

Do I need a permit?



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FIRE AND OUR ROADSIDES

Frequently asked
questions about
farming activities
and roadside
vegetation

FIRE AND OUR ROADSIDES

ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE
ROADSIDE FIRE MANAGEMENT



Q. I am a farmer and a CFA member. What work can I do on roadsides adjoining my property?

A. Works that have been approved into the Integrated Fire Management Plan can be done.

All other works require a planning permit except for slashing to reduce fuel load.

Q. What must a CFA brigade do before they start new works on a roadside?

A. The brigade must have works approved into the Integrated Fire Management Plan.

Information required includes the particular type of works, timing, and who will do the work.

Q. Why do CFA burn roadsides?

A. Roadsides are burnt to provide strategic fire breaks for community safety. Fire breaks can slow down or stop a fire in grasslands.

Burning also gives CFA volunteers invaluable real life experience with fire fighting and an opportunity to come together as a community. Burning can be a cost-effective way to reduce fire risk over a length of roadside.

Q. What types of works can brigades do after they are approved into the Integrated Fire Management Plan?

A. Spray up to a three metre wide break as close as possible to the fence line. In lieu of spray, plough a three metre break as close as possible to the fence line.

Burn, usually after New Years Day and before the autumn rains, to allow native plants to release their seed.

Burn under controlled conditions from the road shoulder to the prepared break.

Q. Why do we have to go through all this bureaucratic stuff?

A. Approving works into the Integrated Fire Management Plan ensures we have the best strategic fire breaks for the community's safety and preserves the natural biodiversity across south-west Victoria.

The Plan also gives brigade members legal protection if something goes wrong.

Q. Are we legally liable if we don't complete all our planned activities?

A. No, you are volunteers and completing works depends on the season.

You can only do what you can. It may be that you burn every second or third year, depending on your volunteer members.

Q. While burning off roadsides, do we need to manage traffic?

A. Yes, you must follow the proper procedures under the *Traffic Safety Act*, and also have the skills and equipment to stop and slow traffic for the safety of the public.

Q. What happens if we do works that aren't approved into the Integrated Fire Management Plan?

A. If you do works that are not on the plan then you will have no legal protection from the CFA, and there is potential for prosecution under local, State or Federal legislation.

PENALTIES

Native grasslands are protected under State and Federal legislation. Penalties can be incurred for works carried out without the appropriate permission, and remediation of damage can be required.

Civil and criminal penalties can include fines up to \$550,000 for an individual and \$5.5 million for a corporate body.