



# **FIREBREAK & BUSHFIRE HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE 2023/24**

**FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS  
AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND  
SITUATED IN THE SHIRE OF CHITTERING**

**COMPLIANCE DUE BY 16 OCTOBER 2023**



## SHIRE OF CHITTERING FIREBREAK & BUSHFIRE HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE 2023/24

As a measure to assist in the control of bushfires and pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, all owners and occupiers of land within the Shire of Chittering are required before the 16 October in each year or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier of land (if after that date) to clear firebreaks and/or take measures in accordance with this notice and to maintain those firebreaks and measures in accordance with this notice up to and including the 31st day of May in the following year.

### ADDITIONAL WORKS

In addition to the requirements of this notice, regardless of land size and location, you may be required to carry out further bushfire preparedness works to reduce fire hazards considered necessary by an Authorised Officer. Any further requirements will be specified in a work order forwarded to the address of the owner(s) and/or occupier.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Where the owner and/or occupier of the land fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of this Notice within the specified time, the Shire of Chittering may, by its Authorised Officers and such servants, workmen and contractors enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of this Notice which have not been complied with. The costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from the owner and/or occupier of the land by the Shire of Chittering. The Shire's Fire Control Officers are authorised under the Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA) and have powers to enter land pursuant to Section 14 of the Act. **Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and may result in a penalty of up to \$5000.**

**BURNING IS PROHIBITED BETWEEN  
1 DECEMBER TO 31 MARCH**

**PERMITS TO BURN ARE REQUIRED  
BETWEEN 1 OCTOBER TO 30 NOVEMBER  
AND 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY**

**BURNING IS PERMITTED FROM  
1 JUNE TO 30 SEPTEMBER**

### 1. ALL PROPERTIES OF ANY SIZE

- Maintain grassed areas to a height of no more than 50 millimetres by slashing / mowing or grazing by livestock, as far as reasonably practicable.
- You must create an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) by installing and maintaining a 20 metre fuel reduced zone around all buildings or an asset of value. "Fuel reduced" is a reduction in the vegetation so as to reduce the impact of a bushfire on that asset.
- Trees over 5 metres in height within the APZ, must be under pruned to a clearance of 2 metres from the ground.
- Trees and shrubs within 2 metres of the asset, must not exceed 2 metres in height.
- Ensure the roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable matter.
- Properties that have haystacks or fuel storage areas must ensure there is a bare earth firebreak, not less than 5 metres wide, with a 4 metre vertical clearance completely surrounding haystacks and/or fuel storage areas. This requirement is in addition to firebreak requirements inside property boundaries.

Firebreaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, raking, burning, chemical spraying or other approved method.

### 2. PROPERTIES 5000M<sup>2</sup> (½ HECTARE) AND LARGER

- Install and/or upgrade firebreaks
- Clear a bare earth firebreak by removing all flammable material. The firebreak should be 3 metres wide, with a 4 metre vertical clearance (trafficable) along the inside of the property boundaries.
- Properties with an area of 120 hectares or more must have a firebreak in such a position which divides the land into areas not exceeding 120 hectares.

Firebreaks should be located as close as possible to the property boundaries. If for any reason it is not possible to comply with any of the requirements of the Firebreak and Bushfire Hazard Reduction Notice, you will need to apply for a 'variation'. All variation requests must be received and approved by the Shire of Chittering before 1 October in any given year. Applications must be in writing and provide details or a map of the proposed alternative measures. If approved, the firebreak variation will form an individual notice for the property and remain in place until revoked.

**Follow the QR code  
to learn more about  
Property Preparation**



### 3. BUSHFIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS

All properties with a Bushfire Management Plan, Emergency Management Plan, or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), approved as part of a Local Planning Scheme, subdivision approval, development approval or a building permit for an individual, or group of properties, shall comply with the plan in its entirety.

All bushfire management plan requirements are in addition to the requirements of this notice. Compliance is required throughout the year, each and every year.

### 4. PLANTATIONS

In accordance with the requirements of a Fire Management Plan approved in writing by the Shire; Install and maintain external perimeter and internal firebreaks that form compartment cells, and engage in hazard reduction measures that reduce fuel loads so as to protect neighbouring communities and essential infrastructure, Or;

Meet requirements and specifications set out within the *Department of Fire & Emergency Services Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection 2011* publication.

If, for any reason, it is considered impractical to carry out the requirements as outlined above, plantation owners and managers may apply in writing to the Shire for permission to implement an alternative plan. A Fire Management Plan may be required to be developed and submitted.

Follow the QR Code

for resources on:

- Asset Protection Zones
- Firebreaks
- Contractor List



### FIREBREAK & VEHICLE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS



### BEFORE



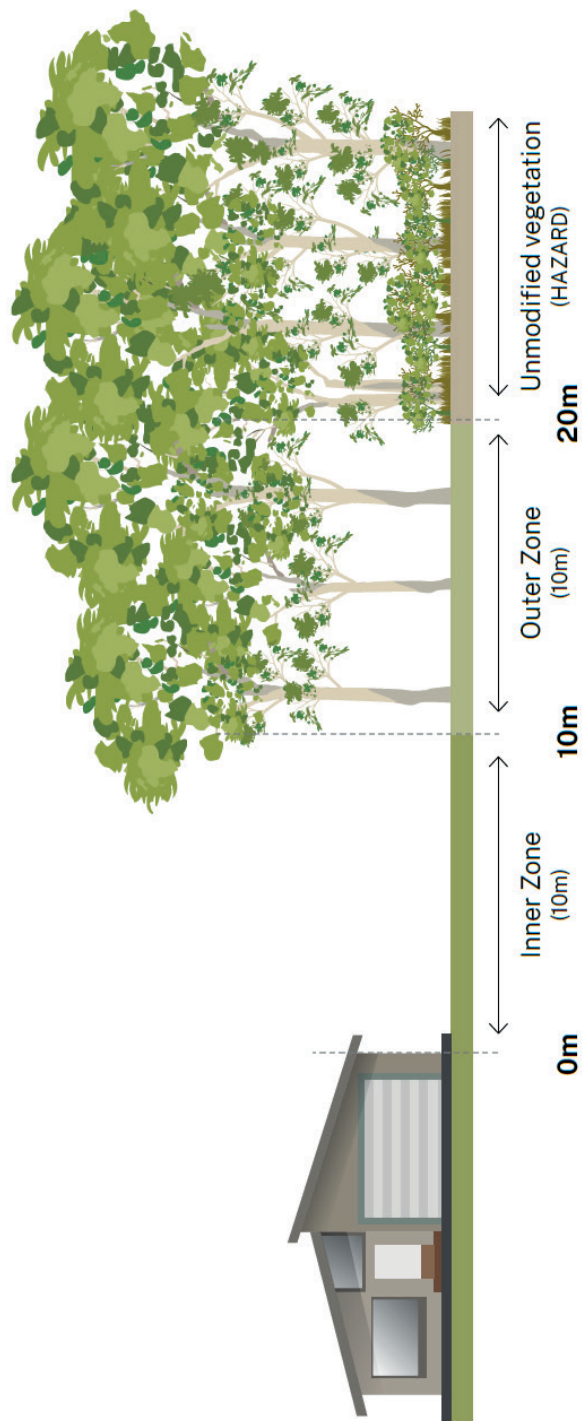
### AFTER



### ASSET PROTECTION ZONE







## CHECKLIST

### Prepare your home and property

#### LONG-TERM PRECAUTIONS

- Prepare firebreaks
- Develop and maintain a minimum 20-metre asset protection zone
- Make the house safe—fit wire screens and shutters and fill gaps.
- Develop and maintain a suitable hazard separation zone
- Provide an emergency water supply
- Discuss fire prevention with your neighbours—is your locality safe?
- Discuss your preparedness with your neighbours

#### SPRING (SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER)

- Move woodpile and stacked timber away from the house
- Keep the grass short—on farms, keep grazing pressure high on areas near the house
- Prune the dead material from the shrubs in the asset protection zone
- Clean out gutters, remove debris from roof
- Create firebreaks
- Prepare an emergency kit
- Prepare an emergency plan
- Decide whether to stay and actively defend your property in the event of a fire or leave for a safer place

#### EARLY SUMMER (DECEMBER ONWARDS)

- Water lawns, trees and shrubs near the house to keep them green
- Re-check personal and home protection gear, screens, water supplies and gutters

#### AUTUMN AND WINTER (MAY–AUGUST)

- Tree pruning—remove lower branches, check that powerlines are clear
- Reduce fuel levels around the house—clear long grass, leaves, twigs and flammable shrubs
- Petrol and other fuels—store in a suitable shed away from the home
- Make sure your personal and home protection equipment is in good order.
- Overhaul the emergency water pump
- Make sure everyone in the family knows what to do in a fire

## BURNING TIMES, BANS & OTHER RELATED INFORMATION

### Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times

Burning is prohibited from 1st December to 31st March.

Burning is restricted from 1st October to 30th November, and 1st April to 31st May, and a Permit to Burn is required. Dates may be adjusted according to seasonal conditions. If it is deemed that your property is not compliant, a Fire Control Officer may refuse to issue you a Permit to Burn.

All hazard reduction burns during the Restricted Burning Times are to be registered with DFES Communications Centre on: 9395 9209

Follow the QR Code for more information on Burning Times on our website



### Fire Danger Rating

No fire of any kind may be lit on a day when the forecast Fire Danger Rating for the district is High, Extreme or Catastrophic.

The Chittering fire weather district is 'Swan Inland North'.

The Fire Danger Rating is supplied daily by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). This information is also available from the Shire, DFES and Emergency WA websites, BoM Weather Service on Ph: 1300 183 341, The Bureau of Meteorology website ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)) and is displayed on the information boards located at: Great Northern Highway, Muchea; John Glenn Park, Muchea; Muchea East Road, Lower Chittering; Great Northern Highway, Bindoon; Corner of Crest Hill and Mooliabeenee Roads, Bindoon.

### Burning of Garden Refuse, Camping & Cooking Fires

Pursuant to Section 24G(2) and Section 25(1a) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and applicable to all persons, the burning of garden refuse and lighting of camping or cooking fires is prohibited within the Shire of Chittering during the Prohibited Burning Time.

Furthermore, pursuant to Section 24G(2) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and applicable to all persons, the burning of garden refuse is prohibited within the Shire of Chittering during the Restricted Burning Times unless a valid permit to burn has been obtained from a Fire Control Officer.

Other than during the RESTRICTED or PROHIBITED Burning Times, garden refuse may be burnt at any time, but care must be exercised. Excessive smoke from the burning of garden refuse may cause nuisance and annoyance to neighbours, other residents and danger to motorists. Do not burn damp, wet or green material at any time as this will cause excessive smoke. Please consider this and plan to minimise smoke.

### Wood Fired Ovens & Solid Fuel Barbecues in Restricted Burning Times

Wood fired pizza ovens and solid fuel barbecues in the open air may NOT be used in the restricted burning times unless the following conditions are met:

1. The Bureau of Meteorology Fire Danger Rating forecast is not High, Extreme or Catastrophic - at any time over the whole day.
2. The fire is only burning between 6pm and midnight, and completely extinguished when finished.
3. There is a minimum 5 metre firebreak, clear of flammable material surrounding the pizza oven or BBQ. (10 metre diameter).
4. At least 1 adult person is in attendance at all times.
5. The wood fired pizza oven or solid fuel BBQ is fitted with a spark arrester to the chimney and the door to the oven mouth (if specified and fitted by the manufacturer) is used to prevent the escape of embers and burning material.
6. There is a means of extinguishing a fire available at all times (e.g. garden hose, knapsack spray or fire unit).

## Control of Operations Likely To Cause a Fire

Hot works including the operation of welding equipment and angle grinders, are activities likely to create a fire danger when used in the open air.

A person shall provide at least one fire extinguisher at the place where welding or cutting operations are carried out and surround this place with a firebreak which is at least 5 metres wide.

A ban on hot works, harvesting and movement of machinery and vehicles is likely to be imposed on days of adverse fire weather conditions. For updates on these bans please ring the information line on **9576 4666** (recorded message) or register with the SMS warning system with the Shire to receive a text when a ban is implemented.

## Harvesting Operations (including Stubble Processing)

The Shire will permit harvesting operations, including stubble processing, during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times on the following conditions:

- That a fully operational firefighting unit (inclusive of associated pump, hose system and a minimum of 600 litres of water is present) at all times.
- Harvesting operations, and stubble processing, are not permitted when the Shire has declared a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban, including Hot Works Activities.

In addition to the conditions above, Harvesting Operations (including stubble processing) on Sundays and Public Holidays will be permitted on the following conditions,

- The local Fire Control Officer (FCO) is notified.
- Two able-bodied adult persons are present during the harvesting operations, only one of whom may be harvesting.

**Hot Works, Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans will be in place for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.**

Learn more watching our video about Harvest, Hot Works & Vehicle Movement Bans by using the QR Code



## LOCAL BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

Fire Control Officers are not obliged to issue permits and may advise on alternatives to burning. Please remember Fire Control Officers are volunteers and their availability to issue permits may vary, assist them by planning in advance. Permits cannot be issued over the phone and should a Fire Control Officer refuse to issue a permit, it is a breach of the Act to request a permit from another Fire Control Officer.

[www.chittering.wa.gov.au/permitstoburn](http://www.chittering.wa.gov.au/permitstoburn)

### MUCHEA

James Marotta 0432 234 741  
Tammy Foster 0422 150 479

### LOWER CHITTERING

Jeremy Tennant 0419 339 586  
Graham Furlong 0476 881 796

### UPPER CHITTERING

Aaron Cover 0410 594 221  
Will Lee 0415 154 715

### BINDOON

Paul Groves 0400 172 560  
Dennis Badcock 0428 947 853

### WANNAMAL

Kim Haeusler 0428 559 043  
Clayton Smith 0427 090 548

### DEPUTY CHIEF (SOUTH)

David Wilson 0412 716 577

### DEPUTY CHIEF (CENTRAL)

Phill Humphry 0427 761 050

### DEPUTY CHIEF (NORTH)

Kim Haeusler 0428 559 043

### SHIRE FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

Rangers & Bush Fire Risk Officer 9576 4600

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

David Carroll 9576 4600

**FIREBREAKS MUST BE CLEARED BY 16 OCTOBER AND REMAIN  
CLEARED UNTIL 31 MAY**

**BURNING IS PROHIBITED BETWEEN  
1 DECEMBER TO 31 MARCH**

**BURNING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED BETWEEN 1 OCTOBER TO  
30 NOVEMBER AND 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY**

Permits are not valid on any Sunday or Public Holiday, or when the Fire Danger Rating is High, Extreme or Catastrophic.

Burning of road side verges is prohibited without written approval from the Shire of Chittering or other authorities. Approvals are only available between June and September each year where no alternative method exists to reduce the hazard.

Wood fired pizza ovens, solid fuel barbecues, camp fires or any uncontrolled flame in the open air must not be used during the Prohibited Burning Time, and conditions apply during the Restricted Burning Times. ("Open Air" means any open place, yard, field or construction area which is not completely enclosed by a building or structure).

**FOR ALL FIRES, CALL 000**

**HOT WORKS, HARVEST AND  
MOVEMENT OF MACHINERY BANS  
INFORMATION LINE 9576 4666**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS NOTICE  
CONTACT THE SHIRE OF CHITTERING**

**Phone: 9576 4600**

**Email: [chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au](mailto:chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/chitteringbushfireready](https://www.facebook.com/groups/chitteringbushfireready)**

**Web Site: [www.chittering.wa.gov.au](http://www.chittering.wa.gov.au)**

By order of the Shire of Chittering  
**Melinda Prinsloo**  
Chief Executive Officer

