



# Shire of Goomalling Fire Information 2017 - 2018 FOR ALL FIRES RING '000'



The Fire Break Order 2017-2018 sets out the legal responsibilities and fire safety information for land owners or occupiers in the Shire of Goomalling.

As a landowner or occupier you are required under the provisions of *Section 33 of the Bush Fire Act 1954* and the Shire of Goomalling's local laws dated 29 August 1997 to carry out fire prevention work on your property. The requirements are detailed in the Fire break Order as included in this information.

Please read this Order carefully - if there are any points that are not fully understood, please contact the Shire Administration on Ph. 9629 1101 or by e-mail at [goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au](mailto:goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au).

## Restricted Burning Period

This period runs in two parts from 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. During the Restricted burning period a permit to set a fire is required before any burning operation can be carried out.

**NOTE: These dates may be varied depending on the seasonal conditions.**

You are advised to contact the Shire in advance of burning to ascertain whether the dates have been varied.

## Permits

A permit will only be issued for broad acre crop preparation or controlled burns that reduce a fire hazard on a property where no alternative method exists to abate the hazard.

Conditions will apply to the permit as to how the burning will be carried out. Any special conditions imposed by the Fire Control Officer **must** be strictly adhered to.

Permits are not valid on; any Sunday or Public Holiday; when the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) imposes a Total Fire Ban; or when the fire danger rating is Very High or above as advised by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the fire danger rating for the day is available online at the BOM website ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)).

The Shire of Goomalling may also suspend all permits during the outbreak of fire or fires within the Shire or in neighboring Shires if resources are likely to be committed for fire suppression operations.

A Fire Control Officer for your area must be contacted for the issue of a permit. Permits must be obtained before burning commences and the permit must be in the possession of the permit holder at all times during the burn.

At least 24 hours prior to the burn, the permit holder must give notice of their intentions to burn to:

- The owners or occupiers of adjoining lands, and
- If located within 3 kilometers of a State Forest or a National Park, the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

**NB:** Permits for special purposes (i.e. the collection of Clover Burr) during the Prohibited Period may be issued but **must be counter-signed by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.**

## Prohibited Burning Period

This period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018. No burning is allowed for any reason during this period. This includes the burning of garden refuse and open cooking or camp fires.

**NOTE: These dates may be varied by the Shire of Goomalling depending on seasonal conditions.**

|                                   |                                 |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>RESTRICTED</b>                 | <b>PROHIBITED</b>               | <b>RESTRICTED</b>                |
| <b>19 Sept 2017 – 31 Oct 2017</b> | <b>1 Nov 2017 – 14 Feb 2018</b> | <b>15 Feb 2018 – 29 Mar 2018</b> |
| <b>Permit Required</b>            | <b>NO BURNING</b>               | <b>Permit Required</b>           |

## Total Fire Bans

A Total Fire Ban may be declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) when severe weather conditions or widespread fires are seriously stretching resources within the region or across the state.

**When a Total Fire Ban is declared it is illegal to do anything that may start a fire.**

However harvesting and normal farming practices are exempt during a Total Fire ban.

## Harvest, Vehicle and Hot Works Bans

A harvest, vehicle movement or hot works ban may be declared by the Shire during the Restricted or Prohibited Burning Period. The Shire of Goomalling will determine the need for a ban and advertise the ban on ABC Radio and via the Shire's mobile phone SMS service.

There is an automatic ban on all harvesting, vehicle movement and hot works on all public holidays including; Christmas Day; Boxing Day; New Year's Day; and Australia Day.

A harvest ban is defined as a ban on all harvesting operations on all properties within the Shire of Goomalling. A vehicle movement ban is defined as a ban on all vehicle movements on properties within the Shire of Goomalling except for the essential watering of stock, using a diesel powered vehicle only and Emergency Services Vehicles. A hot works ban is defined as a ban on the outdoor use of all welding, grinding and abrasive tools. These bans apply to ALL properties within the Shire of Goomalling.

## Burning Road Verges

A permit is required from the Shire of Goomalling to burn the road verge. Permits will only be issued between May and August each year.

## Keeping Your Property Safer

The requirements of the Firebreak Order are considered to be the minimum standard of fire prevention work necessary to help to protect not only individual properties, but the district generally.

Further to this Order, the owner or occupier is responsible to abate any excessive fire hazard on the property, e.g.: rubbish, excessive vegetation growth. An Authorised Officer may give a direction to a land owner to abate a fire hazard on a property if that hazard is deemed to be excessive.

There are a number of ways you can help to keep your property safer from fire:

- Ensure you have complied with the Shire of Goomalling's Fire Break Order.
- Clear vegetation away from the walls of your home and any buildings.
- Clear all rubbish and flammable liquids away from your home to create a 25 meter "building protection zone".
- Trim branches that overhang the house, power lines and trees that are close to windows and glass doors.
- Do not operate machinery, welding equipment or abrasive tools in the open, during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods, without carrying either; a 7.5kg Dry Powder fire extinguisher; a 9 litre pressurised water extinguisher; or equivalent.
- Ensure you have adequate and serviceable firefighting equipment on your property.
- Have a fire action plan prepared and discuss it with your family.

## Inspections

**NOTE:** After 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, Authorised Officers will carry out property inspections to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Order.

Any owner or occupier of land who fails to comply with the requirements of this Order is guilty of an offence under Section 33(3) of the *Bushfire Act 1954*.

In addition, the Shire of Goomalling may enter upon the land and carry out the requisite works and recover the cost of doing so from the owner or occupier.

|                                   |                                 |                                  |
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## Fire Break Variations

If for any reason it is considered impracticable to clear fire breaks on any land as required by this Order an application can be made to Council for a Fire Break Variation. Any application for a variation must be applied for before 15 October in any year. The request must be in writing and provide a sketch of the property and must specify alternative positions for fire breaks or other actions to abate fire hazards on the land. If a variation is granted it will be in writing and shall remain valid until revoked.

## Penalties

Persons who fail to comply with the requirements of the Firebreak Order will be issued with an Infringement Notice and may be prosecuted.

The penalty for failing to comply with the Order is a fine of up to \$5,000 and the person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the costs of performing the work directed in the Order.

## Avoid the Consequences

- Do not light any fire during the Prohibited burning period. This includes open cooking or camp fires.
- Do not light a fire during the restricted period without a valid permit.
- Do not light a fire during the restricted period on any Sunday or public holiday as all permits are invalid.
- Do not light a fire on "Very High" or higher fire danger forecast days.
- Do not burn the road verge without the permission of the Shire and a permit.
- Check the weather forecast before undertaking any burning or other activity that may cause a fire.
- Check with the Shire or listen to ABC Radio for all bans.
- Register with the Shire for the free SMS harvest ban and information service.

# SHIRE OF GOOMALLING FIRE BREAK ORDER 2017 – 2018

|                                   |                                 |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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**Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and the Shire of Goomalling's local laws dated 29 August 1997, all residents and ratepayers within the Shire of Goomalling are required to clear a fire break of all inflammable material on their land as set out below.**

Due Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October in each year.  
 Maintained Until: 31<sup>st</sup> March in the following year.

NB: If you purchase land during this period you have 14 DAYS from purchase to comply with the requirements of this order.

### 1. Townsite Land *(Is all land within the Gazetted Goomalling Townsite)*

- 1.1 All Townsite Lots with an area less than 4,000 M<sup>2</sup> in area are required to be fire hazard reduced by:
  - Removal of all inflammable material **or**
  - Reduction of the vegetation fire hazard to a maximum height of 75 mm.
 All slashed material is to be removed.
- 1.2 All Townsite Lots with an area greater than or equal to 4,000 M<sup>2</sup> shall comply with either clause 1.1 above **or** clauses 2.1 and 2.2 of this Order.

## 2. Rural Residential and Rural Land *(Is all land outside the Gazetted Goomalling Townsite)*

- 2.1 All land which is used for growing crop or pasture requires a minimum of a 3 meter wide and high fire break immediately inside the external boundaries of the land and any adjoining road and railway reserves.
- 2.2 A fire break a minimum of 3 meters wide shall be cleared and maintained immediately around all buildings, haystacks and fuel storage areas. In addition to this, a 15 meter wide low fuel area with a maximum vegetation height of 75 mm is to be maintained. NB: It is not required to remove live trees or shrubs.
- 2.3 A minimum of a 3 meter wide fire break shall be cleared and maintained immediately around a stationary motor.
- 2.4 All Rural and Rural Residential Lots with an area less than 4,000 M<sup>2</sup> in area are required to be fire hazard reduced by:
  - Removal of all inflammable material **or**
  - Reduction of the vegetation fire hazard to a maximum height of 75 mm.
  - All slashed material is to be removed.

## 3. Kilns and Incinerators

Approved kilns and incinerators with properly fitted spark arrestors (not an open drum) may be used within the Shire of Goomalling. However they are not to be used when the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above; on any Sunday or Public Holiday; or when DFES imposes a Total Fire Ban. Approved incinerators are not to be situated within 2 meters of any building or fence and are to have an area 2 meters wide surrounding the incinerator clear of all inflammable material. You are advised to contact the Shire prior to installation or operation.

## 4. Campfires & Cooking Fires and Burning Garden Refuse during the Restricted Burning Period

Campfires and cooking fires or a wheelbarrow sized pile of garden refuse may be burnt on the ground between 6.00PM and 11.00PM except: on days of a Very High Fire Danger Rating or above; on any Sunday or Public Holiday; or on days when a Total Fire Ban is declared by The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). An area of 5 meters must be cleared all around the site of the fire and at least one adult must remain in attendance during the whole time that the fire is burning and until it is completely extinguished with water, which must be done before midnight.

**CAMPFIRES AND COOKING FIRES OR THE BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE IS PROHIBITED DURING THE PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD.**

## 5. Fire Control Officers

In accordance with Sections 38 and 38A of the Bush Fires Act 1954 the following Fire Control Officers have been appointed by Council, and have authority within the Shire of Goomalling in accordance with Section 39 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 for the 2017-2018 Fire Season.

| <b>CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER</b>        |              | <b>CENTRAL-NORTH</b>   |              |
|---|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Brady Anderson (CBFCO)                        | 0427 291 229 | Arnold Lockyer         | 9629 1267    |
| <b>DEPUTY CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER</b> |              | Barry Haywood          | 9629 1053    |
| Kevin Ryan (DCBFCO 1)                         | 0429 491 198 | Lindsay White          | 0428 211 258 |
| <b>COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER</b>   |              | Peter Whitfield        | 9620 1254    |
| Robert Koch (CESM)                            | 0458 042 104 |                        |              |
| <b>SOUTH</b>                                  |              | <b>GOOMALLING TOWN</b> |              |
| Rod Sheen                                     | 9623 2265    | Russell Beck           | 0427 556 579 |
| Peter Clarke                                  | 9623 2205    | Kevin Ryan (DCBFCO 1)  | 0429 491 198 |
| Dale Leeson                                   | 9623 2304    | Clem Kerp (CEO)        | 9629 1101    |
| Kristian Forward                              | 9623 2284    | Natalie Bird (DCEO)    | 9629 1101    |
|   |              |                        |              |