

**14.1 2021/22 Firebreak Order & Appointment of Officers**

<h2 style="color: red;">Governance &amp; Compliance</h2>		 SHIRE OF <b>DOWERIN</b> TIN DOG TERRITORY
<b>Date:</b>	19 April 2021	
<b>Location:</b>	Not Applicable	
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer	
<b>Author:</b>	Linley Dreghorn, Executive & Governance Officer	
<b>Legislation:</b>	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>	
<b>Sharepoint Reference:</b>	Compliance/Ranger/Fire Services/Bushfire Notices Compliance/Ranger/Fire Services/2021-22 Office Bearers	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Attachment 14.1A</b> - Draft 2021/22 Fire Break Order	

**Purpose of Report**

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

**Summary**

This Item presents the proposed 2021/22 Firebreak Order and nominations of Bush Fire Brigade and Fire Weather Officers for the 2021/22 season to Council for consideration and, if satisfactory, adoption.

**Background**

The minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting 7 April 2021 are presented to Council as Attachment 8.1A. At that Meeting the Committee considered the Appointment of Officers and the amendment to the burning period for the Fire Break Order. Council needs to consider the Committee's Recommendations.

**Comment**

While there is no ability for the DBAFC to appoint Officers or adopt the Firebreak Order (the *Bush Fires Act 1954* states this is the responsibility of the local government) it is normal practice for these matters to be considered by the DBAFC at a meeting prior to presentation to Council.

The Committee Recommends amendments to the burning periods for the 2021/22 season. The Fire Break Order has been updated to include these dates, with a copy of the Draft Fire Break Order included as an Attachment.

**Consultation**

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting 7 April 2021

Paul Millstead, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer

**Policy Implications**

Nil

**Strategic Implications**

**Strategic Community Plan**

Community Priority: Our Leaders

Objective: A thriving and progressive rural community enabled by innovation in leadership, a focus on continuous improvement and adaptability to evolving community needs

Outcome: 3

Reference: L5

**Asset Management Plan**

Nil

**Long Term Financial Plan**

Nil

**Statutory Implications**

Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* states that the local government may require the owner or occupier of land to plough or clear a firebreak by providing notice in writing.

Section 38 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* states that the local government is to appoint persons to the positions of CBFCO, Deputy CBFCO, Fire Control Officers, Fire Weather Officers and Dual Bush Fire Control Officers.

**Risk Implications**

<b>Risk Profiling Theme</b>	Business & Community Disruption
<b>Risk Category</b>	Compliance
<b>Risk Description</b>	No noticeable regulatory or statutory impact
<b>Consequence Rating</b>	Insignificant (1)
<b>Likelihood Rating</b>	Rare (1)
<b>Risk Matrix Rating</b>	Low (1)
<b>Key Controls (in place)</b>	Bushfire Risk Management Framework
<b>Action (Treatment)</b>	Fire breaks inspected & enforced annually
<b>Risk Rating (after treatment)</b>	Adequate

**Financial Implications**

There will be minimal costs associated with advertising the appointment of Officers in the Despatch and the printing of the Firebreak Order to be distributed with the rates notices.

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

**Officer's Recommendation - 14.1**

That:

1. In accordance with Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Council adopts the 2021/22 Firebreak Notice, as presented in Attachment 14.1A; and
2. In accordance with Section 38 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Council makes the following appointments for the 2021/22 fire season:

Position	Name
<b>Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b>Paul Millsteed</b>
<b>Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b>Phil Pickering</b>
<b>Fire Weather Officer</b>	<b>Paul Millsteed</b>
<b>Bush Fire Control Officers</b>	<b>Paul Millsteed</b>
	<b>Phil Pickering</b>
	<b>Rebecca McCall</b>
	<b>Gloria Robinson</b>
<b>Minnivale</b>	<b>Stephen Crute</b>
	<b>Graham Ralph</b>
<b>Cadoux-Manmanning</b>	<b>Alan Bear</b>
	<b>Shayne Booth</b>
	<b>Simon Emmott</b>
<b>Ejanding</b>	<b>Paul Millsteed</b>
	<b>Brett Jones</b>
<b>Ucarty</b>	<b>Darrel Hudson</b>
	<b>Gavin Hagboom</b>
<b>Dual Fire Control Officers</b>	
<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	<b>Gavin Hagboom</b>
<b>Shire of Goomalling</b>	<b>Phil Pickering</b>
	<b>Gavin Hagboom</b>
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	<b>Alan Bear</b>
<b>Shire of Wongan-Ballidu</b>	<b>Simon Emmott</b>
	<b>Paul Millsteed</b>
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	<b>Stephen Crute</b>

# Harvesting Operations

## ***Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans***

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. For further information please contact the Shire of Dowerin during normal office hours on 9631 1202.

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.**

## ***Conditions for harvesting operators:***

1. 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 litres of water on board.
2. 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 VERY HIGH or ABOVE, or when local conditions warrant bans to be applied. All such bans are at discretion of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.
3. 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 this service please contact the Shire office on 9631 1202 or [dowshire@dowerin.wa.gov.au](mailto:dowshire@dowerin.wa.gov.au)

# Infringement 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.

## ***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 light a fire on 'very high' or 'extreme' fire danger forecast days
- Do not burn the road verge without the permission of the Shire and a permit.
- Check the weather forecast before undertaking any burning or other activity that may cause a fire.

***For more information please contact the***

***Shire of Dowerin on***

***(08) 9631 1202 or visit***

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

# Firebreak Order 2021/22



**Prohibited Burning Period  
1 November to 14 February  
STRICTLY NO BURNING!**

**Restricted Burning Period  
20 October to 31 October  
and 15 February to 31 March  
PERMITS ARE REQUIRED!**



**For All Emergencies  
Dial 000**

# First and Final Notice

## Bush Fires Act 1954

Notice is given to all owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Dowerin under the requirements of Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, that firebreaks must be installed by 31 October 2021 and maintained clear of inflammable material up to and including 30 April 2022.

**No burning is permitted over the EASTER HOLIDAY PERIOD**

*(Good Friday and the 3 days immediately following Good Friday)*

**No lighting of chaff piles is permitted on Wednesday or Thursday before Good Friday**

**No open fires are permitted between 1 November 2021 — 14 February 2022**

*(including for the purpose of cooking and camping)*

**Firebreaks must be installed by 31 October 2021**



**AN ON THE SPOT FINE OF \$250 WILL BE ISSUED FOR NON COMPLIANCE**

### Contacts

**Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Paul Millstead — 0427 311 721

**Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Phil Pickering — 0429 311 250

# Prescribed Burning

## Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods

**Restricted Burning** period:

20 October to 31 October and 15 February to 31 March

**Permits are required.**

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 depending on the seasonal conditions.


**Prohibited Burning** period:

1 November to 14 February **Strictly No Burning**

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.

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug

 Permit required

 No burning

## 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 or a phone call.

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.

Apply for a burning permit, providing your Assessment or Location number/s at the Shire of Dowerin office during business hours on Ph 9631 1202 or email [dowshire@dowerin.wa.gov.au](mailto:dowshire@dowerin.wa.gov.au).

# Fire Break Standards

## Properties 20 hectares (50ac) or larger

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Construct a 5m firebreak immediately surrounding all fuel and chemical storage areas.
4. 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.
5. 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 (2023m<sup>2</sup>) to 50 acres**

1. 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.
2. 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 (2023m<sup>2</sup>)**

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 (2023m<sup>2</sup>)**

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.

**MUST BE COMPLIANT BY 31 OCTOBER 2021**