Fire Season Guide

2023/24

www.swan.wa.gov.au

city of swan

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

Dates may change according to seasonal conditions. These changes will be advertised on the City of Swan website.

All burning is prohibited on days where:

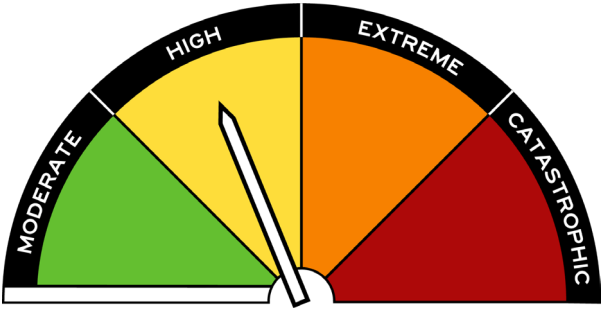
- the fire danger rating is high or above, or
- a total fire ban is declared.

FIREBREAKS AND HAZARD REDUCTION REQUIREMENT PERIOD	
INSTALL BY NOVEMBER 1	MAINTAIN UNTIL APRIL 30

Burning is prohibited on land less than 2000sqm.
Exemptions are listed on page 8.

Call 000 for all fires and life-threatening emergencies.

Fire danger rating - what does it mean?



Moderate - plan and prepare

High - be ready to act

Extreme - act now to protect life and property

Catastrophic - for your survival leave bushfire risk areas

Current and forecast fire danger ratings are provided daily by the Bureau of Meteorology at **www.bom.gov.au** and at **www.emergency.wa.gov.au.**

City of Swan

Fire information - **9267 9326**
General enquiries - **9267 9267**
or visit **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**

Total fire ban information line:
1800 709 355 or **www.emergency.wa.gov.au**

General fire safety information:
www.dfes.wa.gov.au

City of Swan bushfire hazard regulations

Property owners are advised to read and familiarise themselves with the Annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice contained on pages 11-23 of this booklet and ensure that all 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 more information.

Environment and heritage considerations

Property owners are responsible for conducting due diligence before starting works to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.

For more information, contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation regarding the natural environment or the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Fire safety on your property

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

Example of a maintained firebreak (i.e. free of flammable material) which prevented a fire escaping into the paddock prior to fire brigade attendance.

Land less than 5,000sqm (0.5 hectares or 1.2 acres)

- Install and maintain an asset protection zone.
- Maintain all grass to or under 10cm high.
- If your land predominantly consists of dense native vegetation, firebreaks or additional understory maintenance may be required.
- Native vegetation should be maintained at or below eight tonnes per hectare.

Land between 5,000sqm and 25,000sqm (0.5-2.5 hectares) or (1.2-6.2 acres)

- Install and maintain an asset protection zone
- Install firebreaks as close as practicable inside of, but no more than 5m from, the property's external boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3m wide with a 4m vertical 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 100m of buildings, including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure, shall be maintained at or below eight 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 and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

Land with an area greater than 25,000sqm (2.5 hectares or 6.2 acres)

- Install and maintain an asset protection zone
- Install firebreaks as close as practicable inside of, but no more than 5m from, the property's external boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3m wide with a 4m 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
- Maintain all grass immediately adjacent to one side of any firebreak to a height of no greater than 10cm and a minimum width of 3m
  - 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 100m of buildings, including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure, must be maintained at or below eight 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 and with any additional requirements within that plan.

Asset protection zone

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

The APZ extends 20m from the external walls of relevant buildings.

APZ requirements include:

- Maintain fuel loads at two tonnes per hectare or lower
- Maintain grass at 10cm or under
- Keep tree crowns or branches clear from overhanging buildings
- Maintain clear separation between tree crowns
- Under-prune trees to 2m from the ground
- Ensure shrubs taller than 2m are not located within 2m of the building
- On sloping ground, the distance is increased by 1m for every degree of downslope from 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 17-18 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 without approval from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the City of Swan.

Fire management plan

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 and with 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 4m high	3m Suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles
Fire Service Access (Strategic Firebreak)	6m wide 4m high	4m Suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles
Emergency Access Way	6m wide 4m high	6m Suitable for all types of vehicles in all weather

Firebreaks, including corners, must be constructed to accomodate this vehicle.

Engaging contractors

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

Precautions when slashing

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.

Seasonal burning restrictions

All burning, including exemptions, is prohibited on days when the fire danger rating is high or above, or a total fire ban is declared (see fire safety bans on pages 8-10 of this booklet for details).

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

Prohibited period

December 1 to March 31.

All burning, including garden refuse and camping fires are prohibited. Cooking fires are exempt, subject to the conditions listed on page 7. Other exemptions are listed on page 8.

Restricted periods

October 1 to November 30 and April 1 to May 31.

During this period you are not permitted to burn without a burning permit. You may request a permit from your local permit issuing officer (see details on the inside back cover of this booklet or on the City of Swan website). Garden refuse, cooking and camping fires are exempt subject to the conditions listed on page 7. Other exemptions are listed on page 8.

Burning a pile of garden refuse in the restricted period

A pile of dry garden refuse may be burnt during the restricted burning period without the need to obtain a permit subject to the following conditions:

- The fire must not be lit if the fire danger rating is high or above, or if a total fire ban is declared
- The pile being burnt does not exceed one cubic metre in size and only one pile is alight at any time
- No flammable material within 5m of the fire
- The fire is only lit between 6pm and 11pm and is completely extinguished by midnight
- At least one person capable of controlling the fire is in attendance at all times with adequate means of extinguishing the fire, e.g. a garden hose that easily reaches the fire
- You notify your neighbours of your intention to burn and ensure 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.

Cooking fires

Fires for the purpose of cooking are exempt from burning period restrictions and do not require a permit subject to the following conditions::

- The fire must not be lit if the fire danger rating is high or above, or if a total fire ban is declared
- The fire is contained in a purpose-built appliance and
  - at a person's home, or
  - an area is set aside for that purpose by the State authority or City of Swan.
- No flammable material within 5m of the fire
- At least one person capable of controlling the fire is in attendance at all times with adequate means of extinguishing the fire.

Burning prohibited on land less than 2000sqm

As per Consolidated Local Law 2005, due to the impact smoke may have on densely built-up areas, burning is not permitted at any time on land with an area less than 2,000sqm (1/2 acre). Exemptions are listed below.

Exemptions

Exemptions include operations of a barbeque, 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, and whenever practical, use alternative methods of fuel reduction such as composting, mulching, slashing or the application of herbicides. Green waste can be disposed of at Red Hill and Bullsbrook waste transfer stations or by using the City's kerbside collection service.

Fire safety bans

The responsibility remains with the individual to verify if a ban is currently in place and to ensure that the activity undertaken does not breach any condition of the ban.

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

When a total fire ban is declared it is illegal to light a fire or carry out any activity that is likely to cause a fire.

Harvest and vehicle movement bans are declared by the local authority and limit the operation of combustion-powered vehicles, machinery and plant equipment near flammable material, dry grass, stubble or bush.

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

- Light a fire in the open air
- Cook outside using a solid fuel fire (this includes under verandas and patios)
- Use combustion-powered vehicles or plant equipment in bushland or paddocks, except for *necessary agricultural activities*
- Harvest, except for *necessary agricultural activities.
- Undertake 'hot works' such as welding, grinding or activity that may cause a spark or ignition (see page 10 for exemption for prescribed activates).

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 electrically powered mowers, chainsaws, line and hedge trimmers and similar plant, but not where such use may cause sparks, e.g. mowing where rocks are present
- Conduct any work that has been approved by a current total fire ban exemption.

***Necessary agricultural activities are exempt during**

- **Total fire bans** if the activities cannot be postponed until after the ban ends without consequence to livestock or crops.
- **Harvest and vehicle movement bans** if the activities cannot be postponed without an immediate or serious risk to a person or livestock. Harvesting of crops is not permitted.

Total fire ban additional information

Activation and additional information is available on the DFES websites **www.dfes.wa.gov.au** and **www.emergency.wa.gov.au** or by calling the total fire ban information line on **1800 709 355**.

Information is also broadcast on ABC local radio frequency 720AM and by other media outlets.

Subject to stringent conditions, business and public authorities may continue to carry out specifically prescribed activities. Prescribed activities and conditions are available on the DFES website. These amendments mean there is no longer a need to obtain a specific exemption from DFES to carry out these prescribed activities during a total fire ban.

Exemptions for other non-prescribed activities must be obtained from DFES in writing.

Harvest and vehicle movement ban additional information

Activations and additional information is available by calling the City's fire and emergency information line on **9267 9326** and on the City's website **www.swan.wa.gov.au**

Information is also broadcast on ABC local radio frequency 720AM and by other media outlets.

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 if reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent that activity causing a bushfire.

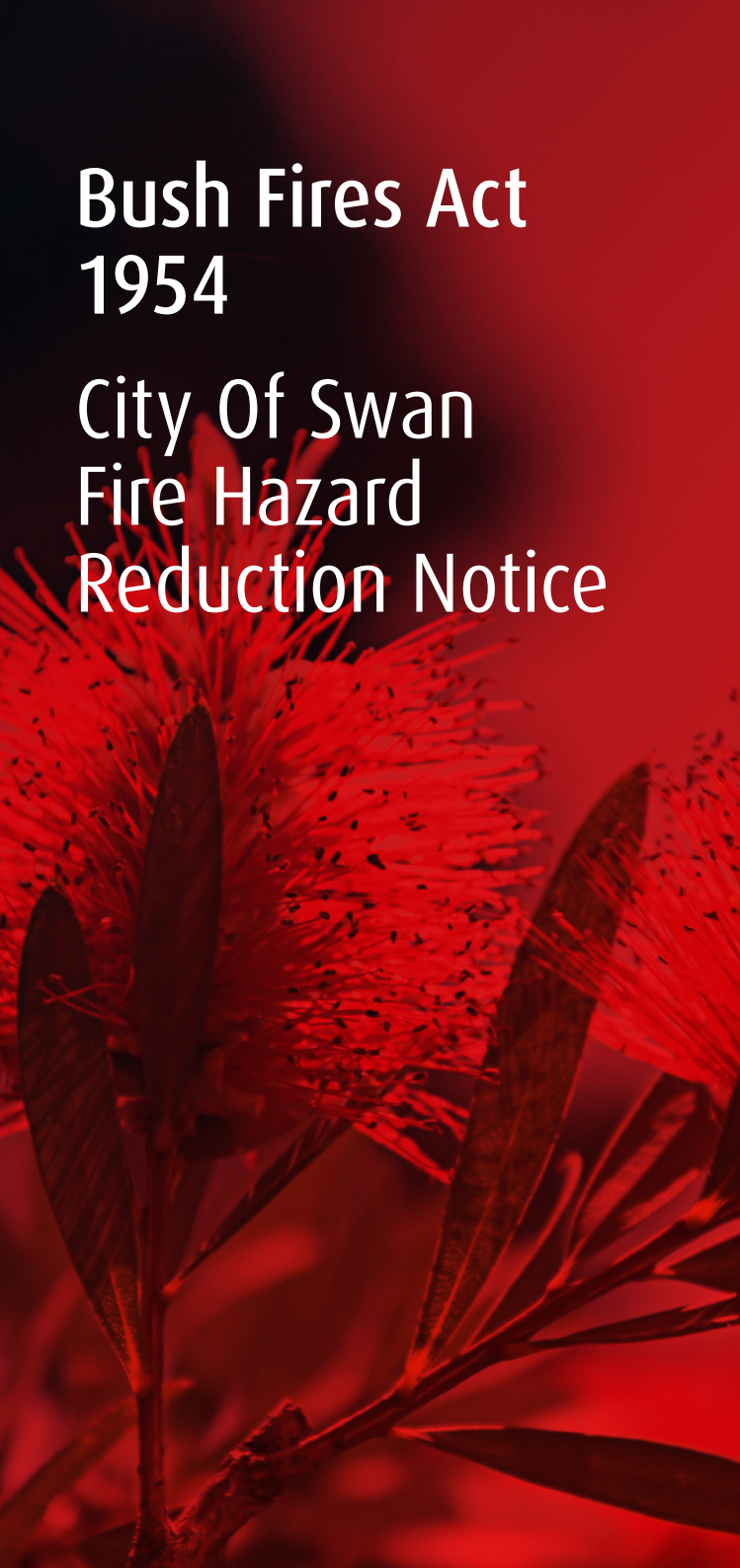
Penalties apply

You could be fined up to $25,000 or imprisoned for 12 months, or both, if you commit an offence in relation to a total fire ban.

You could be fined up to $5,000 if you commit an offence in relation to a harvest and vehicle movement ban.

Bush Fires Act 1954

City Of Swan Fire Hazard Reduction Notice



BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

City of Swan
Fire Hazard Reduction Notice
(Firebreak Notice)

To assist in the control of bushfires, 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 November 1, 2023, or within 14 days of becoming an owner or occupier of land after that date, to meet the fire hazard reduction conditions described in this notice and maintain these conditions up to and including April 30, 2024.

1. All land less than 5,000sqm (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 10cm.
3) Areas of natural vegetation to be maintained at or below eight 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 5,000sqm and 25,000sqm (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 as close as practicable inside of, but no more than 5m from, the property's external boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3m wide with a 4m vertical clearance free from flammable materials and overhanging branches (see section 10 in this notice for more 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 December 1.

4) Natural vegetation within 100m of buildings including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure, must be maintained at or below eight 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 25,000sqm (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 as close as practicable inside of, but no more than 5m from, the property's external boundaries. Firebreaks need to be 3m wide with a 4m vertical clearance free from flammable materials and overhanging branches (see section 10 in this notice for more details).

   a) Properties over 100ha require additional firebreaks to divide the land into areas not exceeding 100ha.

3) Maintain all grass immediately adjacent to one side of any firebreak to a height of no greater than 10cm and 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 December 1.

4) Natural vegetation within 100m of buildings including attached and adjacent structures and essential infrastructure shall be maintained at or below eight 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) 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 and Emergency Services' Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection 2011 or a later publication.

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 October 1 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 before November 1, you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

3) When permission to provide alternative firebreaks or fire hazard reduction measures has been granted, you must 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 10m 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 60m of the haystack.

8. 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) is required on the land, you are required to clear and maintain the fire service access a minimum of 6m wide along the agreed alignment to provide restricted vehicular access to emergency services and authorised vehicles.
2) Fire service access (strategic firebreaks) must be free from flammable material and unimpeded by obstructions including boundary fences and gates unless approved in writing by the City.
3) Gates may only be secured with City of Swan fire service padlocks..
4) Fire service access shall be graded to provide a continuous four-wheel drive trafficable surface a minimum of 4m wide with a 1m shoulder on either side.
5) All branches must be pruned and obstacles removed to maintain a 4m vertical clearance above the full 6m 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 6m wide along the agreed alignment.
2) Emergency access ways must be free from flammable material and unimpeded by obstructions including boundary fences and gates unless 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 6m wide continuous trafficable surface suitable for all types of two-wheel drive vehicles.

5) All branches must be pruned and obstacles removed to maintain a 4m vertical clearance above the full 6m 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 3m wide trafficable surface suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles.

2) Overhanging branches must be pruned to provide a 4m vertical clearance above the full width of the firebreak surface.

3) Boundary firebreaks must be installed as close as practicable inside of, but no more than 5m from, the property's external 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 method that achieves the required standard.

11. Driveways

Where a dwelling is situated more than 70m from a public road:

1) Driveways must be maintained clear of all permanent obstacles and flammable materials to create a minimum 3m wide trafficable surface suitable for all types of two-wheel drive vehicles.

2) Overhanging branches must be pruned to provide a 4m vertical clearance above a minimum 3m width over the driveway.

12. Fuel Reduction – Natural Vegetation

1) Available bushfire fuels must be maintained at or below:

   a) Asset protection zones – two tonnes per hectare.

   b) Natural vegetation – eight tonnes per hectare for areas of natural vegetation within 100m 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 to meet the minimum requirements of this notice.

   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 must be installed around relevant buildings (see section 17) and must meet the following requirements:

1) Extends 20m out from any external walls of the building, attached structures, or adjacent structures within 6m of the habitable building, unless varied under an approved bushfire management plan.

2) On sloping ground the asset protection zone distance must increase with 1m 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 10cm.

6) Fuel loads must be reduced and maintained at two 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 10m. Clearing or thinning existing trees to create distances greater than 10m 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 in 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 2m from ground.

10) No tree, or shrub over 2m high is planted within 2m 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 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 and the City's Consolidated Local Laws 2005.

Prohibited period: all burning, including garden refuse and camping fires is 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 high or above, or if a total fire ban is declared.
2) Only one fire is allowed at any time and it does not exceed one cubic metre in size.
3) No flammable material within 5m of the fire.
4) The fire is only lit between 6pm and 11pm 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 high or above, or if a total fire 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) No flammable material within 5m of 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 landowner.

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 landowner, the City may enter onto the land with workers, contractors, vehicles and machinery to carry out the requisitions of the notice at the expense of the landowner.

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

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 requirement specified in paragraphs two and three of this notice.

Alternative firebreak application is an application that may be made by a landowner 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 storage or display of goods or produce for sale by wholesale 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 structures that are attached to or within 6m 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 of direct flame contact, radiant heat or ember attack on buildings and assets in the event of a bushfire. This area must extend 20m 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 outdated and it is 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, 6m 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 3m with a 4m vertical clearance, constructed to provide a four-wheel drive trafficable surface for emergency and authorised vehicle access. Boundary firebreaks must be installed as close as practicable inside of, but no more than 5m from, the property's external boundaries.

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.

Fire service access (strategic firebreaks) is a firebreak that is 6m wide established to provide strategic access and links to road networks while providing a wider control/containment line to protect town sites, estates and similar exposures during bushfire operations.

Natural vegetation means natural areas of forest, woodland, shrubland, scrub, mallee or 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 a 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.

Relevant building is classified under the Building Code as one of the following:

- single dwelling such as a detached house, duplex, villa or townhouse (Class 1a)
- small boarding house, guest house or hostel (Class 1b)
- dwellings such as apartments and flats in a building containing two or more units (Class 2)
- accommodation for unrelated people such as hotel, motel, residential part of a school, accommodation for the aged, children or people with disabilities (Class 3)
- building of a public nature such as a health care building (9a), an assembly building such as a school (9b) or an aged care building (9c)
- private bushfire shelters associated with a single dwelling (Class 10c)

- non-habitable building including sheds, carports and private garages (Class 10a) when within 6m of a class 1a, 1b, 2, 3 or 9 building.

By order of the Council,

Stephen Cain
Chief Executive Officer
City of Swan

Permit issuing (restricted burning period)

During the restricted burning period, you may apply for a permit to burn. Please visit www.swan.wa.gov.au/fire for an electronic permit application or visit your local firebrigade to apply in person.

Brigade officers are volunteers and their availability may vary in some instances.

ONLINE

www.swan.wa.gov.au/fire

METRO

Permits are issued by the Community Safety team **9267 9267**

GIDGEGANNUP EAST

Brigade enquiries **9574 6000**
Saturday 8.30–10am
Fire station, Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup

GIDGEGANNUP WEST

Brigade enquiries: **9574 6536**
Saturday 8.30–10am
Fire Station, Toodyay Road & O'Brien Road, Gidgegannup

EAST SWAN

Brigade enquiries: **9296 1288**
Sunday 9–11am
Fire station, Cathedral Avenue, Brigadoon

BULLSBROOK

Brigade enquiries: **9571 2099**
Sunday 9–11am
Fire Station, Chittering Road, Bullsbrook

WEST SWAN

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

city of swan

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swan@swan.wa.gov.au

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