

# Draft Frequently Asked Questions – Camping and Cooking Fire Policy

**Q: Do I need to register my gas BBQ or my electric BBQ?**

A: No, you can use both your gas and electric BBQ year round without it being registered or having a permit issued.

**Q: Does this mean I can light a solid fuel camp or cooking fire while camping or picnicking in the bush during the restricted or prohibited burning periods?**

A: No, this policy only applies to the occupier's land of their permanent place of residence for the purposes of camp or cooking fires.

**Q: How big can my camp or cooking fire be?**

A: For the purpose of the policy a camping or cooking fire is determined to be a fire no greater than 1 square meter in area with a flame height of no more than 1 meter. Anything greater than this will be known as a bonfire or burning of the bush and therefore illegal during the mentioned period of the camping and cooking fire policy.

**Q: Can I now use my wood fired BBQ or solid fuel weber at my house during the restricted and prohibited burning periods?**

A: Yes, but only if you have registered and had approved a fire pit registration form, or been issued a permit by a fire control officer (for a one off approval) and the fire danger rating on the day is below "very High"

**Q: If I have registered my fire pit or solid fuel cooking implement do I still need to have a permit during the restricted and prohibited periods?**

A: No, if you have registered your fire pit and or your solid fuel cooking implement and the registration has been approved and you are complying with the other conditions as laid out in the camping and cooking fire policy then you do not require a permit.

**Q: How long will it take to have a permit issued if I only want to use a camp or cooking fire on a one off occasion?**

A: Fire Control Officers are generally brigade volunteers who do this function in their own time, many of them hold down full time jobs and have limited time. Therefore it is suggested that you seek your permit at least a week before you require it.

**Q: Can I be guaranteed that I will receive a permit or my application for registration will be approved?**

A: No, your permit and or application must meet all the conditions as laid out in the camping and cooking fire policy for approval.

**Q: Can I get a permit to burn the bush during the prohibited burning period?**

A: No, permits will not be issued to burn the bush during the prohibited burning period.

**Q: Is it better to seek a permit for or to register my fire pit or solid fuel cooking implement.**

A: If you are going to be using your fire pit or solid fuel cooking implement on a regular and ongoing basis it is recommended that you seek registration. If you are only going to use a fire pit or solid fuel cooking implement on a one off occasion then you may seek a permit. Multiple permits for the same fire pit or solid fuel cooking implement are unlikely to be issued.

**Q: Does the camping and cooking fire policy apply at the Sandy Cape camping ground?**

A: No, the lighting of fires at Sandy Cape is controlled under the Sandy Cape Code of Conduct which you can find on the Shire of Dandaragan Website.

**Q: Does the camping and cooking fire policy apply at the Shires short stay reserves?**

A: No the camping and cooking fire policy does not apply to the Shires short stay reserves. No camp fires or cooking fires other than a purpose built gas or electric cooking appliance can be used at the Shires short stay reserves at any time of the year.

**Q: Does this mean that I can now use my wood fired pizza oven during the restricted and prohibited burning periods?**

A: Yes, but only if you have registered and had approved a fire pit registration form, or been issued a permit by a fire control officer (for a one off approval) and the fire danger rating on the day is below "very High"

**Q: Can I use my registered fire pit or solid fuel cooking implement during a total fire ban?**

A: No, during a total fire ban all solid fuel cooking or camping fires are prohibited. Only gas or electric cooking appliances are permitted during a total fire ban.

**Q: If I am using my registered camp fire or solid fuel cooking implement and I start a fire can I still be held accountable for that?**

A: Yes, the onus lies on the owner of the camping or cooking fire not only to comply with the camping and cooking fire policy but also to ensure that there is no danger of the fire escaping. The application of the camping and cooking fire policy in no way effects that responsibility.

**Q: How can I check the current fire danger rating to ensure that I am complying with the camping and cooking fire policy?**

A: Western Australian fire danger ratings are published daily on the Bureau of Meteorology web pages under Western Australia fire danger ratings.