Shire of Cranbrook
Great Southern's Finest

FIREBREAK NOTICE 2026/2027

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

The Shire of Cranbrook is now in

STIRLING WEST

weather district

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 000

DEDICATED SHIRE SMS NUMBER
0499 691 485
TOTAL FIRE BAN INFOLINE
1800 709 355
FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE
PENALTIES MAY APPLY

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 1, 2026: Commencement of Restricted Burning Period (Permit Required).

NOVEMBER 1, 2026: Commencement of Prohibited Burning Period (No Fires Permitted).

FEBRUARY 14, 2027: Close of Prohibited Burning Period.

FEBRUARY 15, 2027: Commencement of Restricted Burning (permit required)

NO BLUEGUM OR PINE TRASH BURNING PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL THE GRAPE HARVEST IS COMPLETED ACCORDING TO THE FRANKLAND RIVER WINE MAKERS AND GRAPE GROWERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED, OR PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE CEO.
ALL PERMIT HOLDERS ARE REMINDED TO BE MINDFUL OF THE EFFECTS OF SMOKE THAT MAY IMPACT THE VITICULTURE INDUSTRY.

APRIL 30, 2027: Close of Restricted Burning Period.

MAY 1, 2027: Commencement of Open Burning Period

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD
1/10/26 TO 31/10/26 AND 15/2/27 TO 30/4/27 (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.

1. At least three able bodied persons must be in attendance.
2. At least one fire unit must be in attendance.
3. Any other conditions that are prescribed by the Fire Control Officer.
4. It remains the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure the validity of permit due to weather conditions prior to commencement of burning.

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD
1/11/26 TO 14/2/27 (dates inclusive)
Only protective burning *(Section 23 Bushfires Act 1954)* 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 and Boxing Day (25-26 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**, 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** 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 12:01AM CHRISTMAS DAY 25/12/2026 UNTIL 12:01AM BOXING DAY 26/12/2026.

BOXING DAY - HARVEST BAN ONLY WILL BE IN PLACE FROM 26/12/2026 UNTIL 12:01AM 27/12/2026.

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 from the period 15 November until 15 April.

1) Where the area of land is 3 hectares or less with buildings, a Asset Protection Zone (APZ), which is a low fuel area immediately surrounding buildings must be established. The minimum width of a APZ 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 3 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 3 metre firebreak clear of all flammable material immediately inside the property boundary as far as practicable must be maintained.

It is the intention of the Shire to enforce the Firebreak Notice on ALL lots within the Shire.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PROTECTIVE BURNING

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

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, 3 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:
A permit to burn must be obtained.
No burning permitted on Christmas Day.
All burning must be carried out between the hours of 5.00pm and midnight of the same day.
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

No camping or cooking fires are permitted within the Shire of Cranbrook 1 November to 14 February each year. (Dates Inclusive).
During 1 October to 30 October and 15 February to 30 April each year (Dates Inclusive):
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 oven that 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.

RURAL LAND

All land within the Shire of Cranbrook other than within a townsite or land zoned special rural adjacent to a townsite. All grasses must be kept and maintained below 100mm from the period 15 November until 15 April.

(1) Homesteads, Buildings, Bulk Fuel, Fuel Drums:
An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) which is a low fuel area immediately surrounding buildings, must be established. The minimum width of a APZ is 20 metres, increasing with slope. If the APZ 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 3 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 3 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. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2022-06/Clearing-regulation-fact-sheet-Native-vegetation-clearing-FAQs.pdf
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 600 litres of water.

(4) Derelict and/or abandoned buildings
In the event of a derelict and/or abandoned building being situated on land 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 Bush Fire Control Officer and a duly appointed Council representative.

SPECIFIED CONDITION - HARVESTING

No person shall operate a harvesting machine on any land unless he/she has provided a mobile and operational fire fighting unit, having a water capacity of at least 600 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 600 litres of water in attendance during operations.

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.

NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING

For more information regarding clearing of native vegetation please visit the Department of Environment Regulations website https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2022-06/Clearing-regulation-fact-sheet-Native-vegetation-clearing-FAQs.pdf

PLANTATIONS

The Shire of Cranbrook and the Lower Great Southern Plantation Fire Advisory Committee have adopted the Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection developed by Department of Fire and Emergency Services. 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 eight metres wide (with a six 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 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 600 litre fire fighting unit in or adjacent to where harvesting is being carried out.

BLUEGUM AND/OR PINE TRASH
Council definition - as 'all bluegum and pine residue left on site from the harvesting process and/or the clearing/cleanup process of the plantation - this does not include bluegum and pine 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 is available via download: https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/BushfireProtectionPlanningPublications/Guidelines_for_Plantation_Fire_Protection_2011_final.pdf
An electronic copy can also be located on the Shire of Cranbrook's website:

www.cranbrook.wa.gov.au/emergencies

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 operational communications when using **UHF Radios.**
Channel 363 has been nominated when using **High band Simplex Radios.**
Regular channels for the Shire **VHF WEARN radios** are 162 Cranbrook West and 163 Cranbrook East.

There is NO exception or provision for unlicensed fire vehicles to be taken onto any road(s) in any situation.

EMERGENCY WARNING ALERTS - AUSTRALIAN FIRE DANGER RATING 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.
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.
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).

The best way to keep informed during an emergency is to seek information from a variety of sources.
You can get information by:

- *Using the WA Emergency website and downloading the app from the App Store or Google Play*
- *Staying in touch with neighbours, family and friends*
- *Being alert and aware of your surroundings*
- *Following DFES on Facebook*
- *Listening to ABC local radio, and tuning in to 6PR in the metropolitan area.*

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

SMS Messaging of harvest and vehicle movement bans and other important information are sent to mobile phones 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 - 0499 691 485 please save this number to your phone.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

000 - for fire or life threatening emergencies
132 500 - for SES Assistance
133 337—DFES emergency Info Line
1300 657 209 - for Emergency Information
1800 709 355 - for Total Fire Ban Information
Visit: dfes.wa.gov.au or emergency.wa.gov.au
Follow: DFES on Twitter and Facebook or listen to ABC Radio (630 or 558 AM)

Burning to collect clover burr must be done with a special permit from one of the nominated Clover Burning Officer (see Brigade Contacts Section) or the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire. 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.

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 (3 meters) 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 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 encourages all brigade members who attend fire incidents to text the Shire's dedicated SMS number **0499 691 485** 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 Graeme Marshall - Chief Bushfire Control Officer – 0407 261 005). 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 2025/2026

CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER & FIRE WEATHR OFFICER
Graeme Marshall — **VL6KJ** 0407 261 005

1st DEPUTY CBFCO
Peter Ettridge — **Frankland 1** 0458 552 271

2nd DEPUTY CBFCO
Simon Hilder — **Kybellup 1** 0427 888 379

FIRE WEATHER ADVISORY GROUP

G Marshall	S Lehmann	J Egerton-Warburton
M House	L Watterson	H Smith
S Hilder	P Ettridge	
S Morgan	T Ettridge	

CLOVER BURING OFFICER
Graeme Marshall — 0407 261 005

VOLUNTEER TRAINING OFFICER
Phill Gunn — 0499 899 189

BASE OPERATOR
Vacant

Juliet 1 (Base)
Juliet 2 (Mobile)

BOKERUP/UNICUP

FCO - Captain	N Waterman	**Bokerup 1** 0488 552 288
	B Kerr	**Unicup 1** 0428 841 857
Lieutenants	C Russell	**Bokerup 2** 0407 836 788
	B Grylls	**Bokerup 3** 0429 924 247
	B Friend	**Unicup 2** 0429 417 512
Secretary	J Quick	0400 713 041

CRANBROOK CENTRAL

FCO - Captain	J Climie	**Central 1** 0419 921 169
Lieutenants	S Lehmann	**Central 2** 0429 011 623
	M Walsh	**Central 3** 9826 1030 0428 261 034
	C Williamson	**Central 4** 0437 361 170
Secretary	C Williamson	0437 361 170

EAST CRANBROOK

FCO - Captain	H Smith	**Balicup 1** 0427 258 237
Lieutenants	W Horrocks	**Balicup 2** 0429 456 757
	P Horrocks	**Balicup 3** 9826 1179 0427 361 179
Secretary	P Horrocks	9826 1179

CRANBROOK TOWN

FCO – Captain	R Pearton	**Cranbrook Town 1** 0459 984 855
Lieutenant	E Sokolowski	**Cranbrook Town 2** 0492 477 795
Secretary	A Sokolowski	0429 311 390

GORDON

FCO - Captain	J Egerton-Warburton	**Gordon 1** 0428 267 088
Lieutenants	G Egerton-Warburton	**Gordon 2** 0427 267 021
	A De -Toledo	**Gordon 3** 0427 715 353
Secretary	A Warham	0427 985 676

KYBELLUP

FCO - Captain	K Haynes	**Kybellup 1** 0438 552 360
Lieutenants	K Lange	**Kybellup 2** 0427 774 334
	B Beech	**Kybellup 3** 0400 510 628
	S Beech	**Kybellup 4** 0437 863 462
Secretary	S Beech	0437 863 462

NUNIJUP

FCO - Captain	L Watterson	**Nunijup 1** 0427 524 007
Lieutenants	M Webster	**Nunijup 2** 0488 181 944
	B Parsons	**Nunijup 3** 0427 663 293
	J Beech	**Nunijup 4** 0419 914 546
Secretary	J Watterson	0439 973 898

TENTERDEN

FCO - Captain	J Watterson	**Tenterden 1** 0439 976 989
Lieutenants	M House	**Tenterden 2** 0429 311 068
	K Gibson	**Tenterden 3** 0427 417 408
	J Packard	0448 517 275
Secretary	S King	0447 478 847

TUNNEY

FCO - Captain	S Morgan	**Tunney 1** 0427 343 066
Lieutenants	J Treeby	**Tunney 2** 0429 448 756
	T Cunningham	**Tunney 3** 0418 304 548
	A Hearn	**Tunney 4** 0409 880 748
Secretary	N Waldron	0429 343 007

FRANKLAND RIVER

FCO -Captain	S Hilder	**Frankland 1** 0427 888 379
Lieutenants	M Muller	**Frankland 2** **0447 111 455**
Secretary	J Ettridge	0428 135 766

FRANKLAND RIVER TOWN

FCO - Captain	A Murray	**Frankland Town 1** 0427 552 321
Lieutenants	D Brayshaw	**Frankland Town 2** 0457 666 496
Secretary	J Ettridge	0428 135 766

WOOLONGA

FCO - Captain	B Smith	**Woolonga 1** 0497 157 765
Lieutenants	M Preston	**Woolonga 2** **0427 874 200**
	J Smith	**Woolonga 3** **0429 557 369**
Secretary	R Bonshore	0484 814 327

SHIRE

FCO - Ranger	W Andrews	0499 799 133
CESM	P Gunn	0499 899 189

DEFINITIONS

"FIREBREAK" means a 4m x 4m 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.

"**APZ"** means Asset Protection Zone— a fixed asset, defined as anything insurable.

Personal Protective Clothing

All registered bushfire brigade volunteers will be issued with approved firefighting Personal Protective Clothing. These must be worn when attending a fire.

NOTES


Shire of
Cranbrook
Great Southern's Finest