

FIRE BREAK ORDER 2023/24



Important Information relating to your responsibility as a landholder in the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup:

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are required to carry out fire prevention work on land owned or occupied by you in accordance with the provisions of this order.

This work must be carried out by 1 DECEMBER 2023 and kept maintained until 31 MARCH 2024.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS AND OCCUPIERS:

The Shire forwards a copy of this Firebreak Order with Shire rates notices annually. The notice is also published locally and additional copies are obtainable at the Shire Administration Office. The aim of the Shire is to eliminate destructive bush fires and to this aim, some areas of the Shire are subject to mitigation works which are carried out by Bush Fire Brigades and the Shire's workforce. The requirements of this order are considered to be the minimum standard of fire prevention work required to protect individual properties and the district generally. In addition to the requirements of this order, the Shire may issue special order to owners or occupiers if additional hazard removal is considered necessary.

Inspections will be carried out by an Authorised Officer. Fire breaks shall be constructed to a mineral earth standard free of all flammable material and maintained throughout the entire compliance period. Failure to comply with the requirements of this order may result in the issuing of an infringement notice or prosecution. The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup may also arrange for works to be carried out at the expense of the owner or occupier.

1. RURAL LAND – (Land Zoned General Agriculture or Priority Agriculture)

- a. On land which is divided by or abuts a formed or partly formed road or railway reserve, a fire break not less than two metres wide shall be provided within sixty metres of the boundary of the road or railway reserve. Breaks are not permitted on road reserves without written approval from the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.
- b. Where rural land (whether bushland or pastured) abuts a residential zone boundary a three-metre fire break shall be constructed along the common boundary of the residential area.
- c. A fire break two metres wide shall be provided immediately surrounding and within twenty metres of the perimeter of all buildings, hay sheds and fuel storage areas situated on the land.
- d. A cleared area of at least a six-metre radius shall be provided around all combustion pumping engines.
- e. A cleared area of all flammable material of at least a three-metre radius shall be provided around an operational gas gun and the owner of the gas gun shall ensure that the gas gun is secured in an upright position.
- f. If a Total Fire Ban is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services in accordance with the Bush Fires Act 1954, the use of gas guns is prohibited within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

2. EUCALYPTUS AND PINE PLANTATIONS

- a. Fire breaks not less than ten metres in width around the perimeter of land on which trees are planted.
- b. Not less than ten metres in width along those portions of plantations which enjoy a common boundary with a road reserve.
- c. Not less than six metres in width in such positions that no part or compartment of a plantation shall exceed 28ha in area.
- d. Where ten metre breaks are required in accordance with this Section of the Shire's Fire Break Order, pruning of overhang shall be carried out up to a height of five metres above the fire break.
- e. In addition to the breaks specified, plantations traversed by Western Power transmission lines have additional obligations under the Electricity Act 1945.

3. TOWNSITE LAND (Land zoned Residential, Commercial and Industrial)

Townsites: Donnybrook, Balingup, Kirup, Mullalyup, Newlands, Preston and Noggerup.

Where the area of land is 2024m² or less, remove all flammable material on the land except living trees, shrubs and plants from the whole land, and;

- a. Where the area of land is 2024m² or less, remove all flammable material on the land except living trees, shrubs and plants from the whole land, and;
- b. Where the land exceeds 2024m² clear fire breaks not less than two metres wide, unless otherwise specified in the Local Planning Scheme, immediately inside all external boundaries of the land, and also immediately surrounding all buildings situated on the land. Grass on the remaining area of the land must be either grazed, cut for fodder, or totally removed from the land.
- c. The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup, in consultation with the relevant Fire Control Officer, may vary these conditions in certain circumstances.
- d. A person shall not set fire to rubbish, refuse or other materials on land 2000m² or less situated within a townsite without prior approval from the Local Government.

4. LAND ZONED, RURAL RESIDENTIAL, RURAL SMALL HOLDINGS AND TOURIST ZONING

The owners of all land zoned as "Rural Residential, Rural Small Holdings or Tourist" under the Local Planning Scheme No. 7, shall:

- e. maintain a fire break not less than two metres wide, immediately inside all external boundaries of the land, free of overhanging branches to a height of four metres.
- f. The Shire, on the recommendation of a Fire Control Officer, may vary these conditions in certain circumstances.
- g. A low fuel zone of twenty metres wide shall be provided immediately surrounding all buildings situated on the land. Grass on the remaining area of the land must be either grazed (within conventional practice), cut for fodder or completely removed from the land.

REMINDER - Requests for Variation:

Landowners may request a variation to the Fire Break Order where their properties may not apply, with regards to the preparation of a property during fire season. **These requests for variation must be received by the Shire no later than 30 September, 2023.** Fire Break Compliance Checks begin 1 December, so please be sure to get your request in ASAP if this applies to you! If you have any questions, please contact the Shire on (08) 9780 4200, or via shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au

5. FUEL AND / OR GAS DEPOT

In respect of land on which is situated any container normally used to contain liquids or gas fuel, including the land on which any ramp or support is constructed, the land shall be cleared of all flammable materials.

6. WELDING, CUTTING, AND GRINDING EQUIPMENT

A person shall not operate welding or cutting apparatus of any kind in the open air unless at least one fire extinguisher is provided at that place and a fire break which is at least five metres wide surrounds that place.

7. ROADSIDE VERGES

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup's Fire Control Policy 8.3 states that no verge is to be burnt without a permit for that specific purpose.

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

1 November 23 - 14 December 23

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

15 December 23 - 31 March 24

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

1 April 24 - 26 April 24

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

2023

2024

Please be aware that these dates are subject to variation according to seasonal conditions, and any alterations will be advertised locally.

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954 SUMMARY

- Permits to burn are required for the whole of the Restricted Period and can be obtained from the Bush Fire Control Officers listed in this notice.
- Any special conditions imposed by the Fire Control Officer when issuing permits must be adhered to.
- The permit holder shall give notice of their intention to burn to:
 - The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer- (08) 9764 1021- or Community Emergency Services Manager- 0439 595 355- no later than on the day when the burning is to take place. Weekend burning must be notified by Friday at 4:00pm.
 - The owner or occupier of any adjoining land.
 - The nearest Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Office- (08) 9731 6232- if the land is situated within 3km of State Forest.
 - DFES Communication Centre- (08) 9395 9209.
- The period of notice to neighbours prior to burning cannot be more than twenty eight days or less than four days, although less notice may be determined by mutual agreement of all neighbours.
- Your attention is drawn to Items 5, 6 and 7 printed on the back of the permit.
- All landowners and occupiers who incur a bushfire have an obligation to assist each Bush Fire Control Officer to compile a Fire Report Form.
- Open fires requiring solid fuels within the Shire are not permitted from 15th December to 31st March each year, except in properly constructed fireplaces situated in authorised areas and not when a HIGH or above Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for that area.
- During the restricted period, up to one cubic metre of garden refuse and rubbish may be lit between the hours of 6.00pm and 11.00pm. This must be completely extinguished with water or earth by midnight. One person capable of extinguishing the fire must be in attendance at all times. All flammable matter is to be cleared within five metres at all points of the site of the fire. No fires are to be lit during the prohibited burning period, or when a HIGH or above Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for that area.
- Any incinerator is not permitted to be used when a HIGH or above Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for that area. Any incinerator used to burn rubbish must be properly constructed- an open drum with or without a lid is not an appropriate incinerator.
- Slashing/mowing of grass and scrub is not permitted on days where a HIGH or above Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for that area. A serviceable 9 litre minimum fire extinguisher must be present for all slashing activities carried out in the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, CONTACT 000

Authorised Fire Control Officers in the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup, effective 1 July 2023:

FERNDALE / STIRLING PARK	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer: Max Walker	(08) 9764 1021 / 0428 641 021
DONNYBROOK TOWNSITE	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer: David Tooke	(08) 9731 1330 / 0427 920 045
	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer: Ian Ralph	0407 959 325
ARGYLE IRISHTOWN	Scott Rowe	0427 345 377
BALINGUP	Paul Davis	0439 091 717
BEELERUP	Stuart Simmonds	0429 371 842
BROOKHAMPTON	Tim McNab	0419 094 606
KIRUP-BRAZIER	Chris Wringe	(08) 9731 6168 / 0427 316 168
LOWDEN	Michael Anderson	0408 321 316
MULALLYUP	Andrew Scott	0428 641 197
MUMBALLUP	Brad Kettle	0414 533 355
THOMSON BROOK	Graham Foan	(08) 9731 8104 / 0429 579 571
MUNRO	Tosh Thamo	0427 641 148
UPPER CAPEL	Bevan Dix	0429 579 571
SHIRE STAFF	Jessie Cooper, Conor McGregor, Peter Davis, and Benjamin Anderson	(08) 9780 4200