

# SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP - FIRE CONTROL INFORMATION

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## **BUSH FIRE ACT 1954 - Section 33(1) Notice to all owners and occupiers of land in the Shire of Jerramungup**

As a measure for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, all owners and occupiers of land within the Shire's district are required before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October in each year to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this Notice and maintain those firebreaks and measures in accordance with this Notice up to and including the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May in the following year.

### **1. RESIDENTIAL, TOWNSITE, TOWN CENTRE, SERVICE COMMERCIAL, LIGHT INDUSTRY AND GENERAL INDUSTRY ZONES**

On land zoned Residential, Town Site, Town Centre, Service Commercial, Light Industry and General Industry under the Shire of Jerramungup Local Planning Scheme No.2 ("Scheme"), you must:

- (a) Where the area is 2,000 square metres or less, clear the land free of all inflammable matter, except for living trees, shrubs, plants and lawns under cultivation, to a height no greater than 5cm; or
- (b) Where the area of land exceeds 2,000 square metres, clear a 2 metre wide bare earth firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 2 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 5 metres above the ground.

### **2. RURAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE – SPECIFIC TO FREEMAN DRIVE**

On land zoned Rural Residential Zone No.2 under the Scheme, you must:

- (a) Clear:
  - (i) A 3 metre wide bare earth access track between the boundary of the land and all buildings on the land by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 3 metre wide access track between the ground and 5 metres above the ground so that the access track provides unrestricted vehicular access; and
  - (ii) A 3 metre wide bare earth firebreak around all buildings on the land and within 20 metres of all haystacks and stockpiled inflammable matter by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 3 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 4 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access.

### **3. RURAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE – SPECIFIC TO POINT HENRY PENINSULA**

On land zoned Rural Residential located on the Point Henry Peninsula, you must:

- (a) Where a subdivision guide plan lodged in accordance with the Scheme shows a strategic firebreak located on the land, clear or arrange for the Shire to clear, a 20 metre wide

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firebreak in the location of the strategic firebreak shown on the subdivision guide plan or such other location approved by the Shire by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 20 metre wide firebreak between 5 cm above the ground and 5 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; or

- (b) Where a Fire Management Plan which relates to the property has been adopted by Council, clear firebreaks and take measures in accordance with that Fire Management Plan.

The Point Henry Fire Management Strategy was adopted by Council on the 15th October 2014; “**existing landowners**” in the Point Henry Peninsula are required to phase in the following requirements over a five year period;

- (i) Compliant access/driveway; landowners must comply by **31st October 2016**
- (ii) Turnarounds for heavy firefighting vehicles; landowners must comply by **31st October 2017**
- (iii) 20,000L dedicated water supply; landowners must comply by **31st October 2018**
- (iv) 20m Building Protection Zone (BPZ); landowners must comply by **31st October 2019**

#### **4. RURAL ZONE**

On land zoned Rural under the Scheme, you must:

- (a) Where the area of the land is 100 hectares or less:

(i) clear a 3 metre wide bare earth firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 3 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 5 metres above the ground ; and

(ii) clear a 3 metre wide bare earth firebreak around all buildings on the land and within 20 metres of all haystacks and stockpiled inflammable matter by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 3 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 4 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; or

(b) Where the area of the land exceeds 100 hectares, clear a bare earth 3 metre wide firebreak within 100 metres of all buildings, haystacks, stockpiled inflammable matter and fuel dumps by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 3 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 5 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access.

#### **5. LICENCED STORAGE AREAS**

(a) As from the 1994/1995 season, grain carting and out loading during harvest ban times shall be permitted from licensed storage and out loading areas, subject to inspection prior to licensed approval being given from the local Bush Fire Brigade. There will be a licence fee of \$50.00 payable to the local Bush Fire Brigade in the area: the owners name and locations are to be published in local media publications.

(b) The storage areas are to be on a roadway or adjacent to a road with 50m radius cleared area free of flammable materials, therefore the out loading areas should attract the same conditions, either being on or adjacent to a roadway or near houses or sheds. All areas are subject to inspection for Bush Fire Advisory Committee, further, that once inspected they need to be licensed.

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## **6. PLANTATIONS**

A plantation for the purposes of this notice is any area of planted hardwood or softwood plants exceeding 3 ha within a townsite and exceeding 10 ha if outside a town site and where the area planted exceeds 50 metres in any one direction. **The area will continue to be defined as a plantation until all stumps are removed or the land use has changed.**

If you are the owner or occupier of land upon which there is a plantation, you must:

- (a) Clear a 15 metre wide bare earth firebreak immediately inside the external boundary of the land on which the plantation is located by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 15 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 5 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; and
- (b) Clear a 15 metre wide bare earth firebreak immediately inside the boundary of any lot on the land which abuts a public road by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 15 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 5 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; and
- (c) Where the plantation is divided into compartments:
  - (i) clear 6 metre wide bare earth firebreaks between compartments which do not exceed 30 ha in area each by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 6 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 5 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; or
  - (ii) clear 10 metre wide bare earth firebreaks between compartments where one or both of the compartments exceed 30 ha in area by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation within the 10 metre wide firebreak between the ground and 5 metres above the ground so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; and
- (d) where power lines pass through the plantation, clear firebreaks in accordance with Western Power specifications; and
- (e) firefighting water supply facilities are designed and constructed so that 4 x 4 vehicles carrying 3000 litres of water are able to access the facilities; and
- (f) erect signposts to show the location of:
  - (i) compartment boundaries by name and number in a manner which is consistent with the plantation map;
  - (ii) water supply facilities;
  - (iii) emergency access and egress;
  - (iv) any structures including houses, sheds, etc; and
  - (v) significant features including creek crossings, dead ends, etc; and
- (g) Provide to the Shire a map of the plantation showing the location of firebreaks and the matters specified in paragraph (f) above and
- (h) Where brigade fire fighting equipment is located more than 20 minutes from the plantation, supply and maintain the following equipment:
  - (i) Where the plantation has an area of less than 100ha, a 4 x 4 vehicle with 1 tonne load capacity carrying at least 450 litres of water; or
  - (ii) Where the plantation has an area of between 100ha and 1000ha, a 4 x 4 vehicle carrying 2000 litres of water; or
  - (iii) Where the plantation has an area of greater than 1000ha, a 4 x 4 vehicle carrying 3000 litres of water.

**Please note Pursuant to Section 46 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, an FCO has the power to delay or postpone the lighting of a fire at anytime. In relation to plantations it should be**

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noted that where land owners wish to clear the land of plantations, any accompanying burning operations must gain Shire approval at all times throughout the year. The subject approval will be in the form of a Burn Prescription issued by the Shire.

## **7. USE OF ENGINES, VEHICLES, PLANT OR MACHINERY LIKELY TO CAUSE BUSH FIRE**

The Shire's Bush Fire Control Officer is of the opinion that harvesting machines and headers, other than clover harvesters, are likely to cause a bush fire, or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire, during the prohibited burning time.

Accordingly, the Shire's Bush Fire Control Officer hereby prohibits pursuant to regulation 38A(1) of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954:

- (a) the use of a harvesting machine or header, other than a clover harvester, during the prohibited burning time specified below unless, in the paddock being harvested or adjacent to the entrance of the paddock being harvested, there are sufficient mobile fire fighting units or **equivalent fire fighting capacity** as defined below (to provide a minimum of **600** litres of water per harvesting machine or header); and
- (b) the use of a harvesting machine or header on Christmas day in any year

In addition to the above the Shire's Bush Fire Control Officer opines that the activities of 'track raking' or 'track chaining' need to be regulated during the prohibited and restricted burning times. A permit to conduct this activity during the prohibited and restricted burning times needs to be obtained from a Fire Control Officer. As a bare minimum, a mobile fire fighting unit needs to be in attendance during this activity and each machine engaged in the activity is to have a fire extinguisher on the machine.

Note that the Shire's Bush Fire Control Officer may by notice prohibit or regulate the use of other engines, vehicles, plant or machinery during the prohibited or restricted burning times.

## **8. HARVESTING MACHINES AND HEADERS - REGULATION 38**

Pursuant to regulation 38 of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954, a person shall not operate any harvesting machine or header in any crop during the prohibited burning times or the restricted burning times set out below unless a fire extinguisher is carried on the machine.

## **9. RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES**

<b>Restricted Burning Times (RBT) (PERMITS REQUIRED)</b>	<b>1st October to 31st October in each year, both dates inclusive and 2nd March to 1st May in each year, both dates inclusive.</b>
<b>Prohibited Burning Times (PBT) (TOTAL FIRE BAN)</b>	<b>1st November in each year to 1st March the following year, both dates inclusive</b>

NOTE - Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times may be varied due to seasonal changes. Any changes will be advertised in a local newspaper circulated within the Shire's district.

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## **10. APPLICATION TO VARY REQUIREMENTS**

If it is impracticable for any reason to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this Notice, you may apply to the Shire in writing before the **15th of October** each year for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative locations or take alternative measures to prevent the outbreak or spread of a bush fire. If permission is not granted in writing by the Shire, you shall comply with the requirements of this Notice.

The requirement for a Building Protection Zone may be varied by Council where the development is considered to be “unavoidable development” being that:

Where it is not practical for an existing dwelling to provide a 20m Building Protection Zone a landowner shall apply for a variation to the Firebreak Notice. In considering any such request regard will be given to:

- (a) The topography of the site;
- (b) Potential environmental impacts caused by the building protection zone;
- (c) Provision of alternative low or managed fuel zones.

The Shire may approve variations to the Building Protection Zone for a period not more than 5 years.

## **11. DEFINITIONS**

In this Notice, the following definitions apply:

**“Fire extinguisher”** means a device which comprises a container filled with at least 7.5 litres of water and a pump capable of discharging that water, and which is in a sound and efficient condition.

**“Mobile fire fighting unit”** means a **self-propelled vehicle** carrying a single water tank of at least six hundred (600) litres capacity, equipped with an engine driven pump fitted with a minimum of twenty (20) metres of nineteen millimetre (19mm) diameter fire fighting delivery hose and capable of delivering fire fighting water through an adjustable nozzle in spray or jet settings.

**“Equivalent fire fighting capacity”** means the required water carrying capacity and water delivery capacity of a fire unit/s provided when more than one header or harvester is operating in a paddock as per the following table:

<i>Number of Headers or Harvester</i>	<i>Equivalent Fire Fighting Capacity</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>1 x mobile fire fighting unit (minimum 600 litre water capacity)</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>1 x mobile fire fighting unit (minimum 600 litre water capacity)</i>
<i>3 or more</i>	<i>2 x mobile fire fighting units (minimum 1200 litre capacity) or; 1x mobile fire fighting unit (minimum 600 litre capacity) and 1 x trailer mounted unit of at least 600 litre capacity)</i>

**“Compliant access/driveway”** means an access to a property/dwelling which;

- Has a minimum width of 4 metres;
- Has a minimum horizontal clearance to vegetation of 6m;
- Has a vertical clearance of 5m and;

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- Has a maximum grade of 8 degrees

**“Turnarounds for heavy firefighting vehicles”** means a turnaround area for a Heavy Duty fire truck within the 50metres of the dwelling (three point or circular).

**“20,000L dedicated water supply”** means a water tank (or dedicated portion of a water tank) with a 20,000L capacity which is solely for fire fighting purposes and:

- A 50mm male camlock coupling with full flow valves.
- A hard standing access adjacent to such connection/s and this must be readily identifiable.
- An associated non electric fire fighting pump (normally 5.5hp) with sufficient hose to protect the dwelling and the surrounding low fuel zone.

**“20m Building Protection Zone (BPZ)”** means a minimum of 20 metres measured from any external wall of the building or building envelope, increasing with slope, and;

- Within the boundaries of the lot on which the building is situated;
- Reduced to and maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare;
- All grasses within the BPZ are to be maintained to a height of a maximum 50mm
- The crowns of trees within the BPZ should be separated where practical such that there is a clear separation distance between adjoining tree crowns.
- Prune lower branches of trees within the BPZ (up to 2 metres off the ground) to stop a surface fire spreading to the canopy of the trees.
- No tall shrubs or trees located within 2 metres of a building;
- No tree crowns overhanging the building; and
- Fences and sheds within the BPZ are constructed using non-combustible materials (eg. Iron, brick, limestone).

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