

Vegetation Management

10/30 and 10/50 Rules Explained

Planning permit exemptions are provided for in Victoria's planning schemes to enable residents to manage vegetation for bushfire protection around their property, and adjacent to fences on property boundaries. Permit exemptions for vegetation removal only apply to existing buildings and fences built or approved before certain dates.

10/30 and 10/50 explained

The 10/30 or 10/50 rules exempt landowners from needing a permit.

Prior to 2011, property owners were generally required to apply for a permit to remove any native vegetation on their property. These laws have since been made less stringent for people in bushfire risk areas with the introduction of planning exemptions known as the '10/30' and '10/50' rules.

The 10/30 and 10/50 rules enable clearing around buildings built or approved before 10 September 2009 only. For new buildings, clearing for bushfire protection will be considered through the planning permit process.

What are the 10/30 and 10/50 Rules?

The 10/30 rule

If this rule applies in your municipality, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop:

1. Any vegetation, **including trees**, within **10 metres** of your house
2. Any vegetation, **excluding trees**, within **30 metres** of your house.

The 10/30 rule only applies for vegetation on your own land.

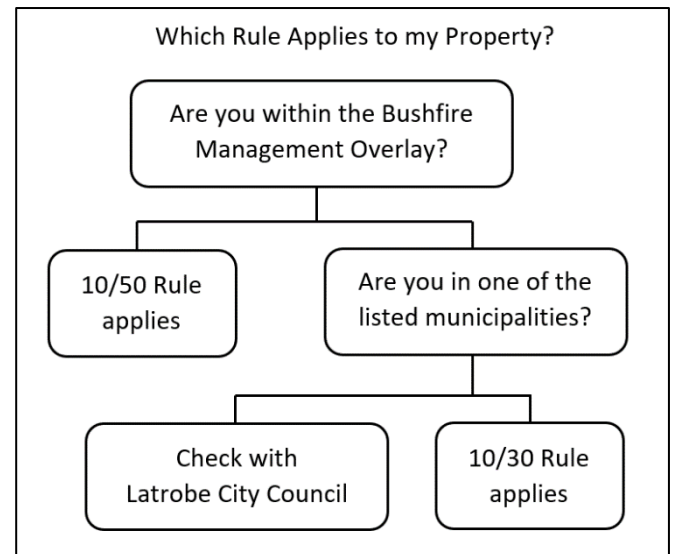
The 10/50 rule

If this rule applies in your municipality, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop:

1. Any vegetation, **including trees**, within **10 metres** of your house
2. Any vegetation, **excluding trees**, within **50 metres** of your house.

The 10/50 rule only applies for vegetation on your own land.

Which rule applies to my property?



If your community is generally identified as 'high bushfire risk', there's a good chance the 10/50 rule will apply to you.

To check if your property is within the Bushfire Management Overlay, contact www.land.vic.gov.au, www.cfa.vic.gov.au/clearing, or contact the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer at Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

Can I clear vegetation along my fence line?

Yes. In areas where the 10/30 rule and 10/50 applies, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation for a **combined maximum width of four metres** either side of a fence between your property and a neighbouring property.

Vegetation Management – 10/30 and 10/50 Rules Explained

Note: Under the 10/30 and 10/50 rules, if there is already at four metres or more of cleared land on one side of the fence, a maximum of 1 metre can be cleared along the other side of the fence. Any further vegetation removal will require a planning permit.



What happens if I lease or rent my property?

If you lease your property, including from a public authority, you will need the written consent of the public authority or owner who leases you the land before you can clear vegetation.

Public land managers will consider if clearing is appropriate in sensitive environmental areas and have the discretion to disallow, allow in part or in full, clearing in accordance with the new clearing entitlements. Any clearing beyond the clearing entitlements enabled under 10/30 or 10/50 exemptions will require a planning permit.

Why clear vegetation?

Research shows that clearing fuel near your house is one of the most important things you can do to help protect it from a bushfire.

Before the fire season, help take steps to remove – or keep to a minimum – anything flammable around your home. Think about both vegetation and household items.

Do the 10/30 and 10/50 rules affect the building of new homes?

No. Victorian planning schemes and building regulations include specific requirements for building new dwellings in bushfire prone areas.

This includes an expectation that when siting new buildings that every effort is made to site dwellings away from the bushfire hazard and where native vegetation removal can be avoided and minimised.

Further Information

For more information contact:

- DELWP – 136 186
<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation>
https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/482176/Fact-Sheet.Vegetation-Exemptions-Bushfire-Protection.pdf
<https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/>
- Bushfire Information Line - 1800 240 667
- CFA - <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au>

Contacting Council

If you require any further information, contact the Latrobe City Council Municipal Fire Prevention Officer:

1300 367 700,

<https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Community/Emergencies/Fire>

See Latrobe City Council Information Sheets:

Landowner Bushfire Prevention Obligations

Roadside Vegetation Management & Firewood Collection

Fire Prevention Notices

Bushfires & Designing Your Garden