

Fire-break Notice



Your legal responsibilities and fire safety information - First and Final Notice

The Fire-break Order below sets out the legal responsibilities for land owners and occupiers in the Shire of Toodyay. As a landowner or occupier you are required under the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to carry out fire prevention work on your property. It is important that you read and understand your obligations.

Shire of Toodyay Fire-break Notice

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, all residents and ratepayers within the Shire of Toodyay are required to comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

Due Date: 1 November Annually
Maintained Until: 30 April Annually

NB: If you purchase land during this period you have 14 days from purchase to comply with this order.

Failure to comply may result in a fine or prosecution

1. All land less than or equal to 1 hectare

1.1 All land with an area less than 1 hectare (2.47 acres) are required to be fire hazard reduced by ensuring:

- grass height does not exceed 100 mm; and
- no tree crowns overhang the building; and
- total available fuel load is maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

2. All land greater than 1 hectare

2.1 Land up to and including 200 hectares in size shall have a fire-break cleared and maintained within 10 metres of the external boundary.

2.2 Land exceeding 200 hectares in size shall have fire-breaks cleared and maintained so as to divide the property into parcels of land less than 200 hectares.

2.3 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained within 15 metres from external walls of buildings and around haystacks, solar panels and fuel storage areas.

2.4 A 20 metre wide Asset Protection Zone (low fuel area) shall be maintained from external walls of buildings and around haystacks, fuel storage areas such that:

- grass height does not exceed 100mm; and
- no tree crowns overhang the building; and
- total available fuel load is maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

2.5 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained immediately surrounding a stationary motor.

DEFINITION: Fire-break – An area cleared of all inflammable materials 3 metres horizontally (wide) and 4 metres vertically (high).

Variations to Fire-break Notice

If for any reason it is not possible to comply with any of the requirements of the Fire-break Notice, you should apply for a variation. All variation requests must be received by the Shire of Toodyay by 1 October in any given year. Variation requests must be in writing and provide details of preferred alternate measures. If approved, the variation will form an individual Fire-break Notice and will remain in place until it is revoked or change of ownership occurs.

Compliance Inspections

Pursuant to Section 14 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* the Shire of Toodyay conducts compliance inspections from **01 November to 30 April** to ensure that compliance with the notice has been achieved and maintained.

Penalties apply including infringement, prosecution or recovery of costs by the Shire of Toodyay.

Further Fire-break Notice information over the page

Limited Burning Periods

RESTRICTED

1 October - 31 October Annually
Permit Required

PROHIBITED

1 November - 8 March Annually
No Burning

RESTRICTED

9 March - 30 April Annually
Permit Required

OTHER TIMES

Restrictions may apply outside the above periods
including days of HIGH fire danger or above

Further Burning Restrictions and
Permit information at rear of
this brochure



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15 Fiennes St, (PO Box 96)
TOODYAY WA 6566

T: 9574 9300
F: 9574 2158
E: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Version: 20220101

Hazard Reduction

Reduction of fuels does not require the removal of vegetation. Environmentally this would be undesirable and often trees and plants can provide some bush fire protection, by way of suppressing other flora species or protection from strong winds, intense heat and flying embers.

Methods of hazard reduction include:

- Hand clearing (i.e raking)
- Mechanical clearing (i.e grading/slashing or mulching)
- Chemical spraying (should be undertaken Jun - Sep)
- Hazard reduction burning
- Biological (i.e grazing)

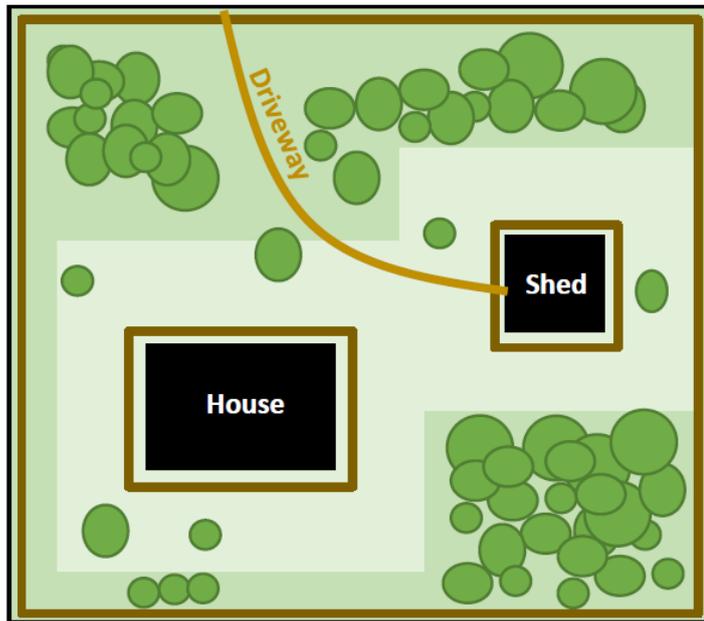
Environmental Consideration

Where clearing is likely to impact upon areas of Declared Rare Flora, Threatened Ecological Communities or Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 approval must be sought from Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on (08) 6364 7000.

Engaging a Contractor

Whether engaging a contractor or carrying out works yourself, it is the ratepayer or resident who is responsible for ensuring that all works are carried out and/or variations applied for before the due date.

Fire-break/Fuel Reduction Sample Installation



— Fire-break Asset Protection Zone Trees



FIRE-BREAK VISUAL COMPLIANCE GUIDE



COMPLIANT



NON-COMPLIANT



COMPLIANT



NON-COMPLIANT

Measuring Fuel Loads

Fuel loads are measured as the total dry weight of all (fine) fuels which have a diameter of or less than 6mm. Fuel loadings are commonly stated in tonnes per hectare. Trees and their elevated canopies do not count as fine fuels.

Landholders and residents can quickly estimate fuel loads by using one or both of the following tools:

Method A

DFES Visual Fuel Load Guide - Download the guide to visually match your fuel type/density to images in the guide. Guides can be found on the DFES Website. The Swan Coast Plain and Darling Scarp and Goldfields Guides cover some of the vegetation types found in parts of Toodyay. Visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au



Method B

Scrub Fuel Load Inspection Method

Scrub fuel loads are determined by assessing the average height, density and condition of the vegetation. The tables (combined with the visual examples) below provide the relevant input to a simple fuel load calculation formula.

The estimated scrub weight is added to the leaf/bark litter weight to provide an indicative Fuel Load for the area.

Calculating total indicative fuel load (tonnes per hectare)

The Total Indicative Fuel Load (TIFL) is calculated as:

$$TIFL = (\text{Scrub Weight} \times \text{Scrub Flammability Factor}) + \text{Litter weight}$$

Scrub Weight				Scrub Flammability Factor		Litter Weight	
Scrub Height (m)	Scrub Base Weight (T/ha)			Scrub Condition	Scrub Flammability Factor	Litter Depth (mm)	Litter Weight (T/ha)
	Dense	Medium	Sparse				
1.5	7.0	5.0	4.0	Green/Young	1	5	2.7
1.2	5.0	4.0	3.0	20% Dead	2	10	5.3
0.9	4.0	3.0	2.0	50+% Dead	3	15	8.0
0.6	3.0	2.0	1.5			20	11.0
						25	13.0

Dense Difficult to pick a path through	Medium Can pick a path through (some deviation required)	Sparse Easy to pick any path through (little to no deviation required)

Restricted Burning Period runs in two parts, the first from 1 October to 31 October annually and the second part from 9 March to 30 April the following year. During the Restricted Burning Period, a permit is required from the Shire before any burning can be carried out.

Prohibited Burning Period runs from 1 November to 8 March the following year. No burning is allowed for any reason during this period. This includes open cooking or camp fires.

NB: These dates may be varied depending on the seasonal conditions. Please contact the Shire of Toodyay before burning to ascertain whether these dates have been varied.

Bans/Restrictions may apply at **other times** under Section 46 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. This will include days of HIGH fire danger or above. Notices will be given via Harvest Ban SMS Notification system and Shire website.

Permits

During the Restricted Burning Period a permit is required before any burning can take place.

A permit will only be issued for broadacre crop preparation or mitigation activities that reduce a fire hazard on a property where no alternative method exists to reduce the hazard. Conditions will apply to the permit stipulating how the burning will be carried out. Any special conditions imposed by the issuing officer must be strictly adhered to.

Permits are not valid on any Sunday, Public Holiday or Saturday where the preceding Friday or following Monday is a Public Holiday (i.e. long weekend), when the fire danger rating is HIGH or above, or when DFES imposes a Total Fire Ban.

Burning Road Verges

A permit is required from the Shire of Toodyay to burn the road verge. Permits will only be issued between May and August each year where no alternative method exists to reduce the hazard.

Camping/Cooking Fires and Burning of Garden Refuse and Burning of Rubbish

The burning of garden refuse and rubbish and lighting of camping or cooking fires is prohibited during the Prohibited Burning Period. The burning of garden refuse and rubbish is prohibited during the Restricted Burning Period unless a valid permit has been obtained from the Shire of Toodyay. Any permitted burning must comply with all relevant requirements of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* - Penalties apply.

Contacts

Shire of Toodyay	9574 9300
Ranger Services	9574 9370
Community Emergency Services Manager	0458 042 104
Reserve Management Officer	0448 284 260

Total Fire Bans

A Total Fire Ban may be declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) when severe weather conditions are forecast or widespread fires are seriously stretching resources.



When a Total Fire Ban is declared it is illegal to do anything that may start a fire.

NB: Harvesting and normal farming practices are prescribed as an exempt activity from the Total Fire Ban provisions unless the Shire of Toodyay has imposed a Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Ban.

Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Bans

A harvest, vehicle movement or hot works ban may be applied during the Restricted or Prohibited Burning Period. The Shire of Toodyay will determine the need for a ban and advertise the ban via its Harvest Ban SMS Notification system.

- A harvest ban is defined as a ban on all harvesting operations on all properties within the Shire of Toodyay.
- A vehicle movement ban is defined as a ban on all vehicle movements on properties within the Shire of Toodyay except for the essential watering of stock, using a diesel powered vehicle only.
- A hot works ban is defined as a ban on the outdoor use of all welding, grinding and abrasive tools on ALL properties within the Shire of Toodyay.

There is an automatic ban on all harvesting, vehicle movement and hot works on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Australia Day.

Harvest Ban SMS Notification System

The Shire of Toodyay utilises a SMS Notification System to notify residents of Harvest Bans, Total Fire Bans and changes to the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Period dates.

To register : Message **BANS** to 0408 017 439

To unsubscribe (Opt-Out): Message **STOP** in reply to messages received from the service.

For more information regarding this service please visit www.toodyay.wa.gov.au

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Becoming a volunteer is a great way to connect with others while contributing to your local community. The Shire of Toodyay has five active volunteer Bush Fire brigades, **Bejoording**, **Coondle-Nunile**, **Julimar**, **Morangup** and Toodyay **Central** as well as the Toodyay **SES** unit. To be put in touch with your local brigades/unit please SMS the bolded brigade/unit name (as above) followed by your name to 0408 017 439.

**TO REPORT A FIRE
DIAL 000**

This information is intended as a guide only. The Shire of Toodyay, its employees and agents disclaim all liability in respect of any act or omission occurring in reliance on the content of this brochure.