

Council

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT NOTICE 2026/2027

Draft Bushfire Management Notice 2026/2027

Meeting Date: 26 May 2026

Number of Pages: 13



Shire of  
**Plantagenet**

Mount Barker • Kendenup • Narrikup  
Porongurup • Rocky Gully

## FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE  
CAREFULLY AND STORE IT  
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

# BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT NOTICE

2026/2027

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Fire and  
Emergency Management  
go to the Shire's Website  
or  
Scan the QR code



## CONTACT US



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Mount Barker WA 6324



www.plantagenet.wa.gov.au

**Play your part in keeping our community safe from bushfires.  
Reducing the Shire’s bushfire risk is a collective responsibility, we can all  
work together to make our Shire safer.**

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## **Notice**

### **Notice to all owners and occupiers of land within the Shire of Plantagenet**

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA), the Shire of Plantagenet (Shire) gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy within the Shire.

The Shire advises that its authorised persons may carry out the requirements of this notice that are not complied with by the date specified under ‘Key Dates’ of this notice, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

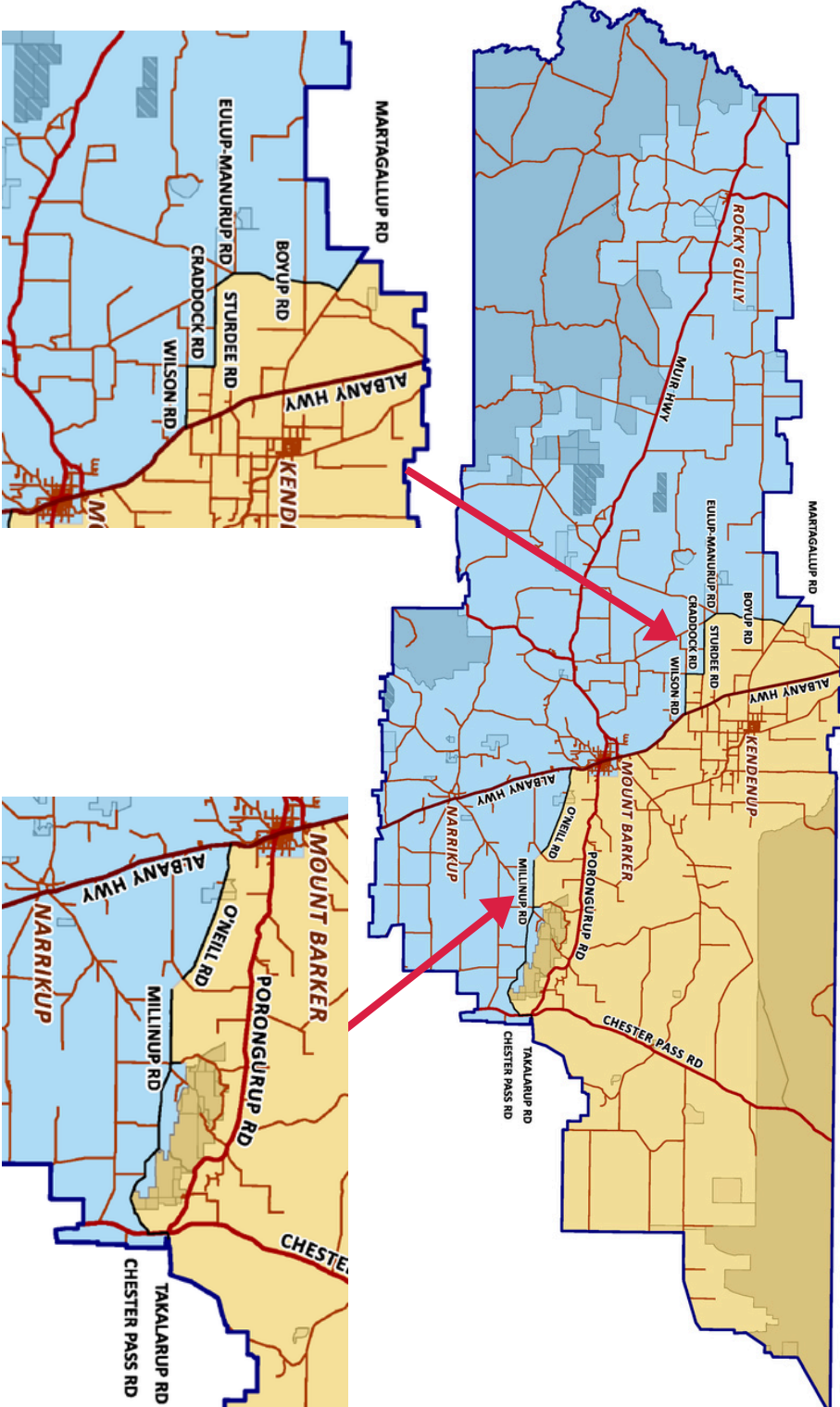
Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5000.

## Definitions

- **Assets:** dwellings, outbuildings (including sheds), fuel tanks, off-grid battery systems, generators, solar panels, and the like, on your property.
- **Asset Protection Zone (APZ):** the area surrounding an asset that is managed to reduce the bush fire hazard to an acceptable level. (further detail provided on page 8)
- **Contiguous Leased Blocks:** if your primary or adjoining leased property is less than 20 hectares, but the contiguous managed land parcel is greater than 20 hectares, they will be regarded as one land parcel.
- **Fine Fuels:** Leaf litter, grasses, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc. A fine fuel load depth of 15mm is indicative of approximately 8 tonne per hectare. The more fuel load, the higher the flame height and increased fire intensity.
- **Fire-break:** is a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass and other flammable material, providing a 'fuel free' area. Fire-breaks are intended to allow access for firefighting vehicles and can provide a fuel free area that can assist with fire control in the event of a bushfire. (further detail provided on page 7)
- **Flammable Material:** any vegetation, organic matter, substance, or object that is capable of being ignited and sustaining combustion, including but not limited to grasses, leaf litter, bark, branches, shrubs, undergrowth, wood piles, mulch, and any other material that may reasonably be expected to contribute to the spread or intensity of a fire.
- **Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB):** a HVMB is issued by the Shire and prohibits any harvesting activity or operation of any internal combustion engine unless on a formed road or the driveway to your property, or tending to stock water etc. under prescribed conditions requiring a fire unit to be in attendance.
- **Plantations and Tree Farms:** means land used commercially for tree production where trees are planted in blocks of more than one hectare, including land in respect of which a carbon right is registered under the Carbon Rights Act 2003 section 5.
- **Prohibited Burning Period:** no burning is allowed for any reason during this period. This includes open cooking or campfires.
- **Restricted Burning Period:** a permit is required from a Shire Fire Control Officer (FCO) before any burning can be carried out.
- **Total Fire Ban (TFB):** is a ban declared under section 22A(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 for a specified period and area of the State. While in effect, section 22B prohibits a person from lighting, maintaining or using a fire in the open air, or carrying out an activity in the open air that causes or is likely to cause a fire, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions or exemptions.
- **Trafficable:** to be able to travel from one point to another in a fire fighting vehicle on a clear surface, unhindered, without any obstruction that may endanger such vehicles.

WESTERN ZONE

EASTERN ZONE



# Key Dates

**FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE**

	<b>WESTERN ZONE</b>	<b>EASTERN ZONE</b>
<b>Camping &amp; Cooking Fires Prohibited on Public Land</b>	15 September to 31 March	15 September to 31 March
<b>Restricted Burning Time</b>	15 October to 30 November	15 September to 14 November
<b>Prohibited Burning Time</b>	1 December to last day in February, and Good Friday	15 November to last day in February, and Good Friday
<b>Restricted Burning Time</b>	1 March to 31 March	1 March to 31 March
<b>Compliance With This Notice Due By</b>	1 December and must remain in place until the conclusion of the Restricted period	15 November and must remain in place until the conclusion of the Restricted period
<b>Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB)</b>	25th December	25th December

**SEASONAL CONDITIONS MAY VARY THE RESTRICTED & PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES, AND HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN (HVMB)**

# Your Responsibilities

The table below outlines the requirements of all land owners and/or occupiers in the Shire of Plantagenet. Please refer to the column that best describes your land size to view your legal responsibilities.

**Exemptions:** unless a written variation or exemption has been granted by the Shire in accordance with the details outlined on page 11 of this notice.

**Key Note:** If your primary or adjoining leased property is less than 20 hectares, but the contiguous managed land parcel is greater than 20 hectares, they will be regarded as one land parcel.

**Compliance with this notice is due by the relevant dates in the 'Key Dates' table**

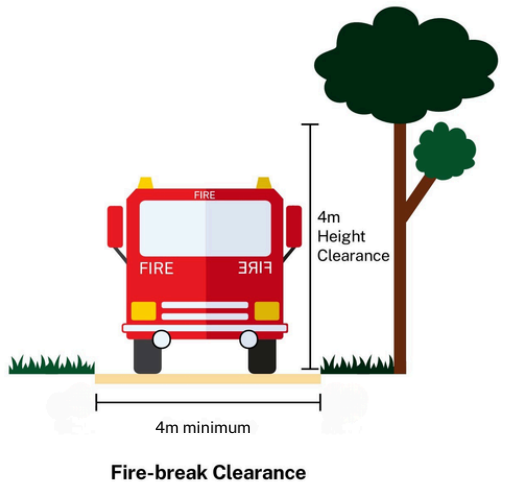
All land with an area of:	Gazetted Townsite Requirements	Outside Gazetted Townsites			
		≤ 1 ha	> 1 ha ≤ 20 ha	> 20 ha	> 10,000 ha
<b>Vacant Land</b> Slash grass to no more than 100mm					
<b>Unstocked/Sufficiently Stocked Land</b> Graze or slash grass to no more than 200mm					
<b>Fire-Breaks</b> If 70% or more of a lot is covered by vegetation other than grass, managed garden beds or a seed producing crop. Install and maintain mineral earth fire breaks as per the requirements outlined on page 7					
<b>Driveways</b> Ensure driveways and access ways to all structures are maintained at a minimum of 4m in width and a vertical clearance height of 4m with all overhanging vegetation trimmed back to clear access					
<b>Dead Flammable Material</b> Reduce and/or maintain all fine fuels to below 8 tonne per hectare.					
<b>Asset Protection Zone (APZ)</b> Properties with assets require an APZ. APZ requirements are outlined on page 8					
<b>Appliances</b> A 3.4 heavy duty operational mobile fire fighting unit (4x4 truck carrying 3,000 litres of water) located within the property boundary					

# Fire-breaks

A fire-break is a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass and other combustible material, providing a 'fuel free' area. Fire-breaks are intended to allow access for firefighting vehicles and can provide a fuel free area from which prescribed (back) burning can be undertaken that can assist with fire control in the event of a bushfire.

- o Maintained and living lawns are acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of mineral earth fire breaks, provided that the same width and height requirements for a fire break are maintained.
- o Clearance must be no less than 4m wide and 4m in height inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to drain, roads and rail reserves and all public open space reserves).
- o Must be a mineral earth break with a continuous trafficable surface, be clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a dead end.
- o If 70% or more of a lot is covered by vegetation other than grass or managed garden beds or a seed producing crop:
  - a fire-break is required around or within 10m of the property boundary.
  - The fire-break must be cleared of flammable material,
  - Be a minimum of 4m wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4m to allow safe passage for fire trucks.

**Plantation & Tree Farm** operators please refer to page 9 of this notice for the relevant fire-break details for these operations.



# Asset Protection Zones (APZ)

Maintain a fuel-reduced zone around all buildings or assets:

- Which extends 20m from the outermost point of the building or asset, or up to your property boundary if this falls within the 20m zone.
- Fuel load within the 20m zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonnes per hectare.
- The 20m zone should include only reticulated lawns, gardens and managed vegetation.
  - Vegetation, including grass, must be maintained to a height of no greater than 50mm
  - Trees over 5m in height, within the 20m zone, should have no branches overhanging the asset, with lower branches cleared at least 2m from the ground.
  - Trees or shrubs within 2m of the asset shall be pruned to a height no greater than 2m and/or pruned away from the asset to a distance no less than 2m.
- Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.

Please refer to the below images for depictions of some of the above details.



**Compliant Fuel Load**



**Non-Compliant Fuel Load**



**Asset Protection Zone (APZ) shown in orange**

# Plantations & Tree Farms

The requirements for Plantations and Tree Farms are as follows:

1. Fire-breaks must be constructed as specified in this notice.
2. Boundary fire-breaks are to be 15m wide.
  - a. Within this 15m area, 6m are to be as central as possible with a bare mineral and trafficable surface
  - b. A minimum vertical clearance of 4m. This section is to be maintained as a fire-break.
  - c. The remaining 4.5m either side of the fire-break is to be maintained in a fuel reduced state (entirely non-flammable fuel and any flammable fuels at a height of no greater than 50mm)
3. Internal fire-breaks, between compartments, are to have a minimum trafficable width of 6m, which must be kept clear of vegetation and other flammable material, with a minimum vertical clearance of 4m for the full length of the fire-break.

Exemptions: Areas less than 3 hectares within townsites, or less than 10 hectares in rural areas.

The recommendations for Plantations and Tree Farms are as follows:

1. A 3.4 heavy duty operational mobile firefighting unit (4x4 truck carrying 3,000 litres of water) and crew should be available for deployment to incidents. The combination of appliance and crew should be in reasonable proximity to the Shire of Plantagenet whether it be within the Shire itself or an adjoining Shire.

For more information on Plantation and Tree Farms, please see DFES's Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection (2011).

## Stored Combustible Material

**Stored Combustible Material** means haystacks, straw, fodder, firewood, mulch, timber, tyres or similar combustible material stored outdoors in a quantity that may contribute to the outbreak, spread or extension of a bush fire.

Where Stored Combustible Material is kept on land, the owner or occupier must:

1. install and maintain a mineral earth fire-break completely surrounding the Stored Combustible Material in line with requirements set out on page 7 of this notice
2. maintain all grass, weeds, vegetation and other inflammable material within 10 metres of the Stored Combustible Material to a height of no more than 50mm

Exemption: Hay stored more than 100m from assets is deemed exempt from this requirement

This requirement does not apply to small domestic quantities of firewood or other combustible material stored in a manner that does not, in the opinion of the Shire or an authorised officer, increase bushfire risk.

# Operating Machinery During Restricted & Prohibited Periods

Operation	Requirements	Legislative Basis
<b>Tractors or harvesters</b>	Must not be operated unless fitted with a fire extinguisher.	Bush Fires Act 1954 — s27(3)
<b>Operation of engines, vehicles or machinery likely to cause fire</b>	During restricted or prohibited burning periods, where permitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firefighting equipment at site</li> <li>• Spark arresters</li> <li>• Other risk mitigation measures</li> </ul>	Bush Fires Regulations 1954 — r38B
<b>Harvesting, slashing, swathing, baling, portable sawmills</b>	During restricted or prohibited burning periods, where permitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mobile operational firefighting unit (min. 400L) must be present within the operational area and within 1km of machinery</li> </ul>	Condition imposed under r38B (not prescribed in legislation, but lawful as a condition)
<b>Welding, cutting, grinding (open air hot works)</b>	During restricted or prohibited burning periods, where permitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400L firefighting unit at site</li> <li>• 9kg fire extinguisher at work location</li> <li>• 5m radius cleared to bare mineral earth</li> <li>• Observer present at all times</li> </ul>	Condition imposed under r38B
<b>Slashing / mowing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Machinery- 9kg extinguisher on vehicle</li> <li>• Handheld Machinery- 4.5kg extinguisher within 20m</li> </ul>	Condition imposed under r38B
<b>Tractors, trucks, self-propelled harvesters in crop/stubble</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9kg fire extinguisher on vehicle</li> </ul>	Bush Fires Act 1954 — s27(3) (minimum) + additional conditions via r38B
<b>BBQ's, Smokers, Pellet BBQ's etc. (contained)</b>	During restricted or prohibited burning periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9kg fire extinguisher at location</li> <li>• 5m radius cleared to bare earth or 3m walls surrounding unit</li> <li>• Observer present and fire contained at all times</li> <li>• Sufficient water supply to be within reasonable a proximity</li> <li>• Fire must be completely extinguished when activity is completed</li> <li>• Not to be done on a day above a High Fire Danger Rating (FDR)</li> </ul>	Condition imposed under r38B
<b>Stock</b>	During a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB): feeding, watering, loading and unloading of animals requires a 400L Operational Fire Fighting Unit either attached to, or to accompany any vehicle that is feeding, watering, loading or unloading of animals.	Condition imposed under r38B  <b>Page 10 of 12</b>

# General Information

## Variations to this Notice

If you consider it impractical to meet any requirements of this Notice, you may apply to the Shire for a variation no later than **1 October 2026**.

Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ other methods of property preparedness to land that you own and/or occupy.

If your application is not granted you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Bushfire Management Notice 2026/2027.

**Variation requests** can be submitted via the form found on the Emergency Services section of the Shire's website.

## Bushfire Management Plans

Where a property has an approved Bushfire Management Plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in this Notice and with any additional requirements outlined within that Plan.

## Environmental Conditions

Any property subject to environmental value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora and Fauna (DRF) sites, etc. should seek further information about what can or cannot be done prior to carrying out requirements under this Notice.

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Landowners and occupiers are reminded that all bushfire mitigation works undertaken on private property must comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA). Under this legislation, it is an offence to knowingly damage, disturb, or alter any Aboriginal site, whether the site is registered or unregistered.

It is recommended that landowners and occupiers check the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System to ensure works are not within an Aboriginal heritage area, or contact the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage with any queries relating to this.

## Shire Messaging System

The Shire operates a Short Messaging Service (SMS) for residents for the notification of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) within the Shire of Plantagenet. For more information visit our website.

## Abandoned Buildings

Abandoned buildings must be clearly marked by a sign and have the same requirements as a shed. A compliant sign shall have the word 'ABANDONED BUILDING' in **RED** with lettering 150mm high on a white background placed in a clearly visible location.

## Permit to Burn – Thoroughfare (Verge)

A person shall not burn any part of a thoroughfare or verge at any time of the year without first obtaining a permit from the Shire.

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES  
CALL 000**

## Key Contacts

Area	Captain	Number
Albany Kojaneerup	Ashton Hood	0427 477 234
Denbarker	Brad Lynch	0428 969 883
Forest Hill	Craig Moore	0409 424 766
Kendenup	Ben Furber	0497 860 754
Middle Ward	Andrew Mackie	0458 242 629
Mount Barker Townsite	Matt Newham	0427 423 038
Narpyn	Robert Wright	0409 611 534
Narrikup	Dale Wyland	0482 966 758
Perillup	Dean Trotter	0428 188 862
Porongurup	Tristan Hample	0447 764 212
Porongurup South	Wayne Matthews	0499 459 974
Rocky Gully	Murray Wills	0408 952 553
South Stirlings	Graeme Pyle	0477 543 069
Wooegenellup	Nathan Hunt	0427 505 612

Topic	Detail	Number
Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB) Hotline	Provides updates on active bans and restricted and prohibited burning times	9892 1102 & Shire Social Media Platforms
Total Fire Ban (TFB) Hotline	For information on Total Fire Bans (TFB's)	1800 709 355 or visit <a href="http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au">www.emergency.wa.gov.au</a>
Volunteering	To find out about volunteering with your local bushfire brigade	Call the captain in your area above or the Shire on 9892 1111