



**FIREWISE  
INFORMATION**  
**A GUILD TO HELP YOU DESIGN A FIREWISE GARDEN**

# Table of Contents

# S H E H N O C

03.

Introduction

04.

Firewise Landscapes

05.

Projects

06.

Check list

07-8.

Tips and Tricks

# INTRODUCTION

The Forever Project is a proud local West Australian business. We're a multi-award winning organisation dedicated to inspiring and empowering community to work towards a sustainable, happy and prosperous future.

With an outstanding reputation as a leading community education organisation, that includes a team of WA's best known and most respected sustainability experts, The Forever Project has developed a position of excellence in the design, delivery and management of programs aimed at helping Government, business, community groups and individuals meet the challenges of the 21st century.

To date, over 130,000 West Australian's have been through our programs and each year The Forever Project designs, delivers and manages over 120 events, making it the largest and most diverse sustainability education and empowerment program of its kind in Australia.



# FIREWISE LANDSCAPES

Climate change projections forecast a quickly drying climate in southwest WA. Fire risk is increasing and as a result, fire resilience and adaptation is likely to be a key management priority for city outskirts and rural areas.

One of the best planning practices to keep us safe in fire-prone settlements is the integration of FireWise principles into our landscape design. The Forever Project has pioneered designs and builds beautiful FireWise landscapes which effectively resist ember attack and fire creep while maintaining a cool, vegetated landscape.

## **We design with 5 main principles:**

- 01 Fire retardant plants
- 02 Fuel load separation
- 03 Deliberate breaks (i.e. paths, access tracks)
- 04 FireWise mulches
- 05 Fire safe management of existing trees

The Forever Project is leading the growing interest in FireWise landscapes. We aim to develop our FireWise Landscapes across WA in key demonstration sites such as fire stations, halls and Rec Centers to promote the uptake by the community as they seek to make their spaces more fire resilient.

Our FireWise Landscapes can integrate educational signage, on-site demos and educational events and more, to boost learning outcomes for the community and empower community resilience.

# THE PROJECTS

## DENMARK FIREWISE DEMO



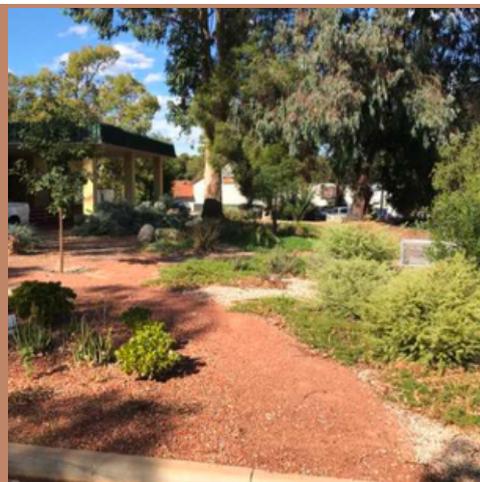
Brokered by the Shire of Denmark, DFES and with NDRP funding this integrated program, was designed and delivered by The Forever Project.

It featured workshops and bus tours and culminated in the public installation of this high profile FireWise Demo Garden on the main drag in Denmark.

The project features FireWise educational signage and fact sheets and has been designed so workshops and tours can be run to educate and empower the community on creating their on FireWise homes and gardens.

## JANDAKOT FIRE STATION

The multi million dollar upgrade of the Jandakot Fire Station gave the City of Cockburn the perfect opportunity to engage the Forever Project to design and install WA's first FireWise Demo garden at a Community Fire Station. The landscape features 4 of the most popular garden themes in Australia, all created with FireWise plants and a suite of locally produced recycled construction and demolition waste as the mulch and path mediums. The site includes educational signage and will feature in house proposed training and education activities by The City and DFES. As such it is a world class example of what can be achieved at such an important community asset.



## ROLEYSTONE HALL

Like all of our FireWise installations we demonstrated how a FireWise landscape, if carefully designed and installed, can be waterwise and wastewise and feature a suite of FireWise components such as metal sculptures, gabion baskets and rockeries. This has proven to be an important educational asset for the locals as they seek to make their homes and gardens more FireWise.

# FIREWISE CHECK LIST

The Bad	The Good	The Tolerable
Weeds	Chooks	Grand old trees
Fallen branches	Veggies	(trimmed back to at least two metres from the house, gutters and powerlines
Long, dead grasses	Orchards	Bushland (keep free of weeds, and fuel loads managed)
Artificial turf	Fire-retardant plants	Shed with flammable items set back from walls and covered in woolen blankets
Build-up of leaf litter	Well managed shelter belts	
Rolls of hay and thick mulch	Well managed perennial pasture	
Large stores of flammable items such as paints, fuels , solvents and gasses	Lawn and lawn alternatives	
Pine lattice	Frog ponds	
Plastic flyscreens	Gravel and limestone	
Leaf-filled gutters	Driveways and parking areas	
Plastic taps and hose fittings	AS3959-2018 fire-rated products: wire-mesh flyscreens	
Driving or using machinery during a total fire ban	Gutter guards and plugs	
Powerlines	Brass taps and plugs	

# 10 FIREWISE TIPS AND TRICKS

- #1 Waterwise Gardens are Firewise Gardens**

The use of wetting agents and rough coarse rock mulch will make sure your plants get all the water that is needed. Having well 'hydrated' plants means that the plants are less likely to burn.
- #2 Fine Fuels are Deadly Fuels**

It is the stuff like dry leaves, small twigs and tall dead grass that are by far the most flammable and dangerous, so don't let them build up.
- #3 Get Rid of Ladders**

Fire is pretty lazy! If it has an easy tangle of branches to get into the tree canopy it becomes very dangerous. So, remember to remove your lower branches and keep them at least 2m back from your roof and walls.
- #4 Embers Really do Attack**

Remember these nasty little orange sparks only need a gap of 3mm wide to get in and potentially destroy your home. So remember - plug those gaps!
- #5 Ghastly Gutters**

If you can just stop leaves from filling your gutters you will do a huge amount to make your home more 'FireWise'.

# 10 FIREWISE TIPS AND TRICKS

## #6 **Design for Safety**

Did you know a carefully designed and managed 'FireWise' garden can have a significant impact to make your home safer and more 'FireWise'.

## #7 **Ratings are Underrated**

Look for products that have the Australian Standard AS 3959-2018. These are products proven to be the most FireWise for your home.

## **The Low Down on Fuels**

#8 Remember that dry 'standing' (upright) fuels are much more dangerous than flattened fuels. So don't forget to mow, slash, mulch and or remove these 'fuels' to be 'FireWise' in your APZ.

## **Rock On!**

#9 Did you know that stone, rocks and gravels (preferably recycled) are much safer mulch options against ember attack in high fire risk areas. So rock on for a 'FireWise' garden.

## **keep Your Distance**

#10 Gaps between plants and gaps between the ground and the lowest foliage will help stop the spread of any bushfire near your home.