

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 4 October 2024 and maintained in this state up to and including 1 May 2025

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON

Pursuant to Section 33 of the **Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)**, the City of Greater Geraldton (City) gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy within the City. Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5000. The City advises that its officers, servants, workmen, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by the date specified above, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

The table below details the requirements of land owners and/or occupiers in the City of Greater Geraldton. Please refer to the column that best describes your land size to view your legal responsibilities.

All land with an area of:	Less than 4,000m ²	Between 4,000m ² & 50,000m ²	Greater than 50,000m ²
Fire Breaks Install or upgrade a fire break with a 3m (wide) x 4m (high) clearance, bare mineral or mulched earth, continuous (no dead ends) trafficable fire break as close as possible inside the entire perimeter of the property.		✓	✓
Fire Breaks - Larger Properties Mineral earth or mulched breaks installed within 20 metres of the whole external boundary of property held in the same ownership up to a maximum of 200ha per fire break.			✓
Dead Flammable Material (DFM) Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 4.5 tonne per hectare (see definition Fuel Load).	✓	✓	
Slashing Slash, mow or trim grasses and flammable material to a height no greater than 75mm and remove cuttings across the entire property.	✓	✓	
Vegetation All vacant property must have wattle bush removed, unless written application is made prior to 13 September 2024 and approved in writing (see 'Variation to Firebreaks'). All developed property must either have wattle bush canopy maintained to a maximum height of 2.5m and the bush may not exceed the property boundaries, or be removed.	✓		
Asset Protection Zone Maintain a fuel reduced zone around all buildings, structures and assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings, structures and assets, including. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable materials and maintained. Fuel load within the 20 metre zone will be reduced and maintained to no more than two tonne per hectare. Trees over five metres in height within the 20 metre zone to be under pruned up to two metres. Structures include private power poles.		✓	✓
Clean Gutter Debris Gutters, roofs and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable material and maintained.	✓	✓	✓



Additional Works

Where a property has an approved bushfire management plan in effect, the property owner must still comply with all requirements in this notice and with all additional requirements outlined within that plan. You may be required to carry out further bushfire property preparedness works on your property to reduce any fire hazards considered necessary by a Fire Control Officer.



Emergency Management Plans and City Approved Treatment Plans

Any properties and/or property subject to a Bushfire Management Plan or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a City approved treatment plan, must comply with the listed requirements in their entirety.



Environmental Conditions

Any property subject to environmental value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora and Fauna (DRF) sites should seek further information about what can or cannot be done prior to carrying out requirements under this notice. Please contact the City's Emergency Management team.



Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

If you consider it to be impractical to meet a requirement/s of this notice, you may apply to the City for a variation in writing no later than 13 September 2024.

Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ other methods of fire hazard reduction to your property. If your application is not granted in writing before 4 October 2024 you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2024/2025.

DEFINITIONS

Fire Break:

A strip of property free of all flammable material with the intention of minimising the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access to the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations.

- Clearance must be no less than three metres wide and four metres in height inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves).
- Must not be more than five metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application or approval to the City).
- Maintained, reticulated living lawns are lawns are to be kept completely green and no higher than 75mm. Driveways may be acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of, mineral earth fire breaks. Contact the City's Emergency Management team for further assistance.
- Must have a corner turning radius of up to 12 metres.
- Must be a mineral earth break with a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, be clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a dead end inside the entire perimeter of the property.

Flammable Fuel Storage/Dumps

Includes all petroleum based liquids, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas, and any other combustible liquid or gaseous fuel.

Flammable Material

Fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, grass over 75mm in height, timber boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material, capable of carrying a running fire but excludes living, managed standing trees and shrubs.

Any 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 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 75mm in height.
- Established natural or planted trees or patches of vegetation that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer is an acceptable risk.
- A distinct cluster of vegetation remote from boundaries and assets that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer is an acceptable risk.

Fuel Load

Can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation.

- Fine fuels include: Leaf litter, grasses, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc.
- Heavy (coarse) fuels include: Branches, logs, stumps etc.
- A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) is equivalent to 4.5 tonne per hectare.
- The more fuel load, the higher the flame height and increased fire intensity.
- Mulch piles, stored firewood and burn piles can contribute to fuel loading on property and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Control Officer.



City of
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Emergency Management**
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