



City of  
Greater Geraldton  
a vibrant future



# 2024-2025 **FIRE HAZARD INFORMATION** BOOKLET

DEADLINE: 5 OCTOBER 2024



## **KEY DATES**

### **13 September 2024**

Deadline for applying (in writing) for variation on fire hazard reduction works.

### **4 October 2024**

All fire hazard reduction works must be completed and then maintained until 1 May 2025 (or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier).

### **5 October 2024**

Fire hazard reduction work inspections carried out by City officers begin. Infringements for non-compliance will be issued from this date.

### **1 May 2025**

End of fire hazard reduction works maintenance period.

## **PROPERTY CATEGORIES**

Fire prevention measures throughout the City of Greater Geraldton must be completed by 4 October 2024 and maintained until 1 May 2025.

Specific hazard reduction requirements are based on three different property sizes;

1. Broadacre farming and lots over 5 ha structures and buildings on all categories of property.
2. Residential and Rural lots between 0.4 ha and 5 ha.
3. Small lots under 0.4 ha regardless of whether the property is vacant or is developed.

Fire hazard reduction works 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 hazard reduction compliant to avoid infringement penalties and any further action by the City.

## **VEGETATION**

Properties with significant wattle bush, that in the opinion of the Fire Control Officer need further attention, will be contacted by the City as to any special action(s) required.



## PERIODS & PERMITS

**ALTERATION TO RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES:** Subject to change due to seasonal conditions.

### **CBD (GERALDTON AND MULLEWA) AND SURROUNDING SUBURBS**

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.

**Permit required to burn during Restricted Burning Period.**

Permit to burn is required until 30 SEPTEMBER

Burning Prohibited 1 OCTOBER - 28 FEBRUARY

Permit to burn is required from 1 MARCH

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

Burning Permits are required from 1 March to 30 September. (Inspection is at FCO's discretion).

**Permit required to burn during Restricted Burning Period.**

Permit to burn is required until 30 SEPTEMBER

Burning Prohibited 1 OCTOBER - 28 FEBRUARY

Permit to burn is required from 1 MARCH

### **BROADACRE OR COMMERCIAL FARM**

Permits are required for burning of bush, grass or stubble from 15 September to 30 September and 1 March to 15 March. Burning of bush, grass and stubble only from 16 March to 14 September is unrestricted (does not require permit).

**Permit required to burn brush, grass or stubble.**

No permit required until 14 SEPTEMBER

Permits required 15 SEPTEMBER - 30 SEPTEMBER

Burning Prohibited 1 OCTOBER - 28 FEBRUARY

Permits required 1 MARCH - 15 MARCH

No permit required from 16 MARCH



## All property with an area greater than 50,000m<sup>2</sup> (5 ha)

### **Fire Breaks**

Install or upgrade a fire break with a 3m (wide) x 4m (high) clearance, bare mineral or mulched earth, continuous (no dead ends) trafficable fire break as close as possible inside the entire perimeter of the property.

Mineral earth or mulched breaks installed within 20 metres of the whole external boundary of property held in the same ownership up to a maximum of 200ha per fire break.

### **Dead Flammable Material (DFM)**

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 4.5 tonne per hectare (see definition Fuel Load).

### **Slashing**

Slash, mow or trim grasses and flammable material to a height no greater than 75mm and remove cuttings across the entire property.

### **Asset Protection Zone**

Maintain a fuel reduced zone around all buildings, structures and assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings, structures and assets, including.

- Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable materials and maintained.
- Fuel load within the 20 metre zone will be reduced and maintained to no more than two tonne per hectare.
- Trees over five metres in height within the 20 metre zone to be under pruned up to two metres.
- Structures include private power poles.

## All property with a total area greater than 4,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.4ha) but less than 50,000m<sup>2</sup> (5ha)

### **Fire Breaks**

Install or upgrade a fire break with a 3m (wide) x 4m (high) clearance, bare mineral earth, continuous (no dead ends) trafficable fire break as close as possible inside the entire perimeter of the property.

### **Dead Flammable Material (DFM)**

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 4.5 tonne per hectare (see definition Fuel Load).

### **Slashing**

If installing a firebreak is not feasible then slash, mow, or trim dead grasses, dead shrubs, and dead plants to a height no greater than 75mm and remove cuttings across the entire property.

Excluding managed vegetation such as ornamental trees, distinct islands of vegetation remote from boundaries and assets.

### **Asset Protection Zone**

Maintain a fuel reduced zone around all buildings, structures and assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings, structures and assets, including.

- Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable materials and maintained.
- Fuel load within the 20 metre zone will be reduced and maintained to no more than two tonne per hectare.
- Trees over five metres in height within the 20 metre zone to be under pruned up to two metres.
- Structures include private power poles.

## All property with a total area less than 4,000m<sup>2</sup> (0.4ha)

### Dead Flammable Material (DFM)

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 4.5 tonne per hectare (see definition Fuel Load).

### Slashing

Slash, mow or trim grasses and flammable material to a height no greater than 75mm and remove cuttings across the entire property.

Please see page 7 for definition of “flammable material”.

### Vegetation

All vacant property must have wattle bush removed, unless written application is made prior to 13 September 2024 and approved in writing (see ‘Variation to Firebreaks’).

All developed property must either have wattle bush canopy maintained to a maximum height of 2.5m and the bush may not exceed the property boundaries, or be removed.

### Clean Gutter Debris

Gutters, roofs and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable material and maintained.



Unmaintained gutter filled with flammable material.



Well maintained gutter, clear of flammable material.



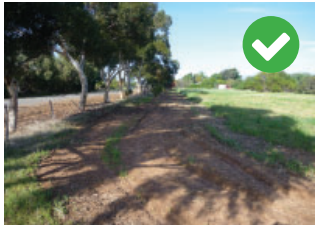
Property boundary with high levels of flammable material and no visible firebreak.



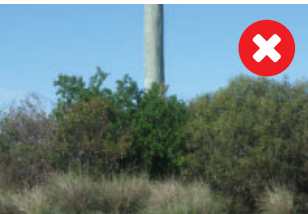
Property boundary showing a wide, clear boundary firebreak



Mineral earth firebreak showing grass and weed regrowth that may result in the firebreak requiring follow-up ploughing to comply.



Better example of thorough mineral earth firebreak.



Power pole not cleared from flammable material.



Power pole cleared 3m around base.



Vacant residential lot showing grass and wattle regrowth requiring slashing/mowing.



Example of correctly slashed vacant residential lot.

## DEFINITIONS

### Fire Break:

A strip of property free of all flammable material with the intention of minimising the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access to the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations.

- Clearance must be no less than three metres wide and four metres in height inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves).
- Must not be more than five metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application or approval to the City).
- Maintained, reticulated living lawns are lawns are to be kept completely green and no higher than 75mm. Driveways may be acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of, mineral earth fire breaks. Contact the City's Emergency Management team for further assistance.
- Must have a corner turning radius of up to 12 metres.
- Must be a mineral earth break with a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, be clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a dead end inside the entire perimeter of the property.

### Fuel Load

Can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation.

- Fine fuels include: Leaf litter, grasses, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc.
- Heavy (coarse) fuels include: Branches, logs, stumps etc.
- A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) is equivalent to 4.5 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 property and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Control Officer.

### **Flammable Material**

Fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, grass over 75mm in height, timber boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material, capable of carrying a running fire but excludes living, managed standing trees and shrubs.

Any 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 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 75mm in height.
  - Established natural or planted trees or patches of vegetation that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer is an acceptable risk.
  - A distinct cluster of vegetation remote from boundaries and assets that in the opinion of a Fire Control Officer is an acceptable risk.

### **Flammable Fuel Storage/Dumps**

Includes all petroleum based liquids, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas, and any other combustible liquid or gaseous fuel.



## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### Fuel and/or Gas Depots

Remove all flammable material within 10 metres of fuel dumps, fuel ramps or where fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored.

### Haystacks

Remove all flammable material within 10 metres of haystacks.

### Wood/Solid Fuel BBQs and Pizza Ovens

The use of wood/solid fuel BBQs and pizza ovens is permitted except for days where the fire danger rating is high or above.

The use of any wood/solid fuel BBQ or pizza oven is prohibited during a total fire ban.

### Campfires and Firepits

Campfires and Firepits are not permitted at any time during the prohibited Burning Period or at any other time where the fire danger rating is high or above. Campfires and Firepits cannot be lit before 6pm, no more fuel can be added after 11pm. They must be fully extinguished by midnight and cannot not be left unattended. You must have an available method of extinguishment while burning. No Campfires or Firepits will be lit on public property, unless purpose built facilities have been provided by the owner of the property and permission to use them has been given.

### Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

If you consider it to be impractical to meet a requirement/s of this notice, you may apply to the City for a variation in writing no later than 13 September 2024.

**Note:** A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ other methods of fire hazard reduction to your property.

If your application is not granted you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2024/2025.

## **Additional Works**

Where a property has an approved bushfire management plan in effect, the property owner must still comply with all requirements in this notice and with all additional requirements outlined within that plan.

You may be required to carry out further bushfire property preparedness works on your property to reduce any fire hazards considered necessary by a Fire Control Officer.

## **Emergency Management Plans and City Approved Treatment Plans**

Any property and/or property subject to a Bushfire Management Plan or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a City approved treatment plan, must comply with the listed requirements in their entirety.

## **Environmental Conditions**

Any property subject to environmental value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora and Fauna (DRF) sites should seek further information about what can or cannot be done prior to carrying out requirements under this notice. Please contact the City's Emergency Management team.





For more information on Fire Hazard Reduction

**P: (08) 9956 6600**  
**[www.cgg.wa.gov.au](http://www.cgg.wa.gov.au)**

## **Fire information and contacts**

Police, Fire and Ambulance  
For emergencies dial

**000**

DFES information line:

**13 3337**  
**[www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)**

City of Greater Geraldton



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