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**New Guide to Mechanical Bushfire Mitigation Released**

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The DFES Bushfire Technical Services Branch, in conjunction with the Bushfire Risk Management Branch, has developed the [Guide to Mechanical Bushfire Mitigation](#) to provide land managers with guidance on how to effectively use machinery to reduce bushfire hazards in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

This document provides guidance for staff and volunteers, local government and contractors on the application and limitations of mechanical bushfire mitigation techniques.

Mechanical bushfire mitigation aims to change the structure of fuels in strategic areas to reduce potential bushfire behaviour and aid fire suppression. It uses mechanical means to assist with the sustainable protection of property, infrastructure and assets through permanent or temporary modifications to vegetation.

Mechanical bushfire mitigation is most effective when applied to vegetation with high fuel loads and under specific circumstances.

Examples of mechanical bushfire mitigation techniques outlined in the guide are:

- **Slashing** - The mowing of understorey, grasses and herbs.
- **Mulching** - The cutting and grinding of vegetation and left as a layer of mulch on the soil surface.
- **Parkland clearing** - A combination of the slashing and mulching of understorey vegetation while maintaining an overstorey (or canopy) of larger trees and shrubs.
- **Scrub rolling** - The pushing or laying over of vegetation. This includes blade-up rolling, chopper rolling and chaining.
- **Firebreaks** - Traversable strips of land cleared of all combustible material, providing 'fuel-free' (vegetation-free) areas.

The effectiveness of mechanical bushfire mitigation depends on various factors, including the width of the treated area, follow-up treatments and site characteristics.

To fully achieve bushfire risk mitigation objectives, it may be necessary to combine multiple techniques or follow up with complementary treatments.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



Bushfire Technical Services would like to thank all those who contributed to the development and review of the document.

The Guide to Mechanical Bushfire Mitigation is now available on the [DFES Publications page](#).

For more information, please contact the DFES Bushfire Technical Services team at [environment@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:environment@dfes.wa.gov.au)

**JACKSON PARKER**  
**DIRECTOR BUSHFIRE TECHNICAL SERVICES**