

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

BUSH FIRE NOTICE AND REQUIREMENTS



Owners or occupiers of land within the City of Bunbury are notified they must comply with the Bush Fires Act 1954 (the Act) and carry out annual fire-prevention work, as set out in this notice.

ALL properties within Bunbury are subject to loss due to embers from nearby fires landing within your yards. Most homes are lost through fires from ember attack.

It is an offence not to comply with the Act which carries a modified penalty of \$250 and a maximum penalty of \$5,000. With or without prosecution and in accordance with the Act, the City of Bunbury may enter the land and carry out the required work at the expense of the land owner/occupier.

Work must be completed no later than **30 November** and kept maintained throughout the summer months until **10 May annually**. Properties assessed as having a bushfire hazard rating of **VERY HIGH** or **EXTREME** will be sent further information and suggested fire-protection strategies.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Private property (including residential, commercial and industrial)

- Where the area of land is 2024m² or less, all flammable material on the land is to be removed except living trees.
- Where the land area exceeds 2024m² provide a 3 metre firebreak free of all flammable material, immediately inside all boundaries and surrounding all buildings and haystacks. Where adjoining lots are held or used by the owner/occupier, firebreaks may be provided immediately inside the external boundaries of the group or lots. Total removal of flammable material from the property would be considered an acceptable alternative.

2. Fuel and gas depots

All flammable material must be cleared from land where there are containers used for liquid or gas-fuel storage including clearing all flammable material from any liquid or gas-fuel storage ramps or supports.

3. Plantations

Firebreaks 15 metres wide must be provided immediately adjoining all external boundaries of the planted area. The outer 10 metres must be cleared of all flammable material. The inner 5 metres, closest to the trees may be kept in a reduced fuel state by slashing or

used for grazing provided the height of grass does not exceed 8cm. Plantations must be subdivided into areas not exceeding 30 hectares by firebreaks 6 metres wide. Firebreaks must be cleared of all flammable material and in the vertical plane a minimum height clearance of 5 metres from the ground level will be maintained above the firebreak.

4. Prohibited and restricted burning

The Prohibited Burning Period in the City of Bunbury district is from 30 December to 28 March annually. The Restricted Burning Periods in the City of Bunbury district are from 15 November to 29 December and from 29 March to 10 May annually. These dates may be varied according to seasonal conditions, but any changes will be publicly advertised.

5. Burning permits - bush, grass and garden refuse

Permits are required for any burning including garden refuse during the Restricted Burning Period as above. Burning of anything including bush, grass and garden refuse is totally prohibited from 30 December to 28 March annually. Burning permits will only be issued to owner/occupiers of land for hazard reduction burning until 30 November annually.

6. Campfires

Campfires are completely banned in the City of Bunbury from 15 November to 10 May annually.

7. Exemptions

If it is impractical to clear firebreaks as required by this notice or if natural features make firebreaks unnecessary, you may apply to the Council or its authorised officer until 15 November for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or take other action to abate fire hazards. If permission is not granted the requirements of the notice must be complied with.

John KOWAL

Chris WIDMER ESM

Fire Control Officers

Frank YATES, Marina MARRIOTT, Jason MCNABB, Chris MARTIN,
Greg STOVER and Philip LLOYD

Andrew Brien

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

