

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954
City of Kwinana
FIRE-BREAK/HAZARD COMPLIANCE NOTICE 2022/2023

This Fire-Break/Hazard Compliance Notice is issued by the City of Kwinana pursuant to section 33 and 24G (2) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to assist with the prevention, control and extinguishment of bush fires or to prevent the spread or extension of a bush fire to any adjoining land.

All property owners and/or occupiers of land within the City of Kwinana are hereby served with a first and final Fire-Break/Hazard Compliance Notice (the Notice) and are required to comply with the requirements in full.

If you do not meet your fire prevention responsibilities as a property owner, you could be liable for a **maximum penalty of \$5,000** plus costs. The City may also access a property and undertake the required work at the expense of the owner.

Fire-breaks

The fire-breaks outlined below must be completed before the dates in the Notice and must be maintained throughout the period as required by this Notice.

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

Note: *As owner and/or occupier the land, you must ensure that your property complies with the requirements of this Notice from **1 December** each year and must be maintained throughout the year until **31 May** the following year.*

Owners and/or occupiers of land that is 3,501m² or greater are required to construct fire-breaks and maintain fire-breaks:

- inside and along all land boundaries in a continuous form or within 10 metres of property boundaries;
- around all sides of all buildings on the land;
- as a minimum, all driveways and access ways to houses, sheds and buildings on the land must be constructed and maintained to the specification of a fire-break;
- on any land surrounding any place where, wood or timber piles, hay stacks, tyres, flammable liquids, chemicals and gas products or other flammable material are kept on the land;
- in a manner so that they are trafficable, contain no dead ends and are wide enough for a heavy-duty fire vehicle or other emergency service vehicles to be able to turn corners and carry out other manoeuvres without the vehicles being obstructed in any way;
- that maintains an asset protection zone around all buildings, infrastructure and fixed assets on the land; and
- that ensures that all flammable materials are removed from all rooftops and gutters of buildings.

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

The works outlined in this category **must be maintained all year round** and owners and/or occupiers of land are required to maintain an asset protection zone around all buildings, infrastructure and fixed assets on the property by:

- ensuring that all long grass, weeds, etc. are slashed, mowed or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across your entire property; and
- removing all flammable materials from all rooftops and gutters of buildings.

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

The works outlined in this category **must be maintained all year round** and owners and/or occupiers are required to:

- ensure all long grass, weeds, etc. are slashed, mowed or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property; and
- remove all flammable materials from all rooftops and gutters of buildings.

Fire-hazard reduction

As a measure to assist in the control of bush fires, you have a legal requirement to carry out fire prevention works on your property.

Additional works

Regardless of land size and location, the City or its Bush Fire Control Officers may require additional work to be undertaken on a property to improve access, and/or undertake further works to reduce a hazard that may be conducive to preventing an outbreak and/or the spread or extension of a bush fire.

'Industrial zoned' areas may require additional works as identified by the Bush Fire Control Officer during fire hazard inspections.

Owners and/or occupiers of land should note that emergency access ways, if any, are for emergency service vehicles only and are not to be considered as an escape route unless declared as such by the incident controller during an emergency.

Engagement of contractors by owner and/or occupier to carry out works

Any owner and/or occupier who engages a contractor to undertake works on their behalf is responsible for ensuring that such works when completed meet the requirements of this Notice.

Fire-break/fire hazard compliance inspections

To promote community safety and education, property inspections will be carried out by the City's Bush Fire Control Officers to identify non-compliant properties.

In addition, Drones (Unmanned Remotely Piloted Aircraft) may also be used at times to conduct fire-break/fire hazard inspections. Drones are required to be operated in accordance with the guidelines of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

No burning in areas defined as Urban

Pursuant to section, 24G (2) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, no burning of garden refuse is to be undertaken in areas defined as “Urban” without written approval by the City of Kwinana.

Wayne Jack
Chief Executive Officer