

POL 0060: Fire Management – Roadside Burning

Purpose

To ensure roadside burning within the Shire of Esperance is only undertaken with prior written approval issued in accordance with applicable bushfire, environmental, and local government legislation.

Scope

This policy applies to all roadside burning activities within the Shire of Esperance district.

Definitions

Firebreak - A strip of land cleared of flammable material to prevent or slow the spread of fire, as defined under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Fire Management Plan - A documented plan outlining proposed fire management activities and objectives, including risk mitigation measures, prepared to support the assessment and approval of works.

Roadside burning - The intentional burning of vegetation within a road reserve or roadside verge for the purposes of fire hazard management, vegetation management, or ecological outcomes.

Practice

Roadside burning within the Shire of Esperance is a regulated activity and must not be undertaken without prior written approval issued by the Shire.

Shire assessment of roadside burning is subject to, but not limited to, the following -

1. Approval will only be granted where the burn is to be supervised by the relevant Bush Fire Brigade or other approved authority,
2. Roadside burning will only be considered where it forms part of a broader fire management plan or program,
3. Burning will generally be restricted to one side of a road in any given year to minimise cumulative impact,
4. Firebreaks to facilitate roadside burning will only be permitted where the roadside vegetation strip is greater than 20 metres wide and the Shire considers the firebreak necessary for the protection of roadside vegetation. Any such firebreak must comply with the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*, where applicable,
5. Where required, proposals will be referred to relevant State agencies, including the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, to inform assessment and approval,
6. The applicant must advise the Shire of the actual burning date to enable monitoring of burn frequency and intensity, and to inform assessment of ecological impacts on individual roadsides.

.....End.....

Document Information

Responsible Position	Manager Ranger and Emergency Services
Risk Rating	Medium

Referencing Documents

- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*

Revision History

Date	Version	CM Reference	Reason for Change	Resolution #	Next Review
Oct 2004	1		New policy	O1004-0967	Oct 2006
Sept 2007	2	D12/38			
Feb 2016	3			O0216-042	Feb 2018
Mar 2016	4		Policy moved from Asset Management to External Services.	O0316-008	Mar 2018
April 2018	5	D16/29060	Update document controller title. Minor formatting and amend department name in point 6.	O0418-075	Apr 2020
Mar 2020	6		No change, laid on table for further discussion.	O0320-073	Mar 2022
June 2020	7	D16/29060[v2]	Minor wording changes, replace 'Council' with 'the Shire'	O0620-183	Jun 2022
Dec 2021	8	D16/29060[v3]	Biennial review, no change.	O1221-225	Dec 2023
Feb 2024	9	D16/29060[v4]	Update responsible position. Replace 'Council' with 'the Shire' in point 5.	O0224-018	Feb 2026
Feb 2026	10	D16/29060[v5]	Minor terminology updates in points 1, 2, 4 and 6. No change to intent or application.	O0226-031	Feb 2028