

2018-2019 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

- **15 September 2018** - Deadline for applying (in writing) for variation on fire breaks.
- **5 October 2018** - All fire prevention measures must be completed and then maintained until 1 May 2019 (or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier, should this be after that date).
- **6 October 2018** - Fire prevention work inspections carried out by City officers - Infringements for non-compliance will be issued from this date.
- **1 May 2019** - End of firebreaks and fire prevention maintenance period.

Fire protection measures throughout the City of Greater Geraldton must be completed by 5 October 2018 and maintained until 1 May 2019. 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!

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

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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 escalation 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 2018 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 2019.

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 (Firebreak 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
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 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 15 September 2018, 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

5 October 2018 to 1 May 2019:

- All blocks must have flammable 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 15 September and approved (see 'Variation to Firebreaks')
- All developed land must have wattle bush maintained
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of 3 metres clearance of all flammable material



FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

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

5 October 2018 to 1 May 2019:

- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of 3 metre clearance of all flammable material. Structures include private power poles
 - Firebreaks must be mineral earth (bare earth); and
 - Be a minimum of 3 metres wide and 4 metres high
- or --
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of 3 metre clearance of all flammable material. Structures include private power poles
 - Have all 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).



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

5 October 2018 to 1 May 2019:

- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of 3 metres clearance of all flammable material. Structures include power poles (private).
- Firebreaks must be a minimum of 3 metres in width and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.
- 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.



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.

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 1 October 2018 to 1 May 2019 (inclusive), owners and occupiers of land must have a minimum of 3 metre wide firebreaks completely surrounding the perimeter of 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.

Sunday harvesting (Mullewa only):

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

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

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.

Haystacks

The definition of a haystack is any quantity of fodder in excess of five (5) tonnes.

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

Flammable Material

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 City 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

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MY LOCAL FIRE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Police, Fire and Ambulance
(for emergencies) 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



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future





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FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 000

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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