



Firebreak Notice Requirements and Bushfire Information 2024–25



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Firebreak Notice Requirements

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Firebreak Notice Requirements

This document contains the requirements from the Firebreak Notice (the Notice) along with other bushfire information for property owners and occupiers.

All land is to be maintained from **30 November 2024** up to and including **12 May 2025** as specified in the Notice.

APPOINTMENTS AND INSPECTIONS

Owners and occupiers who would like an early inspection by appointment, for reasons including biosecurity, locked gates, and dangerous animals, or for explanation on the requirements of the Notice, should contact Ranger Services on (08) 9780 5695 by **1 November 2024**. Where inspections by appointment are not requested, Rangers are appointed as Bush Fire Control Officers with the power to enter land under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and will be inspecting properties for compliance without further notice from **1 December 2024**.

VARIATIONS

Where compliance with the Notice is not practical due to environmental considerations or site-specific constraints such as topography, water course or steep gradients, owners may apply to the Shire of Augusta Margaret River for a **Variation to the Notice**.

Variations must provide an alternative means of meeting the objectives of the Notice, including bushfire risk mitigation and property access, considering site-specific constraints and advantages and not all properties will be able to accommodate Variations.

Applications must be completed on the approved form, available upon request or downloaded via the Shire's website. Applications for a Variation must be submitted before **1 November 2024** or after **1 May 2025**.

COMPLIANCE

People who do not comply with the Notice or a Variation to the Notice may be issued with a modified penalty of \$250 or prosecuted with a penalty up to \$5,000. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River may carry out the required work on the land at cost to the owner/occupier.

Definitions

For the purpose of the Notice the following definitions apply:

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) means an area of land within 20 metres from the external walls of any habitable building. The fuel loading (flammable material) in the APZ is to be reduced and maintained to less than 2 tonnes per hectare. Trees must not be closer than 2 metres to a building, and trees must not overhang a building within 4 metres of the external roof. **APZ requirements apply to all properties (excluding vacant lots), regardless of size, and must be maintained all year round.**

Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) is a plan prepared specifically for a property in satisfaction of a development approval or subdivision condition. Properties subject to an approved BMP must comply with the requirements of their plan in addition to the requirements of the Notice.

Driveway/Access Way means the access route from a road reserve to a habitable building. This should be a minimum of 4 metres wide up to a maximum of 6 metres wide with a minimum 4 metre vertical clearance to allow emergency vehicles to access your property.

Firebreak means an area of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses, and any other object or thing which may be flammable, leaving a bare surface to a width specified under the table on page 4, and with a 4 metre high vertical clearance.

Flammable Material means accumulated fuel such as dry grass, leaf litter, twigs, branches, trash, dead trees, firewood, stored fuels, that can be easily ignited or is likely to catch fire and burn. It includes any other thing deemed by an authorised officer to be likely to catch fire but excludes living trees, growing bushes, and plants in gardens and/or lawns under cultivation.

Habitable Building means any building people reside in and any other building within 6 metres of that building, but excludes a water tank.

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

Trafficable means a firm, stable surface capable of allowing a 4WD fire appliance to enter, exit and turn any corner (10 metre radius) without reversing.

Summary of Firebreak Notice Requirements

All landowners/occupiers must carry out fire prevention work in accordance with the requirements of the Notice on or before **30 November 2024**. All land is to be maintained up to and including **12 May 2025**.

Please Note:

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) requirements apply to all properties (excluding vacant lots), regardless of size, and must be maintained all year round.

Clearing in excess of the requirements of the Notice or a BMP will be required to comply with the Local Planning Scheme and Clearing Regulations and may require a Permit.

Property Type	Firebreak Requirements	Asset Protection Zone (APZ)	Grass slashed/ mowed to less than 10cm	Driveway/ Access way (excludes vacant blocks)	Gutters and rooftops free of debris
All Lots 4000m ² and under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 metre wide firebreaks around all piles of garden refuse and/or wood stacks 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Residential/ Rural Residential Lots 4001m ² and over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 metre wide trafficable firebreaks within 10 metres of all internal boundaries 2 metre wide firebreaks around all piles of garden refuse/wood stacks, fuel and fodder 	✓	Vacant/ cleared land that is not being actively grazed	✓	✓
Rural Lots (excluding plantations, vineyards, orchards and groves)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 metre wide trafficable firebreak required within 100 metres of an internal boundary that abuts a road reserve Where land is actively grazed or maintained to less than 10cm, a 2 metre firebreak is required 2 metre wide firebreaks around all piles of garden refuse/wood stacks, fuel and fodder 	✓	Vacant/ cleared land that is not being actively grazed	✓	✓
Plantations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 metre wide internal firebreak around each cell or block - 3 metres must be trafficable 2 metre wide firebreaks around all piles of garden refuse/wood stacks, fuel and fodder 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vineyards, Orchards and Groves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 metre wide internal firebreak around each cell or block - 3 metres must be trafficable 2 metre wide firebreaks around all piles of garden refuse/wood stacks, fuel and fodder 	✓	✓	✓	✓

4 metre
vertical
clearance



3 metre minimum firebreak width

Can We Access Your Property?

DID YOU KNOW?

In order for fire appliances to access your property safely, internal firebreaks must be 3 metres wide and have at least 4 metres vertical clearance. Fire appliances must be able to fit through gates on your property. The average fire appliance is 9 metres in length.

DON'T FUEL FIRES

- × Don't have thick vegetation near your home.
- ✓ Clear all flammable material from around all structures.
- ✓ Store firewood, timber, petrol, kerosene and all flammable liquids well away from the house.
- ✓ Clear all dead leaves out of gutters regularly.
- ✓ Remove dead trees and branches which, when burning, could drop on your roof.
- ✓ Rake up leaves, twigs and dead material regularly.
- ✓ Burn off dry grass and vegetation at the approved times and in the approved manner or consider using alternative methods to burning.

Residents can dispose of up to 2 cubic metres of uncontaminated green waste per visit at the Davis Road Recycling and Waste Management Facility.

For more info visit amrshire.wa.gov.au/greenwaste.

Important Dates

Firebreak Notice Requirements on Private Property to be completed

Firebreaks must be installed on or before 30 November 2024

Firebreaks must be maintained up to and including 12 May 2025

APZs must maintained all year round

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD - Spring/Summer

Permits Required

9 November 2024 to 22 December 2024

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

Burning Prohibited

23 December 2024 to 14 March 2025

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD - Autumn

Permits Required

15 March 2025 to 12 May 2025

Please note, these dates can change at short notice due to variable weather conditions. Always call your area Fire Control Officer (FCO) or the Shire Rangers to check prior to lighting up.

Prohibited Burning

Burning is prohibited on days where the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is **HIGH** or above. FDRs change daily and can be checked online at emergency.wa.gov.au or contact Shire Rangers on (08) 9780 5695.

Total Fire Ban (TFB)

A TFB may be declared by the DFES Commissioner at any time. If declared, you must not light any fire or undertake any activity that may cause a fire.

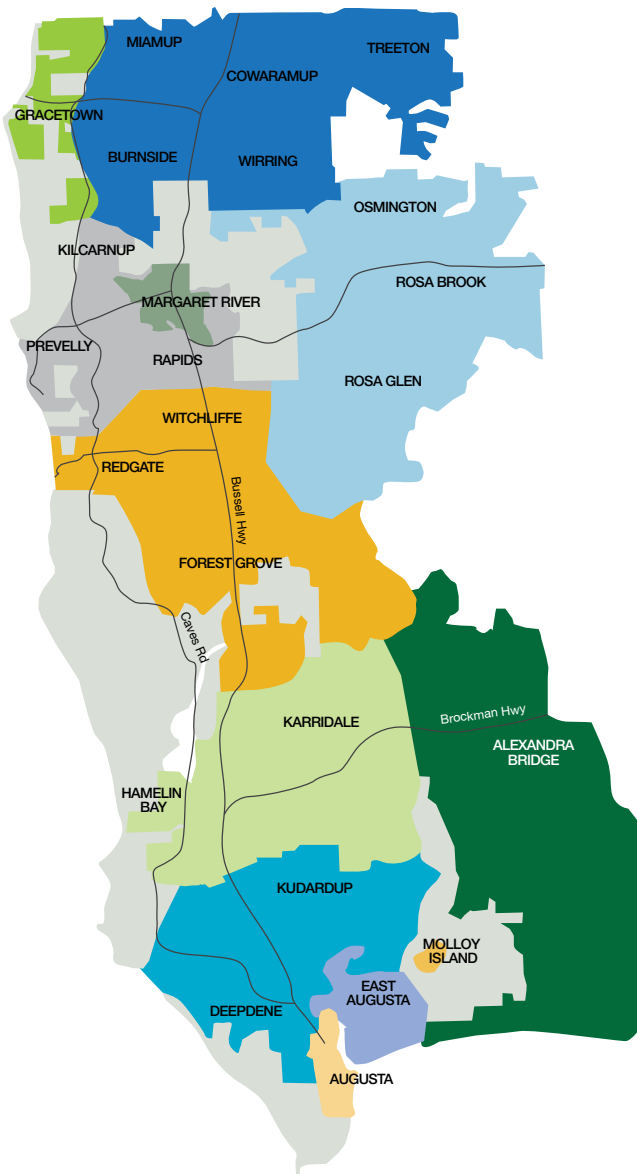
Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB)

A HVMB may be declared by the Shire separately, or in conjunction with a TFB, at any time. If declared, the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery are prohibited at particular times of the day.

Register for HVMB SMS Notifications

To register, please provide your first name, surname and mobile phone number via the form online at amrshire.wa.gov.au/fire-bans

Fire Control Officer Area Map



Fire Control Officer Contact Details

Brigade	Fire Control Officer(s)
Alexandra Bridge	Alexandra Bridge Tony Mostert: 0428 461 388
Augusta	Augusta Brendan Jordan: 0477 970 415
Cowaramup	Burnside Tim Garstone: 0428 555 292 Cowaramup Ian Earl: 0418 932 847 Miamup Billy Pascoe: 0405 965 447 Treeton Geoff Jenkins: 0407 776 920 Wiring Ryan Leenman: 0415 045 877
East Augusta	East Augusta Frank Bartoll: 0458 582 350
Gracetown	Gracetown Peter Delfs: 0427 555 491
Karridale	Hamelin Bay Simon Hanson: 0428 147 001 Karridale Paul Vanzetti: 0447 929 057
Kudardup	Deepdene Scott Hamilton: 0427 778 840 Kudardup Matthew Nield: 0427 772 719
Margaret River	Margaret River Garth Baxter: 0407 755 253
Molloy Island	Molloy Island Peter Nash: 0428 955 633
Rosa Brook	Osmington Shaun Palmer: 0448 979 041 Rosa Brook Mark Ridge: 0408 945 684 Rosa Glen Andrew Newnham: 0491 313 968
Wallcliffe	Kilcarnup Mark Boyd: 0418 810 327 Prevelly Jenny Colquhoun: 0458 231 272 Rapids David Kelly: 0428 387 286
Witchcliffe	Forest Grove Matt Holland: 0438 005 615 Redgate Richard Nash: 0419 951 511 Witchcliffe Diane Holland: 0427 930 735

Important Information on Lighting Fires

BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE

During the **Spring/Summer Restricted Burning Period** (see page 7) you may burn one small pile up to 1 cubic metre of garden refuse without a Permit, however it can only be lit between **6pm and 11pm** and must be fully extinguished before midnight on the same day. A courtesy call to your area Fire Control Officer (FCO) is also recommended.

During the **Autumn Restricted Burning Period** (see page 7), a Permit is required to burn all garden refuse at all times.

Burning of garden refuse is **NOT** permitted:

- at any time during the **PROHIBITED** Burning Period,
- on days where the Fire Danger Rating is **HIGH** or above,
- during a Total Fire Ban (TFB).

The following precautions **MUST** be taken before burning garden refuse:

- there shall be no inflammable material within 5 metres of the fire,
- the fire must be attended at all times and fully extinguished before leaving it.

Failure to comply may result in a penalty up to \$3,000.

CAMPFIRES, FIREPITS, WOOD/SOLID FUEL BBQs & PIZZA OVENS

Fires for the purposes of camping or cooking, such as campfires, firepits, wood/solid fuel BBQs and pizza ovens, are **NOT** permitted:

- at any time during the **PROHIBITED** Burning Period,
- on days where the Fire Danger Rating is **HIGH** or above,
- during a Total Fire Ban (TFB),
- on Shire reserves unless in a designated area.

The following precautions **MUST** be taken before lighting up:

- the fire shall not be lit within 3 metres of a log or stump,
- the fire must have a radius of at least 3 metres from its centre which is cleared of all bush and any other inflammable material,
- the fire must be attended at all times and fully extinguished before leaving it.

Failure to comply may result in a penalty up to \$3,000.

You **MUST** check the Burning Period dates and the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) before lighting up. The FDR changes regularly and the Important Dates listed on page 7 can also change. For the current Fire Danger Rating visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au

Permits to Burn

A Permit to Burn (Permit to Set Fire to the Bush) is required during the RESTRICTED Burning Periods.

To obtain a Permit, contact your area FCO by referring to the FCO map and list on pages 8 and 9 of this booklet. Where the FCO is unavailable the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer or the Shire Rangers can also issue Permits.

Please allow up to 72 hours for an FCO to attend your property to assess your Permit application.

When contacting the FCO to request a Permit, please have the following information ready to provide;

- the size of your burn,
- what you are burning,
- the address of the burn,
- the name and contact number of the Permit holder.

You **MUST** notify your adjoining landowners of your intention to burn in accordance with Regulation 15B (3) on the back of your Permit.

Prior to burning, you **MUST** register your Permit with the Shire, DFES and DBCA. To do this call the numbers on the Permit and have your Permit handy as the operator will need the Permit details. If you leave a message, please state the **Permit number, property details, Permit holders name, phone number and time/date** of intention to burn.

Failure to;

- obtain a Permit,
 - comply with all Permit conditions, or
 - burn in contravention to any information provided in the *Bush Fires Act 1954*,
- may result in a penalty up to \$10,000.

BE PREPARED!

The preparedness of your property may make all the difference between minor damage and devastation.

For advice on preparing your property for the fire season, please call your local Bushfire Ready Facilitator Gordon Temby (North) on 0419 954 658 or Shire Rangers on (08) 9780 5695.

Key Contacts

FIREBREAKS, INSPECTIONS AND VARIATIONS

Shire Rangers
(08) 9780 5695

BURNING AND PERMITS

Fire Control Officers
See page 9 for contact details

OTHER CONTACTS

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
0419 525 843

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
0419 628 465

DFES Emergency Info Line
13 DFES (133 337)
Follow DFES on Twitter and Facebook
or listen to ABC Radio South West WA

DIAL 000

TO REPORT ALL FIRES OR LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES



PO Box 61, Margaret River, Western Australia 6285

T (08) 9780 5695 | F (08) 9757 2512

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