NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND IN THE SHIRE OF NARROGIN

Shire of Narrogin
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2025/2026 FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE

FOR ALL FIRES PHONE 000

ABOUT THIS NOTICE AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are required to carry out fire prevention work on land owned or occupied by you as set out in this Notice by the dates specified. If the requirements of this Notice are not met by the due date, or are not completed to the satisfaction of an inspecting officer, an on the spot fine of **$250** will be issued. The maximum fine for failure to comply is **$5,000.** The Shire can also enter upon the land and carry out required works at the owner/occupier's expense.

DATES YOU MUST REMEMBER		
RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD	**PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD**	**RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD**
1 October to 31 October	1 November to 1 March	2 March to 1 May
UNRESTRICTED BURNING SEASON		
2 May to 30 September		

This Notice outlines the Firebreak requirements and restrictions for different property types and activities.

PROPERTY TYPE	CATEGORY	YEARLY COMPLIANCE DATES
Land Zoned Rural, Rural Smallholding & Rural Residential	Category 1	1 November to 1 May
All Other Land, Including Residential, Rural Townsite, Service Commercial, and Industrial up to 4,000 m^2	Category 2	1 November to 1 May
All Other Land, Including Residential, Rural Townsite, Service Commercial, and Industrial over 4,000 m^2	Category 3	1 November to 1 May

1. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

1.1 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of this Notice are considered the minimum standard of fire protection required to protect not only the individual property but the community as a whole. The Shire can impose additional requirements to remove or abate hazards if considered necessary. Any property subject to a Bush Fire Management Plan, or conditions imposed as a result of development approval, must comply with the approved conditions in addition to the requirements of this Notice.

1.2 ALTERNATIVES

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 Shire or its duly Authorised Officer 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 Shire or a duly authorised person, you shall comply with the requirements of this notice.

Enquiries relating to this Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice or fire prevention in general should be directed to the Shire Ranger Services on (08) 9890 0900 or 0448 873 207.

2. WORK REQUIRED TO BE UNDERTAKEN

2.1 CATEGORY 1 – Land Zoned Rural, Rural Smallholding & Rural Residential

By 1 November until 1 May

Firebreaks

(a) On Rural zoned land 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) On Rural Smallholdings (4-40 hectares) and Rural Residential (1-4 hectares) land at least 4 metres wide and 4 metres vertical clearance firebreaks shall be maintained around the boundary of the property.

(c) at least 6 metres wide shall completely encircle all buildings and haystacks.

(d) 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.

Fire Fighting Equipment

Where the land is zoned Rural, a readily mobile operational fire fighting unit containing a minimum of 800 litres of water on standby and available for inspection is required during the period from 1 November to 1 May, inclusive.

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) an operational mobile engine powered firefighting unit or units with a minimum combined capacity of 1200 litres of available water, located in or immediately adjacent to the paddock being harvested and/or baled. The responsibility to supply and operate the firefighting unit is that of the landowner/occupier.

Harvest bans and other bans - permitted activities

(a) 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.

(b) Checking of stock and water for stock, 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) Essential service provider checking for telecommunications, power or utility water services, provided they are accompanied by a mobile firefighting unit.

(f) Activities which received specific exemptions from the Shire or the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

2.2 CATEGORY 2 – All Other Land, Including Residential, Rural Townsite, Service Commercial, and Industrial up to 4,000 m^2

By 1 November until 1 May

All flammable material on the land shall be reduced to a height of less than 10 cm.

2.3 CATEGORY 3 – All Other Land, Including Residential, Rural Townsite, Service Commercial, and Industrial over 4,000 m^2

(a) firebreaks shall be maintained at least 2.5 metres wide immediately inside all external boundaries of the land and surrounding all buildings situated on the land; and

(b) flammable material on the remainder of the land shall be reduced to a height of less than 10 cm.

(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 2.2.

2.4 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.

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.

3. REGULATED ACTIVITIES

3.1 BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE AND RUBBISH

Prior to the burning of garden refuse and rubbish a 3 metre radius perimeter around the waste heap is to be cleared of all flammable material. Burning of garden refuse and rubbish is not permitted during the Prohibited Burning Period and during the Restricted Burning Periods it will require a burning permit from a Fire Control Officer.

3.2 SLASHING DURING THE RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING PERIODS

This clause does not apply to the mowing of residential lawns. During the Restricted Burning Period, any person conducting slashing must have available a fire extinguisher of not less than 7.5 litre capacity either attached to the machine or within 200 metres of where the machine is operating. During the Prohibited Burning Period, any person conducting slashing must have available a fire fighting unit (full of water and in good working order) of not less than 400 litre capacity within 200 metres of where the machine is operating.

3.3 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 (eg requiring a permit).
- Are not permitted at all during the Prohibited Burning period (including garden refuse).
- Are not permitted on any day when the fire danger rating is "High" or above.

3.4 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 the Shire. 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.

4. DEFINITION OF TERMS

DEFINITIONS

Authorised Officer: An officer appointed as a Shire of Narrogin Fire Control Officer.

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 from which all flammable material has been cleared to the specified width by ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, burning or otherwise clearing.

Firebreak Time: The time each year where fire hazard reduction works must be maintained as specified in this Fire Control Order. This period commences on 1 November each year until and including 1 May of the following year.

Flammable Material: includes bush (as defined in the Bush Fires Act), accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, grass over 100mm in height, timber boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material, capable of carrying a running fire but excludes living standing trees and shrubs, stubble, 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 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 eight hundred (800) litres, fitted with a hose and pump capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle in the spray and jet configurations;

Prohibited Burning: This period commences on 1 November of each year until and including 1 March of the following year. This time may be amended, subject to prevailing seasonal conditions.

Restricted Burning Time: This period commences on 2 March until and including 1 May and recommences on 1 October until and including 31 October of any year. This time may be amended, subject to the prevailing seasonal conditions.

Unrestricted Burning Time: The time period each year where a permit to burn is not required, in areas zoned rural under the Shire of Narrogin Town Planning Scheme. This period commences on 2 May and continues up to and including 30 September. This time may be amended, subject to the prevailing seasonal conditions.

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.

5. FIRE PERMITS AND UNDERTAKING FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION WORK

5.1 PERMITS to burn are required for the whole of the restricted periods and can only be obtained from the Fire Control Officers listed overleaf.

5.2 CAREFULLY READ and adhere to all of the conditions of the permit as any breach or negligence could make you liable for any damage to neighbouring properties and/or infringements/penalties.

5.3 ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS imposed by the Fire Control Officer/s when issuing permits must be strictly adhered to. Rangers will check that permit conditions are being complied with during the Restricted Burning Period.

5.4 INFRINGEMENTS/ON THE SPOT FINES of $250 and upwards apply to any breaches of the permit conditions/special conditions. Contact your FCO or local Rangers if in doubt.

5.5 THE PERMIT HOLDER shall give notice of their intention to burn to the following:

(a) The Shire Office, no later than on the day when burning is to take place. Weekend burning must be notified by 4.00 pm of the preceding Friday.

(b) The owner or occupier of adjoining land.

(c) The nearest Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Service office, if the land is situated within 3km of a State Forest (Notification should be given even when burning is in the open burning period.

5.6 PERIOD OF NOTICE to neighbours prior to burning cannot be more than 28 days or less than 4 days, although lesser notice may be determined by mutual agreement of all neighbours.

5.7 INCINERATORS used to burn rubbish must be properly constructed. An open drum with or without a lid is not an authorised incinerator.

5.8 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT residents are strongly encouraged to have and maintain firefighting equipment for the protection of their own property.

6. HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS AND TOTAL FIRE BANS

6.1 TOTAL FIRE BANS (TFB) are declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) following consultation with Local Governments due to extreme weather conditions or widespread fires stretching firefighting resources. During a TFB the lighting of any fires in the open air and any other activities that may start a fire are prohibited, including:

(a) All open air fires for the purpose of cooking/camping, i.e. wood fuel barbeques, candles, pizza ovens;

(b) Incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering, gas cutting, angle grinders and lawnmowers.

Penalty: Up to $25,000 fine and/or a 12 month jail term. Exemptions may be granted by DFES and must be requested in writing.

6.2 HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS are imposed by Local Government under the Bush Fires Regulations 1954 Section 38A and Section 24C, when prevailing and/or anticipated weather conditions and/or when availability or response capacity of the local firefighting resources are reduced. A Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban may be imposed for any length of time but is generally imposed for 'heat of the day' periods and may be extended or revoked as weather conditions change. During a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban, the use of engines, vehicles, plant and machinery is prohibited in order to mitigate the associated risk of causing or contributing to the spread of a bushfire.

6.3 AUSTRALIAN FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM (AFDRS) The Fire Danger Rating for any day can be located at **https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#firedangerratings**

7. VOLUNTEERING IN A BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

7.1 BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP Information about becoming a volunteer can be found on the Shire of Narrogin website:

https://www.narrogin.wa.gov.au/live/services/volunteering-in-the-shire/shire-of-narrogin-bush-fire-brigades.aspx.

8. BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

Chief Fire Control Officer	First Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer	Second Deputy Chief Fire Control Office
Pip Porter 0429 859 041	Vern Gibson 0428 108 274	Stuart Moyses 0427 859 029
Narrogin townsite (Permits)	**Highbury**	**Minigin**
Senior Ranger	Pip Porter 0429 859 041	Clayton Hardie 0408 845 278
Guy Maley 0448 873 207	Stuart Moyses 0427 859 029	Lewis Hardie 0409 845 267
Ranger	Murray Saunders 0427 811 100	Russell Ashley 0428 815 859
Noel White or Beau Smith 0455 324 862		
Central	**Nomans Lake**	**Ockley**
Vern Gibson 0428 108 274	Nathan Walker 0428 827 027	Troy Smith 0429 637 240
Jon Rick 0428 584 467	Daryl Kilpatrick 0400 429 516	Keiran Quartermaine 0429 889 838
Leigh Ballard 0428 832 095		Braden Lange 0428 717 242