

FIRE MANAGEMENT



Blue Gum plantations may reduce the potential for rapid fire spread in agricultural landscapes

Fire needs fuel

Wild fires need fuel to spread and increase in intensity. The rapid spread of fires across landscapes often occurs where there are heavy available fuels and the fire is fanned by strong winds. The risk of severe fires is dramatically reduced by minimising the quantity of fuel, or by ensuring the fuel is kept close, or flat, to the ground.

Fires and blue gum plantations

Well managed plantations receive weed control before and after planting to reduce competition for moisture and nutrients.

Once a tree canopy is well developed in a plantation, by about age 4, there are little or no weeds under the tree canopy.

Fire management at Australian Bluegum Plantations (ABP)



ABP takes the risk of wildfire damaging the crop very seriously, and has established a number of control measures to prevent or limit fire damage. Our staff and contractors are formally trained in fire control, and throughout the fire danger period a roster system operates to monitor conditions and ensure our readiness to respond to fire emergencies.

ABP maintains its own fire control vehicles and equipment, including large tankers and a number of light units. These are strategically located across our estate for rapid response. We also monitor the location of external firefighting equipment, such as earth moving machinery to enable rapid deployment in the event of a fire.

Water points on plantations are mapped, signposted, and checked regularly for access, suitability and condition. Fire breaks are maintained within and

surrounding the plantations in line with local fire authority guidelines for that state. We also construct and maintain vehicle turning points for safety of firefighters and equipment. Conducting operations while fire indices are high are managed in line with both forest industry and local authority requirements. The Harvesting Manager, Silvicultural Manager and Regional Manager can also call a bush ban in conditions of high risk, minimizing the potential of a fire on The ABP estate.

