



MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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LET IT GROW

Esperance residents and visitors are being asked to avoid bush-fire affected areas to ensure the best opportunity for native vegetation to recover.

The Shire of Esperance has begun a campaign to promote the 'Let it Grow' initiative to encourage community awareness of the need for the environment to rejuvenate and recover from bush fires.

Fire affected areas need to rejuvenate and recover from bush fires and how we treat it now will determine how well this can occur. All community members and visitors are asked to stay out of bush fire affected areas and stick to the beach or bitumen. By restricting our access to these areas we are allowing the land to recover while reducing future environmental issues that may arise.

The bush fires have had a devastating impact on both private and public land, and these areas need to be given the opportunity to recover. Many contain environmental, cultural and spiritual significance, respect for these areas is vital moving forward through the recovery process.

The Environmental Recovery Sub Committee Chair, Cr Lara McIntyre asked residents to please understand that for the next 12 to 18 months, everyone must be vigilant in the way we use the land and stay out of the bush fire areas.

"The agricultural land affected is in good hands with our farmers monitoring and caring for the damaged areas with utmost respect." she said.

"As caretakers of our natural resources we, the broader community, must make sure we look after our beaches and reserves. We are asking everyone to respect our environment, stay out of the damaged areas and help the land to heal".

Department of Parks and Wildlife Esperance District Manager Rob Blok said immediate post fire recovery management actions had been put in place in to restrict unregulated use of the burnt area.

"The department encourages visitors and the Esperance community to respect the repair and rehabilitation process and to work alongside with agencies and stakeholders tasked with implementing the recovery actions."

Ends

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