

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

SHIRE OF KULIN

Notice to all Owners and/or Occupiers of Land within the Shire of Kulin

PURSUANT TO THE POWERS contained in Section 33, you are hereby required on or before 31st October 2024 and thereafter up to and including 15th March 2025 to have a 3 metre firebreak clear of all inflammable material on all rural and townsite rural land owned or occupied by you:

1. Immediately inside all external boundaries of the land; and
2. In such other positions as is necessary to divide land into areas not exceeding 500 hectares, each completely surrounded by a firebreak; and
3. Immediately surrounding any part of land used for crop; and
4. Parallel to and within 100 metres of the perimeter of all buildings, haystacks and fuel ramps on the land; and
5. Immediately surrounding receptacles used for the storage of fuel, whether they contain fuel or not; the firebreak required to comply with this item shall be no less than 5 metres wide; and
6. Immediately inside land which has been bulldozed, chained or prepared for clearing by burning (whether you intend to burn the bush or not); the firebreak required shall be no less than 7 metres wide. Where the land is prepared for clearing by burning after 19th September 2024 you shall provide the firebreak immediately.

Townsites – area less than 1 hectare

All hazardous material must be removed from the whole of the land except living trees, shrubs and plants. In the remaining area all vegetation is to be maintained to a height of no greater than 100mm, and;

It is recommended that at least a 2m wide area immediately within the external boundaries of the lot, be clear of all flammable material except for living trees, plants and shrubs.”

(Note: any land of one hectare or above - rural provisions apply.)

Firebreak Variation

If it is considered by the owner or occupier to be impractical to clear firebreaks to comply with this notice due to soil erosion, the spread of salinity or for any other reason, a request for a variation may be made to the Council no later than the 1 September of each year. Such a request must be in writing and include a detailed plan showing the proposed location of firebreaks or of the alternative fire protection methods to be used.

Harvesting Operations - Mobile Fire Fighting Units

An operational mobile engine powered firefighting pump unit with no less than 500 litres of water shall be in attendance during grain harvesting operations. If the unit is trailer mounted the trailer must be attached to a vehicle at all times during harvesting operations and the unit must be in the paddock, or adjoining paddock, where the harvesting operation is being carried out.

Automatic Harvesting Bans

A Harvest Ban will apply automatically on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Other Matters

If for hardship reasons, it is considered by the owner or occupier to be impossible to clear firebreaks required by this Notice, you may apply to Council or its duly authorised officer for permission to seek alternative options. Claimants of hardship, should do so with sufficient time to allow alternatives to be enacted. Claims of hardship does not automatically exempt owners and occupiers from the requirements of this Notice.

The penalty for failing to comply with this Notice is a fine not exceeding \$5,000. A person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of the Shire or a contractor performing the work directed in this Notice if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the due date. If the requirements of this Notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

By Order of the Council.

Alan Leeson
Chief Executive Officer