

Council to Community

Gingin, Chittering, Dandaragan - WA's Largest Foodbowl

If you ever wondered where your fresh fruit and vegetables in the supermarket came from then there is a fair chance they were grown right here in the Shires of Gingin, Chittering and Dandaragan.

These three Shires make up one of 5 regions in the Wheatbelt. They lie in the region of the Wheatbelt known as the Central Coast Region which produces more of WA's fresh fruit and vegetables than anywhere else. Some of the products produced here include:

- 83% of WA's oranges
- 80% of WA's lemons
- 64% of WA's blueberries
- 60% of WA's lettuce
- 51% of WA's cauliflower
- 41% of WA's mangoes



The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has been working in partnership with the Shires of Gingin, Chittering and Dandaragan and the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) during the past 12 months to create a Food & Beverage Capability Guide not only showcasing our larger producers throughout the Central Coast Wheatbelt but also our many more specialised producers providing jams, preserves, honeys, cheeses, wines and more.

At Nesci Estate Winery on Friday, 29 October 2021 the Central Coast Wheatbelt Food and Beverage Capability Guide was officially launched by the Hon Darren West MLC. A wide variety of producers from across the entire Wheatbelt gathered for the simultaneous launch of both the Central Coast Wheatbelt guide and the guide for the entire Wheatbelt. It was an excellent opportunity for all attendees to taste a wide variety of some of the produce and beverages contained within both guides and to have the chance to network with fellow producers and industry members.

The Guide features 11 food and beverage producers from the Shire of Gingin including Borrello Beef, Bullbar Beef Jerky, Dr Jims Famous Lemon Squash, Gingin Pomegranates and Dates, Guinea Grove Farm, Local Goat Artisan Cheese, Loose Leaf Lettuce, Marvick Native Farms, Northern Valleys Fruit Pops, West Coast Honey and Western Produce.

This is just a small fraction of our local producers with an opportunity available annually for more producers to be included in the guide when it is reviewed.

Thank you to all those producers who came on board for this project this year. The Shire of Gingin is proud to have worked in partnership with you, DPIRD, WDC and the Shires of Chittering and Dandaragan to produce this guide. We hope that it will be a terrific tool to encourage more discussion in our communities and respective industries around local WA food and beverage products and the overall journey from paddock to plate.

A copy of the Guide is available for viewing via the following link - www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Central%20Coast%20Food%20Beverage%20Guide%20%28A5477083%29.pdf



Road Verge Slashing

It has been brought to the Shire's attention that there is some confusion around the slashing of road verges and who's responsibility it is. The Shire of Gingin can clarify the following:

- Residents are not liable for their own verges and will not be prosecuted if the verge isn't maintained.
- For safety reasons the Shire will slash one mower row width from the edge of seal as a minimum and may slash to the fence line if time and resources permit and if practical.
- Residents are encouraged to mow/slash/maintain their verges for added fire safety (but do so at own risk, e.g. it is important to wear personal protective equipment, be traffic aware, etc. while undertaking any work).
- The only liability to a landowner is if they do not install and maintain their fire breaks in accordance with the Shire's Fire Break Orders.

The Shire is under no obligation to slash any verges within its district



December

#WeAreInThisTogether

and it is not possible to do to the fence line for over 923km of roads throughout the district. However, for ease of line of sight and other safety reasons, the Shire will undertake as much verge side slashing as it is capable of doing annually prior to the commencement of the fire season. The Shire may also vary where it does slash annually dependent upon the fuel load levels within the verge. It should further be noted that:

- Roads act as 7m wide fire breaks. With the addition of 1m slashing either side of the road, this then becomes 9m.
- Vegetation in verges is also important for providing shelter for local wildlife and to create windbreaks which protects against wind erosion.

For any queries in relation to your obligations (or the Shire's) please contact the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer on 0408 943 576.

The Prohibited Burning Period

The Prohibited Burning Period is scheduled to commence 22 November 2021 (although this can potentially be pushed back if conditions are deemed damp enough).

Annually the Shire receives a number of common questions during this period so the following FAQs and answers have been compiled.

Can I still use my BBQ during the Prohibited Burning Period?

Yes - you can. Electric and gas barbeques can still be used (even on a Total Fire Ban day) so long as there is at least a 3m radius cleared around the barbeque of any flammable material. BBQs using solid fuel (i.e. wood) are prohibited.

Is there a difference between a Total Fire Ban (TFB) and a Harvest, Hot Works & Vehicle Movement Ban (HHWMB)?

Yes there is. A TFB is enacted by DFES and a HHWMB is enacted by the Shire. They can be put on at the same time or independent of each other. Different activities are permitted depending upon the type of ban.

Can I ride my motorbike if a Total Fire Ban is on?

You can provided it is on a gazetted road only. Riding motorbikes or any other type of vehicle through paddocks and on bushtracks when a TFB is on is prohibited due to the risk of lighting a fire whilst in close proximity to dry vegetation.

How can I find out if a ban is on?

The Shire provides an SMS service which gives notification when a ban has been placed. You can subscribe to this service by visiting the Shire's website (www.gingin.wa.gov.au/harvest-vehicle-movement-bans) or calling the Shire on (08) 9575 5100.

It's not that hot. Why has a Total Fire Ban been put on?

When a major bush fire (emergency alert - red) occurs in WA, DFES and other state agencies will scramble resources to combat the fire promptly. Sometimes multiple fires may be ongoing at one time and if they are concentrated around an area of the state (e.g. Perth and surrounds), then this can put a severe strain on resources. Sometimes as a precaution DFES will enact a TFB even if conditions aren't that warm or windy in order to preserve the State's fire fighting capacity if it

is currently dealing with a number of large bush fires.

To learn more about fire bans, please visit the Shire's website (link above), DFES' website (www.dfes.wa.gov.au/site/bushfire/totalfirebans.html) or contact Phil Barrett, the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, on 0408 943 576.

'Have Fun - Play Safe' in Off-road Vehicle Areas

Whether you're a 4WD enthusiast or you're mad about motor bikes, it's important to be safe when travelling off-road. It's also important to be considerate of your neighbours and to make sure that you're allowed to drive in the area you are visiting.

The Shire of Gingin Rangers have developed a video (to watch see link below) to help visitors to understand how to use the Shire's local off-road vehicle areas safely, especially the Lancelin sand dunes which has seen a large number of serious accidents and even deaths occur there in the past.

REMEMBER - NO REGO = NO RIDE

In order to visit a designated off-road vehicle area you must either be a 'road registered' and 'off-road registered' user. Restrictions in relation to age limits, safety equipment and noise apply as per the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* and the Shire's Control of Vehicles (Off-road Vehicles) Local Laws 2021.

Rangers regularly patrol both the Lancelin and Ledge Point (temporarily closed) off-road vehicle areas which are free to enter. Please ensure that you 'play safely'. You enter these areas at your own risk and it is highly recommended that you take out personal insurance against death or injury while undertaking any activity in these areas.

If you would like to register a vehicle for off-road use, please contact the Department of Transport (13 11 56) or visit their website (www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/visit-a-licensing-centre-or-agent.asp) for a list of locations where you can register. Fees are applicable.

TO WATCH THE VIDEO & LEARN MORE

Visit the Shire's website (www.gingin.wa.gov.au/off-road-vehicle-information) or contact the Shire's Rangers on (08) 9575 5140.

SAVE THE DATES!

- **21 December - Ordinary Council Meeting** at 3pm at the Shire Administration Centre, Gingin
- **25 December - 3 January - Shire Admin Centre & Lancelin Office closed for Christmas Break.** Re-opening 4 January
- **8 January 2022 - Music in the Park, 5 - 10pm** in Gabbadah Park, Guilderton. **FREE Event. BYO permitted**
To find out more, visit the Shire's website/Facebook page
- **26 January 2022 - Australia Day Picnic Breakfast, 7.30am** in Neergabby. **FREE Event.**
To find out more, visit the Shire's website/Facebook page