

FIREBREAK ORDER & BUSHFIRE INFORMATION

2025 - 2026 Season



REPORT ALL FIRES TO 000

First and Final Notice

Bush Fires Act 1954

Notice is given to all owners and/or occupiers of land with-in the Shire of Dowerin under the requirements of Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, that firebreaks must be installed by 31 October 2025 and maintained clear of inflammable material up to and including 30 April 2026.

Prescribed Burning

Restricted Periods

During the restricted burning period a permit to set fire to the bush is required before any burning operation can be carried out. These dates may be varied by the Local Government depending on seasonal conditions.

Prohibited Period

No burning is allowed for any reason during this period. This includes open cooking or camp fires. These times may be varied depending on seasonal conditions.

RESTRICTED PERIOD (Spring)

Permits Required

1 October 2025 - 31 October 2025

PROHIBITED PERIOD

No Burning Permitted

1 November 2025 - 14 February 2026

RESTRICTED PERIOD (Autumn)

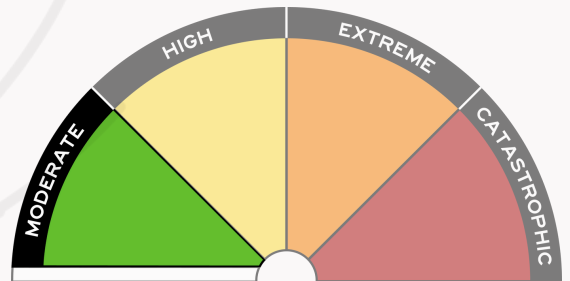
Permits Required

15 February 2026 - 14 April 2026

UNRESTRICTED PERIOD

No Permits Necessary

15 April 2026 - 30 September 2026



Burning Permits

A permit must be obtained from the Shire of Dowerin and must remain in possession of the permit holder during the burn.

Permits will only be issued for controlled burns that reduce a fire hazard on a property where no alternative method exists to abate the hazard. At least 24 hours' notice prior to the burn the permit holder must give notice of intentions to burn to the owner or occupier of adjoining land.

Any special conditions imposed by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer must be strictly adhered to. Permits will NOT be issued for burning on any Sunday or Public Holiday.

To apply for a burning permit, provide your Assessment or Location number/s to the Shire of Dowerin office on (08) 9631 1202

Avoid the Consequences

Do not light any fire during the prohibited burning period. This includes open cooking or camp fires.

Do not light a fire during the restricted period without a valid permit. This includes open cooking or camp fires.

Do not light a fire on any Sunday or Public Holiday as all permits are invalid.

Do not burn the road verge without the permission of the Shire and a permit.

Burning is only permitted on days rated as 'MODERATE'.

Check the weather forecast before undertaking any burning or other activity that may cause a fire.

ON THE SPOT FINES OF \$250 WILL BE ISSUED FOR NON COMPLIANCE

Dowerin Bush Fire Brigade Contacts

CBFCO - Paul Millstead - 0427 311 721

DCBFCO - Gavin Hagboom - 0427 341 026

Fire Break Standards

Properties 20 hectares (50ac) or larger

- Clear a ground firebreak at a width of no less than 3m, as close as practical, inside the external boundaries of the property, in which all inflammable material must be removed and remain cleared.
- Firebreaks must be maintained to provide a minimum vertical clearance of 4m to allow adequate access for fire appliances to the satisfaction of Council's appointed officers.
- Construct a 5m firebreak immediately surrounding all fuel and chemical storage areas.
- Clear inflammable material within 20m of all dwellings to construct a 20m circle of safety. This can be maintained through domestic grass, mulch or slashed native grasses.
- Areas cleared and piled for burning require a 20m ground firebreak.

Non Urban Land—rural residential, rural development Industrial estates and subdivisions between half an acre (2023m²) to 50 acres

- Clear 3m wide ground firebreak (clear of all inflammable material) with a vertical clearance of 4m high, clear of any obstructions immediately inside or as close as practical inside all external boundaries of the land.
- Clear all inflammable material within 20m of all buildings to construct a 20m circle of safety.

Urban Land - all town sites

Properties less than half an acre (2023m²)

Clear land of ALL INFLAMMABLE material ie. debris, dry grass, dry bush etc, to a height of 10cm to the satisfaction of Council's authorised officers.

Properties larger than half an acre (2023m²)

Clear and maintain a 3m wide firebreak immediately inside external boundaries of the land. Clear land of ALL INFLAMMABLE material ie. debris, dry grass, dry bush etc, to a height of 10cm to the satisfaction of Council's authorised officers.

ALL PROPERTIES MUST BE COMPLIANT BY 31 OCTOBER 2025



Infringements and Penalties

Inspections

An authorised officer will carry out inspections of firebreaks after the specified completion dates.

Any owner or occupier of land who fails to comply with the requirements of this Notice is guilty of an offence under Section 33(3) of the Bushfire Act 1954.

Penalties

Persons who fail to comply with the requirements of this notice will be issued with an infringement notice and may be prosecuted.

The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine of up to \$5,000 and the person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the costs of performing the work directed in this notice.

Harvesting Operations

Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Ban

A harvest or vehicle movement ban may be applied during the Restricted or Prohibited Burning Period. The Shire of Dowerin will determine the need for a ban and advertise the ban via our SMS Notification Service.

A harvest ban is defined as a ban on all harvesting operations on all properties within the Shire of Dowerin. A vehicle movement ban is defined as a ban on all vehicle movements on properties within the Shire of Dowerin except for the essential watering of stock, using a diesel powered vehicle only.

No harvesting operations are permitted on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Total Fire Ban

A Total Fire Ban may be declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) when severe weather conditions are forecast or widespread fires are seriously stretching resources. When a Total Fire Ban is declared it is illegal to do anything that may start a fire.

Harvesting and normal farming practices are prescribed as an exempt activity from the Total Fire Ban provisions unless the Shire of Dowerin has imposed a Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Ban.



Conditions for Harvesting Operators

- An Approved Fire Fighting Appliance is required to be present in any paddock being harvested while Crop Harvesting, Straw Raking, Straw Mulching and Bailing operations are being carried out during restricted and prohibited periods. The fire fighting unit must be in a state of readiness and have a minimum of 500 liters of water on board.
- A ban on harvesting and the movement of vehicles (except for the watering or movement of stock) is likely to be imposed when the predicted weather conditions are classified by the Bureau of Meteorology as 'EXTREME' or ABOVE, or when local conditions warrant bans to be applied. All such bans are at discretion of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.
- It is MANDATORY for all operators of harvesters to be registered on the Shire of Dowerin Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban SMS Notification service. If a ban has been imposed, all persons registered will be sent a text message advising of details.

**To register for the SMS Service, please contact the
Shire office on (08) 9631 1021**