



Bush Fire Act 1954

BUSH FIRE ORDER 2009/2010

REGULATED BURNING TIMES

Prohibited Burning Period

15th December to 14th March inclusive

Restricted Burning Period - Permits Required

2nd November to 14th December inclusive

15th March to 26th April inclusive

Weather conditions may result in these dates being changed. Your local Bush Fire Control Officer or the Shire office will be able to assist you with details of any changes.

YOUR OBLIGATIONS AS A LANDOWNER

As a landowner or occupier you are required under Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 to carry out fire prevention work on your property in accordance with the provisions of this order. Please read this notice carefully. If there are any points that are not fully understood please contact Community Ranger Services during office hours on 9727 0222.

All fire prevention work must be carried out by 30th November and kept maintained throughout the summer months until the end of the Restricted Burning Period on 26th April.

An inspection of properties to ensure fire prevention work such as firebreaks and hazard removal measures have been carried out will be completed in all areas of the Shire by an Authorised Officer after 30th November.

Persons who fail to comply with the requirements of this Order may be issued with an infringement notice of \$250.00 or prosecuted with a penalty of up to \$5,000 through the courts. Additionally, Council may carry out the required work and charge the cost to the owner or occupier.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Order the following definitions apply -

"Firebreak" means ground from which all flammable material has been removed, which is trafficable and permits the free movement of a four wheel drive vehicle, on which no flammable material is permitted to accumulate during the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Periods.

Firebreaks must be constructed on your property. Firebreaks on road reserves do not constitute a legal firebreak.

"Firebreak Exemption"

- (i) Applies when the firebreak cannot be installed due to the ground being water logged to such an extent to prevent the installation of the firebreak. However, the firebreak must be installed at the earliest opportunity when ground conditions permit.
- (ii) Applies where a paddock fence breaks the continuity of a continuous firebreak on a land holding exceeding 5 hectares.

"Haystack" means any collection of hay including fodder rolls placed or stacked together that exceeds 100 cubic metres in size (eg 5m x 5m x 4m).

"Low Fuel Zone" means the removal of dead grass, dead trees, leaf litter and trash, and the removal of dead branches to a height of 1.5 metres from live standing trees. Established and well maintained grassed and garden areas are considered to be a low fuel zone.

"Plantation"

- (i) A Plantation is any area of planted pines or eucalyptus species exceeding 3 hectares in area.
- (ii) A windbreak is a planted area a maximum of 15 metres wide but with no defined length.

FIREBREAK VARIATIONS

If it is considered impractical for any reason to clear firebreaks or remove flammable materials from the land as required by this notice, you may make written application and include a plan of your land detailing your fire prevention measures to the Council or its duly authorised Officer, by no later than 31 October each year for:

- (i) Permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or take alternative action to abate fire hazards on the land.
- (ii) An exemption from the requirement to provide firebreaks for either a twelve month or a five year period.

This application must be counter-signed by the Bush Fire Control Officer for the area in which the land is situated to signify his agreement to the variation. If the Council or its duly Authorised Officer does not grant permission you shall comply with the requirements of this Order.

MINIMUM FIRE HAZARD REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS

A URBAN LAND

- 1 Where the area of land is 2,024m² or less.

All inflammable material is to be removed from the whole of the land except living trees shrubs or plants.

- 2 Where the area of land exceeds 2,024m²,

A 3 metre wide firebreak is required inside and along external boundaries of the land.

All other grass remaining on the property is to be slashed to a maximum height of 100mm. If slashing cannot be achieved all remaining grass is to be burnt or sprayed with a suitable herbicide to prevent regrowth during the summer months.

On the vertical plane on the side of the firebreak the trees are to be pruned to a minimum height of 5 metres.

A 20-metre low fuel zone around all buildings on the land is required.

B STRATEGIC FIRE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Land owners in the following special rural and residential estates are required to comply with the requirements of the approved Fire Management Plans for the estate.

Ramblewood Estate-Stage 4 (Eastern end of Gelorup Rise / Yalinda Drive.
Bullerswood Estate Stratham
Joshua Brook Estate Boyanup
Scott's Estate Jilley Road Gelorup.

C PEPPERMINT GROVE BEACH TOWNSITE

All land situated within the Peppermint Grove Beach Townsite less than 2,024 square metres is to be maintained as a low fuel zone that is free of all flammable material, except living trees shrubs or plants.

Where the area of land exceeds 2,024 square metres, a three-metre firebreak is required inside and along external boundaries of the land.

D PLANTATIONS

Boundary Firebreaks:

On the horizontal plane a firebreak shall be provided 15 metres wide and immediately adjoining all external boundaries of the of the planted area.

The outer 10 metres will be cleared of all flammable material while the inner 5 metres, i.e. that portion closest to trees may be kept in a reduced fuel state, i.e.

by slashing or grazing grass provided that the height of the grass does not exceed 8cm.

On the vertical plane a clear space 4 metres high will be maintained above outer 10 metres of the firebreak.

Internal Firebreaks:

Plantations shall be subdivided into areas not exceeding 30 hectares by firebreaks 6 metres wide which shall be cleared of all flammable material. In the vertical plane a clearance of a minimum height of 4 metres from the ground level will be maintained above the firebreak.

E SPECIAL RISKS

1 Powerlines:

Firebreaks shall be provided along powerlines where they pass through or lie adjacent to plantation areas. The specification of the width and the height of clearing shall be in accordance with Western Power specifications.

2 Fuel and/or Gas Depots:

In respect of land owned or occupied by you on which is situated any container normally used to contain liquids or gas fuel, including the land on which any ramp or supports are constructed, you shall have land clear of all flammable materials.

F RURAL LAND

Where the land is zoned Rural

1 Firebreaks of at least two metres in width and not more than 20 metres from the perimeter of all buildings and hay stacks situated on the land so as to completely surround the buildings and haystacks.

2 Firebreaks need only be installed at the discretion of the landowner. Firebreaks are required where the land abuts a road reserve (whether a road is constructed or not) and any land that is owned or vested in the care, control and maintenance of a State or Local Government Authority.

G SPECIAL RURAL LAND.

Where the area of land exceeds 2,024 square metres a 3 metre wide firebreak is required inside and along all external boundaries of the land.

All remaining grass inside the firebreaks to be slashed to a maximum height of 100mm if is impracticable to slash the grass it must be burnt or sprayed with a suitable herbicide to comply with requirements of this notice so as to prevent regrowth during the summer months.

On the vertical plane on the side of the firebreak all trees are to be pruned to a minimum height of 5 metres.

A 20 metre wide low fuel zone is required around all buildings on the land.

H CAMPFIRES

Campfires are totally banned within the whole of the Shire including beaches, during the prohibited burning period, except in recognised camping and picnic areas where properly constructed facilities exist.

I BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE

The burning of garden refuse is prohibited at all times during the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Periods. This does not apply to garden refuse burnt in an Approved incinerator, used in accordance with the Bush Fires Act 1954.

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ROAD VERGES.

The Shire is unable to maintain all road verges within the district due to the high costs involved.

Minimal slashing and some spraying of verges is undertaken in rural and semi rural areas to minimise road hazards, however it cannot be guaranteed that this action will sufficiently reduce all fire risks.

Council actively encourages landowners to maintain the road verges adjoining their property in the same manner in which their property is maintained.

Reporting Fires

All fires are to be reported to emergency services by telephoning 000.

Any complaints or enquiries regarding illegal fires should be reported to the Shire's Community Rangers during working hours on 9727 0222 or after hours on 0417 953 959.

Obtaining Permits

Permits are required between 2nd November and 14th December and 15th March and 26th April each year. These dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions.

Area Bush Fire Control Officers can be contacted for issuing of "Permits to Set Fire to the Bush". When applying for a permit you will need to advise the details of the property for which the permit is to apply and satisfy the issuing officer that steps have been taken to contain the fire and control smoke and that adjoining neighbours have been notified of your intention to burn.

AREA BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

AREA	BUSH FIRE CO	TELEPHONE
Gelorup/Dalyellup	Ian Clifton	9795 8212 or 0428 359 497
Elgin North/Gelorup	Chris Scott	9795 7443 or 0408 921 356
Stratham	Murray Scott	9727 2223 or 0407 270 023
Elgin South	Barry Bell	9727 2342 or 0427 966 126
Boyanup North	Trevor Brockman	9731 5454 or 0407 080 925
Boyanup South	Brian Smith	9731 5618 or 0427 387 412
Capel River	Ron Hartnup	9731 7151 Or 0408 187 615
Capel South	Neale Scott	97271542 or 0428 121 222
Capel Town	Steve Rice	9727 2533 or 0427 882 433
Stirling/Peppy Grove	Ian Cocker	9727 1125 or 0417 909 995
	Bob Ramage	9727 1805 or 0407 271 805