



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



DEADLINE
5 OCTOBER 2021

2021-2022 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 2021** - Deadline for applying (in writing) for variation on firebreaks.
- **4 October 2021** - All fire prevention measures must be completed and then maintained until 1 May 2022 (or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier, should this be after that date).
- **5 October 2021** - Fire prevention work inspections carried out by City officers begin - Infringements for non-compliance will be issued from this date.
- **1 May 2022** - End of firebreaks and fire prevention maintenance period.

Fire prevention measures throughout the City of Greater Geraldton must be completed by 4 October 2021 and maintained until 1 May 2022. 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 prevention 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
WHO MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN MAKING YOUR
BLOCK COMPLIANT 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

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. These measures need to be maintained from 5 October every year until 1 May the following year.

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 are a measure to 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 2021, 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 4,000m²) - regardless of whether the land is vacant or has a building

4 October 2021 to 1 May 2022:

- 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 2021 and approved (see 'Variation to Firebreaks').
- All developed land must have wattle bush maintained to a maximum height of 2.5m and the canopy of the bush may not exceed the property boundaries.
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metres clearance of all inflammable material.



FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

Medium sized lots between 4,000m² (0.4 ha) and 5ha.

4 October 2021 to 1 May 2022:

- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metre clearance of all inflammable material.
- Structures include private power poles.
- Mineral earth or mulch breaks must be a minimum of three metres in width and have a minimum overhead clearance of four metres against the boundary fence.
- Properties with significant wattle bush may be instructed by the City to take special action.

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



Better example of thorough mineral earth break.



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 2021 to 1 May 2022:

- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metres clearance of all inflammable material. Structures include private power poles.
- Breaks must be a minimum of three metres in width and have a minimum overhead clearance of four metres.
- Mineral earth or mulched breaks 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 and 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 break in semi rural area – good practice.

PERIODS & PERMITS

ALTERATION TO RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES:

Dates are subject to change due to seasonal conditions

CBD (Geraldton and Mullewa) and surrounding suburbs

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

Semi Rural Areas

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

Broadacre Farming Areas (Greater Geraldton)

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

If you are unsure as to which of the above categories your property belongs please feel free to contact the City of Greater Geraldton on 9956 6660.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Fuel and/or Gas Depots

During the period of 4 October 2021 to 1 May 2022 (inclusive), owners and occupiers of land must have a minimum of five 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.

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

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 Break

A mineral earth break 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.

Mulched Earth Break

A mulched earth break refers to the break containing dry vegetative matter on a mineral earth break.

DEFINITIONS

Inflammable 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.

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



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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

MY LOCAL FIRE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Police
Fire and
Ambulance

**FOR ALL
EMERGENCIES
DIAL 000**

City of Greater Geraldton



Find us on
Facebook

You 



DFES information line: 13 DFES (13 3337)
www.dfes.wa.gov.au

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