



City of  
Greater Geraldton  
a vibrant future



# 2022-2023 FIRST & FINAL FIREBREAK NOTICE

DEADLINE: 5 OCTOBER 2022

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

**This is your first & only notice**

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## KEY DATES

- **13 September 2022** - Deadline for applying (in writing) for variation on firebreaks.
- **4 October 2022** - All fire prevention measures must be completed and then maintained until 1 May 2023 (or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier, should this be after that date).
- **5 October 2022** - Fire prevention work inspections carried out by City officers begin. Infringements for non-compliance will be issued from this date.
- **1 May 2023** - End of firebreaks and fire prevention maintenance period.

Fire prevention measures throughout the City of Greater Geraldton must be completed by 4 October 2022 and maintained until 1 May 2023.

These requirements divided into three categories;

1. Small lots under 0.4 ha regardless of whether the land is vacant or has a building.
2. Residential and Special Rural / Rural Residential/ Rural Smallholding lots between 0.4 ha and 5 ha.
3. 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 fire fighting vehicles.

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

**[cgg.wa.gov.au](http://cgg.wa.gov.au)**

# City of Greater Geraldton

## FIREBREAK & 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 be utilised to provide protection or an escape route for fire fighters and occupants.

**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 2022, 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 4,000m<sup>2</sup>) - regardless of whether the land is vacant or has a building

#### 4 October 2022 to 1 May 2023:

- 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 2022 and approved (see 'Variation to Firebreaks').
- All developed land must either have wattle bush maintained to a maximum height of 2.5m and the canopy of the bush may not exceed the property boundaries, or be removed.
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metres clearance of all inflammable material.



## FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

### Medium sized lots between 4,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.4 ha) and 5ha.

#### 4 October 2022 to 1 May 2023:

- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metre clearance of all inflammable material.
- Structures include private power poles.
- Properties with significant wattle bush, that in the opinion of the Fire Control Officer need further attention, will be instructed by the City as to any special action(s) required.

## FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

### Medium sized lots between 4,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.4 ha) and 5ha. [cont]

#### and either

- Have mineral earth or mulch breaks with a minimum of three metres in width and have a minimum overhead clearance of four metres against the boundary fence.

#### or

- 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).



# FIREBREAK MINIMUM STANDARDS

## Broadacre farming or lots over 5ha

**4 October 2022 to 1 May 2023:**

- 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 per fire break.
- All structures and buildings must have a minimum of three metres clearance of all inflammable material Structures include private power poles.



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

During the period of 4 October 2022 to 1 May 2023 (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

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](http://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/play/sports-recreation/parks.aspx)).
- 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.

### **Combustible 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 an acceptable risk.



## PERIODS & PERMITS

### ALTERATION TO RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES:

Dates are subject to change by the City due to any seasonal conditions warranting a change.

### **CBD (GERALDTON AND MULLEWA) AND SURROUNDING SUBURBS - inside gazetted fire district**

A 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.

**CBD must apply for a permit to burn during Restricted Burning Period. Applications can found on the City's website.**

Permit to burn is required until  
**14 OCTOBER**

Burning Prohibited from  
**15 OCTOBER - 14 FEBRUARY**

Permit to burn is required from  
**15 FEBRUARY**

### **SEMI RURAL AREAS - ANY PROPERTY outside the gazetted fire district not a broadacre or commercial farm**

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 OR COMMERCIAL FARM (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.



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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](http://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](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

## 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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