



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



DEADLINE
5 OCTOBER 2020

2020-2021 FIRST & FINAL FIREBREAK NOTICE



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

This is your first & only notice

KEY DATES

- **13 September 2020** - Deadline for applying (in writing) for variation on fire breaks.
- **4 October 2020** - All fire prevention measures must be completed and then maintained until 1 May 2021 (or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier, should this be after that date).
- **5 October 2020** - Fire prevention work inspections carried out by City officers - Infringements for non-compliance will be issued from this date.
- **1 May 2021** - End of firebreaks and fire prevention maintenance period.

Fire protection measures throughout the City of Greater Geraldton must be completed by 4 October 2020 and maintained until 1 May 2021. 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.

Please ensure your property is fire break compliant to avoid infringement penalties

**A LIST OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS
CAN BE FOUND ON THE
CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON WEBSITE
AT CGG.WA.GOV.AU**

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CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON FIREBREAK AND FIRE PREVENTION ORDER

As a measure for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, give notice in writing to an owner or occupier of land situate within the City of Greater Geraldton area are required by 4 October 2020 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 2021.

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 Minimum Standards of this publication.

Please read this guide carefully to understand what standards of works apply to your property.

For any queries, please contact the
City of Greater Geraldton 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 of land if additional hazard reduction is considered necessary.

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.

Variations on firebreaks in exceptional circumstances, the City may consider an application to vary the firebreak requirements of your property. Applications must be made in writing by 13 September 2020, and must include a map(s) of proposed areas and what alternative measures have been taken to prevent or reduce the spread of fire.

FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

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

4 October 2020 to 1 May 2021:

- All blocks must have inflammable material mowed or slashed to a maximum height of 7.5cm Ploughing or rotary hoeing is not permitted.
- All vacant land must have wattle bush removed, unless written application is made prior to 13 September 2020 and approved (see 'Variation to Firebreaks').
- All developed land must have wattle bush maintained.
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metres clearance of all inflammable material.



Vacant residential lot showing flammable material discarded on the property



Example of a vacant lot with all flammable material removed, and mowed below 7.5cm



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



Example of correctly slashed vacant residential lot.

FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

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

4 October 2020 to 1 May 2021:

- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metre clearance of all inflammable material.
- Structures include private power poles.
- Firebreaks must be a minimum of three metres in width and have a minimum overhead clearance of four metres.

-- or --

- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metre clearance of all inflammable material.
- Structures include private power poles.
- Have all inflammable 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).



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.

FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

Broadacre farming or lots over 5ha

4 October 2020 to 1 May 2021:

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



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



Property boundary showing good, wide, clear boundary firebreak.



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.

PERIODS & PERMITS

ALTERATION TO RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES:

Dates are subject to change due to seasonal conditions

Generally Central/Built Up Areas (Geraldton/Greenough)

A permit is required for any burning in this area. An onsite inspection by a Fire Control Officer (FCO) is mandatory for permits issued in this area.

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

Permit Required until 14 October

Burning Prohibited from 15 October - 14 February

Permit Required from 15 February

Generally Semi Rural Areas (Geraldton/Greenough)

Burning Permits are required from 15 February to 14 October. (Inspection is at FCO's discretion).

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

Permit Required until 14 October

Burning Prohibited from 15 October - 14 February

Permit Required from 15 February

Generally Broadacre Farming Areas (Geraldton/Greenough)

Permits are required for burning of bush, grass or stubble from 1 September to 14 October and 15 February to 6 April. Burning of bush, grass and stubble only from 7 April to 31 August is unrestricted (does not require permit).

Generally Broadacre Farming Areas
Permits are required for burning brush, grass or stubble

No permit required until 31 August

Permits are required from 1 September until 14 October

Burning prohibited 15 October to 14 February

Permit required from 15 February to 6 April

No permit required from 7 April

Mullewa district

Permits are required for burning of bush, grass or stubble from 1 September to 14 October and 15 February to 6 April. Burning of bush, grass and stubble only from 7 April to 31 August is unrestricted (does not require permit).

MULLEWA DISTRICT

No permit required until 31 August

Permits are required from 1 September until 14 October

Burning prohibited 15 October to 14 February

Permit required from 15 February to 6 April

No permit required from 7 April

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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.

Homesteads, building, haystacks, stacks of fodder, bulk fuel, drums and liquid petroleum

During the period of 4 October 2020 to 1 May 2021 (inclusive), owners and occupiers of land must have a minimum of three metre wide firebreaks completely surrounding any homestead, building, fuel installation (incl. drums) or group of such structures. This includes haystacks if situated within 200 metres of any homestead, building or fuel installation.

Traditional non-harvest days (Greater Geraldton):

The operation of harvesting machines and the movement of grain equipment on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day is prohibited.

Sunday harvesting (Mullewa only):

Sunday harvesting is permitted up to the last Sunday prior to Christmas Day.

Barbecues and Camp Fires

- Gas and electric barbecues are permitted at your home or you can utilise City-provided electric barbecues where installed (see www.cgg.wa.gov.au/play/sports-recreation/parks.aspx)
- Solid fuel barbecues are prohibited if the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts a Fire Danger Rating of Very High or higher on the day of the proposed barbecue
- Camping and cooking fires are prohibited in all recreation, reserves and parklands within the City of Greater Geraldton, except on City-provided facilities in designated areas

DEFINITIONS

Building Protection Zone

Is an area:

- with a minimum clearance distance in all directions from the walls of buildings or structures of at least 20 metres on flat land, and increases in all directions by 10 metres for every 10 degrees increase in slope.
- in which all flammable material is removed within the clearance distance.
- which accommodates a turning area for a fire vehicle (which is capable of carrying at least 400L of water and is fitted with a pump and at least 15 metres of hose with a minimum diameter of 19mm, capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle).
- which complies with the provisions of a Local Government adopted Town Planning Scheme (TPS) clause with respect to that property and the effect is such that the requirement under the TPS stipulates a greater area clear of flammable material or low fuel zone than the minimum clearance distance above.

Bush

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 and whether severed therefrom or not so severed.

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.

DEFINITIONS

Available Fuel

All combustible material, dead or alive, in isolation, clusters or aggregation with other combustible materials that, in the opinion of a 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 Fire Control Officer, constitute a fire risk.

It does not include:

- Vegetable patches, tended firewood stacks and timber, landscaped gardens, isolated planted shrubs.
- Slashed, mowed or mulched dry vegetative material that is less than 7.5cm in height.
- Established natural or planted trees or patches of vegetation that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer is not an unacceptable risk.
- A distinct cluster of vegetation remote from boundaries and assets that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer is not an unacceptable risk.

**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



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



MY LOCAL FIRE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Police
Fire and
Ambulance

**FOR ALL
EMERGENCIES
DIAL 000**

Turn on your local ABC
radio or visit the top
three bushfire
information sources.

1. emergency.wa.gov.au
2. twitter.com/dfes_wa
3. facebook.com/dfeswa

DFES information line

13 DFES (13 3337)

City of Greater
Geraldton

(08) 9956 6600

For more information, or any queries relating
to this guide please contact the City of
Greater Geraldton 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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