

BUSHFIRES ACT 1954

CITY OF KWINANA

FIRE HAZARD COMPLIANCE NOTICE 2024/2025

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 1 December 2024 and maintained up to and including 31 May 2025.

COMPLIANCE DUE BY 1 December 2024

INSPECTIONS COMMENCE FROM 1 December 2024

Notice to all landowners within the City of Kwinana

This Fire-Break/Hazard Compliance Notice is issued by the City of Kwinana pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 to assist with the prevention, control and extinguishment of bush fires or to prevent the spread or extension of a bush fire to any adjoining land.

All property owners and/or occupiers of land within the City of Kwinana are hereby served with a first and final Fire-Break/Hazard Compliance Notice (the Notice) and are required to comply with the requirements in full.

Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and may result in a penalty of up to \$5,000.

The table below outlines the requirements of landowners and/or occupiers in the City of Kwinana. Please refer to the column that best describes your land size to view your legal responsibilities.

Land with a total area of 3,501m² (0.35ha) or greater

Fire Breaks Install and maintain mineral earth fire breaks as per the specifications defined below.

Asset Protection Zone Maintain a reduced fuel zone around all habitable buildings and assets which extends twenty (20) metres as per the specifications below.

Driveways Ensure driveways and access ways to all buildings are maintained at a minimum of three (3) metres in width and a vertical clearance height of four (4) metres to allow emergency vehicle access.

Flammable Material Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.

Land with a total area of 1,500m² (0.15ha) up to 3,500m² (0.35ha)

Defendable Space Within three (3) metres of all walls or supporting posts of a habitable building, the area is kept free from vegetation including overhanging branches within three (3) metres of any habitable building.

Flammable Ground Fuel

- Reduce and/or maintain all Dead Flammable Material (DFM) on the ground across the entire property to a "fuel load" of below eight (8) tonnes per hectare. See definition below.
- Ensure that all long grass and weeds are slashed, mowed or trimmed down to a height no greater than 50mm across your entire property. *(Compliance required year-round)*

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Variations to Notice

If it is impractical for you to install a firebreak as specified in this Notice, you may apply to vary the location of your firebreak within your property by completing and submitting an 'Application to Vary Location and Type of Firebreaks' form available on the City's [Fire Permits and Burn Offs page](#).

Submit completed forms to customer@kwinana.wa.gov.au - marked for the attention of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – no later than 31 October 2024.

Additional Works

Regardless of land size and location, the City or its Bush Fire Control Officers may require additional work to be undertaken

on a property to improve access, and/or undertake further works to reduce a hazard that may be conducive to preventing an outbreak and/or the spread or extension of a bush fire.

'**Industrial Zoned**' areas may require additional works as identified by the Bush Fire Control Officer during fire hazard inspections.

Bushfire Management Plan

Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, the property owner and/or occupier must still comply with all requirements in this notice and with ALL additional requirements outlined within that plan.

Engagement of contractors by owner and/or occupier to carry out works

Any owner and/or occupier who engages a contractor to undertake works on their behalf is responsible for ensuring that such works when completed meet the requirements of this Notice.

Firebreak/fire hazard compliance inspections

To promote community safety and education, property inspections will be carried out by the City's Bush Fire Control Officers to identify non-compliant properties from 1 December 2024.

No burning in areas defined as Urban

Pursuant to section, 24G (2) of the **Bush Fires Act 1954**, no burning of garden refuse is to be undertaken in areas defined as "Urban" without written approval by the City of Kwinana.

Environmental and Heritage Conditions

Any property subject to environmental and heritage value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora, and Fauna (DRF) sites and Aboriginal Heritage sites, etc should seek further information about what can or cannot be carried out prior to complying with the requirements under this Notice.

Definitions

Firebreak:

A strip of mineral earth land free of all flammable material with the intention of minimising the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access on the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations. Clearance must be 3 metres wide and 4 metres in height as close as practically possible, inside and along all boundaries of the perimeter of the land. Living green lawn is acceptable in lieu of mineral earth firebreaks, provided that the same width

and height requirements for a firebreak are maintained. Must have a corner turning radius of up to 10 metres. Must be a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle and be clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a dead end.

Asset Protection Zone:

Maintain a fuel-reduced zone around all habitable buildings or assets which extends 20 metres (m) from the outermost point of the building or asset. Fuel load within the 10m inner zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonne per hectare. Fuel load within the 10-20m outer zone is reduced and maintained to below 8 tonne per hectare. Trees over 5m in height within the 20m zone to be under pruned up to 2m. Trees or shrubs within 3m of the asset shall be pruned to a maximum height of 2m and/or pruned to ensure a 2m wide vertical clearance from the asset. Fuel Load: Can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation. A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) to the mineral earth is indicative of approximately 8 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 land and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Control Officer. Fine fuels include Leaf litter, grasses, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc.

Flammable Material: Any bush, plant, tree, grass, vegetation, object, or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn.

Wayne Jack,

Chief Executive Office

