



2016/2017 FIREBREAK ORDER

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

FOR ALL FIRES PHONE 000 AND YOUR LOCAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

DATES YOU MUST REMEMMBER		
RESTRICTED BURNING TIME	PROHIBITED BURNING TIME	RESTRICTED BURNING TIME
1 NOVEMBER to 14 DECEMBER	15 DECEMBER to 14 MARCH	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 Order 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 (living or dead) such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, grass over 50mm or 100mm (depending upon type of property as described in Parts 2, 3 and 4 of this Order), timber boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material, capable of carrying a running fire but excludes living standing trees and shrubs.

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 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 4 HECTARES (10 ACRES)

BY 15 NOVEMBER 2016 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2017

- (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 50mm.
- (b) If the land is used for cropping or pasture, you are required to construct and maintain a 2 metre firebreak inside and along the boundary of the property as well as a 3 metre firebreak around all buildings and haystacks.

*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 50mm by **15 November and retained at that height until 26 April**.*

In order to guide property owners of land holdings suggested livestock rates are – 1 cow and calf per 3 acres or 1 dry cattle per 1.5 acres or 5 dry sheep per 1 acre. These are suggestions only and it is the responsibility of the property owner to determine the required number of stock in order to achieve compliance by 1 December and to contain the flammable materials until 26 April.

3. MANAGED LAND OVER 4 HECTARES (10 ACRES)

BY 15 NOVEMBER 2016 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2017

Managed land is not required to have perimeter firebreaks, although land owners and occupiers are encouraged to install them in strategic places to protect their property in the event of a fire.

Managed land must however comply with the following requirements:

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.

All buildings must have an access track not less than 4 metres in width and vertical clearance of 3 metres to allow access by fire appliances.

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.

4. UNMANAGED LAND OVER 4 HECTARES (10 ACRES)

BY 15 NOVEMBER 2016 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2017

Remove all flammable materials from the 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** firebreak inside and along the boundary of the property and around all buildings and haystacks.

5. PLANTATIONS

BY 1 NOVEMBER 2016 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2017

The first row of trees must be a minimum of 15 metres from all formed public roads.

A 10 metre firebreak to be constructed on 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 progressively pruned to a minimum height of 4 metres to maintain an effective width of firebreak.

6. PINE PLANTATIONS PLANTED PRIOR TO 1 MAY 1990

BY 1 NOVEMBER 2016 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2017

A firebreak not less than 10 metres to be constructed on the internal boundaries of the Plantation, along the boundaries of separate ownership, and all formed public roads.

A firebreak at least 6 metres wide shall be provided in such a position that no compartment of a plantation should exceed 30 hectares.

7. EUCALYPT PLANTATIONS PLANTED PRIOR TO 1 MAY 1990

BY 1 NOVEMBER 2016 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2017

A 5 metre firebreak to be constructed on the boundaries of the plantation, including the boundaries of each separate location and all formed public roads.

No planting will be allowed within a distance of 20 metres on either side of all power lines, and a 6 metre firebreak shall be provided as near as practical either side of the power lines.

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

8. HARVESTED PLANTATIONS

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

9. TIMBER MILLS

BY 1 NOVEMBER 2016 UNTIL 26 APRIL 2017

Construct and maintain a **3 metre** firebreak 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.

10. HARVESTING OPERATIONS

In addition to the above requirements, a drivable fire unit of at least 400 litres in operational condition (full of water and in good working order) is on site in the same compartment as the harvesting operations in plantations.

11. STUMP GRINDING

The use of a stump grinder during Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods is only permitted if a drivable fire until 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

By Order of the Council

**T P CLYNCH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
30 June 2016**

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 Department of Parks and Wildlife office, if the land is situated within 3 km of State Forest land (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.

9. 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.

BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS		
Chief Fire Control Officer	Hugh Browne	(08) 9761 1200
Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer	Michael Campbell	(08) 9761 9002
Shire	Chris Sousa Shire Ranger	0428 611 125 0428 911 847
Winnejup	Rodney Hester	(08) 9764 4027
Greenbushes	Greg Kennedy	0427 577 821
Wandillup	Robert Moyes	(08) 9761 2482
Hester Brook	David Jenkins	(08) 9761 1128
Kangaroo Gully	Eric Wheatley	(08) 9761 1274
Maranup	Andrew Browne	(08) 9761 2001
Yornup	Michael Campbell	(08) 9761 9002
Catterick	Derek Dilkes	(08) 9764 4016
Sunnyside	Murray Waters	(08) 9761 1543

CONTRACTORS

A list of contractors available to assist with fire prevention work is available by calling the Shire on 9761 1555. Council does not recommend or endorse any particular contractor.

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

Enquiries relating to this Firebreak Order or fire prevention in general should be directed to the Shire Ranger Services on (08)9761 1555.