

## Definitions

- “**Bush**” includes trees, bushes, plants, stubble, scrub and undergrowth of all kinds whatsoever whether alive or dead and whether standing or not standing and also a part of a tree, bush, plant or undergrowth, and whether severed therefrom or not so severed.
- “**Bush fire**” means a fire or potential fire, however caused, and includes a fire in a building.
- “**Bush Fire Control Officer**” means an Officer appointed by the City of Melville to exercise the powers and duties of a Bush Fire Control Officer appointed under Section 38(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954.
- “**City**” means City of Melville.
- “**Owner or Occupier of land**” includes a prescribed department of the Public Service that occupies land or a prescribed State agency or instrumentality that owns or occupies land.
- “**Firebreak**” means a strip of land 3 metres wide of mineral earth with a height clearance of 4 metres. This also includes the trimming back of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other objects on or over the firebreak area.
- “**Flammable material**” means any bush, plant, tree, grass, vegetation, object, thing or material (such as dried prunings / clippings, cardboard, wood, paper, general rubbish and any other combustible material) that may or is likely to catch fire and burn. Living trees and shrubs, living plants under cultivation and green lawn are exempt from being classified as flammable material.
- “**Trafficable**” means to be able to travel from one point to another in a fire vehicle on a firm and stable surface, unhindered without any obstruction that may endanger resources. The firebreak must not terminate without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turn around area of not less than a 21 metre radius. All corners around the firebreak must be radiused.



## Be prepared this summer and protect yourself and your family!

### Here are some ways you can minimise potential fire hazards around your home and garden:

- Maintain a minimum of a two (2) metre gap between trees and buildings
- Do not let trees overhang your house or shed
- Keep grass short and prune your shrubs and trees
- Remove bark and rake up leaf litter and twigs under trees
- Keep your gutters free of leaf litter

For further information on keeping your family and property safe this fire season please contact the City of Melville on 9364 0666 or visit: [melvillecity.com.au/firebreaks](https://melvillecity.com.au/firebreaks)

Additional information can be located by visiting Department of Fire and Emergency Services: [dfes.wa.gov.au](https://dfes.wa.gov.au)



## **BUSH FIRES ACT 1954 FIRE NOTICE 2024 / 2025**

**Notice to all property owners and occupiers within the City of Melville.**

**Fire Breaks apply 15 November 2024 - 30 April 2025.**

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are required on or before the 15 November 2024, or within fourteen (14) days of the date you become the owner or occupier of land situated in the City of Melville should this be after the 15 November 2024 and thereafter up to and including 30 April 2025, to clear all flammable material, on land owned and/or occupied by you in accordance with the requirements of this Notice.

Correct preparation and planning is critical to keeping your family home and community safe this bush fire season. In a bush fire, houses often catch fire from embers. Embers are small bits of burning bark and leaves that can be carried long distances by strong wind. They get into your house through gaps in the roof, walls, evaporative air conditioners, windows and doors.

### **Failure to comply may result in a penalty of up to \$5,000**

Where an owner and/or occupier of land fails or neglects to comply with the Notice then, whether or not the land owner and/or occupier has faced prosecution and incurred a penalty, the City may direct the Bush Fire Control Officer to enter upon the land to carry out fire-breaks or fire hazard reduction works set out in the notice or as advised by the Fire Control Officer. If this occurs, the owner and /or occupier of the land will be liable to pay the costs and expenses incurred by the City in undertaking the works.



Fire breaks

The fire breaks outlined below must be completed before the dates in the notice and must be maintained throughout the period as required by the notice.

As an owner and/or occupier of the land, you must ensure that your property complies with the requirements of this Notice from 15 November each year and must be maintained throughout and until 30 April in the following year.

All land which is 1,500 sqm or less in area

The works outlined in this category must be maintained all year around and owners and/or occupiers are required to:

- Whipper snip / mow / slash all long grass and weeds etc to a height no greater than 50mm and ensure all slashed flammable materials are removed from the land. (Living trees and shrubs, plants under cultivation and green lawn are exempt)
- Remove all flammable material from any rooftops or gutters of buildings/sheds located on vacant properties.



All land which is greater than 1,501sqm in area;

- Construct a firebreak of a minimum width of 3 metres and height of 4 metres inside all external boundaries of the land, ensuring the firebreak is trafficable for heavy duty fire vehicle and contains no dead ends which may cause the spread of fire.
- Construct / Clear firebreaks of a minimum width of 5 metres and a minimum height of 3 metres around all buildings situated on the land.
- Construct / Clear firebreaks of a minimum width of 5 metres and minimum height of 3 metres in any place where flammable liquids and gas products are kept.
- Where that area of land exceeds 10 hectares, clear firebreaks of a minimum width of 5 metres so as to ensure that no area of land within the firebreak exceeds 10 hectares.
- Remove all flammable materials from all rooftops and gutters of buildings/sheds.



Fire hazard reduction

As a measure to assist in the control of bush fires, you have a legal requirement to carry out fire prevention works on your property.

Fire Break /Fire Hazard compliance inspections

To promote community safety and education, property inspections will be carried out by the City's Bush Fire Control Officers to identify non-compliant properties.

Additional Works

Regardless of land size and location, the City or its Bush Fire Control Officers may require owners and/or occupiers to undertake additional work on their property to improve access, and/or undertake further works to reduce a hazard that may be conducive to preventing an outbreak and/or spread or extension of a bush fire.