

**Bush Fires Act 1954
City of Melville
Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice 2026-2027**

Notice to all owners and / or occupiers of land situated in the City of Melville

Purpose

This Notice helps reduce the risk of bush fire across the City of Melville and supports the safety of residents, properties and the broader community. It explains the fire prevention work that owners and occupiers must complete and maintain during the Firebreak Period.

What you need to do

Check which property category applies to your land, complete the required fire prevention works by 1 November 2026, and keep those works maintained until 30 April 2027. If you become the owner or occupier after 1 November 2026, you must complete the required works within 14 days.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, all owners and occupiers of land situated within the City of Melville are required to carry out the fire prevention works specified in this Notice on or before 1 November 2026, or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier of land after that date, and to maintain those works up to and including 30 April 2027.

Definitions relevant to this notice

Term	Definition
Authorised Officer	A person appointed by the City of Melville Chief Executive Officer as an authorised person/officer to exercise the powers and duties set out in the Local Government Act 1995, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Local Law(s).
Inflammable Matter	Any dead or dry grass, vegetation, substance, object, thing or material that may catch fire and burn, or is likely to catch fire and burn, excluding living trees, shrubs, plants under cultivation and maintained lawns. For the purposes of this Notice, inflammable matter also includes any other material or thing on the land that, in the opinion of the City or its Authorised Officer, is or is likely to be conducive to the outbreak, spread or extension of a bush fire.
Firebreak Period	The period of each year where fire hazard reduction works must be maintained as specified in this Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice. This period is 1 November of each year until and including 30 April of the following year.

Property Category 1: If your property is 1,500 square metres or smaller, or is zoned "Residential"

You must:

- A. clear and remove all inflammable matter from the whole of the land, except living trees, shrubs, plants under cultivation and lawns;
- B. keep living lawns trimmed to a height of 50mm or less during the Firebreak Period.

Property Category 2: If your property is larger than 1,500 square metres, or is not zoned "Residential"

You must:

- A. clear firebreaks at least 3 metres wide, with a minimum vertical clearance of 4 metres, inside all external boundaries of the land;

General Enquiries Tel: 1300 635 845 | 9364 0666 Email: melinfo@melville.wa.gov.au **www:** melvillecity.com.au

Street Address: 10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon WA 6154 **Postal Address:** Locked Bag 1, Booragoon WA 6954

National Relay Service Tel: 133 677 (TTY) 1300 555 727 (speech relay) **www:** relayservice.com.au

- B. clear firebreaks at least 5 metres wide, with a minimum vertical clearance of 3 metres, around all buildings on the land; and
- C. if the land is larger than 10 hectares, clear firebreaks at least 5 metres wide so that no area of land within the firebreak exceeds 10 hectares.

Requirements that apply to all properties

In addition to the requirements for your property category, all owners and occupiers must also:

- A. ensure any required firebreaks are cleared to the satisfaction of the City's Authorised Officer; and
- B. ensure the roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of inflammable matter.

Additional works the City may require

In addition to the requirements of this Notice, the City or its Authorised Officer may, by notice in writing, require an owner or occupier to complete the actions specified in that notice with respect to anything on the land which, in the opinion of the City or its Authorised Officer, is or is likely to be conducive to the outbreak, spread or extension of a bush fire.

Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice Variation

The City recognises that some properties may need an alternative approach to meet the intent of this Notice. If an owner or occupier considers it impractical to clear firebreaks or comply with other fire protection measures in accordance with this Notice, the owner or occupier may apply in writing to the City's Authorised Officer, no later than 15 October 2026, for approval to vary the requirements. The owner or occupier must continue to comply with this Notice until the City provides written approval for a variation.

Owners and occupiers are encouraged to contact the City as early as possible if they are unsure about the requirements or believe a variation may be needed.

If you do not comply with this Notice

The City's preference is for owners and occupiers to complete the required works voluntarily and to seek advice early if they need help understanding or meeting the requirements.

An owner or occupier who fails or neglects to comply with this Notice commits an offence under section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and is liable to a penalty of up to \$5,000. If an owner or occupier fails to comply with this Notice, the City may arrange for the required work to be carried out and recover the costs of that work from the owner or occupier, whether or not prosecution is commenced.

If you engage a contractor to complete works on your behalf, you remain responsible for ensuring the work meets the requirements of this Notice.

Need help?

If you are unsure which requirements apply to your property, or need to discuss a possible variation, please contact the City of Melville as early as possible and before the relevant deadline.



Gail Bowman
Chief Executive Officer