



Technical Regulator Electricity Regulation

Bushfire Boundary Review Process



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Acknowledgement of Country

As guests here on Kaurna land, we acknowledge everything this department does impacts on Aboriginal country, the sea, the sky, its people and their spiritual and cultural connection which have existed since the first sunrise. Our responsibility is to share our collective knowledge, recognise a difficult history, respect the relationships made over time, and create a stronger future. We are ready to walk, learn and work together.

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1. Background

1.1 The Electricity Act 1996 and the Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021

The *Electricity Act 1996* establishes the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations* (the Regulations) which define boundaries reflective of bushfire risk considerations relating to electricity infrastructure.

The classification of areas as bushfire risk areas, non-bushfire risk areas and prescribed areas establishes requirements including:

- The minimum clearance distances allowed between vegetation and aerial powerlines
- Which trees and other plants are permitted to be planted or nurtured in proximity to aerial powerlines
- In prescribed areas, the ability for the distribution network operator to perform a risk assessment to determine whether a reduced clearance between low voltage powerlines and adjacent vegetation is appropriate – which can allow for reduced pruning and a more complete tree canopy

Under the Regulations, the Technical Regulator publishes maps on a website which establish the extent of bushfire risk, non-bushfire risk and prescribed areas. **Identifying the Existing Bushfire Risk Boundary Under the Regulations** within Section 2.1 of this document provides further detail on these maps.

2. Process to Request Review of a Bushfire Boundary

2.1 Preparation

Identifying the Existing Bushfire Risk Boundary Under the Regulations

A map of the current bushfire risk area boundaries under the Regulations (the bushfire boundaries) can be found on the [South Australian Resources Information Gateway \(SARIG\)](#).

The dataset can be enabled by selecting *Land and Water Management / Development and Planning / Bushfire risk areas - electricity vegetation regulations*.

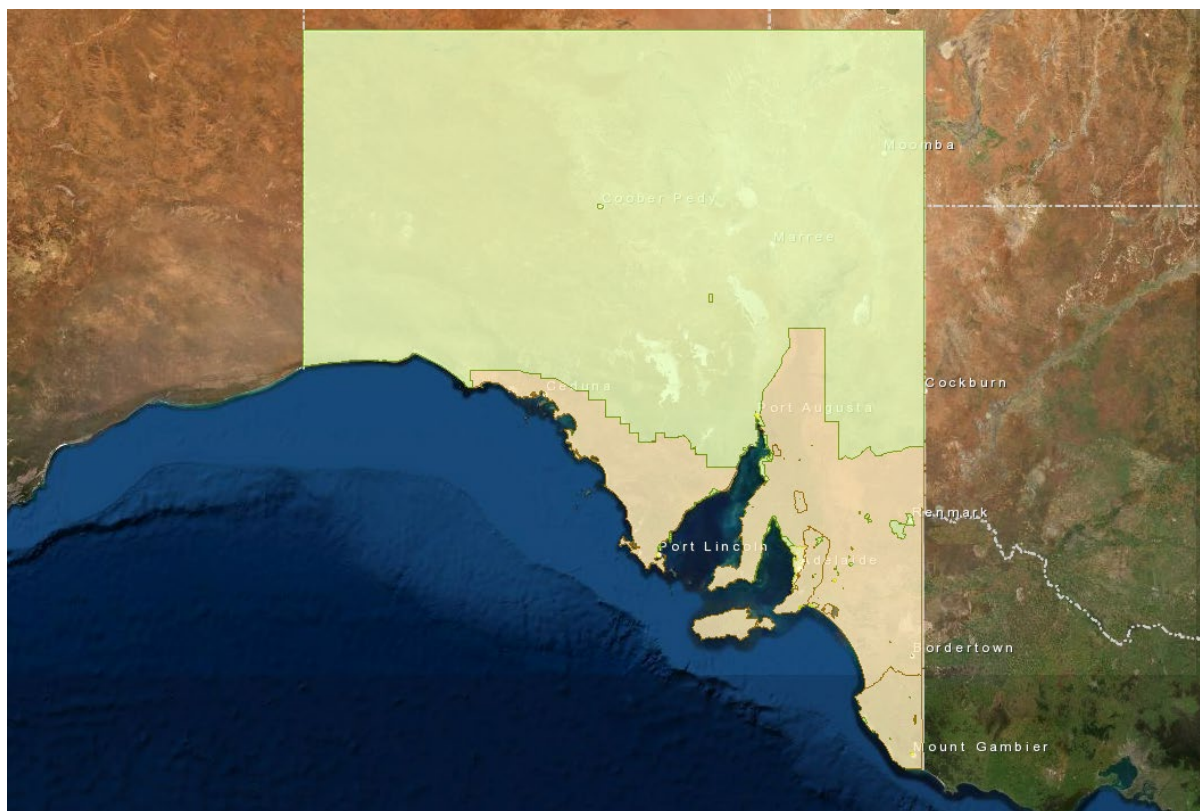


Figure 1 - Bushfire Risk Areas Under the Regulations (SARIG)

Once enabled, the spatial data can be downloaded via the *Active Layers* tab as a shapefile to allow for import into other software.

Alternatively these boundaries can also be accessed via the [Location SA Map Viewer](#), by selecting *Datasets / Land Management / Property and Planning / Electricity Regulation Boundaries*.

Identifying Other Bushfire Boundaries

Separate to the considerations of the Regulations, South Australia has been mapped into *Bushfire Protection Areas* depending on the level of risk.

A map of these areas can be found on the [SA Property and Planning Atlas \(SAPPA\)](#).

The dataset can be enabled by selecting *Layers / Planning and Building / Planning and Design Code / Overlays / Hazards Overlays / Hazards (Bushfire)*.

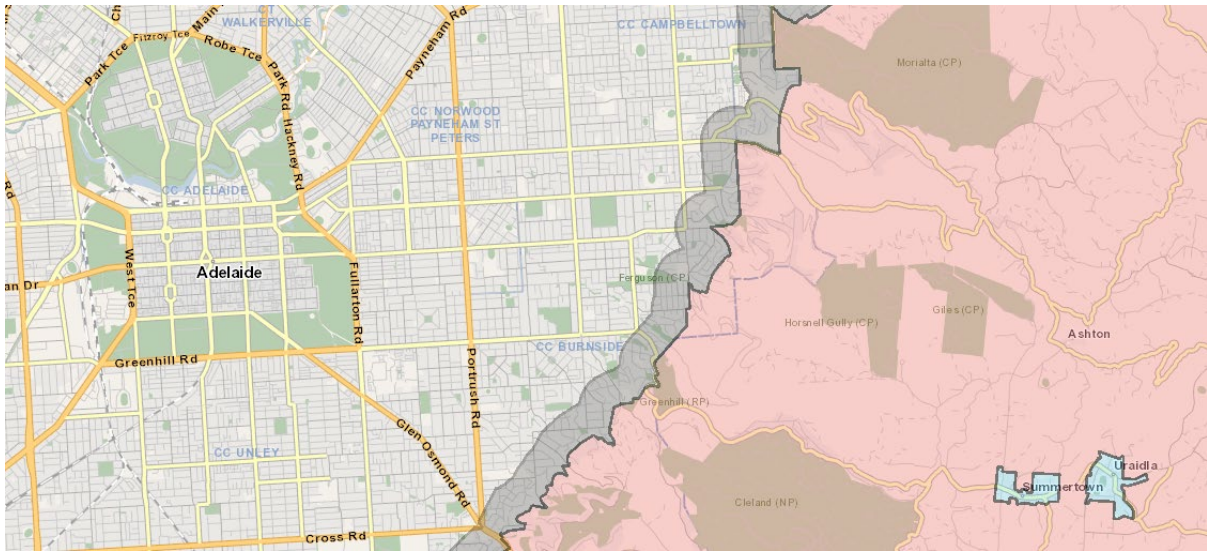


Figure 2 - Bushfire Protection Areas Example (SAPPA)

Alternatively these boundaries can also be accessed via the [Location SA Map Viewer](#), by selecting *Datasets / Land Management / Property and Planning / Bushfire Protection Areas*.

Identifying Electricity Infrastructure

A map of the electricity distribution infrastructure owned by SA Power Networks (SAPN) and transmission infrastructure is available on the [SARIG](#). To enable the overlay select *Infrastructure / Energy* and enable overlays for both SAPN and Electranet networks and substations.

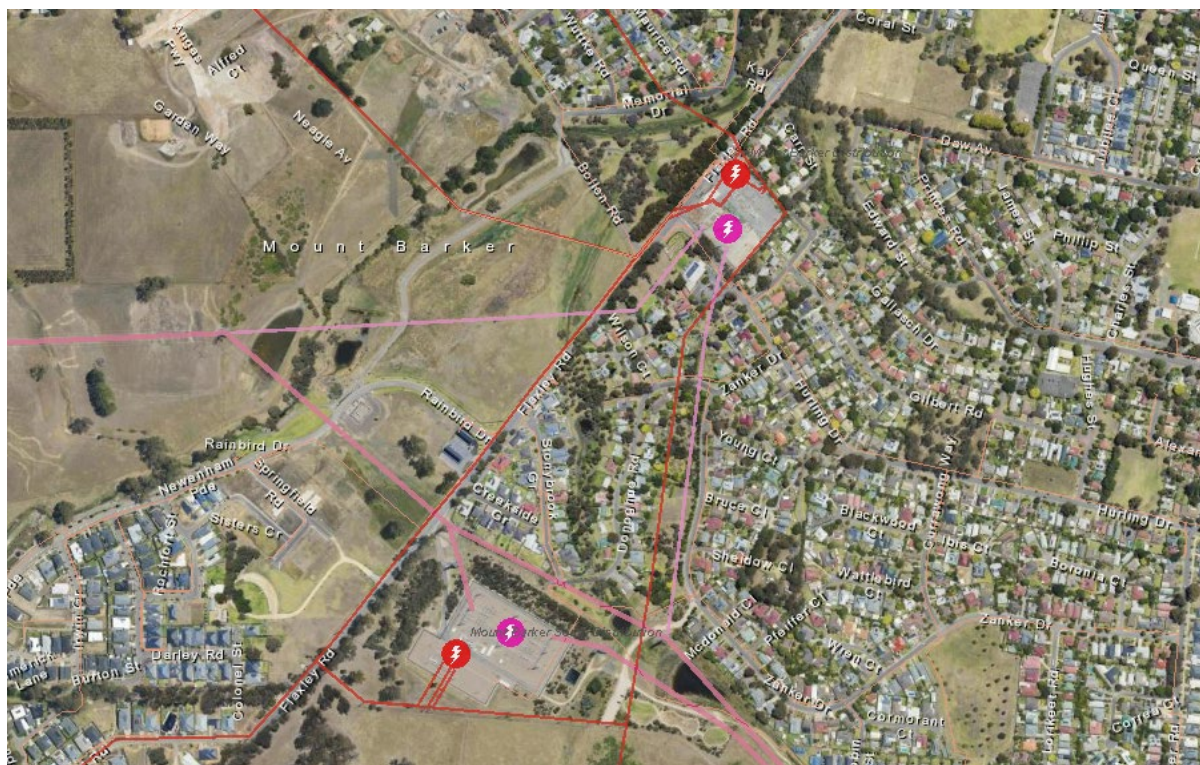


Figure 3 – Example Electricity Infrastructure in Proximity to Mount Barker (SARIG)

Alternatively, mapping of the SAPN distribution network is available via the [Location SA Map Viewer](#) by selecting *Datasets / Infrastructure and Utilities* then selecting the SAPN datasets for overhead lines, underground lines and substations. Note that the Electranet network is not currently visible via the Location SA Map Viewer.

3.1 Principles for Boundary Review

The Technical Regulator will consider several matters when reviewing the proposal to alter a bushfire boundary. These will include but not be limited to:

- Alternative bushfire risk ratings for the area
- High Voltage powerlines
- Vegetation density
- Built up areas
- Climate
- Accessibility for emergency services



4.1 Drafting New Boundaries

The applicant shall include with their application, a clear map identifying the extent of the proposed altered bushfire boundary.

5.1 Lodging an Application for a Boundary to be Reviewed

Applications for boundary review are lodged with the Office of the Technical Regulator electricity infrastructure team:

E: otr.electricityinfrastructure@sa.gov.au

Queries relating to the process and other matters may also be directed to the email address above.

Applications should include:

- A map of the proposed new boundary
- Recent photos representative of the land use either side of the proposed boundary
- Any consultation seen as relevant, undertaken prior to the application
- Contact details for the applicant, or their responsible officer



6.1 Consultation

The Technical Regulator will seek to consult on any proposed changes to the bushfire boundaries with at least, but not necessarily only:

- The South Australian Country Fire Service
- The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
- SA Power Networks
- Electranet
- Local Government Area council

The Technical Regulator may request further information from the applicant or revision of the proposed new boundary location during or subsequent to this consultation.

7.1 Decision by the Technical Regulator

Following consultation and in receipt of all the required information, the Technical Regulator will decide on whether the proposed alteration to the bushfire boundaries will be made.

Following a decision by the Technical Regulator, the applicant and the parties consulted will be informed of the outcome.

8.1 Publication

If the Technical Regulator decides that it is appropriate to amend a boundary, an updated dataset will be provided and available via SARIG and the Location SA Map Viewer see **Identifying the Existing Bushfire Risk Boundary Under the Regulations** for further information.

The applicant will be informed when this publication occurs.

Further information

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