

FIRE MANAGEMENT NOTICE

2017 - 2018



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.

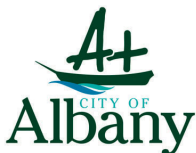
All requirements must remain in place from 1 November 2017 to 30 April 2018 in the North East sector and 1 December 2017 to 30 April 2018 in the South West sector or as otherwise gazetted.

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

	Undeveloped Land less than 4,000m ²	Undeveloped Land over 4,000m ²	Developed Land less than 4,000m ²	Developed Land over 4,000m ²
Asset Protection Zone			✓	✓
Low Fuel Loads	✓		✓	
Perimeter Fire Breaks		✓		✓
Hazard Specific Mitigation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Note: Agricultural properties over 4,000m ² must also comply with Agricultural operations requirements (see page 4).				

Variations to Requirements

If you are unable to comply with the fire management measures listed in this Notice, you must apply for a variation. You will be notified in writing of the outcome of your application.

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

All 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/residents/emergency-management/fire/.

Completed applications must be received by the City by no later than **15 September 2017**.

Properties Less than 4,000m²

Unmanaged Properties (vacant land):

- Reduce and maintain fuel load to 8 tonnes per hectare or less (see page 4).
- Hazard specific fire breaks (see page 4)

Developed Land (houses or sheds):

- Asset protection zone (see page 5)
- Hazard specific fire breaks (see page 4)

Properties Greater than 4,000m²

Unmanaged Properties (vacant land):

- Perimeter fire breaks
- Hazard specific fire breaks (see page 4)
- Maintaining fuel load to 8 tonnes per hectare or less is desirable.

Developed Land (e.g. with houses or sheds):

- Asset protection zone (see page 5)
- Perimeter fire breaks (see page 6)
- Hazard specific fire breaks (see page 4)
- Maintaining fuel load to 8 tonnes per hectare or less is desirable.

See also special requirements for agricultural operations such as cropping and harvesting on page 4.

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

Hazard Specific 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

Agricultural & Machinery Operations

- Cropping paddocks must be broken into compartments not exceeding 250ha in area each separated by internal fire breaks (see page 6).
- During machinery operations, including harvesting, a fully operational fire fighting unit with a minimum water capacity of 400 litres, fire fighting pump and hose is to be located in the paddock being harvested.
- During **restricted** and **prohibited** burning times, all harvesting machinery must carry a fire extinguisher.
- For more information, visit the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au.

Asset Protection Zone

An asset protection zone (APZ) is an area surrounding a building that is managed to reduce the bushfire hazard to an acceptable level.

Bush Fire Prone Areas:

Houses located in bush fire prone areas constructed after April 2016, or any extensions built from that time, must comply with the Department of Planning's *State Planning Policy 3.7*. These 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*.

For more information visit the Department of Planning website at www.planning.wa.gov.au.

A map of bush fire prone areas is available on the DFES website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au.

Other Areas:

Building assets such as houses, sheds and outbuildings shall be protected by reducing the amount of flammable material around each building:

- 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;
- keeping the grass short (no more than 50mm) and pruning scrub; and
- woodpiles and flammable materials to be stored a safe distance from the building (see also Hazard Specific Mitigation requirements on page 4).

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. If you are unsure if your property is covered by a Bushfire Management Plan, please contact the City of Albany.

Fire Breaks

Perimeter Fire Breaks

Perimeter fire breaks are required on properties larger than 4,000m². Fire breaks are to be located within 20 metres of the property boundary and 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.

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 to 30 April inclusive in the North East sector and 1 December to 30 April in the South West sector (or as otherwise gazetted).

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. Strategic fire breaks do not replace the requirement for individual perimeter fire breaks unless specified in a Bushfire Management Plan. For more information visit www.albany.wa.gov.au.

Plantations & Regeneration Lots

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

Additional Requirements:

Owners and lessee 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.

Burning Periods 2017/18

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.

If you live within the DFES Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) district which includes the Albany town site and close adjacent areas, you can apply for a permit by completing an Application for Permit to Burn form. The forms are available from the City Administration Office at 102 North Road can be downloaded from the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au/residents/emergency-management/fire.

If you live outside this area, please contact your local Volunteer Bush Fire Control Officer (see contact list on the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au/residents/emergency-management/become-a-volunteer).

Please note that 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.



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