



## **FIREBREAK AND FUEL MANAGEMENT NOTICE 2023/2024**

*Section 33 Bush Fires Act 1954*

**REPORT ALL FIRES DIAL 000**

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

## **FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE**

**To owners and occupiers of land  
within the Shire of Denmark.**

**All residents are required to comply with this notice.** If the requirements of this notice are not completed to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer, an on the spot fine of **\$250** will be issued. Failure to comply with this notice may result in a penalty of up to \$5000.

### **Maintenance Period**

**1 December 2023 – 30 April 2024**

**You MUST remain fire compliant for this period.**

### **Variations Due**

**1 October 2023**

### **Compliance Inspections Commence**

**1 December 2023**

*Shire of Denmark contractors may enter the property and carry out any works required by this notice at expense of the owner/occupier.*

# Burning Periods

**\*Permit required for standing bush 1 Oct – 14 Nov 2023**

<b>DATES YOU MUST REMEMBER</b>	
<b>Unrestricted*</b>	1 May 2023 – 31 Oct 2023
<b>Restricted</b>	1 Nov 2023 – 15 Dec 2023
<b>PROHIBITED</b>	16 Dec 2023 – 29 Feb 2024
<b>Restricted</b>	1 March 2024 – 30 April 2024
<b>Unrestricted</b>	1 May 2024 – 31 October 2024
Dates subject to change. <a href="http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au">www.emergency.wa.gov.au</a>	
<b>No Burning if Fire Danger is High or above</b>	

Contact your local Fire Control Officer (see page 10) for information on how to obtain a Permit to Burn during restricted periods. No permits will be issued for properties under 2000sqm.

**A Total Fire Ban may be declared at any time, imposing further conditions to mitigate the threat of bushfire. Find out more at [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)**

## Fire Danger Ratings

### Australian Fire Danger Rating System



#### **MODERATE**

Plan and prepare.

#### **HIGH**

Be ready to act.

#### **EXTREME**

Take action now to protect life and property.

#### **CATASTROPHIC**

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.

# Property Maintenance Responsibilities

## Introduction

This document lists your **LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES** to address the bushfire hazards at your property.

This is for your safety, and for the safety of our bushfire volunteers and broader community. *It is your responsibility to make sure you understand what is required and act accordingly.*

In addition to the contents of this notice, there are aids available to help you educate yourself about your responsibilities.

- Scan the QR code below or enter [www.denmark.wa.gov.au/fire](http://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/fire) in your browser address bar to access a series of short videos explaining some of the various requirements.



- **Book a Ranger:** contact Ranger Services to make an appointment to talk through the notice.
- Follow or join a **Bushfire Ready** group. Find out more, visit [www.yourdenmark.wa.gov.au/be-bush-fire-ready](http://www.yourdenmark.wa.gov.au/be-bush-fire-ready)

Compliance inspections occur throughout the Shire of Denmark from 1 December 2023 to 30 April 2024.

Your property may be inspected by an Authorised Officer more than once. Your property **MUST** remain compliant throughout the entire maintenance period.

**FINES APPLY.**

# Property Maintenance Responsibilities

Landowners/occupiers must address hazards as applicable to the size of the property.

## Total land area less than 5000m<sup>2</sup> must have:

- **MAINTAINED ASSET PROTECTION ZONE/S**
- **VEHICULAR ACCESS**
- **SLASHED, MOWED or TRIMMED GRASS and GROUNDCOVER.** These may not exceed 100mm.
- **MAINTAINED DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL** below 2t per hectare or 5t per hectare in predominately Karri bush areas ONLY.

## Total land area 5000m<sup>2</sup> or more must have:

- **MAINTAINED ASSET PROTECTION ZONE/S**
- **LOW FUEL BOUNDARY ACCESS (LFBA)** Additional LFBA required to compartmentalise bushland areas exceeding 40ha.
- **VEHICULAR ACCESS**
- **MAINTAINED DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL** below 8t per hectare natural bush or 15t per hectare in predominately Karri bush areas. (*Rural zoned land exempt.*)
- **GRASSLAND and GROUNDCOVER** to be maintained to a max height of 100mm unless justified to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer within an actively managed agricultural pursuit.

If it is considered impractical to meet the requirements of this notice, **contact Ranger Services for information on how to apply for a VARIATION.** A written application must be submitted to the Shire of Denmark by no later than 1 October 2023. If permission for a variation is not granted, you must comply with the requirements in this notice.

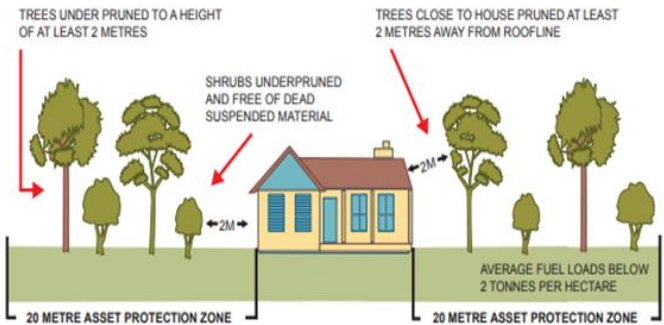
## Additional Responsibilities

Some properties may be subject to specific fire mitigation requirements contained in the Denmark Town Planning Scheme, a subdivision guide plan (structure plan) or an approved Bush Fire Management Plan.

- **STRATEGIC FIRE ACCESS ROUTES** must meet approved Town Planning Scheme provisions or the requirements of an adopted Subdivision Guide plan. If such a route is located on your property, maintenance is your responsibility.
- **PLANTATIONS** must be maintained to meet Plantation Fire Protection guidelines developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.
- **FUEL and CHEMICAL STORAGE** must be surrounded by a *Low Fuel Boundary* that extends 10m from the outermost point of the storage structure, whether containing fuel or not.
- **HAYSTACKS, WOOD, or STOCKPILED FLAMMABLE MATERIAL** must be surrounded by a *Low Fuel Boundary* of 4m wide.
- **POWER INFRASTRUCTURE** must be surrounded by a maintained *Low Fuel Boundary* 1m wide.
- **TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE (PERMANENT OR PORTABLE)** must be surrounded by a *Low Fuel Boundary* (LFB) or Low Fuel Corridor (LFC).
  - **Building Envelope** LFB 5m wide around the external perimeter
  - **Guy Runs** LFC 10m wide (5m either side) and 4m around base.
  - **Wave Guide Runs** LFC 3m wide (1.4m either side)
- **Solar Panels** LFB 3m wide
- **Water Tanks** LFB 5m wide

# Definitions

**Asset Protection Zone (APZ)** A low fuel area immediately surrounding a building which must extend 20m, measured from any external wall, supporting post or column. On sloping ground, the distance increases at least 1m for every degree in slope on the sides of the building that are exposed to downslope where natural vegetation exists.



## APZ standards are:

- **Clean Gutters** flammable matter removed from all gutters, roofs, and walls.
- **Fine Fuel Load** combustible dead vegetation matter less than 7mm thick and maintained at an average of 2t per hectare.
- **Trees (> 5m high)** trunks at maturity should be a minimum distance of 6m from all elevations of the building, branches at maturity should not touch or overhang the building, lower branches should be removed to a height of 2m above the group and or surface vegetation, canopy cover should be less than 15% with tree canopies at maturity well spread to at least 5m apart to not form a continuous canopy.
- **Shrubs (0.5m – 5m high)** should not be located under trees or within 3m of buildings, should not be planted in clumps greater than 5m<sup>2</sup> in area, clumps of shrubs should be separated from each other and any exposed window or door by at least 10m. Shrubs greater than 5m high are treated as trees.
- **Ground Covers (<0.5m high)** can be planted under trees but must be properly maintained to remove dead plant material and any parts within 2m of a structure, but 3m from windows or doors if greater than 100mm high. Ground covers greater than 0.5m high are treated as shrubs.

## Definitions (continued)

**Low Fuel Boundary Access (LFBA)** A trafficable portion of land cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass, and other combustible material, providing a 'fuel-free' area as close as practical to the internal perimeter of the property, meeting the definition of *vehicular access* (below). A LFBA must not terminate, lead to a dead-end, have tight bends or be without safe egress routes.

**Low Fuel Boundary** A maintained area directly around a structure or hazard that has been cleared of all combustible material likely to fuel a fire.

**Vehicular Access** Includes driveways longer than 50m which must allow for the safe travel of emergency vehicles and include a turn-around area. Technical requirements are trafficable surface 4m, overall 6m wide and 4.5m minimum vertical clearance.

**Trafficable** An unimpeded route (may be ploughed, cultivated, mulched, sprayed or otherwise clear) accessible to four-wheel drive fire vehicles.

**Fuel Load** Any combustible material deemed by an Authorised Officer as likely to fuel a fire. A litter depth of 5cm is indicative of approximately 2.5t per hectare, 15cm is approximately 8t per hectare. Managed vegetation such as lawns, mulch and gardens may be deemed by the Authorised Officer as exempt from classification as 'fuel load'.

**Standing Bush** All types of bushlands, forest, and scrub areas, including bushes, stubble, rushes, and undergrowth.

## CLEARING OF NATIVE VEGETATION

Penalties apply for unauthorised clearing. Clearing activities that are outside of the minimum requirements outlined in this notice may require a clearing permit. Refer to the **Department of Water and Environmental Regulation** for more information.

Also, contact **Department of Planning, Land and Heritage** and **Environmental Protection Authority** to check any requirements.

## Camp and Cooking Fires

The lighting of outdoor fires for the purpose of camping or cooking is **not permitted during the Prohibited OR Restricted Burning Period**, except for the following exemption when the Fire Danger Rating is **MODERATE OR BELOW**.

Within 20m of a permanent residence (must be a building approved by the Shire and NOT temporary accommodation, caravan, or temporary shed). There must be a 3m radius clear of combustible material and it must be contained within one of the options below:

- A purpose-built structure of brick or rocks and mortar.
- A purpose-built steel container recognisable as a properly constructed barbecue.
- A fire pit structure, suitable for a campfire or cooking fire, that has a maximum diameter of 1m and a minimum depth of 30cm

**Fires must be always attended, and you must have the ability and means to extinguish the fire close at hand.**





## Alternatives to Burning

There are ways you can manage the fuel load at your property:

Composting

Ploughing

Mulching

Grazing

Slashing

Grading

Deposit your excess green waste at the Denmark Waste Management Reuse Facility.

**You must maintain your property for the duration of the *maintenance period* (1 Dec 2023 – 30 April 2024).**

Consider how varying seasonal conditions may impact the fuel load at your property.

For more information, please visit the Shire of Denmark's Bushfire FAQ webpage.

### **BECOME A BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEER**

Your local brigade needs you. Contact the Fire Control Officer in your area or visit the Shire of Denmark website for details on volunteering.



## Local Volunteer Fire Control Officers

### Carmarthen

CRAIG HUGHES  
0407 223 297

### East Denmark

CHRIS HOARE  
0447 482 244

### Harewood

CHRIS HUDSON  
0467 819 912

### Hazelvale

ALEX WILLIAMS  
0417 188 843

### Kordabup

CRAIG LILLEY  
0417 746 848

### Mt Lindesay

MURRAY BROOKER  
0429 094 136

### Nornalup

IAN COULSON  
0402 764 712

### Ocean Beach

GRAHAM DIXON  
0412 920 069

### Owingup

PAUL MONCRIEFF  
0413 117 192

### Peaceful Bay

VACANT  
(Contact Hazelvale)

### Scotsdale/Shadforth

GEOFF BOWLEY  
0429 875 850

### Somerset Hill

GAVIN BUTLER  
0437 972 053

### Tingledale

BRIAN VIGUS  
0417 188 158

### William Bay

BLAIR DARVILL  
0427 333 664

### Denmark Town

DARIN HOCKLEY  
0417 968 776

GRANT WILSON  
0487 119 195

## Fire Control Officers

### **Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

LEZ BAINES 0428 788 008

### **Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

NIGEL MARSH 0408 956 133

### **Senior Fire Control Officer**

SHANE HOWLETT 0412 013 860

### **Community Emergency Services Manager**

MARK GUERIN 0428 913 937

### **Ranger Services**

(08) 9848 0300

**FOR FIRES & EMERGENCIES DIAL 000**

## **You are responsible for your own FIRE PROTECTION**

### **EMERGENCY ALERTS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- ABC LOCAL RADIO (630AM and 558AM)
- [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)
- [www.abc.net.au/radio/greatsouthern/live](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/greatsouthern/live)
- [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)
- [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans)
- [www.bom.gov.au/wa/warnings](http://www.bom.gov.au/wa/warnings)

More information can be found at  
[www.denmark.wa.gov.au](http://www.denmark.wa.gov.au)

Sign up to the **Shire of Denmark SMS Alert System** to receive important community notices. Visit  
[www.denmark.wa.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/subscribe)

**Be Prepared – Join a local Bushfire Ready Group**  
[fireready@denmark.wa.gov.au](mailto:fireready@denmark.wa.gov.au) 0429 094 136



For clarification of this notice, contact Ranger Services  
(08) 9848 0300 or [enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ceinwen Gearon".

Authorised by  
Ceinwen Gearon,  
Shire President