

**2018/2019 FIREBREAK NOTICE  
BUSH FIRES ACT 1954  
SHIRE OF SANDSTONE**

**NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND/OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SHIRE OF SANDSTONE.**

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 33(4) of the Bush Fires Act, where the owner or occupier of land who has received notice fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of the notice within the time specified, the Shire of Sandstone may by its officers and with such servants, workmen and contractors, vehicles and machinery as the officers deem fit, enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of the notice which have not been complied with and pursuant to Section 33(5) of the Bush Fires Act the amount of any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner or occupier of the land.

**FIREBREAKS**

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required to clear of flammable material firebreaks not less than 3 metres in width immediately inside all external boundaries of any lot owned or occupied by you and situated within the Shire of Sandstone. Such firebreaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods:

PLOUGHING, CULTIVATING, SCARIFYING, RAKING, BURNING, CHEMICAL SPRAYING OR OTHER APPROVED METHOD, and are to be cleared to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer of the Shire. In addition, you may be required to carry out further works which are considered necessary by an Authorised Officer of the Shire and specified by way of a separate written notice forwarded to the address as shown on the Shire of Sandstone rates record for the relevant land. In some instances, naturally occurring features such as rocky outcrops, natural watercourses or landscaping such as reticulated gardens, lawns or driveways may be an acceptable substitute for cleared firebreaks. This option must first be discussed with an Authorised Officer of the Shire and approved by the Authorised Officer in writing.

On any lot having an area of less than 3,000m<sup>2</sup> with a dwelling constructed on it, where the lot is substantially developed (i.e. at least 75% cleared of bush), the keeping of grass on the lot at all times covered by this notice to a height less than 5 centimetres will be accepted in lieu of clearing a firebreak. For the purpose of this notice grass kept at a height of less than 5 centimetres will be deemed not to be flammable material.

All firebreaks and other alternative arrangements allowed by the preceding parts of this notice must be established by the 30th day of November each year (or within 14 days of you becoming the owner or occupier should this occur after that date) and maintained clear of flammable material up to and including the 31st day of March each year.

**APPLICATION TO VARY THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS**

If it is considered impracticable for any reason whatsoever to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by this notice, you may apply in writing to the Shire of Sandstone not later than the 15th day of November each year for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions on the land. If permission is not granted by the Shire you must comply with the requirements of this notice. If the requirements of this notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO COMPLY with this notice is a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and a person in default is also liable whether prosecuted or not to pay the costs of performing the work directed by this notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this notice.

Any alternatives to firebreaks as described in the Firebreak Notice must be submitted in writing to the Shire of Sandstone by November 15th, 2018. The responsibility for ensuring the protection of your property is yours. Proper preparedness for the fire season will enhance the capacity for you, your family and property to survive a wildfire should one occur. Fire preparedness measures are a defensive method of ensuring survivability from within your property boundary. This may be achieved by a variety of measures which include:

**Cleared firebreaks and driveways:** have the capacity to slow the progress and contain fires as well as provide access for emergency services.

**Hazard reduction:** burning, slashing, mowing and chemical treatment have the capacity to reduce the amount of flammable material on your property. The less fuel available to burn during a wildfire, the less intense the fire.

**Natural features:** such as rock outcrops usually have little flammable material on them. Natural features may be used in conjunction with other firebreak installation methods, such as linking them with constructed firebreaks and driveways, and as containment zones for hazard reduction burns.

**Reticulation:** Where specialized pastures are established under reticulation (e.g. for stud properties), this may, on application, be accepted in lieu of firebreaks provided the pasture is kept green.

**Grazing:** This is a very effective method of fuel reduction; however other firebreak conditions must be met.

**DATES TO REMEMBER 2018/2019**

**RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD 1  
NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> TO DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> (INCLUSIVE)**

Permits to burn are required during this period for hazard reduction burning.

Alternative firebreak applications to be submitted by November 15th, 2018.

Firebreaks **must** be installed by November 30th, 2018

**Please note that penalties apply where burning regulations are contravened or permit conditions are not complied with.**

**PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD  
DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> (INCLUSIVE)**

All burning, including garden refuse is prohibited during this period.

Firebreaks to be maintained clear of flammable material until March 31st, 2019.

## **RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD 2 MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> TO APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> (INCLUSIVE)**

Permits to burn are required during this period for hazard reduction burning.

**Please note that penalties apply where burning regulations are contravened or permit conditions are not complied with.** Certain climate or weather conditions may cause these periods to be extended or shortened. You must check the press for details or call the Shire Office on **9963 5802** before commencing to burn.

### **TO REPORT ALL FIRES RING 000**

By order of the Council  
Harry Hawkins  
Chief Executive Officer

## **REGULATORY INFORMATION**

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### **FIRE DANGER RATING**

No fires may be lit on a day when the forecast Fire Danger Rating for the District is Very High to Catastrophic. This information is available on the information hotline **08 9963 5802**

### **BARBECUES**

Solid fuel barbecues, spit roasts, hungis, webbers, pizza ovens and the like are not permitted on days of very high or extreme fire danger ratings. Recreation sites within the Shire of Sandstone which have gas or electric barbecues installed, may be used at these times. Gas or electric barbecues at home are also permitted.

### **PERMITS**

Permits are required to burn bush or grass at any time between November 1st and December 11<sup>th</sup> inclusive and March 20<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> inclusive. Permits are available from the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer or the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

### **STACKS OR PILES OF TIMBER OR VEGETATION**

The Department of Environment and Conservation prohibits the burning of vegetation material on a development site of greater than 2000 square metres. This includes residential and construction lots. Vegetation must be mulched or removed from the site. During any construction phase, material that is cleared from the site should be moved to the front of the block to facilitate easy removal. Very High or Extreme Fire Danger Ratings will also affect burning activities. Check with the Shire of Sandstone **08 9963 5802**.

### **INCINERATORS**

Incinerators must not be lit during the Prohibited Burning period of December 1st to March 31st inclusive. Incinerators may be lit at other times provided the Fire Danger Rating is not Very High to Catastrophic. Incinerators must be properly constructed and designed to prevent the escape of any sparks or burning material. They must be located at least 2 metres away from any building or fence and from which all flammable material has been removed and kept cleared.

### **WELDING/CUTTING APPARATUS**

If you are using a welder or operating a power operated abrasive cutting and or grinding disc of any kind, you must have at least one fire extinguisher present and be surrounded by a five metre firebreak.

### **FIREBREAKS**

Firebreaks must be installed and maintained from the **November 30th to March 31st** inclusive.

### **FIREBREAK INSPECTIONS**

Firebreak inspections are carried out during the period **December 1st to March 31st** inclusive

### **GARDEN REFUSE**

**During the Prohibited Period (December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 inclusive),** garden refuse must **not** be burnt at any time. These dates are also subject to change according to seasonal conditions.

**During the Restricted Period (November 1st, 2018 to December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 inclusive and March 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 inclusive),** garden refuse may be burnt during the day before 6 pm with a permit, subject to conditions.

Garden refuse may also be burnt without a permit after 6 pm during the Restricted Period provided certain criteria are met. Set out below are legislative requirements from the Bush Fire Act 1954 and the Health Act 1911 in relation to burning together with a number of helpful suggestions. The legislative requirements have been prefixed with an asterix. These as a minimum must be followed.

- \*The pile of refuse does not exceed 1 cubic metre
- \* An area 5 metres wide is cleared around the pile. (Lawn, driveways, paths etc. may be considered as cleared area)
- \* The fire is only lit between 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m
- \* Only 1 pile is alight at one time
- \* The fire is completely extinguished by midnight
- \* At least 1 person is in attendance at all times. There is a means of extinguishing the fire available at all times. ( e.g. garden hose, knapsack spray or fire unit)
- \* You notify your neighbours of your intention to burn

- \* The Fire Danger Rating is not Very High to Catastrophic. (Check the information hotline 9039 1205)
- \* The smoke from your fire does not cause a nuisance to neighbours and or traffic
- \* Do not burn plastics, other household or commercial waste
- \* Do not burn wet or green piles of material at any time as this will cause excessive smoke.

**During other than the Restricted or Prohibited Periods, garden refuse may be burnt. For safety reasons you are encouraged to follow the same requirements stipulated above.**

**PENALTIES**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
33(3)	Failure to maintain a firebreak as per firebreak notice	\$250.00
25	Offences relating to lighting a fire in the open air	\$250.00
17(12)	Setting fire to bush during prohibited burning period	\$250.00
28(1)	Failure of an occupier to extinguish a bush fire during the restricted or prohibited burning times	\$250.00
24(G)	Burning garden refuse contrary to Ministerial or Local Government prohibition or restriction.	\$250.00
56(3)	Refusal to state name and abode or stating false name or abode	\$100.00
24B(3)(a)	Failure to produce permit to burn	\$100.00

Major offences may result in court action with penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment