

Shire of West Arthur Bush Fire Notice 2025/2026

Shire of West Arthur
PO Box 112
31 Burrowes Street
Darkan WA 6392
T: (08) 9736 2400
E: shire@westarthur.wa.gov.au

IN THE EVENT OF AN UNCONTROLLED FIRE CALL 000

RESTRICTED BURNING TIMES (RBT)

PERMIT REQUIRED

29/09/2025 to 31/10/2025

PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES (PBT)

01/11/2025 to 23/02/2026

RESTRICTED BURNING TIMES (RBT)

PERMIT REQUIRED

24/02/2026 to 13/04/2026

UHF Channel 5 to be used for communication during fire control for those who do not have access to VHF. **West Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN) High Band – Channel 171.**



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and
Attractions- Parks and Wildlife Service: Collie: 9735
1988, Narrogin: 9881 9200, Katanning: 9821 1296

BUSHFIRE ACT 1954

Compliance date: 1st November Annually

Maintained Until: 15th April Annually

Notice to all owners or occupiers of land in the Shire of West Arthur. Pursuant to powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires act 1954 (as amended) you are required to carry out fire prevention work on land owned or occupied by you in accordance with the provisions of this notice.

The penalty for non-compliance with this notice is a maximum fine of \$5,000 and, notwithstanding prosecution, the Shire may enter upon the land and carry out required works at the owners/occupier's expense.

The Shire regularly conducts property inspections to ensure compliance. Persons who fail to commence the requirements of this Notice will be issued with infringements in accordance with the Bushfires Act or Orders to rectify. Inspections commence in November of each year.

If for any reason it is considered impracticable to comply with the requirements of this order, you may make written application to the Shire CEO no later than 1st November for permission to position fire-breaks in alternative locations or to take alternative action to abate fire hazards on your land. The application must be countersigned by the Fire Control Officer for your local area. No applications, whether verbal or written, will be considered after this date.

TOWNSITES

For town lots where the area of the land is less than 2023 square metres (1/2 acre), all inflammable material is to be removed from the land excluding living plants and trees. Grasses are to be slashed or mowed and maintained below 100mm in height throughout the period of 1st November until 15th April each year.

All town lots where the area of the land is greater than 2023 square metres (1/2 acre) shall have the inflammable material maintained to a height of no more than 100mm and where undeveloped land abuts developed land, a firebreak of not less than 2.5 metres wide is required.

BRIGADE CONTACTS

| BRIGADE | POSITION | MOBILE |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Arthur River | Paul Saunders (FCO) - Capt. | 0429 998 344 |
| | Ben Robinson (FCO) | 0438 626 033 |
| | Neil Morrell (FCO) | 0429 629 066 |
| | John Pascoe (FCO) | 0400 080 622 |
| | Alan Manuel (FCO) | 0427 626 002 |
| | Sam Burgess (FCO) | 0430 641 638 |
| | Paul South (FCO) | 0400 433 365 |
| Darkan | James Campbell (FCO, FWO) - Capt. | 0427 864 277 |
| | Peter Lubcke (FCO) | 9736 1169 |
| | Duncan South (FCO) | 0427 361 147 |
| | Gavin Kirk (FCO) | 0417 933 958 |
| | Todd Lubcke (FCO) | 0417 958 888 |
| | Cameron Buller (FCO) | 0408 720 467 |
| Duranillin | Ben Buller (FCO) - Capt. | 0437 818 654 |
| | Graeme Peirce (FCO) | 0419 765 196 |
| | Matthew Telfer (FCO) | 0477 888 070 |
| | Adrian South (FCO, FWO) | 0428 935 000 |
| | Jamie Park (FCO) | 0429 631 092 |
| | Garry Abbott (FCO) | 0429 631 012 |
| | Ben Murphy (FCO) | 0439 585 549 |
| | James Jefferies (FCO) | 0409 629 043 |

DEFINITIONS

FIREBREAK: A bare mineral earth break immediately inside all boundaries no less than 2.5 metres wide and with a vertical clearance of 4 metres.

HAYSTACKS: Means a collection of hay including fodder rolls or large bales placed or stacked together within 200 metres of any homesteads, buildings, or fuel installations.

PLANTATIONS: Defined as an area exceeding 3ha within a town site, or an area exceeding 20ha within a rural area, of trees planted for commercial purposes.

HARVEST VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN: Ban imposed for a defined period of time to restrict the use of engines, vehicles, plant and machinery that may contribute to activities that are likely to cause a bush fire or contribute to the spread of a bush fire.

SHIRE CONTACTS

| POSITION | FIRE CONTROL OFFICER | MOBILE |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) | Graeme Peirce West Arthur 1 | 0419 765 196 |
| Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer | Paul Saunders West Arthur 2 | 0429 998 344 |
| Fire Weather Officer | Adrian South Cordering 1 | 0428 935 000 |
| Deputy Fire Weather Officer | James Campbell Darkan 2 | 0427 864 277 |

FIRE WEATHER COMMITTEE

Adrian South, James Campbell, Todd Lubcke, Duncan South, John Pascoe & Paul Saunders

RURAL PROPERTIES

A firebreak or a combination of firebreaks or closely grazed land is required to completely surround any rural homestead, buildings, haystacks, stacks of fodder, bulk fuel, drums and/or liquid petroleum.

This may be:

- A firebreak not less than 10 metres wide constructed immediately surrounding; if provided by cultivation, spraying, or burning; or
- A firebreak at least 30 metres wide completely surrounding if provided by closely grazed land; with the outer 2.5 metres cultivated or completely free of flammable material as required under the definition of firebreaks.

Where land abuts the Darkan & Duranillin townsites, a firebreak is required.

Firebreaks constructed on road verges do not constitute legal firebreaks under the Bush Fires Act.

Property owners/occupiers of land over 40 hectares must have a fully operational mobile fire unit with a minimum capacity of 400 litres. Slip on units are to be bolted or chained securely to the tray of the vehicle. Properties are to comply with the provision.

HARVESTING OPERATIONS

A harvesting, swathing, baling or forestry machine may not be operated in any crop or timber cell during the PBT or RBT unless it is equipped with a fire extinguisher (minimum 7.5 litres). A fully operational mobile firefighting unit with a tank of 400 litre minimum capacity is to be located in or adjacent to any paddock/cell where harvesting, swathing, baling or slashing of stubble is being undertaken.

The operation of harvesting machines and the movement of grain equipment in paddocks on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day is prohibited. From time-to-time weather conditions may result in the issue of a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban being imposed which will place restrictions on the movement of vehicles and use of plant or machinery in paddocks. Bans will be advertised on local radio. It is the responsibility of persons harvesting to be aware if bans are in place.

Ignorance to the existence of a ban will not avoid prosecution.

PLANTATIONS

The *Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection* provide the minimum standards and a consistent approach to fire management. In addition, the Shire requests that no heaps be lit after 31 August each year and that the Shire is notified prior to any plantation burning.

STUMP GRINDING

A fully operational mobile firefighting unit with a tank of 400 litres minimum capacity to be located in the same cell of the plantation at all times during stump grinding. Any ignition from stump grinding is to be reported to an FCO. Person to remain on site for at least 1 hour after finishing stump grinding in the RBT and PBT.

STUBBLE PADDOCK BURNING

A firebreak of no less than 2.5m wide is to surround the paddock prior to burning the stubble.

BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE & RUBBISH

Permits are required during the restricted burning times. Garden refuse and rubbish may be burnt as follows:

- In a properly constructed incinerator designed to prevent the escape of sparks or burning material provided it is situated no less than 2 metres from any building or fence, and an area of 2 metres surrounding the incinerator is clear of inflammable material.
- On the ground between 6:00pm and 11:00pm of the same day, and completely extinguished no later than midnight on that day. An area of 5 metres must be cleared all around the site during the whole time the fire is burning. The user must extinguish the fire by the application of water or earth.
- No fire shall be lit on a day of high, extreme, or catastrophic fire danger forecast for the district.

CAMPING & COOKING FIRES ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING THE PROHIBITED BURNING TIME.

RESTRICTED & PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES FOR THE SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

PROHIBITED BURNING TIME (PBT)

1st November 2025 to 23rd February 2026 (inclusive) each and every year. During this time, you must not start a fire in the open air. The penalty is up to \$10,000, 12 months' imprisonment or both.

RESTRICTED BURNING TIME (RBT)

29th September to 31st October 2025 (inclusive) & 24th February to 13th April (inclusive) each and every year. These dates may be subject to variation according to seasonal conditions. Any changes will be advertised.

PERMITS TO BURN

A Permit to Set Fire to the Bush (permit to burn), must be obtained from your local area Fire Control Officer (FCO) before you light a fire during the restricted period.

- When issued with a permit, you must comply with the conditions set out on that permit.
- All permits are automatically cancelled on days where the Fire Danger Rating for that district is High, Extreme or Catastrophic. Under certain circumstances an authorized Fire Weather Officer may issue a permit on a forecast High fire danger forecast day.
- Notice must be given to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) if the intended burn will be within 3km of State Forest.
- The period of notice required under this section shall be no more than 28 days, or less than 4 days, except where the notice is given verbally, in which case the minimum period of the notice may be determined by mutual agreement.

Burning without a permit will lead to prosecution; fines up to \$10,000 applicable.