

FIRE NOTICE

2022-2023 Fire Hazard Reduction Notice Bush Fires Act 1954

FIRST & FINAL NOTICE HAS BEEN SERVED TO ALL OWNERS AND/OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND SITUATED WITHIN THE SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

These are your legal requirements.

Please read carefully and retain for future reference.

As a measure to assist in the control and prevention of bush fires, and pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 Bush Fires Act 1954 you have a legal obligation to meet the requisitions of this Notice and keep the property compliant from 1 October 2022 until 31 March 2023.

Failure to comply with the Shire's Fire Hazard Reduction Notice may result in a penalty up to \$5000, with additional contractor and administration costs to carry out fire prevention works on your property.

Take Notice, pursuant to Section 33(4) Bush Fires Act 1954, where the landowner and/or occupier fails or neglects to comply with the requirements of this Notice within the specified times, the Shire of Esperance may, by its Authorised Officers and with such servants, workmen and contractors, vehicles and machinery as the Authorised Officers deem fit, enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of this Notice. Pursuant to Section 33(5) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the amount of any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

Should permission for Variation not be granted, you must comply with the requirements of this Notice.



Bush Fire Management Plans (may be required)

All properties that are subject to a Bush Fire Management Plan as a result of a subdivision, development application or a Shire approved treatment plan must comply with the requirements of such plans in their entirety.

Urban and Rural Residential

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

- Where the land is 2000 square metres or less, remove all flammable material and where the land is vacant, mow or slash the whole of the land to achieve a low fuel condition.
- Where the land is 2000 square metres or more, install and maintain, a trafficable fire-break not less than 4 metres (m) wide and 4m high immediately on the inside of all property boundaries.

Properties are to be compliant to the above by 01 OCT 2022 and maintained to 31 MAR 2023

RURAL LAND

Cleared Land - Boundary fire-breaks are not compulsory. Uncleared Land (except areas set aside for conservation purposes) - install 6m wide by 4m high trafficable fire-breaks immediately inside all external property boundaries. In cases where a property is partially cleared, fire-breaks are required where the uncleared land abuts the property boundary.

VARIATION TO NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

If it is, for any reason, impractical to install trafficable fire-breaks adjacent or within 5m to your external boundary, or remove flammable material as required by this Notice, you may apply to the Shire, before 24 September 2022, for permission to take alternative action to remove or minimise the fire hazard.



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Definitions

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

Authorised Officer means a person appointed by the Shire of Esperance as a Bush Fire Control Officer.

Fire-break means a strip of land achieving a low fuel condition to the specified width and height as required by this Notice. This can be achieved through mowing, slashing, parkland clearing, or any other means to achieve this objective. Fire-breaks will not stop fires from spreading, but they may prevent small fires from escaping your property and landscape fires from entering. Importantly fire-breaks provide safer access for yourself and firefighters to conduct fire suppression activities on your land.

Flammable Material means any material that can be easily ignited or is likely to catch fire and burn or any other thing deemed by an Authorised Officer to be capable of combustion. Flammable Material can be but it is not limited to dead or dried grasses, a build-up of leaf litter, dead or dried timber or trees, stockpile of boxes, cartons or papers. This does not include living trees, shrubs and plants under cultivation.

Low Fuel Condition means an area where all flammable material has been reduced to a height of not more than 100mm. This can be achieved through mowing, slashing, parkland clearing, grazing, spraying or any other method to achieve the same objective.

Trafficable means the ability for 4x4 vehicles to access your land on a firm surface without obstruction. No fire-break is to terminate without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turnaround area not less than a 21 metre radius.

If you wish to:

- Apply for a Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice requirements;
- Update or register to receive SMS Notifications for Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans and Extreme Forecasts;
- View a listing of fire-break contractors who may be able to assist you in undertaking the required works;
- View the Urban/Rural and Rural fire zones;

or obtain any further information, please contact the Shire's Ranger Services during office hours on 9083 1533, or refer to:

esperance.wa.gov.au/fire-season-information

Important Dates to Remember

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD (permit required)

Urban / Rural Zone: 19 Sep 2022 to 13 Nov 2022
Rural Zone: 19 Sep 2022 to 13 Nov 2022

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

Urban / Rural Zone: 14 Nov 2022 to 28 Feb 2023
Rural Zone: 14 Nov 2022 to 31 Jan 2023

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD (permit required)

Urban / Rural Zone: 01 Mar 2023 to 30 April 2023
Rural Zone: 01 Feb 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

These dates are subject to change depending on seasonal weather conditions. Updates will be posted on the Shire of Esperance Facebook & Instagram accounts, as well as the website.

