



Clearing for bushfire management

The Queensland Government's vegetation clearing laws allow landholders to undertake a range of activities to deal with the threat or aftermath of a bushfire. This means you can undertake certain clearing activities to protect your property from bushfires *without* an approval or notification under the vegetation management framework.

These exemptions are summarised in the table below and apply to freehold land, indigenous land and leasehold land for agriculture and grazing purposes.

Firebreaks are defined as areas that are cleared and maintained in a low fuel state to stop or steady a wildfire, or to back-burn against.

Fire management lines are pathways, roads, fence line clearings or tracks (including existing property tracks) used to access water for firefighting or divide the property for fuel reduction burning or back-burning.

Important: You cannot join clearing for multiple purposes to create larger clearing widths.

Purpose for clearing	Vegetation category	Clearing allowances
Fences, roads or tracks	Category B (Least concern regional ecosystems)	Clearing to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track to a maximum width of 10 m.
Fire management line	All	Clearing for a necessary fire management line to a maximum width of 10 m.
Firebreaks	All	For a firebreak necessary to protect buildings and other structures (other than a fence line): to a width of up to 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation or 20 m (whichever is wider).
Hazardous fuel load reduction	All	Fuel reduction burns can be done under a permit issued by your local fire warden. Contact your local fire warden for more information.
Maintain existing infrastructure	All	Clearing necessary to maintain existing buildings and other structures, including buildings, fences, roads and watering points. Clearing to source construction timber to maintain existing infrastructure on the land.
Risk to people or infrastructure	All	Clearing necessary to remove or reduce the imminent risk the vegetation poses to people or, buildings and other structures.

What is necessary clearing?

Landholders intending to operate under this exemption may only clear firebreaks and fire management lines where they are necessary to protect lives and property.

The need for, and extent of, fire management lines and fire breaks on a property will depend on a range of factors including the shape of the property, access from a public road, the layout of infrastructure, slope and aspect, the extent of prior clearing, and the vegetation hazard class of the surrounding vegetation.

For expert advice on the placement of fire breaks or fire management lines and bushfire risk reduction for your property, contact the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services or a qualified bushfire professional. For more information, visit qfes.qld.gov.au.

Is wider clearing required?

If you need to clear a wider area than what is exempt under the Planning Regulation 2017, the accepted development vegetation clearing code, Clearing for infrastructure, may assist. This code enables landholders to clear a wider firebreak necessary to protect buildings and other structures to a width of up to 30 m in non-coastal areas.

If a wider firebreak is proposed, it may be possible to lodge a development application under the planning framework.

Cleaning up after a bushfire

You can remove fallen woody debris without a permit or notification from existing tracks, roads, fire management lines and firebreaks. Special clearing exemptions apply if your district has been declared a disaster area.

Local laws

Before you undertake clearing, it's important to contact your local council for information as certain local governments have local laws on clearing native vegetation and tree protection, including:

- Brisbane City Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Redland City Council

Request a property report and vegetation map

You can request a free property vegetation management report which includes property information and maps to help you identify the type of vegetation on your property.



More information

Visit qld.gov.au and search 'clearing for bushfire' for further information, or scan the QR code.

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