

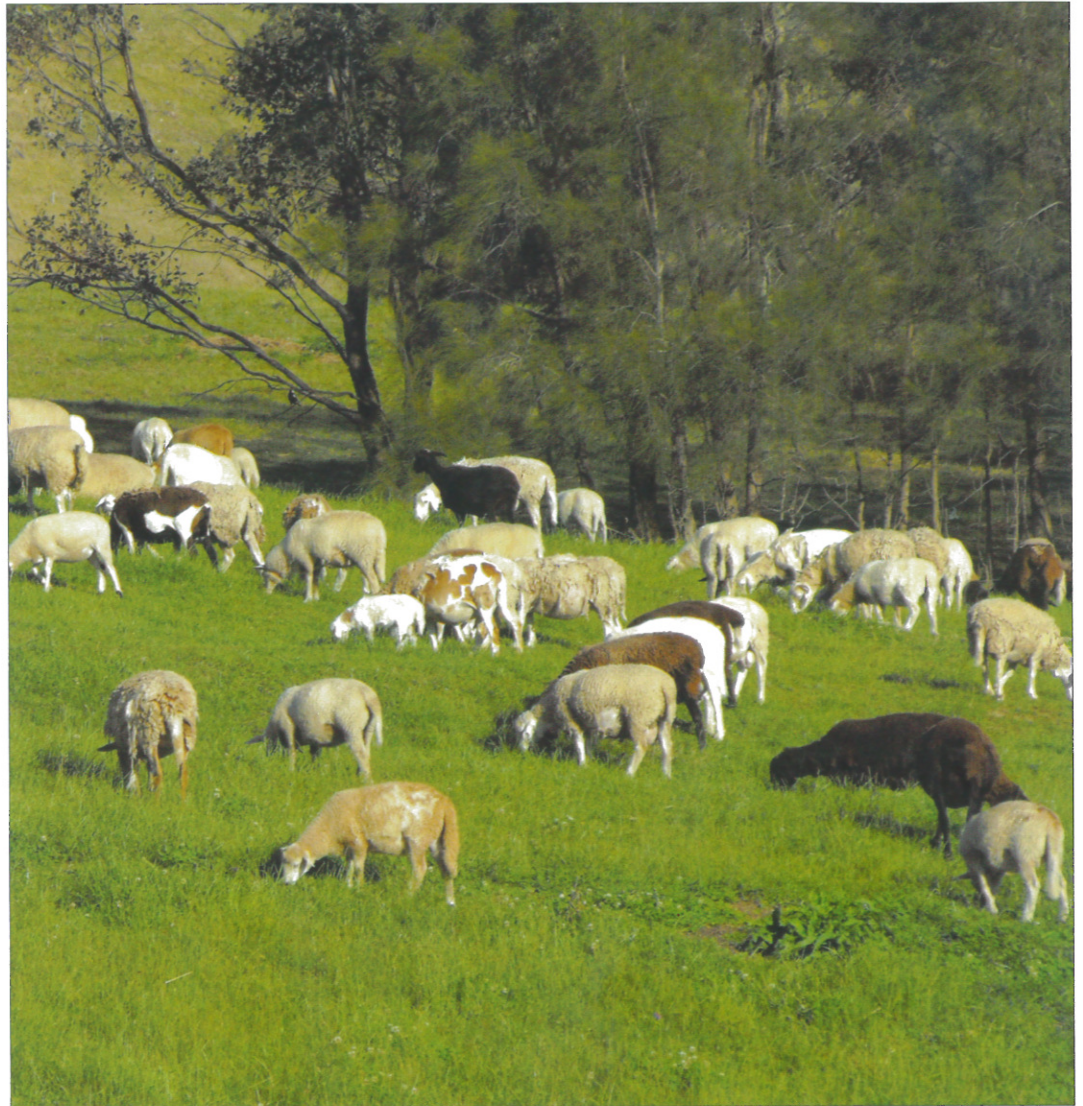
well and truly eaten down in the weeks before the fire season.

Laneway grazing: If your farm has laneways for stock movement, make sure these are grazed low in the weeks before the fire season. There are several reasons for this. The first is that well grazed laneways can provide a form of internal firebreak to help check the progress of fire. The second is that, if the laneways are free from fuel load, they can be used more safely to move livestock to a less vulnerable area when fire threatens. The third reason is that clear laneways will allow safer vehicle access to all parts of the farm to help fight grass fire.

Grazed a safe haven: Establish a very low fire risk paddock on the property where sheep, cattle or goats can seek refuge if fire sweeps onto the farm. This paddock may have features like a naturally stony surface that normally limits the grass growth. Further grazing of this paddock will prevent the build-up of a fire load so that any fire will be of short duration with a reduced ability to generate heat.

Grazed riparian zones: A huge fuel load can build up in a fenced riparian zone if it has not been grazed for years. As the creek and its riparian zone may run all the way through your property, it might become an uncontrolled fire laneway if the fuel is not reduced. It is within the responsible management of riparian zones for them to be grazed from time to time. The months and weeks before the fire season might be the most appropriate time to do this.

Grazed public roads: Why wait until drought occurs to graze the public roads running alongside the boundaries to your property? These are often areas where there is a high build-up of fuel and from a fire risk point of view,

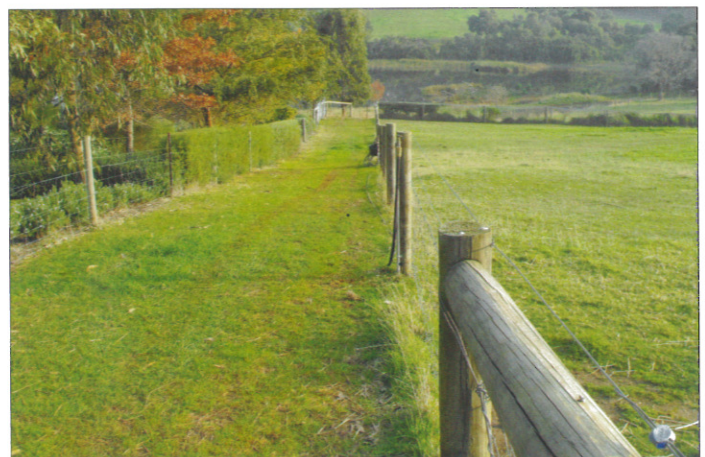


are often poorly managed by local authorities. If one of these roads runs along your boundary fence, seek permission to get out there with your livestock and graze the space with a high density grazing pulse to turn the fuel load into animal protein.

By grazing the fuel load along adjoining public roads you will reduce the intensity of the fire when it first gets onto your land. This will make it easier to fight at your property boundary.

Forward defence: It is time for farmers and graziers to point out to the landholders of national parks and other timbered areas the advantages grazing can bring to the fire management in native forest. The huge success in

High density grazing for a short duration along your boundary prior to the fire season will mean that a fire in your paddocks will have less fuel to burn.



With a grazing plan to reduce fire risk it is important to keep laneways well grazed. This means you can move stock if fire approaches and it creates internal firebreaks.