

FENCING REPAIR AND UPGRADE – NATIONAL PARKS, STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS

The Victorian Government will pay half the cost of materials to repair, replace or upgrade bushfire-damaged fencing bordering National Parks, State Parks and State Forests.

Previously, the Government has paid half the cost of materials to replace bushfire-damaged fencing in these circumstances, but only to its pre-existing standard.

Under this program, the Government will fund half the cost of materials to provide an upgrade for fire-resistant and pest-resistant fencing to a maximum of \$5,000 per kilometre. Funding does not cover labour costs.

Upgrade options available

Fencing upgrade options include fire-resistant materials, such as steel or concrete components, and pest control designs, such as insulated wires for electric fencing.

Improved fencing is one option available to landholders. The offer to cover half the cost of materials is still available to landholders if they just want to replace fencing to its pre-existing standard.

How to access the program

Landholders can contact BRV on 1800 560 760. We can connect landholders with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to initiate the application process.

DELWP will conduct field inspection and data collection, when it is safe to do so, determine eligibility and assistance level and assist the landholder in determining fence type.

Once parties formally agree with a signed agreement, a claim is processed, and monies are paid to the landholder.

DELWP may accept photos from landholders as evidence for damaged and/or burnt fences where they haven't yet been able to visit for an assessment.

The information provided by the landholder will need to be confirmed with an assessor before the claim is finalised.

Conducting the works

Once a claim has been lodged with DELWP and an assessment has been conducted, landowners can engage a fencing contractor of their choice.

Landowners may choose to conduct the works themselves. This should be discussed at the time of assessment.

Timeline for the program

Landholders have 12 months to lodge a claim from when the damage occurred.

Specialised fences or steep/rocky terrain

Some fences are on steep or rocky terrain so replacement may incur significant additional costs. These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. DELWP will discuss this with the landholder.

Disputes about fence lines

DELWP will use statewide fencing guidelines to assist in determining fencing replacement arrangements with the landholder.

For more information about grants, clean-up, fencing, your community's recovery and other issues, visit brv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 560 760



For advice on emergency warnings, preparedness and relief, visit emergency.vic.gov.au



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OTHER FENCING ADVICE

Fence damage from fire suppression operations

Where fences have been cut or damaged by fire suppression operations, the Government will fully cover the repair or replacement of the damaged section of fence to the pre-existing standard—including internal and boundary fences.

Internal fencing on private land

The fencing repair and upgrade program for fences bordering National Parks, State Parks and State Forests does not cover the repair and replacement of internal fences on private land. Landholders are responsible for internal fences on private land. We can also connect landholders with Agriculture Victoria who will be able to provide technical assistance.

Fences adjoining other government owned or managed land

The fencing repair and upgrade program for fences bordering National Parks, State Parks and State Forests does not cover the repair and replacement of fences that adjoin other government owned or managed land, including local councils, Regional Roads Victoria, water authorities or VicTrack.

The Victorian Government will repair or replace damaged riparian fences (i.e. fences along waterways) if the original fence was erected with government funds.

Clearing native vegetation along fence lines

A planning permit is not required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation to the minimum extent necessary to enable the operation or maintenance of an existing fence or the construction of a boundary fence between properties in different ownership.

The clearing along both sides of the fence when combined must not exceed four metres in width. If one side of the fence is already cleared to a width of four metres or more, regardless of when this clearing occurred, then up to one metre of native vegetation can be removed on the other side. More information is available at environment.vic.gov.au

Storing and disposing of fencing material

BRV is working with local government on options to safely dispose of fencing material. Until these arrangements can be finalised, landholders may wish to separate fencing material from debris and contaminants and store it in a safe and secure location on their property. Landholders should only undertake this activity where it is safe to do so.

OTHER OPTIONS FOR FENCE REPAIR

Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants

Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to primary producers through Rural Finance to help with the costs of rebuilding, including fencing. You can access these grants by visiting ruralfinance.com.au or brv.vic.gov.au, or by contacting Bushfire Recovery Victoria at 1800 560 760.

BlazeAid

BlazeAid are a volunteer organisation providing assistance with clearing, repairing or re-establishing fencing. The Victorian Government provided \$1 million to BlazeAid to help landholders replace boundary fences. Visit blazeaid.com.au for information on how to access this assistance.

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