

FIRE PREVENTION GUIDE

Prepare your Property



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL
The Heart of Gippsland

Property owners must reduce potential fire hazards by clearing your land to the minimum standards outlined below and maintain it for the duration of the declared Fire Danger Period. You may need to carry out fire prevention maintenance on your block more than once during the fire season. If you receive a Fire Prevention Notice you must further comply with those specific directions.

Residential Areas (blocks close to homes)

- Ensure ground fuels such as grass, bracken or weeds are maintained to a height of 100mm or less across the whole of your land, especially around all buildings and along fence lines.
- Remove undergrowth, fallen branches, garden refuse and tree cuttings from your property.
- Tree branches and shrubs that overhang buildings should be pruned back. Low branches (those less than 2 metres from the ground) should be pruned back to separate them from the ground fuels.

Rural Living and Farm Zones

- Create a 10m fuel reduced area around buildings by cutting and maintaining grass to a height of 100mm or less.
- Slash a 10m firebreak along boundaries where paddocks meet residential areas or neighbouring houses.
- In heavily wooded areas, ensure tree litter and ground fuels are cleared along boundary fence lines that border residential areas.

There may be situations where you cannot achieve the above recommendations due to environmental factors or farming operations. In these circumstances, contact our Municipal Fire Prevention Officer to discuss your options.

Can I remove native vegetation and trees?

A planning permit is normally required to remove native trees and shrubs. In some circumstances you may be able to remove native vegetation without a permit for bushfire protection under the 10/30 and 10/50 rules. Check if these rules apply to your property by contacting Council's Environmental Planner on 1300 366 244.

Under no circumstances will a Fire Prevention Notice give you direction or permission to remove trees or disturb soils.

What can I do with my green waste?

You have several options for the disposal of green waste which may include mulching and composting, permitted burning (see below) or transport to a nearby waste facility. If you engage a contractor, they will likely dispose of the vegetation as a part of their service. Please note that the fine for illegally dumping green waste is \$322.00. To report someone dumping green waste, contact Council on 1300 366 244.

How do I find a contractor?

Several private local contractors offer property preparation and maintenance services for the fire season. Check local business directories, speak to a neighbour, or contact your local garden supplies centre. Council does not provide recommendations or hand out contractor details. For landowners who do not live locally, we recommend asking your contractor to take before and after photos to be sure that the work is completed to your satisfaction.

Can I burn off my green waste?

No burning is permitted during the declared [Fire Danger Period](#) (FDP). This year, the CFA has declared that the FDP will start on 10 September and restrictions might be in place until the end of May. Outside the FDP you may need to apply for a permit to burn, depending on where you live. Visit www.wellington.vic.gov.au/fire for more information about burn permits and burning off.

Where do I find more information?

- Visit www.wellington.vic.gov.au/fire
- Visit the CFA 'Prepare your Property' webpage <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/prepare-your-property>
- Contact the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 1300 366 244 for specific advice