

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPA reiterates Pinery bushfire support

In response to reports that property owners affected by the Pinery bushfires are being hindered in their efforts to dispose of waste and demolition material on their properties, the EPA is providing the following clarification:

EPA Manager Investigations and Tactical Support Stephen Barry said claims that bushfire landowners cannot dispose of waste on-site on their properties are incorrect.

“The EPA recognises the distress experienced by affected communities and is making every effort to ensure that landholders are aware of the assistance being offered to them,” he said.

“We have maintained close contact with local residents and councils affected by this devastating fire, in particular, advising on the disposal of waste material.”

The EPA has been informing local residents and councils through community meetings, fact sheets and its website about bushfire-affected waste disposal, asbestos, chemicals and copper chromium arsenate (CCA) treated timber.

Fire-affected demolition material can be disposed on private land with the permission of the owner, so long as the material does not contain hazardous waste such as asbestos or chemicals, or cause any harm to human health or risk to the environment.

In the majority of house demolitions the waste generated is of a nature and size that can easily be buried and compacted. This is important in achieving a level land form for future use.

The burn-off of fallen or damaged trees is a matter that should be dealt with in consultation with the CFS and local councils.

“There has been some confusion over the disposal of waste material on private property, but this is permitted provided the waste does not include contaminants or products that may be harmful to the environment,” Mr Barry said.

The EPA is continuing to participate in the recovery process by working with local communities to do everything it can to help those affected by this bushfire.

The State Government has also waived the waste levy for bushfire-affected communities.

The EPA is willing to meet with residents requiring further clarification on this issue, who can make contact through Chris Metevelis on 0439 137 641.

The EPA can also be contacted for general advice on 8204 2004 or through its [website](#).

For further information contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641

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