

# Fire Season Guide

2019/20



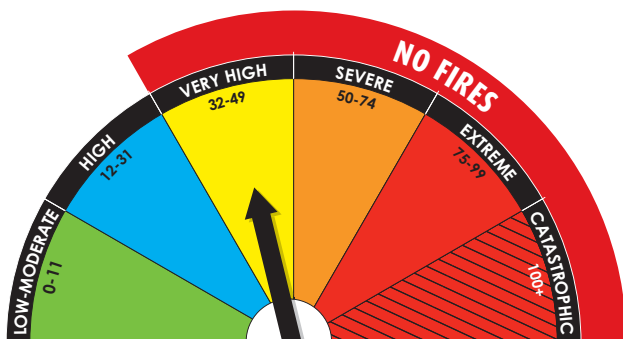
Firebreaks and Hazard Reduction measures must be carried out by November 1 and maintained up to April 30 inclusive.

| FIRE SEASON QUICK GUIDE   |              |                           |                         |                           |              |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| BURNING RESTRICTIONS  |              |                           |                         |                           |              |
| RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD   |              | PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD |                         | RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD |              |
| Permits Required to Burn  |              | Burning Prohibited        |                         | Permits Required to Burn  |              |
| From Oct 1  | Until Nov 30 | From Dec 1                | Until Mar 31            | From Apr 1                | Until May 31 |
| FIREBREAKS AND HAZARD REDUCTION REQUIREMENT PERIOD  |              |                           |                         |                           |              |
| INSTALL BY NOVEMBER 1   |              |                           | MAINTAIN UNTIL APRIL 30 |                           |              |
| <p>All burning is prohibited on days where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above,</li><li>• a Total Fire Ban has been declared, or</li><li>• a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.</li></ul> <p>Restricted and Prohibited Period dates may be altered according to seasonal conditions, these changes will be advertised on the City of Swan’s website.</p> |              |                           |                         |                           |              |
| <p>Burning is prohibited on land less than 2000m².</p> <p>Exemptions are listed on page 8.</p>  |              |                           |                         |                           |              |

Call 000 for all fires and life threatening emergencies.

## Important contacts

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Fire Danger Rating is supplied daily by the Bureau of Meteorology at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) and also available from the Telstra Weather Service by calling **1196**.

### City of Swan

Fire Information - **9267 9326**  
General enquiries - **9267 9267**  
or visit [www.swan.wa.gov.au](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au)

### Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Emergency information line (alerts and warnings):  
**13 33 37** or [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

Total Fire Ban information line:  
**1800 709 355** or [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

General fire safety information:  
[www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

# City of Swan Bushfire Hazard Regulations

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Property owners are required to read and familiarise themselves with the Annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice contained on pages 11-23 of this booklet and undertake and maintain any requirements during the regulated firebreak periods. Property owners who are unsure of their responsibilities may contact the City of Swan for further information.

## This booklet includes information on:

- Fire Safety on Your Property
- Asset Protection Zone
- Bushfire Management Plans
- Firebreaks and Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks)
- Burning Restrictions
- Fire Safety Bans
- Fire Hazard Reduction Notice (Firebreak Notice)

## Fire Safety on your Property

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Property owners are required to reduce fire hazards and install firebreaks prior to **November 1, 2019** and maintain their property in that condition until **April 30, 2020**. The bushfire hazard reduction strategies outlined below are legal requirements to reduce the likelihood and impact a bushfire may have on life, property and the environment.

### Land up to 5,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 hectares or 1.2 acres)

- Install and maintain an asset protection zone.
- Maintain all grass to 5cm height or under.
- If your land predominantly consists of dense native vegetation, you may need to install firebreaks or undertake additional understory maintenance.
- Native vegetation should be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare.

## **Land between 5,000m<sup>2</sup> and 25,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 - 2.5 hectares) or (1.2 - 6.2 acres)**

- Install and maintain an asset protection zone.
- Install firebreaks immediately inside and adjacent to all external property boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3 metres wide with a 4 metre vertical (height) clearance free from flammable materials and overhanging branches.
- Maintain all grass to a height of no greater than 10cm.
  - If the land is stocked, the grass must be reduced and maintained to a height of no greater than 10cm by December 1.
- Natural vegetation within 100 metres of buildings including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure shall be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare.
- Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in this notice as well as any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

## **Land with an area greater than 25,000m<sup>2</sup> (2.5 hectares or 6.2 acres)**

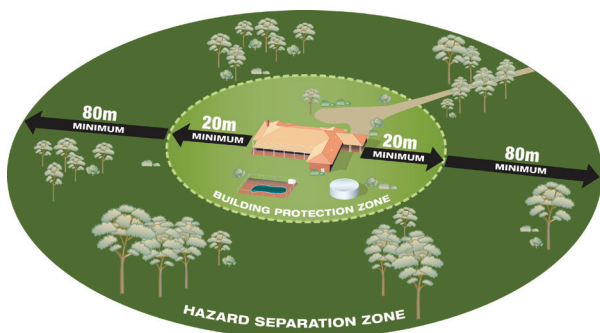
- Install and maintain an asset protection zone.
- Install firebreaks immediately inside and adjacent to all external property boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3 metres wide with a 4 metre vertical (height) clearance free from flammable materials and overhanging branches.
- Properties over 100 hectares require additional firebreaks to divide the land into areas not exceeding 100 hectares.
- Slash or mow grass to a height no greater than 10cm immediately adjacent to firebreaks to a minimum width of 3 metres.
  - If the land is stocked, this grass must be reduced and maintained to a height of no greater than 10cm by December 1.
- Natural vegetation within 100 metres of buildings including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure shall be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare.
- Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in this notice as well as any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

# Asset Protection Zone

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An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is a fuel-reduced area that surrounds habitable buildings and other assets. A well maintained APZ can minimise the likelihood and impact that direct flame contact, radiant heat and ember attack have on buildings in the event of a bushfire.

The APZ extends out 20m from the external walls of an asset or building. If the ground slopes down from the building, the distance of the APZ should be increased by 1m for every degree of downslope.



## APZ requirements include:

- Maintain fuel loads at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

Note: Complete removal of native vegetation is NOT required

- Maintain grass at 5cm or under
- Keep tree crowns or branches clear from overhanging buildings
- Maintain clear separation between tree crowns
- Prune trees to remove branches less than 2m above the ground
- Ensure shrubs taller than 2m are not located within 2m of the building
- APZ requirements only apply within the boundaries of the lot on which the asset is located and cannot be enforced across boundaries.

Refer to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice on pages 18-19 of this booklet for the complete list of APZ requirements. Permanent clearing of vegetation beyond the requirements of the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice is not permitted and requires approval from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the City of Swan.

# Fire Management Plans

Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements of the Annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice as well as any additional requirements outlined within that plan.



## Firebreaks, Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks) and Emergency Access Ways

Firebreaks, Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks) and Emergency Access Ways must be constructed and maintained to the standard specified in the City of Swan Fire Hazard Reduction Notice (see pages 11-23 of this booklet for details).

| Type                                      | Dimensions         | Trafficable surface                                     |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Firebreak                                 | 3m wide<br>4m high | 3m<br>Suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles                       |
| Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreak) | 6m wide<br>4m high | 4m<br>Suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles                       |
| Emergency Access Way                      | 6m wide<br>4m high | 6m<br>Suitable for all types of vehicles in all weather |

## Engaging Contractors

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Landowners, including absentee landowners, must make efforts to verify contractor work is being completed to the required standard and not rely on their contractor's word. Ultimately, it is the land owner's responsibility to ensure their property complies with the annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.

## Precautions when Slashing

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Slashing and mowing can cause fires. These activities should not be undertaken in hot or windy weather. It is recommended that a suitable fire extinguisher is fitted to any machinery undertaking these activities.

## Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times

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Note: Dates may be altered according to seasonal conditions, these changes will be advertised on the City of Swan website.

**Burning is restricted from October 1 to November 30 and April 1 to May 31 inclusive.**

During this period you are not permitted to burn without a burning permit. You may request a permit from your local Fire Control Officer – see details on the inside back cover of this booklet.

**Burning is prohibited December 1 to March 31 inclusive.**

**Burning is also prohibited on any day when the Fire Danger Rating reaches Very High or above, or if a ban has been declared.**



## Burning Restrictions

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All burning, including exemptions, is prohibited on days when the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above, or whenever a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared (see Fire Safety Bans on pages 8-10 of this booklet for details).

## Seasonal Restrictions (for dates see inside cover of this booklet)

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### Prohibited period

All burning, including garden refuse and camping fires are prohibited during this period. Exemptions are listed on page 8.

### Restricted period

Burning requires a permit except for garden refuse that may be burnt subject to conditions listed below. Additional exemptions are listed on page 8.

#### Conditions for burning garden refuse:

- The fire must not be lit if the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above, or if a Total Fire Ban or Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is declared.
- The pile of refuse being burnt must not exceed 1 cubic metre.
- Only one pile can be alight at any time.
- A 5 metre wide area clear of flammable material surrounds the pile.
- The fire is only lit between 6pm and 11pm and completely extinguished by midnight.
- At least one person capable of controlling the fire is in attendance at all times and adequate means of extinguishing the fire is available at all times (e.g. garden hose or a fire appliance).
- You notify your neighbours of your intention to burn and the smoke from your fire doesn't cause a nuisance to neighbours or obscure the vision of motorists.
- You do not burn household or commercial waste, any noxious materials or any damp, wet or green material which could cause excessive smoke at any time.

## Burning Prohibited on Land less than 2000m<sup>2</sup>

In addition to seasonal burning restrictions, burning is not permitted any time on land with an area less than 2,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 acres) as per Consolidated Local Law 2005 (due to the impact smoke may have on densely built-up areas). Exemptions are outlined below.

### Exemptions

Exemptions include operations of a barbeque, a heater, water heater, space heater, stove, oven or incinerator. These must be fully enclosed and fired with dry wood, dry paper, synthetic char or charcoal type fuel. Suitable precautions must be taken so that no nuisance smoke arises. Causing excessive smoke is a prosecutable offence under the City's Health Local Laws.

### Alternatives to Burning

Consider the environment and the impact smoke may have on the surrounding community. Whenever practical, use alternative methods of fuel reduction like composting, mulching, slashing or spraying. Green waste can be disposed of at Red Hill and Bullsbrook waste transfer stations or by using the City's curb side collection service.

## Fire Safety Bans

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When a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest or Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared, it is illegal to light a fire or carry out any activity that is likely to cause a fire.

The responsibility remains with the individual to be aware of any bans in place and to ensure that the activity will not cause a fire.

**Total Fire Bans** are declared by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) during times of extreme weather conditions or when the possibility of widespread bushfires may impact heavily on resources.

**Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans** are declared by the Local Authority and limits the operation of machinery and plant equipment likely to cause a fire when operated over or near flammable material, dry grass, stubble or bush.

Similarly, conducting 'hot works' like operating abrasive cutters, welders or any other activity in the open air that may cause sparks and ignite vegetation are also not permitted during a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban.

## When a ban has been declared **you must not:**



- Light a fire in the open air.
- Cook outside in the open air using an open fire (this includes under verandas and patios).
- Move vehicles or plant equipment in bushland or paddocks (see necessary agricultural activities\*)
- Harvesting (see necessary agricultural activities\*)
- Undertake 'hot works' such as welding, grinding or activity that may cause a spark or ignition unless you have an exemption issued by DFES.
- Use fireworks or hot air balloons.

## When a ban has been declared **you may:**



- Use a gas cooker or barbeque with an enclosed flame on your own property or in a public recreational area designated for that purpose.
- Undertake essential feeding and watering of stock.
- Use mowers, chainsaws, line and hedge trimmers and similar machinery in built up urban environments which are clear of flammable materials or surrounded by green grass etc.
- Conduct any work that has been covered by a current and relevant exemption, provided that all conditions on that exemption are adhered to.

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\***Necessary Agricultural Activities** are activities that cannot be postponed until after a Total Fire Ban ends without consequence to livestock or crops. These activities are permitted to continue with caution during a Total Fire Ban but harvesting of crops or movement across paddocks are not permitted if a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.

During a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban, vehicles may be used or operated on or across a paddock only if it is for the prevention of an immediate or serious risk to a person or livestock, and only if reasonable precautions have been taken for that activity to prevent causing a bushfire.

**Total Fire Ban Exemptions** may be granted if you are able to demonstrate you are taking adequate precautions to prevent the ignition or spread of a fire, and you have suitable personnel and resources to extinguish a fire that may start. Exemptions for Total Fire Bans must be obtained from DFES in writing and are specific to activities, times and locations.

## Total Fire Ban Activation and Additional Information

Activation and additional information is available on the DFES websites [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) and [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) or by calling the Total Fire Ban information line **1800 709 355**.

Information is also broadcasted on ABC local Radio frequency 720AM and other media outlets.

## Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban Activation and Additional Information

Activations and additional information is available by calling the City's Fire & Emergency Information Line on **9267 9326** and on the City of Swan website [www.swan.wa.gov.au](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au)

Information is also broadcasted on ABC local Radio frequency 720AM and other media outlets.

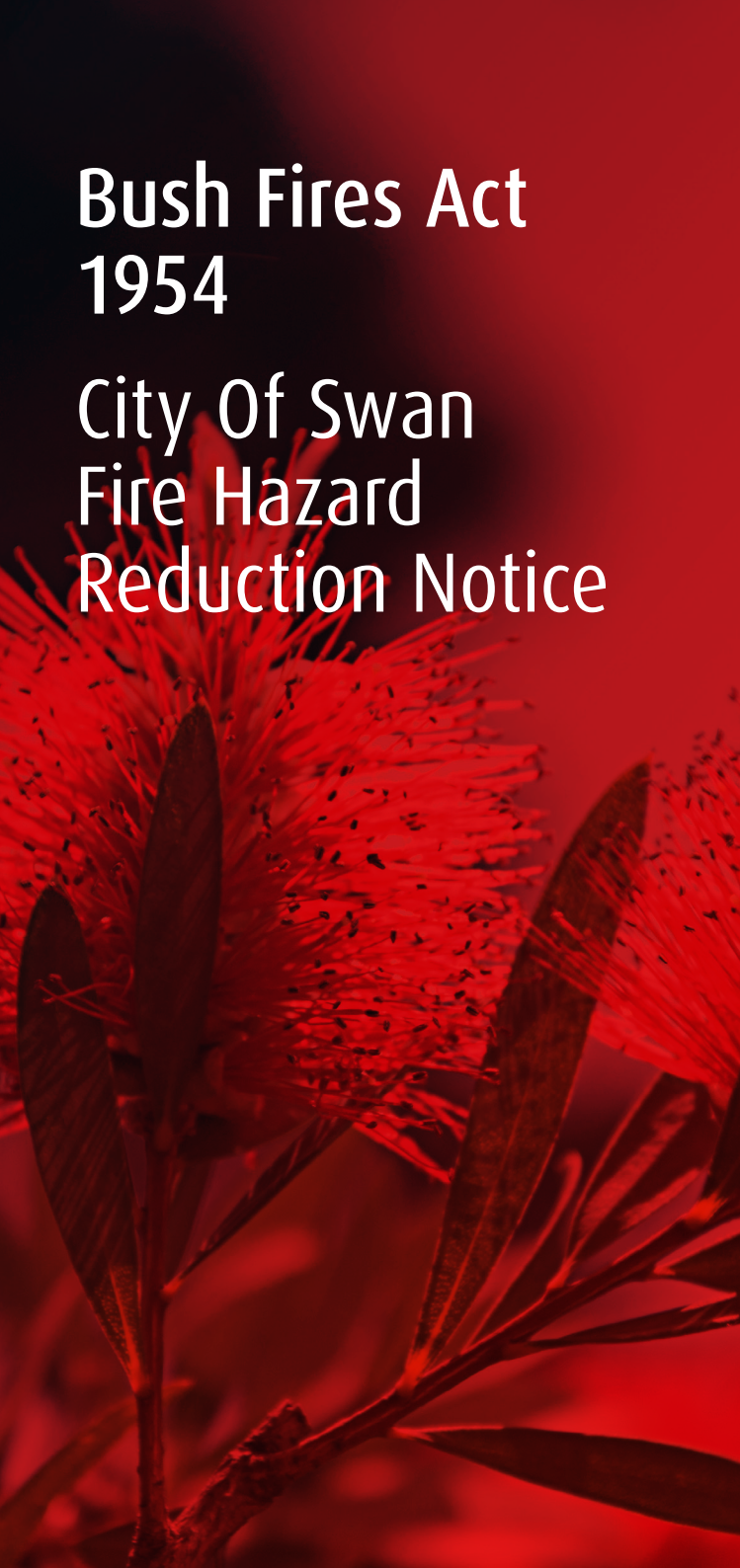
## Penalties Apply

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You could be fined up to \$25,000 or imprisoned for 12 months, or both, if you ignore or commit an offence in relation to Total Fire Bans and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans.

# Bush Fires Act 1954

## City Of Swan Fire Hazard Reduction Notice



# BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

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## City of Swan

### Fire Hazard Reduction Notice (Firebreak Notice)

Notice to Owners and/or Occupiers of land situated within the City of Swan.

To assist in the control of bush fires, and pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, all owners and occupiers of land within the City of Swan are required on or before the 1st day of November, 2019, or within 14 days of becoming an owner or occupier of land after that date, to take all measures in accordance with this notice and maintain those measures to the required condition up to and including the 30th day of April, 2020.

**1. All land up to 5,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 hectares or 1.2 acres)**

- 1) Install and maintain an asset protection zone in accordance with the requirements specified in clause 13 of this notice.
- 2) Maintain all grass to a height of no greater than 5cm.
- 3) Areas of natural vegetation to be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare.
- 4) 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.

**2. All land between 5,000m<sup>2</sup> and 25,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 - 2.5 hectares) or (1.2 - 6.2 acres)**

- 1) Install and maintain an asset protection zone in accordance with the requirements specified in clause 13 of this notice.
- 2) Install firebreaks immediately inside and adjacent to all external property boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3 metres wide with a 4 metre vertical height clearance free from flammable materials and overhanging branches (see section 10 in this notice for further details).

- 3) Maintain all grass to a height of no greater than 10cm.
  - a) If the land is stocked, the grass must be reduced and maintained to a height of no greater than 10cm by the 1st day of December.
- 4) Natural vegetation within 100 metres of buildings including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure shall be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare, by passive methods of fuel reduction that does not permanently remove or reduce the quantity or occurrence of the native plants, shrubs and trees within the subject area.
- 5) 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.

**3. All land with an area greater than 25,000m<sup>2</sup> (2.5 hectares or 6.2 acres)**

- 1) Install and maintain an asset protection zone in accordance with the requirements specified in clause 13 of this notice.
- 2) Install firebreaks immediately inside and adjacent to all external property boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3 metres wide with a 4 metre vertical height clearance free from flammable materials and overhanging branches (see section 10 in this notice for further details).
  - a) Properties over 100 hectares require additional firebreaks to divide the land into areas not exceeding 100 hectares.
- 3) Slash or mow grass to a height no greater than 10cm immediately adjacent to firebreaks to a minimum width of 3 metres.
  - a) If the land is stocked, this grass must be reduced and maintained to a height of no greater than 10cm by the 1st day of December.

- 4) Natural vegetation within 100 metres of buildings including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure shall be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare, by passive methods of fuel reduction that does not permanently remove or reduce the quantity or occurrence of the native plants, shrubs and trees within the subject area.
- 5) 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.

#### **4. Plantations**

- 1) Install and maintain external and internal firebreaks, firebreaks that form compartments (cells), firebreaks and hazard reduction measures that protect neighbouring communities and essential infrastructure in accordance with the requirements of a fire management plan approved in writing by the City; or
- 2) Where no such approved fire management plan exists,
  - a) Unless the City approves an alternative plan in writing in accordance with clause 4(2)(b), install and maintain external and internal firebreaks and firebreaks that form compartments (cells), and carry out all other firebreaks and hazard reduction measures which are required in accordance with the requirements and specifications within the Department of Fire & Emergency Services 'Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection' 2011 publication; or
  - b) If it is considered impractical for any reason to carry out the plantation requirements outlined above in clause 4 (2)(a), plantation owners and managers may apply in writing to the City to implement an alternative plan or measures in accordance with clause 4 of this notice. A Fire Management Plan may be required to be developed and submitted as part of the application.



## 5. **Application to Vary Firebreak and Hazard Reduction Requirements**

- 1) If it is considered impractical for any reason to clear firebreaks in a manner or location required by this notice, or to carry out on the land any fire hazard reduction work or measures required by this notice, you may apply in writing on or before the 15th day of October, 2018 for approval to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take alternative measures to abate fire hazards on the land. Alternative firebreak application forms can be downloaded from the City of Swan website.
- 2) If permission is not granted in writing by the City prior to the 1st day of November, 2018 you shall comply with the requirements of this notice.
- 3) When permission to provide alternative firebreaks or fire hazard reduction measures has been granted, you shall comply with all conditions on the endorsed permit and maintain the land to the required standard throughout the period specified by this notice.
  - a) Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must comply with any additional requirements and responsibilities outlined within that plan.

## 6. **Fuel Dumps and Depots**

Remove all flammable material within 10 metres of fuel dumps, fuel ramps or where fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored.

## 7. **Hay Stacks**

Clear and maintain a firebreak completely surrounding any haystack on the land, within 60 metres of the haystack.

## 8. **Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks)**

- 1) Where under a written agreement with the City, or where depicted on an approved bushfire management plan Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks) are required on the land, you are required to clear and maintain the Fire Service

Access (Strategic Firebreaks) a minimum of 6 metres wide along the agreed alignment to provide restricted vehicular access to emergency services and authorised vehicles.

- 2) Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks) must be unimpeded by obstructions including boundary fences unless fitted with gates and signage approved in writing by the City.
- 3) Gates may only be secured with City of Swan Fire Service padlock.
- 4) Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks) shall be graded to provide a continuous 4 wheel drive trafficable surface a minimum of 4 metres wide with a 1m shoulder on either side.
- 5) All branches must be pruned and obstacles removed to maintain a 4 metre vertical height clearance above the full 6 metre width of the trafficable surface.

## **9. Emergency Access Ways**

- 1) Where under a written agreement with the City, or where depicted on an approved bushfire management plan, Emergency Access Ways are required on private land, you are required to clear and maintain a vehicular access way to a minimum of 6 metres wide along the agreed alignment.
- 2) Emergency access ways must be unimpeded by obstructions including boundary fences unless fitted with gates and signage approved in writing by the City.
- 3) Gates on Emergency Access Ways must remain unlocked at all times.
- 4) Emergency Access Ways shall be graded and have suitable drainage to provide a minimum 6 metre wide continuous trafficable surface suitable for all types of 2 wheel drive vehicles.
- 5) All branches must be pruned and obstacles removed to maintain a 4 metre vertical height clearance above the full 6 metre width of the trafficable surface.

## **10. Firebreak Construction**

- 1) Firebreaks are to be developed and maintained clear of all obstacles and flammable materials to create a minimum of 3 metres wide trafficable surface suitable for 4 wheel drive vehicles.

- 2) Overhanging branches must be pruned to provide a 4 metre vertical clearance above the full width of the firebreak surface.
- 3) Boundary firebreaks must be aligned immediately inside and adjacent to the external property boundaries.
- 4) Alternative Firebreaks that are approved in writing by the City, or as depicted within a bushfire management plan approved in writing by the City, are to be constructed to the same standard as general firebreaks and must be constructed along the specified alignment.
- 5) Firebreaks must not terminate in a dead end.
- 6) Firebreaks may be constructed by ploughing, grading, raking, burning, chemical spraying or any other approved method that achieves the required standard.

## 11. Driveways

Where building sites are situated more than 50 metres from a public road,

- 1) Driveways must be maintained clear of all permanent obstacles and flammable materials to create a minimum 3 metre wide trafficable surface suitable for all types of 2 wheel drive vehicles.
- 2) Overhanging branches must be pruned to provide a 4 metre vertical clearance above a minimum 3 metre width over the driveway.

## 12. Fuel Reduction – Natural Vegetation

- 1) Available bushfire fuels must be maintained at or below:
  - a) Asset Protection Zones - 2 tonnes per hectare
  - b) Hazard Separation Zones - 8 tonnes per hectare  
 \*This requirement only applies where HSZs are depicted within a Fire Management Plan approved in writing by the City.
  - c) Natural Vegetation - 8 tonnes per hectare for areas of natural vegetation within 100 metres of buildings, attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure

- 2) Passive Fuel Reduction within natural vegetation may be achieved by burning, raking, pruning, weed management, removal of dead materials and any other approved method.
- 3) Permanent removal or partial clearing of natural vegetation including individual or groups of native grasses, shrubs or trees may only be carried out in accordance with the minimum requirements of this notice.
- 4) Permanent clearing of natural vegetation structures including individual plants, shrubs or trees, that exceeds the requirements of this notice or the specifications outlined within a bushfire management plan approved in writing by the City, is only permitted in accordance with the provisions and exemptions outlined within the Environmental Protection Act 1986, or with the approval of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the City of Swan.

Note: Advice and resources on how to measure and manage native vegetation fuel loads are available from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or the City of Swan.

### **13. Asset Protection Zones Specification**

Asset protection zones for habitable buildings and other assets must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Asset protection zones for habitable buildings must extend a minimum of 20 metres out from any external walls of the building, attached structures, or adjacent structures within 6 metres of the habitable building, unless varied under an approved bushfire management plan.
- 2) On sloping ground the asset protection zone distance shall increase with 1 metre for every degree in slope on the sides of the building/ structure that are exposed to down slope natural vegetation.
- 3) Asset protection zone requirements only apply within the boundaries of the lot on which the asset is located and cannot be enforced across boundaries.
- 4) Recommendation Only - Asset protection zones predominantly consist of non-flammable managed vegetation, reticulated lawns and gardens and other non-flammable features.

- 5) All grass is maintained to or under 5cm.
- 6) Fuel loads must be reduced and maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.
- 7) The crowns of trees are to be separated where possible to create a clear separation distance between adjoining or nearby tree crowns. The separation distance between tree crowns is not required to exceed 10 metres. Clearing or thinning existing trees to create distances greater than 10 metres separation between tree crowns within an asset protection zone is not required or supported by this notice and requires approval from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the City of Swan.
- 8) A small group of trees within close proximity to one another may be treated as one crown provided the combined crowns do not exceed the area of a large or mature crown size for that species.
- 9) Trees are to be low pruned (or under pruned) to at least a height of 2 metres from ground.
- 10) No tree, or shrub over 2 metres high is planted within 2 metres of a building, especially adjacent to windows.
- 11) There are no tree crowns or branches hanging over buildings.
- 12) Clear and prune scrub to reduce to a sparse density (able to walk through vegetation with relative ease with minimal deviation around trees and shrubs).
- 13) Install paths or clear flammable or dry vegetation, debris and materials immediately adjacent to the building.
- 14) Wood piles and flammable materials stored a safe distance from buildings.

#### 14. Burning

All burning must be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of this notice and the Bush Fires Act 1954, Health Act 1911 and the City's Consolidated Local Laws 2005.

**Prohibited period:** All burning, including garden refuse and camping fires are prohibited.

**Restricted period:** All burning requires a permit except for the burning of garden refuse and camping fires which are subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The fire must not be lit if the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above, or if a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is declared.
- 2) Only one fire is allowed at any time and it does not exceed 1 cubic metre in size.
- 3) A 5 metre wide area clear of flammable material surrounds the pile.
- 4) The fire is only lit between 6 pm and 11 pm and completely extinguished by midnight.
- 5) At least one person capable of controlling the fire is in attendance at all times with adequate means of extinguishing the fire.

## **15. Cooking Fires**

Fires for the purpose of cooking are exempt from burning period restrictions subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The fire must not be lit if the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above, or if a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is declared.
- 2) The fire is contained in a purpose built appliance and
  - a) at a person's home; or
  - b) an area is set aside for that purpose by the State Authority or City of Swan
- 3) A 5 metre wide area clear of flammable material surrounds the fire.
- 4) At least one person capable of controlling the fire is in attendance at all times with adequate means of extinguishing the fire.

## **16. Compliance**

- 1) In addition to the requirements of this notice, further works which are considered necessary by an Authorised Officer of the City may be required as specified in writing in a subsequent notice addressed to the land owner.
- 2) Where the owner or occupier of the land fails or neglects to comply with the requirements of this

notice or a subsequent notice addressed to the land owner, the City of Swan may enter onto the land with workmen, contractors, vehicles and machinery to carry out the requisitions of the notice at the expense of the land owner.

- 3) Failure to comply with this notice and subsequent written notices may result in a penalty not exceeding \$5,000, or the issue of a \$250 infringement notice and liability for any costs incurred by the City in relation to works undertaken on behalf of the land owner.
- 4) 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.

## 17. Definitions

**‘Alternative Firebreak’** is a firebreak that is in an alternative position or alignment to the external boundaries of a property.

**‘Alternative Firebreak Application’** is an application that may be made by a land owner to install firebreaks in an alternative position, or to carry out an alternative measures in lieu of general firebreaks.

**‘Available Fuel’** is the bush fuel consisting of live and dead vegetation such as stubble, mulch, leaf litter, twigs, trash, scrub and other vegetation less than 6mm in diameter capable of carrying a running fire and will actually burn under prevailing conditions.

**‘City’** means the City of Swan.

**‘Buildings, Attached and Adjacent Structures’** means habitable buildings that are used as a dwelling, workplace, place of gathering or assembly, a building that is a car park, or a building used for the storage or display of goods or produce for sale by whole sale in accordance with classes 1-9 of the Building Code of Australia. The term building includes attached and adjacent structures like garages, carports verandas or similar roofed structure(s) that are attached to, or within 6 metres of the dwelling or primary building.

**'Asset Protection Zone (APZ)'** is a low fuel area that is reduced of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding buildings and essential infrastructure to minimise the likelihood and impact that direct flame contact, radiant heat or ember attack may have on buildings and assets in the event of a bushfire. This area must extend 20 metres out from the external walls of a building or asset.

**'Bushfire Management Plan'** or **'Fire Management Plan'** is a comprehensive plan that may be placed on the certificate of title(s) of land that has been developed as a condition of development or subdivision. Bushfire Management Plans may become out dated and it's the responsibility of the property owner to review and keep them current. Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in the Annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

**'Emergency Access Way'** is a two wheel drive trafficable, 6 metre wide access route to provide local residents, general public and emergency services alternative links to road networks at the end of cul-de-sacs or areas where access is limited during an emergency incident.

**'Essential Infrastructure'** or **'Critical Infrastructure'** means assets, infrastructure, systems and networks that provide essential services necessary for social and economic wellbeing and is typically public infrastructure. Assets and infrastructure, usually of a public nature, that generate or distribute electricity, water supply, telecommunications, gas and dams are typical assets that are essential to society and are often located in, or traverse areas that are prone to bushfires.

**'Firebreak'** is an area of land cleared of flammable material (see available fuel above) to minimise the spread or extension of a bushfire. For the purpose of this notice the term firebreak is a strip of land at minimum 3 metres with a 4 metres vertical clearance, constructed to provide a 4x4 trafficable surface for emergency and authorised vehicle access. Boundary firebreaks are installed immediately adjacent the external boundaries of a property.



**‘Fire Hazard’** means accumulated fuel (living or dead) such as leaf litter, twigs, trash, bush, dead trees and scrub capable of carrying a running fire, but excludes standing living trees and isolated shrubs.

**‘Hazard Separation Zone (HSZ)’** if required by this notice and in accordance with a Fire Management Plan, means an area extending out from an asset protection zone a distance of 80 metres unless otherwise specified, to create a graduated fuel reduction and separation from natural vegetation.

**‘Natural Vegetation’** means natural areas of forest, woodland, shrubland, scrub, mallee and mulga.

**‘Passive Fuel Reduction’** means lowering the amount of available fuel that will burn under prevailing conditions by means that will not permanently reduce or modify the structure or life cycle of plant, shrub, scrub or tree communities within an treated area. This is typically achieved by undertaking a cool, controlled burn of an area during cooler, damper months, or by physical removal of built up leaf litter, dead materials, weeds and slashing long dry grasses without damaging live native plants within the area.

**‘Plantation’** is any area of native or exotic planted trees that exceeds three hectares in a gazetted town site, or elsewhere a stand of trees of 10 hectares or larger that has been planted and managed intensively for their commercial and environmental value. A plantation includes roads, firebreaks and small areas of native vegetation.

**‘Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreaks)’** is a firebreak that is 6 metres wide established to provide strategic access and links to road networks whilst providing a wider control/ containment line to protect town sites, estates and similar exposures during bushfire operations.

**By order of the Council,**

**MJ Foley**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**City of Swan**

# Permit Issuing Officers

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Brigade permit issuing officers are volunteers and their ability to issue permits may vary in some instances, including when attending emergency incidents within your community. Please assist them by planning your permit requirements early.

## METRO

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Permits are issued by Community Safety Advocates, subject to a site inspection **9267 9267**

## GIDGEGANNUP EAST

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For permits and brigade enquiries **9574 6000**  
Saturday 8.30 – 10am  
Fire Station, Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup

## GIDGEGANNUP WEST

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For permits and brigade enquiries: **9574 6536**  
Saturday 8.30 – 10am  
Fire Station, Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup

## EAST SWAN

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For permits and brigade enquiries: **9296 1288**  
Sunday 9 – 11am  
Fire Station, Cathedral Avenue, Brigadoon

## BULLSBROOK

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For permits and brigade enquiries: **9571 2099**  
Sunday 9 – 11am  
Fire Station, Chittering Road, Bullsbrook

## WEST SWAN

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Membership and controlled burn enquiries only: **9296 4431**  
Permits within the Metropolitan Fire District are issued by the City of Swan (see Metro).



[www.swan.wa.gov.au](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au)



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