

POLICY NUMBER	- 4.11
POLICY SUBJECT	- Heavy Vehicle Movement Ban – Exempt Vehicles
DATE ADOPTED	- 28 October 2025 (CMRef:XXXX)
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	- Manager of Governance and Community Services
REVIEWED	-

Objective

To identify classes of vehicles that are exempt from movement restrictions during a declared Heavy Vehicle Movement Ban within the Shire of Dowerin.

Policy

In accordance with the powers of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Shire of Dowerin under the *Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)*, movement bans may be imposed to reduce the risk of ignition during periods of extreme fire danger.

This policy provides guidance on vehicle types that are exempt from such bans to ensure emergency, essential service, and community protection operations can continue safely.

Exempt Vehicle Classes

The following vehicle types are exempt from a declared Heavy Vehicle Movement Ban within the Shire of Dowerin:

Emergency Service Vehicles

Vehicles engaged in emergency response or recovery operations, including but not limited to:

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) vehicles;
- St John Ambulance;
- WA Police Force; and
- State Emergency Service (SES) vehicles

Bush Fire Fighting Vehicles

Vehicles used for active bush fire response, suppression, or support, including:

- Shire of Dowerin Bush Fire Brigade appliances;
- Farmer Response Units; and
- Private vehicles engaged in direct firefighting operations under the direction of a Fire Control Officer

Utility Provider Vehicles

Vehicles operated by or on behalf of recognised utility providers undertaking urgent restoration or maintenance of essential services (e.g., Western Power, Water Corporation, Telstra, NBN, etc.), where the works are required to maintain or restore critical infrastructure or community safety.

Local Government Vehicles

Vehicles operated by the Shire of Dowerin for emergency response, public safety, or urgent works authorised by the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Conditions of Exemption

The vehicle operator must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the ignition of fire, including but not limited to carrying:

- A serviceable fire extinguisher; and
- A minimum 9-litre water-filled knapsack or 400-litre water unit with pump (for heavy vehicles).

Where practical, vehicle movements should be limited to the minimum necessary to perform the essential task.

Any misuse of this exemption may result in enforcement action or withdrawal of the exemption by the Shire of Dowerin or the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Legislative Context

Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)

Section 24A — Prohibition on vehicle movement during Total Fire Ban

- (1) *"A person must not use, or cause or permit to be used, an engine-powered vehicle off a gazetted road during a period of total fire ban unless the use is for a purpose specified in the regulations or authorised by an exemption."*

Section 24C — Exemptions by Local Government

- (1) *"A local government may, by notice in writing, exempt a person or class of persons from the operation of section 24A, subject to such conditions as the local government thinks fit."*
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Related Documentation

Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)

DFES Operational Circulars – Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

Related Delegation

Nil

Document Control	
Policy Number	4.11
Policy Version	1
Policy Owners	Manager of Governance and Community Services
Creation Date	28 October 2025 (CMRef:XXXXX)
Last Review Date	
Next Review Due	This policy will be reviewed every two years or more often where circumstances require.

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