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FIRE AND BURNING INFORMATION

TO REPORT FIRE CALL 000 

BURNING & FIRE DANGER RATINGS

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BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLANNING

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

BURNING PERIOD DATES AND FIRE DANGER RATINGS (FDR)

DATES SUBJECT TO SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Burning period dates change due to climate conditions and will be advertised on the City's website and through the City's SMS notification service (refer to FIRE BANS / BRIGADE CONTACTS section for information on signing up to the City's SMS notification service).

Prohibited Burning

- 1 December to 31 March
- FDRs very high or above
- Fire ban days

Restricted Burning

- 1 April to 31 May
- 1 September to 30 November
- Permits required

No restrictions

- 1 June to 31 August
- Please take care and be safe

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIODS

ALL burning is prohibited including burning garden waste or lighting fires in the open air for the purpose of camping or cooking. The following exemptions apply:

- Pizza ovens fitted with a spark arrestor; and
- Purpose built solid fuel BBQs such as Webbers.

These may still be used at a person's home as long as they are located more than 3 metres away from bush and inflammable material. **These exemptions are not valid if a Total Fire Ban or Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.**

PERMITS ARE REQUIRED DURING RESTRICTED BURNING PERIODS

Permits to burn may be obtained online at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/burnpermit or in person from the City of Wanneroo Civic Centre, 23 Dundobar Road, Wanneroo, between 9am-4pm Monday to Friday.

ALL BURNING IS PROHIBITED ON DAYS OF VERY HIGH OR ABOVE FIRE DANGER RATINGS AND IF A TOTAL FIRE BAN OR A HARVEST, HOT WORKS AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN IS DECLARED.



FIRE DANGER RATINGS (FDR)

If you are in a bushfire risk location, you need to know what the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is for your area, monitor local conditions and keep informed.

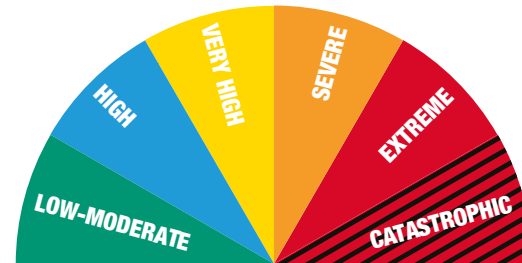
The FDR is based on forecast weather conditions and gives you advice about the level of bushfire threat on a particular day. When the rating is high, the threat of a bushfire increases.

FIRE DANGER RATING INFORMATION BOARDS

These boards display the daily Fire Danger Rating and are featured at eight locations across the City of Wanneroo:

- Corner of Joondalup Drive and Wanneroo Road
- Wanneroo Road, south of the Yanchep Beach Road turn-off
- Wanneroo Road, Carabooda
- Marmion Avenue, Jindalee
- Neaves Road, Mariginiup
- Old Yanchep Road, Pinjar
- Gngangara Road, Landsdale
- Countryside Drive, Two Rocks

FIRE DANGER RATINGS



CATASTROPHIC

The worst conditions for a fire. Homes are not designed or built to withstand a fire in these conditions. The only safe place is away from bushfire risk areas.

EXTREME SEVERE VERY HIGH

Seek out information and be ready to leave or stay and actively defend your property if a fire starts. Only stay if you are 100% prepared.

HIGH LOW-MODERATE

Be vigilant. Check your fire plan and continue to monitor conditions as they can change quickly.

The City of Wanneroo's fire weather district is:
Lower West Coast

You can find out the daily FDR online at these two sites:

emergency.wa.gov.au

bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/fire-southwest.shtml

Stay informed about burning periods by contacting the City of Wanneroo, visiting our website or connecting with our Facebook page:

Phone (08) 9405 5000

Website wanneroo.wa.gov.au/burningpermits

Facebook [CityofWanneroo](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWanneroo)

FIREBREAKS / FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION / FIREBREAK EXAMPLES

While firebreaks do not actually stop fires or prevent them, they do provide vehicle access for firefighters during a bushfire and assist with the prevention of fires spreading.

FIREBREAKS MUST BE INSTALLED BY THE 1ST OF NOVEMBER EACH YEAR AND MAINTAINED UNTIL THE 30TH OF APRIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

This is a requirement under the Bush Fires Act 1954 Section 33.

Failure to comply may incur penalties of up to \$5,000 and works required will be carried out at the expense of the owner/occupier. Firebreak requirements apply to various property sizes, so it is important to know your block size.

Requirements for land less than 4000sqm

- Maintain grasses and flammable materials with the exception of living trees on the entire property to a height of no more than 50 millimetres. The entire property is required to be maintained below 50 millimetres from 1 November each year until 30 April the following year **OR**
- A 3 metre wide trafficable firebreak as close as possible to all external boundaries of the property must be installed by 1 November each year and maintained until 30 April the following year.
 - If it is not possible to install the firebreak adjacent to the external boundary of the property due to naturally occurring obstacles, it is acceptable to install the firebreak around the obstacle. If this requires the firebreak to be greater than 5 metres away from the external boundary, a firebreak variation is required.
 - Ensure a minimum vertical clearance of 4 metres is maintained along the firebreaks to enable vehicles to drive along the firebreaks without access being obstructed.
- Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in the Firebreak Notice and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.



Requirements for land greater than 4000sqm

- A 3 metre wide trafficable firebreak as close as possible to all external boundaries of the property must be installed by 1 November each year and maintained until 30 April the following year.
 - If it is not possible to install the firebreak adjacent to the external boundary of the property due to naturally occurring obstacles, it is acceptable to install the firebreak around the obstacle. If this requires the firebreak to be greater than 5 metres away from the external boundary, a firebreak variation is required.
 - Ensure a minimum vertical clearance of 4 metres is maintained along the firebreaks to enable vehicles to drive along the firebreaks without access being obstructed.
- Install and maintain a 20 metre bare earth area around all hay stacks and/or fuel dumps.
- Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in the Firebreak Notice and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.



This non-compliant firebreak shows grass/weed regrowth and no vertical 4m clearance.



A compliant firebreak needs to be 3m wide and trafficable with a vertical clearance of not less than 4m.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Additional requirements are in place where a variance is required, where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, and on all vacant land greater than 4,000 square metres.

An application for a variation to the Firebreak Notice must be made no later than 18 October each year (subject to change) and is available online at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/firebreakvariation or by contacting the City on 9405 5000.

ASSET PROTECTION ZONES

An asset protection zone (APZ) is an area extending for at least 20 metres around a building on all sides where there is little or nothing to burn.

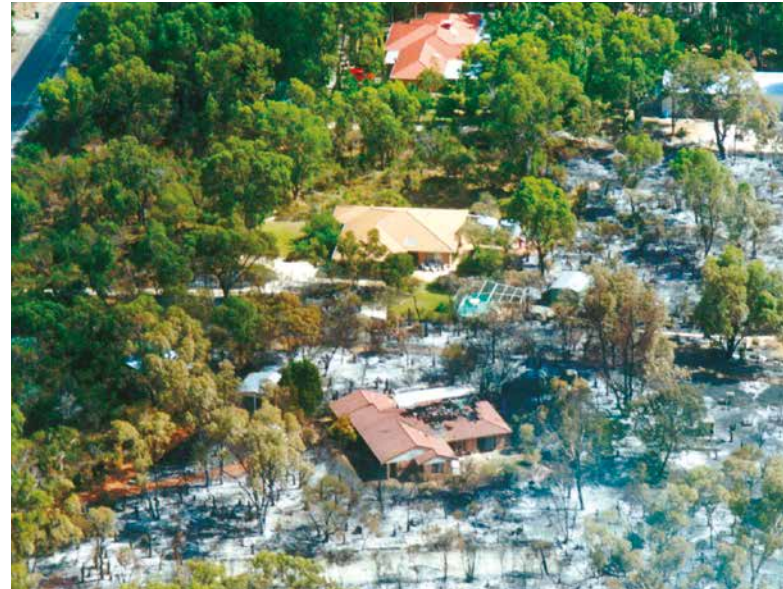
Reducing vegetation, rubbish and anything that can burn from around your home will increase its chances of surviving a bushfire. You should prepare your property to survive a fire, even if your plan is to leave. A well prepared property and constructed house is more likely to survive a bushfire than an unprepared one. Firefighters cannot defend every property and are unlikely to defend a poorly prepared property - remember, their lives are at risk too.



Extensive fire protection zone created around building.



No fire protection zone created around building.



If there is little or nothing to burn then the fire's impact will be reduced.

This can be achieved by:

- Maintaining a minimum 20 metre gap between trees and buildings. Make sure that no trees hang over your house
- Ensuring tree crowns are a minimum of 10 metres apart
- Ensuring there is a gap between shrubs and buildings of 3 times their mature height
- Ensuring shrubs are not planted in clumps
- Keeping the grass short and pruning the scrub so that it is not dense, nor does it have fine, dead, aerated material in the crown of the scrub
- Raking up leaves and twigs, and removing tree trailing bark
- Pruning lower branches (up to 2 metres off the ground) to stop a surface fire spreading to the top of the trees
- Creating a firebreak as per FIREBREAKS section of this guide
- Having paths and driveways adjacent to buildings placed to maximise protection
- Keeping gutters free of leaves and other combustible material
- Storing firewood away from buildings
- Ensuring fences and sheds are constructed using non-combustible materials, and preferably not located in the APZ (Asset Protection Zone)
- Ensuring gas bottles are secured and positioned so that they will vent away from buildings, if subject to flame contact or radiant heat.

BURNING GARDEN REFUSE

There are many methods of hazard reduction available to residents. Reduction of fuel load does not have to be as drastic as removing all vegetation. Burning garden refuse is one option available at certain times of the year.

Garden refuse may be burnt **WITHOUT A PERMIT** during the restricted burning period, ensuring the following is adhered to:

- The fire is lit between **6pm and 11pm** and is completely extinguished before midnight on the same day
- The material must be on the ground, and be no more than **1 metre wide and 1 metre high**
- There is no flammable material (other than that being burned) within **2 metres of the fire** at any time
- **At least one person is present** at the site of the fire at all times until it is completely extinguished
- Only **one heap** may be burnt at any one time
- The Fire Danger Rating **does not exceed 'Very High'**
- Let your **neighbours** know you will be burning material
- Keep a **hose or spray pack** at hand to dampen down fierce fires.

For important information and guidelines on planning and implementing planned burns on your property, visit Burn Smart on the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website - dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning

DO NOT BURN DAMP, WET OR GREEN MATERIAL AT ANY TIME AS THIS WILL CAUSE EXCESSIVE SMOKE.

Prior to burning, the City recommends you notify your neighbours and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on **9395 9209**.

BURNING IS PERMITTED DURING THE UNRESTRICTED PERIOD.

While there are no restrictions when burning during this period, please take care and be safe.

We encourage you to notify your neighbours and DFES on **9395 9209** to avoid unnecessary attendance by the Fire Brigade.

If you do lose control of your fire, call 000 immediately.



PRESCRIBED BURNING

The City of Wanneroo undertakes prescribed burning to reduce fuel load created by overgrown bushland and fallen wood, leaves and grass.

Prescribed burning reduces the risk of large and uncontrollable bushfires and ultimately protects property, infrastructure, the environment and communities.

The City has an annual burning schedule for City-managed land. Refer to the City's website for a list of proposed sites for each year.

Visit the City of Wanneroo website for up to date information on when prescribed burns will take place.

The City is able to provide advice and costs for Volunteer Bushfire Brigades to undertake prescribed burning on private property.

For further information, use the online form under Prescribed Burning on the City's website or contact the City on **9405 5000**.



Mild intensity prescribed burn for fuel reduction.



Eight months post burn at Ashbrook Park.

PRESCRIBED BURNING NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- For an updated list of proposed sites for each year, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/prescribedburning
- A letter is delivered to residents living directly opposite a prescribed burn site
- Variable Message System trailers are deployed when prescribed burning is taking place
- Prescribed Burning signs are placed on sites before and after a burn takes place
- Contact the City on **9405 5000** to be placed on the Prescribed Burning Notification Register.

ALTERNATIVES TO PRESCRIBED BURNING

There are a range of alternatives to burning which can also be used to reduce the risk of bushfire.

In many circumstances, hand and mechanical clearing methods should be considered the best way to protect your home and other assets. These methods can be safer than burning, and easier to organise and maintain.

Raking or manual removal of fuels

Remove fuels such as fallen leaves, twigs and bark.

Mowing grass

Keep grass short, green and well watered.

Spraying

Grass can be sprayed with herbicide to reduce fuel load. This may be a practical alternative, particularly if soil erosion is a concern or if areas are difficult to access. Ensure to wear protective gear when spraying, such as a respirator mask and gloves.

Slashing, mulching and turbo mowing

This is an economical method of fuel reduction. To be effective, the cut material must be removed or allowed to rot before summer starts.

Slashing and mowing may leave grass in rows, increasing fuel in some places. Mulching, or turbo mowing, also mulches the vegetation, leaving the fuel where it is cut.



Ploughing and grading

These methods can produce effective firebreaks, however the areas need constant maintenance. Loose soil may erode in steep areas, particularly where there is high rainfall and strong winds.

DISPOSAL OF GREEN WASTE

City residents and ratepayers are able to dispose of green waste and garden refuse at:

Wangara Greens Recycling Facility

70 Motivation Drive, Wangara

Open 8am-4.45pm weekends and public holidays.

Access to the site is free with a valid 'Greenwaste Tipping Voucher'. Four Greenwaste Tipping Vouchers are included with the annual rates notice.

Each voucher allows the disposal of a standard 6x4 trailer load of clean greens at no charge. Entry fees apply without a valid voucher.

Garden refuse can also be used as a mulch or compost to improve soils and the growth of plants. If you have large quantities of green waste (for example branches, tree trunks) you can arrange for mobile mulching services to mulch material on site.



VERGES - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The City of Wanneroo urges all residents to include their property's verge in their fire preparation activities.

The City cannot do it alone, given the size of the City and number of bush verges requiring maintenance.

FIRE BANS / BRIGADE CONTACTS

TOTAL FIRE BAN

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) declare a Total Fire Ban on days when fire is most likely to spread rapidly (because of extreme fire weather) or if there are already widespread fires and resources are limited.

A Total Fire Ban prohibits open air fires such as cooking or camping fires as well as carrying out any other activities that may start a fire, including the use of incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering or grass cutting equipment, vehicles and machinery likely to cause or be conducive to the spread of a bushfire.

HOW DO I CHECK IF THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN IN PLACE?

- Emergency WA Website [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)
- Call TFB Hotline on **1800 709 355**
- Call **13 DFES (133 337)**
- Follow [@dfes_wa](https://twitter.com/dfes_wa) on Twitter
- Follow [@dfeswa](https://www.facebook.com/dfeswa) on Facebook
- Listen to ABC 720 AM and other media outlets
- Look for local government roadside Fire Danger Rating signs

TO REPORT FIRE CALL 000 



Image courtesy of DFES.

HARVEST, HOT WORKS AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS

Harvest, Hot Works and Vehicle Movement Bans may be imposed by the City of Wanneroo during a Total Fire Ban or when the Chief Bushfire Control Officer is of the opinion that the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery is likely to cause a fire or contribute to the spread of a bushfire.

During a Harvest, Hot Works and Vehicle Movement Ban an open-air fire is prohibited. You are also not allowed to carry out any activity in the open-air that is likely to cause a fire, such as the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery.

If a Harvest, Hot Works and Vehicle Movement Ban is declared, it is published on the City's website and broadcast on ABC 720 AM. It will also be shared through the City's SMS notification system, more information below.

Property owners are ultimately responsible for managing bushfire risk on their own land and staying informed.

While there are fines for failing to comply, the biggest penalty of all would be losing your loved ones or home to fire.

Please ensure you, your family and your home are kept safe by taking the necessary precautions.

The penalty for breaching a fire ban is up to \$25,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment.

STAY INFORMED

The City of Wanneroo offers a complimentary SMS notification service to residents when a Total Fire Ban or Harvest, Hot Works, Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.

To sign up, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/emergencysmsnotifications

BRIGADE CONTACTS

Quinns Rocks

Bushfire Brigade

14 Hidden Valley Retreat,
Clarkson

Mobile 0428 498 779

quinnsrocksbfb.org.au

Wanneroo Volunteer
Fire Support Brigade

Mobile 0427 026 006

wanneroosupportbfb.org.au

Two Rocks Volunteer
Bushfire Brigade

Caraway Loop, Two Rocks

Mobile 0427 026 000

tworocksbfb.org.au

Wanneroo Central Volunteer
Bushfire Brigade

Building 1, Ashby Operations
Centre, 1204 Wanneroo Road,
Ashby

Mobile 0427 026 521

wanneroobfb.org.au

YOUR HOME IS IN A BUSHFIRE DANGER ZONE

If you live within the City of Wanneroo, the chances are you either live in or near bushland.

Almost all of the City has been classified as having high to extreme risk of bushfire. It is therefore important for all of our community to be aware of this extreme risk and to understand that each of us is responsible for taking the necessary steps to prepare ourselves, our pets and animals, our families and our homes.

For further information on Household Emergency Planning, visit:

- dfes.wa.gov.au
- abc.net.au/emergency
- redcross.org.au
- wanneroo.wa.gov.au



Urban interfacing properties located near bushland.



Rural/semi-rural properties with risk on and around the property.

5 MINUTE FIRE CHAT - IN A BUSHFIRE, EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

5

Bushfires move fast, even faster uphill, and they can generate enough heat to melt metal.

Your best chance of surviving a bushfire is to plan what you would do if one was to come your way. Even if you intend to stay and defend your property, you still need a back-up plan.

Complete a **DFES 5 Minute Fire Chat** with your household or neighbour and discuss these three simple questions:

- 1 **WHEN** will you know to leave?
- 2 **WHERE** will you go?
- 3 **WHICH** way will you go?

This is a great first step to protect your family and home. However, have you considered what you would do if you are at work when a fire threatens, or if you have children home alone during the school holidays?

For further information on how to prepare for bushfire, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/firechat

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN TIPS

- Include family and even neighbours in your bushfire survival planning. Practice your plan with all members of your family before the start of each bushfire season
- Write your plan down and don't doubt it when the time comes to put it into action
- Include your pets and animals in your emergency planning. Will you leave them behind or take them with you? Plan for each decision
- Prepare an emergency kit and ensure everyone in your household knows where it is kept
- Keeping scanned copies of official documents in your emergency kit can prove very helpful after a bushfire
- Keep a list of special, irreplaceable items to grab quickly in the event of an evacuation
- Bushfires can be very stressful. Prepare your mind by thinking about what might be stressful, how you might react and how best you can manage your reactions.



Download your Bushfire Preparation Toolkit today at dfes.wa.gov.au
You will find it under Bushfire Publications.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLANNING

BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEM



UNDERSTANDING THE BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEM

If you live in a bushfire risk area, you need to understand the Fire Danger Ratings and Bushfire Warning Systems, stay informed, monitor local conditions and make your own decisions.

The Bushfire Warning System provides information on the severity of bushfires once it has started. The alert level reflects the risk to life and property.

If you see smoke, don't wait for a warning or a knock on the door from the emergency services. **Immediately call 000** and then put your Bushfire Survival Plan into action.

Bushfire Warning System



ADVICE

A fire has started but there is no immediate threat to lives or homes. Be aware and keep up to date.



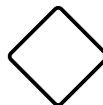
EMERGENCY WARNING

You are in danger and need to take immediate action to survive. There is a threat to lives or homes.



WATCH AND ACT

There is a possible threat to lives or homes. You need to leave or get ready to defend - do not wait and see.



ALL CLEAR

Take care to avoid any dangers and keep up to date.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SMOKE OR FIRE NEAR YOUR HOME

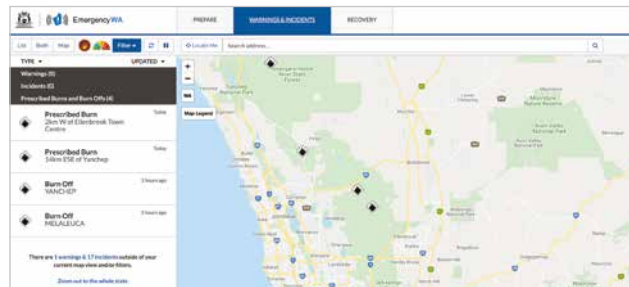
TO REPORT FIRE CALL 000 

If you see smoke, don't wait for a warning or a knock on the door from the emergency services. **Immediately call 000** and then put your Bushfire Survival Plan into action.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION DURING A BUSHFIRE

- Emergency WA - **emergency.wa.gov.au**
Providing you with information on community warnings about emergencies, Fire Danger Ratings and declared Total Fire Bans.
- DFES Information Line - **13DFES (13 3337)**
- ABC Radio - **720AM**

If you live in a bushfire prone area, it is important that you are familiar with the Emergency WA and DFES websites and the emergency warnings broadcast by ABC 720AM. It is a good idea to be in the habit of checking these regularly throughout the warmer months.



YOUR SURROUNDINGS COULD BE YOUR BEST INFORMATION SOURCE

Stay alert to what is happening around you. If you believe you may be in danger, act immediately to stay safe.

Your best chance of surviving a bushfire is to plan what you'd do if one was to come your way.

The single biggest killer is indecision. To survive a bushfire, you must be prepared to make your own decisions.

- **Prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan.**
- **Discuss and share with members of your household.**
- **Practise your plan.**



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

☐ Portable battery operated AM/FM radio

☐ Waterproof torch

☐ New spare batteries

☐ First aid kit with manual

☐ Toiletries

☐ Sunscreen

☐ Change of clothes and shoes for everyone

☐ Sturdy gloves and face and dust masks

☐ Woollen blankets

PREPARING YOUR EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Prepare a bushfire survival kit before the bushfire season starts.

This will help you get through the first few days after a fire. Make sure you have transport and a bushfire survival kit ready regardless of whether you are going to leave or actively defend your house.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND SENTIMENTAL ITEMS

☐ Household emergency plan with emergency contact phone numbers

☐ Passport, birth and marriage certificates and wills

☐ House, life, health and car licence and insurance documents

☐ Medicare, pension or personal identification cards and immunisation records

☐ Vaccination details and vet contacts for your pets and animals.

Photocopy important documents or save them to a USB drive and store in your emergency kit.



FOOD AND WATER

- ☐ Drinking water (at least three litres per person per day, for four days)
- ☐ Canned food (dried food is also a good alternative) to last four days
- ☐ Can opener, cooking gear and eating utensils.

ON THE DAY ADD

- ☐ Cash, key cards and credit/debit cards
- ☐ Essential medications, prescriptions and dosage
- ☐ Special requirements for infants and children (including favourite toy and activities)
- ☐ Mobile phone and charger, or phone card
- ☐ Extra car and house keys
- ☐ List of items to grab on the day - these may include photographs, important memory sticks or CDs with personal information or sentimental/irreplaceable items.



A bushfire survival kit.

Do not forget to include an emergency kit for your pets and animals.

Find useful information under Agriculture and Food on the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development website - visit agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare/animal-welfare-emergencies



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**





23 Dundebur Road, Wanneroo, WA 6065

Locked Bag 1, Wanneroo, WA 6946

T (08) 9405 5000

After Hours 1300 13 83 93

E enquiries@wanneroo.wa.gov.au

wanneroo.wa.gov.au

