

# 2020/21 Fire Season

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The 2020/21 fire season is nearly upon us, have you begun preparations to make your property compliant? The Restricted Burning Period begins on 19 September to 31 October 2020 permits may be issued during this period. All properties must be compliant by the end of this period, infringements will apply from 1 November 2020 if your property does not comply.

### FARMING LAND

On farming land other than excluded areas, the owner or occupier shall:

- a) Clear all firebreaks not less than 3m wide:
  - i. Inside all external boundaries of the land,
  - ii. Within 15m perimeter of all buildings and remove all flammable material from within the 3m of all such buildings, and
  - iii. So as to divide the land into areas not exceeding 400ha.
- b) Remove all flammable material for a continuous distance of 5m immediately surrounding every haystack, hayshed, stationary pump or engine, and
- c) Remove all flammable material for a continuous distance of 15m or to the external boundary of the land whichever is nearer, from around fuel depots.

NOTE: Landowners may use a single firebreak on a neighbours common fenced boundary as long as both parties agree in writing and a copy of the agreement is delivered to the Shire of Pingelly by 1 October of each year for the Chief Executive Officer to acknowledge agreement.

All excluded areas remain the owner's or occupier's responsibility and any variation as permitted by the Order does not render null and void any duty otherwise required by law.

### TOWNSITE LAND

On Townsite Land, where a property or adjoining properties having the same ownership or control and are used as a single holding, the owner occupier, shall:

- a) Where the holding is under 2024m<sup>2</sup> in area have all flammable material likely to be conducive to the outbreak, spread or extension of fire removed, and grass maintained to a height not greater than 10cm and all slashed material removed, or
- b) Where the holding is under 2024m<sup>2</sup> in area clear by burning all flammable material likely to be conducive to the outbreak, spread or extensions of a fire from the whole of the land subject to prior approval from the Shire of Pingelly.
- c) All townsite properties over 2,024m<sup>2</sup> in area are required to be fire hazard reduced by:
  - i. Construction and maintenance of a 3 metre wide bare mineral earth unobstructed trafficable firebreak within 10 metres of the boundary; and
  - ii. Reduction of the vegetation fire hazard to a maximum height of 100mm including the removal of slashed material, unless an exemption is granted by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer/VFRS Captain and Ranger Services.
  - iii. Firebreak must be constructed on and contained within the property: footpaths and roads or road verges will not be accepted as firebreaks.
- d) Trees, bushes, shrubs are to be trimmed back over driveways and access ways to all buildings to three (3) metres width with a clear vertical axis over it of four (4) metres. This is to afford access for emergency services to all structures and points of the property.

**RURAL RESIDENTIAL LAND (*including Moorumbine, Dattening, Pingelly Heights and Pingelly Townsite*)**

On rural residential land, where a property or adjoining properties having the same ownership or control and are used as a single holding, the owner or occupier shall:

- a) Comply with the requirements of townsite land, where the holding does not exceed 2024m<sup>2</sup> in area; or
- b) Where the holding is **over 2,024m<sup>2</sup> in area and not greater than 10ha in area** is required to be fire hazard reduced by:
  - i. Construction and maintenance of a 3 metre wide bare mineral earth unobstructed trafficable firebreak within 10 metres of the boundary; and
  - ii. Reduction of the vegetation fire hazard to a maximum height of 100mm including the removal of slashed material, unless an exemption is granted by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer/VFRS Captain and Ranger Services.
  - iii. Firebreak must be constructed on and contained within the property: footpaths and roads or road verges will not be accepted as firebreaks.
- c) Trees, bushes, shrubs are to be trimmed back over driveways and access ways to all buildings to three (3) metres width with a clear vertical axis over it of four (4) metres. This is to afford access for emergency services to all structures and points of the property.

#### ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF FIREBREAKS/HAZARD REDUCTION Pursuant to the powers contained in section 33 of the Bush

Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required on or before 31

October, to plough, scarify, cultivate, spray or otherwise clear and thereafter maintain free of all inflammable material until 29 March mineral earth Firebreaks or hazard reduction, on the land owned or occupied by you.

#### APPLICATION TO VARY FIREBREAK REQUIREMENTS

If it is considered impracticable to clear firebreaks or remove flammable material from the land as required, application may be made in writing to the Council or its duly authorised officer by *1 October prior to the upcoming season* for permission to put in place alternative fire hazard reduction measures. If permission is not granted, the requirements of this order shall be complied with.

The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine not exceeding \$250 and a person in default is also liable whether prosecuted or not to pay costs of performing the work directed in this notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this notice. By Order of Council.

#### USE OF MOWERS AND WHIPPER SNIPPER/SLASHERS DURING THE PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

- a) Not to be used during Harvest Bans, Vehicle

Movement Bans or Total Fire Bans on any area b) Not to be used between 6.00 am to 6.00 pm from

1 November and during the rest of prohibited burning period unless on a reticulated area. (This means the grass is “green” and non-combustible)

- c) Vegetation that is not green and flammable and that can be reticulated, can be slashed between 6.00am and 6.00pm must be well watered prior to mowing, whipper snipping or slashing (that is within the hour of watering) so that there is no chance of “sparking” and must remain damp during the operation.
- d) The area in an orchard that is not watered between rows if the trees are reticulated by drippers is not considered to be reticulated.
- e) As an added precaution have a “watcher” on hand with a hose.
- f) The use of disk or slashing type machines for agricultural purposes during the Prohibited Burning Period is to be by specific permit from the Chief Bushfire Control Officer or the Deputy CBFCO.

#### CONTROL OF OPERATIONS LIKELY TO CAUSE A FIRE

Property owners should take care to prevent bush fires. 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 five (5) metres wide.

For updates on Hot Works, Harvest and Movement of

Machinery Bans please ring the information line on

**9887 1265** (recorded message) or register with the SMS warning system with the Shire to receive a text when a ban is implemented.

## FIREBREAKS ON ROAD RESERVES

Firebreaks are not permitted on a road reserve.

**PRIMARY FIRE FIGHTING UNITS** During any period when harvesting operations are being conducted there shall be provided in the same paddock or within close proximity of that paddock, an operational independent mobile firefighting unit having an engine driven pump and a water capacity of not less than 600 litres; the tank of the unit shall be kept full of water at all times during harvesting, and the responsibility to supply the unit is that of the landholder. Harvesting operations include the use of mobile augers and seed cleaning units. Firefighting trailers for fire suppression are regarded as out dated and dangerous – both to their operators and to other fire fighters on a fire ground. Their use at wild fires is not encouraged.

## CLOVER HARVESTING

Harvesting bans include the harvesting of clover.

## BOYAGIN ROCK PICNIC AREA

No wood fires are permitted in the Boyagin Rock Picnic Area (Reserve No. 29413) between 1 October each year and 30 April following.

## RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

1 November to 14 February (inclusive)

**Note:** 1. Permits may only be issued on a daily basis.

2. Permits are only issued for the purpose of protective burning (around houses, sheds etc.)
3. Permits are valid between the hours of 4pm and mid-night. Hours of burning may be shortened as a condition of the permits, e.g. usual practice for town is burning between 6pm and 11pm only.
4. Permits will only be issued up to 11pm on 14 December during this period.
5. At least 3 people must be in attendance for the duration of the burn.

## RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

19 September to 31 October and 15 February to 29 March (inclusive)

**Note:** 1. Permits may be issued for a duration of up to 1 week.

2. Hours of burning may be imposed as a condition of the permit.
3. At least 3 people must be in attendance for the duration of the burn.
4. A condition of all Permits is that immediately prior to lighting up the Permit holder is required to phone and advise the staff at the landholder. Harvesting operations include the use of mobile augers and seed cleaning units.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

When attending a wild fire you must report to the Fire Control Officer in charge at the fire ground. Appropriate protective clothing must be worn when attending the fire ground.

Volunteers on the fire ground must be at least 16 years of age. Whilst there is no maximum age, volunteers are urged to consider their own safety and the safety of others.

## BUSH FIRES ACT INFRINGEMENTS AND PENALTIES

Fire is regarded as a serious risk by the State Government and appropriate infringements are in place to encourage everyone to take care.

- Failing to install firebreaks or other measures - \$250
- Offences relating to lighting of fires in open air - \$250
- Setting fire to clover without a permit - \$250
- Operating a harvesting machine or header when prohibited - \$500

**Note:** Your insurance cover may be null and void if a fire is caused by your machinery being used during a vehicle movement and harvest ban.

The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is an infringement not exceeding \$250.00 and a person in default is also liable whether prosecuted or not to pay the costs of performing the work directed in this notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this notice.

## BUSH FIRE BRIGADE SECRETARIES

Want to become a Volunteer Fire Fighter, or just learn a little more about fire control in your area? Why not contact your local Brigade:

BRIGADE	NAME	PHONE
East Pingelly	Geoff Poultney	9887 9048
Moorumbine-Noonebin	Lindsay Johns	9887 0895
West Pingelly	Mark Sewell	0419 939 056
Pingelly Central	Peter Narducci	9887 0921