

8.1 Bush Fires Act 1954 – Administrative Matters

PART A- Policy

Objective

To provide direction to the staff and community regarding the management, control and implementation of the Bush Fires Act within the Shire, particularly in matters relevant to discretionary decisions which may be made by the Shire in accordance with the Bush Fires Act 1954 and its regulations.

Policy Statement

1. Senior Bush Fire Control Officer

The position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer will be combined with the position of Fire Weather Officer so that the person occupying the position carries out the duties associated with both appointments.

2. Clover burns

Area limitation

It is the Council's policy to decline to establish a standard maximum area for clover burns as provided for in Section 24(b)(i) of the Bush Fires Act. The Permit Issuing Officer may use discretion and impose a maximum area if he considers it necessary and details of any maximum area set are to be specified in the permit.

Commencement time

In accordance with Regulation 19(3) of the Bush Fires Regulations, it is Council policy that the clover Permit Issuing Officer has sole discretion regarding the burning commencement times, and being between the hours of 4.00pm and midnight.

3. Burning of Shire Road Reserves

All applications to burn Shire Road Reserves within townsites and rural areas, will require assessment / pre-inspection (Appendix 1) by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) or the Emergency Management Coordinator. The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Chief Executive Officer and Emergency Management Coordinator may or may not issue a permit depending on inspection outcome.

When a permit to burn is issued (Appendix 2), it is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that all conditions set out in the permit are complied with at all times. The CBFCO and Emergency Management Coordinator reserve the right at any stage to cancel or suspend any permit issued; if at any stage they believe that the permit holder is non-compliant with the set of conditions or safety is compromised. The permit holder will be responsible at all time for containment and suppression of any escape of fire. **4.**

Notice of intention to burn

On the day of a proposed burn and prior to the fire being lit, all landowners and occupiers outside of the townsites, are required to notify the Shire office of their intention to burn during restricted burning times.

5. Burning on Sundays and public holidays

Permits will not be issued for burning on Sundays or public holidays, unless approved by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer during the restricted burning period.

6. Clearing burns

A permit to burn is required for burning of remnant and native vegetation until the 30 April each year.

7. Bush fire control

Bush fires on Crown land

The control of fires on unallocated Crown land in order to protect privately owned land is at the discretion of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Shire staff may utilise Shire plant and equipment to control fires following a request for assistance from the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. Only adequately trained Shire staff may drive Shire plant at fires.

Standard operating procedures

Until such a time as the Shire of Dandaragan has adopted its own standard operating procedures for bushfire fighting operations, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Operating Procedures is the adopted procedure for firefighting within the Shire of Dandaragan. Copies of the procedure can be found on the DFES Volunteer Hub and are distributed to all Bush Fire Brigades.

8. Harvesting

Harvesting is permitted on Sundays and all public holidays with the exception of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

9. Firefighting appliances in paddock

It is a requirement of the Shire of Dandaragan that an approved firefighting appliance be present in the paddock being harvested whilst crop harvesting operations and straw raking and baling are being carried out during restricted and prohibited periods. Further, that the unit must be in a state of readiness and is to have a minimum of four hundred (400) litres of water on board.

10. Firebreaks on road reserves

Consideration for firebreaks within road reserves will only be given to those road reserves which are larger than thirty (30) metres width where it is clear that the firebreak would not detract from the amenity of the area. In all other cases, the applications are to be submitted to the Council for determination.

Approvals granted under this policy do not remove the obligation of the landowner to provide firebreaks inside of external boundaries in accordance with the Firebreak Order.

Appendix 1 - PRE-INSPECTION CHECK LIST TO BURN SHIRE RESERVE'S



0051

SHIRE of DANDARAGAN

PO Box 676, 69 Bashford Street Jurien Bay 6516

PRE-INSPECTION CHECK LIST TO BURN SHIRE RESERVE'S

To be completed by CBFCO & CESC Shire of Dandaragan

Mr/Mrs/Miss.....of
 (Full Name) (Town – Residential) Address

Postal Address

(Home Phone) (Mobile Phone) (Email Address)

Location of proposed Burn

Purpose of the Burn: Weed Control Fuel Reduction Burn Regeneration Burn Protection Burn

Can the area be controlled by other means: Yes No Slashing Spraying Mulching

Declared Rear Flora & Fauna: Check with the Department of Parks and Wildlife if there is any DRF or threatened Fauna within the Reserve. **Check Completed:** Yes No

If DRF or Priority Species present Burn is not to be approved.

Please indicate if the following infrastructure is present:

School Bus Route	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Telecommunication	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Western Power Transmission Lines	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Water Corporation Valves/Pipes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gas Pipelines	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Road Signage	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Culverts	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Guide Post/Marker	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Will Firebreaks need upgrading or installing within the Shire Reserve: Yes No

Other items not listed above:

INSPECTION COMPILED BY:

CBFCO (Signature) (Date)

CESC (Signature) (Date)

White - Shire copy Yellow - Owner's copy Pink - Book copy

Appendix 2 - PERMIT TO BURN SHIRE RESERVE'S

0051



SHIRE of DANDARAGAN
 PO Box 676, 69 Bashford Street Jurien Bay 6516
PERMIT TO BURN SHIRE RESERVE'S

I, Mr/Mrs/Miss of
 (Full Name) (Town - Residential Address)

Postal Address

Apply to the Shire of Dandaragan for permission to burn Shire Road Reserve/Reserve's for the

Purpose of.....on
 (Fuel Reduction, Strategic Protection, Weed Management or other) (Road Name)

..... Distance to be burnt
 (Location) (Metre/Kilometres)

Date of Burnto

Timing of the Burn is to take place betweenam pm

Specified Wind Directions.....

Fire appliances to be in attendance

Numbers of personnel in attendance

Special Conditions

Road Signage must be installed by the Shire prior to burn commencing. Signage to remain in place if smoke is still present or by request of the CBFCO/CESC. Radio notification must be completed by the Shire prior to commencing the Burn.

Other Special condition:

APPROVALS:

CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER
 (Signature) (Date)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR
 (Signature) (Date)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 (Signature) (Date)

It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure that all condition set out in the above approval is complied with at all time. The CBFCO/ CESC reserves the right at any stage to cancel or suspend the Permit to burn shire reserves, if at any stage they believe that the Permit Holder is not in compliance with the above conditions or safety is compromised. The Permit Holder will be responsible at all time for containment and suppression of any escape of fire. Assistance with suppression by the shire may result in the recouping of costs from the Permit holder.

Permit Holder
 (Signature) (Date)

White - Permit Holder copy Green - Shire copy Blue - Book copy

Policy Number	8.1 – Bush Fire Act Administration Matters
Adopted by Council	23 May 2019
Amended	23 June 2022