



## Biodiversity - fire and legislation

### Fire and your bush

All of Australian terrestrial ecosystems have evolved with the influence of fire. Be it frequent 'cool' fires, or infrequent intense and/or very hot devastating wildfire.

In the Queensland Murray Darling Basin, we are fortunate to have various types of forests or woodlands containing many different species, so when planning a burn in these forests it is important to consider a range of factors in order to not cause unnecessary degradation.

Learning to manage fire on your property is a key element in both forest and pasture management. The use of fire as a land management tool is often referred to as 'prescribed burning'. Prescribed burning refers to the use of fire to achieve planned management objectives, which can include:

- Pasture management
- Regrowth control
- Forest regeneration
- Fuel management (reduction)
- Flora and fauna (biodiversity) management
- Pest species (weed) control

### Legislation

Before undertaking a planned burn it is essential that you are aware of the various legislative requirements that apply to the lighting of fires, whether these be for hazard reduction or for the purpose of forestry management.

#### Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990

The purpose of this Act is to establish the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, and to provide for the prevention and response to fires and other incidents engaging persons, property and/or the environment. It also makes provisions for the issuing of permits for fires.

#### Forestry Act 1959

This Act declares that all forest products and quarry materials on all crown lands are the absolute property of the crown. Part 7 of the act refers to the controlling and prohibition of fires on State Forests, Timber Reserves and Forest Entitlement Areas. This includes the duties of lessees preventing, detecting, controlling and notifying forest officers of fires. Furthermore, a forest officer performing duties of this act shall be deemed the 'first officer' of a bush fire brigade and within the meaning of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990, may exercise all powers and functions.

The act also makes provisions for cooperative burns with neighbouring properties.

#### Vegetation Management Act 1999

It is an offence to destroy remnant vegetation using fire. However it is not an offence to use fire in remnant vegetation as part of a management regime (e.g. fuel reduction).

### Permits

Permits are needed in Queensland to light fires that are bigger than two metres wide and two metres across. These are available from your local Rural Fire Service warden.



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For further information, contact QMDC on (07) 4637 6201 or visit [www.qmdc.org.au](http://www.qmdc.org.au)

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