FIREBREAK NOTICE

Information and Frequently Asked Questions 2026/2027

City of Kwinana

Frequently Asked Questions

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 ***Bush Fires 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 require advice on ways 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, vacant blocks are still required to comply.

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's Fire-Break/Hazard Compliance Notice (the Notice) is sent by post or email 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.

Emergency Access Ways

Emergency Access Ways (EAWs) are designated routes for emergency service vehicles during bushfires and other emergencies. They must remain clear and accessible at all times. EAWs are not public evacuation routes and should only be used for evacuation if directed by emergency services during an emergency.

Firebreak Specification

Firebreaks are intended to provide safe access for fire appliances and emergency vehicles around the perimeter of your property.



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



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

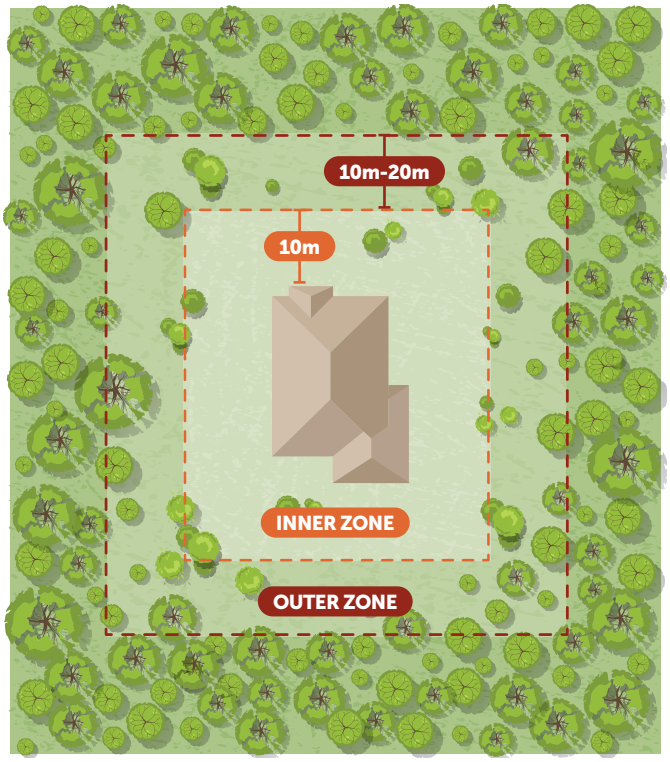


Land with a total area of up to 1,499m²



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

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



An asset protection zone (APZ) is an area extending for at least 20 metres around a building on all sides where specific vegetation management has been undertaken. New Risk Treatment Standards recommend two zones for this area – the Inner Zone and the Outer Zone.

Inner Zone

is within 10 metres of a building and creates defendable space by providing separation between flammable vegetation and the building surface, this must be maintained to 2 tonne per hectare.

Outer Zone

includes land that is between 10 and 20 metres of a relevant building where clearing and pruning of trees and vegetation is done to reduce the impact of a bushfire by slowing its rate of spread and suppressing fire spread into the tree canopy. The outer zone must be maintained to below 8 tonne per hectare.

Managing vegetation, rubbish and anything that can burn from around your home will increase its chances of surviving a bushfire. A well-prepared property is more likely to survive a bushfire than an unprepared one. Firefighters cannot defend every property and are unlikely to defend a poorly prepared property – remember, their lives are at risk too.

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 ***Bush Fires 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 (1m High x 1m Long x 1m Wide) 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 **zoned as "Urban"** at any time, without written approval of the City of Kwinana.

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

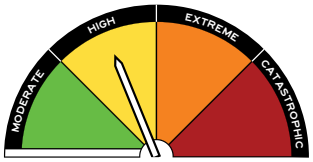
Can I have a fire pit or open fire?

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.

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 Millar Road)

Daily FDR can also be found at bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/fire-danger.shtml or

▶SCAN THIS◀ emergency.wa.gov.au

▶SCAN THIS◀ mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au