

Bushfire Compliance Notice 2024/25





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 2024 and be maintained through to 15 May 2025.

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 prevention work on their land that must comply with the requirements as stated in this Bushfire Compliance Notice (Notice). Fire prevention work must be completed by **1 December 2024** and must be maintained through to **15 May 2025**.

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.

Fire prevention requirements

1. Area of land - 4,000m² or less

Where the area of any land in the Shire is 4,000m² or less, the owner/occupier of the land must reduce and maintain all flammable material on the entire land to a height of 50 millimetres or less.

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

Where the area of any land in the Shire is greater than 4,000m² and less than 45,000m² in size, the owner/occupier of the land must construct and maintain a firebreak:

- i. Inside all external boundaries of the land as close as practicable, but within 50 metres of the boundaries so as to form a continuous firebreak around the land.
- ii. Around all outbuildings, sheds, haystacks, groups of buildings and fuel depots/storage areas situated on the land.

3. Area of land - greater than 45,000m²

Where the area of any land in the Shire is greater than 45,000m² in size, the owner/occupier of the land must:

- i. Reduce and maintain to a height of 50 millimetres or less all flammable material on the land by mowing, slashing, baling or grazing;
- ii. Additionally, the owner/occupier of the land must comply with the work requirements as applicable in clause 4.2.

4.1 Asset Protection Zones

Where any of the following assets are located on any land in the Shire the owner/occupier of the land shall comply with the requirements of clause 4.2:

- i. Habitable buildings;
- ii. Other buildings or groups of buildings;
- iii. Sheds;
- iv. Haystacks;
- v. Fuel depots/storage areas.

4.2 Compliance with Asset Protection Zones

Where any of the assets as described in clause 4.1 are located on any land in the Shire the owner/occupier of the land shall comply with the following requirements:

- i. Slash and maintain to a height of 50 millimetres or less all flammable material within 20 metres around any habitable building;

- ii. Install a firebreak around buildings, sheds, haystacks, and fuel depots/ storage areas situated on the land;
- iii. Remove any flammable material on or around any building or roof of a building including from any gutters, abutments and valleys.
- iv. Install and maintain a 3-metre wide driveway.

5. Storage of Cut, Stockpiled Timber Products

On all land in the Shire except, land specified as Industrial, Non-Rateable or Reserve Land the owner and/or occupier of the land shall not keep or permit to be kept any cut, stockpiled or windrowed timber products (manufactured or natural) unless the owner and/or occupier of the land as obtained the approval of the Shire. Every pile of cut, stockpiled or windrowed timber product larger than 12 cubic metres is to be completely surrounded by a 10 metre wide firebreak.

6. Plantations

i. 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.

ii. 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.

iii. Public Roads and Railway Reserves

Firebreaks shall be constructed and maintained immediately inside any boundary that adjoins a public road and/or railway reserve. The specifications will be the same as for "Boundary Firebreaks" on Plantations.

iv. Powerlines

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

v. Compliance with DFES Guidelines and Standards

All plantations shall comply with the requirements contained in the DFES guidelines or standards for Plantation Fire Protection.

Definitions

For the purpose of this Notice the following definitions apply:

"Authorised Officer" means a person authorised by the Shire and appointed as a Bush Fire Control Officer in accordance with **S.38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954**.

"Bushfire Management Plan" means a plan that has been developed and approved by the Shire to reduce and mitigate fire hazards within a particular subdivision, lot or other area of land anywhere in the Shire.

"Driveway" means the point of access (driveway) to a habitable building that is accessible for both conventional two-wheel drive vehicles and firefighting appliances that is totally clear of all vegetation, trees, bushes, shrubs and other objects or things encroaching into the vertical clearance of the driveway. If a driveway to a habitable building is longer than 50 metres in length from a public road, a clear turn-around area with a 10-metre radius must also be provided.

"Firebreak" means a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable material to a trafficable surface leaving clear bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back and removal of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other object or thing over the vertical clearance of the fire break area. Firebreaks constructed on road verges do not constitute a legal firebreak.

"Fire Management Plan" has the same meaning as "bushfire management plan".

"Fuel Depot/Storage Area" means an area of land, a building or structure where fuel (i.e. petrol, diesel, kerosene, liquid gas or any other fossil fuel) is kept in any container or other manner in commercial quantities.

"Flammable Material" means any plant, tree, grass, vegetable, substance, object, thing or material (except living flora including live standing trees, shrubs and bushes) that may or is likely to catch fire and burn or any other item deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion.

"Habitable Building" means a dwelling, work place, place of gathering or assembly and includes a building used for storage or display of goods or produce for sale by wholesale in accordance with classes 1-9 of the Building Code of Australia. The term habitable building includes attached and adjacent structures like garages, carports, verandahs or similar roofed structure(s) that are attached to, or within 6 metres of the dwelling or primary building.

"Haystack" means any collection of hay including fodder rolls placed or stacked together that exceeds 100 cubic metres in size (e.g. 5m x 5m x 4m), whether in a shed, other structure or in the open air.

"Outbuilding" means any structure, shed, building, storage facility or structure or alike built for any purpose outside of the definition of the "habitable building" definition.

“Plantations” means any area of planted pines, eucalypt, hardwood or softwood trees exceeding 3 hectares in area.

“Shed” has the same meaning as outbuilding.

“Size” means a size of an individual parcel or lot of land as recorded in the Shire of Murray property Rates Register or land database.

1 hectare = 10,000m² = 2.47 acres

1 acre = 4,046.86m² = 0.4046 hectare

“Trafficable” means to be able to travel from one point to another in a 4x4 fire appliance on a clear surface, unhindered without any obstruction that may endanger resources. A firebreak is not to terminate in a dead end without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turn around area of 17.5 metre radius.

“Vertical Clearance” means the height of the space above the full width of the firebreak or driveway that must be kept clear of all obstructions and vegetation to a minimum height of 4.5 metres from the ground.

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.



Additional fire prevention work

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

The following are examples of additional fire prevention work that may be requested by the issuing of a Special Fire Prevention 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 grass 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 state 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 prevention work

Any owner and/or occupier of land within the Shire who engages a contractor to carry out fire prevention work on behalf of the owner and/or occupier of the land will be held responsible for ensuring that any completed fire prevention 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.

Permit to burn

During Restricted Burning Times, a Permit to Burn is required and is obtainable free of charge from:

- Local Bush Fire Brigade Fire Control Officers
- Local Permit Issuing Officer.

Note

- A Permit to Burn will not be issued during the Prohibited Burning Time.
- **A Permit to Burn will not be issued for land that is less than 4,000m².**
- The holder of a Permit to Burn will be required to adhere to all conditions on the permit.

Even when a Permit to Burn has been issued, no fire is to be lit when the fire danger rating is High or above or when a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.

Burning of Shire land

Owners and/or occupiers of land can apply to the Shire to burn the road reserve (verge) directly adjacent to their property. An application form can be obtained from the shire's website or by phoning Shire Ranger Services (08) 9531 7709.

Burning of garden refuse and rubbish

The burning of any material including garden refuse or garden rubbish on land greater than 4,000m² is permitted during the Restricted Burning Times. A Permit to Burn must be obtained prior to any burning.

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



Zones for permit to burn



Zone		Fire Control Officer	Permit Issuing Officers
01	South Yunderup/ Ravenswood	Jim Camplin 0409 909 063	Graeme Baldwin 0488 783 592
02	West Murray	Justin Crotty 0413 763 511	Andrew Taylor 0438 219 794
03	Nth Dandalup	Brendan Webster 0418 930 986	Lorraine Webster 0448 135 671
04	Pinjarra VFRS	Kevin Jones 0417 996 806	
05	Dwellingup	Anthony Cocivera 0408 070 386	Dave Turner 0427 775 914
06	Coolup		Stuart Kirkham 0427 868 306
07	Coolup	Douglas McLarty 0407 728 446	Douglas McLarty 0407 728 446
08	Coolup		Chris Sattler 0428 625 066

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.



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 prevention 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 or can be obtained by phoning Ranger Services on 08 9531 7709.

A completed Form can be submitted to the Shire up to the 1st October 2024. Depending on the circumstances, any Form received after the 1st October 2024 may not be accepted.

Note: A variation is not an exemption to the requirements of this Notice, but an application by the owner/occupier of land to establish other methods of fire prevention work to the land.

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 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.



Important dates to remember

Restricted burning time one

Permit to burn required
1 October 2024 — 30 November 2024 (inclusive)

Fire prevention works deadline

Completed by 30 November 2024
Maintained up to and including 15 May 2025

Prohibited burning time

Burning prohibited
1 December 2024 — 31 March 2025 (inclusive)

Restricted burning time two


Permit to burn required
1 April 2025 — 15 May 2025 (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.

Stay informed

Total Fire Ban



What is a Total Fire Ban?

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is a ban on activities that could result in a fire starting. A TFB is declared 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.

Total Fire Bans are declared using local government boundaries in both rural and urban areas. You can see whether your local government area is affected by a Total Fire Ban at emergency.wa.gov.au.

Some activities can continue during a Total Fire Ban if the activity is being carried out in relation to work for a business, a public authority, or as part of an agricultural activity.

If you ignore a Total Fire Ban, you could be fined up to \$25,000 and/or be jailed for up to 12 months.

What does a TFB affect?

A TFB affects any activity that may cause a fire including:

- Lighting a campfire or using a fire pit
- Burning leaves, garden waste or grass cuttings
- Using an incinerator
- Using a grinder, welder or any other 'hot work' that creates a spark
- Operating a hot-air balloon
- Using an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven or stove, or a BBQ that uses solid fuel

Any equipment powered by an internal combustion engine including:

- Vehicles such as car, tractor, motorbike, quad bike or dune buggy
- A chainsaw or lawn mower
- A plant trimmer or grass trimmer
- Bobcats, excavators, bulldozers (or any other similar machines)
- A generator

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 can 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 any machinery or equipment that is powered by an internal combustion engine can not be used including any engine, vehicle, harvester, tractor, motorbike, quad bike, dune buggy etc.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban information



Shire of Murray 08 9531 7777



ABC720AM Local Radio



Local Fire Control Officer

SMS alerts

Shire of Murray residents can subscribe to SMS alerts of local Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, Total Fire Bans and other information via murray.wa.gov.au.

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



EmergencyWA

emergency.wa.gov.au

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

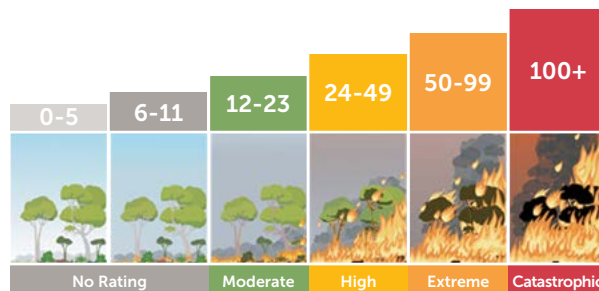
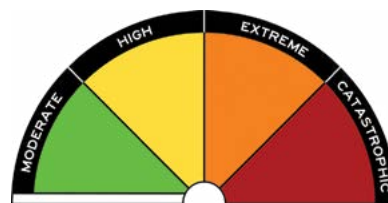
Initial attack success critical to prevent large fire development. Defensive suppression strategies.

Moderate

Fire Behaviour Index Range **12–23**

Plan and prepare

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



A photograph of firefighters in yellow protective gear spraying water. A red banner with white text is overlaid on the image.

Report All Fires: Call 000



Important contacts

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

**Shire of
Murray**

   @ShireofMurray

Contact us

1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
WA 6208

PO Box 21, Pinjarra WA 6208

T: (08) 9531 7777

E: mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au
murray.wa.gov.au