

Notice under s. 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* **FIRST AND FINAL WARNING**

Notice is hereby given to all landowners/occupiers within the Shire of Victoria Plains that you are required on or before 1 October Annually to comply with the below directives to reduce the outbreak, spread and extension of a bushfire and maintain at that standard until 29 March Annually under s. 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. **Failure to comply with this notice may incur penalties up to \$5,000 and the required works carried out at the expense of the owner/occupier.**

Requirements of land 4000-meter square and under	Requirements of land 4001-meter square and over
• Slashing Dead flammable matter including dead grass shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property. • Asset Protection Maintain all dead flammable material below 2 tonne per hectare across the entirety of the property. (See definitions for fuel load) • Clean Gutters Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings are free of flammable matter.	• Slashing Dead flammable matter including dead grass shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property. Unless used for pasture or crop. • Asset Protection Maintain all dead flammable material below 2 tonne per hectare extending 20 meters out from all buildings. (See definitions for fuel load) • Clean Gutters Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings are free of flammable matter. • Fire Breaks Install a minimum 3-meter-wide and 4-meter-height clearance fire break no further than 3 meters away from; - The entirety of the property boundary - Every 400 hectares of land - All buildings, sheds and fuel storage - All stationary internal combustion engines - All electric motors or pumps

Harvesting:

A separate firefighting 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 firefighting unit must be in a state of readiness and have a minimum capacity of **600 litres of water**, a powered pump and minimum 20m hose. The farm firefighting unit should be parked on bare ground in or near the harvesting or working area. **NOTE:** The minimum water capacity has *increased* this year from 400L to 600L.

Plantations:

Plantations 3 hectares or less

- Require a 6-meter-wide by 4-meter-height clearance fire break around the entirety.

Plantations over 3 hectares

- 15-meter-wide by 4-meter-height clearance fire break around the entirety.
- 6-meter-wide by 4-meter-height clearance internal fire breaks a minimum of every 30 hectares.
- Minimum of 25,000L water supply and hard stand for every 50 hectares no further than 20 minutes turnaround.

Other works:

A Fire Control Officer may direct in writing other works to be carried out.

Bushfire Management Plans:

All properties that are subject to a Bushfire Management Plan as a result of a subdivision, development application or a Shire approved treatment plan must comply with the requirements of such plans in their entirety in addition to the requirements of this notice.

Definitions

Fire break

Trafficable clearing for heavy 4WD vehicles.
No less than 3 meters wide and 4 meters vertical clearance.
Must be constructed in a continuous form with no obstructions or dead ends.
Must not contain any flammable material.
Must not be further than 3 meters off the property boundaries.

Fuel measurement – Asset Protection Zone

Fuel load refers to dead, flammable materials such as leaf litter, dry grass, woods under 6mm in diameter.
2.7 Tonne per hectare as per the Shire of Victoria Plains Fuel Load Measuring tool provided on the Shire website or upon request from the Shire administration.

Plantation:

Any area of planted trees, other than a wind break, that exceeds three hectares in a gazetted town site or elsewhere a stand of trees of 10 hectares or larger, that has been established by sowing or planting native or exotic tree species selected and managed intensively for their commercial and environmental value. A plantation includes roads, tracks, firebreaks and small areas of native vegetation.

Variation Request

The Shire of Victoria Plains understands that not all land owners/occupiers are able to complete the requirements set out by this notice. In these circumstances the owner/occupier must complete a Request for Variation form no later than 1 September.

A Variation request must be completed in whole for consideration by the Shire and may be rejected for any reason the Shire feels fit. **NOTE: If the variation request is not approved then the applicant must comply with all requirements of this notice prior to 1 September.**

For an in-depth guide on how to comply with the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice, visit www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au and download the Fire Safety Booklet.

Compliance inspection may be carried out by Fire Control Officers as of 1 October annually under the authority of the *Bush Fire Act 1954*.

Failure to comply with the above Regulations may result in referral to the Fines Enforcement Registry, which could lead to court action and the imposition of additional costs.

Sean Fletcher

Chief Executive Officer

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