

# 2024/2025 FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE

**FOR ALL FIRES PHONE 000**

## ABOUT THIS NOTICE AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are required to carry out fire prevention work on land owned or occupied by you as set out in this Notice by the dates specified. If the requirements of this Notice are not met by the due date or are not completed to the satisfaction of an inspecting officer, an on the spot fine of **\$250** may be issued. The maximum fine for failure to comply is **\$5,000**. Council can also enter upon the land and carry out required works at the owner/occupier's expense.

## DATES YOU MUST REMEMBER

| RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD | PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD | RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15 October to 31 November | 1 December to 31 March    | 1 April to 15 May         |

This Notice outlines the requirements and restrictions for different property types and activities.

| PROPERTY TYPE                                      | CATEGORY   | YEARLY COMPLIANCE DATES |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Land under 5,000m <sup>2</sup>                     | Category 1 | 15 November to 10 May   |
| Land over 5,000m <sup>2</sup> and under 4 hectares | Category 2 | 15 November to 10 May   |
| Land over 4 hectares                               | Category 3 | 15 November to 10 May   |
| Plantations and Harvested Plantations              | Category 4 | 1 November to 10 May    |
| Timber Mills                                       | Category 5 | 1 November to 10 May    |

## 1. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

### 1.1 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of this Notice are considered the minimum standard of fire protection required to protect not only the individual property but the community as a whole. Council can impose additional requirements to remove or abate hazards if considered necessary. Any property subject to a Bush Fire Management Plan, or conditions imposed as a result of development approval, must comply with the approved conditions in addition to the requirements of this Notice.

### 1.2 ALTERNATIVES

If you consider it impracticable or environmentally damaging to carry out the requirements set out in this Notice, you can apply to Council by **1 October** for permission to provide alternative firebreaks or other fire prevention measures.

In the absence of written approval for alternative measures, the owner/occupier must adhere to the requirements of this Notice.

Regulated activities under section 3.1 can be applied for at any time of the year.

In the absence of written approval for alternative measures, the owner/occupier must adhere to the requirements of this Notice.

**Enquiries relating to this Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice or fire prevention in general should be directed to the Shire Ranger Services on (08) 9761 0800 or 0457 885 156**

## 2. WORK REQUIRED TO BE UNDERTAKEN

### 2.1 CATEGORY 1 – LAND UNDER 5,000M<sup>2</sup> (1/2 HECTARE) By 15 November until 10 May

Remove all flammable material from the property except living trees and shrubbery and maintain throughout the required period. Grass height not to exceed 100mm.

### 2.2 CATEGORY 2 – LAND OVER 5,000m<sup>2</sup> AND UNDER 4 HECTARES (10 ACRES) By 15 November until 10 May

All buildings must have an access track not less than 3 metres in width and a minimum 4 metre vertical clearance to overhanging vegetation. Around all buildings, haystacks and fuel storage areas, slash and remove all flammable materials likely to create a fire hazard, except living trees and shrubbery for at least 20 metres around the building, haystack and fuel storage area. Grass height not to exceed 100mm.

**In addition to the above, the following requirements also apply to Category 2 properties:**

**(a) Land used for cropping or pasture:** Construct and maintain a 3 metre wide firebreak with a minimum 4 metre vertical clearance to overhanging vegetation as near as practical to the perimeter of the property.

**(b) Land not used for cropping/pasture:** Remove all flammable material from the property except living trees and shrubbery and maintain throughout the required period. Grass height not to exceed 100mm. If choosing to forego firebreaks and instead remove flammable material from the property, the property owner must complete active fuel reduction on the property before 15 November and maintain it throughout the period of this Notice by means such as slashing, baling, and/or grazing by an appropriate number of livestock. If choosing to carry out fuel reduction by grazing of stock, the property owner must ensure that sufficient stock is used to ensure that all grass is reduced to a maximum height of 100mm by **15 November and maintained at that height until 26 April.**

### 2.3 CATEGORY 3 – LAND OVER 4 HECTARES (10 ACRES) By 15 November until 10 May

All buildings must have an access track not less than 3 metres in width and a minimum 4 metre vertical clearance to overhanging vegetation. Around all buildings, haystacks and fuel storage areas, slash and remove all flammable materials likely to create a fire hazard, except living trees and shrubbery for at least 20 metres around the building, haystack and fuel storage area. Grass height not to exceed 100mm.

**In addition to the above, the following requirements also apply to Category 3 properties:**

**(a) Managed land used for agriculture, viticulture or horticulture:** Managed land is not required to have firebreaks, although land owners and occupiers are encouraged to install them in strategic places to protect their property in the event of a fire. There must be active fuel reduction done on the property throughout the period of this Notice, by means such as slashing, baling, and/or grazing by an appropriate number of livestock.

**(b) Unmanaged land:** As a minimum, one of the following two methods must be implemented:

**(i) Fuel reduction:** Remove all flammable materials from the entire property except living trees and shrubbery and maintain throughout the required period. Grass height not to exceed 100mm; or

**(ii) Firebreak:** Construct and maintain a 3 metre wide firebreak with a minimum 4 metre vertical clearance to overhanging vegetation as near as practical to the perimeter of the property.

### 2.4 CATEGORY 4 – PLANTATIONS AND HARVESTED PLANTATIONS By 1 November until 10 May

The first row of trees must be a minimum of 15 metres from all formed public roads. A 10 metre wide firebreak shall be constructed along the internal boundaries of the plantation, along the boundaries of separate ownership, and all formed public roads. A firebreak 6 metres wide shall be provided in such a position that no compartment of a plantation exceeds 30 hectares. Where power lines pass through the plantation the clearing of vegetation must be in accordance with power supplier specifications. Trees adjoining the firebreak must be progressively pruned to a minimum height of 4 metres to maintain an effective width of firebreak. **Firebreak requirements for harvested plantations are the same as for plantations.** Any harvest residue heaps (slash piles) are to be a maximum of 4 metres wide; maximum 2 metres high; maximum 50 metres length with minimum 5 metre separation between heaps/piles; minimum 50 metres from any boundary or native vegetation islands; minimum 20 metres from powerlines or any areas of remnant vegetation and the first row of trees of any plantation.

### 2.5 CATEGORY 5 – TIMBER MILLS By 1 November until 10 May

Construct and maintain a 3 metre firebreak with a minimum 4 metre vertical clearance inside and along the boundary of the property as well as a 10 metre firebreak around all piles of sawdust, woodchips, bark and waste material.

### 3. REGULATED ACTIVITIES

**3.1 HARVESTING OPERATIONS** In addition to the individual Category requirements, any crop or plantation harvesting must have a drivable fire unit (not a trailer fire unit) of at least 400 litres in operational condition (full of water and in good working order) per harvesting machine within the compartment being harvested.

**3.2 STUMP GRINDING** The use of a stump grinder during Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods is only permitted if a drivable fire unit of at least 400 litres in operational condition (full of water and in good working order) be within 200 metres of the stump grinder in the same compartment.

**3.3 BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE AND RUBBISH** Prior to the burning of garden refuse and rubbish a 3 metre radius perimeter around the waste heap is to be cleared of all flammable material. Burning of garden refuse and rubbish is not permitted during the Prohibited Burning Period and during the Restricted Burning Periods it will require a burning permit from a Fire Control Officer.

**3.4 SLASHING DURING THE RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING PERIODS** This clause does not apply to the mowing of residential lawns. During the Restricted Burning Period, any person conducting slashing must have available a fire extinguisher of not less than 7.5 litre capacity either attached to the machine or within 200 metres of where the machine is operating. During the Prohibited Burning Period, any person conducting slashing must have available a fire fighting unit (full of water and in good working order) of not less than 400 litre capacity within 200 metres of where the machine is operating.

**3.5 CAMP FIRES AND BARBECUES** Open wood camp fires, wood fuelled barbecues, solid fuel pizza ovens, and spit style rotisseries require a permit in the Restricted Burning Period if the Fire Danger Rating (AFDRS) is "High" or above and are not allowed in the Prohibited Burning Period. Use of a gas barbecue is permitted subject to a perimeter with a 5 metre radius around the barbecue being cleared of bush and flammable materials.

### 4. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

**Firebreak:** must be bare earth from which any combustible material that is capable of carrying a running fire has been removed and on which no flammable material is permitted to accumulate during the period specified in this Notice.

**Flammable material:** accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, grass over 100mm in height, timber, boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material, capable of carrying a running fire but excludes living standing trees and shrubs.

**Flammable fuel storage:** includes all petroleum based liquids, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas, and any other combustible liquid or gaseous fuel.

**Fuel hazard:** has the same definition as "flammable material".

**Harvested plantation:** a plantation that has been clear felled but evidence of former use of the plantation remains in the form of tree stumps, pruning, limbs, and/or other accumulated tree refuse or logging residue.

**Hay Stack:** a collection of hay including fodder rolls placed or stacked together.

**Managed land:** land over 4 hectares that is being actively used for agriculture, viticulture, horticulture etc. and that such use is clearly evident (excluding plantations).

**Plantation:** any area planted in pine, eucalypt or other commercially valued trees (excluding orchards and vineyards) which have been planted for commercial gain. Requires approval under the Town Planning Scheme.

**Unmanaged land:** land over 4 hectares that is not being actively and evidently used for agriculture, viticulture, horticulture etc. (excluding plantations).

By Order of the Council  
**NICOLE GIBBS**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
27 July 2024

### 5. FIRE PERMITS AND UNDERTAKING FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION WORK

**5.1 CONTRACTORS** - A list of contractors available to assist with fire prevention work is available by calling the Shire on 9761 0800. Council does not recommend or endorse any particular contractor.

**5.2 PERMITS** to burn are required for the whole of the restricted periods and can only be obtained from the Fire Control Officers listed overleaf.

**5.3 CAREFULLY READ** and adhere to all of the conditions of the permit as any breach or negligence could make you liable for any damage to neighbouring properties and/or infringements/penalties.

**5.4 ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS** imposed by the Fire Control Officer/s when issuing permits must be strictly adhered to. Rangers will check that permit conditions are being complied with during the Restricted Burning Period.

**5.5 INFRINGEMENTS/ON THE SPOT FINES** of \$250 and upwards may apply to any breaches of the permit conditions/special conditions. Contact your FCO or local Rangers if in doubt.

**5.6 THE PERMIT HOLDER** shall give notice of their intention to burn to the following:

(a) The Shire Office, no later than on the day when burning is to take place. Weekend burning must be notified by 4.00pm of the preceding Friday.

(b) The owner or occupier of adjoining land.

(c) The nearest Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Service office, if the land is situated within 3km of a State Forest (Kirup or Pemberton). Notification should be given even when burning is in the open burning period.

**5.7 PERIOD OF NOTICE** to neighbours prior to burning cannot be more than 28 days or less than 4 days, although lesser notice may be determined by mutual agreement of all neighbours.

**5.8 NO PERMITS** will be issued for burning on public holidays during the Restricted or Prohibited Burning Periods.

**5.9 INCINERATORS** used to burn rubbish must be properly constructed. An open drum with or without a lid is not an authorised incinerator.

**5.10 BURNING ON THOROUGHFARES** – Prior to burning on a thoroughfare, verge, or road reserve, a person must obtain a Permit to Light a Fire on a Thoroughfare. The onus lies on the person burning to not only comply with the provisions of the *Activities on Thoroughfares* and Trading in Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law and the Bush Fires Act 1954, but also to ensure there is no possibility of the fire escaping.

**5.11 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT** residents are strongly encouraged to have and maintain firefighting equipment for protection of their own property.

## 6. HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS AND TOTAL FIRE BANS

**6.1 TOTAL FIRE BANS (TFB)** are declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) following consultation with Local Governments due to extreme weather conditions or widespread fires stretching firefighting resources. During a TFB the lighting of any fires in the open air and any other activities that may start a fire are prohibited, including:

- (a) All open air fires for the purpose of cooking/camping, i.e. wood fuel barbecues, candles, pizza ovens;
- (b) Incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering, gas cutting, angle grinders and lawnmowers.

**Penalty:** Up to \$25,000 fine and/or a 12 month jail term. Exemptions may be granted by DFES and must be requested in writing.

**6.2 HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS** are imposed by Local Government under the Bush Fires Regulations 1954 Section 38A and Section 24C, when prevailing and/or anticipated weather conditions and/or when availability or response capacity of the local firefighting resources are reduced. A Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban may be imposed for any length of time but is generally imposed for 'heat of the day' periods and may be extended or revoked as weather conditions change. During a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban, the use of engines, vehicles, plant and machinery is prohibited in order to mitigate the associated risk of causing or contributing to the spread of a bushfire.

**6.3 AUSTRALIAN FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM (AFDRS)** The Fire Danger Rating for any day can be located at <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#firedangerratings>

## 7. VOLUNTEERING IN A BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

**7.1 BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP** If you are interested in joining your local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, contact the Fire Control Officer for your area or the Shire's Community Emergency Services Manager on 0428 611 125.

**7.2 VOLUNTEERS ATTENDING A FIRE IN THEIR OWN VEHICLE** must immediately report to the Fire Control Officer for safety and insurance purposes.

## 8. IN THE EVENT OF AN UNCONTROLLED FIRE

**8.1 FIRE REPORTS** All landowners and occupiers who incur a bushfire have an obligation to assist the Fire Control Officer to compile a Fire Report form.

**8.2 LANDOWNERS AND OCCUPIERS** must take all reasonable measures to control fires on their land, at their expense, regardless of how the fire started. Whilst local volunteer fire fighters will come out and assist in the control of the fire, landowners and occupiers are reminded that they are ultimately responsible for fires on their property, including monitoring

the fire after fire crews have left. Penalties apply and recovery of costs can be made by Council for those who do not comply with these provisions.

**8.3 RADIO STATIONS DURING A FIRE EMERGENCY** During a fire emergency all landowners and occupiers are encouraged to listen to ABC Radio as they are the official emergency broadcast radio station. Local frequencies are 1044, 684 and 558.

## 9. BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

|                                                                  |                                                                        |                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chief Fire Control Officer</b><br>Greg Kennedy 0427 577 821   | <b>Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer</b><br>Chris Doherty 0460 416 538 | <b>Shire Community Emergency Services Manager</b><br>0428 611 125 |
| <b>Bridgetown Townsite (Permits)</b><br>Donna Baker 0457 885 156 | <b>Catterick</b><br>Santo Pratico 0428 644 057                         | <b>Greenbushes</b><br>Tim Hingston 0427 189 007                   |
| <b>Hester Brook</b><br>Keith Clothier 0428 611 787               | <b>Kangaroo Gully</b><br>Chris Doherty 0460 416 538                    | <b>Maranup</b><br>Andrew Browne 0427 612 001                      |
| <b>Sunnyside</b><br>Martin Winchcombe 0427 619 085               | <b>Wandillup</b><br>Robert Moyes 9761 2482                             | <b>Winnejup</b><br>Hugh Wheatley 0428 617 054                     |
| <b>Yornup</b><br>Lyndon Pearce 0427 962 386                      |                                                                        |                                                                   |