

Council

**ANNUAL BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE
2023/2024**

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ANNUAL BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE 2023 / 2024



All Shire of Plantagenet landowners and occupiers, must prepare their property for the bush fire season.

This includes homeowners, tenants, absentee landowners, holiday homeowners and people living on rural properties.

**PLAY YOUR PART IN KEEPING THE
COMMUNITY SAFE FROM BUSH FIRES**

Please read this notice carefully and store it for future reference. Do not discard.

**FOR ALL BUSH FIRE
EMERGENCIES DIAL 000**

For current information relating to harvest and vehicle movement bans or restricted and prohibited burning times, phone 9892 1102.

DEFINITIONS

Firebreak - The firebreak must be ploughed, cultivated, scarified, chemically sprayed, slashed or otherwise cleared of flammable material to a maximum vegetation height of 50mm.

Total Fire Ban - The lighting of open-air fires or any other activity in the open air that is likely to cause a fire is banned. For more information go to:
www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans/Pages/whatisatfb.aspx

Your Responsibilities

As a measure to assist in the control of a bush fire, or to prevent the spread of a bush fire, all owners and occupiers of land in the Shire of Plantagenet are required to take fire mitigation measures in accordance with this Notice.

This includes requirements for vacant land, townsite lots, rural residential lots, broadacre farming and structures and buildings and any other assets on all categories of land.

Fire protection measures are essential to help slow the rate of spreading fires and to allow safe access for fire fighters while fighting a fire. If your property is too dangerous to defend, fire fighters may not be able to assist you to save your property in a bush fire emergency.

To play your part in keeping the community safe please take care of the work yourself or engage a contractor to do the work on your behalf.

REMEMBER - this is YOUR responsibility

Please read this guide carefully for the correct standards that apply to your property.

Contact the Shire Ranger or Community Emergency Services Manager during office hours on 9892 1111 if you have any queries in relation to your obligations.

Heavy penalties apply to persons who fail to comply with the requirements of this Notice. This could be an infringement or prosecution. The Shire may engage a contractor to carry out the required work at the cost of the owner or occupier.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE

***Pursuant to the powers contained in
Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954,***

***you are hereby required to undertake the following
bush fire mitigation measures by the dates
prescribed in the 'Important Information and
Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this
Notice.***

Lots with Assets, up to and including, 1 hectare

You must create an Asset Protection Zone (refer to page 10 for details) and slash or graze the grass over the whole lot to 100mm in height.

If 70% or more of your lot is covered by vegetation other than grass or managed garden beds, a firebreak is required around or within 10 metres of your property boundary. The firebreak must be cleared of flammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

Bush areas are to be kept in a hazard reduced state. This can be achieved by parkland clearing, mulching or removing dead vegetation, bark, leaf litter etc.

Lots without Assets (vacant land) up to, and including, 1 hectare

You must slash or graze the grass over the whole lot to 100mm in height.

If 70% or more of your lot is covered by vegetation other than grass, a firebreak is required around or within 10 metres of your property boundary. The firebreak must be cleared of flammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

Bush areas are to be kept in a hazard reduced state. This can be achieved by parkland clearing, mulching or removing dead vegetation, bark, leaf litter etc.



Bush maintained in a
hazard reduced state



Non-compliant fire
fuel load

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.

Note: refer to the 'Important Information and Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this Notice for the deadlines for your mitigation measures to be installed.

All properties greater than 1 hectare and up to, and including, 20 hectares

You must clear an Asset Protection Zone (refer to page 10 for details) and slash or graze the grass to no greater than 100mm high in town sites, and harvest crops over the property to 200mm in height.

Driveways into the property must be cleared of flammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres to allow safe passage for fire trucks.

If 70% or more of your lot is covered by vegetation other than grass, managed garden beds or a seed producing crop, a firebreak is required around or within 10 metres of your property boundary. The firebreak must be cleared of flammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

Contiguous Leased Blocks

Where a landowner's primary or adjoining leased property is less than 20ha but the contiguous managed land parcel is greater than 20ha they will be regarded as being one land parcel for the purposes of this Notice. Proof of a formal lease may be required before this clause becomes operable.

If the lease expires or is otherwise cancelled, any affected properties less than 20ha will attract the requirements and restrictions for any block under 20ha stipulated elsewhere in this Notice.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.

Sheds, abandoned buildings, haystacks, fuel storage and any other asset on all properties greater than

1 hectare and up to, and including, 20 hectares

You must clear a firebreak no less than 20 metres and no more than 100 metres from the perimeter of sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage. This firebreak is to be cleared of flammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

The area between the firebreak and sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage is to be kept in a hazard reduced state with grass and/or vegetation limited to 100mm in height.

Hay stored beyond 100 metres of assets does not require a firebreak.

Abandoned Buildings

Abandoned Buildings must be clearly marked by a sign and shall be considered under 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.

Livestock on properties up to, and Including, 20 hectares

If your land is permanently and sufficiently stocked, there is no need to slash your property. Livestock must graze the grass down to no greater than 100mm high in town sites or 200mm high on properties up to 20 hectares.

Fire Management Plans

In addition to the requirements of this Notice, where a Fire Management Plan has been implemented as part of a subdivision, property owners must ensure their property meets the requirements outlined in the Fire Management Plan. Such subdivisions include (but are not limited to) Mira Flores, Stoney Creek and Braidwood Heights.

You should seek clarification from the Shire of Plantagenet if you are unsure of your responsibilities contained in your Fire Management Plan and this Notice.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.

Note: refer to the 'Important Information and Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this Notice for the deadlines for your mitigation measures to be installed.

All properties greater than 20 hectares

You must clear an Asset Protection Zone (refer to page 10 for details).

Driveways into the property must be cleared of flammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres to allow safe passage for fire trucks.

Sheds, haystacks and fuel storage on all properties greater than 20 hectares

You must clear a firebreak no less than 20 metres and no more than 100 metres from the perimeter of sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage. This firebreak is to be cleared of flammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

The area between the firebreak and sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage is to be kept in a hazard reduced state with grass and/or vegetation limited to 100mm in height.

Hay stored beyond 100 metres of any asset does not require a firebreak.

Landowners or Managers of properties greater than 10,000 hectares

A 3.4 Heavy Duty Appliance (4x4 truck carrying 3,000 litres of water) must be located within the property boundary.

In addition to the requirements for your property there are requirements you must meet for rural operations during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times. Refer to page 13 for more details.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.

Plantations / Tree Farms

A plantation / tree farm is defined as an area exceeding 3 hectares within townsites or an area exceeding 10 hectares within rural areas, of trees planted or land under preparation for planting of trees for commercial purposes.

Plantation Fire Mitigation Requirements

Please refer to the 'Important Information and Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this Notice for the deadlines for plantation fire mitigation requirements to be installed.

Firebreaks

Plantation boundary firebreaks shall be constructed on the boundaries of all plantations, or such other location as agreed to by the Council.

Boundary firebreaks are to be 15 metres wide and free of flammable material, with a trafficable surface of at least 6 metres. A vertical clearance is to be established to a height of 4 metres above ground level over the trafficable portion of the firebreak.

Planting compartments are also required, consisting of an area of approximately 30 hectares. These shall be surrounded by 6 metre wide firebreaks cleared of all flammable material (with a 5 metre trafficable surface). A vertical clearance of all overhanging branches, at least 4 metres above ground level is required to allow unrestricted access for fire fighting equipment. This applies to all established and subsequent rotation (coppice) plantations.

Planting compartments for new or re-established plantations after 1 July 2012 shall consist of an individual area of approximately 30 hectares surrounded by firebreaks with an 8 metre tree to tree separation, a 6 metre horizontal clearance free of all flammable material (with a 6 metre trafficable surface) and a vertical clearance of all overhanging branches to at least 4 metres above ground level to allow unrestricted access for fire fighting equipment.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.

Plantations / Tree Farms

All landowners or managers of plantation estates greater than 10,000 hectares in total require a 3.4 Heavy Duty Appliance (4x4 truck carrying 3,000 litres of water) located within the Shire.

A firebreak variation may be granted if barriers on the property prevent the installation of firebreaks. Please contact the Shire of Plantagenet for further information.

Remainder of the Property

All areas of the property which are not a plantation / tree farm must comply with the requirements detailed elsewhere in this Notice.

Harvesting

When harvesting is in progress, harvesters must maintain a 400 litre (minimum) mobile fire fighting unit in or adjacent to where harvesting is being carried out.

Harvested and Reversion Plantations

Plantation firebreaks shall remain in place until the removal of all stumps is completed. Boundary firebreaks are to be 6 metres wide (with a 5 metre trafficable surface) and a vertical clearance of all overhanging branches at least 4 metres above ground level. All compartment firebreaks to be maintained to the same measurements.

Abandoned Plantations

Plantation firebreaks shall remain in place until the removal of all stumps is completed.

Fire Protection of Private Plantations

All plantations must comply with the *Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection* unless approval to vary those conditions has been granted by the Shire.

A copy of the guidelines may be obtained from the Shire of Plantagenet or from www.plantagenet.wa.gov.au

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RURAL LAND OPERATIONS DURING THE RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES

Type of Operation	Requirements
Harvesting of seed Harvesting of timber Swathing (except canola) Slashing Baling straw / stubble Stone chaining Operation of a portable sawmill	A mobile fire fighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres to be stationed in, or immediately adjacent to, the paddock or area where the operation takes place and within 1 kilometre of the operating machine.
Operation of welding equipment in the open air and power operated abrasive cutting discs	A mobile fire fighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres to be stationed in, or immediately adjacent to, the paddock or area where the operation takes place. A fire extinguisher to be provided at the place where the welding or cutting operation is carried out. Where a welding or cutting operation is carried out, an area around the equipment shall be cleared of all flammable material to bare earth to a 5 metre radius. In addition, an observer shall be on hand to monitor the site at all times.
Operation of tractors, trucks and self propelled harvesters in standing crop or stubble paddocks	An operational fire extinguisher must be carried on the vehicles.

If these minimum requirements are not in place and a fire is started by one of these operations, the person responsible for starting the fire may be liable for the cost of fighting the fire.

WHAT IS AN ASSET PROTECTION ZONE?

The aim of an Asset Protection Zone is to ensure there is no direct flame contact on any asset from a fire and to increase the chance of the asset surviving a bush fire. This is done by managing and reducing the amount of fire fuel for a minimum 20 metres around all assets.

An Asset Protection Zone, in accordance with State Planning Policy 3.7 - Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas, is required to be established around all assets and maintained during the restricted and prohibited burning times.

The Asset Protection Zone must extend a minimum of 20 metres from any external walls of the Asset/s (or up to your property boundary if this falls within the 20 metre zone) and must have:

- Only reticulated lawns, gardens and managed vegetation within the zone. Managed vegetation means removing dead plants, fallen branches, bark and deep leaf matter;
- All grass maintained to 50mm or less throughout the 20 metre zone;
- Trees trimmed so there are no branches overhanging the asset;
- Lower branches of trees pruned so they are at least 2 metres off the ground;
- Firewood piles kept out of the zone; and
- Gutters kept free of leaves and branches.

To maximise the protection of your asset, you may also like to consider:

- Ensuring there are no trees or shrubs more than 2 metres high within 2 metres of an asset;
- Installing footpaths, driveways and other non-flammable features close to the asset;
- Increasing the Asset Protection Zone on sloping ground. It is recommended that the zone be extended at least 1 metre for every 1 degree in slope;
- Planting / maintaining trees and shrubs to avoid clumping. Tree crowns should be kept a minimum of 10 metres apart;
- Ensuring the pressure relief valve on gas bottles points away from your asset; and
- Keeping an operational fire fighting unit.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES

Zones

The Shire of Plantagenet is separated into Eastern and Western Zones. The boundary between these two bushfire control areas is described as follows.

The boundary line between zones starts at:

- The northern end of Martagallup Road, along Martagallup Road to Boyup Road;
- South on Boyup Road to Sturdee Road;
- East along Sturdee Road to Craddock Road;
- South on Craddock Road to Wilson Road;
- East along Wilson Road to Albany Highway;
- South on Albany Highway to the northern boundary of the gazetted townsite of Mount Barker;
- Follow the gazetted boundary east, then south, then back west to Albany Highway;
- South along Albany highway to O'Neill Road;
- East along O'Neill Road to Woodlands Road;
- North along Woodlands Road to Loc 949;
- East along Loc 949 northern boundary and along the southern boundary of the Porongurup National Park (north of Mira Flores) to Chester Pass Road;
- North on Chester Pass Road to Takalarup Road; and
- East on Takalarup Road to the south east corner of the Shire boundary. (See map on the last page)

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

Harvest Ban Any operation of machinery involved in harvesting seed crops / timber and / or any other produce MUST come to a complete stop in paddocks when a ban is in place. A harvest ban applies on Christmas Day.

Vehicle Movement Ban No vehicles or internal combustion engines are to be driven or operated unless on a constructed road or the driveway into the property residence when a ban is in place. Hot work such as welding or grinding is not to be undertaken in the open air.

Broadcast of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

Shire of Plantagenet Harvest Ban Hotline - 9892 1102. A recorded message will advise what type of ban is active in the Shire and will also provide details on the Restricted and Burning Time dates.

SMS Messaging of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans
A text message is sent to registered mobile telephones when a ban is set. Contact 9892 1111 if you would like your mobile phone number included on the distribution list.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES

DATES TO REMEMBER IN THE EASTERN ZONE

**Camping and Cooking Fires are prohibited
from 3 October until 30 April**

**Mitigation measures required by this Notice
must be in place by 15 November and
remain cleared until 30 April**

**Property Compliance Inspections
start 15 November and will continue
through to 30 April**

*Seasonal conditions may vary the Restricted
and Prohibited Burning Times.
Contact 9892 1102 for current information.*

DATES TO REMEMBER IN THE WESTERN ZONE

**Camping and Cooking Fires are prohibited
from 3 October until 30 April**

**Mitigation measures required by this Notice
must be in place by 15 December and
remain cleared until 30 April**

**Property Compliance Inspections
start 15 December and will continue
through to 30 April**

*Seasonal conditions may vary the Restricted
and Prohibited Burning Times.
Contact 9892 1102 for current information.*

RESTRICTIONS ON BURNING

**The Shire of Plantagenet is in the
STIRLINGS WEST AREA for fire danger ratings.**

Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods

Lighting fires on your property can be extremely dangerous. To help reduce the risk, PROHIBITED and RESTRICTED burning times are set. These dates indicate when you are required to seek a Burning Permit.

EASTERN ZONE

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required

3 October to 14 November

Prohibited Burning Time - No burning

15 November to 28 February and Good Friday

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required

1 March to 30 April

WESTERN ZONE

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required

2 November to 14 December

Prohibited Burning Time - No burning

15 December to 28 February and Good Friday

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required

1 March to 30 April

***These dates may vary due to seasonal conditions.
For current information phone 9892 1102.***

Burning Permits must be obtained from your local Fire Control Officer before burning commences and any special conditions detailed on the permit must be adhered to. Contact details for Fire Control Officers are available from www.plantagenet.wa.gov.au or telephone 9892 1111.

Permits will not be issued when the risk of fire escape is considered to be unacceptably high. Your permit is deemed null and void if a Total Fire Ban (set by DFES or a Section 46 Notice of the Bush Fire Act) is imposed by the Shire of Plantagenet.

It is illegal to approach more than one Fire Control Officer to obtain a Burning Permit.

Burning road verges is encouraged, however, a permit must be obtained from the Shire of Plantagenet (year round). Contact 9892 1111 for more details.

COOKING FIRES

NO COOKING FIRES ARE TO BE LIT DURING A TOTAL FIRE BAN

Public Land

Unauthorised fires are prohibited on Shire of Plantagenet land throughout the year.

This includes

- Shire of Plantagenet reserves.
- Campsites.
- Council road verges.

Gas appliances can be used.

The Shire provides free BBQ facilities at various locations for public use.

Private Land

Cooking or BBQ style fires (using solid fuel) must be fully enclosed. These types of fires can be used on private land during the restricted and prohibited fire seasons provided the following conditions are met.

- The fire is not lit on a day where the Fire Danger Forecast is 'High' or above (approval from the Shire of Plantagenet can be granted in special circumstances).
- The fire has a 3 metre zone clear of flammables.
- The fire is fully contained to prevent escape.
- The fire is attended at all times.
- Sufficient water is available to extinguish the fire.
- The fire and any remnants are completely extinguished prior to leaving the site with no possibility of re-ignition.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

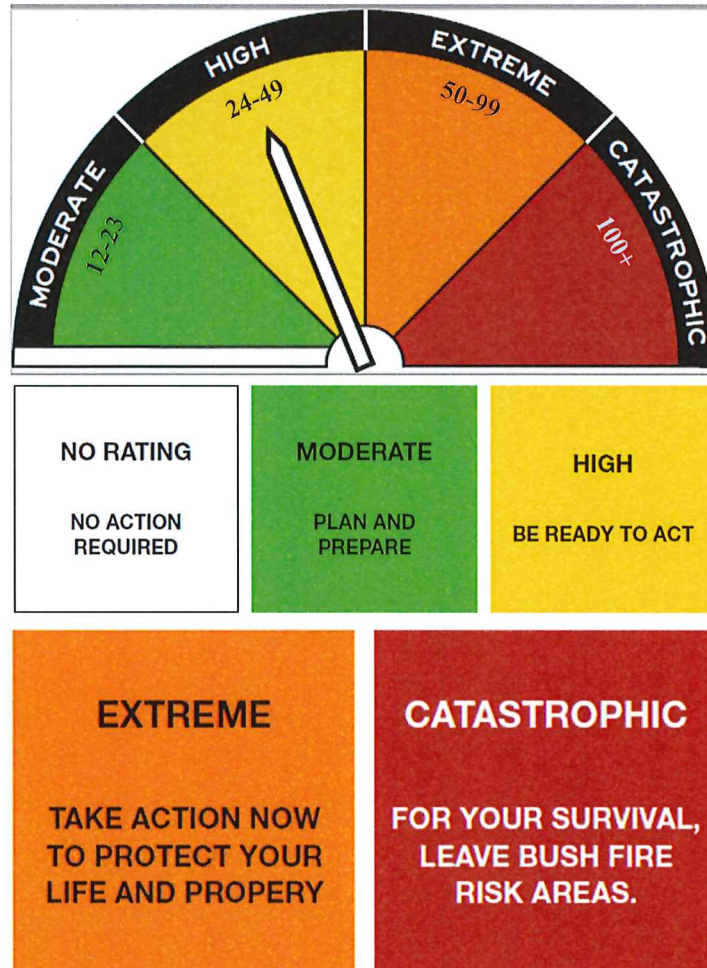
Do you want to help your community?

Local governments manage and support Bush Fire Brigades, drive recovery efforts after a fire and assist their community to prepare for high threat periods.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
BUSH FIRE BRIGADE TODAY
PHONE 9892 1111 TO
FIND OUT MORE**

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

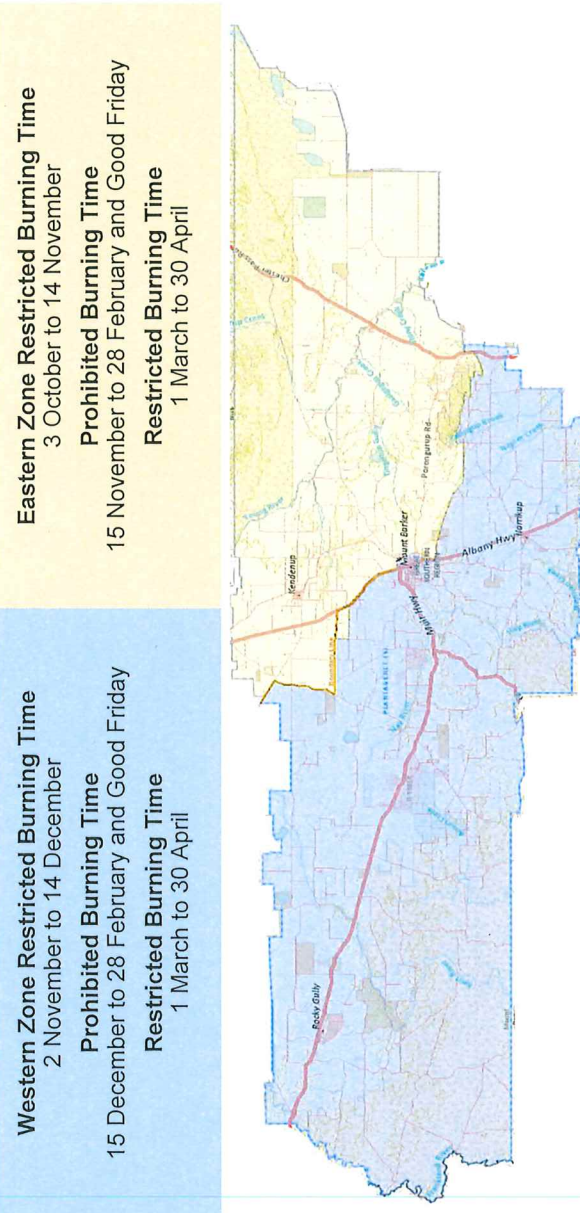
HAS CHANGED



The AFDRS will enhance public safety and reduce the impacts of bush fires by improving the scientific accuracy behind fire danger predictions.

It has been designed to strengthen the ability of fire authorities to accurately communicate bush fire risk to the community, enhance agency readiness and preparedness, and contribute to risk management prevention.

Zone Map



Camping and Cooking Fires are prohibited from
3 October until 30 April