

# Fact Sheet

## Land Boundary Protection in areas affected by Bushfires



The information in this Fact Sheet describes ways to protect information critical to re-establishing property boundaries following the destruction caused by bushfires or other natural disasters.

### Background

The precise position of property boundary locations are reliant on three key factors:

- Plans of Survey held the Land Title's Office
- Permanent Survey Marks on site, typically steel or concrete marks buried in the ground
- Existing fence locations

In areas impacted by bushfires, two of these elements are at risk and it is important to preserve as much remaining evidence as possible to secure the state's property boundaries.

Clearing fence lines can result in the fences being placed away from the original location and critical Permanent Survey Marks being inadvertently destroyed.

### Replacing Fences in their original location

Damaged fences are typically replaced in the same location as the original fencing. Care should be taken to preserve the original location through the clean-up phase and this may require the placement of offset marks prior to the clearing of the fence line.

It should be noted that the original fence may not be located on the true boundary position. If any doubt exists regarding the location of the boundary it is recommended to engage the services of a licensed surveyor to provide advice.

The following link to the Surveyors Board of SA web site will assist.

<https://surveyorsboardsa.org.au/find-a-surveyor-and-the-register>

### Protecting Permanent Survey Marks

Permanent Survey Marks (PSMs) are major reference points placed by surveyors and are critical to the protection of the cadastre. Their long-term retention benefits the community by providing irrefutable evidence of property boundaries and result in significant reduction in survey costs for the remarking of land boundaries. Further, these marks form the basis of our GPS framework which benefits many areas such as construction, development resources, transport and agriculture.

In rural areas, PSMs are usually located in the road reserve, next to fencing at prominent road bends or intersections and are often marked with a blue star dropper and red indicator plate.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/planning-and-property/land-and-property-development/conveyancing-and-surveying-professionals/permanent-survey-marks>

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Following a fire, the dropper is typically blackened and often damaged but usually still visible.

When replacing fencing, caution should be taken to check for survey mark droppers. Please endeavour to protect them and the related survey mark in the clean-up process.

For further queries, please contact the Survey Operations Section  
Land and Built Environment Section:

Phone: 8456 4920

Email: [DPTI.SurveyOperations@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPTI.SurveyOperations@sa.gov.au)

The location of these Permanent Survey Marks can be found on the Location SA Mapviewer:-  
link below. PSM's are shown with this symbol- 

<http://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/?map=roads&x=137.62748&y=-35.65313&z=16&uids=19,111,124&pinx=&piny=&pinTitle=&pinText>