

Shire of Williams

Fire Control Order

Pursuant to the *Bush Fires Act 1954* section 33, owners or occupiers of land situated within the Shire of Williams are required by to comply with the prescribed Fire Control Order here within.

1. Interpretation

In this Fire Control Order unless the context otherwise requires —

“**Authorised Officer**” an officer appointed as a Shire of Williams Fire Control Officer.

“**Building protection zone**” means a low fuel area immediately surrounding a habitable building and is designed to minimise the likelihood of flame contact with other buildings, and must fulfil the following conditions:

- (i) bush fire fuels must be maintained below 10 centimetres in height;
- (ii) trees and branches that may fall onto a house must be removed; and
- (iii) lower branches of the remaining trees must be trimmed.

“**District**” means the whole local government area of the Shire of Williams.

“**Fire Control Order period**” means the period from 1st day of November to the 29th day of March in the following year within the district.

“**Fire Weather Officer**” means a person appointed by the local government in accordance with section 38 (8) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

“**Flammable material**” includes bush (as defined in the *Bush Fires Act 1954*), timber, boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material or rubbish, but does not include green standing trees, growing bushes and plants in gardens or lawns.

“**Prohibited Burning Period**” this period commences on 1 November of each year until and including 14 February of the following year. This time may be amended, subject to prevailing seasonal conditions.

“**Restricted Burning Period**” this period commences on 29 September until and including 31 October and recommences on 15 February until and including 29 March of any year. This time may be amended, subject to the prevailing seasonal conditions.

“**Townsite land**” means all the land within the boundaries of townsites in the district.

“**Rural land**” means all the land not defined as townsites within the district.

2. Rural Land

- (1) During the conduct of any harvesting/baling operations, stone raking and slashing activities, an operational independent firefighting unit containing not less than 400 litres of water with a motorised pump and at least 15 metres of 19-millimetre diameter hose is to be provided in the same paddock or within 50 metres of that paddock.
- (2) All flammable material is to be removed from around buildings and stacks in hay and straw processing plants to a width of 20 metres.

3. Townsite Land

- (1) Where the area of land is 2,024 square metres (or half an acre) or less, all flammable material is to be removed, and the grass is to be maintained to a height no greater than 10 centimetres.
- (2) Where the area of land exceeds 2,024 square metres (or half an acre), all flammable material likely to be conducive to an outbreak, spread or extension of fire is to be removed, and the grass is to be maintained to a height no greater than 10 centimetres.
- (3) All flammable material is to be removed from around buildings, fuel dumps and liquid fuel containers to a width of 20 metres.
- (4) All habitable buildings are to include a building protection zone of 20 metres in width.

4. Open Air Fires

- (1) Open air fires are permitted during the Restricted Burning period, subject to compliance with the provisions of a permit issued by an Authorised Officer.
- (2) Open air fires are not permitted at all during the Prohibited Burning period (including garden refuse).
- (3) No fires in the open air are permitted on any day when determined by a Fire Weather Officer.

5. Properties with Fire Management Plans

All properties with approved fire management plans shall comply with the plan and or this notice whichever is the greater.

6. General

- (1) If the requirements of this Fire Control Order are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. A permit to burn is required during the Restricted Burning periods from an Authorised Officer.
- (2) If it is impracticable for any reason to remove flammable material from the land or any other provisions required by this Fire Control Order, an owner or occupier may apply to the Shire or its duly Authorised Officer not later than 31 October in that year, for permission to take alternative action to manage fire hazards on the land. If permission is not granted by the Shire or its duly Authorised Officer, the owner or occupier shall comply with the requirements of this order.
- (3) Penalties apply to persons who fail to comply with the requirements of this Fire Control Order.
- (4) A person who fails to comply with the order is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of performing the work directed in this order if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required.

Fire Control Order Enquiries

Shire of Williams

email: shire@williams.wa.gov.au

9 Brooking Street, Williams WA 6391

Phone: 9885 1005

Visit the Shire Office between 8.00 am – 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

A Standard Australian Fire Danger Ratings System (AFDRS) was implemented Australia wide on 1 September 2022.

Details are available on the Shire Website <https://www.williams.wa.gov.au/community/our-community/bush-fire-information.aspx>.