

Bushfire Compliance Notice 2023/24



First and final notice

To all owners/occupiers of land within the Shire of Murray

Your property must comply with the requirements of this Bushfire Compliance Notice by 1 December 2023 and be maintained through to 15 May 2024



A maximum penalty of \$5,000 applies for non-compliance of this Bushfire Compliance Notice

Pursuant to the powers contained in **Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 (the Act)**, owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Murray (Shire) are required to carry out fire preparedness work on their land that must comply with the requirements as stated in this Bushfire Compliance Notice (Notice). Fire preparedness work must be completed by **1 December 2023** and must be maintained through to **15 May 2024**.

Pursuant to **Section 33 (4) of the Bush Fires Act 1954**, where the owner and/or occupier of the land fails or neglects to comply with the requirements of this Notice within the times as specified in this Notice, the Shire may enter upon the land and carry out the requirements of this Notice that have not been completed by the owner and/or occupier of the land.

Pursuant to **Section 33 (5) of the Bush Fires Act 1954**, the Shire may recover from the owner and/or occupier of land the amount of any costs and expenses incurred by the Shire to complete the requirements of this Notice that have not been completed by the owner and/or occupier of the land.

Important dates to remember

Restricted burning time one

Permit to burn required

1 October 2023 – 30 November 2023 (inclusive)

Fire preparedness works deadline

Completed by 30 November 2023

Maintained up to and including 15 May 2024

Prohibited burning time

Burning prohibited

1 December 2023 – 31 March 2024 (inclusive)

Restricted burning time two

Permit to burn required

1 April 2024 – 15 May 2024 (inclusive)

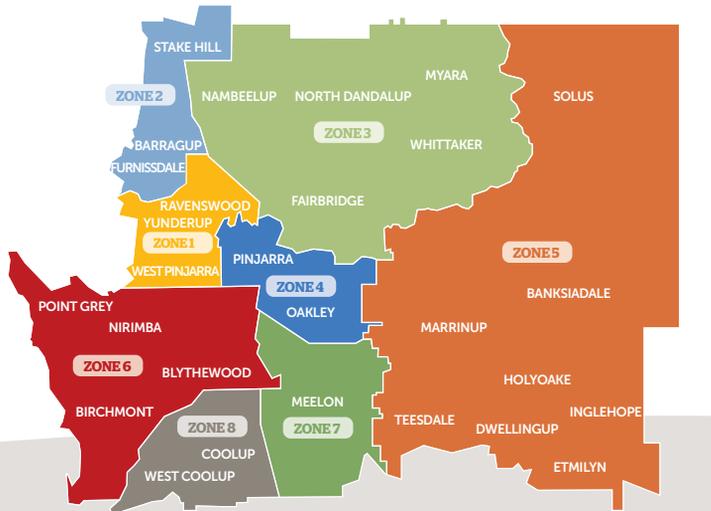
Note

- Unseasonal weather conditions may necessitate a variation to the above dates.
- Burning is prohibited on days where the Fire Danger Rating is High or above and if either a Total Fire Ban/ Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is declared.
- Prior to any burning, please contact and advise the DFES Communication Centre on (08) 9395 9209 as well as the Shire Ranger Services on (08) 9531 7709.

Permit to burn

Please contact Shire of Murray Ranger Services on (08) 9531 7709 during normal business hours to arrange a Permit to Burn.

Zones for permit to burn



ZONE 1 Ravenswood, Yunderup and West Pinjarra

ZONE 2 Stake Hill, Barragup and Furnissdale

ZONE 3 Nambeelup, North Dandalup, Fairbridge, Myara and Whittaker

ZONE 4 Pinjarra and Oakley

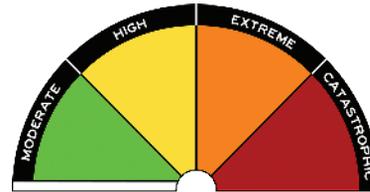
ZONE 5 Solus, Banksiadale, Marrinup, Holyoake, Teesdale, Dwellingup, Inglehope and Etmilyn

ZONE 6 Point Grey, Nirimba, Blythewood and Birchmont

ZONE 7 Meelon

ZONE 8 Coolup and West Coolup

Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)



Catastrophic

Fire Behaviour Index Range **100+**

Leave bushfire risk area

Unsafe for firefighters and community. Without initial attack success, likelihood of very large fire development is very high. High probability of loss of life and property.

Extreme

Fire Behaviour Index Range **50-99**

Take action now

Defensive suppression strategies. High levels of threat to life/property. Safety of firefighters and community paramount.

High

Fire Behaviour Index Range **24-49**

Be ready to act

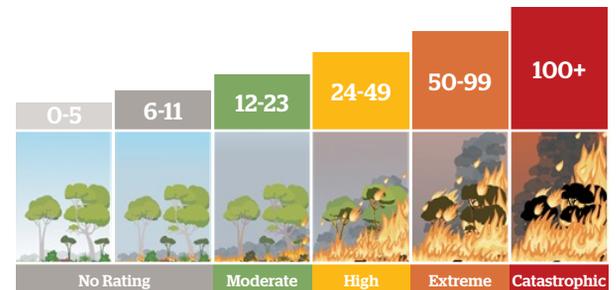
Initial attack success critical to prevent large fire development. Defensive suppression strategies.

Moderate

Fire Behaviour Index Range **12-23**

Plan and prepare

Most bushfires in this category. Fires typically suppressed with direct, parallel or indirect attack.



Stay informed

Total Fire Ban



Total Fire Bans (TFB) are declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) because of extreme weather conditions or when widespread fires are seriously stretching firefighting resources.

During a TFB the lighting of any fires in the open air and any other activities that may start a fire, are prohibited, unless a written exemption or a notification requirement to a prescribed activity applies. This includes, but is not limited to:

- All open air fires for the purpose of cooking or camping (i.e. wood fuel barbeques, candles and pizza ovens).
- Incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering or gas cutting, angle grinders and lawnmowers.

Penalty: Up to \$25,000 fine and/or a 12-month jail term.

Exemptions may be granted by DFES and must be requested in writing. Visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au.

Total Fire Ban information

 1800 709 355

 dfes.wa.gov.au | emergency.wa.gov.au

 ABC720AM Local Radio

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban



Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) in the district must be imposed by local government under the Bush Fires Regulations 1954 (Regs) when the local Fire Behaviour Index reaches 40 or as otherwise permitted under the Regs.

A HVMB may be imposed for any length of time but is generally imposed for 'heat of the day' periods and may be extended or revoked as weather conditions change.

During a HVMB the use of the following items is prohibited, in order to mitigate the associated risk of causing or contributing to the spread of a bushfire:

- Engines, vehicles, plant and machinery.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban information

 Shire of Murray 08 9531 7777

 ABC720AM Local Radio

 Local Fire Control Officer

 **EmergencyWA**

emergency.wa.gov.au

SMS alerts

Broadcast of local Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, Total Fire Bans and other information. Subscribe via murray.wa.gov.au.

Please note: SMS alerts do not include alerts about fires or other emergencies.



Fire preparedness work requirements

Area of land - 4,000m² or less

Where the area of land is 4,000m² or less, all flammable material on the entire land must be reduced and must be maintained to a height of 50 millimetres or less.

Area of land - greater than 4,000m² and less than 45,000m²

Where the area of land is greater than 4,000m² and less than 45,000m² in size, construct and maintain a firebreak:

- i. Inside all external boundaries of the land.
- ii. Around all outbuildings, sheds, haystacks, groups of buildings and fuel depots/storage areas situated on the land.

Asset protection zone

- i. Reduce and maintain to a height of 50 millimetres or less all flammable material within 20 metres of a habitable building.
- ii. Maintain an access and/or driveway to the land free of flammable material not less than 3 metres in width and a minimum 4.5 metre vertical clearance to any overhanging vegetation.

Area of land - greater than 45,000m²

Where the area of land is greater than 45,000m² the land is not required to have firebreaks constructed except where the land is required to comply with clause (a) . Land owners and/ or occupiers are encouraged to install firebreaks in strategic locations to protect their property from a bushfire or to prevent the spread of a bushfire.

- a. Where land abuts other land that is in the ownership, leasehold, care, control or management of the Shire, State Government, State Government entity or State Government department (said land) the owner or occupier of the land that abuts said land is to construct and maintain a firebreak inside the external boundary of the land that abuts the said land.
- b. Active bushfire preparedness work must be completed on the land throughout the period of this Notice, by means such as mowing, slashing, baling, and/or grazing by an appropriate number of livestock.

Asset protection zones

- i. Reduce and maintain to a height of 50 millimeters or less all flammable material within 20 metres of a habitable building.
- ii. Access ways and driveways to habitable buildings must be free of flammable material, must not be less than 3 metres in width and must have a minimum of 4.5 metre vertical clearance to any overhanging vegetation.
- iii. Additionally, slash and maintain to a height of 100 millimeters or less all flammable material within 20 metres around any other buildings, haystacks and fuel storage areas on the land. OR
- iv. Install a firebreak around all outbuildings, sheds, haystacks, groups of buildings and fuel depots/storage areas situated on the land



Bushfire Management Plan

All properties that are subject to a Bushfire Management Plan, or a Fire Management Plan, as a result of a subdivision or development application or a Shire approved treatment plan, must comply with the requirements of such plans in their entirety.

Plantations

Boundary firebreaks

All property boundaries must have a 15 metre firebreak installed. The outer 10 metres will be cleared of all flammable material while the inner five (5) metres (i.e. that portion closest to the trees) may be kept in a reduced fuel state by slashing or grazing grass to a height of less than 50 millimetres. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging limbs, bushes, shrubs and any other object encroaching into the vertical axis above the outer 10 metres of the firebreak area.

Internal firebreaks

Plantation area must be subdivided into areas not greater than 30 hectares, separated by six (6) metre wide firebreaks. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging limbs, bushes, shrubs and any other object encroaching into the vertical axis of the firebreak area.

Special risks

Public road and railway reserve firebreaks 15 metres wide shall be maintained where the planted area adjoins public roads and railway reserves. The specification will be as for boundary firebreaks on planted areas.

Firebreaks

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

Furthermore, all plantations shall comply with requirements contained in the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) guidelines or standards for Plantation Fire Protection.

Standards for firebreaks

All firebreaks as required by this Notice shall be constructed and maintained, where applicable, in accordance with the DFES Guide to Constructing and Maintaining Firebreaks.

A copy of this Guide is available on the Shire's website at www.murray.wa.gov.au or can be obtained by contacting Ranger Services on 08 9531 7709.



Width 3 metres

Height 4.5 metres

Additional fire preparedness work

In addition to the requirements of this Notice, regardless of land size and location, the owner and/or occupier of land may be required to carry out additional fire preparedness work to reduce bushfire risk considered necessary by an Authorised Officer of the Shire. Any additional fire preparedness work would be specified by way of a Work Order forwarded to the address of the owner and/or occupier of the land.

The following are examples of additional fire preparedness work that may be requested by the issuing of a Work Order:

- Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable material.
- Remove accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, dead bush and dead trees capable of carrying fire.
- Reduce unmanaged grasses/weeds by slashing, mowing or other means.
- Reduce long grasses in areas that have not been grazed by livestock or cultivated by mowing, slashing, baling or by other means.
- Reduce vegetation on the land to a low fire risk state from the outer edge of the firebreak through to the property boundary (e.g. no long grass or overhanging branches).
- Reduce to a low fire risk any adjacent verge, road reserve, drain that is adjacent to the land.
- Assets identified in the Shire's **Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2021 - 2026** or any land identified with a Bush Fire Management Plan or a treatment plan to reduce bushfire risk to assets.

Engaging contractors for fire preparedness work

Any owner and/or occupier of land who engages a contractor to carry out fire preparedness work on behalf of the owner and/or occupier of the land will be held responsible for ensuring that any completed fire preparedness work complies with the requirements of this Notice.

Previous notices

Any Notice previously published by the Shire in the Government Gazette or in any locally circulated newsprint is hereby revoked.

Variation to the bushfire compliance notice

If an owner and/or occupier of land considers that it may be impractical to clear firebreaks or undertake other fire preparedness work on their land as required by this Notice they may apply to the Shire for a variation to the requirements contained in this Notice.

A Bushfire Compliance Notice Variation Application Form (Form) is available on the Shire website at www.murray.wa.gov.au or can be obtained by phoning Ranger Services on 08 9531 7709.

A completed Form can be submitted to the Shire from 1 April 2023 until 1 October 2023. Any Form received after 1 October 2023 may not be accepted.

Note: *A variation is not an exemption to the requirements of this Notice, but an application to establish other methods of fire preparedness work to land that you own and / or occupy.*

If the Shire does not grant an approval for a variation to this Notice a land owner/occupier must comply with all requirements contained in this Notice.



Lighting of camp fires or cooking fires

Pursuant to **Section 25 (1a) of the Bush Fires Act 1954**, Notice is hereby given that the lighting of camp fires or cooking fires is prohibited on all land within the Shire district during the Prohibited Burning Times.

This prohibition on the lighting of camp fires or cooking fires does not apply to a gas appliance that does not consume solid fuel and comprises of a fire, that the flame of which is fully encapsulated by the gas appliance.

Burning of garden refuse and rubbish

A permit to burn must be obtained prior to any burning on any land that is over 4,000m².

The burning of any material including garden refuse or garden rubbish on any land that is 4,000m² or less is strictly prohibited.



Important contacts

Report All Fires: Call 000



Department of Fire and Emergency Services

General enquiries

08 9395 9300

Emergency information

133 337 (13DFES)

Register your controlled burn

08 9395 9209

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

General enquiries

08 9290 6100

Shire of Murray Rangers and Community Safety

08 9531 7709



   @ShireofMurray

Contact us

1915 Pinjarra Road,
Pinjarra WA 6208
PO Box 21 Pinjarra WA 6208

T: 08 9531 7777

F: 08 9531 1981

mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au
murray.wa.gov.au