



RURAL BOUNDARY CLEARING

The NSW Government has introduced a Rural Boundary Clearing Code to help residents in identified areas remove vegetation from their property boundary to help prevent fire spreading.

This fact sheet provides a summary of what you can and can't do. You should **check the Rural Boundary Clearing Code** if you're unsure of how it may apply to your property. It is your responsibility to ensure you follow the requirements of the Code.

What does the Code allow?

The Code allows landholders in identified areas to clear vegetation within 25 metres of the boundary of their land holding, without approval, to help prevent fire spreading.

Where does the Code apply?

The Code only applies in areas that are zoned as rural, and only where local Greater Sydney councils have opted into the scheme.

For the Code to apply to a property, it also needs to be in an identified bush fire prone area. There are reduced restrictions for properties which were affected by the 2019-20 bush fires.

The Code doesn't apply to every property, so you need to check on the NSW RFS website to see if it applies to your land holding.

How can I check if it applies to my land?

You can search for your property using the Rural Boundary Clearing Tool on the NSW RFS website.

It will show which parts of your property the provision may apply to.

Does it apply to my entire property?

If the provision applies to your property, it allows for clearing of vegetation with 25 metres of your holding's boundary.

This means if you hold a number of lots as part of your land holding, it will only apply to the perimeter of your holding.

The Code may not apply to parts of your boundary, such as where there are environmental protections, or where the land isn't identified as bush fire prone. Clearing isn't allowed in these areas.

Can I clear on neighbouring land?

No. You can only clear vegetation on your landholding if the Code allows it.

What environmental protections are in place?

The Code provides for a number of environmental protections to ensure vegetation is only cleared for the purposes of reducing bush fire threat, and to protect the environment.

The Rural Boundary Clearing Tool shows many of the common reasons why the Code may not apply to an area due to environmental protections.

The Code provides for the protection of waterways, biodiversity, wildlife, koala populations and Aboriginal heritage sites. If you clear vegetation in these areas, heavy penalties apply.

There are also restrictions on the disposal of waste if you clear vegetation.

How can I make sure I'm allowed to clear?

It is your responsibility to understand your obligations, outlined in the Code. You can also check our Frequently Asked Questions which provide more detail about the Code and where it applies.

If the Code doesn't apply, what are my options?

The Rural Boundary Clearing Code is one of the many tools which are available to help reduce the risk of fires, and fires spreading.

Getting your property ready for bush fires may involve hazard reduction such as burning or mechanical clearing, creating firebreaks, ensuring you have appropriate firefighting equipment, and having a plan for what to do if a fire is on your property. Check the NSW RFS website for more information.

Check the Rural Boundary Clearing Code and tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/boundaryclearing