

# IMPORTANT FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE

**Fire mitigation measures must be in place by 1 NOVEMBER and maintained until 30 APRIL EACH YEAR.**

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

Failure to comply with this Notice may incur penalties of up to \$5,000 and the works required by this Notice will be carried out at the expense of the owner/occupier.

## Fire management requirements for land **LESS** than 4000sqm

- Maintain grasses and inflammable 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 this Notice and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

## Fire management 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 this Notice and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

## All vacant 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.
- Ensure a minimum vertical clearance of 4 metres is maintained along the firebreaks to ensure vehicles can drive along the firebreaks without being impeded by tree branches.
- If the land is an area of 50,000sqm (5 hectares) or greater, the grass must be maintained on the land to a height no greater than 50 millimetres for a distance of 10 metres from any firebreak.

## Frequently asked questions

### I live in a residential area, does this notice apply to me?

Yes. All City of Wanneroo property owners must comply with the Bush Fires Act 1954.

Please refer overleaf for fire management requirements to be in place by 1 November to ensure your property is compliant.

Most properties under 1000sqm will automatically comply if gardens are maintained.

### How will inspections be carried out?

Inspections will be carried out by trained Fire Control Officers who are authorised to enter a property by foot, vehicle, quad bike and /or drone.

### Do I need a Bushfire Survival Plan?

If you live in, on or near bushland, you are at risk from a bushfire and developing a bushfire survival plan is critical.

Visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website for information on how to develop a plan for your property [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au)

### I am concerned my neighbour's property is not compliant, what can I do?

All properties are required to be compliant by 1 November.

If you think your neighbour's property does not comply with the requirements as outlined in this Notice, please contact the Community Safety and Emergency Management team on **9405 5000**.

### I own a vacant lot, do I need a firebreak?

Yes. 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.

### I am unable to meet the requirements outlined, what should I do?

If it is considered impracticable for any reason to implement any of the requirements of this Notice, an application for a firebreak variation must be made to the City of Wanneroo by no later than 18 October of each year.

If permission is not granted, the requirements of this Notice must be complied with.

Visit the City's website [wanneroo.wa.gov.au/firebreakvariation](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au/firebreakvariation) to apply for a variation.

### Where can I learn more about this Notice and bushfire management?

Visit the City's website [wanneroo.wa.gov.au/fireinformation](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au/fireinformation) to learn more.

Please note, in addition to the requirements of this Notice, if a City of Wanneroo Fire Control Officer considers further works are necessary to reduce the risk of bushfire, Landowners will be notified via letter to the address shown on the City of Wanneroo rates record for the relevant land.