



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



DEADLINE
5 OCTOBER 2015

**2015 – 2016 FIRST & FINAL
FIREBREAK NOTICE**

**PLAY YOUR PART IN KEEPING THE
COMMUNITY SAFE FROM BUSHFIRES**

**This Firebreak Notice applies to all properties
owned by you in the City of Greater Geraldton**



**FURTHER WARNINGS
WILL NOT BE ISSUED.**

**THIS IS YOUR
FIRST & ONLY NOTICE**



Fire protection measures throughout the City of Greater Geraldton (Excluding Mullewa areas for which a separate brochure provides details) must be completed by 5 October 2015 and maintained until 1 May 2016. This includes requirements for :

- Small lots under 0.4 ha regardless of whether the land is vacant or has a building.
- Residential and Special Rural/Rural Residential/ Rural Smallholding lots between 0.4 ha and 5 ha.
- Broadacre farming and lots over 5 ha.
- Structures and buildings on all categories of land.

Fire protection measures are essential to help slow the rate of spreading fires and to allow clear lines of vision, safer access and navigation for volunteer bush fire fighters whilst fire fighting.

To prevent an infringement and to play your part in keeping the community safe, please take care of the work yourself or book a contractor now!

THE BUSH FIRES ACT 1954



City of Greater Geraldton Firebreak and Fire Prevention Order

As a measure to assist in the control of bush fire, or to prevent the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, all owners and occupiers of land within the City of Greater Geraldton local government area are required by 5 October in each year to clear firebreaks or take measures in accordance with this notice and maintain those firebreaks and measures in accordance with this notice up to and including 1 May 2016.

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required to undertake fire prevention measures as prescribed in FIREBREAK STANDARDS (Fire Prevention - Minimum Standards) of this publication.

Please read this guide carefully for the correct standards that apply to your property.

For any queries, please contact the Health and Rangers Team during office hours on 9956 6600.

In addition to the requirements of this Notice, the City may issue separate special orders to owners or occupiers if additional hazard reduction is considered necessary.

FIREBREAK STANDARDS



City of Greater Geraldton Fire Prevention - Minimum Standards

Small lots (under 0.4ha) - regardless of whether the land is vacant or has a building.

5 October 2015 to 1 May 2016:

- Blocks must have flammable material, mowed or slashed to a maximum height of 7.5cm – ploughing and rotary hoeing are not permitted.
- All wattle bush must be removed from block unless written application is made to retain wattle prior to September 15 and approved. (See variation).
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of 3 metres clearance of all flammable material.



Vacant residential lot showing grass and wattle regrowth requiring slashing/mowing.



Example of correctly slashed vacant residential lot.



Residential and Special Rural/Rural Residential/ Rural Smallholding lots between 0.4 and 5ha

5 October 2015 to 1 May 2016:

- Firebreaks must be mineral earth (bare earth) a minimum of 3 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres or have flammable material graded, mowed or slashed to a maximum height of 7.5cm over the entire property (excluding managed vegetation such as ornamental trees, distinct islands of vegetation remote from boundaries and assets).
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of 3 metres clearance of all flammable material. Structures include power poles (private).



Mineral earth firebreak showing grass and weed regrowth that may result in the firebreak requiring follow-up ploughing to comply.



Better example of thorough mineral earth firebreak.



Power pole not cleared from flammable material.



Power pole cleared 3 metres around base.



Broadacre farming or lots over 5ha

5 October 2015 to 1 May 2016:

- Mineral earth firebreaks installed within 20 metres inside and along the whole external boundary of land held in contiguous ownership up to a maximum of 200ha.
- Firebreaks must be a minimum of 3 metres in width and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of 3 metres clearance of all flammable material. Structures include power poles (private).

Fuel and/or Gas Depots

- Owners or occupiers of land on which any storage container is used to contain liquid fuel or gas, including land on which any ramp or supports are constructed shall have a 5 metre flammable material-free area surrounding the container.



Property boundary with high levels of flammable material and no visible firebreak.



Property boundary showing good, wide, clear boundary firebreak.



Power pole not cleared from flammable material.



Power pole cleared 3 metres around base.

LOCAL CONTRACTORS



Midwest Mulching & Mowing: Mulching, firebreaks
Mob: 0429 341 306

JD Yates: Slashing, firebreaks, spraying
Mob: 0428 788 897

Aussie Tree Services:
Ph: 9964 2200 **Mob:** 0428 382 800

Ivey Contracting: Grading and other
Mob: 0428 840 935 **Ph:** 9938 3250

Marsden's Bobcat & Truck: Slashing, mulching, mineral breaks
Mob: 0409 842 209

Parkfalls Mowing: Mowing and ploughing firebreaks
Mob: 0429 416 681

Rocksgone: Mulching/creating firebreaks on very rocky areas
Mob: 0429 203 039

Tony Hooper: Slashing
Mob: 0403 178 027

Woorree Stock Feeders: (Ken O'Malley) Slashing and ploughing
Mob: 0428 215 493

WBHO | Civil: Mineral breaks, spraying, slashing
Mob: 0409 956 595 **Ph:** 9923 7000

Corbett Contracting & Little Green Tractor : Slashing and firebreaks
Mob: 0408 172 391

These details are provided in good faith by the City of Greater Geraldton for public reference - no responsibility is taken for the accuracy or content of the information or the services provided by the contractors. More contractors may be found in the local directory. The engagement of a contractor is an agreement between the landowner and the contractor. Therefore it is for the landowner to consider whether a contractor is suitable or otherwise; and to check that the contractor has appropriate insurances in place applicable to the nature of the works they perform.

Contractors who wish to be added or removed from the Local Contractors list should contact Health and Rangers Services in writing before April 1st of any year.



Adjacent to fence line sprayed with herbicide early in season to allow grass & weeds to decompose before the summer high fire danger period.



Internal mineral earth firebreak in semi rural area – good practice.



Fire Prevention - Protect the people and properties in your neighbourhood.

Firebreaks prevent fire from spreading; allow entry for fire fighting vehicles and provide a break from which back burning (when authorised) can take place to control a fire. Firebreaks can also provide protection and an escape route for fire fighters.

KEY DATES

- **15 September 2015** - Deadline for applying (in writing) for variation on fire breaks.
- **5 October 2015** - All fire prevention measures must be completed and then maintained until 1 May 2016 (or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier, should this be after that date).
- **6 October 2015** - Fire prevention work inspections carried out by Rangers - Infringements for non-compliance will be issued from this date.
- **1 May 2016** - End of firebreaks and fire prevention maintenance period.




Variations on fire breaks will only be considered if presented in writing by 15 September 2015. If it is considered for any reason to be impractical to clear firebreaks as required by this notice, or if you consider natural features render firebreaks unnecessary, you may make your case in writing to the City of Greater Geraldton.

Penalties apply to persons who fail to comply with the requirements of the City of Greater Geraldton Firebreak Notice. This could be an infringement notice or prosecution. Where the owner fails to comply with the requirements of this notice, the City may engage a contractor to carry out the required work at the cost to the owner or occupier. If contractors cannot attend to your work prior to the 5 October deadline; to avoid prosecution you must provide evidence that you made a booking with them prior to 5 October. The infringement penalty for failure to maintain a firebreak (fire prevention work) as per firebreak order is \$250.



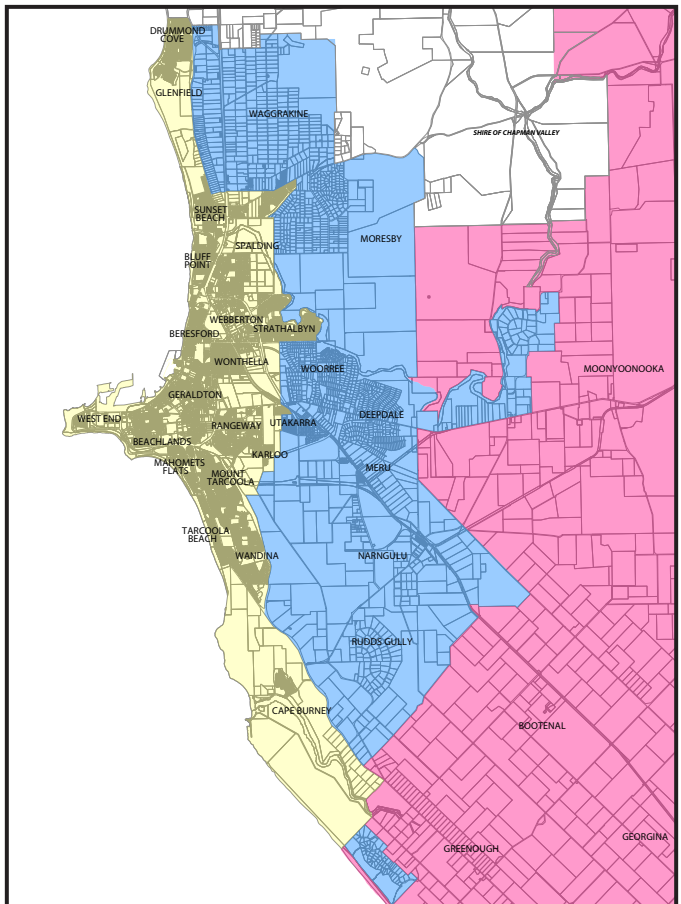
Burning Control Areas

There are three Burning Control Areas (BCA) within the City of Greater Geraldton. These areas are:

-  The City Generally/Central Built Up Burning Control Area (shown in yellow on the Burning Control Area Map).
-  The City Generally Semi Rural Rural Burning Control Area (shown in blue on Burning Control Area Map) and Walkaway townsite.
-  The Generally Broadacre Farming Burning Control Area (shown in pink on Burning Control Area Map).

Note - Mullewa area subject to different controls

This is a guide only for your reference. Please contact the City's Health and Rangers Services on 9956 6600 for more information. To view a larger copy of the map, visit the City's website under Fire Services.



PERIODS & PERMITS



All BCAs (Excluding all Mullewa areas)

19 October in one year to 14 March in the following year: All burning is strictly prohibited.

Generally Central/Built Up Areas

15 March – 18 October. Restricted Burning. A permit is required for any burning in this area. An on site inspection by a Fire Control Officer is mandatory for permits in this area.

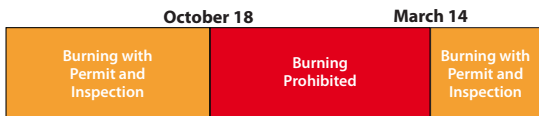
Generally Semi Rural Areas

Burning Permits are required (Inspection is at FCO's discretion) between 15 March to 18 October.

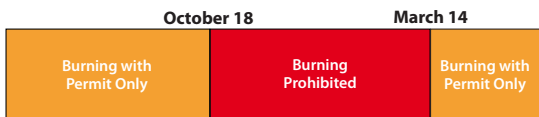
Generally Broadacre Farming Areas

Permits are required for burning of bush, grass or stubble from 7 September to 18 October and 15 March 2016 to 7 April. Burning of bush, grass and stubble only from 8 April to 7 September is unrestricted (does not require permit).

Generally Central/Built Up Areas - Must apply for permit & Inspection during Restricted Burning Period.

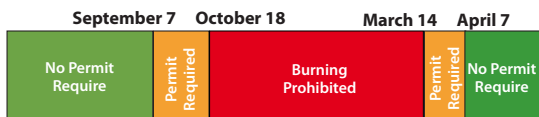


Generally Semi Rural - Require Burning Permit during Restricted Burning Period.



Generally Broadacre Farming Areas

Permits are required for burning brush, grass or stubble between 7 September and 20 October and 15 March and 7 April.





Applying for Burning Permits

Permits can be obtained from the City of Greater Geraldton locations and offices as mentioned below.

You will need to give the lot number and street address of the property on your application. Other conditions may apply. To save time and avoid disappointment you are advised to phone ahead for initial advice regarding permit conditions as permits are only issued where smoke will not be a nuisance to neighbours and surrounding residents, or where other alternatives to burning are considered to be impractical - as determined by Fire Control Officers.

Permits will not be issued where the risk of fire escape is considered to be unacceptably high.

Permit Issuing

CGG Civic Centre - Ph: 9956 6600

Cathedral Avenue administration office. Weekdays only between 8.30am and 12pm and 2pm and 4.30pm.

Volunteer Fire Control Officers

Moonyoonooka

W. Treasure **Mob:** 0429 082 200

I. Grant **Mob:** 0407 939 730

Waggrakine

M. Marsh **Mob:** 0458 806 311

Walkaway

L. Hamersley **Ph:** 9926 1014 **Mob:** 0428 939 236

Please remember the Fire Control Officers listed above are volunteers and may not be available at all times. If they are unavailable contact the City of Greater Geraldton.

When permits become null and void

Your permit is deemed null and void if the Bureau of Meteorology (Ph: 1900 969 905) forecasts a fire danger that is Very High, or higher for the Central West Weather District at the time of the proposed burning.



Prevent Smoke Nuisance

All materials to be burnt must be dry and brown (not damp or uncured), free of any manure, plastics, tyres, and chemical containers, green waste and animal carcasses.

Fines apply if a smoke nuisance is created.

When burning be aware not to create visibility hazards for road users through poor management of smoke. **If in doubt, put it out.**

Alternatives to Burning

- Green waste is accepted at the Meru Waste Disposal Facility via your sulo bin or trailer.
- Mulching – garden refuse (particularly grass clippings, leaves and twigs) can also be used as mulch in the garden to improve soils and the growth of plants. Mobile mulching contractors can be found in the local business directory – they can mulch larger branches and tree trunks.
- Composting of garden waste can be undertaken to produce compost to assist soil fertility.

Fire Weather Forecast

No Burning of any type is permitted if the Bureau of Meteorology (Ph: 1900 969 905) forecasts a fire danger that is Very High, or higher for the Central West Weather District at the time of the proposed burning.

For more information visit:

www.bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/fireswlanddiv.shtml

Add this to your internet browser favourites.

Barbecues and Camp Fires

- Gas and electric barbecues are permitted at all times in approved locations.
- Solid fuel barbecues are **prohibited** if the Bureau of Meteorology (Ph:1900 969 905) forecasts a fire danger that is Very High, or higher for the Central West Weather District on that particular day.
- Camping and cooking fires are strictly prohibited on all

Recreation, Camping and Recreation and Parklands in the Greenough River- mouth (riverbanks) and Cape Burney areas during the period 19 October in any year to 14 March of the following year. This includes Reserves R20995, R28653, R24420, R7276, R20995, R7276

When burning is permitted - Considerations and Conditions

- Comply with all permit conditions ticked by your Fire Control Officer.
- Check with the Bureau of Meteorology (Ph:1900 969 905) for current and forecast Fire Danger Ratings. Consider local conditions - don't light a fire on a hot or windy day.
- Don't try to burn more than you can control.
- Neighbours must be advised and considered - ensure smoke and sparks will not affect neighbours' washing or open windows or livestock.
- Before burning, cut and rake flammable material from around trees, buildings and fences.
- Burn against the wind (commence lighting from the downwind side of material/bush to be burnt).
- Ensure adequate water is on site to dampen down the fire.

TOTAL FIRE BANS



Total Fire Bans (TFB) may be issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for periods of forecast high fire risk weather. During periods of Total Fire Ban any activity likely to cause or result in fire is prohibited. By special conditions some activities may have exemptions to continue their operations. Call **1800 709 355** or visit **www.dfes.wa.gov.au**

Harvesting and movement of vehicles through paddocks is generally exempted from total fire bans up until the FDI reaches 35 at which time a Harvest Movement Ban can be imposed by the City.

Harvesting Regulations 38A (1) (2) (3)

A fire fighting appliance with a minimum capacity of 400 litres of water must be in any paddock being harvested. Please refer to fire fighting vehicle on definitions page.

BAN ON USE OF ENGINES, VEHICLES, PLANT OR MACHINERY LIKELY TO CAUSE A BUSH FIRE. (HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN)



The above ban may be declared by CGG. Fire Control Officers if local actual conditions dictate.

Harvest Bans are usually announced on ABC 828 AM Radio however for confirmation contact the CGG. An SMS notification system also assists in advising mobile phones. Contact the CGG. to join the Harvest Ban SMS list.

INFRINGEMENT/ PENALTIES



- Failure to produce permit to burn.....\$100
- Failure to maintain a firebreak as per firebreak order\$250
- Offence relating to lighting a fire in the open\$250
- Failure of occupier to extinguish a bush fire\$250
- Creating a smoke nuisance.....\$250
- Failure to comply with a Total Fire Ban
..... **\$250,000 and/or 10 years jail.**

Unlawful Lighting of Fires

Section 32 of the Bushfires Act. Offences of lighting or attempting to light a fire likely to injure.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 20 years.

EXTINGUISH ARSON

UP TO **\$50,000 REWARD**

for information leading to the conviction of a person for arson in the State of Western Australia

PHONE CRIMESTOPPERS ON: 1800 333 000



Flammable Material

All combustible material, dead or alive, in isolation, clusters or aggregation with other combustible materials that, in the opinion of a City Fire Control Officer, is likely to fuel a fire.

It includes, but is not limited to:

- Dead leaves, either on the ground or in gutters, fallen branches, long dry grass and weeds;
- Dry vegetative matter on mineral earth firebreaks; and
- Any tree within the Building Protection Zone or branch of a tree that may fall onto a building or, in the opinion of a City Fire Control Officer, constitute a fire risk.

It does not include:

- Vegetable patches, tended firewood stacks and timber, landscaped gardens, isolated planted shrubs, established natural or planted trees or patches of vegetation, that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer, do not constitute an unacceptable fire risk;
- Slashed, mowed or mulched dry vegetative material that is less than 75mm in depth; and
- Distinct clusters of vegetation remote from boundaries and assets that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer do not constitute an unacceptable fire risk.

Building Protection Zone

Is a fire protection zone:

- (a) in which all flammable material should be totally removed from the zone;
- (b) which comprises an area with a minimum clearance distance in all directions from the walls of the buildings or structures of at least 20 metres on flat land, which is to increase in all directions by 10 metres for every 10 degrees increase in slope;
- (c) which accommodates a turning area for a heavy duty fire vehicle; and
- (d) which complies with the provisions of a Local Government adopted Fire Management Plan (FMP) or Town Planning Scheme (TPS) clause with respect to that property and the effect is such that the requirement under the FMP or TPS stipulates a greater area clear of flammable material or low fuel zone than required under part (b) above.



Mineral Earth

A mineral earth firebreak refers to the area being completely clear of everything but soil (bare earth) - can generally be achieved by ploughing or grading or early spraying that allows sufficient time for decomposition of dead grass/vegetation.

Fire Fighting Vehicle

means a motor vehicle that:

- (a) Is capable of carrying at least 400 litres of water; and
- (b) Is fitted with a pump and at least 15 metres of hose with a minimum diameter of 19mm and capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle.

Bush

includes trees, bushes, plants, stubble, scrub, and undergrowth of all kinds whatsoever whether alive or dead and whether standing or not standing and also a part of a tree, bush, plant or undergrowth.



Local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades work in conjunction with the City of Greater Geraldton Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



**FOR ALL
EMERGENCIES
DIAL 000**

**For more information, or any queries
relating to this guide:**

Please contact

Health and Rangers Services on

(08) 9956 6600

Or visit

www.cgg.wa.gov.au

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properties owned by you in the
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