

FIREBREAK NOTICE

Information and Frequently Asked Questions 2023/2024

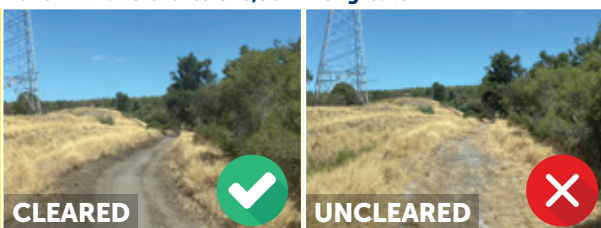
Firebreak Specification

Firebreaks are intended to provide safe access for fire appliances and emergency vehicles.

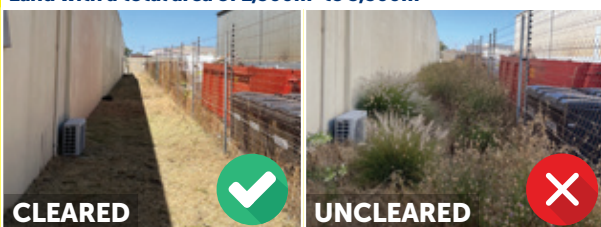
The images below show examples of the difference between compliant and non-compliant properties of the three categories outlined in the attached fire notice.



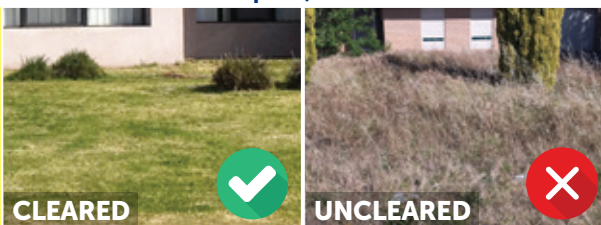
Land with a total area of 3,501m² or greater



Land with a total area of 1,500m² to 3,500m²



Land with a total area of up to 1,499m²



Is it compulsory to comply with the Fire Notice?

Yes. All property owners and/or occupiers must comply with the Notice. It is a legal requirement under the Bushfires Act 1954. By complying with the Notice, you are doing your part to reduce the overall risk of fire in the whole community as well as keeping your neighbours and families safe.

What happens if I don't comply with the Notice by the deadline?

The City may issue an infringement and undertake works on your property to ensure it complies with the Notice. If you fail or neglect to comply with the Notice, you may also be found guilty of an offence and may incur a maximum penalty of \$5,000. If the City has to carry out works on your property, you will be liable for any costs and expenses incurred.

I am having difficulty getting the work done by the deadline. Can I have an extension?

Unfortunately, you are not able to get an extension and you are required to comply by the date specified in the Notice. If you are requiring assistance to complete the works on time please contact the Emergency Services Team on 9439 0200 or customer@kwinana.wa.gov.au

Does the Notice apply to my verge?

The Notice applies to the land owned and/or occupied by you and this does not include verges which are part of the road reserve. However, there is an expectation that verges will be maintained by the landowner and/or occupier.

Do vacant blocks have to comply with the Notice?

Yes. Refer to the requirements of the Notice for the minimum standards required for your land size.

FIREBREAK NOTICE

I recently purchased a property, and the real estate agent or previous property owner did not tell me about these requirements.

It is the current property owner's responsibility to comply with the conditions in the Notice. It's advisable to know the land conditions and restrictions prior to entering into a contract to purchase a property within the City or elsewhere.

I have not received my Fire-Break/Hazard Compliance Notice.

The City of Kwinana's Fire-Break/Hazard Compliance Notice (the Notice) is sent by post separately to the rates notice. If you did not receive your Notice or have lost your copy, the Notice and all related information is available on the City's website www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/fires. Copies of the Notice are also available from the City's Administration Building.

How do I find out the Fire Danger Rating (FDR)?

The FDR can be found by visiting one of four signs located throughout the City:

- Thomas Road, Casuarina (near Marri Park Drive)
- Rowley Road, Wandi (between Lyon Road and Britton Place)
- Mortimer Road, Casuarina (near Nicolas Drive)
- Wellard Road, Wellard (near Telephone Lane)

FDR can also be found on the [BOM website - Fire Danger Ratings](#) or [Emergency WA website](#)

Who can I report a fire hazard or non-compliance to?

Report potential fire hazards or any suspected non-compliances to Essential Services on 9439 0200 or customer@kwinana.wa.gov.au

Can I burn garden refuse?

- During the declared **Prohibited Burning Period**, owners and/or occupiers must not burn garden refuse, rubbish or any other materials for like purpose as defined within the Bushfires Act 1954 section 24C.
- During the declared **Restricted Burning Period** only, owners and/or occupiers may apply for a permit to burn the bush for bush fire risk mitigation purposes only, by following the conditions imposed on a permit to burn. In areas zoned Rural, you may undertake burning of leaves, tree branches, and other dry vegetation in piles no larger than 1.0m³ in size, without a permit to burn (subject to conditions) between 6pm and 11pm and extinguished before midnight on the same day.
- During the **Unrestricted Burning Periods**, owners and/or occupiers in areas zoned Rural may burn garden refuse and set fire to bush on their land without a permit. Burning of the bush must be undertaken in accordance with all relevant State legislation and Local Government Local Laws.
- Pursuant to the Bush Fires Act 1954 section 24G (2), no burning of garden refuse is to be undertaken in areas defined as "Urban" without written approval of the City of Kwinana.

All burning is absolutely prohibited if the Fire Danger Rating is High, Extreme, or Catastrophic.

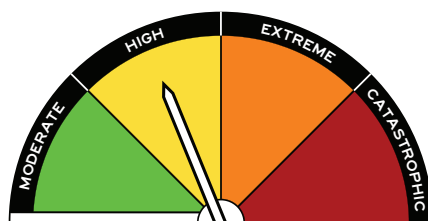
Can I have a fire pit or open fire?

Yes, you can have a fire pit providing you comply with the following conditions:

- You do not burn green waste in areas zoned as urban;
- You only burn dry cured firewood;
- You have a three-metre clearing of all flammable material around the fire;
- The fire danger rating is not high or above; and
- There is an adult in attendance at all times.

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The new Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



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

Fire danger ratings are used on days when there's a risk of fires and you need to take action. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions and the greater the consequences if a fire starts.

If you're in an area near bush or grasslands, you're in a bushfire risk area. Identify a safer location such as an area well away from bushland.

Important Numbers

DFES Public Information & Warnings
13 33 37
emergency.wa.gov.au

City of Kwinana City Assist
9439 0200
cityassist@kwinana.wa.gov.au

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
9439 0200
emergencyservices@kwinana.wa.gov.au

In all emergencies call 000