

Roadside Firewood Collection

Permits

Persons who reside in the Federation Council area can apply to obtain a permit to collect firewood from road reserves for home heating during winter.

Permits are limited to:

- Residential use only
- Maximum of 6 tonnes of wood per permit is allowed to be collected
- No wood can be collected in medium and high conservation areas
- Only fallen dead wood can be collected
- No standing timber (dead or alive) can be collected
- Only the permit holder is permitted to collect firewood
- The permit holder must be present
- Wood collected must be for residential use only
- Wood collected cannot be sold to other parties

Firewood collection is limited to 1 April – 30 September each year (*subject to changes to Fire Danger Period and Total Fire Ban's declared by NSW Rural Fire Service*).

To apply for a permit, residents must complete the application form and show proof that they reside in the Federation Council area (i.e. drivers licence). Applicants must certify on the application that they will abide by the permit conditions and acknowledge that Council is not liable for any injuries to person, or any loss or damage to property arising from the firewood collection activities.

Residents will need to apply for a permit each firewood season (each year).

The permit application fee is applicable.

Roadside Conservation Map

The permit holder must carry a copy of the Roadside Conservation Map with them while collecting firewood. This is provided with the permit. No firewood collection can occur in the medium and high conservation areas which are marked in **RED** on the map.

Safety

It is important that you take the following safety precautions when collecting firewood:

- Not park your vehicle or collect wood within 6 metres of the traffic lane of a road
- Ensure person using the chainsaw is competent in its use and wearing protective boots
- It is also recommended a safety helmet, hearing protection and cut-resistant leg protection trousers or chaps are worn
- A first aid kit is available
- Chainsaws must be fitted with a chain brake and anti-vibration mounts
- Chainsaws must be properly maintained
- Children under 12 years of age must be supervised by a second adult when the chainsaw is in operation

Alternatives to Roadside Collection

Residents who rely on wood heaters for warmth can collect firewood on private property with permission from the owner or purchase wood from a reputable supplier.

There are also NSW Forestry Corporation and National Parks and Wildlife land within the region that you may be able to collect wood from with a permit.

NSW Forestry Corporation
www.forestrycorporation.com.au/

National Parks and Wildlife
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/

Importance of Roadside Vegetation

In many cases, roadside vegetation is the last remaining examples of what our country once looked like prior to extensive land clearing. Road reserves provide important habitat and corridors for native flora and fauna. They also help to maintain biological diversity.

Road reserves in the Council area support threatened species such as the Grey Crowned Babbler, Apostle Bird, Superb Parrot and Gliders. Reptiles, small

mammals and the majority of our plant species occur on roadsides.

Dead trees – especially those that contain hollows, are vital in providing perching roosts and places for animals to nest. Fallen timber is an essential home for native animals; it also plays an essential role in forest and woodland nutrient cycles.

Collecting firewood isn't just 'cleaning up' the bush – it has serious ecological consequences.

Degradation to roadside vegetation that occurs with the removal of large quantities of timber for firewood has the potential to decimate natural ecosystems and communities that may never be recovered.

Please respect the importance of roadside vegetation in supporting an amazing diversity of native plants and animals by not collecting firewood from these areas.

How to Collect Wood Sustainability?

It is important that firewood collection is sustainable and does not impact on fauna which may use hollow logs or dead wood as habitat. Animals may live in hollow logs or use fallen timber as shelter. Many insects consume dead wood, and animals are attracted to the wood to feed on the insects. Hollow logs and timber are important for our native wildlife. A few simple changes can make firewood collection more sustainable:

- Leave any established hollow logs;
- Don't remove all the wood from an area – leave some behind to remain as habitat;
- Look for smaller pieces of timber which are less likely to be used by native animals in the future;
- Plant trees on your property to replace wood removed; and
- If you purchase from a supplier, ask them about the sustainability of their firewood.

More information

Visit Council's website at:

www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Waste/Animals-Plants/Firewood-Collection or phone Council on (02) 6033 8999.