

8.4 Camping and Cooking Fires

INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Dandaragan introduced this policy to support the safe and responsible use of camping and cooking fires throughout the year to fit the recreational, social and cultural needs of the community. This policy has been developed in a manner which aims to find a balance between minimising risk using proven mitigation methods and ensuring that cooking activities that utilise solid fuel can remain at an occupiers home or residence.

For the purposes of the policy, a camping or cooking fire is determined to be a fire no greater than 1 square metre in area with a flame height of no more than 1 metre. Anything greater than this will be known as a bonfire or burning of the bush and therefore is illegal during the Prohibited and Restricted burning times within the Shire of Dandaragan without a permit.

This policy does not permit fires to be lit for any other purposes, at any other locations not provided for in the Policy Statement. The Camping and Cooking Fires policy does not apply at Sandy Cape Campground and Reserve 19206, as that is managed separately within the Sandy Cape Reserve Rules. It also does not apply to the use of gas or electric cooking fires as they are permitted all year-round in accordance with section 25(1aa) of the Bush Fires Act 1954.

Objective

This policy aims to allow the use of outdoor cooking fire implements under responsible conditions.

Policy Statement

Pursuant to Section 25(1a) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Dandaragan hereby permits the lighting of fires in the open air in its district for the purpose of camping or cooking fires during gazetted Prohibited and Restricted burning times, subject to all of the following conditions:

1. The fire must be on the occupier's land, or their place of permanent home or residence (which only includes buildings approved by the Shire to be occupied as a dwelling).
2. There is no current Total Fire Ban issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for the Shire of Dandaragan local government area.
3. The fire is contained within a purpose-built structure of brick, rocks, ceramic and mortar, or a purpose-built steel container recognisable as a properly constructed barbeque or fire drum and is no larger than 1 square metre in size.
4. If the property is rural, rural-residential or industrially zoned, the fire must not take place unless it is within 20 meters of the dwelling, and the fire pit or cooking implement is surrounded by a maintained area of 5 metres, clear of all readily combustible materials

including, but not limited to, dead grass, leaf litter, unmanaged lawns or gardens and remnant vegetation.

5. A hose capable of discharging enough water to completely extinguish the fire can reach the area surrounding the fire.
6. The fire is to be completely extinguished by 11:59pm on the day the fire has been lit.
7. If a Fire Control Officer deems the fire to be unsafe for any reason, despite abiding by this policy, the Fire Control Officer may direct you to extinguish the fire or take further measures to mitigate the risk. Any direction provided by the Fire Control Officer will take precedence over this policy and the direction must be followed immediately.
8. Camping and cooking fires must not be left unattended and must be fully extinguished prior to leaving them.
9. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in fines under section 25 of the Bushfires Act 1954.
10. The onus lies on the owner of the camping or cooking fire to comply with the policy and to also ensure that there is no danger of the fire escaping. This policy or the issuing of a permit in no way effects that responsibility. Where a person starts a fire on their land that escapes from the land, the person responsible for the fire may be liable for damages caused by that fire escaping.

For the purposes of upholding this policy within the Gazetted Fire District of Jurien Bay, in the absence of a Fire Control Officer, an Officer of the Fire Brigades Act 1942, acting in their official duty shall hold the same power of a Fire Control Officer providing that notification is provided to a Fire Control Officer at the time of incident.

A permit may be sought from the Shire of Dandaragan which may exempt you from one or more conditions set in the Policy Statement in special circumstances and only when it is demonstrated that the fire can take place safely.

Policy Number	8.4 – Camping and Cooking Fires
Adopted by Council	26 March 2020
Amended	5 December 2024