NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING FAQ LEASEHOLD AREAS AT MT BULLER



RESORT MANAGEMENT





What are bushfire risk reduction strategies?

Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management encourages all lessees to maintain their properties well. To participate in the annual Fire Ready weekend each year (last weekend in November), mow grass, rake up leaves, bark and twigs, remove woodpiles adjacent to or under buildings, check eaves are sealed, trim back foliage overhanging rooves and eaves of buildings used for accommodation with prior approval from Resort Management, and seek individual property assessments from the CFA.

Can fuel reduction burns be undertaken on **Resort land?**

Leased land within the Resorts is not 'freehold' or 'private'. It is Crown Land. Due to the rare and sensitive nature of the alpine environment, fuel reduction burns are not permitted or carried out within any Alpine areas, including Resorts. The Alpine Resorts (Management) Regulations 2020 does not permit any fires to be lit in the open within an Alpine Resort unless the fire is lit in a public fireplace when the lighting or maintaining of fires is not prohibited by any other Act.

What if I don't maintain the vegetation on my property?

Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management can assess vegetation fuel hazards on all properties and issue a Notice to Remedy to stakeholders where reduction of vegetation fuel hazards on a property is considered necessary. If you're concerned that there may be a significant fire hazard on an adjoining site you should

contact Resort Management who will assess the fire risk and take appropriate action.

What are the current penalties for illegally clearing vegetation from leasehold land?

The maximum penalty for clearing of native vegetation without a permit and outside the scope of an exemption, is 1200 penalty units, or approximately \$140,000.

Planning permit exemptions are:

Provided for stakeholders at Mt Buller to enable the management of vegetation for bushfire protection around property and key resort assets. Permit exemptions for vegetation removal only apply to existing buildings before certain dates. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Alpine Planning Unit is the Responsible Authority for the provision of exemptions and Resort Management is a Referral Authority in relation to the application of the Alpine Resorts Planning Scheme.



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What is the '10/50' rule?

Subject to consent from Resort Management, the '10/50 rule' enables stakeholders at Mt Buller to clear:

- any vegetation on their property, including trees, within 10 metres of an accommodation building; and
- any vegetation except for trees within 50 metres for bushfire protection.

Application of this rule to its fullest extent would result is significant loss of Village amenity without a commensurate improvement in bushfire risk reduction. In the absence of decision-making guidelines for the equitable application of this rule addressing risk within the Mt Buller Resort, Resort Management does not provide consent for vegetation removal under this rule. Other risk reduction strategies are encouraged.



Can I clear vegetation on a neighbouring site?

No.

Permissible vegetation management activities to reduce bushfire risk applies to land on which you have legal tenure. You require the written consent from Resort Management and of the adjacent site-holder to clear vegetation on neighbouring land including roadsides or reserves within the Mt Buller village. If you believe fuel reduction activities are required on a public road or reserve please advise Resort Management.

Do I require further authority?

Written consent of Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management is required before you can clear any vegetation. Resort Management will consider if clearing is appropriate in sensitive environmental areas and has the discretion to disallow, allow in part or in full, clearing in accordance with clearing entitlements. Any clearing beyond the clearing entitlements requires a planning permit from DELWP.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Mt Buller Mt Stirling
 Resort Management:
 03 5777 6077 or info@mtbuller.com.au;
- CFA Alpine Service Delivery Team: alpine.commander@cfa.vic.gov.au
- Visit http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/ planning/plansandpolicies/bushfireplanning-and-building-resource/ building-for-bushfire-protection