

**Your vegetation – what you need to know**



**Feedback Survey. Q11: What actions will you take as a result of this webinar to improve your bushfire safety?**

- 1 Just renting on 10 acres so focusing on preparedness. Fuel reduction has not been maintained so backlog of work to be done before summer.
- 2 Not lay any more mulch near the house and clean away bark and debris from under trees. Remove dead shrubs away from house.
- 3 Remove some vegetation close to house. We are planning a 'garden makeover', and wish to choose native species to encourage birds and bees. The choice of fire safe vegetation will be front of mind.
- 4 Remove vegetation and reduce fuel load around the house and our shed.
- 5 Check out what plants are safest. I had already been Googling. Cut back plants that are dry. We have stones and living mulches out the front. Get gutters checked. Think about what to replace our back and side old tea tree fence. Which is a shame because I really like it.
- 6 We have a cliff bush garden with difficult access, I always break bark and twigs up into small pieces putting it back on the garden they are smaller than mulch. So I won't mulch. We have stone paths and narrow garden beds around the house maybe we need to widen the paths and lose the narrow garden beds.
- 7 Already started to cut out dead foliage.
- 8 Pass on information.
- 9 Assessment of bark on tree trunks to reduce fire promotion. Assess stretches of shrubs that may be safer with less fire prone breaks.
- 10 Continue to remove fine dry vegetation and look to separate hedge plants.
- 11 Choose succulents plan ahead for oncoming summer. Definite plan in place.
- 12 Clean up around property.
- 13 Clear out the small dead and dry vegetation near house. Normal task for spring. Consider changing vegetation close to house, especially woody plants. Or at least lower height. Cannot bring self to plant succulents though. Prefer just a lower height of indigenous. Think about mint bushes near house that I really love but as they may have a high fuel content and may prevent access in a fire. Perhaps have them in another area of the garden.

- 14 Clear away all dry material 2-3m from the house including raking paddocks.
- 15 Tree trimming and replanting.
- 16 Worry a lot as I have been gardening here over 20 years. Removing vegetation that is a poor choice for a fire prone area when neighbouring properties are not.
- 17 Shows me I am on the right track with what we do each year.
- 18 Reassess the vegetation around the house.
- 19 Get rid of that woody mulch (sadly). Replace a garden (and widen the path) near to the house on the west side with succulents and gravel. Check the grape vine trunks which shade the windows and decks on the north side. I will also consider getting a site visit to look at the windbreaks to see if they can be improved/adjusted.
- 20 Looking to buy a property. Will now look at the vegetation around the houses differently as I now understand the risks more clearly.
- 21 More observation, action & planning ABC safety escape plans.
- 22 Clear bark from trees close to house.
- 23 Clear as usual.
- 24 Clear even incorrect plants closer than 2m away from the house. Keep deciduous trees in front of the house.
- 25 I am taking more note of the vegetation near the decking and looking at ways to make the decking area safer.
- 26 Review landscape design, clean up trunks of eucalypts along driveway and clear up and remove small litter. Apply compost not mulch in spring!
- 27 Keep cleaning the surface. Reviewed vegetation close to the house. Looking into plants, shrubs and trees for the level off dead wood. Pruning and thinning out will reduce load.
- 28 Remove and thoroughly clean up of dead plants and leaf matter around the home. I will be reconsidering the mulch used in the garden near the house depending on cost factors.
- 29 A few more steps in clearing ribbon bark from trees and clearing the areas around the trees.
- 30 Clear ground foliage before fire season. Keep property clear.
- 31 Better informed about plant materials combustible qualities. Resin plants, importance of no plant beds near house.
- 32 Clear away debris and wood chips from garden beds near the house.
- 33 Cut dry limbs and bark off trees.

- 34 Review and prune vegetation, choose a mulch alternative.
- 35 I will be stripping and disposing of the flammable bark from the eucalypts on my block as well as the fine fuels i.e. dead branches on otherwise green shrubs.
- 36 Reduce vegetation near window and house.
- 37 Clean up around the property, and reduce fuel. Get plans for an earth covered house drawn up.
- 38 Try and reduce more undergrowth.
- 39 I am actually working with Millgrove Residents action group we are planning a community led resilience group to which your webinars are helpful.
- 40 Clean up dead foliage and the trees near our house, and remove the small amount of wood chips near one section of our house.
- 41 Discussions in family and action plan for additional summer clean up activities. Also further work on plants near house.
- 42 Be mindful of the type of trees we plant around our property and look to thin out areas of the bush section that are connected.
- 43 Remove some high fuel load trees from around the house.
- 44 Vegetation control, improved plantings and management.
- 45 Continue the fuel management conversations.
- 46 Continue in my role as a Community Educator in this field.
- 47 More cleaning and thinning on perimeter of property.
- 48 Getting trees lopped down, changing the landscape and also getting under the house sealed up so no ember attack can happen down there. We are smack bang in the middle of HVP logging coups.
- 49 Clear fuel load around our property.
- 50 Remove unsafe vegetation - bushes with high oil/resin content.
- 51 Pruning.
- 52 Review the vegetation I have around my house.
- 53 Walk around house and property with a better informed view on what horizontal and vertical fuel separation risks could be better managed to reduce my bushfire risk.
- 54 Look for the information to download in relation to suitable planting/landscaping, and watch the remainder of the meeting when it becomes available.

- 55 Revisit some of the nearby bushes to the house and decide to minimize or clear.
- 56 Look more carefully at our property in terms of trees and plantings particularly around the house.
- 57 Look into fire resistant plants more.
- 58 Pay stricter attention to leaf mulch under & around plants & garden beds. Review the horizontal vegetation situation across my property.
- 59 Clearing under treed vegetation of surface and bark fuels where allowed.
- 60 Continue my current property preparation and APZ (Asset Protection Zone) work.
- 61 Removing dead vegetative material from close to the house. Informing others of the importance of this maintenance.
- 62 Remove conifers near the house.
- 63 Ask my friend who's a volunteer firefighter to come over and look at my property and offer suggestions of where I can improve. There's not a lot of vegetation within 20m of the house and the house it built to BAL19 specifications so it should be ok.
- 64 Follow-up with some of the quoted references. Revise our fire plan. Review our garden design especially which plants are grown close to the house.
- 65 Continue, to be aware of cleaning and removing leaves along with any debris, such as bark and smaller branches.
- 66 I am better able to plan and prepare for fire season.
- 67 Close review of chosen landscape species.
- 68 Discuss and assist to remove further fallen and dead material to create a break on the fence line adjacent my property in my neighbour's block.
- 69 We already have no vegetation adjacent to our house. However, we will cast a critical eye over the vegetation near our home and maintain as needed.
- 70 Take a closer look at bark build up & species.
- 71 Re-assessment of types and position of vegetation on our land.
- 72 Keep raking and trimming.
- 73 We have a lot of conifers near the house, so a big clean up ahead.
- 74 Have a look at the plants around my house. I've been very focused on the big trees but also need to think about the other vegetation.

- 75 Revert to focus of last year's seminars.
- 76 I will look at the garden beds around the house and and organize replacement of some of the plants with less flammable ones and will do a general tidy-up of dead/loose material.
- 77 Actively engage in clearing the ground and plants to reduce fire hazards.
- 78 Review plants and bushes around the property.
- 79 Remove stringy bark with sturdy rake from a few trees. Reassess two strips of garden near house. Continuing giving priority to what I normally do - avoid organic mulch, remove fine surface fuels and remove dead growth prior to every bushfire season. Feel more confident in advising others of the dangers of mulch and fine surface fuel.
- 80 Start clearing around the house first. Remove the mulch that is right up against the house and put stones or pebbles down. Take stock of what trees and plants we have on the property and see if we can replace the ones that have a strong scent when you crush the leaves in your hand. And the list goes on. I am really excited about being pro-active and contribute to the safety of my property and my neighbour's property.
- 81 Carry out the recommended actions including more diligence in cleaning out the deadwood from my garden plants. I would also like to see the latest information on garden landscaping in a bushfire zone.
- 82 Cut out dead wood. Read some of the recommended material.
- 83 Helping to clear my parent's property of dead vegetation when I can.
- 84 No shrubs what-so-ever near house. Don't have any and will keep it that way! Knock down some old wattle trees and replace with English trees or fruit trees.
- 85 Pulling out some shrubs up again house and shed. Planting succulents and looking for some lower burning hedges to act as wind break/barrier use of metal screens between hedges to decrease connectivity between hedges.
- 86 Reduce surface fuel as much as possible to reduce continuity of a fire, including spraying grass now to reduce summer fuel loads.
- 87 The information has helped me formulate my preparation plan a bit more fully. I've already started but limited time means I'm trying to prioritize the to-do list - the info tonight really helped.
- 88 Clearing of leaf litter from accumulation areas around the house structure.
- 89 I'll remove two Stringybarks uphill of the house as well as a large Pittosporum Undulatum. If the season looks like becoming very dry, I'll slash all ferns close to the house and remove the slashed material to well away from the house.
- 90 Pay more attention to removing dead material.

- 91 As coordinator of our local Fire Tree I will be imparting points from this webinar and also providing links for accessibility to important resources such as the CFA landscaping for bushfires. I will also be encouraging a community approach to home/land fire preparedness
- 92 Improve safe areas.
- 93 Continue to maintain vegetation around house & sheds.
- 94 It is a very good reminder. I do spend the year preparing for a fire around our forested acres but it gives further ideas and alternatives. I am a CLBE (community liaison bushfire engagement) with CFA so this is very relevant for my work.
- 95 I prune my bushes to reduce the effect of 'laddering', but perhaps they need a bit more pruning to make the gaps between the bushes wider. As our house has concrete floors, and has 'cathedral ceilings'/ no roof space, we have less risk of embers getting into the house, than if it was a more usual structure.
- 96 Seek further references for reducing fire risk related to plants around my property. set up plan for fire hazard reduction and checking plants around house.
- 97 Clear dead bark, leaves and mulch near my house although I am still unsure where to move it to. Assess other plants closer to my house, consider adding deciduous trees closer, thinking about water tanks and sprinklers on the roof (which was not discussed tonight but still part of my overall long term garden planning).
- 98 Will be looking at low shrubs. Already rake ground under vegetation.
- 99 Focus on pruning dead parts of plants.
- 100 Plant a few strategic exotics on the northwest of our property. Perhaps remove a Stringybark close to the house.
- 101 Have already done so. So good to refresh.
- 102 Continue to do what we have done since building in a high fire risk location in 1984. Tonight's presentations have reinforced our bushfire fuel reduction plans.
- 103 Remove hanging bark from trees. Pruning trees up to 2m above ground. Review the conifer area of my garden. Long-term replacement of some eucalypts with deciduous - elms?
- 104 Our usual spring into early summer program of clearing fuel loads and burning off when appropriate.
- 105 Keep up my frequent practice of gathering dropped branches and twigs to remove or burn off. Consider what I might do to deter the burning of the deck or under floor from gardens/mulch near the house. Read some of the references Fiona kindly provided.
- 106 Continue on our path, reducing surface fuels, leveraging the right style of plants to better manage fire and being constantly vigilant in our Castlemaine environment to set us up for mitigating a fire disaster should a bushfire occur in our area.

- 107 Work on the removal of bark of the big gum tree on the property. Also work on the fine fuel/much around house, maybe widen some paths.
- 108 Go around and look at all the bark on the eucalypts and take off if possible. Also look at plants near buildings and dead under branches.
- 109 I'll strip bark off trees before summer. Rethink the mulch close to the house and substitute for a different product. Get some of the branches from gum hanging close to house cut back by Council. And report the neighbour not managing the crown land lease to Council for action on the overgrown bush.
- 110 Review garden and property design.
- 111 Look at fuel around the house. Seek more information on less flammable plants.
- 112 Will inspect property and surrounds with a new perspective. Visit local CFA. Get planting guide.
- 113 Make some clear spaces so low level fires can't move across whole property, clear dry twigs etc
- 114 Audit of plantings, particularly plants within 2m and up to 30m of the property. Cleaning of understory within 30m of property. Chat with neighbors to see where neighborhood / community risk may be minimized.
- 115 Have stern words about my wife's garden.
- 116 Increased maintenance, change in plant selection and location.
- 117 Identify the most flammable plants and reduce. Improve sprinkler layout. Improve window screens near planting.
- 118 Talk to my garden clients about vertical and horizontal distance between vegetation.
- 119 Definitely reassess vegetation on the property.