52.12 BUSHFIRE PROTECTION EXEMPTIONS

05/08/2020
VC176

Purpose

To facilitate the removal of vegetation in specified circumstances to support the protection of human life and property from bushfire.

To facilitate the construction and protection of community fire refuges and private bushfire shelters.

52.12-1 Exemptions to create defendable space around buildings used for accommodation

05/08/2020
VC176

Any requirement of a planning permit, including any condition, which has the effect of prohibiting the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation, or any requirement of this planning scheme to obtain a planning permit, or any provision of this planning scheme that prohibits the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation or requires the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation to be carried out in a particular manner, does not apply to any of the following:

- The removal, destruction or lopping of any vegetation within 10 metres of an existing building used for accommodation if all of the following requirements are met:
  - The building must be located in an area that is designated as a bushfire prone area under the *Building Act 1993.*
  - The building must have been:
    - constructed before 10 September 2009; or
    - approved by a planning permit or a building permit issued before 10 September 2009; or
    - constructed to replace a dwelling or dependent persons unit that was damaged or destroyed by a bushfire that occurred between 1 January 2009 and 31 March 2009.
- The removal, destruction or lopping of any vegetation, except trees, within 30 metres of an existing building used for accommodation if all of the following requirements are met:
  - The building must be located in an area that is designated as a bushfire prone area under the *Building Act 1993.*
  - The building must have been:
    - constructed before 10 September 2009; or
    - approved by a planning permit or a building permit issued before 10 September 2009; or
    - constructed to replace a dwelling or dependent persons unit that was damaged or destroyed by a bushfire that occurred between 1 January 2009 and 31 March 2009.
- The removal, destruction or lopping of any vegetation, except trees, within 50 metres of an existing building used for accommodation if all of the following requirements are met:
  - The building must be located in the Bushfire Management Overlay.
  - The building must have been:
    - constructed before 10 September 2009; or
    - lawfully constructed without a planning permit before 18 November 2011; or
    - approved by a planning permit or a building permit issued before 10 September 2009 and constructed before 18 November 2011; or
    - constructed to replace a dwelling or dependent persons unit that was damaged or destroyed by a bushfire that occurred between 1 January 2009 and 31 March 2009.

52.12-2 Exemption for vegetation removal along a fenceline

05/08/2020
VC176

Any requirement of a planning permit, including any condition, which has the effect of prohibiting the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation, or any requirement of this planning scheme to obtain a planning permit, or any provision of this planning scheme that prohibits the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation or requires the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation to be carried out in a particular manner, does not apply to the removal, destruction or lopping of any vegetation along a boundary fence between properties in different ownership if all of the following requirements are met:

- The fence must be located in an area that is designated as a bushfire prone area under the *Building Act 1993*.
- The fence must have been constructed before 10 September 2009.
- The clearing alongside both sides of the fence when combined must not exceed 4 metres in width, except where land has already been cleared 4 metres or more along one side of the fence, then up to 1 metre can be cleared along the other side of the fence.

52.12-3 Exemption for buildings and works associated with a community fire refuge

05/08/2020
VC176

Any requirement in this scheme relating to the construction of a building or the construction or carrying out of works does not apply to modifying an existing building to create a community fire refuge in accordance with Ministerial Direction No. 4, Construction Requirements for a Community Fire Refuge (1 October 2015) of the *Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994* .

52.12-4 Exemption for buildings and works associated with a private bushfire shelter

20/10/2026
VC317

Any requirement in this planning scheme relating to the construction of a building or the construction or carrying out of works does not apply to buildings and works associated with a private bushfire shelter (a Class 10c building within the meaning of the Building Regulations 2018), provided the total area of all buildings and works does not exceed 30 square metres.

This clause does not apply to land in the Urban Floodway Zone, Flood Management Zone, Erosion Management Overlay, Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Special Building Overlay, Flood Management Overlay or Heritage Overlay.

52.12-5 Exemption to create defendable space for a dwelling under Clause 44.06 of this planning scheme

25/02/2025
VC257

Any requirement of a planning permit, including any condition, which has the effect of prohibiting the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation, or any requirement of this planning scheme to obtain a planning permit, or any provision of this planning scheme that prohibits the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation or requires the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation to be carried out in a particular manner, does not apply to the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation to enable the construction of a dwelling, or the alteration or extension of an existing dwelling, and create its defendable space if all of the following requirements are met:

- Land is in the Bushfire Management Overlay.
- Land is in the General Residential Zone, Residential Growth Zone, Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Housing Choice and Transport Zone, Urban Growth Zone, Low Density Residential Zone, Township Zone, Rural Living Zone, Farming Zone or Rural Activity Zone.
- The removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation:
  - Does not exceed the distance specified in Table 1 to Clause 53.02-3 of this planning scheme, based on the bushfire attack level determined by a relevant building surveyor in deciding an application for a building permit under the *Building Act 1993* for a dwelling or alteration or extension to the dwelling; or
  - Is required to be undertaken by a condition in a planning permit issued after 31 July 2014 under Clause 44.06 of this scheme for a dwelling or an alteration or extension to the dwelling.

Note: The effect of clause 52.12-5 is that if an application for building and works is made and all requirements of the clause are met, that application is not required to be accompanied by a permit application to remove the vegetation covered by this clause.