

SHIRE OF BROOME

FIRE BREAK & FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

Notice to owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Broome

PURSUANT to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, any person who is an owner or occupier of land situated within the Gazetted area of the Shire of Broome, is hereby required by **15th May 2023 (or within 14 days of the date of you becoming owner or occupier should this occur after 15th May 2023)** to:

1. Clear fire breaks in accordance with the requirements A, B and C outlined below in this Notice; and
2. Remove all accumulations of flammable material from the land; and
3. Maintain all fire breaks and ensure that the land is kept clear of accumulations of flammable material between the **15th May 2023 and 31st December 2023**.

A. Rural and pastoral land (refers to all land outside the town site of Broome):

- (i) Trafficable fire breaks must be installed on the land and be kept clear of flammable material. These fire breaks must not be less than three (3) metres in width, four (4) metres in height and be located within ten (10) metres of all external boundaries.
- (ii) A twenty (20) metre low fuel buffer zone must be established around all buildings on the land, inclusive of all dwellings, sheds etc. This area must be clear of all flammable material capable of sustaining fire or enabling fire to spread. Reticulated garden beds or vegetation situated within the low fuel buffer zone must be maintained so that fuel levels containing mulch, dried leaves or other garden refuse do not exceed fifty (50) mm in height.

B. Town site land (refers to all land within the town site of Broome)

- (i) Where the land is 2000 square metres or less, all flammable material, with the exception of living trees, must be removed from the whole of the land.
- (ii) Where the land is greater than 2000 square metres, the following must be established:
 - (a) Trafficable fire breaks must be installed on the land and be kept clear of flammable material. These fire breaks must not be less than three (3) metres in width, four (4) metres in height and within ten (10) metres of all external boundaries; and
 - (b) A twenty (20) metre low fuel buffer zone must be established around all buildings on the property, inclusive of all dwellings, sheds etc. This area must be clear of all flammable material capable of sustaining fire or enabling fire to spread. Reticulated garden beds or vegetation situated within the low fuel buffer zone must be maintained so that fuel levels containing mulch, dried leaves or other garden refuse do not exceed fifty (50) mm in height.

C. Fuel dumps, depots and haystacks

- (i) On all land where fuel drum ramps are located, where fuel dumps, whether containing fuel or not, are stored and where haystacks are located maintain a firebreak at least (5) five metres wide around any drum, ramp, stack of drums or haystacks.

DEFINITIONS

Flammable material is defined for the purposes of this notice to include long dry grass, leaves, bark, timber, boxes, cartons, paper, rubbish and any other form of combustible matter, but does not include living trees, shrubs, growing bushes and plants under cultivation.

Trafficable means capable of being driven on from one point to another by any Emergency Services Vehicle on a clear surface, without any obstruction that may endanger that vehicle or its occupants. A fire break is not to terminate or lead to a dead end.

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

The Shire of Broome Restricted Burning Period is between **1st April 2023 and 31st December 2023**. During this period, the burning of bush, grass or garden refuse throughout the Shire is not permitted unless a written permit has been obtained from an authorised Shire of Broome Bush Fire Control Officer. A Bush Fire Control Officer can be contacted at the Shire on **(08) 9191 3456** during business hours. Please note that the above dates may be varied according to seasonal conditions and will be publicly advertised prior to the variation coming into effect.

ALTERNATIVE FIRE BREAKS

Should you consider it to be impracticable for any reason to clear firebreaks or remove flammable material from the land as required by this notice, you may apply to the Shire of Broome, in writing, no later than **15th April 2023**, for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take alternative action via the use of a Bush Fire Variation Plan to abate fire hazards on the land. If permission is not granted in writing by the Shire you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

If written permission to provide alternative firebreaks has been granted, you must:

- (a) comply with all conditions endorsed on the permit; and
- (b) provide firebreaks at least three (3) metres wide in the agreed position(s) on the land.

Where the Shire has approved a Variation and the Variation depicts an array of alternative fire breaks, an owner/occupier of land may, as an alternative to the construction of a general fire break, elect to provide the alternative fire break depicted on the Bush Fire Variation form. However, where the alternative firebreak is not constructed by the date required by this notice, the general firebreak requirements will apply.

Any alternative firebreak proposed within a Bush Fire Variation form must meet the same minimum width and height requirements as that applicable to a general firebreak.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BUSH FIRE VARIATIONS REMAIN VALID UNTIL THE DATE OF EXPIRY.

STRATEGIC FIRE BREAKS

Where, under an agreement with the Shire of Broome, or where depicted within an approved Bushfire Management Plan, strategic fire breaks are required to be provided on the land, you are required to clear and maintain fire breaks at least 6 metres wide in the agreed position.

Strategic fire breaks must be graded to provide a continuous trafficable surface (suitable for 4-wheel drive vehicles) that is maintained unimpeded by obstructions including boundary or dividing fences unless fitted with approved gates.

PENALTIES

The penalty for failing to comply with this notice under Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* is a modified penalty of \$250 or a penalty of up to \$5000 if convicted by a Court. Any person failing to comply with this Notice may also be liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of the Shire of Broome engaging contractors to carry out such works as are necessary to meet the requirements of this Notice.

SAM MASTROLEMBO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER