

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954 AS AMENDED

Notice is hereby given to all landowners/occupiers within the Shire of Morawa that firebreaks must be installed on or by 15th September and maintained free of all flammable material up to and including 15th March as per requirements in relation to Section 33 of the above Act.

PROPERTIES WILL BE INSPECTED TO ENSURE THEY COMPLY WITH COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Townsites

On or before 1st October all town lots within the townsites of Morawa, Gutha, Koolanooka, Merkanooka, Pintharuka and Canna are required to be treated as follows:

Where the area of land is less than 3,000m², the property must be cleared, mowed or slashed to a MAXIMUM height of 7.5cm of all flammable material.

Where the area of the land is 3,000m² or more, a firebreak must be provided not less than 3m in width inside and along the whole of the external boundaries of the properties owned or occupied and all flammable material must be cleared 3m in distance from all buildings and/or haystacks situated on the land and maintained free of such material until 15th March.

2. Fuel Storage Sites

On or before 1st October all grass and similar material is to be cleared from such places where fuel is stored/located and where drums, empty or full, are stored and such areas to be maintained and cleared of grass and similar flammable material until 15th March.

3. Farm Buildings and Unattended Electric Motors and Haystacks

Firebreaks at least 3m in width completely surrounding and not more than 20m from the perimeter of any building, group of buildings or haystacks. All flammable material must be removed from an area 3m in width immediately surrounding the building. All flammable material must be removed from an area 3m in width immediately surrounding an unattended electric motor site.

4. Unattended Fuel Operated Motors

All flammable material must be removed from an area 3m in width immediately surrounding an unattended fuel operated motor whether the motor is intended to be used or not.

5. Rural Land

Firebreaks must be provided not less than 3m in width inside and along the whole of the external boundaries of the properties owned or occupied; where this is not practicable the firebreaks must be provided as near as possible to, and within, such boundaries.

6. Barbeques and Incinerators

Gas and electric barbeques are permitted at all times. Solid fuel barbeques and incinerators are PROHIBITED on days of VERY HIGH FIRE DANGER or above.

7. Penalty

The penalty for failing to comply with this Notice is a fine of up to \$400 and a person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of performing the work in this Notice, if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required by this Notice.

Harvesting Operations

NO harvesting operations are permitted on **Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day**. A separate fire fighting appliance is required to be present in any paddock being harvested, churning, raking stubble, straw baling and associated allied activities during restricted and prohibited periods. The fire fighting unit must be in a state of readiness and have a minimum capacity of 400 litres of water, a powered pump and hose. The farm fire fighting unit should be parked on bare ground in or near the harvesting or working area.

A **Harvesting and Movement Ban and Use of Internal Combustion Engines (except for the watering and movement of stock)** will be imposed when the actual weather conditions reach a **Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) rating of Thirty Two (32) or above** at the weather stations of two (2) **Bush Fire Control Officers**. All such bans are at the discretion of the **Chief Bush Fire Control Officer** or a duly appointed person.

HARVEST BAN INFORMATION LINE:

9478 5677

If a ban has been imposed, all persons registered will be sent a text message advising of details.

All bans will still be broadcast on radio:

ABC Statewide AM

WAFM 90.9

Radio West 864 AM

Note: Attention of landowners is drawn to the fact that this Order allows for provision of firebreaks in situations other than immediately within property boundaries subject to approval. The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and appointed Fire Control Officers have been authorised to act for Council in this matter.

Failure to install and maintain firebreaks in accordance with this Notice may result in a \$5,000 fine.

