

# 1. MITIGATION

Fire is an integral part of the natural Australian environment and along with the climate has played a significant part in the evolution of Australian flora and fauna. Not only are many species fire adapted, but some are also considered to be fire dependant. Fire has been widely used as a land management tool for many years and in more recent times has been increasingly used to reduce fuels for fire protection purposes.

Both hazard reduction and wildfire suppression activities can have an adverse impact on the environment. QFRS is committed to ensuring that environmental best practice is considered and applied, where possible, in all activities it undertakes.

In Queensland, the use of fire is controlled through the volunteer Fire Warden network. There are approximately 2,500 Fire Wardens throughout the State providing this important community service. Fire Wardens control the use of fire through the issue of Permits to Light Fire.

Rural Fire Brigades are often requested by landholders to undertake hazard reduction burns on behalf of, and with the consent of the landholder. This is an acceptable and useful way of managing the bushfire risk within your brigade area. It also provides an excellent opportunity for firefighters to gain experience in firefighting techniques and improving their knowledge of fire behaviour. Brigades undertaking a hazard reduction burn on behalf of a landholder require the landholder to obtain a Permit to Light Fire from the local Fire Warden.