

**Bushfires Act 1954**  
**FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE**

**SHIRE OF NARROGIN**

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required to install firebreaks clear of all flammable material or take alternative approved measures, and to undertake fuel hazard reduction measures before 1 November and thereafter maintain the firebreaks and measures up to and including 1 May the following year, in accordance with the following –

**1. DEFINITIONS**

***ban on the movement of all vehicles*** includes machinery and the operation of internal combustion engines within the Shire or a part of the Shire and during a time as specified in a Notice or broadcast with the exception of the movement of vehicles and machinery on constructed gazetted roads, internal vehicle access and yards;

***firebreak*** means a strip of land cleared to the specified width by ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, burning or otherwise clearing;

***flammable material*** includes bush (as defined in the Bushfires Act), timber, boxes, cartons, paper and like flammable materials, rubbish and also any combustible matter, but does not include green standing trees, or growing bushes and plants in gardens, or lawns;

***harvest ban*** applies on the operation of all grain harvesting machines including swathing, baling or slashing machines within the Shire or part of the Shire and during a time, as specified in a notice or broadcast;

***harvesting*** includes grain harvesting, swathing, baling or slashing of stubble or hay in any crop;

***internal vehicle access*** is defined as a trafficable surface, free of all flammable material, a minimum of width of four metres, and with overhanging vegetation pruned back so as not to come into contact with parts of a vehicle;

***mobile fire fighting unit*** is defined as having a minimum water carrying capacity of four hundred (400) litres, fitted with a hose and pump capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle in the spray and jet configurations; and

***yard*** is defined as an area, greater than four metres wide, with a constructed, trafficable surface, free of all flammable material save live standing trees.

**2. LAND ZONED GENERAL AGRICULTURE, RURAL SMALLHOLDING & RURAL RESIDENTIAL**

**2.1 Firebreaks –**

- (a) at least 2.5 metres wide shall be maintained inside and within 20 metres of the boundary of all land; and surrounding such other positions as is necessary to divide land in excess of 400 hectares into area not exceeding 400 hectares, each completely surrounded by a firebreak.
- (b) at least 6 metres wide shall completely encircle all buildings and haystacks.
- (c) fuel tanks, whether containing fuel or not, shall have the ground surface cleared to a distance of 6 metres from and encircling the tank/s of all flammable material.

**2.2 Fire Fighting Equipment –**

Where the land owners total land holding is 100 hectares or greater a readily mobile operational fire fighting unit containing a minimum of 400 litres of water on standby and available for inspection is required during the period 1 November and 1 May, inclusive.

**2.3 Harvesting –**

A person shall not undertake or allow harvesting during the Prohibited Burning period unless –

- (a) one hand held water filled fire extinguisher with a minimum capacity of 7.5 litres is filled in a readily accessible position on the machine, and
- (b) a readily mobile fire fighting unit of a minimum of 400 litre capacity powered by an engine driven pump is in attendance in or adjacent to the entrance of the paddock being harvested.

**2.4 Harvest bans and other bans – permitted activities –**

- (a) Loading and offloading of grain, fertiliser and feed is only permitted on sites, which are clear of all flammable material save live standing trees to a radius of at least 50 metres with an internal vehicle access. A mobile fire fighting unit shall be in attendance at all times.
- (b) Water carting for stock and domestic purposes provided it is accompanied by a mobile fire fighting unit, or alternatively, the water carting vehicle acts as the mobile fire fighting unit and meets minimum specifications.
- (c) All necessary travel to and from and within piggeries, sheep or cattle feed lots, provided this is undertaken with a mobile fire fighting unit in attendance.
- (d) All necessary carting of livestock, provided that such a vehicle is accompanied by a mobile fire fighting unit.
- (e) Activities which received specific exemptions from Council or the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

#### 2.5 Public Holidays

- (a) A harvest ban and a ban on the movement of all vehicles and machinery and the operation of internal combustion engines is imposed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day each year.
- (b) All other activities or operations may only be undertaken during a ban on the movement of all vehicles and machinery and a ban on the operation of internal combustion engines after approval has been granted by Council. Approval has to be sought on an individual basis, and is subject to specified conditions. It should be noted that approval may not be granted.

### 3. ALL OTHER LAND, including Residential, Rural Townsite, Service Commercial, and Industrial

- (a) Where the area of land is 4,000m<sup>2</sup> in area or less – all flammable material on the land shall be reduced to a height of less than 10 centimetres.
- (b) Where the area of land exceeds 4,000m<sup>2</sup> in area –
  - (i) firebreaks at least 2.5 metres wide immediately inside all external boundaries of the land and surrounding all buildings situated on the land, and
  - (ii) flammable material on the remainder of the land shall be reduced to a height of less than 10 centimetres.
- (c) A special control zone or other land not elsewhere specified in this Notice, shall comply with the higher level measures required by adjoining land unless varied under clause 6.2.

### 4. OPEN AIR FIRES

- (a) Open air fires are permitted during the Restricted Burning period, subject to compliance with the provisions relating to Restricted Burning periods and Shire of Narrogin Local Laws.
- (b) Open air fires are not permitted at all during the Prohibited Burning period (including garden refuse).
- (c) No open air fires in the open air are permitted on any day when the fire danger rating is "Very High" or above.

### 5. PROPERTIES WITH FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS

All properties with approved fire management plans shall comply with the plan and or this notice whichever is the greater.

### 6. GENERAL

- 6.1. 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. A permit to burn is required during the Restricted Burning periods from an authorised officer.
- 6.2. If it is considered to be impracticable for any reason to clear firebreaks or to remove flammable material from the land or any other provisions required by this notice you may apply to the Council or its duly authorised person not later than 1 October, for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take alternative action to manage fire hazards on the land. If permission is not granted by the Council or a duly authorised person, you shall comply with the requirements of this notice.
- 6.3. Penalties apply to persons who fail to comply with the requirements of this Notice.
- 6.4. A person who fails to comply with the notice is also liable, whether prosecuted or not to pay the cost of performing the work directed in this notice if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required by this notice.

### BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL

Aaron Cook

Chief Executive Officer