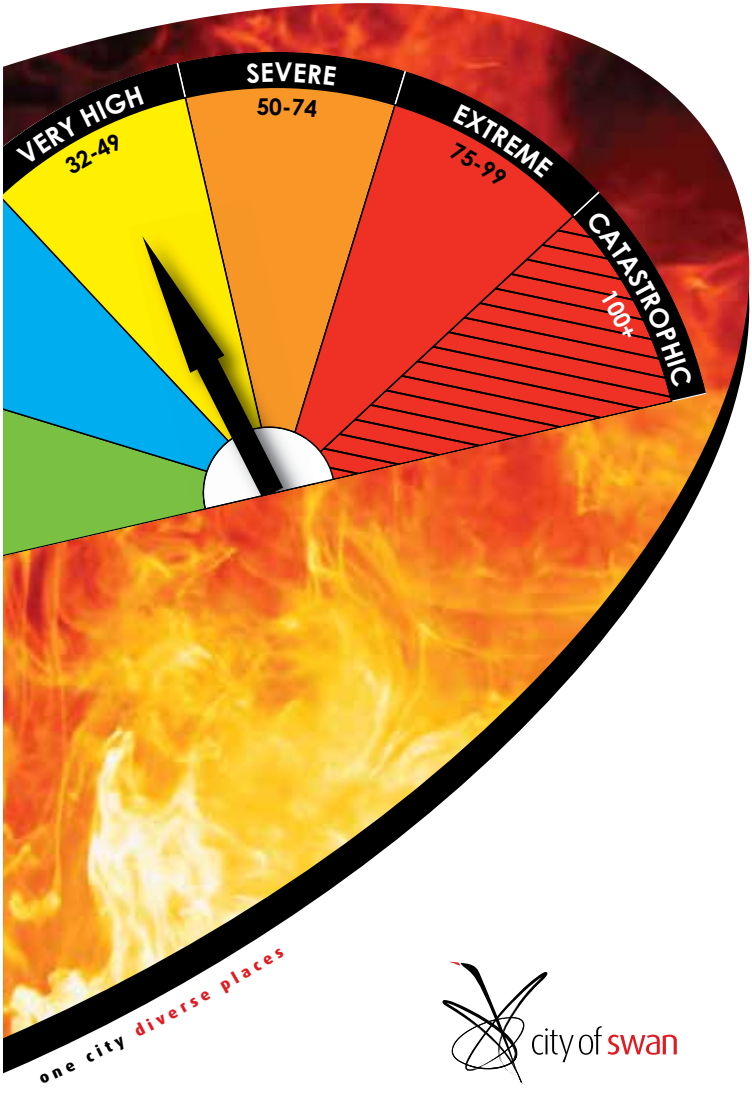
Your Guide to the 2015/16 **Fire Season**



one city diverse places

city of swan

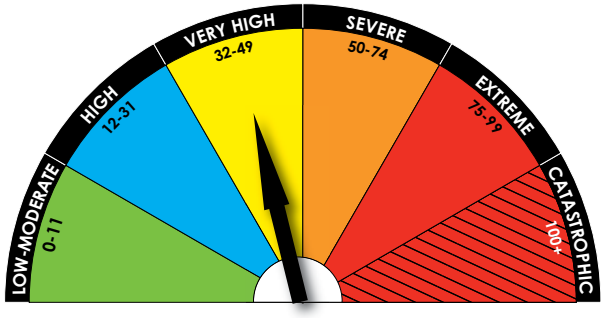
Your Guide to the 2015/16 Fire Season

Firebreaks and Hazard Reduction measures must be carried out by November 2 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 2		Maintain until April 30			

All burning is prohibited on days of Very High or above Fire Danger Ratings and whenever a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared. Restricted and Prohibited Period dates may be altered according to seasonal conditions, these changes will be advertised.

Call 000 for all fires and life threatening emergencies.



Fire Danger Rating is supplied daily by the Bureau of Meteorology at **www.bom.gov.au** and also available from the Telstra Weather Service by calling **1196**.

No fire may be lit on a day when the forecast fire danger rating for the district is Very High or above.

City of Swan

For seasonal regulations, information and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban declarations call the **City of Swan Fire Information line: 9267 9326** or visit www.swan.wa.gov.au

For general enquiries during business hours and after hours, contact the **City of Swan Customer Services on 9267 9267**.

Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Emergency Information Line (Alerts & Warnings): **1300 657 209**

Total Fire Ban Information Line: **1800 709 355**

For Alerts & Warnings, Total Fire Ban Activation and general Fire Safety Information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au

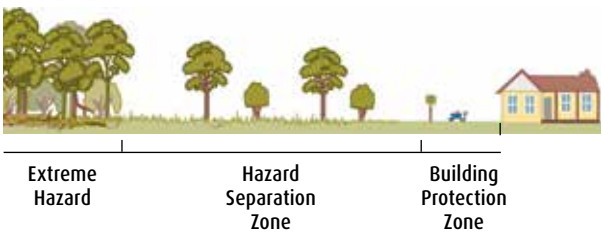
City of Swan
Bushfire Hazard Regulations

Property owners are advised to read and familiarise themselves with the Annual Firebreak Notice contained on pages 13–24 of this booklet and ensure that requirements contained within the notice are carried out and maintained during the regulated firebreak periods.

Property owners who are unsure of their responsibilities may contact the City of Swan for further information.

The 2015/16 Firebreak Notice incorporates the following:

- Building Protection Zones
- Fire hazard reduction requirements for land uses and sizes under and over 5,000m^2
- Grassland Management
- Bush Fuel Load Requirements
- Plantation Requirements
- Emergency Access Ways
- Compliance Advice.



Building Protection Zone (BPZ) is a low fuel area that is reduced of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding habitable buildings including attached and nearby structures, and essential infrastructure to minimise the likelihood and impact that direct flame contact, radiant heat and ember attack may have on buildings and assets in the event of a bushfire.

This area must extend out from the external walls of a building or asset a minimum of 20 metres. Building Protection Zones do not require complete removal of native vegetation but outline the minimum criteria for clearance of vegetation from building and separation between plants to minimise the intensity of a bushfire within proximity of a building. BPZs also outline the requirements for slashing grass and managing the build-up of flammable materials near buildings.

Refer to the 2015/16 Annual Firebreak Notice on pages 13–24 of this booklet for Building Protection Zone specification relating to flammability, arrangement, density and separation of vegetation and materials around habitable buildings. Permanent clearing of vegetation beyond the requirements of the annual firebreak notice, unless exempted under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, is not permitted and requires approval from the Department of Environmental Regulation and the City of Swan.

Compliance with Building Protection Zone requirements is essential in order to protect buildings in bushfire risk areas and to increase the safety of residents and fire fighters that are involved in defending buildings during a bushfire.

- Building Protection Zones (BPZ) are now a legislative requirement within the City of Swan.
- The City will be taking an educational approach to equipping property owners to effectively create and maintain a BPZ around their dwellings this fire season. However, similar to previous years, where fire hazards are unacceptably high, property owners may still receive a subsequent notice in writing to reduce specific hazards around buildings to achieve an acceptable level of safety.
- Property owners are therefore urged to become familiar with, and carry out the BPZ requirements detailed within the Annual Firebreak Notice around their buildings.
- Property owners who do not have adequate BPZs may receive a written notice outlining specific directions relevant to their property.

- Property owners affected by an approved Fire Management Plan are required to maintain a Hazard Separation Zone in addition to and extending out from a BPZ a minimum of 80 metres unless otherwise specified within the Fire Management Plan.

Fire Safety on Your Property

Property owners are required to reduce fire hazards and install firebreaks prior to **November 2, 2015** and maintain their property in that condition until **April 30, 2016**. The bushfire safety strategies outlined below are minimum legal requirements developed to reduce the likelihood and impact a bushfire may have on life, property and the environment within the City of Swan.

Land up to 5,000m^2

- Maintain a Building Protection Zone around habitable buildings (an area reduced of flammable materials).
- Maintain all grass to or under 5cm high.
- If the land predominantly consists of dense native vegetation, firebreaks or additional understorey maintenance may be required.
- Native vegetation consisting of forest, woodland, shrub or scrubland must be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare.

Land 5,001m^2 and over

- Maintain a Building Protection Zone around habitable buildings (an area reduced of flammable materials).
- Install 3 metre wide firebreaks immediately inside and adjacent to all external property boundaries which are free from flammable materials, with a 4 metre wide vertical height clearance free from overhanging branches.
- Properties over 100 hectares require additional firebreaks to divide the land into areas not exceeding 100 hectares.
- Slash or mow unmanaged grass (grass over 50cm high) to a height no greater than 10cm immediately adjacent firebreaks to a minimum 3 metre wide strip.
- Where depicted within a Fire Management Plan, property owners and occupiers are required to install and maintain Hazard Separation Zones (HSZ) in addition to and extending out from a Building Protection Zone a minimum distance of 80 metres unless otherwise specified by the Fire Management Plan. Fuel loads in HSZs must be maintained at or below 6 tonnes per hectare.
- Native vegetation consisting of forest, woodland, shrub or scrubland must be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare.

Firebreak and Strategic Access

Firebreaks and other strategic firebreaks and access ways must be constructed to the specification listed in the table below:

Firebreaks and Strategic Access Specifications

Type	Width	Trafficable surface	Vertical Height Clearance	Alignment	Access and Security
Firebreak	3 metres	3 metres Suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles	4 metres	Inside and adjacent boundary	No Requirement
Alternative Firebreak	3 metres	3 metres Suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles	4 metres	Approved Alignment	No Requirement
Strategic Firebreak	6 metres	4 metres Suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles	4 metres	Designated Alignment	Fire Service Access – Only City of Swan Fire Service (FS1) Padlocks Permitted
Emergency Access Way	6 metres	6 metres Suitable for all types of 2 x 4 vehicles	4 metres	Designated Alignment	Local, Public and Emergency Services Access – Must Remain Unlocked

Alternative Firebreaks and Hazard Reduction
If it is impractical to install firebreaks along your boundary or to carry out hazard reduction prescribed within the City of Swan annual firebreak notice, you may apply to install firebreaks in an alternative position or take alternative measures to abate a fire hazard. Your request must be received by **October 15** to be considered. Contact the City of Swan for application forms.

Fire Management Plans do not provide property owners with any exemptions unless specifically referenced by the City's Annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice, the City may require additional work to the responsibilities outlined within a Fire Management Plan. Fire Management Plans identify measures which may be additional to the minimum requirements set out in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice and may have been imposed as a condition of development, therefore non-compliance with an agreed Fire Management Plan may lead to

further action being taken in accordance with relevant planning regulations.Property owners are required to effectively manage pastures over the whole property, unmanaged pastures create an increased risk of the intensity and the rate of fire spread, broad scale grassed areas should either be grazed by stock, slashed or mowed to reduce grasses to a height of no greater than 10cm.

Fuel Reduction within Natural Vegetation means the partial reduction of flammable material that will support the spread of a fire during summer months.

This may include the removal of dead materials including leaf litter, twigs, branches, trash layer, dead trees and scrub as well as partial reduction of live scrub foliage. Fuel reduction may be achieved by burning, raking, pruning, weed management, removal of dead materials or any other approved method. If burning is used, it is recommended that the property owners engage the services of their Local Bush Fire Brigade to undertake the work (Brigade details on the inside back cover of this booklet), or if capable, the property owner or person undertaking the work must comply with all the requirements of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and the City's *Consolidated Local Laws*.

Permanent clearing of areas of native vegetation is only permitted in accordance with the minimum requirements of the annual firebreak notice and exemptions outlined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, or with the approval of the Department of Environmental Regulation and the City of Swan.

Fuel loads in natural vegetation must not exceed 8 tonnes per hectare.

Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times

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 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 Index reaches Very High or above.

Local Law Burning Restrictions

Due to the impact smoke may have on densely built-up areas, burning of refuse or garden waste is not permitted on land with an area less than 2,000m^2 (1/2 acre) unless a licence has been issued by the City.

Exemptions include the operation of a barbeque, solid fuel heaters, water heater, space heater, stove, oven or incinerator fired with dry paper, dry wood, synthetic char or charcoal type fuel provided no nuisance arises from burning such materials. **Some exemptions are subject to Seasonal Bans (see Seasonal Bans on pages 10–12 of this booklet).**

Burning of Garden Refuse

Prohibited period: Garden refuse may not be burned during the prohibited burning period.
Restricted period: May be burned during the restricted burning period without a burning permit after 6 pm subject to conditions within the Bush Fires Act 1954, Health Act 1911 and compliance with the City's Consolidated Local Laws 2005. Conditions of burning include:

- The pile of refuse being burnt does not exceed 1 cubic metre and only one pile is alight at any time.
- A 5 metre wide area clear of flammable material surrounds the pile.
- The fire is only lit between 6 pm and 11 pm and completely extinguished by midnight.

- 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.
- 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 fi re 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.

Alternatives to Burning

Consider the environment and the effect smoke may have on the surrounding community, and whenever practical use alternative methods of fuel reduction like composting, mobile mulching services, utilising green waste collections or the Red Hill Waste Transfer Station, slashing grass or the application of herbicides.

Seasonal Bans

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.

Total Fire Bans and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

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

The responsibility remains on the individual to ensure that the activity undertaken will not cause a fire, and that a ban is not currently in place.

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 plant in built up urban environments which are clear of flammable materials or surrounded by green grass etc.
- Smoke, provided cigarettes or cigars are properly extinguished and discarded.
- Conduct any work that has been covered by a current and relevant exemption, and provided that all conditions on that exemption are adhered to.

*__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 website: **www.dfes.wa.gov.au** or by calling the DFES Total Fire Ban information line: **1800 709 355** and broadcast on ABC local Radio frequency 720AM and other media outlets.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban Activation and Additional Information

For additional information visit the City of Swan website: **www.swan.wa.gov.au**
Activations are available by calling the City's Fire & Emergency Information Line on **9267 9326** and broadcast on ABC Local Radio frequency 720AM and other media outlets.

Penalties Apply

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 (Firebreak Notice)

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

As a measure 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 **2 November 2015**, or within 14 days of becoming an owner or occupier of land if after that date, to clear firebreaks or take measures in accordance with this notice and maintain those firebreaks and measures to the required condition up to and including the **30th day of April, 2015**.

1. All Land with an area under 5,001m² (land under 1/2 Hectare)

1) Maintain grass to a height of no greater than 5cm.
2) Install and maintain a Building Protection Zone, in accordance with the requirements specified in clause 13 of this notice.
3) Any parcel of land having an area less than 5,001m² that is substantially developed that may include land that:
   a) Predominantly consists of non-flammable managed vegetation, reticulated lawns and gardens and other non-flammable features; or
   b) Areas that are sufficiently Parkland Cleared may maintain grass to a height of no greater than 5cm, or remove all flammable materials in lieu of clearing firebreaks.
4) Areas of natural vegetation to be maintained at or below 8 tonnes per hectare.
5) Where a property is affected by an approved Bushfire Management Plan as a condition of subdivision or development, property owners shall comply with all requirements and responsibilities outlined within that plan.

2. All land with an area of 5,001 m² or greater (land over 1/2 Hectare)

1) Install 3 metre wide firebreaks immediately inside and adjacent to all external property boundaries which are free from flammable materials, with a 4 metre wide vertical height clearance free from overhanging branches.
2) Properties over 100 hectares require additional firebreaks to divide the land into areas not exceeding 100 hectares.
3) Slash or mow unmanaged grass (grass that is 50cm or higher) to a height no greater than 10cm immediately adjacent firebreaks to a minimum width of 3 metres.
4) Install and maintain a Building Protection Zone, in accordance with the requirements specified in clause 13 of this notice.
5) Natural Vegetation within 100 metres of Buildings, 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.
6) Where a property is affected by an approved Bushfire Management Plan as a condition of subdivision or development, property owners shall comply with all requirements and responsibilities outlined within that plan.

3. 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 3(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 3(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.

4. 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, 2015** for approval to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take alternative measures to abate fire hazards on the land.
2) If permission is not granted in writing by the City prior to the **2nd day of November, 2015** 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.
4) Where the City has in writing approved a Bushfire Management Plan as a condition of subdivision and the Bushfire Management Plan depicts an array of alternative firebreak positions and alignments, a property owner may, as an alternative to general boundary firebreaks, elect to provide an alternative firebreak(s) depicted on the Bushfire Management Plan. However, if the alternative firebreak is not

constructed by the date required by this notice, then general firebreak requirements shall apply.

5. 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.

6. Hay Stacks

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

7. Strategic Firebreaks

1) Where under a written agreement with the City, or where depicted on an approved Bushfire Management Plan strategic firebreaks are required on the land, you are required to clear and maintain strategic firebreaks a minimum of 6 metres wide along the agreed alignment to provide restricted vehicular access to emergency and authorised vehicles, unimpeded by obstructions including boundary fences unless fitted with gates and signage approved in writing by the City.
2) Gates may only be secured with City of Swan Fire Service padlocks.
3) Strategic firebreaks shall be graded to provide a continuous 4 wheel drive trafficable surface a minimum of 4 metres wide.
4) All branches must be pruned and obstacles removed to maintain a 4 metre vertical height clearance above the full 6 metre width of the firebreak.

8. Emergency Access Ways

1) Where under a written agreement with the City, or where depicted on a Bushfire Management Plan Emergency Access Ways are required on private land, you are required to clear and maintain a vehicular access way 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.

9. Firebreak Construction

1) Firebreaks are to be developed and maintained clear of all obstacles and flammable materials to create a minimum of 3 metre 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.

10. 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.

11. Fuel Reduction – Unmanaged Grasses

1) All grass within Building Protection Zones, and on all land less than 5,001m^2 in area, is required to be mowed and maintained under 5cm in height over the entire area.
2) On land 5,001m^2 or greater, and not including Building Protection Zone areas:
   a) Maintain grass under 10cm within Hazard Separation Zones.
   b) Slash or mow unmanaged grass (grass that is 50cm or higher) to a height no greater than 10cm immediately adjacent firebreaks to a minimum width of 3 metres.
   c) If the land described above in 10(2)(b) is stocked, the grass must be reduced to a height of no greater than 10cm high by the **1st day of December 2015**.

   Subject to clause c), all grassed areas required by this notice to be maintained at or below a required height must be maintained in that condition between **2 November until the 30 April the following year**.

12. Fuel Reduction – Natural Vegetation

1) Available bushfire fuels must be maintained at or below:
   a) Building 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 Environment 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. Building Protection Zones Specification

The Building Protection Zone for habitable buildings and related structures must meet the following requirements:

1) Building 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 Building Protection Zone distance shall increase at least 1 metre for every degree in slope on the sides of the building/ structure that are exposed to down slope natural vegetation.
3) Recommendation Only – Building Protection Zones predominantly consist of non-flammable managed vegetation, reticulated lawns and gardens and other non-flammable features.

4) All grass is maintained to or under 5cm.
5) Fuel loads must be reduced and maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.
6) 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 a Building Protection Zone is not required or supported by this notice and requires approval from the Department of Environment and Regulation and the City of Swan.
7) 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.
8) Trees are to be low pruned (or under pruned) to at least a height of 2 metres from ground.
9) No tree, or shrub over 2 metres high is planted within 2 metres of a building, especially adjacent to windows.
10) There are no tree crowns or branches hanging over buildings.
11) 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).
12) Install paths or clear flammable or dry vegetation, debris and materials immediately adjacent to the building.
13) Wood piles and flammable materials stored a safe distance from buildings.

14. Burning

If the requirements of this notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Prohibited period: garden refuse may not be burned during the prohibited burning period.

Restricted period: may be burned during the restricted burning period without a burning permit after 6 pm subject to conditions within the Bush Fires Act 1954, Health Act 1911 and compliance with the City's Consolidated Local Laws 2005. Conditions of burning include:

- The pile of refuse being burnt does not exceed 1 cubic metre and only one pile is alight at any time.
- A 5 metre wide area clear of flammable material surrounds the pile.
- The fire is only lit between 6 pm and 11 pm and completely extinguished by midnight.
- 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.
- 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 fi re 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.

15. 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) Adherence to measures outlined within an approved Bushfire Management Plan developed as a condition of subdivision does not provide land owners and occupiers with any exemptions to the requirements of this notice unless this notice specifically states otherwise.

16. 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 and debris that will actually burn under prevailing conditions. Fuel available for burning depends on temperature, moisture in the air and within the vegetation and curing of vegetation. In summer there is a significant increase in available fuel.

'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.

'Building Protection Zone (BPZ)' 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 out from the external walls of a building or asset a minimum of 20 metres.

'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 primarily for the purpose of determining the land suitability, design features and infrastructure that will increase bushfire safety within the location. Bushfire Management Plans may become outdated with regards to property owner fire safety advice and responsibilities due to seasonal changes and evolving fire safety strategies. Up to date advice and strategies are administered within local government areas as a legal requirement through the annual firebreak notice regulation. Fire Management Plans are not a legal requirement unless specifically referenced as a requirement within this notice, or a written notice addressed directly to a land owner.

'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 to minimise the spread or extension of a bushfire. For the purpose of this notice the term firebreak is a strip of land 3 metres wide that also provides a trafficable surface and 4 metres vertical clearance for emergency and authorised vehicle access. Boundary firebreaks are installed immediately adjacent the external boundaries of a property.

'Fire Hazard or Bushfire 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 a Building Protection Zone a distance of 80 metres unless otherwise specified, to create a graduated fuel reduction and separation from natural vegetation that is unmodified in structure and density.

'Natural Vegetation' means natural areas of forest, woodland, shrubland, scrub, mallee and mulga.

'Parkland Clearing' means areas of natural vegetation that have been significantly cleared of understorey and tree density reduced to create a grassland or low vegetation area that can be walked through unimpeded with isolated, grouped or well spaced trees.

'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.

'Strategic Firebreak' 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.

'Unmanaged Grasses' is undisturbed or very lightly grazed grasses with a height of 50cm or greater.

By order of the Council,
MJ Foley, Chief Executive Officer, City of Swan

Permits and Local Fire Control Officers

Please note: Bush Fire Control Officers from the Brigades are volunteers and their ability to issue permits may vary in some instances, including attending emergency incidents within your community. Please assist them by planning your permit requirements early.

Metro

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

Gidgegannup East

For Permits & Brigade enquiries: **9574 6000**
Saturday 8.30 – 10.00 am
Fire Station, Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup

Gidgegannup West

For Permits & Brigade enquiries: **9574 6536**
Saturday 8.30 – 10.00 am
Fire Station, Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup

East Swan

For Permits & Brigade enquiries: **9296 1288**
Sunday 9.00 – 11.00 am
Fire Station, Cathedral Avenue, Brigadoon

Bullsbrook

For Permits & Brigade enquiries: **9571 2099**
Sunday 9.00 – 11.00 am
Fire Station, Chittering Road, Bullsbrook

West Swan

Membership and controlled burn enquiries only: **9296 4580**
Permits within the Metropolitan Fire District are issued by the City of Swan (see Metro).

www.**swan**.wa.gov.au

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