

COMPLIANCE DUE BY: 1 NOVEMBER 2024

FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE 2024/2025

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 1 November 2024 and maintained in this state up to and including 31 March 2025.

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF KALAMUNDA

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)*, the City of Kalamunda (City) gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy within the City. Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5000. The City's Fire Hazard Inspectors are authorised under the *Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)* (Act) and have powers to enter land pursuant to Section 14 of the Act. The City advises that its officers, servants, workmen, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by 1 November 2024, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

ALL LAND WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 5000m² OR MORE

❑ FIRE BREAKS

Fire Breaks are to be installed or upgraded to:

- » 3-metre-wide,
- » 4-metre-high clearance,
- » Continuous (no dead ends) and trafficable as close as possible inside the entire perimeter of the land.

Maintained, reticulated living lawns that are kept completely green are acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of, a fire break/s (see definition FIRE BREAK).

❑ DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL (DFM)

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonne per hectare (see definition FUEL LOAD).

❑ SLASHING

- » If the land is an area above 5000m² and less than 50,000m² slash mow or trim unmanaged grasses or dead grasses/weeds and dead shrubs and plants to a height of 50mm. This is additional to Firebreak requirements.
- » If the land is an area of 50,000m² (5 hectares) or greater the grass must be maintained on the land to a height no greater than 50mm for a distance of 10 meters from any firebreak.

ALL LAND WITH A TOTAL AREA LESS THAN 5000m²

❑ DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonne per hectare (see definition FUEL LOAD).

❑ SLASHING

Slash, mow, or trim unmanaged grasses or dead grasses/weeds, dead shrubs, and dead plants to a height no greater than 50mm.

❑ CLEAN GUTTER DEBRIS

Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.

ALL PROPERTIES - ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)

Maintain a fuel reduced zone around all buildings or assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of the building or asset.

- » Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.
- » Fuel load within the 20-metre zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonne per hectare.
- » Trees over 5 metres in height within the 20-metre zone to be under pruned up to 2 metres.
- » Trees or shrubs within 2 metres of the asset shall be pruned to a height no greater than 2 metres and/or pruned away from the asset to a distance greater than 2 metres.

VARIATION TO THE FIRE HAZARD

REDUCTION NOTICE

If you consider it impractical to meet a requirement/s of this Notice, you may apply to the City for a variation **no later than 1 October 2024**.

Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ alternative methods of property preparedness to land that you own and/or occupy.

An administration fee of \$150 applies for applications received after 1 October 2024.

If your application is not granted you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2024/2025.

Variation request application forms are available before 1 October 2024 on the City's website at:

www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/fire

If you require any further information, please, visit kalamunda.wa.gov.au/fire, call **9257 9999** or email enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

ADDITIONAL WORKS

You may be required to carry out further bushfire property preparedness works on your land to reduce any fire hazards considered necessary by a Fire Control Officer. If required, these will be outlined in a 'work order' and sent to the address of the owner and/or occupier.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS AND CITY APPROVED TREATMENT PLANS

All properties and/or land subject to a Bushfire Management Plan, Emergency Management Plan, or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a City approved treatment plan, must comply with the listed requirements in their entirety. **Compliance with any additional plans does not constitute compliance with this Notice.**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HERITAGE CONDITIONS

Any property subject to environmental and heritage value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora, and Fauna (DRF) sites and Aboriginal Heritage sites, etc should seek further information about what can or cannot be done prior to carrying out requirements under this Notice.

Low Threat Minimal Fuel Vegetation

Minimal fuel condition means there is insufficient fuel available to significantly increase the severity of the bushfire attack. Low threat vegetation includes grassland managed in a minimal fuel condition, maintained lawns, golf courses, maintained public reserves and parklands, vineyards, orchards, cultivated gardens, commercial nurseries, nature strips and windbreaks. Properties of these description will still be assessed under this Notice and can apply for a variation.

DEFINITIONS

FIRE BREAK: A strip of land free of all flammable and combustible material with the intention of preventing the outbreak of a bush fire and provides visible safe access on the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations. It is acceptable to install a firebreak around naturally occurring obstacles. Fire breaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, raking, chemical spraying, or another method as approved by an Authorised Officer.

- » Clearance must be no less than 3-metres wide and 4-metres in height inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves).
- » Must not be more than 4-metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application for approval to the City). Maintained, reticulated living lawns are lawns considered to be kept completely green. Driveways may be acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of, fire breaks. Contact a City Fire Officer for further assistance.
- » Must have a corner turning radius of up to 10 metres.
- » Must be a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, be clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a dead end.

FUEL LOAD: Can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation.

Fine fuels include = leaf litter, grasses, weeds, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc.

Heavy (course) fuels include = branches, logs, stumps etc.

A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) to the mineral earth is indicative of approximately 8 tonne per hectare. The more fuel load, the higher the flame height and increased fire intensity.

Mulch piles, stored firewood and burn piles can contribute to fuel loading on land and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Officer.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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