Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

FIRE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS 2026 – 2027

Please retain this document for your reference

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

To all owners and occupiers of land in the Shire of Katanning. This document constitutes the Shire of Katanning Fire Management Requirements (Bush Fire Notice) pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 you are hereby required, on all land owned or occupied by you, as a measure for preventing the spread and extension of a bush fire, to plough, cultivate, scarify, burn, chemically spray or otherwise clear upon the lands Fire Access tracks (fire breaks) in such manner as set out in this notice.

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EMERGENCY
For All Emergencies

HELP STOP ARSON
Report suspicious activity to Crime Stoppers on
1800 333 000

By order of the Council
Peter Klein
Chief Executive Officer

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Notice the following definitions apply:

Flammable Material: Material that can be easily ignited, (i.e. - dead or dry grass and crops, leaves, timber, boxes, cartons, paper, plastic and other material or things deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion) but does not include green growing trees, growing bushes or garden plants.

CBFCO: Shall mean the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

DCBFCO: Shall mean the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

BFCO: Shall mean the Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

DBFCO: Shall mean the Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

CESM: Shall mean the Community Emergency Services Manager Authorised Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

RANGER SERVICES: Shall mean the Authorised Officer appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

Total Fire Bans (TFB): Total Fire Bans are the bans imposed by the Minister for Emergency Services or his/her representative on days of extreme or catastrophic fire hazards.

Burning of Garden Refuse: Means lighting or use of a fire in the open air for the purpose of destroying garden refuse. One cubic metre or less, is referred to as a garden refuse.

Fire & Rescue District: The area covering the Katanning town site. Fire & Rescue Services are responsible for all fires within this gazette district. The Shire of Katanning is directly responsible for the issuing of Fire Permits.

Fire Break: Where referred to anywhere in this notice means an area of land which must be kept and maintained void of all trees, bushes and grasses (living or dead) for the whole of the compliance period.

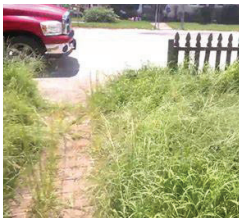
Risk Mitigation Measures: Efforts taken to reduce either the probability or consequence of a threat.

Shire Officer: As appointed by Council under Section 38 of the Bushfires Act 1954 being the CESM, CBFCO, DCBFCO, BFCO and Ranger.

PPC: Personal Protective Clothing.

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment e.g. gloves and goggles.

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY 1 NOVEMBER EACH YEAR AND IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL 30 APRIL EACH YEAR OR AS OTHERWISE GAZETTED



Non – compliance

Complying

Compliant

Take notice, that pursuant to section 33(4) of the Bush Fires Act, where the owner or occupier of land who has received this Notice fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of the Notice within the time specified, the Shire of Katanning may, by its officers, vehicles and machinery as the officers deem fit, enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of the Notice which have not been complied with and pursuant to section 33(5) of the Bush Fires Act, the amount of costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner or occupier of the land. The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine not exceeding $5000 and the person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the costs of performing the work directed in this Notice if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required by this Notice. 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.

It is not necessary for council to notify property owners or give prior warning that legal action may proceed for failing to comply with the requirements of this notice.

Please contact the Shire Office for a list of Contractors for the area who have registered their business with the Shire.

DEFINITIONS

COMPLIANCE

SUBURBAN AND RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS

RESIDENTIAL LOT CLEARING:

If the area of the land is 2023m² (approximately ½ acre) or less, remove flammable material on the land except living standing trees from the whole of the land by **1 November 2026** by one of the following methods and with all other associated conditions mentioned above to apply: ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, chemical spraying, mowing, burning or any other approved method. Mowed grass to be no higher than 100mm.

Where residential zoned land exceeds 2023m² (approximately ½ acre), in addition to the grass height above, a 2.5 metre wide firebreak immediately inside and along all external boundaries is required.

RURAL RESIDENTIAL, RURAL LAND, RURAL SMALL HOLDINGS, OUTSIDE THE TOWN BOUNDARY

Firebreaks shall be installed on Rural Land at least 10 metres wide around the perimeter of any homestead building (excluding isolated non-flammable buildings), haystacks (within 100 metres of any building) or group of structures or installations and are to be cleared to the satisfaction of the Shire Officer. In addition, you may be required to carry out further works which may be deemed necessary by the Shire Officer and specified by way of a separate written notice forwarded to the address as shown on the Shire of Katanning rate records for the land. In some instances naturally occurring features such as rocky outcrops, natural water courses or landscaping such as reticulated gardens, lawns or driveways may be an acceptable substitute for cleared firebreaks. This option must first be discussed with and approved by the Shire Officer.

All properties within the **Moojebing Heights** subdivision are to ensure compliance with the additional requirements of the Fire Management Plan dated April 2008.

For all other lands in the Shire, the Local Government will determine individual fire control requirements by means of the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2024-2026 V1.1

RURAL RESIDENTIAL AND RURAL LAND AND RURAL SMALL HOLDINGS WITHIN KATANNING AND PINWERENING TOWNSITES

Must have a 2.5 metre wide firebreak immediately inside along all external boundaries. Grass to be no higher than 100mm. Living standing trees, remnant vegetation, maintained gardens and natural bush are exempt. Where multiple blocks of land are grouped together, a perimeter 2.5 metre firebreak encompassing all land is required.

All properties within the **Illareen Subdivision** are to comply with this standard and the additional requirements of the Illareen Fire Management Plan dated 2019 Version 1.1.

All firebreaks as designated above must be prepared on or before 1 November 2026 or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier should this be after that date and maintained clear of flammable material up to and including 30 April 2027.

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.

The Penalty for failing to comply with this notice will be in accordance with the Bushfires Act 1954, and a person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the costs of performing the work directed in this notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this notice.

STANDALONE POWER SUPPLY

All standalone power supplies (including private units) require a 2.5 metre wide fire break immediately outside the compound, this is to reduce fire impacting the site as well as limiting fire spread from the site to adjacent areas.

BURNING OF BUSH AND GRASS ON ANY LAND

Burning of bush and grass is totally prohibited between 1 November and 14 February inclusive (Prohibited Burning Period). Permits are required between 1 October inclusive and 31 October inclusive and between 15 February and 30 April inclusive (Restricted Burning Periods).

PERMITS TO BURN

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, it is an offence to light fires during the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Times, except in certain circumstances. All burning during the Restricted Burning Period requires a Permit.

SUBURBAN AND RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS

WHEN TO OBTAIN A PERMIT

RESTRICTED	PROHIBITED	RESTRICTED
PERMIT REQUIRED	NO BURNING	PERMIT REQUIRED
1 October to 31 October	1 November to 14 February	15 February to 30 April

1. All burning between 1 October and 31 October inclusive and 15 February and 30 April inclusive (Restricted Burning Period).
2. For carrying out **protective burning** around dwellings and buildings pursuant to Section 23 of the Bush Fires Act to the 15 November inclusive.
3. Sunday burning is discouraged.

These times may be varied by the Shire of Katanning depending on seasonal conditions. Changes will be published in local papers and on the Shire of Katanning Facebook Page and Website.

Before obtaining a **Permit** the following points need to be addressed:

What size is the burn area?
What is the location of the burn?
What are you burning?
Are there breaks in place around the burn area?
Notification to neighbours before burn commences.

PERMITS TO BURN

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, it is an offence to light fires during the Prohibited Time.

Permits may be obtained from the Local Volunteer Fire Control Officer for your area or the Shire of Katanning if the property is within the Fire & Rescue District.

A FIRE CONTROL OFFICER HAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE BUSH FIRES ACT 1954 TO HALT ANY ACTIVITY OR OPERATION THAT THEY DEEM AS HAZARDOUS AND LIKELY TO START A FIRE.

BURNING INFORMATION

AGRICULTURAL BURNING

The following dates are when selected burning may commence under a Permit:

Canola Windrows from 1 March

Cereal Windrows from 15 March

Chaff Heaps from 1 March

Stubble from 1 April

No timber to be burnt during the October restricted burning period.

Timber heaps burnt over winter are to be pushed out before the Prohibited Burning Period.

FIRE ATTENDANCE

All Brigade members attending a fire must check the following:

- **CH5 UHF**
- **That adequate PPC and PPE is worn**
- **That any slip-on unit is bolted securely to the tray of the vehicle**
- **That the Incident Controller for the fire is aware of your presence at the fire**
- **That All Work Health and Safety procedures are followed.**

TRAILER MOUNTED FIRE UNITS AND CHASER BINS WITH FIRE UNITS

For safety reasons they are not acceptable as your only or primary fire unit. **Therefore are not to be taken to a fire incident.**

HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS

The Shire of Katanning may impose a Vehicle Movement and/or Harvest Ban due to dangerous fire weather conditions, if there are bush fires already burning or if resources are limited. When imposed, any operation of machinery involved in harvesting crops, or other produce MUST come to a stop.

ANY BAN WILL BE COMMUNICATED VIA ABC LOCAL RADIO, SMS, WHATSAPP AND THE BUSH FIRE BRIGADES RADIO NETWORK

Farmers and personnel from relevant industries may subscribe to the Shire of Katanning SMS Service for the communication of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban information. Some activities may continue during a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban at sites approved by and registered with the Shire. For more information, please contact the Shire of Katanning or your local FCO.

REGISTRATION FOR SMS NOTIFICATION OF HARVEST & MOVEMENT BANS

Telephone your name, organisation and mobile number to the Shire of Katanning, 08 9821 9999.

Regulation 38A – Harvesting, Swathing/Baling of Stubble, Track Chaining and any works to do with the Stubble Pasture Management during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Period:

Conditions: A person shall not operate or suffer the operation of a grain harvesting machine, or any machine used for swathing, baling or slashing of stubble, track chaining, and any works to do with the Stubble Pasture Management during the Restricted Burning Period and Prohibited Burning Period on any land within the Shire of Katanning except in accordance with the following specified condition:

Specified condition: No person shall operate machinery as stated above on any land unless a mobile and operational firefighting unit, having a water capacity of at least 500 litres, is situated in or immediately adjacent to the paddock where harvesting operations are being conducted.

Penalties: An infringement of $250.00. A penalty of up to $5000.00.

The Recommended minimum standards for fire unit requirements are based on property size as follows:

(i) 50-1000ha - Light Duty Unit. One tonne utility either 2WD or 4WD. 500 litre water capacity.

(ii) 1000 to 2500ha - Medium Duty Unit. Light truck either 2WD or 4WD. 2500 litre water capacity.

(iii) 2500 + ha - Heavy Duty Unit. 6 tonne capacity truck, preferably diesel. 4000 litre water capacity.

(iv) All units are to be fully operational and ready to go at all times during the Prohibited Burning Period.

HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

Autumn to Winter (May-August)

- Tree pruning – remove lower branches, check that power lines are clear. Use a professional contractor.
- Reduce fuel levels around the house, clear long grass, leaves, twigs and flammable shrubs.
- Ensure petrol and other flammables are safely stored away from the main dwelling.
- Accommodation providers must make sure all guests are aware of emergency plan, including evacuation routes.

Spring (September – November)

- Move wood piles and stack timber away from the main dwelling.
- Keep grass short.
- Install firebreaks in accordance with this Fire Management Requirements.

Summer (November – May)

- Water lawns, trees and shrubs near buildings to keep green.
- Recheck fire-fighting equipment, screens, water supplies and that gutters remain clear.

Long Term precautions

- Make sure that buildings are safe – fit wire screens and shutters, fill gaps into roof/wall spaces, fit fire screens to evaporative air conditioners and have them operable to provide a water supply.
- Give consideration to installing external building sprinkler systems and backup power for emergencies.
- Ensure that access to emergency water supplies has the correct fittings, is unobstructed and trafficable.
- Get basic training in fire-fighting by contacting the Shire of Katanning.

Hints for Burning:

- Don't light a fire on a hot or windy day.
- Don't try to burn more than you can control.
- Inform your neighbours.
- Make sure smoke and sparks will not affect neighbour's washing or open windows.
- Cut or rake long grass around trees, buildings and fences before burning.
- Burn against wind.
- On a sloping block, burn from the top down.
- Have a hose or spray pack to dampen down fire intensity.
- Extinguish fire by midnight.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Wood and solid fuel barbecues shall only be used where they are enclosed and all flammable material in a 5m radius is cleared. Check the Fire Danger Rating for the day as this will determine if you can light a fire.

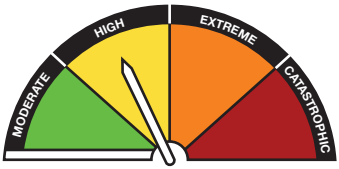
BBQs and Incinerators

Gas and electric barbecues are permitted at any time. Solid fuel barbeques and incinerators are **prohibited on set days, please check.**

HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

FIRE DANGER RATING

The Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



MODERATE
Plan and prepare

HIGH
Be ready to act

EXTREME
Take action now to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC
For your survival, **leave bushfire risk areas**

Name/Colour	Fire Behaviour Index Range	Suppression difficulty
MODERATE (Green)	12-23	Most bushfires in this category. Fires typically suppressed with direct, parallel or indirect attack.
HIGH (Yellow)	24-49	Initial attack success critical to prevent large fire development. Defensive suppression strategies.
EXTREME (Orange)	50-99	Defensive suppression strategies. High levels of threat to life/property. Safety of firefighters and community paramount.
CATASTROPHIC (Red)	100+	Unsafe for firefighters and community. Without initial attack success, likelihood of very large fire development is very high. High probability of loss of life and property.

FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT STIRLING NORTH

- **The Fire Danger Rating gives you advice about the level of bushfire threat on any given day. It is based on the forecast weather conditions.**
- **The higher the rating, the more likely people may die or be injured during a fire.**
- **Consider in your bushfire survival plan if your actions will change at different Fire Danger Rating categories.**

TOTAL FIRE BAN

When a TFB is declared the lighting of any fire in the open air is prohibited. The ban includes all open fires for the purpose of cooking and camping.

A Total Fire Ban prohibits other activities, for further information please refer to the DFES Website.

TOTAL FIRE BAN PENALTY

A fine of up to $25,000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

You are responsible for your own FIRE PROTECTION

THE BIGGEST PENALTY OF ALL

Standing in the wreckage of your home knowing the smouldering mess is your fault because you didn't take proper precautions.

BUSH FIRE BRIGADE CONTACT DETAILS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE MANAGER #
CESM: Mobile 0417 071 567

RANGER SERVICES: Mobile 0409 891 645

 # Highlights Officers that are able to issue Permits to Burn

RURAL VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer		
	Tim Harris #	0428 580 678
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer		
	Matthew Kitchen #	0427 976 960
	Greg Garlick #	0428 211 851
Chief Fire Weather Officer		
	Richard Marshall #	0429 904 130
Deputy Fire Weather Officers		
	Ben Kowald #	0424 528 520
	Tim Clegg #	0427 771 938
Carrolup *FCO*	Sheldon Kowald #	0427 211 167
Deputy FCOs	Jeremy Kowald #	0427 813 090
	Ian Coleman #	0429 955 778
	Alan Wilson	0427 772 142
	Chris Quartermaine	0427 214 553
	Ben Kowald #	0424 528 520
	Geoff Stade #	0428 211 551
Central *FCO*	Kim Kowald #	0438 337 708
Deputy FCOs	Alistair Dusting	0417 185 147
	Alan McFarland	0428 211 055
Badgebup *FCO*	Tyler Caldwell #	0428 235 004
Deputy FCOs	Luke Marshall #	0476 869 477
	Tim Clegg #	0427 771 938
	Richard Marshall #	0429 904 130
	Norman Flugge #	0427 984 446
	Hamish Thompson #	0417 851 433
Merrebin *FCO*	Mark Sullivan #	0427 227 094
Deputy FCOs	Ian Knapp #	0427 215 635
	Mathew Kerin #	0429 376 593
	Greg Garlick #	0428 211 851
	David Potter #	0439 903 825

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES

Katanning Fire & Rescue (Town)		
Captain	Chris Brooks	0409 873 797
First Lieutenant	Steve Brooks	0408 760 486

For additional bush fire safety information, please visit

www.emergency.wa.gov.au

MAGNET

Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

SHIRE OF KATANNING
52 Austral Tce
KATANNING WA 6317
Phone: 9821 9999

Web: www.katanning.wa.gov.au

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ShireOfKatanning

For incident information and bush fire safety information, please visit: **emergency.wa.gov.au**

Volunteers make up the Bush Fire Brigades in the Shire of Katanning. Help to provide a safer community by becoming an active member of your brigade. For more information, call your local brigade or the Shire of Katanning. Emergency Services in the Shire are also seeking volunteers for a range of support roles and we welcome your inquiry.