

# Bushfire Prevention Information and Notices 2024/25



Report All Fires  
Phone 000

# Important Dates and Information



|                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted burning time          | 1 October to 30 November |
| Prohibited burning time          | 1 December to 31 March   |
| Restricted burning time          | 1 April to 15 May        |
| Compliance with Firebreak Notice | 1 December to 15 May     |

- A permit is required to burn off during restricted burning times (see back page for list of Permit Issuing Officers).
- No burning off is permitted at all during the prohibited burning time.
- Weather conditions may necessitate changes to the restricted and prohibited burning times (shortening or lengthening).
- Regardless of the date and time, no burning off is permitted when the Fire Danger Rating is “high” or above, or when a Total Fire Ban or Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban is declared.

# Total Fire Bans



Total Fire Bans are declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched. On a Total Fire Ban day, it is illegal to light an open air fire or conduct any activity that could start a fire. To receive SMS alerts about when Total Fire Bans are imposed, call the Shire on (09) 97337 800.

**The following is a list of the most common activities that are not permitted when a Total Fire Ban is declared.**

- Use a fire pit, barbeque, weber, smoker, pizza oven or spit rotisserie which burns solid fuel in the open air.
- Light a campfire or bonfire.
- Burn green waste, garden waste or any other type of waste.
- Use an angle grinder, welder, gas cutter, soldering tool or any other type of equipment that may create a spark in the open air.
- Use a chainsaw, whipper snipper, mower or slasher on bush, grass or vegetation (alive or dead) if the equipment is powered by an internal combustion engine except where the activity is associated with agriculture, business or industry and a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban has not been declared.
- Drive any type vehicle (car, motorbike, quad bike, ATV) that would come into contact with the bush, grass or vegetation (alive or dead) except where the activity is associated with agriculture, business or industry and a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban has not been declared.

**The following is a list of the most common activities that are permitted when a Total Fire Ban is declared. These activities should be carried out with caution.**

- Use a gas or electric barbeque for cooking if the flame is enclosed and is being used at home or at a public park like the Drakesbrook Weir.
- Use an electric or battery powered piece of equipment on the bush, grass or vegetation (alive or dead), however if the activity could cause sparks the activity should not be carried out.
- Use an angle grinder, welder, gas cutter, soldering tool or any other type of equipment that may create a spark in a fully enclosed shed or building (i.e. has a door, four walls and a roof).
- Use power tools in the open air provided the tool cannot cause a spark.
- Harvesting and other off-road agricultural or commercial activities provided a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban has not been declared.
- Use a generator provided the generator does not sit on bush, grass or vegetation (alive or dead) and the area surrounding the generator is clear of flammable material.
- Use a firearm.
- Use a gas-powered bird scaring gun provided the area surrounding the gun (above and to the sides) is cleared of all flammable material and the gun is in good working order to avoid malfunction.

# Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans



The Shire of Waroona issues Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans for the district. They apply to farmers, business and industry to restrict the use of engines, vehicles, plant, equipment and machinery on paddocks and land with vegetation.

Most of the time, a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban will be declared on the same day as a Total Fire Ban, but not all the time. A Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban is generally imposed for the hottest part of the day and may be revoked or extended as weather conditions change.

During a Total Fire Ban, the public is already restricted from driving any type of vehicle that could come into contact with the bush, grass or vegetation. Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans expand the restriction to farmers, business and industry.

To receive SMS alerts about when Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans are imposed, call the Shire on (08) 97337800.

# Firebreak Notice

This Notice is made pursuant to section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (the Act). The purpose of the Notice is to prevent the outbreak, spread or expansion of a bush fire within the district. The Notice applies to all owners/occupiers of land within the district.

Owners/occupiers of land must comply with the requirements of this Notice between **1 December and 15 May** inclusive. A penalty of up to \$5,000 applies for non-compliance with this Notice. Shire Rangers will begin inspecting properties from **1 December**. In the case of non-compliance, owners/occupiers are liable to pay the costs of any work carried out by the Shire's contractors in order to bring the property into compliance.

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## All properties less than 4,000m<sup>2</sup>

- All grasses and weeds (alive or dead) across the entirety of the property must be maintained to a height of 50mm or less.

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## All properties between 4,000m<sup>2</sup> and 40ha

- A 3m wide firebreak with a 4m high vertical axis must be constructed within the property as close as possible to all boundaries, but no further than 50m from boundaries.
- A 3m wide firebreak with a 4m high vertical axis must be constructed immediately surrounding all outbuildings, sheds, haystacks, groups of buildings and fuel depots/storage areas situated on the property.
- All grasses and weeds (alive or dead) within 20m of a dwelling or habitable building cut and maintained to a height of 50mm or less.
- A 3m wide compacted or sealed driveway being maintained between any dwelling/habitable building and the road. The driveway to have a 4m high vertical axis clear of overhanging vegetation.

## Properties greater than 40ha

- A 3m wide firebreak with a 4m high vertical axis must be constructed within the property as close as possible to the boundary where that boundary abuts a road reserve or other type of reserve managed by the Crown or the Shire, but no further than 50m from that boundary.
- Property owners are encouraged to construct firebreaks in suitable locations within their property to protect life and buildings.
- A 3m wide firebreak with a 4m high vertical axis must be constructed immediately surrounding all outbuildings, sheds, haystacks, groups of buildings and fuel depots/ storage areas situated on the property.
- All grasses and weeds (alive or dead) within 20m of a dwelling or habitable building being cut and maintained to a height of 50mm or less.
- A 3m wide compacted or sealed driveway being maintained between any dwelling/habitable building and the road. The driveway to have a 4m high vertical axis clear of overhanging vegetation.
- Active pasture growth management within paddocks must be carried out by way of animal grazing or by mechanical means (slashing, cutting, mowing, ploughing). Where this is not undertaken, a 3m wide firebreak with a 4m high vertical axis must be constructed within the property as close as possible to all boundaries, but no further than 50m from boundaries.

## Variation to Notice

If you consider it impractical to meet the requirements of this Notice, you may apply to the Shire for a variation. Applications must be submitted by no later than 1 November. Any applications submitted after this date will not be accepted. Please contact the Shire for an application form.

## Bushfire Management Plans

Some properties in the district, especially in rural residential areas, may be subject to a Bushfire Management Plan or bushfire management conditions as a result of a subdivision or development approval. The requirements of any approved Bushfire Management Plan or conditions of any development approval must also be complied with in addition to the requirements of this Notice.

## Special Works Orders

The Shire may issue a Special Works Order to owners/occupiers if, in the opinion of the Shire, a property requires extra hazard removal or reduction work in order to reduce the potential for the outbreak, spread or expansion of a bush fire.

## Excessive Clearing of Vegetation

The requirement to clear vegetation to establish firebreaks in accordance with this Notice is exempt from needing approval from the Shire or a clearing permit from the State government. However, excessive clearing of vegetation to construct wider, higher or additional firebreaks is not exempt from approval. Where properties have already had compliant firebreaks constructed, these firebreaks should be re-used the following year rather than clearing new areas. The Shire balances legislative requirements relating to bushfire protection and environmental protection. If unsure on the matter, please contact the Shire on (08) 97337800.

## Plantations

- A 15m wide firebreak with a fully cleared vertical axis must be constructed around the perimeter of the planted area.
- Internal 6m wide firebreaks with a fully cleared vertical axis must be constructed to divide the planted area into areas of no more than 30,000m<sup>2</sup>.

## Firebreak Standards

A firebreak must be constructed to achieve the specified area of horizontal and vertical width and height that is cleared of all trees, shrubs, overhanging branches, grass and other combustible material. The ground section of a firebreak must be finished as bare mineral earth.



## Asset Protection Zone Standards and Additional Recommendations for Owners/ Occupiers of Properties with a Dwelling(s)

An asset protection zone (APZ) is a 20m area immediately surrounding any part of a dwelling. The following standards are not required under this Notice, but are strongly recommended to be carried out within the APZ.

- Cut grasses and weeds (alive or dead) to a height of 50mm or less within 20m of the dwelling.
- Fine fuel load should be maintained at less than 2 tonnes per hectare.
- Mulches should be non-combustible such as stone, gravel or wood mulch less than 6mm thickness.
- Tree trunks at maturity should be a minimum distance of 6m from all parts of any building.
- Trees should be pruned so that no branches are within 2m of ground level.
- Tree branches should not touch or overhand a building or powerline.
- Tree canopy cover should be less than 15% of the total area.
- Tree canopies at maturity should be at least 5m apart to avoid forming a continuous canopy. Stands of existing mature trees with interlocking canopies may be treated as an individual canopy provided that the total canopy cover within the APZ will not exceed 15% and are not connected to the tree canopy outside the APZ.
- Shrub and scrub should not be located under trees or within 3m of any building.
- Shrub and Scrub should not be planted in clumps of more than 5m<sup>2</sup>. Clumps should not be within 10m of one another, or within 10m of a window or door.
- Shrub and scrub should be under pruned and free of dead material.
- Ground covers can be planted under trees but should be maintained to remove dead plant material.
- Ground covers can be located within 2m of a building, however they should not be within 3m of a window or door.

## Camp and Cooking Fires Notice

This Notice is made pursuant to section 25 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. The purpose of the Notice is to prevent the outbreak, spread or expansion of a bush fire within the district.

- The lighting of camp or cooking fires in the open air using solid fuel is prohibited on all land (private and public) within the Shire during prohibited burning times.
- The lighting of camp or cooking fires in the open air using solid fuel is prohibited on all land (private and public) within the Shire during the restricted burning times when the fire danger rating is “high”, “extreme” or “catastrophic”.
- Where a camp or cooking fire is permitted, the fire must not be within 3m of any flammable material or the bush.
- This prohibition does not apply to a gas or electric appliance that does not consume solid fuel provided the flame is encapsulated within the appliance and the appliance is clear of flammable material within a 5m radius.

# Burning of Garden Waste and Rubbish Notice

This Notice is made pursuant to section 24 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. The purpose of the Notice is to prevent the outbreak, spread or expansion of a bush fire within the district and to protect the amenity of residents from excessive smoke and odour in townsites.

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## Properties less than 4,000m<sup>2</sup>

- The burning of garden waste, rubbish or any other material is strictly prohibited year-round.
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## Properties 4,000m<sup>2</sup> or greater

- A permit to burn must be obtained to burn garden waste, rubbish or any other material during the restricted burning times.
- The burning of garden waste, rubbish or any other material is strictly prohibited during the prohibited burning times.



**Report All Fires -  
Phone 000**

**emergency.wa.gov.au**

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## **Department of Fire and Emergency Services**

### **General Enquires**

08 9395 9300

### **Emergency Information**

133 337 (13DFES)

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## **Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions**

### **General Enquires**

08 9290 6100

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## **Shire of Waroona Ranger and Emergency Services**

08 9733 7800

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## **Permit Issuing Officers**

### **Waroona Town and Hamel**

John Twaddle 0417 974 611

### **Lake Clifton**

Gareth Davies 0424 210 034

### **Preston Beach**

Steve Thomas 0431 941 716

Don Bebbington 0418 943 635

### **Waroona West**

Brad Lewis 0409 885 149

### **General**

Peter Thurkle 0487 537 317

52 Hesse Street  
Waroona WA 6215

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SHIRE OF  
**WAROONA**  
SEA TO SCARP