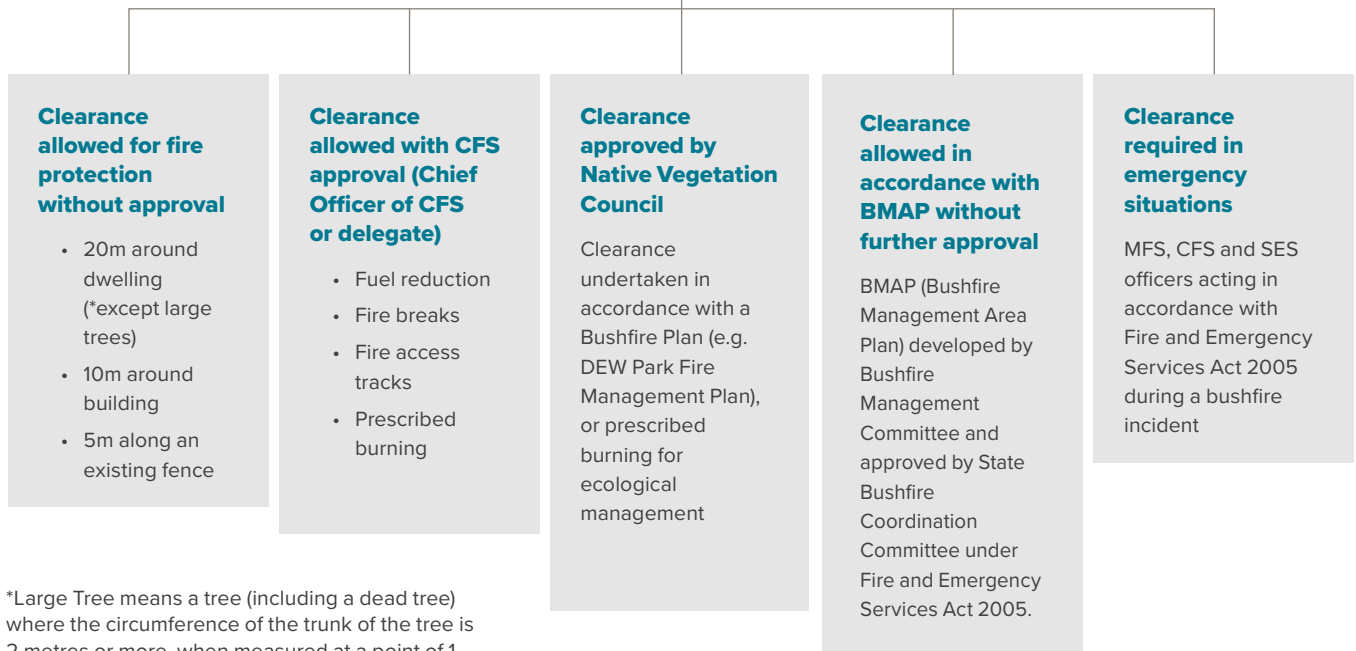
Native Vegetation Act 1991

Protects native vegetation across South Australia (except metro Adelaide)



Native Vegetation Regulations, 2017

Allows clearance in certain circumstances such as fire protection and management



*Large Tree means a tree (including a dead tree) where the circumference of the trunk of the tree is 2 metres or more, when measured at a point of 1 metre from the base of the tree.

Source: DEW, 2020, Att. 3

Implementing

The Native Vegetation Regulations allows for the clearance of native vegetation for fire protection purposes both with and without approval of the NVC, as well as authorising other bodies and processes to permit the clearance of native vegetation where required for fire protection and management.