

(DRAFT) Camping and Cooking Fires

INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Dandaragan recognises that outdoor cooking at a property owner's place of residence is a desirable and legitimate part of everyday living and supported by the Shire when carried out in a responsible manner. This policy aims to permit the use of outdoor cooking implements such as pizza ovens, charcoal BBQs and contained cooking fires under the following conditions.

Objective

This policy aims to allow the use of outdoor cooking implements under the following conditions while mitigating the risks of these activities igniting bushfires.

Policy Statement

Pursuant to Section 25(1a) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Dandaragan hereby prohibits 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, unless the camping or cooking fire is;

1. On the occupiers land, of their place of permanent home or residence (a building approved by the Shire to be occupied) and;
 - a. Has either registered a fire pit with the Shire of Dandaragan by completing the fire pit registration form and gaining approval or has obtained a Fire Permit from a fire control officer and;
 - b. Is contained within a purpose built structure of brick, rocks and mortar, or
 - c. Is contained within a purpose built steel container recognisable as a properly constructed barbeque or fire drum, or
 - d. Is contained within a sand fire pit structure suitable for either a camp fire or cooking fire that has maximum diameter of 1 meter and a minimum depth of the walls of the fire pit of 30cm;
2. On days when the Fire Danger Rating is "Very High" or above as issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, and or when a Total Fire Ban is declared by the State of Western Australia;
 - a. All Camping fires are prohibited.
 - b. Cooking fires are permitted only if the flame is encapsulated within a purpose built structure recognised as a gas appliance or an electric cooking appliance, and
 - c. Has a 5 meter radius minimum, surrounding the gas appliance cleared of all combustible materials;
3. This Policy does not apply to the Shire's short stay reserves. No camp fires or cooking fires other than a purpose built gas or electric cooking appliance can be used at the following short-stay Shire Reserves at any time of the year;
 - a. Drummonds Reserve
 - b. Wandoo Reserve
 - c. Tuarts Reserve

- d. Hakea Reserve
- e. Banksia Reserve
- f. Smokebush Reserve

4. This Policy does not apply to either of the Shire of Dandaragan Overflow Camping areas in Jurien Bay or Cervantes where no camp or cooking fires are permitted at any time of the year other than a purpose built gas or electric cooking appliance.
5. This Policy does not apply to the Shire of Dandaragan Recreational Campground at Sandy Cape. For information on cooking and campfires at Sandy Cape please refer to the Sandy Cape Code of Conduct on the Shire of Dandaragan website.
6. Camping and cooking fires must not be left unattended and must be fully extinguished prior to leaving. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in fines under section 25 of the Bushfires Act 1954.
7. For the purpose of this 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 1m. Anything greater than this will be known as a bonfire or burning of the bush and therefore illegal during the mentioned period of this policy.
8. The onus lies on the owner of the camping or cooking fire not only to comply with this Policy but also to ensure that there is no danger of the fire escaping. This procedure or the issuing of a permit in no way effects that responsibility.