



FIREBREAK NOTICE 2021-2022

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

The following Notice is hereby given to all owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River

PURSUANT to the powers contained in Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, you are hereby required and therefore ordered by the local government to carry out fire prevention work in accordance with the requirements of this Notice, on or before **30 November 2021**, and maintain the requirements up to and including 12 May 2022.

Inspections, appointments, education and compliance

Owners and occupiers who would like an early inspection by appointment, for reasons including bio-security, locked gates and dangerous animals, or for explanation on the requirements of this Notice, should contact Rangers as soon as possible and by no later than 1 November 2021. 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 2021**.

People who do not comply with this Notice or a Variation to this Notice may be issued with an infringement Notice (\$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.

Rangers may exercise discretion where owners and occupiers have engaged with the Shire and can demonstrate that they have taken active steps to comply with this Notice.

Requirements of landowners and occupiers

1. All landowners/occupiers must carry out fire prevention work in Part A of this Notice.
2. Owners/occupiers of Residential and Rural/Residential lots over 4001m² must comply with the requirements of Part A **and** Part B.
3. Owners/occupiers of Rural lots (excluding plantations, vineyards, orchards and olive groves) must comply with the requirements of Part A **and** Part C.
4. Owners/occupiers of Plantations, Vineyards, Orchards and Olive Groves must comply with the requirements of Part A **and** Part D or E depending upon the land use.

Variations to the requirements of this Notice

Where compliance with requirements specified in this Notice is not practical due to environmental considerations and constraints, owners may apply to the Shire of Augusta Margaret River for a **Variation to the Firebreak Notice**. Applications must be completed on the approved form, which is available upon request or can be downloaded via the Shire's website. Applications submitted after **1 November 2021** will be required to pay a \$150 fee, but applications received before that date are processed free of charge.

A. REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO ALL PROPERTIES IN THE DISTRICT OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

1. Firebreak Requirements

2-metre wide firebreaks around all piles of garden refuse and/or wood stacks, fuel and fodder.

In this Notice a 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 requirements in Parts A, B, C or D with a minimum four (4) metre high vertical clearance. Where a Firebreak is required to be 'trafficable' under this Notice, it must be capable of allowing a 4WD fire appliance to enter, exit and turn any corner without reversing.

2. Asset Protection Zone (APZ)

Means the 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 two (2) tonnes per hectare. Trees must not be closer than two (2) metres to a building, and trees must not overhang a building within four (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.**

3. Driveway/Access way

Means the access route from the road to your main dwelling. This should be a minimum of four (4) metres wide with a minimum four (4) metre vertical clearance to allow emergency vehicles to access your property.

4. Gutters and rooftops

Gutters and rooftops are to be kept free of excessive twigs, leaves and plant material.

5. Bushfire Management Plans

Properties subject to an approved Bush Fire Management Plan, being a plan that has been developed and approved by the Shire to reduce and mitigate fire hazards within a subdivision, or as part of a development approval, must comply with the requirements of their plan in addition to the requirements of this Notice.

Note – where the requirements of a Bushfire Management Plan are inconsistent with the requirements of this Notice, owners should apply for a Variation to the Notice, otherwise the higher level of protection is to apply.

B. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO RESIDENTIAL/RURAL RESIDENTIAL LOTS 4001M² AND OVER:

1. Firebreak Requirements

- Minimum 3-metre wide trafficable firebreaks within 10 metres of all boundaries.

2. Grasses slashed/mowed to less than 10cm

- Vacant/cleared land that is not being actively grazed.

C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO RURAL LOTS (EXCLUDING PLANTATIONS, VINEYARDS, ORCHARDS AND OLIVE GROVES):

1. Firebreak Requirements

- Minimum 3-metre wide trafficable firebreak required within 100 metres of a boundary that abuts a road reserve.
- Where land is actively grazed or maintained to less than 10cm, the firebreak within 100 metres of a boundary that abuts a road reserve may be reduced to 2 metres.

2. Grasses slashed/mowed to less than 10cm

- Vacant/cleared land that is not being actively grazed.

D. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO PLANTATIONS:

1. Firebreak Requirements

- 10-metre wide mineral earth firebreak around each cell or block – minimum 3 metres must be trafficable.

2. Grasses slashed/mowed to less than 10cm

E. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO VINEYARDS, ORCHARDS AND OLIVE GROVES:

1. Firebreak Requirements

- 5-metre wide mineral earth firebreak around each cell or block – minimum 3 metres must be trafficable.

2. Grasses slashed/mowed to less than 10cm