

Fire Control Notice

Your property must comply on 1 December 2019 and be maintained through to 31 May 2020

First and final notice to owners and/or occupiers of all land within the City of Rockingham

Penalty of up to \$5000 for non-compliance

As a measure to assist in the control of bushfires and pursuant to the powers contained in **Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954**, you have a legal requirement to carry out fire prevention works on your property. Your property must comply on 1 December 2019 and be maintained through to 31 May 2020.

*"Take notice that pursuant to **Section 33 (4) of the Bush Fires Act 1954**, where the owner and/or occupier of the land fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of this Notice within the specified times, the City of Rockingham may by its officers and with such servants, workmen and contractors, vehicles and machinery as the officers deem fit, enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of this Notice which have not been complied with and pursuant to **Section 33 (5) of the Bush Fires Act 1954**, the amount of any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land."* Government Gazette, July 2019.

Compliance inspections will commence on 1 December 2019. Failure to comply with the City's Fire Control Notice may result in a penalty of up to \$5000, with additional contractor and administration costs to carry out fire prevention works on your property.



All Land With An Area Of 4047m² Or More (more than one acre)

Owners/Occupiers of developed and vacant land are required to:

- Install and maintain mineral earth firebreaks as per firebreak specifications
- 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, with all over hanging vegetation trimmed back to clear access.

All Land With An Area Of Less Than 4047m² (less than one acre)

Owners/Occupiers of vacant land are required to:

- Remove accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, dead bush and dead trees capable of carrying a running fire
- Have the entire vacant land clear of weed or long grasses by slashing, mowing or other means to a height no greater than 50mm and maintained in this state.

Owners/Occupiers of developed land are required to:

- 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, with all over hanging vegetation trimmed back to clear access.

Firebreak Specifications

- Must be not less than three (3) metres wide immediately inside and along all boundaries (including on boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves)
- Must be not more than four (4) metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application for approval to the City)
- May have a corner turning radius of up to ten (10) metres
- Must have a vertical clearance height of four (4) metres, with all over hanging vegetation trimmed back clear of the firebreak
- Must be a mineral earth firebreak with a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a cul-de-sac (dead end)
- Maintained and living lawns are acceptable in conjunction with or in lieu of mineral earth firebreaks, provided that the same width and height requirements for a firebreak are maintained.

Firebreaks are intended to minimise the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access on your property for emergency vehicles (ensuring fire does not travel under the vehicles or underfoot).



Bushfire Management Plan

(Previously known as a Fire Management Plan). All properties that are subject to a Bushfire Management Plan as a result of a subdivision or development application or an approved treatment plan, must comply with the requirements of such plans in their entirety.

Additional Works

In addition to the requirements of this Notice, regardless of land size and location, you **may** be required to carry out further fire prevention works to reduce hazards **considered necessary by an Authorised Officer**. Any further requirement would be specified by way of a "work order" forwarded to the address of the owner/s and or occupier/s.

Some examples of these could be:

- Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable matter
- Remove accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, dead bush and dead trees capable of carrying a running fire
- Reduce unmanaged grasses/weeds by slashing, mowing or other means
- Reduce vegetation to a low threat state from the outer edge of the firebreak through to the property boundary (e.g. no long grass or overhanging branches). This would apply if you have been authorised by the City for a variation to your firebreak.
- Assets identified in the City's **Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2018-2022** or any land identified with a treatment plan to reduce risk to assets.

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

Any Fire Control Notice previously published by the City of Rockingham in the Government Gazette or in any locally circulated newsprint is hereby revoked.

Variation to the Fire Control Notice

To request authorisation to use other methods of fire prevention on your land outside of this notice, please apply in writing together with an 'Application to Vary Location and Type of Firebreaks' form (available on the City's website rockingham.wa.gov.au). Submit completed forms to the City of Rockingham no later than 31 October 2019.

If you require further information or would like to talk with a Fire Control Officer, please call **9528 0333** or email firecontrol@rockingham.wa.gov.au

