

FIRE MANAGEMENT NOTICE

2016 - 2017



FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE IS HEREBY SERVED TO ALL LAND OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS IN THE CITY OF ALBANY

This Notice constitutes the City of Albany Fire Management Notice and is issued under Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

You are required to prepare your property for the fire season. This includes installing and maintaining fire breaks and reducing fuel loads on your property. The specific requirements are contained in this Notice.

All requirements must remain in place from 1 November 2016 to 30 April 2017 in the North East sector and 1 December 2016 to 30 April 2017 in the South West sector or as otherwise gazetted.

PENALTIES APPLY

City of Albany Rangers will inspect properties throughout this period to ensure compliance. If you fail to comply with the conditions contained in this Notice, you may be fined up to \$5,000 under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

The City of Albany, or a contractor engaged by the City, may enter your land to install the fire break or reduce fuel loads and charge you for expenses incurred. Any fire break variation you hold may be declared void.

If the requirements of this Notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.



Fire Management Requirements - Ready Reckoner

	Perimeter fire break	Asset Protection Zone (APZ)	Low Fuel Loads	Specific Hazard Mitigation (1)	Property broken into 250h cells (2)	400 ltr Fire Fighting Unit on site (2)
Undeveloped Land (Cleared & Bush Blocks)	✓ (if greater than 4,000m ²)		✓	✓		
Developed Land less than 4,000m ²		✓	✓	✓		
Developed Land greater than 4,000m ²	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Harvesting & Machinery Operations						✓

(1) Only applies to properties with underground power domes, hay stacks, wood heaps, fuel storage areas or garden refuse piles.

(2) Only applies to cropping properties.

For more information visit the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au.

FIRE BREAKS

Perimeter fire breaks are required on properties larger than 4,000m². Fire breaks must be 3 metres wide with 4 metres vertical clearance. The fire break must be ploughed, cultivated, scarified, chemically sprayed, slashed or otherwise cleared to a maximum vegetation height of 50mm.

Any overhanging branches, trees or shrubs must be cleared to a vertical height of 4m over the designated fire break.

Perimeter fire breaks must be placed within 20 metres of the property boundary.

Fire breaks longer than 400m should include a fire appliance turning area of at least 10 metre diameter at appropriate locations to allow egress from a property.

Fire breaks must be maintained from 1 November 2016 to 30 April 2017 inclusive in the North East sector and 1 December 2016 to 30 April 2017 inclusive in the South West sector.

Strategic Fire Breaks

Landowners or occupiers who have a strategic fire break on their property must maintain this fire break in accordance with the sub-division guide plans for their area. For more information visit www.albany.wa.gov.au.

Strategic fire breaks do not replace the requirement for individual perimeter fire breaks unless specified in a Bushfire Management Plan.

LOW FUEL LOADS

Fuel loads refers to the amount of flammable material available for a fire to burn. Fuel loads are to be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare. This is equal to 8 handfuls of flammable material per square metre. Low fuel loads can be achieved by the following:

- slashing vegetation on the whole block to a height not exceeding 50mm; or
- conducting parkland clearing, which is the removal of vegetation to a maximum height of 50mm but leaving trees in place; or
- hazard reduction burning.

Please note that maximum fuel loads within an Asset Protection Zone is 2 tonnes per hectare.

ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)

Building assets such as houses, sheds and outbuildings shall be protected by reducing the amount of flammable material for a **minimum of 20 metres** around each building.

Owners or occupiers of properties constructed after 1 April 2016 that are subject to a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) classification and setback **shall maintain the setback areas as low threat vegetation**.

Where the Albany Local Planning Scheme requires a larger APZ because of the slope of the land, then that provision will apply. Asset protection zones shall be installed in accordance with the following requirements:

- 0 – 10 degree slope = 20 metres
- 10 – 15 degree slope = 25 metres
- 15 – 20 degree slope = 30 metres

or as stipulated in the Scheme.

APZs shall meet the following requirements:

- shall be located within the boundaries of the lot on which the building is situated;
- fine fuel load to be reduced to and maintained at no greater than 2 tonnes per hectare;
- no trees or tall shrubs within 2 metres of the building;
- no trees are to overhang the building;
- trees (crowns) are to be a minimum distance of 10 metres apart. A small group of trees may be treated as one crown; and
- keeping the grass short (no more than 50mm) and pruning scrub.

New dwellings shall comply with the definition of APZ as per section A2.1 of the Department of Planning's *Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas*.

SPECIFIC HAZARD MITIGATION

Fire breaks must be constructed around the following hazards, if they are located on your property:

- Green power domes – 1 metre fire break
- Wood heaps and hay stacks – 3 metre fire break
- Fuel storage areas – 3 metre fire break
- Garden refuse piles – 3 metre fire break
- Power poles - 1.5 metre fire break

PROPERTIES GREATER THAN 4,000m²

In addition to the fire mitigation measures contained in this Notice, the following requirements must be in place for cropping properties larger than 4,000m²:

- Cropping paddocks must be broken into compartments not exceeding 250ha in area each separated by internal fire breaks.
- A functioning fire fighting unit is to be available
- During harvesting operations, a fully operational fire fighting unit is to be located in the paddock being harvested.

PLANTATIONS & REGENERATION LOTS

All plantation, regeneration and conservation lots must comply with the conditions detailed in the DFES' *Plantation Fire Protection Guidelines* unless approval to vary those conditions has been granted by the City of Albany.

Additional Requirements:

Owners and leasees of Plantation and Regeneration lots must:

- provide a key to access gates to their local Bush Fire Brigade;
- provide a red PVC container at entry points with maps showing water points, tracks and contact details;
- install perimeter fire breaks 10m wide 4m vertical clearance;
- ensure the property is broken into compartments not exceeding 250ha in area and separated by internal fire breaks 6m wide and with a 4m vertical clearance; and
- install a 15m mineral earth break under all power lines.

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Where an approved Bushfire Management Plan is in place, all properties covered by the Plan are to comply with the conditions of that Plan.

This includes maintenance of all strategic fire breaks, emergency access ways and fire service access routes that may be present on your property.

Where a variation to fire management requirements has been granted, any conditions applicable to the variation must be complied with.

VARIATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS

If you are unable to comply with the fire management requirements contained in this Notice, you may be eligible for a variation. For example, variations to fire breaks may be approved where land is inaccessible due to it being rocky, steep, fragile or permanently water-logged.

All of the requirements stipulated in this Notice for which a variation has **not** been granted must be complied with.

Application forms are available on the City of Albany website at **www.albany.wa.gov.au**. Completed applications must be received by the City by no later than **15 September 2016**.

BURNING PERIODS 2016/17

Seasonal conditions may result in changes to these dates. Any alterations will be published in local newspapers and on the City of Albany website at **www.albany.wa.gov.au**.

NORTH EAST SECTOR

1 October - 14 November	Permits required
15 November - 28 February	BURNING PROHIBITED
1 March - 30 April	Permits required

SOUTH WEST SECTOR

1 November - 14 December	Permits required
15 December - 15 March	BURNING PROHIBITED
16 March - 30 April	Permits required

Prohibited Burning Times

Under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, it is an offence to light fires during the Prohibited Burning Time. Penalties of up to \$10,000 fine or 12 months' imprisonment or both may apply.

Restricted Burning Times

Permits are required to light a fire during the Restricted Burning Time. All permit holders are required to comply with the requirements of the *Bush Fire Act 1954*. Any additional special conditions imposed must also be observed.

To obtain a permit, please contact your local Volunteer Bush Fire Control Officer (see contact list on the back page of this Notice). No permits will be issued Good Friday to Easter Monday (inclusive).

FIRE BANS

Harvesting & Machinery Operations

During **restricted** and **prohibited** burning times, all harvesting machinery must carry a fire extinguisher.

At all times, a fully operational fire fighting unit is to be located in the paddock being harvested.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

The City of Albany may impose Harvest and/or Vehicle Movement Bans when adverse fire weather conditions are experienced.

During harvest bans all harvesting operations must immediately cease. No harvesting is permitted on Christmas Day.

A vehicle movement ban means no internal combustion powered vehicles are to be driven in paddocks or bush areas and 'hot work' such as welding or grinding is not to be undertaken in the open air. Further information is available on City of Albany website.

All bans are broadcast via ABC local radio at 10:05am, 11.05am, 12:35pm and 2:05pm.

Total Fire Ban

During a Total Fire Ban, the lighting of any fire in the open air is prohibited. This includes all open cooking and camping fires and incinerators. It also includes 'hot work' such as welding, grinding and soldering or gas cutting.

Exemptions may be available. Check DFES website for details at www.dfes.wa.gov.au.

Penalties may apply of up to \$25,000 or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

Total Fire Bans are announced on DFES website and DFES twitter feed, ABC Radio or via calling 1800 709 355.

Disclaimer:

The City of Albany may vary a condition or conditions of this Notice at its discretion.



City of Albany
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PO Box 484, ALBANY WA 6330
Phone 9841 9333
Fax 9841 4099
Email staff@albany.wa.gov.au
www.albany.wa.gov.au

BUSH FIRE BRIGADE CONTACTS

For burning permits contact the following:		
FRS Fire District	City of Albany	9841 9349
North East Sector		
Gnowellen	Morgan Sounness (permits)	0427 471 057
	Greg Baum	0428 471 008
Green Range	Ian Smith (permits)	0429 466 031
	Mark Plunkett	0428 466 032
Kojaneerup	Craig Nelson (permits)	0428 477 026
	Ashton Hood	0427 477 234
Manypeaks	Richard Metcalf (permits)	0458 468 003
	Kim Lester	0429 889 075
South Stirling	Graeme Pyle (permits)	9854 3021
	Luke Bennett	0409 209 423
Wellstead	Peter Diprose (permits)	0427 472 037
	Richard Chadwick	0428 472 014
South West Sector		
Bornholm	Laurie Nissen (permits)	0429 838 038
	Chris Ayres	0427 451 123
Elleker	Roy Parsons	0422 607 347
	Craig Wickham	0402 360 336
	Mal Parsons (permits)	9844 6367
Highway	Jeff Van Dongen	0458 540 891
	Ken Johnson (permits)	0428 432 251
Kalgan	Graeme Poole	0419 919 949
	Brent Findlay	0417 071 886
	Kevin Bransby	0408 067 576
	Don Tomlinson (permits)	0427 366 040
King River	Sandy Lyon	0428 443 630
	Simon Whitfort (permits)	0417 355 493
Napier	Tom Collins (permits)	9844 3451
	Brett Smoker	0458 552 822
Redmond	Pieter Mostert (permits)	9845 3007
	Lance Flett	9845 3048
South Coast	Gary Duncan (permits)	0457 152 630
	Shane Duncan	0417 820 443
	Jeff Gibb	0427 444 549
Torbay	Bert Winning (permits)	9845 1040
	Keith Smith	0448 074 456
Youngs Siding	Kevin Martin (permits)	0427 452 032
	Martin Peterson	9845 2010
Other Brigade Contacts		
CBFCO	Derek Jones	0419 560 218
DCBFCO	Darren Prior	0417 965 822
SFCO N/E	Mick Moir	0427 472 024
SFCO S/W	Alan Hawley	0429 185 350