

**2016/17 FIRE SEASON
BUSH FIRES ACT 1954**

Shire of Esperance Fire Breaks Notice

Notice to all Owners and Occupiers of Land



Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required on or before the 14th day of November 2016, or within fourteen (14) days of your becoming owner or occupier of land, should this be after the 14th day of November 2016, to clear fire breaks and remove flammable materials from the land owned or occupied by you as specified in this Notice. You are required to have the specified land and fire breaks cleared of all flammable materials from, but not limited to, the 14th November 2016 up to the 31st March 2017.

Definitions

For the purpose of this Notice, the following definitions apply:

“Low Fuel Buffer / Condition” means an area where flammable material has been reduced to a height of not more than 5cm (50mm). This can be achieved through mowing, slashing, parkland clearing, grazing, spraying or any other method to achieve this objective.

“Flammable Material” means material that can be easily ignited i.e. dead or dry grasses, leaves, timber, boxes, cartons, paper, plastics and other material or thing deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion. This **does not** include green, growing trees, growing bushes or plants in gardens.

1. Rural Land

- 1.1 Cleared Land – Boundary fire breaks are not compulsory.
- 1.2 Uncleared Land (except areas set aside for conservation purposes) – Install low fuel buffers, not less than six (6) metres wide along the inside of external boundaries of any property. In cases where a property is only partially cleared, the boundary low fuel buffer is required in areas where the uncleared land abuts the property boundary.

2. Urban Land / Special Residential

(Residential, Commercial and Industrial Land within a town site or any other subdivided area for residential purposes)

- 2.1 Where the land is **2000 square metres or less**, remove all flammable material then mow or slash the whole of the land to achieve a low fuel condition, to be maintained until 31st March 2017.
- 2.2 Where the land is **2000 square metres or more**, install and maintain a low fuel buffer not less than four (4) metres wide on the inside of all boundaries, to be maintained until 31st March 2017.

Persons who fail to comply with this Notice may be issued with an infringement (modified penalty \$250) or prosecuted with an increased penalty up to \$5000. A person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of performing the work directed in this Notice, if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required by this Notice.

If it is, for any reason, impractical to clear fire breaks or remove flammable material as required by this Notice, you may apply to Council, not later than the 14th day of November 2016, for permission to provide fire breaks in alternative positions or take alternative action to remove or abate the fire hazard. If permission is not granted by Council, you must comply with the requirements of this Notice. Contact the Shire Ranger Service on 9083 1533 for more information on variations.

Dates to Remember

- **Fire Breaks must be cleared by 14th November 2016.**
- **Restricted Burning Times** – meaning permits need to be obtained from a Permit Issuing Officer in your Brigade area prior to lighting a fire.
 - 19th September 2016 to 31st October 2016 (inclusive)
 - 1st February 2017 to 15th March 2017 (inclusive)
- **Prohibited Burning Time** – meaning **no** fires can be lit.
 - 1st November 2016 to 31st January 2017 (inclusive)

All of the above dates are subject to variation. Alterations will be published on the Shire Website www.esperance.wa.gov.au and within the Esperance Express newspaper.

Matthew Scott, Chief Executive Officer

The Shire of Esperance strongly recommends;
-Maintaining fire breaks all year round.
-Have a standing annual arrangement with your fire break contractor.
-Contact the Shire if you require any clarification on your fire break responsibilities.

HARVESTING AND SWATHING

A harvesting machine or header may not be operated or allowed to be operated in any crop during the restricted or prohibited burning times unless it is equipped with a fire extinguisher (min 7.5 litre water capacity). A mobile firefighting unit of no less than 400 litre water capacity must be situated in the paddock while harvesting is in progress.

No person shall operate or allow the operation of a harvesting machine or associated equipment on Christmas Day and New Year's Day or at a time when a Harvesting, Machinery and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.

POST HARVEST STUBBLE SLASHING AND TRACK CHAINING

A mobile firefighting unit of no less than 800 litres water capacity must be situated in the paddock when post-harvest stubble slashing or track chaining is in progress during the restricted and prohibited burning period.

HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN UP TO DATE HARVEST BAN INFORMATION?

- ✓ Phone the Harvest Ban Hotline - 9071 5367
- ✓ Opt in to receive SMS notification. Visit the Shire Website for details.
- ✓ Listen to ABC radio
- ✓ Check the Shire Website at www.esperance.wa.gov.au
- ✓ Like the "Shire of Esperance" on Facebook www.facebook.com/ShireofESperance

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PHONE 000

PERMITS TO BURN

A person must obtain a permit, in writing, from a Permit Issuing Officer of their Brigade area **prior** to lighting a fire during the Restricted Burning Time.

PERMIT ISSUING OFFICERS

(* denotes Brigade Captain)

BRIGADE	OFFICER	PHONE
Cascade	Rodd King	0428 792 049
Condingup	Phil Chalmer	9076 6092
	Lyndon Mickel*	9076 6045
	Rod Taylor	9076 6049
	Adrian Perks	9076 6068
Coomalbidgup	Kirk Jeitz	0427 786 020
	Simon Stead	9079 2098
	Kingsley Scott	9076 8515
Dalyup	Peter Luberda*	0427 720 626
	Tom Murray	0428 765 027
Gibson	Blake Halford*	0417 185 578
	David Mills	9075 4135
	Paddy Barber	9075 4174
Howick	Simon Schlink*	0427 750 081
Mt Beaumont	Peter Harkness*	9078 7030
	Craig Inkster	9075 0057
	Tom Brown	9076 6088
Mt Merivale	Andrew Middleton*	9075 9030
	Robbie Johnston	9075 9015

PERMIT ISSUING OFFICERS Cont.

BRIGADE	OFFICER	PHONE
Munglinup	Gavin Gibson*	9839 6015
	Andrew Bott	9075 1074
	B Fetherstonhaugh	9075 1089
Neridup	Dave Cox	0429 008 638
	Jacob Graham	0439 924 391
Pink Lake	Michael Sainty*	0427 364 718
	Chook Henderson	0403 026 026
Quarry Road	Tom Parkins	0427 013 122
	John Durdin	0428 948 444
Salmon Gums	Rory Graham*	0428 785 013
	Peter Guest	9075 8013
	Ross Doney	9078 5118
Scaddan	Gavin Egan*	9076 7068
	Kentyn Wehr	0427 767 025
	Kym Berry	0488 786 063
	Greg Raszyk	9078 6063
Six Mile Hill	Peter Rowe	0408 373 207
Southern Mallee	John Hallam	9075 7026
	Michael Ietto	9075 7011
	Paul Defrenne	9078 6040
Esperance Town	Shire Rangers	9083 1533

NB: Shire Rangers will only issue permits during office hours. If a Permit is required over a weekend, arrangements must be made prior.

CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER
Ashley Stewart Ph 0428 845 313