

## Total Fire Ban

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) based on either the forecast fire danger and/or a bush fire situation.

Bans are usually declared for a 24 hour period, and may cover more than one local government area. During a TFB you are not allowed to light, maintain or use a fire to carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, a fire.

Hot works such as incinerators, welding, grinding or soldering are not permitted.

For more detailed information visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans)

### HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN

Local governments are responsible for issuing this ban. It is generally imposed for the 'heat of the day' periods and may be extended or revoked by the City should weather conditions change. It is your responsibility as a machinery operator to be aware of any bans in place before harvesting as you could be fined for breaching a ban.



## Obtaining a fire permit

Permits are available from the City of Wanneroo at the following locations:

### WANNEROO ANIMAL CARE CENTRE

Located at the rear of the Ashby Operations Centre,  
1204 Wanneroo Road, Ashby  
Seven days a week\* // 4pm - 6pm  
\*Except Good Friday and Christmas Day.

### CITY OF WANNEROO CIVIC CENTRE

23 Dundebur Road, Wanneroo  
Monday to Friday // 9am - 4pm

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Firebreaks must be cleared by 1 November (AND KEPT CLEAR UNTIL APRIL 30)
- Burning permits required all year round
- Burning prohibited 1 December to 31 March

For the location of fire danger rating signs around the City, visit [wanneroo.wa.gov.au/fireinformation](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au/fireinformation)

### NEED ADVICE?

Further advice about how to protect your home, constructing firebreaks, and when and how to burn off, is available from the City of Wanneroo during office hours on 9405 5000 or from [wanneroo.wa.gov.au/fireinformation](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au/fireinformation)



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](mailto:enquiries@wanneroo.wa.gov.au)  
[wanneroo.wa.gov.au](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au)

## PROTECT YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FROM BUSHFIRES



## Protect your home and property from bushfires

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND IN THE CITY OF WANNEROO REGARDING FIREBREAKS.

The City of Wanneroo hereby gives notice pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 to all owners or occupiers of land in its district that they are required on or before 1 November, or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier of the land if that occurs after the 1 November, to annually plough, cultivate, scarify, or otherwise clear firebreaks as specified in this Notice and thereafter up to, and including the 30 April, annually, to maintain the firebreaks clear of flammable matter.

### 1. Land having an area of 4000m<sup>2</sup> or more

A firebreak not less than 3 metres wide and 3.5 metres high immediately inside and around all external boundaries of the land must be cleared.

### 2. Land having an area of less than 4000m<sup>2</sup>

Either, a firebreak not less than 3 metres wide and 3.5 metres high immediately inside and around all external boundaries of the land must be cleared, **or** slash the entire property to a height of no more than 50 millimetres and remove all flammable materials from the property. The entire property is required to be maintained below 50 millimetres from 1 November each year until 30 April the following year.

### 3. Buildings

Install and maintain a twenty (20) metre building protection zone surrounding all buildings, large hay stacks and fuel storage areas. A building protection zone includes under taking measures such as pruning all lower tree branches to prevent fire entering the trees, ensuring three (3) metre spacing between tree canopies to prevent treetop fires spreading between trees, keeping all grasses to a height of not more than fifty (50) millimetres and storing all firewood piles more than twenty (20) metres away from the buildings.

### Penalty

An owner or occupier of land who fails or neglects in any respect to comply with the requirements of this Notice is liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000.



## Keeping your home safe from fire

There are a number of ways you can help keep your home safe from fire:

- Install smoke detectors in your home
- Clear vegetation away from the walls of your home
- Clear all rubbish and flammable material from around your home to create a 20 metre circle of safety
- Store firewood, timber, petrol, and kerosene well away from your home
- Prior to summer, clean all leaves and debris from your gutters
- Don't have flammable trees such as conifers near buildings
- Have branches trimmed that overhang the house or powerlines
- Fit wire insect screens or shutters to windows and glass doors.

If a firebreak is impractical along your boundary for environmental or other reasons, notify the City of Wanneroo by 18 October to obtain permission to install firebreaks in alternative positions, or of a different nature.



## When and how to burn

### NO BURNING FROM 1 DECEMBER - 31 MARCH

Burning off - that is bush/running fire including grass - on any land is totally prohibited between 1 December and 31 March. Fire permits for burning material other than garden rubbish are required all year round.

**A person in control of the fire must stay with the fire until it is completely extinguished.**



### GARDEN RUBBISH AND REFUSE

The burning of garden refuse is prohibited between the 1 December and the 31 March.

Other points to remember when burning garden refuse and rubbish are:

- All bush and flammable material must be thoroughly cleared within two metres of all points of the site of the fire
- The material must be on the ground, and be no more than one metre wide and one metre high
- Only one heap may be burnt at any one time.

Incinerators may be used providing:

- The incinerator is properly constructed and designed to prevent the escape of sparks of burning material
- The incinerator is situated not less than two metres away from a building or fence
- An area of two metres surrounding the incinerator is clear of all flammable material.

### BARBECUES

Only gas or electric barbecues may be lit during VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC fire danger rating or declared TOTAL FIRE BAN. The lighting of solid fuel barbecues is not permitted on these days.

### CAMPFIRES

Campfires are prohibited between 1 December and 31 March. Outside of these dates, a person must remain in attendance at the site during the whole time the fire is burning. The user must extinguish the fire using water or earth before leaving the area.

### SMOKE NUISANCES

Residents are advised to be mindful of smoke issues associated with any burning that they conduct:

- Steps should be taken to avoid undue smoke impact to neighbours
- Smoke across roadways can severely impact motorists' visibility and therefore road safety.

Issues of smoke nuisance are regulated by the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.

## Further hints for safer burning

- Don't light a fire on a hot or windy day
- Let your neighbours know you'll be burning material and make sure smoke and sparks will not affect their washing or enter open windows
- Cut or rake long grass around trees, buildings and fences before burning
- On a sloping block, burn from the top down
- Always keep a hose or spray pack at hand
- If in doubt, don't burn material yourself - call the Volunteer Fire Brigade.

## Penalties

**Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, failing to comply with regulations can result in a fine ranging from \$250 to \$250,000 or imprisonment.**

Failure to maintain 3 metre firebreak as per firebreak order	\$250
Offence relating to lighting fire in the open air	\$250
Setting fire to bush during prohibited burning times	\$250
Failure of occupier to extinguish bush fire	\$250

Major offences result in Court action with fines ranging from \$250 to \$250,000 or imprisonment for 14 years.

### THE BIGGEST PENALTY OF ALL

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.

## Special Rural/Residential land

Owners and occupiers of Special Rural and Special Residential land should be aware of their responsibilities to take bush fire prevention measures, while ensuring they do not contravene Town Planning Scheme provisions which control the removal of vegetation in these zones.

The Scheme recognises the importance of preserving the natural environment in areas of natural flora, deemed Special Rural. Anyone found cutting down, lopping or damaging trees in these areas without City approval may be guilty of an offence.

However, bush fire prevention, including the installation of firebreaks, is essential regardless of zoning. Following are guidelines for installing firebreaks in special rural zones, while minimising damage to the natural environment:

- A 3 metre wide and 3.5 metre high firebreak should be cleared around the perimeter of special rural or special residential lots
- These firebreaks need not be strictly around the perimeter, but may deviate according to the flora
- The firebreak does not have to be ploughed but can instead be created by clearing and removing all flammable material
- Care should be taken to avoid damaging or removing significant trees and shrubs
- Avoid the build up of undergrowth and leaf litter.