

CITY OF ARMADALE  
ANNUAL FIREBREAK AND HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE  
BUSH FIRES ACT 1954  
Section 33(1)

As a measure for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, all owners and occupiers of land within the district of the City of Armadale are required to comply with the requirements of this notice.

**DEFINITIONS**

“**FIREBREAK**” means a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable material leaving clear bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other object or thing over the fire break area.

“**FLAMMABLE**” means any bush, plant, tree, grass, mineral, vegetable, substance, object thing or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn.

“**TRAFFICABLE**” means to be able to travel from one point to another in a 4X4 fire vehicle on a firm and stable surface, unhindered without any obstruction or getting stuck bogged or trapped.

“**VERTICAL AXIS**” means a continuous vertical uninterrupted line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak

**ALL AREAS OF LAND LESS THAN 5000 m<sup>2</sup>**

Have the entire land clear of all flammable material by mowing, slashing or other means. All grasses are to be maintained below 5 centimetres in height and all trees, bushes, shrubs are to be trimmed back over driveways and access ways to all buildings to three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over it to afford access for emergency services to all structures and points of the property

On any lot having an area of less than 5,000m<sup>2</sup>, the keeping of grass on the lot at all times covered by this notice to a height less than 5 centimetres will be accepted in lieu of clearing a firebreak.

**ALL AREAS OF LAND OVER 5000 m<sup>2</sup>**

Install bare mineral earth trafficable firebreaks clear of all flammable material to a minimum of three (3) metres wide immediately inside all external boundaries of the land with all overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back to four (4) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over the firebreak area. Install bare mineral earth trafficable firebreaks to a minimum of three (3) metres wide immediately surrounding all buildings, sheds and haystacks or groups of buildings situated on the land, with all overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back to three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over the firebreak area . This includes driveways and access to all buildings on the land

Installation methods may vary to suit your property environment, these may include, but not limited to ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, burning, grading, chemical spraying

If the requirements of this notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

- **MOWED FIREBREAKS ARE NOT PERMITTED**

### **APPLICATION TO VARY FIREBREAK REQUIREMENTS**

If it is considered impracticable for any reason whatsoever to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by this notice, you may apply in writing to the Council of the City of Armadale, or its duly Authorised Officers no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2011 for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions on the land. If permission is not granted by the Council or its duly Authorised Officers you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

In some instances naturally occurring features such as rocky outcrops, natural watercourses or landscaping such as reticulated gardens, lawns or driveways may be an acceptable substitute for cleared firebreaks. This option must first be discussed with an Authorised Officer of the City, and approved by the Authorised Officer in writing

All firebreaks and other alternative arrangements allowed by the preceding parts of this notice must be established on or before the 30th day of November 2011 (or within 14 days of you becoming the owner or occupier should this occur after that date) and remain clear of flammable material up to and including the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2012.

- **COUNCIL DOES NOT ISSUE EXEMPTIONS TO THE FIREBREAK NOTICE**

### **PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

A person who fails to comply with the requisitions in the Firebreak Notice is guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty of \$5,000. In addition, where the owner or occupier of the land fails to comply with a notice given pursuant to section 33(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the City may enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of the notice which have not been complied with and the City may recover the amount of any costs and expenses incurred in carrying out those requisitions as a debt due from the owner or occupier of the land.

### **RESTRICTED BURNING TIMES**

**Permits Required:** 1 October to 30 November and 1 April to 31 May, both dates inclusive

### **PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES**

**Total Fire Ban:** 1 December to 31 March, both dates inclusive

Restricted and Prohibited Burning periods may be amended due to un-seasonal weather patterns.

## **HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY**

### **Burning Rubbish, Refuse or other Material**

The City of Armadale Health Local Laws provide that a person shall not set fire to or cause to be set fire, any rubbish, refuse or other material at any time unless otherwise approved in writing by an authorised person. The penalty for an offence under the Local Law is a fine of \$1,000.

For all enquiries relating to this notice please ring Customer Service on 9397 3000.

### **DOES YOUR PROPERTY HAVE A FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

All properties with a Fire Management Plan approved as part of subdivision consent shall comply with the plan in its entirety

**PENALTY: \$5000**

### **FUEL STORAGE**

On all land where fuel drum ramps are located and where fuel drums, whether contained fuel or not, are stored, clear maintained firebreaks three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over it, around any drum, ramp or stack of drums.

### **NO BURNING ON SUNDAY OR PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Except when specifically authorised to do so for purpose of fuel reduction by a Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO) appointed by Council under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act 1954, an owner or occupier of land shall not set fire to, or cause or allow to be set on fire, any bush, rubbish or refuse whatsoever on a Sunday or a day that is a Public Holiday.

### **PENALTIES**

The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and a person in default is also liable whether prosecuted or not to pay the costs of performing the work directed by this notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this notice.

By order of the Council.

**R S Tame - Chief Executive Officer**