

Planned Burn

Information Sheet

What is a planned burn?

Also known as a hazard reduction, controlled or planned burn – is a fire deliberately started to manage combustible fuel loads to reduce the risk and intensity of a bushfire.

What is the benefit of planned burning?

The main goal is to reduce the amount of combustible material on the ground, such as grass, leaves, twigs and small branches. A planned burn is carried out during mild, cooler weather conditions when the soil has a higher moisture content to achieve a slow and low intensity fire.

Who manages the burn?

The City of Rockingham Bushfire Mitigation team will partner with the local fire brigade and volunteer firefighters who are qualified and experienced in all aspects of planned burning.

What else is the City doing to mitigate bushfire risk on City owned and managed land?

In line with the City's Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) the following actions are already implemented;

- Installation and maintenance of firebreaks,
- Weed control,
- Slashing, mowing and forestry mulching to reduce fuel loads, and
- Regular visual assessments of fuel loads on City managed land.

Why don't we do more burns?

Burns are not without risk and are only conducted in specific conditions. The planning is complex and time consuming. All risks must be identified and controlled, and local residents notified well before the day of the planned burn. The burn can be cancelled should there be an unacceptable change in any of the planned conditions. A change in the wind direction may be an example of an unacceptable change.

What will happen after a planned burn?

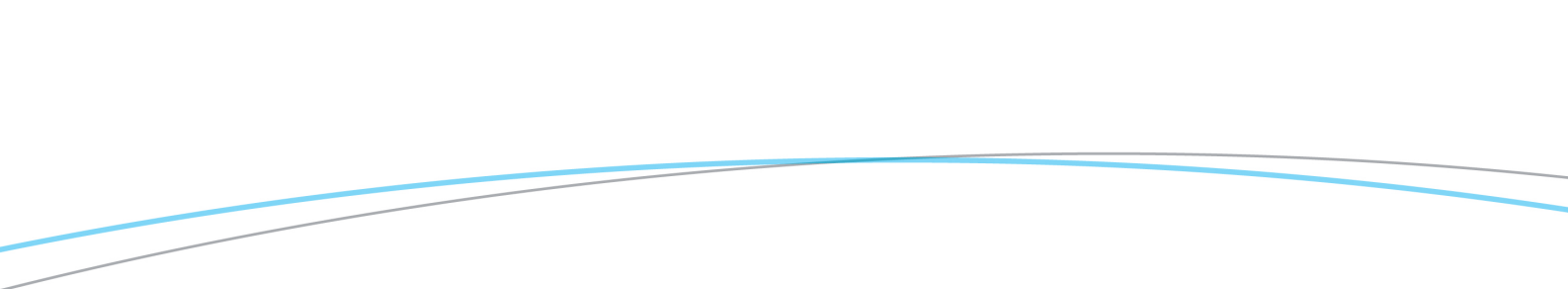
The City of Rockingham will monitor native regeneration. Post-fire weed control is planned and implemented for all burnt areas.

Will the planned burn negatively impact the bushland?

The impacts of a planned burn on the bushland can be reduced by;

- Leaving unburnt areas to use as a refuge for wildlife and to foster native regeneration,
- Excluding sensitive wildlife habitat from planned burns,



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- Conducting burns in cooler weather conditions, using slower low intensity burn activity with lower flame height, and
 - Identifying wildlife and important habitat features prior to the burn and implementing protective measures during the burn.

Will the planned burn create a lot of smoke?

Planned burning does create smoke, however the City will plan to minimize the impact of smoke. Burning under low wind conditions that direct smoke away from properties, notifying affected residents beforehand and requesting residents to prepare themselves and their properties are all measures that reduce the impact of smoke.

How to prepare for a planned burn in your local area?

A prescribed burn may cause some inconvenience however, you can prepare yourself and your property to reduce its impact by:

- Closing doors, windows and turn off air-conditioners,
- Taking in washing,
- Clearing roofs, gutters and yards of flammable material such as leaves and
- Limiting outdoor activities if smoke is a nuisance.
- People with asthma, respiratory and other conditions exacerbated by smoke should take precautions in line with their medical advice, and
- Visit the Department of Health website for more information.

Who do I contact for more information?

For further information on planned burning on City managed land please contact Customer Service on 9528 0333 or email customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au

Useful links

City of Rockingham Bushfire Risk Management Plan
Emergency WA
Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Department of Health