**Penalties**


These penalties apply whether the works are done by a CFA member or a member of the community.

Authorisation should be sought prior to the removal of any native vegetation, even when someone believes they may be exempt. Any removal of native vegetation may also require a planning permit from your Local Government.

**Contacts**

**South East Region**
- District 8: 9767 1800
- District 9 & 10: 5149 1000
- District 11: 5152 3048

**North East Region**
- District 13: 8739 1300
- District 12 & 22: 5735 3100
- District 23 & 24: (02) 6043 4400

**North West Region**
- District 2, 18 & 20: 5430 2200
- District 14: 8746 1400

**West Region**
- Districts 15, 16 & 17: 5329 5500

**South West Region**
- District 4 & 5: 5551 1500
- District 6 & 7: 5232 1923

**Purpose**

To highlight to brigades that the construction of any firebreak or control line in a roadside corridor requires the authorisation from the relevant responsible authorities, as it destroys native grasses and leads to increased fire danger.

CFA Brigades should consult with their area VMO to ensure compliance with requirements.

Photos courtesy of Ian Morrison, Owen Gooding and Brendan Gordon.
Roadside fire breaks in native grasses

Background
The construction of strategic firebreaks along roadsides is a good way of preventing the spread of fires and provides an area from which to attack fires.

Construction of firebreaks on roadsides is not a standalone solution, and is highly likely to be illegal through native grass species.

Issues
Although ploughing is effective, it disturbs the ground and has the potential to:
- destroy native vegetation
- encourage introduced species to grow in the area leading to
  - greater flame heights
  - higher fuel loads

Recommendation
Areas of native grasses that form part of a roadside firebreak should be burnt rather than ploughed.

Before burning, brigades should consider:
- Using alternatives to mineral earth fire breaks (e.g. Slash breaks, Wet breaks)
- Seeking advice from their local CFA Vegetation Management Officer about what species are present and what actions are allowed for each roadside.

Below: Lighting off a slashed wet break.

Introduced grasses have greater fire danger than native grasses

Above: Flame heights are driven by fuel loads of introduced species like Phalaris.