South West NRM

APPROACHES TO MANAGING BUSHFIRE RISK

Bushfire risk is managed through a range of approaches, including cleared firebreaks, vegetation and fuel management, asset protection zones and planning and building codes and requirements.

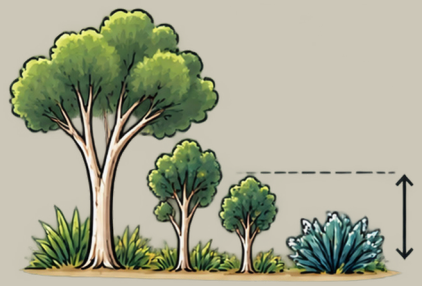
The Living Firebreaks trial is investigating whether strategically planted, low-flammability native vegetation can play an additional role in managing bushfire risk.

Cleared Firebreak



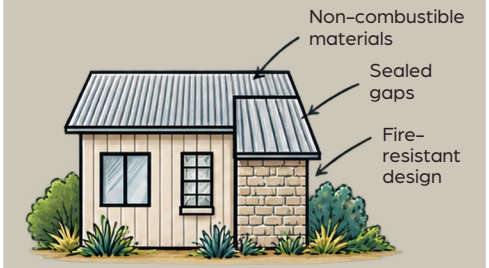
A strip of cleared land, with vegetation removed down to mineral earth.

Reduced Fuel Loads



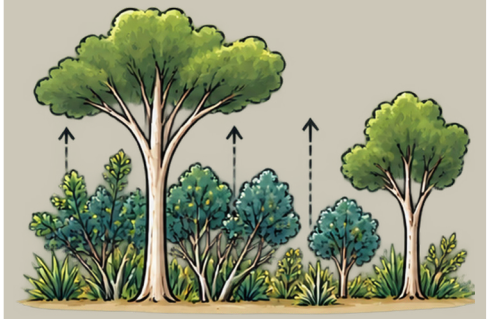
Vegetation is managed by raking, slashing or mowing to reduce fuel loads with vegetation kept below 50cm in height.

Planning and Building Codes



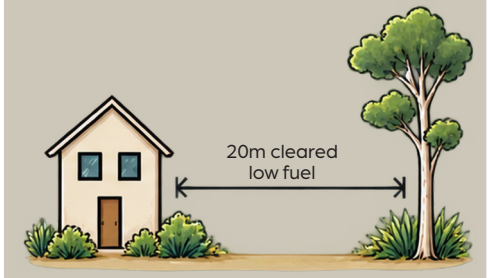
Use of planning controls and building codes combined with vegetation management (eg setbacks).

Remove Ladder Fuels



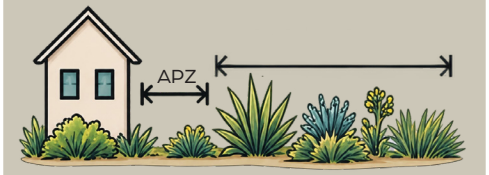
Removal of lower branches and midstory vegetation including climbers.

Asset Protection Zone (APZ)



An area of managed or cleared low fuel vegetation around building and other bulit assets.

Living Firebreaks



Strategically planted, low flammability native vegetation such as small shrubs and herbs 1.1–1.5m tall.