

Shire of Denmark Fire Management Notice—Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Parkland Cleared

Removal of all vegetation, understorey & grasses, other than ‘substantial vegetation’ to create a low fuel area.

Substantial Vegetation

Refers to all types of vegetation where the diameter of the trunk (including bark) measured 1 (one) metre above ground level exceeds 50mm

Fire Fuel (Kindling) — any combustible material, dead or alive, in isolation or clusters or aggregation with other combustible materials that, in the opinion of a Shire Ranger, is likely to fuel a bushfire.

Vehicular Access;

- See page 68 table 4—[Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas](#)

Table 4: Vehicular access technical requirements

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS	1 Public road	2 Cul-de-sac	3 Private driveway	4 Emergency access way	5 Fire service access routes
Minimum trafficable surface (m)	6*	6	4	6*	6*
Horizontal clearance (m)	6	6	6	6	6
Vertical clearance (m)	4.5	N/A	4.5	4.5	4.5

Camping or Cooking Fires

Section 25 (1a) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, a Local Government may prohibit the lighting of fires in the open air in its district for the purpose of camping or cooking during the prohibited burning time.

Section 25 (1c) (a) unless the fire is lit, *in a place specified in the Notice as being set aside for the lighting of camping and cooking fires.*

Council Policy P050102

Pursuant to the powers under Section 25 (1a) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the Shire of Denmark hereby prohibits the lighting of fires in the open air in its district for the purpose of camping or cooking during the prohibited burning times, unless the fire is:

- (a) At a person’s home; *(A person’s permanent home or residence must be a building approved by the Shire. A temporary shed or caravan or other structure on an otherwise vacant Lot is not classified as a ‘permanent home’ and the lighting of camping or cooking fires in these situations is Prohibited during the PBT and subject to the issue of a permit during the RBT) or*
- (b) In an area which –
 - (i) Is set aside for that purpose by the State Authority or Local Government responsible for the care, control or management of the land; and
 - (ii) Bears the State Authority’s or Local Government’s sign denoting that purpose; and
 - (iii) All combustible material is cleared from within a 5 metre radius of the fire; and
 - (iv) The fire danger rating today indicates no greater than “high or low-moderate”.

The fire must be;

- Contained within a purpose built structure of brick or rocks and mortar or
- Contained within a purpose built steel container recognisable as a properly constructed barbecue or
- Is a sand fire pit structure, suitable for a camp fire or cooking fire, that has a maximum diameter of 1 metre and a minimum depth of 30cm

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Burning of Garden Refuse

Section 24G (2) & (4) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Minister or Local Government may further restrict burning of garden refuse.

- (2) A local government may, by a notice published in the *Gazette* and a newspaper circulating in its district, prohibit or impose restrictions on the burning of garden refuse within its district that is otherwise permitted under section 24F.
- (4) In a notice under this section the Minister or a Local Government must specify;
 - (a) The person or class of persons to whom; and
 - (b) The area in which; and
 - (c) The period which,The notice applies.

Council has resolved, through Policy P050101, to impose restrictions on the burning of garden refuse;

- No burning of garden refuse is permitted in the restricted burning season without a permit.
- No burning of garden refuse is permitted throughout the entire prohibited fire season.
- All garden refuse that is burnt is to be thoroughly dry so as to not cause a smoke nuisance to neighbouring properties.

Other Buildings— including farm sheds, out buildings and other non-habitable buildings

Please consult the Shire of Denmark for any clearing permissions/requirements around these buildings.

URBAN FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

An 'Urban Fire Management Plan' (UFMP) is a special fire risk mitigation plan that applies in exceptional situations, such as steep slopes in close proximity to a Shire or Department of Parks & Wildlife managed reserve, vegetation of high conservation value or a combination of situations, where special fire risk mitigation provisions may be necessary.

Download UFMP form—[here](#)

Proposals for a UFMP must be provided to the Shire no later than 1st November for permission to provide alternative fire mitigation measures on the land.

- **If a UFMP has been approved** by the Shire, it will thereafter replace and totally extinguish the landowner's obligations to otherwise implement the standard regulations as described in the Fire Regulation Notice, appropriate to the zoning of the property.
- **If a UFMP has not been approved** then the standard Regulations must be implemented by the due dates.

A fee, as per the current Fees & Charges, will be applied by the Shire for the initial assessment and subsequent renewal of a UFMP.

A VARIATION TO FIRE REGULATION NOTICE—No Fee Applied

A 'Variation' application can be made to address a particular situation; for example, variations to boundary access ways where the land is inaccessible due to being too steep, rocky, fragile or permanently water-logged.

PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

The penalty for failing to comply with this Notice is **a fine of \$250 and a penalty through the Courts of not more than \$5000**. A person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of performing the work directed in this Notice if it is not carried out by the property owner and/or occupier by the date required in this Notice.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO EXTINGUISH FIRES

Property owners and/or occupiers of land are reminded that Section 28 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* provides that where a bush fire is burning during the Restricted or Prohibited Burning Time, the property owner and/or occupier of the land shall, whether they have lit or caused such a fire to be lit or not, take all possible measures to extinguish the fire. Where a property owner fails to extinguish the fire, a Shire Fire Control Officer may take all proper measures to extinguish such fire and expenses of that action are recoverable from the relevant owner.

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PASTURE/GRASSED AREAS MANAGEMENT

Open pasture/grassed areas must be managed to reduce fire fuel loads and to **maintain** those reduced fuel loads throughout the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times.

Management of pasture/grassed areas may involve slashing or cutting, grazing of livestock (where permitted by the Development Provisions relative to your property), or a combination of these methods, as follows:

- Open pasture/grassed areas must generally be maintained to a height of not more than 100mm; **or**
- There is grazing of livestock on the pasture/grassed areas and 'commercial stocking rates' in accordance with Department of Agriculture & Food WA guidelines are observed; **or**
- Actively managed pastures, forming part of an agricultural pursuit, may exceed a 100mm height if approved by a Shire Ranger.

PERMIT TO BURN 'STANDING BUSH'

In this Notice, 'Standing Bush' is a term for all types of forest, woodland and scrub areas. It is defined to include "trees, bushes, plants, stubble, scrub, and undergrowth of all kind whatsoever whether alive or dead" in these areas.

You are required to obtain a Permit to burn 'Standing Bush' during the periods **1st October** to 15th December and 1st March to **30th April**.

This Permit requirement applies to **any** size area of Standing Bush.

BURNING OFF NEAR QUICKUP AND DENMARK SURFACE WATER CATCHMENT AREAS



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation



Burning Off near Quickup and Denmark Surface Water Catchment Areas

Please be mindful when burning off near the Quickup and Denmark surface water catchment areas as destruction of riparian vegetation along the banks of the rivers and tributaries may impact the quality of our water resources.

Riparian vegetation buffers protect the water quality by acting as barrier to slow down water, filter out potential harmful contaminants (e.g. nutrients and pathogens), and to protect the embankment from soil erosion. Riparian vegetated buffers are also important to support waterway ecology and habitat. Therefore, the loss of riparian vegetation through fire can degrade water quality (e.g. increase in nutrient levels, pathogens, and turbidity) and impact the value of local water resources.

Specific controls on vegetation clearing for salinity management are also provided under part IIA of the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947. These specific clearing controls apply within six Western Australian catchment areas, including the proclaimed Denmark River and Quickup Dam Catchment Areas. Please be aware that catchment rangers undertake routine inspections in public drinking water supply areas.

Advice on the location of public drinking water source areas and sensitive water resources can be obtained from the Department of Water's website on www.water.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Albany regional office on 9841 0100.

Shire of Denmark Fire Management Notice—Definitions

DEFINITIONS

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) - a low fuel area immediately surrounding a building.

An APZ is an area surrounding a building that is managed to reduce the bushfire hazard to an acceptable level.

- For habitable buildings built to AS3959, the APZ is to be maintained as per the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment for that specific property. The APZ should, at a minimum, be of sufficient size to ensure the potential radiant heat impact of a fire does not exceed 29kW/square metre, Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) 29.
- For habitable buildings not built to AS3959, refer to adjacent table for APZ size. **Please note;** this may be dependant upon property specific BAL.
- Location: within the boundaries of the lot on which the building is situated;
- Fire Fuel load: reduced to and maintained at **two tonnes per hectare;**
- Trees (>5m in height) at maturity should be a minimum of 6m from the building, branches should not touch or over-hang the building, lower branches should be removed to a height of 2m above the ground, canopies should be atleast 5m apart and coverage should be less than 15%.
- Shrubs (0.5m to 5m in height) should not be located under trees or within 3m of buildings or planted in clumps of >5metres square in area.
- Ground covers (<0.5m in height) can be planted under trees but must be maintained to remove dead material and any part within 2m of a building.
- Grass should be managed to maintain a height of 100mm or less.

Refer to [Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas](#) for more information.

Consult Shire of Denmark Building Department for the applicable BAL rating that relates to your specific building.

Fire Fuel (Kindling) — any combustible material, dead or alive, in isolation or clusters or aggregation with other combustible materials that, in the opinion of a Shire Ranger, is likely to fuel a bushfire.

Including but not limited to;

- Heavy leaf litter on the ground, dead leaves in gutters, fallen branches, bracken or any combustible vegetation in clusters. Of particular concern are combustible materials suspended off the ground;
- All dry grasses exceeding a height of 100mm;
- Any tree within the APZ or branch of a tree that may fall onto a building which in the opinion of a Shire Ranger constitutes an unacceptable fire risk.

It does not include;

- Vegetable gardens, tended lawns, landscaped gardens (including deciduous or ornamental planted trees), isolated planted shrubs, established natural or planted trees that, in the opinion of a Shire Ranger, do not constitute an unacceptable fire risk;
- Well compacted dead vegetative material e.g. mulch, that in the opinion of a Shire Ranger does not constitute an unacceptable fire risk.

Tonnes per Hectare;

- 2 tonnes per hectare = 200 grams (2 handfuls) **fire fuel** per square metre
- 8 tonnes per hectare = 800 grams (8 handfuls) **fire fuel** per square metre
- 15 tonnes per hectare = 1500 grams (15 handfuls) **fire fuel** per square metre

Strategic Fire Access Route (SFAR)

A Strategic Fire Access Route is both a major fire access road and a major firebreak—it must be a minimum of 6m wide, clear of all fire fuel, have an all-weather trafficable surface of at least 4m, a vertical clearance of at least 4.5m and be designed to allow a heavy duty fire truck to access your property. There needs to be provision for a turning area (minimum radius of 10m) approximately every 500m along the Strategic Fire Access Route. Passing places should also be installed every 100m, should be 20m long and 6m wide.

Where a Strategic Fire Access Route is located on your property, you will be required to install and maintain it, to the satisfaction of the Shire, between 1st December and 30th April. It must not be obstructed by buildings, fences or additional tree planting and so on. Unlocked gates are to be provided on property boundaries where the SFAR crosses.

Strategic Fire Access Routes apply to identified properties in the Shire and details of the locations can be sourced from the Shire Rangers.



Asset Protection Zone— when not built to AS3959		
Slope	Add	Adjusted Distance
Level		Min. 20m
10 Deg	10m	30m
20 Deg	20m	40m
30 Deg	30m	50m

