



Shire of
Cranbrook
Great Southern's Finest

FIREBREAK NOTICE 2020/2021

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, action detailed in this notice is required by owners and/or occupiers of ALL land in the Shire of Cranbrook
**PLEASE READ IT COMPLETELY
AND CAREFULLY**
If in doubt, contact the Shire of Cranbrook or your local brigade

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 000

HARVEST BAN HOTLINE 9826 2222

**DEDICATED SHIRE SMS NUMBER
0488 868 750**

TOTAL FIRE BAN INFOLINE 1800 709 355

**FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE PENALTIES
MAY APPLY**

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 1, 2020: Commencement of Restricted Burning Period (Permit Required).

NOVEMBER 1, 2020: Commencement of Prohibited Burning Period (No Fires Permitted).

FEBRUARY 14, 2021: Close of Prohibited Burning Period.

FEBRUARY 15, 2021: Commencement of Restricted Burning (permit required) for all products except bluegum trash. NO BLUEGUM TRASH BURNING PERMITS TO BE ISSUED UNLESS AUTHORISED BY SHIRE CEO.

APRIL 30, 2021: Close of Restricted Burning Period.

MAY 1, 2021: Commencement of Open Burning Period - Bluegum Trash burning permitted.

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

1/10/20 TO 31/10/20 AND 15/2/21 TO 30/4/21 (all dates inclusive)

The law requires that a person shall not set fire to the bush during the Restricted Burning times unless he/she has:

1. Obtained a permit in writing from a Bush Fire Control Officer.
2. Notified all neighbours and a Bush Fire Control Officer.
3. Notified a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Parks and Wildlife Service officer if the fire will be within 3km of a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Parks and Wildlife Service Reserve.

The following conditions must be complied with when burning is carried out:

1. At least three able bodied persons must be in attendance.
2. The fire may not be lit on a day which a "catastrophic" "extreme" "severe" or "very high" danger forecast has been issued for the district.
3. At least one fire unit must be in attendance.
4. Any other conditions that are prescribed by the Fire Control Officer.

NO BLUEGUM TRASH BURNING PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL THE GRAPE HARVEST IS COMPLETED.

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

1/11/20 TO 14/2/21 (dates inclusive)

Only protective burning can be carried out during the Prohibited Burning time and under the following conditions:

1. A permit to burn must be obtained.
2. No burning permitted on Christmas Day (25 December).
3. All burning must be carried out between the hours of 5.00pm and midnight of the same day.
4. All conditions of Restricted Burning Period must be complied with.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO OWNERS AND / OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND IN THE SHIRE OF CRANBROOK

PURSUANT to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Act, you are hereby required on or before the **15th day of November 2020**, to plough, burn, scarify, cultivate, chemically spray or otherwise clear firebreaks or fuel free areas and thereafter maintain them free of all flammable materials until the **15th day of April, 2021** in the positions and of such dimensions as detailed in this document.

CHRISTMAS DAY - A HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN WILL BE IN PLACE FROM 12:01 AM CHRISTMAS DAY 25/12/2020 UNTIL 12:01 AM BOXING DAY 26/12/2020.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PROTECTIVE BURNING

The following Protective Burning is permitted during the Prohibited Burning Period:

1. Burning to protect a Dwelling House, other building or a stack of produce (Section 23).

Section 23 of the Act must be complied with and two plough breaks, 2.5 metres wide and not more than 100 metres from the property to be protected.

Only protective burning can be carried out during the Prohibited Burning time and under the following conditions:

1. A permit to burn must be obtained.
2. No burning permitted on Christmas Day.
3. All burning must be carried out between the hours of 5.00pm and midnight of the same day.
4. All conditions of Restricted Burning Period must be complied with.

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

CAMPING AND COOKING FIRES

1. No camping or cooking fires are permitted within the Shire of Cranbrook 1 November to 14 February each year. (Dates Inclusive).
2. During 1 October to 30 October and 15 February to 30 April each year (Dates Inclusive):
 - a) A permit must be obtained from the local Fire Control Officer for all camping and cooking fires on private property;
 - b) Written permission must be obtained from the Local Government Chief Executive Officer for all camping and cooking fires located on Shire property and Council Reserves; and
 - c) A camping and cooking fire is defined as:
 - A solid fuel fire and/or barbeque which is contained in a designated fire pit or fire safe receptacle; or
 - A wood fired pizza ovenThat meet the safety requirements detailed in Section 25 (1) (a) of the Bushfires Act 1954. Camping and cooking fires not contained by one of the above mentioned practices, are not permitted.

PENALTIES

The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine of not more than \$5000 and a person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of performing the work directed in this notice if it is not carried out by the required date.

It is the intention of the Shire to enforce the Firebreak Notice on ALL lots within the townsite and rural land.

TOWNSITES

All land within the Shire of Cranbrook which is within a townsite and land adjacent to any townsite zoned Rural Residential, Rural Small Holding or Special Use (e.g. strata). All grasses must be kept and maintained below 100mm throughout the dates mentioned in this notice.

1) Where the area of land is 3 hectares or less with buildings, a Building Protection Zone (BPZ), which is a low fuel area immediately surrounding buildings must be established. The minimum width of a BPZ is 20 metres, increasing with slope.

2) Land of the above dimension with no buildings must be mowed, burnt or closely grazed: where it's not possible to comply with these conditions a 2.5 metre firebreak clear of all flammable material is required immediately inside the boundary as practicable.

3) Where the area of land exceeds 3 hectares with buildings, the firebreak order pertaining to rural land must be complied with. Where buildings don't exist, a 2.5 metre firebreak clear of all flammable material immediately inside the property boundary as far as practicable must be maintained.

RURAL LAND

All land within the Shire of Cranbrook other than within a townsite or land zoned special rural adjacent to a townsite.

(1) Homesteads, Buildings, Bulk Fuel, Fuel Drums:

A Building Protection Zone (BPZ) which is a low fuel area immediately surrounding buildings, must be established. The minimum width of a BPZ is 20 metres, increasing with slope. If the BPZ is to be established by being closely grazed or mowed it is to be 60 metres wide and to the satisfaction of a Bush Fire Control Officer and in such positions as are necessary to completely surround the perimeter of any homestead building (excluding isolated non flammable structures). Fuel installation (including drums), need to comply with the aforementioned standards applicable to buildings. In all circumstances the outer 2.5 metres of the fuel reduced area must be totally free of any flammable material and when mowing is the method used all residue of the mowing process must be removed from the area. All buildings, unless unroofed, must have firebreaks that comply with this order.

(2) Haystacks and Hay Rolls situated next to buildings:

Hay stacks and hay rolls within 50 metres of any building must have a firebreak at least 2.5 metres wide clear of all flammable material on all sides.

(3) Crops

Firebreaks around crops are not compulsory however landowners are strongly encouraged to maintain voluntary firebreaks. All owners or occupiers of land being used for pasture or crops which exceeds 20 hectares (50 acres) in area shall maintain a mobile fire fighting unit in working order with a capacity of not less than 400 litres of water.

(4) Derelict and/or abandoned buildings

In the event of a derelict and/or abandoned building being situated on and within the Shire of Cranbrook other than within a townsite, or land zoned rural residential or rural small holding adjacent to a townsite, an application by the owner for exemption to provide firebreaks must be made to the Shire of Cranbrook in writing. All applications will be subject to an onsite inspection to be carried out by the Chief Fire Control Officer and a duly appointed Council representative.

SPECIFIED CONDITION - HARVESTING

No person shall operate a harvesting machine on any land unless he has provided a mobile and operational fire fighting unit, having a water capacity of at least 400 litres, situated in or adjacent to the paddock where harvesting operations are being conducted.

NOTE: Boundary firebreaks are not compulsory within the Shire of Cranbrook Rural Area. Landholders can provide boundary firebreaks if they wish.

OPERATION OF TRACTORS AND SELF PROPELLED HEADERS

During the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times, all Tractors and Self Propelled Headers must be equipped with an exhaust system with an efficient spark arrester in a sound condition and a fire extinguisher which contains at least 7.5 litres of water.

OPERATION OF CHAFF CUTTING PLANTS (REGULATION 39)

A Fire Extinguisher together with a container holding not less than 150 litres of water must be provided at the site where any chaff cutting plant is operating. A Bush Fire Control Officer may make any other conditions which must be carried out by the operator.

SWATHERS, BALERS AND TREE HARVESTERS

Swathers, Balers and Tree Harvesters are subject to the same conditions as harvesting i.e. a mobile and operational fire fighting unit having a capacity of at least 400 litres of water in attendance during operations from 1st December until the end of the Restricted Burning Period.

UNSUPERVISED STATIONARY ENGINES

That there must be a 3.5 metre radius clear of all flammable matter around unsupervised stationary engines and an approved spark arrester be fitted to such engine.

PLANTATIONS

The Shire of Cranbrook and the Lower Great Southern Plantation Fire Advisory Committee have adopted the Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection developed by DFES. These guidelines provide Local Government and the plantation industry with a set of best practice fire protection standards for plantations that aim to protect human life and local community interests, whilst minimising fire risk to plantation assets.

Definition of a Plantation:

A plantation / tree farm is defined as an area exceeding three hectares within townsites or an area exceeding 10 hectares within rural areas, of trees planted or land under preparation for planting for commercial purposes.

Boundary Firebreaks: Boundary Firebreaks are to be 15 metres wide and free of flammable material, with a trafficable surface of at least 6 metres. A vertical clearance is to be established to a height of 5 metres above the ground level over the trafficable portion of the firebreak.

Planting Compartments: A planting compartment is defined as an individual area of approximately 30 hectares surrounded by firebreaks cleared of all flammable material six metres wide (with a five metre trafficable surface) and a vertical clearance of all overhanging branches at least four metres above ground level to allow unrestricted access for fire fighting equipment. This applies to all established and subsequent rotation (coppice) plantations.

Planting compartments for new or re-established plantations after 1 July 2012:

A planting compartment is defined as an individual area of approximately 50 hectares surrounded by firebreaks with an eight metre tree to tree separation, a six metre horizontal trafficable surface free of all flammable material and a vertical clearance of all overhanging branches at least four metres above ground level to allow unrestricted access for fire fighting equipment.

PLANTATIONS

Plantation managers must provide water for fire fighting purposes within plantation areas. A sufficient number of water points must be established and maintained in or nearby to all plantations. These strategic water supply points will need to be audited by the plantation manager prior to the start of every fire season. A strategic water supply must

- be a secured source for the duration of the plantation
- must be commensurate with the size of the plantation
- should be no further than 5kms or a 20 minute turnaround from the plantation, whichever is most efficient.
- 50,000 litres of water must be permanently available for initial use during a fire response.

All landowners or managers of land greater than 10,000 hectares require a 3.4 Heavy Duty Appliance (4x4 truck carrying 3,000 litres of water) located within the Shire boundary.

Any barriers or obstructions such as swamps or rocky outcrops preventing a firebreak from being installed will require a request for Firebreak Variation.

To request a variation, a written application must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and received no later than 30 September. If granted, a variation applies for a five year period.

HARVESTING

When harvesting is in process, harvesters must maintain a 400 litre fire fighting unit in or adjacent to where harvesting is being carried out.

BLUEGUM TRASH

Council definition - as 'all bluegum residue left on site from the harvesting process and/or the clearing/cleanup process of the plantation - this does not include bluegum stumps'.

HARVESTED OR ABANDONED PLANTATIONS

Plantation fire breaks shall remain in place until the removal of all stumps is completed or returned to farm land.

FIRE PROTECTION OF PRIVATE HARDWOOD / SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS

All hardwood and softwood plantations within the Shire must comply with the Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection unless approval to vary those conditions has been granted by the Shire.

REMAINDER OF THE PROPERTY

All areas of the property which do not comply with the Plantation / Tree Farm definition, i.e. farmland or native vegetation, must comply with the requirements detailed elsewhere in this Notice.

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

A copy of the Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection can be obtained by contacting the DFES - Albany Office or the Shire Office during normal office hours. There is also an electronic copy on the Shire of Cranbrook's website:

www.cranbrook.wa.gov.au

Forest Products Commission - (08) 9845 5630
Australian Bluegum Plantations - (08) 9842 8581

GENERAL INFORMATION

In the event of a bush fire emergency:

- Channel 9 has been adopted as the nominated channel for all operation communications when using **UHF Radios**.
- Channel 363 has been nominated when using **Highband Simplex Radios**.
- Regular channels for the Shire **VHF radios** are 162 Cranbrook West and 163 Cranbrook East.

There is NO exception or provision for unlicensed fire vehicles to be taken over onto roads in any situation.

EMERGENCY WARNING ALERTS - BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEM

Community Alerts for bushfires that threaten lives and property:

ADVICE - A fire has started but there is no immediate danger, this is general information to keep you informed and up to date with developments. (Blue Alert)

WATCH & ACT - A fire is approaching and conditions are changing, you need to leave or prepare to actively defend to protect you and your family. (Yellow Alert)

EMERGENCY WARNING - You are in danger and you need to take immediate action to survive as you will be impacted by fire. An emergency warning may be supported with a siren sound called the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS). (Red Alert)

ALL CLEAR - The danger has passed and the fire is under control, but you need to remain vigilant in case the situation changes. It may still not be safe to return home. (Grey Alert)

BROADCAST OF HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS

ABC - will broadcast fire bans everyday at 10.05am, 12.35pm and 2.05pm. On weekends the times will be 12:35pm and 2:05pm

Shire's Harvest Ban Hotline – 9826 2222 recorded message stating what type of ban is currently active in the Shire and the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Period Times.

SMS Messaging of harvest and vehicle movement bans and other important information are sent to mobiles as soon as the information is received. Contact the Shire Office 9826 1008 if you would like to include your mobile on the SMS register

The Shire has a dedicated number that you will receive messages on - 0488 868 750 please save this number to your phone.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

000 - for fire or life threatening emergencies

132 500 - for SES Assistance

1300 657 209 - for Emergency Information

9826 2222 - for the Shire's Harvest Ban Hotline

1800 709 355 - for Total Fire Ban Information

SUMMER VACATIONS

Please notify the Shire Office or Fire Captains if you will be out of the district and if any of your plant would be available in case of a fire.

NOTHING IN THE FOREGOING SHALL BE DEEMED TO RELIEVE ANY PERSON FROM LIABILITY FOR ACTIONABLE DAMAGE.

BURNING TO COLLECT CLOVER BURR (SECTION 24 AND REG. 18 TO 21B)

Burning to collect clover burr must be done with a special permit from one of the nominated Clover Burning Officers (see Brigade Contacts Section) or the Chief Executive Officer of the Council. A Bush Fire Control Officer does not have the power to issue this type of permit.

BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE

The burning of garden refuse within the Shire of Cranbrook is not permitted during the Prohibited Burning Season. The burning of garden refuse during the Restricted Burning Period requires a permit in writing from a Bush Fire Control Officer. All conditions of the permit must be complied with and burning is not permitted on days which a "catastrophic", "severe", "extreme" or "very high" fire danger forecast has been issued for the district.

OXYACETYLENE, ARC WELDERS, ANGLE GRINDERS AND OTHER POWER EQUIPMENT

At all times operation of oxyacetylene, arc welders, angle grinders and other power equipment requires the worksite to be adequately cleared of flammable material prior to the use of the above mentioned equipment and an appropriate fire extinguisher in attendance.

WHEN A FIRE ESCAPES

In the event of a fire escaping beyond the boundaries of the land in respect of which a permit to burn has been granted, the holder of such permit shall, if possible, immediately notify the nearest Fire Control Officer, and within 24 hours of the suppression of such fire, shall report in writing the full circumstances causing such escape to the authorised officer by whom the permit was granted and to the Shire Administration Office.

NOTIFYING SHIRE OF ATTENDANCE AT A FIRE INCIDENT

The Shire would like to encourage any brigade members who attend fire incidents to text the Shires dedicated SMS number 0488 868 750 or email the Shire admin@cranbrook.wa.gov.au with their full name, date of incident and brigade details, to assist with record keeping purposes.

FIREBREAK EXEMPTIONS

If it is considered to be impracticable for any person to clear firebreaks as required by this notice, you may apply to the Council, or its duly authorised officer (Mr David Packard - Chief Bushfire Control Officer - 0428 837 939). If permission is not granted by the Council or its duly authorised officer, you shall comply with the requirements of this notice.

FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS AND BRIGADES 2020/2021

CHIEFBUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER -

David Packard- VL6KJ
0428 837 939

1st DEPUTY CBFCO –

Peter Ettridge Frankland 1
0458 552 271

2nd DEPUTY CBFCO –

Graeme Marshall Tunney 1
0407 261 005

FIRE WEATHER ADVISORY GROUP -

D Packard S Lehmann
A De Toledo M Bembrick
M Bunker G Marshall
S Hilder T Ettridge
H Smith

CLOVER BURING OFFICER -

David Packard 0428 837 939

VOLUNTEER TRAINING OFFICER –

Michael Walsh 0428 261 034

BASE OPERATOR –

David Preston 9826 8045
0428 268 045
Juliet 1 (House)
Juliet 2 (Mobile)

FCO - **BOKERUP/UNICUP**

T Ettridge Bokerup 1
0427 566 232
G Banks Unicup 1
9857 1013
Lieutenants - D Brayshaw Bokerup 2
0457 666 496
J Roberts Bokerup 3
9856 6289
R Crosby Unicup 2
9855 1564
Secretary - J Quick 9856 6243

FCO - Captain **CENTRAL**

K Wilson Central 1
9826 1115
0428 261 115
Lieutenants- S Lehmann Central 2
9826 1124
0429 011 623
J Climie Central 3
9826 1229
0419 921 169
M Walsh Central 4
9826 1030
Secretary - A J Clapin 9826 1176

FCO - Captain **EAST CRANBROOK**

H Smith Balicup 1
9825 8233
0427 258 237
Lieutenants- F Fiegert Balicup 2
9826 1180
0419 933 430
P Horrocks Balicup 3
9826 1179
0427 361 179

Secretary - P Horrocks 9826 1179

CRANBROOK TOWN

FCO - J Duina Cranbrook Town
0417 905 055
Lieutenant - D Briggs 0437 868 915
Secretary - S Palin 0438 948 727

GORDON

FCO - A De Toledo Gordon 1
0427 715 353
9826 7075
Lieutenants - J Egerton-Warburton Gordon 2
9826 7027
G Egerton-Warburton Gordon 3
0427 267 021
Secretary - A Warham 0427 985 676

KYBELLUP

FCO -Captain S Hilder Kybellup 1
0427 888 379
9855 2385
Lieutenants- K Haynes Kybellup 2
0438 552 360
R Jackson Kybellup 3
9855 2251
R Hilder Kybellup 4
0427 552 279
Secretary - P Beech 0428 552 276

NUNIJUP

FCO - Captain M Bunker Nunijup 1
0429 405 945
9852 4066
Lieutenants- S Squire Nunijup 2
0428 136 115
L Watterson Nunijup 3
0427 524 007
B Parsons 0427 180 601
Secretary - J Beech 0419 914 546

TENTERDEN

FCO - Captain K Gibson Tenterden1
0427 417 408
Lieutenants - C Tomlinson Tenterden2
0428 751 100
J Watterson Tenterden3
0439 976 989
M Jefferies 0428 517 103
Secretary - M Jefferies 0428 517 103

TUNNEY

FCO - Captain G Marshall Tunney 1
0407 261 005
Lieutenants- J Treeby Tunney 2
0429 448 756
S Morgan Tunney 3
0427 343 066
I Lawrence Tunney 4
0427 343 048
Secretary - N Waldron 0429 343 007

FRANKLAND RIVER

FCO -Captain	P Ettridge	Frankland 1 0458 552 271
Lieutenants -	K Warren	Frankland 2 0400 624 983
	D Clode	Frankland 3 0437 554 247
Secretary -	R Ettridge	0429 960 097

FRANKLAND RIVER TOWN

FCO - Captain	A Murray	Frankland Town 1 0427 552 321
Lieutenants -	D Clode	0437 554 247
Secretary -	R Ettridge	0429 960 097

WOOLONGA

FCO - Captain	N Preston	Woolonga 1 0427 268 062
Lieutenants -	C Ford	Woolonga 2 0439 464 280
	J Smith	Woolonga 3 0429 551 369
Secretary -	R Bonshore	0484 814 327

DEFINITIONS

“**FIREBREAK**” means a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable vegetation material leaving clear bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other object or thing over the fire break area.

“**FLAMMABLE**” means any bush, plant, tree, grass, vegetable, substance, object, thing or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn.

“**TRAFFICABLE**” means to be able to travel from one point to another in a 4x4 fire vehicle on a firm and stable surface, unhindered without any obstruction that may endanger resources, no firebreak is to terminate without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turn around area of not less than a 19 meter radius (prior written approval from council is required).

“**VERTICAL AXIS**” means a continuous vertical uninterrupted line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak.