



2019/2020 FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND IN THE SHIRE OF
BRIDGETOWN- GREENBUSHES

FOR ALL FIRES PHONE 000

DATES YOU MUST REMEMBER		
RESTRICTED BURNING TIME 1 NOVEMBER to 14 DECEMBER	PROHIBITED BURNING TIME 15 DECEMBER to 14 MARCH	RESTRICTED BURNING TIME 15 MARCH to 26 APRIL
FIRE RESTRICTIONS CAN START EARLIER AND FINISH LATER THAN THE DATES INDICATED DEPENDANT ON CONDITIONS. IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO BURN OFF IN OCTOBER OR AFTER 26 APRIL, CHECK WITH YOUR FIRE CONTROL OFFICER OR THE SHIRE OFFICE FOR ANY VARIATION TO THE FIRE RESTRICTION DATES		

BUSH FIRE NOTICE AND REQUIREMENTS

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 date specified.

If the requirements of this notice are not done by the due date, or not done to the satisfaction of an inspecting officer, an on the spot fine of **\$250** will be issued. The maximum fine for failure to carry out the work is **\$5000**. Council can also enter upon the land and carry out required works at the owner/ occupier's expense.

1. DEFINITIONS

Firebreak means ground from which all flammable material has been removed and on which no flammable material is permitted to accumulate during the period specified in this notice.

Flammable Materials means 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.

Fuel Hazard has the same meaning as flammable material.

Flammable Fuel Storage includes all petroleum based liquids, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas any other combustible liquid or gaseous fuel.

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

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

Managed Land means land over 4 hectares that is being **actively** used for agriculture, viticulture, horticulture etc and that such use is clearly evident, but excludes plantations.

Plantation means any area planted in pine, eucalypt or other commercial value trees (excluding orchards and vineyards) which have been planted for commercial gain, and requires approval under the Town Planning Scheme.

2. ALL LAND UNDER 5000 SQ METRES (1/2 HECTARE OR LESS)

BY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2020

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

3. ALL LAND OVER 5000 SQUARE METRES AND UNDER 4 HECTARES (10 ACRES)

BY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2020

(a) Remove all flammable material from the property except living trees and shrubbery and maintain throughout the required period, **unless used for cropping or pasture**. Height of grass not to exceed 100mm.

(b) If the land is used for cropping or pasture, you are required to 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.

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. Height of grass not to exceed 100mm.

*If choosing to forego firebreaks and instead remove flammable materials from the property it is the responsibility of the property owner for active fuel reduction to be completed on the property by 15 November and maintained throughout the period of this notice by means such as slashing, baling and grazing by an appropriate number of livestock. If choosing to carry out fuel reduction by grazing of stock it is the responsibility of the property owner to 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.***

4. ALL LAND OVER 4 HECTARES (10 ACRES)

BY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2020

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. Height of grass not to exceed 100mm.

All building must have an access track not less than 3 metres in width and a minimum 4 metre vertical clearance to overhanging vegetation.

In addition to above, the following requirements also apply:

4.1 MANAGED LAND

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 grazing by an appropriate number of livestock, slashing and baling etc.

4.2 UNMANAGED LAND

Remove all flammable materials from the entire property except living trees and shrubbery and maintain throughout the required period. Height of grass not to exceed 100mm.

OR ALTERNATIVELY

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.

5. PLANTATIONS

BY 1 NOVEMBER 2019 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2020

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's specifications.

Trees adjoining the firebreak must be progressively pruned to a minimum height of 4 metres to maintain an effective width of firebreak.

6. HARVESTED PLANTATIONS

Firebreak requirements for harvested plantations are the same as for plantations.

7. TIMBER MILLS

BY 1 NOVEMBER 2019 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2020

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.

8. HARVESTING OPERATIONS

In addition to the above 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 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.

11. ALTERNATIVES

If you consider it impracticable or environmentally damaging to carry out the requirements set out above, 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 requirements of this Order must be adhered to.

12. 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 Period requires a permit from a Fire Control Officer.

13. CAMP FIRES

During the restricted burning period, a permit is required for any cooking and camping fire. Cooking and Camp fires are not permitted throughout the Prohibited Burning Period. Gas barbeques can still be used during this period.

14. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of this Order 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 it considers it 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 the Notice

By Order of the Council
T P CLYNCH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
30 May 2019

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PERMIT TO BURN

- 1. PERMITS** to burn are required for the whole of the restricted periods and can only be obtained from the Fire Control Officers listed overleaf.
- 2. 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.
- 3. ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS** imposed by the Fire Control Officer when issuing permits must be strictly adhered to. Rangers will check that permit conditions are being complied with during the restricted burning season.
- 4. INFRINGEMENTS / ON THE SPOT FINES** of \$250 AND UPWARDS apply to any breaches of the permit conditions/special conditions. Contact your FCO or local Rangers if in doubt.
- 5. 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 Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, if the land is situated within 3 km of State Forest (phone Kirup 9731 6232; Pemberton 9776 1207). This notice should be given even when burning is in the open burning period.
- 6. 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.
- 7. NO PERMITS** will be issued for burning on PUBLIC HOLIDAYS during the Restricted and Prohibited burning periods.
- 8. 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 permit from a Fire Control Officer.

BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS		
Chief Fire Control Officer	Michael Campbell	(08) 9761 9002
Deputy Chief FCO & Greenbushes FCO	Greg Kennedy	0427 577 821
Deputy Chief FCO & Yornup FCO	Lyndon Pearce	0427 962 386
Shire	Chris Sousa	0428 611 125
Bridgetown Townsite (Permits)	Ranger	0428 911 847
Winnejup	Hugh Wheatley	(08) 9761 7054
Wandillup	Robert Moyes	(08) 9761 2482
Hester Brook	Keith Clothier	0428 611 787
Kangaroo Gully	Chris Doherty	0438 952 202
Maranup	Hal Reid	(08) 9761 1675
Catterick	Santo Pratico	(08) 9764 4057
Sunnyside	Stuart Waters	(08) 9761 9227
Bridgetown Bush Fire Brigade	Ed Bland	(08) 9761 4546

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.

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.

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.

LANDOWNERS AND OCCUPIERS RESPONSIBILITIES – The Bush Fires Act requires the occupiers of the land to 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.

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

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

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT – Residents are strongly encouraged to have and maintain firefighting equipment for protection of their own property.

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

TOTAL FIRE BAN – A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) following consultation with Local Governments because of extreme weather conditions or when widespread fires are seriously 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, this includes:

- All open air fires for the purpose of cooking or camping i.e. wood fuel barbeques, candles and pizza ovens.
- Incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering or 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.

HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN – Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) are imposed by Local Government under the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954* Section 38A, and/or Section 24C, when prevailing and/or anticipated weather conditions and/or when availability and/or response capacity of the local firefighting resources are reduced.

A HVMB 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 HVMB 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.

Enquiries relating to this Firebreak Order or fire prevention in general should be directed to the Shire Ranger Services on (08)9761 0800 or 0428 911 847