

## Crown Land asset protection zones

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment—Crown Lands maintains bushfire asset protection zones (APZs) on Crown land across the state. This information will help you understand our role in establishing and maintaining APZs, also known as fire breaks, and your responsibilities as an adjoining landowner.

All development on bushfire-prone land must satisfy the aims and objectives of the NSW Rural Fire Service document *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2018*. You cannot use Crown land to establish an APZ for any new, adjoining development.

### The role of an APZ

An APZ:

- is a fuel-reduced area between native bushland and built assets or structures
- can reduce the risk and impact of bushfire
- can help protect life and property by creating a defensible space for emergency vehicles and firefighters.

### Our responsibilities

- For existing development; if an APZ is required on Crown land adjoining your property, the department, in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service, will undertake initial clearing followed by periodic maintenance.
- We will maintain APZs in accordance with NSW RFS Bush Fire Management Committee priorities and departmental work plans. The maintenance of APZs varies considerably from being mown or slashed one to two times a year, to once every two to three years. Maintenance can also include raking, grazing, tree removal or pruning and burning.
- Locked gates and fencing restrict unauthorised access to many APZs. We will maintain and repair these gates and fences while the land remains under our care and control.

If you want to maintain the Crown land adjoining your property independently of the scheduled maintenance program, you will need a Crown Lands licence. You can find information about [licensing Crown land](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/use/licences) on our website at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/use/licences](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/use/licences)

## How can you help

You can help protect your own home and increase firefighter safety by keeping APZs clear. There are many ways you can help:

- Keep the area clear for access and free of ground fuel, rubbish and obstructions such as:
  - building materials
  - wood piles
  - play equipment
  - furniture
  - gardens
  - motor vehicles
  - trailers, boats and caravans
  - animals and animal enclosures
  - tools of trade and items associated with the operation of a business.
- Dispose of garden refuse appropriately, and not over the fence. It can become a fire risk, block access and continue to grow. Some garden plants can become a pest and can invade native bushland.
- Reduce hazards within your property. Trim trees, store combustible materials away from the house and fences, and choose fire-resistant or less flammable plants for your garden.

## More information

Contact us on 1300 886 235 or at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/contact-us](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/contact-us)

Contact the [NSW Rural Fire Service](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) on 1800 679 737 or go to [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) for more information on how you can plan and prepare for bushfires.

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