



Assessments Commence From:

31 October 2024

Compliance Due By:

30 November 2024

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

Firebreak & Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

Notice to all owners of land within the Shire of Boyup Brook

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the Shire of Boyup Brook (Shire) gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy, and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy within the Shire. Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5,000. The Shire advises that its officers, servants, workmen, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by the date specified above, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 30 November each year and maintained in this state up to and including 01 April each year. If an owner or occupier fails to comply with these requirements, he or she may be issued with an infringement notice (penalty \$250) or prosecuted (maximum penalty \$5,000).

Any Fire Information & Firebreak Notice previously published by the Shire of Boyup Brook in the Government Gazette or in any locally circulated newsprint is hereby revoked.

Firebreak Specifications

- ✓ Must be a bare earth firebreak with a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a dead end.
- ✓ Must be not less than 3m wide immediately inside and along property boundaries (including on boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves).
- ✓ Ideally have a corner turning radius of up to 10 metres.
- ✓ Must be maintained and cleared of dead inflammable materials up until 01 April of each year
- ✓ Must have a vertical clearance height as specified for property zone, with all overhanging vegetation trimmed back clear of the firebreak.
- ✓ Maintained and living lawns (see definitions: Maintained and Living Lawn) up to 50 millimetres in height are acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of bare earth firebreaks or in an asset protection zone (APZ), provided that the same width and height requirements for a firebreak or APZ are maintained.

Firebreaks are intended to minimise the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access on your property for emergency vehicles (ensuring fire does not travel under the vehicles or underfoot).

Townsite Land

On all land located within a town site (except for land zoned Rural and Special Rural as shown in the Shire of Boyup Brook Town Planning Scheme No 2 (**Scheme**)), you must -

- a. where the area of land is 4047m² (one acre) or less, clear and maintain the land free of all inflammable matter to reduce the risk of a running fire, such as grass, leaf litter, dead vegetation, firewood, stored fuel or other specified matter, greater than 50mm in height.
- b. where the area of the land is in excess of 4047m² (one acre), clear and maintain a firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land.

Special Rural Land

On all land zoned Special Rural under the Scheme, you must -

- a. clear and maintain a firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land.
- b. clear and maintain a 10 metre wide asset protection zone (APZ) around all buildings and fuel storage areas by removing all inflammable matter such as grass greater than 50 millimetres in height, dead vegetation, firewood, stored fuel or other specified flammable matter, within the 10 metre wide APZ and 3 metres above the ground.

Rural Land

On land zoned Rural under the Scheme, you must comply with either paragraph 1 or paragraph 2 below -

1. You must;
 - a. clear and maintain a firebreak immediately around all buildings, homesteads, hay sheds, fuel storage areas, caravans, and mobile accommodation.
 - b. clear and maintain a second firebreak around all buildings, homesteads, hay sheds, fuel storage areas, caravans and mobile accommodation located not less than 20 metres nor more than 100 metres from the firebreak in paragraph (a) above.

OR

2. You must as an alternative to the two-firebreak system described in paragraph 1,
 - a. clear and maintain a 10 metre wide asset protection zone (APZ) around all buildings, homesteads, hay sheds, fuel storage areas, caravans, and mobile accommodation and by removing all inflammable matter such as grass greater than 50mm in height, dead vegetation, firewood, or other specified flammable matter, within the 10 metre wide APZ and 3 metres above the ground.

AND

3. For Rural land (of less than 40 hectares) adjacent to Special Rural properties;
 - a. you must clear and maintain a firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries adjacent to the Special Rural Properties

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) Specifications.

- ✓ Maintain all grass within the designated asset protection zone at a maximum height of 50 millimetres. Regular mowing or trimming is required.
- ✓ The total amount of inflammable material (leaves, twigs, branches) within the zone must be kept below 2 tonnes per hectare.
- ✓ No trees or shrubs exceeding 2 metres in height shall be located within 2 metres of any habitable building within the asset protection zone.
- ✓ All trees within the zone must be pruned to remove branches from the lower trunk to a minimum height of 2 metres from the ground.
- ✓ Dense groupings of shrubs exceeding 2 metres in height are prohibited within the asset protection zone near buildings. Maintain a minimum gap of at least three times the mature height of the shrub species from any habitable building.
- ✓ Tree branches within the zone must not overhang the roof or any part of a building.
- ✓ Regularly remove all inflammable materials such as leaves, twigs, and debris from roofs, gutters, and walls of buildings within the zone. This includes eliminating wood piles or inflammable storage items stored close to buildings.

Plantations & Harvested Plantations

A plantation is defined as an area exceeding 3 hectares within a town site, or an area exceeding 20 hectares within a rural area, of trees planted for commercial purposes. The plantation will cease once the stumps are removed and the area is returned to agricultural production.

Up until the first harvest following the first planting of a plantation, the firebreak requirements for the plantation are those that applied for the fire season in which the plantation was approved by Council under the Scheme.

Further plantings and post-harvest or coppice regrowth or until all stumps are removed will be subject to the then current firebreak requirements for each year.

Subject to the above, on all land on which there is a plantation, you must –

- a. clear and maintain a 15 metre wide bare earth firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land of the plantation if the plantation is within 50 metres of the boundaries of separate land ownership, fences or bushland and all formed public roads; by removing all inflammable matter and vegetation to a height of 4 metres.
- b. Clear and maintain a 6 metre wide bare earth firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land of the plantation if the plantation is more than 50 metres from the boundaries of separate land ownership, fences or bushland, and all formed public roads.
- c. ensure all trees adjoining the plantation greater than 4 metres above the ground are progressively pruned to maintain the specified width of the firebreak.
- d. where a plantation is divided into compartments –
 - i. A bare earth firebreak 6 metres wide shall be constructed in such a position that no compartment of the plantation exceeds 30 hectares.
 - ii. if compartments exceed 30 hectares, a 10 metre wide bare earth firebreak between compartments must be cleared.
- e. clear a 10 metre wide asset protection zone (APZ) around all buildings and fuel storage areas by reducing and maintaining all inflammable matter such as grass, dead vegetation, or other specified matter within the APZ and 4 metres above the ground.
- f. where power lines pass through the plantation, clear firebreaks in accordance with Western Power specifications (consult Western Power – phone 13 10 87).
- g. Any harvest residue heaps (slash piles) are to be a maximum of 4 metres wide; maximum of 2 metres high; maximum 50 metres length with a minimum of 5 metres separation between piles; minimum 50 metres from any boundary or native vegetation islands; minimum of 20 metres from powerlines or any areas of remnant vegetation and the first row of trees of any plantation.

Blue Gum Trash Heaps

A permit will be required for burning of tree plantation waste at any time throughout the year. Permits will only be issued by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and burning of blue gum trash heaps to be completed by 31st of August annually. All trash heaps are required to be pushed out and levelled by the 31st of October of that year.

Additional Works

Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owner and/or occupier must still comply with all requirements in this notice and with ALL additional requirements outlined within that plan. You may be required to carry out further bushfire property preparedness works on your land to reduce any fire hazards considered necessary by a Fire Control Officer. If required, these will be outlined in a 'work order' and sent to the address of the owner.

Emergency Management Plans and Shire Approved Treatment Plans

All properties and/or land subject to a Bushfire Management Plan or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a Shire approved treatment plan, must comply with the listed requirements in their entirety. Compliance with any additional plans does not constitute compliance with this Notice.

Environmental Conditions

Any property subject to environmental value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora and Fauna (DRF) sites should seek further information about what can or cannot be done prior to carrying out requirements under this Notice. Please contact the Shire's Emergency Services Team.



Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice: If you consider it impractical to meet a requirement/s of this Notice, you may apply to the Shire in writing for a variation no later than 1 October 2024. Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ other methods of property preparedness to land that you own and/or occupy. If your application is not granted you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2024/2025. Variation request application forms are available before 01 October 2024 on the Shire's website at: www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au/services/emergency-services/bushfire-control Any owner and/or occupier who engages a contractor to undertake works on their behalf is responsible for ensuring that the completed works meet the requirements of this Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.

Fuel Dumps and Depots: Remove all inflammable material within 10 metres of fuel dumps, fuel ramps or where fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored.

Haystacks: Clear and maintain a firebreak surrounding any haystack on the land, within 20 metres of the haystack.

Wood/Solid Fuel BBQs and Pizza Ovens: The use of wood/solid fuel BBQs and pizza ovens is permitted except for on days where the fire danger rating is HIGH or above. The use of any wood/solid fuel BBQ or pizza oven is prohibited during a TOTAL FIRE BAN.

Campfires and Firepits: Campfires and firepits are NOT permitted at any time during the PROHIBITED Burning Period or at any other time where the fire danger rating is HIGH or above. Campfires and Firepits cannot be lit before 6pm, no more fuel can be added after 11pm, must be fully extinguished by midnight, must not be left unattended, must have an available method of extinguishment with you while burning and may not be lit on public land, unless purpose-built campfire pits have been provided by the owner of the land and permission to use them has been given.

DEFINITIONS

Asset Protection Zone (APZ): Is an area of very low fuel levels surrounding a habitable building extending to a minimum of 20 metres out from any external walls of the building, attached structures, or adjacent structures within 6 metres of that building. On sloping ground, it shall increase at 1 metre for every degree in slope on the sides of the habitable building that are exposed to downslope natural vegetation.

Fire Break: A strip of land free of all inflammable material with the intention of minimising the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access on the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations. Driveways may be acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of, mineral earth fire breaks. Contact the Shire's Emergency Services Team for further assistance.

Fuel Load: This can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation. A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) to the mineral earth is indicative of approximately 8 tonne per hectare. The more fuel load, the higher the flame height and increased fire intensity. Mulch piles, stored firewood and burn piles can contribute to fuel loading on land and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Control Officer. **Fine fuels:** Leaf litter, grasses, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc. **Heavy (coarse) fuels:** Branches, logs, stumps etc.

Maintained and living Lawn: Are reticulated and/or are considered to be kept completely green and mowed or slashed to a height no greater than 50 millimetres.

If you require any further information, please contact the Shire of Boyup Brook Emergency Services Team on (08) 9765 1200, email shire@boyupbrook.wa.gov.au or visit www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au/services/emergency-services/bushfire-control

Leonard Long

Chief Executive Officer