



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **FIRE RECOVERY AROUND FENCELINES**

Roadside vegetation plays an important role in our State's biodiversity. In agricultural regions, roadside vegetation can contain a large percentage of rare flora, as well as serve as an important use for native fauna.

Since the Esperance bushfires in November a lot of work has been undertaken to rebuild properties and fencelines, but it is vital that this is done with consideration to the environment.

Native vegetation, from the smallest reed to the largest tree, dead or alive, is protected from unlawful clearing. If you intend to clear native vegetation, you will need to apply for a permit from either the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) or otherwise an exemption must apply.

Fire Recovery Environment Subcommittee Chair, Lara McIntyre said "People may inadvertently breach the regulations as they rebuild their farms and livelihoods. It is extremely important to find out what you can and can't do. This will not only help the native flora and fauna in the area, but will also ensure there won't be further personal costs into the future for property owners who may need to move their fencelines."

If you would like to know if you are eligible for an exemption, view environmentally sensitive areas or find out how you can reduce the impacts of farming on roadside vegetation go to [www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/clearing-permits](http://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/clearing-permits) or contact the Department of Environment Regulation on 9333 7469.

**Ends**

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