



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



2026-2027

**FIREBREAKS
& BURNING
INFORMATION**

DEADLINE: 4 OCTOBER 2026

KEY DATES

13 September 2026

Deadline for applying (in writing) for variation on fire hazard reduction works.

4 October 2026

All fire hazard reduction works must be completed and then maintained until 1 May 2027 (or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier).

5 October 2026

Fire hazard reduction work inspections carried out by City officers begin. Infringements for non-compliance will be issued from this date.

1 May 2027

End of fire hazard reduction works maintenance period.

PROPERTY CATEGORIES

Fire prevention measures throughout the City of Greater Geraldton must be completed by 4 October 2026 and maintained until 1 May 2027.

Specific hazard reduction requirements are based on three different property sizes;

1. Broadacre farming and lots over 5ha.
2. Residential and rural lots between 0.4ha and 5ha.
3. Small lots under 0.4ha regardless of whether the property is vacant or is developed.

Fire hazard reduction works are essential to help slow the rate of spreading fires and to allow clear lines of vision, safer access and navigation for fire fighting vehicles.

Please ensure your property is fire hazard reduction compliant to avoid infringement penalties and any further action by the City.

VEGETATION

Properties with significant wattle bush, that in the opinion of the Fire Control Officer need further attention, will be contacted by the City as to any special action/s required.

PERIODS & PERMITS

ALTERATION TO RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED

BURNING TIMES: Subject to change due to seasonal conditions.

GERALDTON CBD AND SURROUNDING SUBURBS

An application for a permit to burn is required at any time outside of prohibited burning period.

An onsite inspection by a Fire Control Officer (FCO) is mandatory before a permit can be issued.

Permit required to burn during Restricted Burning Period.

Permit to burn is required until 30 SEPTEMBER

Burning prohibited 1 OCTOBER - 28 FEBRUARY

Permit to burn is required from 1 MARCH

SEMI RURAL AREAS - Any property outside the gazetted fire district not a broadacre farm (40ha or less).

Burning Permits are required from 1 March to 30 September. Inspections may be conducted at the Fire Control Officer's discretion.

Permit required to burn during Restricted Burning Period.

Permit to burn is required until 30 SEPTEMBER

Burning prohibited 1 OCTOBER - 28 FEBRUARY

Permit to burn is required from 1 MARCH

BROADACRE FARMING (40ha or greater)

Burning between 16 March and 14 September does not require a permit. A permit is required to burn bush, grass or stubble from 15 September to 30 September and from 1 March to 15 March.

Properties less than 40ha within the broadacre area require a permit for all burning.

Permit required to burn bush, grass or stubble.

No permit required until 14 SEPTEMBER

Permits required 15 SEPTEMBER - 30 SEPTEMBER

Burning prohibited 1 OCTOBER - 28 FEBRUARY

Permits required 1 MARCH - 15 MARCH

No permit required from 16 MARCH



SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Burning conditions during the restricted periods

Regardless of suburb or property size, you can burn small piles of garden refuse without a permit as long as all the following conditions are met:

- The pile should not exceed 1m³ in size.
- Only one pile should be lit at a time.
- The pile can only be lit between the hours of 6pm and 11pm.
- The pile must be fully extinguished (through the application of water or earth) by midnight.
- There is no flammable material within five metres of the fire while it is burning.
- At least one person is always in attendance of the fire.
- Ensure the fire is completely extinguished by the application of water or earth.
- A permit is required if the garden refuse pile is larger than 1 m³, or if burning is to take place outside the permitted hours of 6pm to 11pm

No fires can be lit on days where the fire danger rating is high or higher.

What you can burn

- Garden refuse piles
- Bush
- Paddocks (grass / stubble)

You cannot burn (at any time)

- Plastics
- Tyres
- Treated posts or materials
- Pallets
- General rubbish or junk
- Commercial waste
- Animal manure
- Lawn clippings

Fuel and/or Gas Depots

Remove all flammable material within 10 metres of fuel dumps, fuel ramps or where fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored.

Haystacks

Remove all flammable material within 10 metres of haystacks.

Firepits and BBQs

Firepits of a size of no more than 1.5m x 1.5m may be used without a permit between the hours of 6pm and 11pm. They must be fully extinguished by midnight and cannot be left unattended.

If a fire pit is larger than 1.5m x 1.5m a permit is required.

Solid fuel BBQs and pizza ovens may be used at any time for cooking purposes (except on high fire danger days).

No fires can be lit on public property, unless purpose built facilities have been provided by the owner of the property and permission to use them has been given.

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 2026.

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 you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2026/2027.

HARVESTING ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

Fire Suppression Equipment

Pursuant to Regulation 38A & 38B of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954, the City of Greater Geraldton gives written notice that undertaking grain harvesting activities shall have the following conditions.

- Provide an operational mobile firefighting unit with no less than 400 litres of water and must be able to draw water from tanks/dams. Must be self-propelled with a 2-way radio.
- A separate firefighting fire appliance is required to be present in any paddock being harvested.
- Minimum six metres of hose (recommended 30 metres) with a controlled nozzle.
- A tractor should be hitched to a plough, offset disc, speed tiller, stubble muncher or the like, or a grader to be situated in the vicinity of any land or paddock where harvesting operations are being carried out. Required for farming properties over 1000ha.



All property with an area greater than 50,000m² (5ha)

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.

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.

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.

- 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.

All property with a total area greater than 4,000m² (0.4ha) but less than 50,000m² (5ha)

Fire Breaks

Install or upgrade a fire break with a 3m (wide) x 4m (high) clearance, bare mineral earth, continuous (no dead ends) trafficable fire break as close as possible inside the entire perimeter of the property.

Dead Flammable Material (DFM)

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 4.5 tonne per hectare (see definition Fuel Load).

Slashing

If installing a fire break is not feasible then slash, mow, or trim dead grasses, dead shrubs, and dead plants to a height no greater than 75mm and remove cuttings across the entire property.

Excluding managed vegetation such as ornamental trees, distinct islands of vegetation remote from boundaries and assets.

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:

- 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.



All property with a total area less than 4,000m² (0.4ha)

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.

Please see page 9 for definition of “flammable material”.

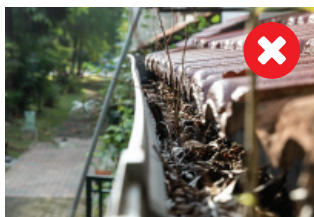
Vegetation

All vacant property must have wattle bush removed, unless written application is made prior to 13 September 2026 and approved in writing (see ‘Variation to Fire breaks’).

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.

Clean Gutter Debris

Gutters, roofs and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable material and maintained.



Unmaintained gutter filled with flammable material.



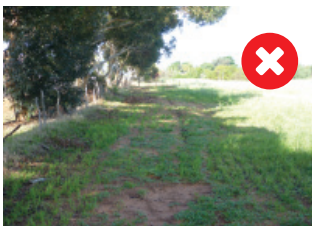
Well maintained gutter, clear of flammable material.



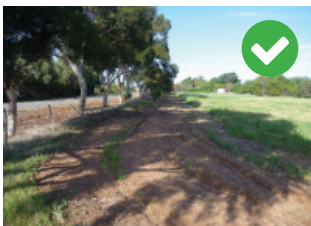
Property boundary with high levels of flammable material and no visible firebreak.



Property boundary showing a wide, clear boundary firebreak



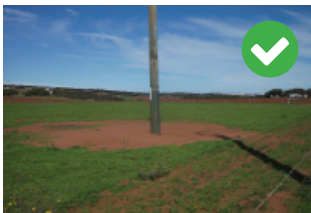
Mineral earth firebreak showing grass and weed regrowth that may result in the firebreak requiring follow-up ploughing to comply.



Better example of thorough mineral earth fire break.



Power pole not cleared from flammable material.



Power pole cleared 3m around base.



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



Example of correctly slashed vacant residential lot.

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 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.

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.

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.

Flammable Fuel Storage/Dumps

Includes all petroleum based liquids, liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas, and any other combustible liquid or gaseous fuel.





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For more information on Fire Breaks
and Burning Conditions

P: (08) 9956 6600
www.cgg.wa.gov.au

Fire information and contacts

Police, Fire and Ambulance
For emergencies dial

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DFES information line:

13 3337
www.dfes.wa.gov.au

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up to **\$50,000 reward**

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

Phone Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000

