

**This document contains important information
relating to your responsibility as a landholder
in the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup**



FIRE PREVENTION ORDER 2025-2026

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.

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

This work must be carried out by 1 December 2025 and kept maintained until 31 March 2026.

Burning Period Dates (2025-2026):

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD:

1 November 2025 - 14 December 2025
PERMITS REQUIRED

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD:

15 December 2025 - 31 March 2026

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD:

1 April 2026 - 26 April 2026
PERMITS REQUIRED

*Please be aware that the above dates and those within this Order
are subject to variation according to seasonal conditions.
Any alterations will be advertised locally.*

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000

SPECIAL NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS AND OCCUPIERS

The Shire forwards a copy of its Fire Prevention Order with rates notices annually. It is also published locally, and additional copies are obtainable at the Shire Administration Office. 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 orders to Owners or Occupiers if additional hazard removal is considered necessary.

**Inspections will be carried out by an Authorised Officer.
Failure to comply with the requirements of this Order may result in the issuing of an infringement notice or prosecution.
The Shire may also arrange for works to be carried out at the expense of the Owner or Occupier.**

WHAT IS A FIREBREAK?

A firebreak is defined as a traversable strip of land cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass and other combustible material. Firebreaks are intended to allow access for firefighting vehicles during bushfire suppression operations and act as a fuel-free area from which planned burns can be undertaken. All firebreaks must be a minimum of 2m (metres) wide.

All queries relating to firebreak compliance are to be made to the Shire's Ranger Services (see below).

REQUESTS FOR VARIATION

Landowners may request a variation to the Order where their properties may not comply, with regards to the preparation of a property during fire season.

All requests must be made to the Shire in writing and received no later than 30 September (annually).

CONTACTING THE SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK BALINGUP

Visit us at 1 Bentley Street, Donnybrook, WA 6239
(open 8:30am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday)

Call us on (08) 9780 4200 during open hours

Email us via shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au

Post documents to PO Box 94, Donnybrook, WA 6239

Visit our website by scanning this QR code or searching
www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au



1. RURAL LAND

*Land zoned as General Agriculture
or Priority Agriculture*

- a. On land which is divided by or abuts a formed or partly formed road or railway reserve, a firebreak not less than 2m wide shall be provided within 60m of the boundary of the road or railway reserve. Firebreaks are not permitted on road reserves without written approval from the Shire.
- b. Where rural land (whether bushland or pastured) abuts a residential zone boundary a 3m wide firebreak shall be constructed along the common boundary of the residential area.
- c. A firebreak 2m wide shall be provided within 20m of the perimeter of all buildings, hay sheds and fuel storage areas situated on the land.
- d. A cleared area of at least a 6m radius shall be provided around all combustion pumping engines.
- e. A cleared area of all flammable material of at least a 3m radius shall be provided around an operational gas guns, and the owner of the gas gun shall ensure that it is secured in an upright position.
- f. If a Total Fire Ban is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the use of gas guns is prohibited within the Shire.



Refer to Emergency WA to see the latest alerts and warnings or to check if a Total Fire Ban has been declared in your area. Download the app to your device for free via the Apple or Google app stores or visit: www.emergency.wa.gov.au



For further advice and resources, visit the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) WA website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au

2. EUCALYPTUS & PINE PLANTATIONS

- a. Firebreaks not less than 10m in width around the perimeter of land on which trees are planted.
- b. Firebreaks not less than 10m in width along those portions of plantation which adjoin a road reserve.
- c. Firebreaks not less than 6m in width in such positions that no part or compartment of a plantation shall exceed 28ha (hectares) in area.
- d. Where 10m firebreaks are required in accordance with this Section of this Order, pruning of overhang shall be carried out up to a height of 5m above the firebreak.
- e. In addition to the firebreaks specified, plantations traversed by Western Power transmission lines have additional obligations under the *Electricity Act 1945*.

*This is an example of a **non-compliant** firebreak:*



*This is an example of a **compliant** firebreak:*



More information about Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) can be found on the Fire Bans page on our website, which is also where you can register for our HVMB SMS system to be notified through a text if a HVMB has been declared.

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to go there now - alternatively, check the Latest News & Notices.



3. TOWNSITE LAND

Land zoned as Residential, Commercial and Industrial.

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

- 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, remaining grasses to be slashed or grazed to a height that does not exceed 100mm and;
- b. Where the land exceeds 2024m², clear firebreaks not less than 2m wide, unless otherwise specified in the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No.7 (LPS7), 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 slashed or grazed to a height that does not exceed 100mm, cut for fodder, or totally removed.
- c. The Shire, in consultation with the relevant Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO), 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 Shire.



4. LAND ZONED AS RURAL RESIDENTIAL, RURAL SMALL HOLDINGS OR TOURIST

Owners of all land zoned as any of the above under the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No. 7 (LPS7) shall:

- a. Maintain a firebreak not less than 2m wide, immediately inside all external boundaries of the land, free of overhanging branches to a height of 4m.
- b. The Shire, on the recommendation of a BFCO, may vary these conditions in certain circumstances.
- c. A low fuel zone of 20m 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.

5. FUEL AND/OR GAS DEPOTS

Any land containing a container normally used to hold liquid or gas fuel - including land with ramps or supports for such containers - must be cleared of all flammable material.

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 (as per the *Bush Fire Regulations 1954*) is provided at that place and a firebreak which is at least 5m wide surrounds that place.

7. ROADSIDE VERGES

Council Policy EMERG/CP-2, Permits for Road Verge Burning, states that no verge is to be burnt without a permit for that specific purpose.

SUMMARY OF THE *BUSH FIRES ACT 1954*

1. Permits to Burn are required for the whole of the Restricted Period and can be obtained from a Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO) listed in this notice - see back for details.
2. Any special conditions imposed by the BFCO when issuing Permits must be adhered to.
3. The Permit holder shall give notice of their intent to burn to:
 - i. The Shire's Chief BFCO or Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) no later than on the day when the burning is to take place. Weekend burning must be notified by 4:00pm on the Friday before.
 - ii. The Owner or Occupier of any adjoining land.
 - iii. The nearest Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions (DBCA) Office if the land is situated within 3km of State Forest. The Kirup Parks & Wildlife DBCA Office can be contacted via (08) 9731 6232.
 - iv. The DFES Communication Centre via (08) 9395 9209.
4. The period of notice to neighbours prior to burning cannot be more than 28 days or less than 4 days, although less notice may be determined by mutual agreement of all neighbours.
5. Your attention is drawn to items 5, 6 and 7 printed on the back of the Permit.
6. All landowners and occupiers who incur a bushfire have an obligation to assist each BFCO to compile a Fire Report Form.
7. Open fires requiring solid fuels within the Shire are not permitted from 15 December to 31 March each year, except in properly constructed fireplaces situated in authorised areas and not when a Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of HIGH or above has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) for that area.
8. During the Restricted Period, up to one cubic metre (1m³) of garden refuse and rubbish may be lit between 6:00pm and 11:00pm, and must be 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 5m at all points of the site of the fire. No fires are to be lit during the Prohibited Burning Period, or when an FDR of HIGH or above has been issued by the BOM for that area.
9. Incinerators are not permitted to be used when an FDR of HIGH or above has been issued by the BOM 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.
10. Slashing/mowing of grass and scrub is not permitted on days where an FDR of HIGH or above has been issued by the BOM for that area. A serviceable 9L (litre) minimum fire extinguisher must be present for all slashing activities carried out in the Shire.

The following are authorised Bush Fire Control Officers (BFCO) in the Shire, effective 1 July 2025.

CHIEF BFCO

Max Walker
(08) 9764 1021 / 0428 641 021

ARGYLE & IRISHTOWN

Jayden Hitchcock
0459 990 087

BEELERUP

Stuart Simmonds
0429 371 842

BROOKHAMPTON

Tim McNab
0419 094 606

FERNDALE

Jamie Thomson
0448 836 463

LOWDEN

Andrew Rohrbach
0431 990 469

Michael Anderson
0408 321 316

MUNRO

Tas Thamo
0427 641 148

THOMSON BROOK

Graham Foan
(08) 9731 8104 / 0429 311 840

DEPUTY CHIEF BFCO

Bevan Dix - 0429 579 571
Tim McNab - 0419 094 606

BALINGUP TOWNSITE

Paul Davis
0439 091 717

BRAZIER & KIRUP

Chris Wringe
(08) 9731 6168 / 0427 316 168

DONNYBROOK TOWNSITE

David Tooke
(08) 9731 1330 / 0428 920 045

MULLALYUP

Andrew Scott
0428 641 197

MUMBALLUP

Brendon Giudici
0488 591 458

Garth Fitzpatrick
0438 761 982

STIRLING PARK

Max Walker
(08) 9764 1021 / 0428 641 021

UPPER CAPEL

Bevan Dix
0429 579 571

SHIRE STAFF - (08) 9780 4200

**IN AN EMERGENCY
CALL 000**