

Fire Hazard Reduction and Fire Break Notice

2025-2026

First and Final Notice is hereby served to all Ratepayers and Residents of the Shire of Morawa. This notice is issued under Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954. Failure to install and maintain fire breaks in accordance with this notice can result in a \$5000 fine.



PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

15 OCTOBER 2025 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026

STRICTLY NO BURNING



RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

1 OCTOBER 2025 TO 14 OCTOBER 2025

PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

1 MARCH 2026 TO 15 MARCH 2026

PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

Fire Reduction and Firebreak Guidelines

All rural landowners/occupiers within the Shire of Morawa must have firebreaks installed on or by 15 September 2025 and maintained free of all flammable material up to and including 15 March 2026.

Town sites

On or before 1 October 2025 all town lots within the town sites 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.

Fuel and Battery Storage Sites

All grass and similar material is to be cleared from such places where fuel or batteries are stored/located and where drums or batteries, empty or full, are stored and such areas to be maintained and cleared of grass and similar flammable material.

Farm Buildings and Unattended Electric and Fuel Operated 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 or an unattended electric or fuel operated motor site, whether the motor is intended to be used or not.

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.

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.

Tree Plantations

Plantations larger than 3 hectares, are to construct a 10m wide mineral earth firebreak with a vertical clearance of 4m high, clear of all inflammable material immediately surrounding the plantation. Plantations larger than 10 hectares are to comply with the guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection by DFES and the code of Practice for Timber Plantation in Western Australia.

**** 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 15 September 2025 and maintained until 15 March 2026.****

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans and Harvesting Operations

Failure to comply with Total Fire Bans or Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans can result in significant fines and/ or criminal conviction. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to be aware of any Total Fire Bans or Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

A separate fire fighting appliance is required to be present in any paddock being harvested, chaining, 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 Harvest and Vehicle 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 forty (40) 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 and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) will be advertised on the Shire of Morawa's Website, visit www.morawa.wa.gov.au for more information. Mobile numbers registered on the Shire of Morawa's Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban text messaging service will also be sent a text informing you when a HVMB has been issued.

To be added to the Shire of Morawa's Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban text message service, please contact the Shire of Morawa on (08) 9971 1204 or admin@morawa.wa.gov.au.

Harvesting operations are not permitted on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Years Day.

Bush Fire Brigade Fire Control Officers * Permit Issuing Officers

Chief Bushfire Control Officer (UHF 11)

Wayne Kowald 0429 615 271

Morawa West (UHF 11)

Darren Yewers (Capt.) 0427 981 364/ 9971 6013

Koolanooka (UHF 11)

Glen Tapscott (Capt) 0427 715 048/ 9971 4018

Pintharuka (UHF 11)

Mark Coaker 0429 853 440

Canna/Gutha (UHF 11)

Wayne Kowald FCO* 0429 615 271

Garry Collins FCO* 0428 722 027

Geoff Scott * 0429 960 934

Community Emergency Services Officer

Rick Ryan CESM* 0438 277 582/ 9956 6018

**Fire Control Officers are not obliged to issue permits. Permits cannot be issued over the phone and should a Fire Control Officer refuse to issue a permit, it is a breach of the Bush Fires Act 1954 to request a permit from another Fire Control Officer. **

Properties will be inspected to ensure they comply with council requirements.

If you would like more information on burning restrictions, firebreaks, Total Fire or HVMB within the Shire, scan the QR code or visit www.morawa.wa.gov.au



For more information about Fire Prevention Visit the DFES Website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au

All Total Fire Bans issued by DFES are listed on the Emergency WA website, or scan the QR code: www.emergency.wa.gov.au

