



FIREBREAK AND FUEL MANAGEMENT NOTICE 2022/2023

Section 33 Bush Fires Act 1954

FIRST and FINAL notice to owners and occupiers of land within Shire of Denmark.

Take the time to read and understand your
responsibilities under the law.

Maintenance Period

1 December 2022 – 30 April 2023

Variations Due

1 October 2022

Compliance Inspections Commence

1 December 2022

**Failure to comply with this notice is an offence
and may result in a penalty of up to \$5000.**

In addition, the owner/occupier is liable to cover costs
incurred by Shire of Denmark for a contractor to enter
the property to carry out any works as required by this
notice.



Burning Periods

The New Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)
Commences 1st September 2022 in Western Australia



MODERATE

Plan and prepare.

EXTREME

Take action now to prepare
Your life and property.

HIGH

Be ready to act.

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave
bushfire risk areas.

Burning Periods

Subject to change due to conditions in the **Stirling Coastal fire weather district**, strict conditions apply.

Unrestricted* 1 May 2022 – 31 October 2022

Restricted 1 November 2022 – 15 December 2022

PROHIBITED 16 December 2022 – 28 February 2023

Restricted 1 March 2023 – 30 April 2023

***Permit required for standing bush from 1 October 2022**

Contact your local Fire Control Officer for information on how to obtain a Permit to Burn during restricted periods. **A Total Fire Ban may be declared by DFES at any time and imposes further conditions** to mitigate the threat of bushfire.



Local Volunteer Fire Control Officers

Carmarthen

CRAIG HUGHES
0407 223 297

East Denmark

CHRIS HOARE
0447 482 244

Harewood

IAN THOMPSON
0438 318 959

Hazelvale

ALEX WILLIAMS
0417 188 843

Kordabup

CRAIG LILLEY
0417 746 848

Mt Lindesay

MURRAY BROOKER
0429 094 136

Nornalup

NEVILLE BRASS
0429 401 144

Ocean Beach

HANK ALBERTS
0417 080 262

Owingup

PAUL MONCRIEFF
0413 117 192

Peaceful Bay

VACANT
(contact Hazelvale)

Shadforth

GEOFF BOWLEY
0429 875 850

Somerset Hill

STEVE YATES
0414 807 077

Tingledale

BRIAN VIGUS
0417 188 158

William Bay

SIMON COPPOCK
0467 891 013

Denmark Town

DARIN HOCKLEY
0417 968 776

PAUL HARBRON

0438 916 093

Fire Control Officers

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

LEZ BAINES 0428 788 008

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

NIGEL MARSH 0408 956 133

Community Emergency Services Manager

0428 913 937

Ranger Services

(08) 9848 0300



Your Responsibilities

Land owners/occupiers must carry out the following maintenance activities as applicable to the property and must address any specific hazards listed.

In addition, you may be required to carry out further fire prevention works to mitigate any hazards identified by an Authorised Officer.

Compliance must be achieved in accordance with the statutory document for land controlled by a Town Planning Scheme with specific fire management provisions or where an approved Bushfire Management Plan applies.

If it is considered impractical to meet the requirements of this notice, **you may contact Ranger Services for information on how to apply for a VARIATION to the Fire Management Notice.** A written application must be submitted to the Shire of Denmark by no later than 1 October 2022. If permission for a variation is not granted, you must comply with the requirements in this notice.

CLEARING OF NATIVE VEGETATION:

Penalties apply for unauthorised clearing. Clearing activities that are outside of the minimum requirements outlined in this fire-break notice may require a clearing permit.

Please refer to the **Department of Water and Environmental Regulation** for more information.



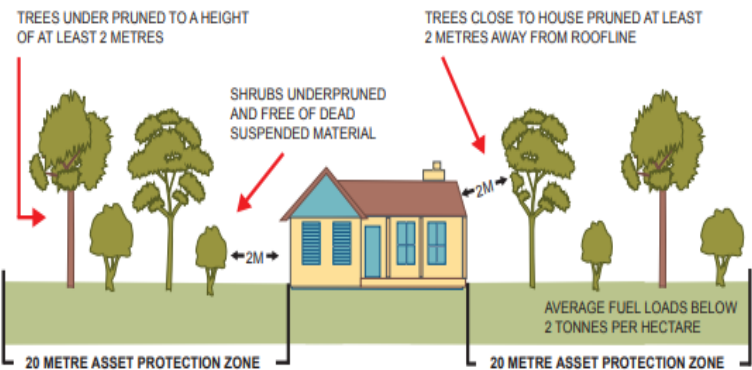
Property Maintenance

Land with a total area less than 5000m² must have:

- **MAINTAINED ASSET PROTECTION ZONE/S**
- **VEHICULAR ACCESS**
- **SLASHED, MOWED or TRIMMED GRASS** and **GROUNDCOVER**. These may not exceed 100mm.
- **MAINTAINED DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL** below 2t per hectare or 5t per hectare in predominately Karri bush areas ONLY.

Land with a total area 5000m² or more must have:

- **MAINTAINED ASSET PROTECTION ZONE/S**
- **LOW FUEL BOUNDARY ACCESS**. Additional LFBA required to compartmentalise bushland areas exceeding 40 hectares.
- **VEHICULAR ACCESS**
- **MAINTAINED DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL** below 8t per hectare natural bush or 15t per hectare in predominately Karri bush areas. (*Rural zoned land exempt.*)
- **GRASSLAND and GROUNDCOVER** should be maintained to a max height of 100mm unless justified to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer within an actively managed agricultural pursuit.

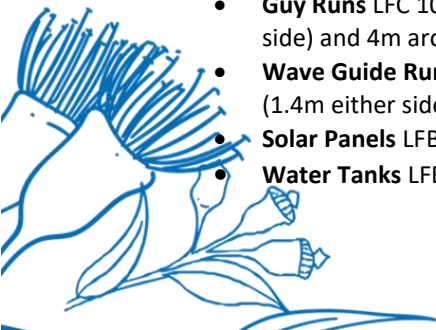


Asset Protection Zone*

*Find minimum standards for *Asset Protection Zone* and other terms referred to in this notice under definitions.

Specific Hazards

- **STRATEGIC FIRE ACCESS ROUTES** must meet approved Town Planning Scheme provisions or the requirements of an adopted Subdivision Guide plan. Otherwise, must have *vehicular access*. If such a route is located on your property, maintenance is your responsibility.
- **PLANTATIONS** must be maintained to meet Plantation Fire Protection guidelines developed by Department of Fire and Emergency Services.
- **FUEL and CHEMICAL STORAGE** must be surrounded by a *Low Fuel Boundary* that extends 10m from the outermost point of the storage structure, whether containing fuel or not.
- **HAY STACKS, WOOD or STOCKPILED FLAMMABLE MATERIAL** must be surrounded by a *Low Fuel Boundary* of 4m wide.
- **POWER INFRASTRUCTURE** must be surrounded by a maintained *Low Fuel Boundary* 1m wide.
- **TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE (PERMANENT OR PORTABLE)** must be surrounded by a *Low Fuel Boundary* (LFB) or Low Fuel Corridor (LFC).
 - **Building Envelope** LFB 5m wide around the external perimeter
 - **Guy Runs** LFC 10m wide (5m either side) and 4m around base
 - **Wave Guide Runs** LFC 3m wide (1.4m either side)
 - **Solar Panels** LFB 3m wide
 - **Water Tanks** LFB 5m wide



Definitions

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) A low fuel area immediately surrounding a building which must extend 20m from the outermost point. On sloping ground the distance increases at least 1m for every degree in slope on the sides of the building that are exposed to down slope where natural vegetation exists. **APZ standards are:**

- **Clean Gutters** flammable matter removed from all gutters, roofs and walls.
- **Fine Fuel Load** combustible dead vegetation matter less than 7mm thick and maintained at an average of 2t per hectare.
- **Trees (> 5m high)** trunks at maturity should be a minimum distance of 6m from all elevations of the building, branches at maturity should not touch or overhang the building, lower branches should be removed to a height of 2m above the ground and or surface vegetation, canopy cover should be less than 15% with tree canopies at maturity well spread to at least 5m apart to not form a continuous canopy.
- **Shrubs (0.5m – 5m high)** should not be located under trees or within 3m of buildings, should not be planted in clumps greater than 5m² in area, clumps of shrubs should be separated from each other and any exposed window or door by at least 10m. Shrubs greater than 5m high are treated as trees.
- **Ground Covers (>0.5m high)** can be planted under trees but must be properly maintained to remove dead plant material and any parts within 2m of a structure, but 3m from windows or doors if greater than 100mm high. Ground covers greater than 0.5m high are treated as shrubs.

NOTE - Buildings built to AS 3959 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-Prone Areas the APZ is to be maintained as per the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment for that specific property.



Definitions (continued)

Low Fuel Boundary Access (LFBA) A trafficable portion of land cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass and other combustible material, providing a 'fuel free' area as close as practical to the internal perimeter of the property, being the prescribed width and height of no less than 6m wide and meeting the definition of *vehicular access*. A LFBA must not terminate, lead to a dead-end, have tight bends or be without safe egress routes.

Low Fuel Boundary A maintained area directly around a structure or hazard that has been cleared of all combustible material likely to fuel a fire.

Vehicular Access Includes driveways longer than 50m which must allow for the safe travel of emergency vehicles and include a turn-around area. Technical requirements are *trafficable* surface 4m, overall 6m wide and 4.5m minimum vertical clearance.

Trafficable An unimpeded route (may be ploughed, cultivated, mulched, sprayed or otherwise clear) accessible to four-wheel drive fire vehicles.

Fuel Load Any combustible material deemed by an Authorised Officer as likely to fuel a fire. A litter depth of 5mm is indicative of approximately 2.5t per hectare, 15mm is approximately 8t per hectare. Managed vegetation such as lawns, mulch and gardens may be deemed by the Authorised Officer as exempt from classification as 'fuel load'.

Standing Bush All types of bushland, forest and scrub areas, including bushes, stubble, rushes and undergrowth.



Camp and Cooking Fires

The lighting of fires in the open air for the purpose of camping or cooking is **not permitted during the Prohibited Burning Period** unless the Fire Danger Rating is below Very High and the fire is either:

- Within 20m of a permanent residence (must be a building approved by the Shire not a caravan or temporary shed)
- In the following approved locations:
 - Riverbend Caravan Park
 - Denmark Boating and Angling Club Facilities
 - Parry Beach Caravan Park
 - Boat Harbour Caravan Park
 - Peaceful Bay Caravan Park

The fire must be contained within either of the below options with a 5m radius clear of combustible material:

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

Fires must be attended at all times and you must have the ability and means to extinguish the fire close at hand.



Alternatives to Burning

There are a range of ways you can elect to manage the fuel load at your property.

Composting	Slashing
Mulching	Grazing
Ploughing	Grading

You can also deposit your excess green waste at the Denmark Waste Management Reuse Facility.

Don't forget you must maintain the requirements of this notice at your property for the duration of the *maintenance period*. Consider how varying seasonal conditions may impact the fuel load at your property.

For more information about mitigating the risk of fire at your property, please visit the Shire of Denmark's Bushfire FAQ webpage.

BECOME A BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEER

Your local brigade needs you. Contact the Fire Control Officer in your area, or visit the Shire of Denmark website for details on volunteering.



**FOR FIRES AND EMERGENCIES CALL 000
TUNE INTO ABC LOCAL RADIO (630AM and
558AM) FOR CURRENT EMERGENCY
INFORMATION**

Details on Bush Fire and Emergency Management in the Shire of Denmark, along with **important contacts** (local Bushfire Control Officers included), **FAQs** and **variation application forms** can be found at www.denmark.wa.gov.au

Sign up to the **Shire of Denmark SMS Alert System** to receive notice of Total Fire Bans and other emergency information. Visit www.denmark.wa.gov.au/subscribe

Contact the Shire directly via email enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9848 0300.

Current alerts, warnings and other important information available at the following websites:

www.abc.net.au/radio/greatsouthern/live

www.emergency.wa.gov.au

www.dfes.wa.gov.au

www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

www.bom.gov.au/wa/warnings



Authorised by
Ceinwen Gearon,
Shire President

