

# REDUCE FUEL STRATEGICALLY

Bushfire is a real risk for all South Australians and you can't predict when a bushfire will strike. But your chances of survival are increased if you are prepared.

The State Government, SA Country Fire Service (SA CFS), the Native Vegetation Council and Local Councils are working together to protect life and property, while still recognising the value of native vegetation.

## What can I do without approval?

You can undertake any activity that is compliant with an approved bushfire prevention plan.

Fuel reduction activities that do not fall under a bushfire prevention plan need to be approved by the SA CFS.

## What activities do I need approval for?

Strategic fuel reduction activities are often included in a Bushfire Buffer Zone, generally occurring on larger areas of land, and can be undertaken on any private or public land. Definitions and more information about the Bushfire Buffer Zone are provided overleaf.

If you want to strategically reduce the amount of fuel on your property, you need to do so according to a relevant approved bushfire prevention plan for the area. If there is no bushfire prevention plan in place, or if your proposed fuel reduction activities are not incorporated under the plan, you can download the application form (see [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)) to apply to the SA CFS for approval.

You may want to conduct a prescribed burn to reduce fuel on your property. To do so you will need to apply to the SA CFS for a permit to burn using the application form (see [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)). You can use the same application form to apply for approval for your fuel reduction works and to apply for a permit to undertake a prescribed burn.

In considering your application the SA CFS will look at ways to manage bushfire risks whilst minimising the impacts on native plants, animals and their ecosystems. As an example, removing weeds may be the most suitable method to reduce the fuel load on your property.

If you want more information refer to A guide for managing Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire (2009) (download a copy from [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)).

## Are you Bushfire Ready?

Actions you can take today:

- Reduce
- Remove
- Dispose
- Replace



## Managing native vegetation to reduce fuel strategically

### Bushfire Buffer Zone

A Bushfire Buffer Zone is intended to provide strategically located fuel reduced areas that decrease the potential for large bushfires to develop across the landscape. The goal for a Bushfire Buffer Zone is to reduce the overall fuel hazard to a level of *high*<sup>1</sup>. Bushfire Buffer Zone's will typically be located in bushland at the urban fringe or close to rural assets and will complement Asset Protection Zones. They provide areas that assist in making bushfire suppression activities more effective and safer for firefighters.

A Bushfire Buffer Zone may also be used in large areas of native vegetation (e.g. farmland, reserves or parklands) that protect community assets across the landscape. These areas of native vegetation will typically be modified yet they will still provide for significant biodiversity value.

Where possible, Bushfire Buffer Zone's should include agricultural land that has been managed to reduce fuel loads during the bushfire season.

Refer to *A guide for managing Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire (2009)* (download a copy from [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)) for further information on Bushfire Buffer Zones.

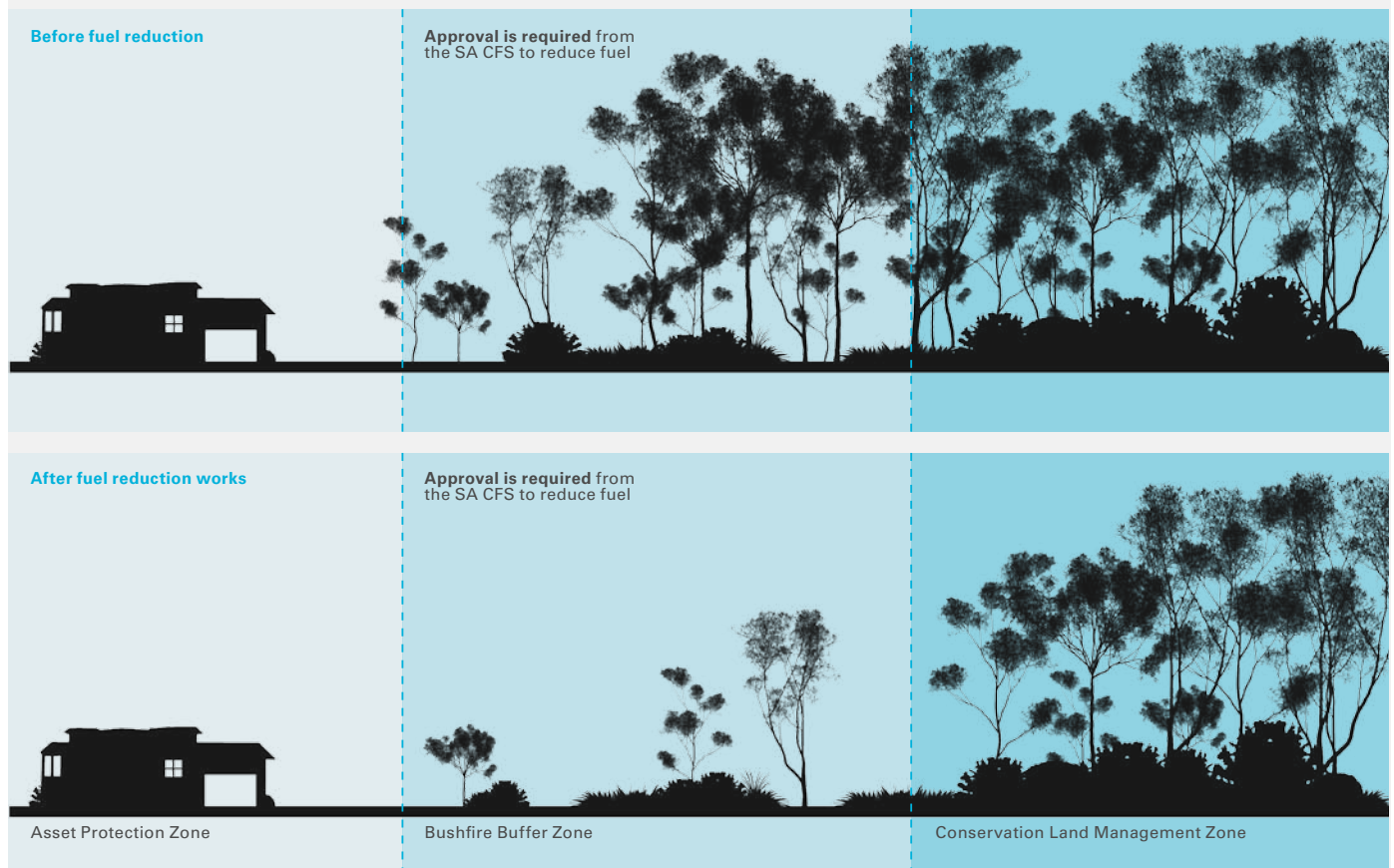
**Fuel** means any material such as grass, leaf litter and live vegetation that can be ignited and sustains a fire.

**Significant Tree** means any native or non-native tree that has a trunk with a circumference of 2m or more at a point 1m above natural ground level. In the case of trees with multiple trunks, the total circumference of the trunks must be 2m or more and the average circumference of each trunk must be 62.5cm or more.

If you want to find out more, *A guide for managing Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire (2009)* can be downloaded at [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) or as individual information sheets.

### Things you will need to consider:

If you want to remove or modify a Significant Tree you will need approval as outlined in the *Development Regulations 2008*. You need to identify if you have a Significant Tree and contact your Local Council for further information on how to apply.



**South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) In an emergency, please call 000.**

**Headquarters:** (08) 8463 4200

**Region 1** – Southern Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island: (08) 8391 1866

**Region 2** – Northern Mount Lofty Ranges and Yorke Peninsula: (08) 8522 6088

**Region 3** – Murraylands and Riverland: (08) 8532 6800

**Region 4** – Flinders, Mid North and Pastoral Areas: (08) 8642 2399

**Region 5** – South East: (08) 8762 2311

**Region 6** – Eyre Peninsula and West Coast: (08) 8682 4266

**Web:** [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

**Native Vegetation Council**

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IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT IF THE ACTIONS YOU ARE PROPOSING TO UNDERTAKE REQUIRE APPROVAL UNDER OTHER LEGISLATION.