

# Council Policy



## Roadside Firewood Collection

### Purpose

This policy provides direction to the community on the collection of firewood from roadsides managed by Corangamite Shire.

### Scope

This policy relates to all roadsides managed by Corangamite Shire Council.

### Definitions

In this policy-

**'Roadside'**- refers to the land from fence line to fence line and includes the road formation

**'firewood'** refers to all vegetation including dead vegetation and fallen limbs.

### References

*Corangamite Shire Rural Roadside Management Plan*

Corangamite Shire Local Laws

### Basis for the policy

Corangamite Shire recognises that firewood provides an important source of low-cost heating for many people in rural areas. Firewood for personal use is sourced from either private land, public land or from commercial suppliers. Collecting firewood from roadsides is a dangerous activity and poses many risks to individuals, road users, Council and the environment.

The *Firewood Strategy for Public Land* was introduced in 2010 by the Victorian Government which outlined new procedures for taking firewood from public land for personal use. Since 2011, people seeking to collect firewood from public roadsides have been required to obtain permission from the relevant road management authority before collecting any firewood from roadsides.

During the development of the Rural Roadside Management Plan, it was identified that the collection of firewood from municipal roadsides should be reviewed.

A review was undertaken to determine if the activity should be permitted on Council managed roadsides. This review found that the risk to community and those undertaking the activity could not be ameliorated, nor could individuals be insured by third parties to undertake the activity, therefore roadside firewood collection should not be made a permitted activity by Council

### Policy Detail

Council will not permit the collection of firewood from Council managed roadsides, due to the risks posed to individuals, road users, and the environment in undertaking this activity.

**Exemptions**

Landowners removing fallen trees and limbs along a boundary fence to the minimum extent necessary to allow the fence to be maintained and retain stock within the property.

**Enforcement**

If community members are found collecting firewood from roadsides enforcement action may be undertaken in accordance with Corangamite Shire Local Laws.

**Human Rights**

The policy gives regard to relevant legislation, principles of natural justice and procedural fairness, community values and Council’s resource capacity.

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act (2006).

**Review Date**

June 2020