

Firebreak Orders & Bush Fire Information

BUSHFIRE SEASON
2022-23



**REPORT ALL
FIRES TO 000**

gingin.wa.gov.au

This Notice is to all landowners and occupiers within the Shire of Gingin and is issued pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bushfires Act 1954*.

Definitions

Acre

4,047m² area of land or the equivalent of 0.4 hectares.

Asset Protection Zone (APZ)

An APZ is a fuel reduced area surrounding a building or an asset of value whether residential, commercial, industrial or environmental. 'Fuel reduced' means a reduction in the available vegetation or other items that may burn sufficient to reduce the impact of a bush fire on your home or other assets of value.

Firebreak

A strip of land that has been cleared of all flammable material leaving bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back of anything overhanging the fire break area. Mowed firebreaks are not acceptable. Approved methods include ploughing, grading, cultivating, scarifying, raking, burning and chemical spraying.

FDR

Fire Danger Rating. see page 17 for full definition.

Fire Management Plan (FMP)

A document forming part of a building, development or subdivision approval that sets out short, medium and long-term bushfire risk management strategies for the life of the development.

Flammable material

Any vegetation (bushes, grasses, trees, mulch, leaves and green waste), object, or material that is likely to catch fire.

Hectare (Ha)

10,000m² area of land. A hectare contains approximately 2.47 acres.

Plantation

Any area of planted pine trees, eucalyptus, paulownia or any other species used for timber production.

TFB

Total Fire Ban, see page 16 for more information about fire bans.

Trafficable

The ability for 4x4 vehicles to access your land on a firm surface without obstruction. No firebreak is to terminate without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turnaround area of not less than a 21 metre radius (prior written approval from the Shire is required).

You

Owner or occupier of any land within the Shire of Gingin.

Vertical axis

An uninterrupted vertical line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak.

Firebreak Notice

**Please read this booklet carefully
as these are your legal requirements.**

This notice applies to all owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Gingin.

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* you are required to take action in accordance with this notice for the duration indicated in your category.

These Orders detail (with no exceptions) what you must do to comply. Failure to comply may result in the issuing of a fine to you and/or the Shire entering your land to install firebreak works at your expense.

This Notice and information is effective from **1 October 2022**. All previous Firebreak Orders are hereby cancelled.

Aaron Cook
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

YOUR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1. For your property

You are legally required annually to undertake the following at your property (unless a 'Recommendation' is indicated). Failure to do so will result in the issuing of an infringement.

A If your property is less than 0.4 Ha (option 1)

B If your property is less than 0.4 Ha (option 2)

C If your property is 0.4 Ha - 8 Ha

D If your property is 8 Ha or more

PROPERTY SIZE	A	B	C	D
Install firebreaks that are 3m wide and free of flammable material for all external boundaries of the property including any areas planned for stubble burning.		✓	✓	✓
Install firebreaks that are a width of 20m for areas cleared for the purpose of burning (stubble burning excluded).			✓	✓
Burn or slash all grass to a height no greater than 50mm.	✓			
Trim all vegetation that overhangs driveways, access ways and firebreaks to leave a minimum vertical access clearance of 4m.	✓	✓	✓	✓
For your assets it is RECOMMENDED that you maintain a 20m APZ surrounding all buildings, large hay stacks and fuel storage areas. <i>Refer to pages 22 - 24 for further information.</i>	✓	✓		
For your assets it is REQUIRED that you maintain a 20m APZ surrounding all buildings, large hay stacks and fuel storage areas. <i>Refer to pages 22 - 24 for further information.</i>			✓	✓
For your assets trim back all vegetation overhanging structures.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Compliance is required by **1 November** and must be maintained until **15 May** annually.

2. Any other requirements

From time to time your property may be deemed to have an excessive fuel load (e.g. excessive non-slashed grass, etc.) and as such, you may be instructed by Shire Rangers, at the behest of the Chief Bushfire Control Officer, to undertake additional works in order to reduce the hazard.

These works would only be requested in the instance that the large fuel load on your property poses an excessive risk to your assets and/or neighbouring properties.

If you are requested to undertake these works then they MUST BE CARRIED OUT. Failure to do so will result in the issuing of an infringement.

3. To vary your firebreak

Occasionally it is not possible to install a firebreak adjacent to your external boundary due to naturally occurring obstacles. In that instance, it is acceptable to install the firebreak around the obstacle. If the firebreak is required to be greater than 5m away from the boundary then a **Firebreak Variation is required**.

A variation for your firebreaks (including the reasons for your application) should be applied for between **1 June and 15 October annually**. If approved then all firebreak conditions will be as per your variation.

Refer to the Firebreak Variation guidelines on pages 13 and 14 for more information.

HELP OUR FIRE FIGHTERS

Register ANY burn you plan to undertake at ANY time of year with DFES on (08) 9395 9209.

By notifying DFES, you will assist us in preventing unnecessary call outs to our local fire fighters when members of the public call 000.

4. If you have a Plantation less than 3 Ha

Install firebreaks that are:

- Immediately inside all external boundaries.
- A minimum width of 10m free of flammable material.
- Have a clear vertical axis.

Adjacent non-plantation areas within the same property boundary are subject to the firebreak requirements set in part 2 of the section of these Firebreak Orders.

Compliance is required by **1 November** and must be maintained until **15 May** annually.



5. If you have a Plantation greater than 3 Ha

Install firebreaks that are:

- A minimum width of 15m free of flammable material and immediately inside all external boundaries.
- A minimum width of 6m free of flammable material for all internal firebreaks for compartments not larger than 30 ha.
- Maintained in a trafficable condition for emergency vehicles (e.g. firetrucks) with a minimum vertical axis clearance of 4m for all internal firebreaks.

Adjacent non-plantation areas within the same property boundary are subject to the firebreak requirements set in part 2 of the section of these Firebreak Orders.

You must also maintain a water supply of 25,000L for every 50 ha of plantation or part thereof. Water sources are required to be positioned to provide a maximum 20 minute refill turnaround from anywhere within the plantation. The water source point must have a hardstand area for heavy trucks to park on whilst drawing water.

Compliance is required by **1 November** and must be maintained until **15 May** annually.

ARE YOUR FIREBREAKS COMPLIANT THROUGHOUT THE BUSH FIRE SEASON?

Rainfall can cause your firebreaks to regenerate with fresh green growth. Your fire breaks must remain compliant throughout the entirety of the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Periods (October - May).

Make sure your fire breaks are bare of any vegetation/debris during this time to avoid infringement.

6. Burning your garden waste

In accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, if you want to burn your garden waste during Restricted Burning Periods then you need to:

- Obtain a permit from a Fire Control Officer if you intend to burn before 6.00pm, after 11.00pm, burn multiply 1m x 1m piles or piles larger than 1m x 1m.
- Let your neighbours know prior to burning.
- Only burn dry garden waste from your property.

No burning is allowed at all during the Prohibited Burning Period and no permits will be issued to burn by Fire Control Officers during that period.

During the Restricted Burning Period you cannot burn on Sundays or public holidays.

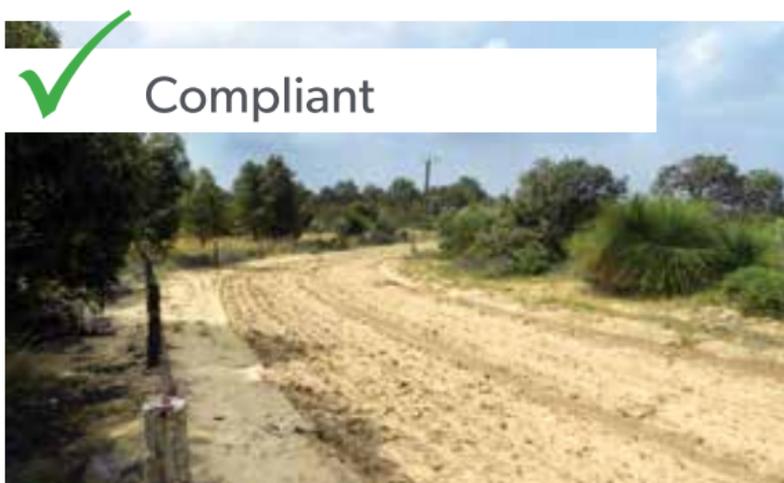
Failure to comply may result in a \$3,000 fine.



Firebreak Installation Guide

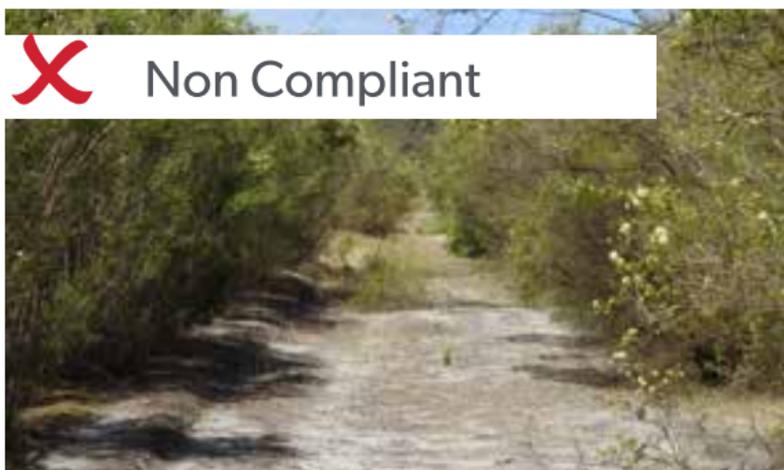
Firebreaks provide safe access for firefighters and their vehicles. The landowner is responsible for the standard and quality of firebreaks on their land. You can choose to install your firebreaks yourself or engage a contractor (refer page 12 for a list of contractors in the Gingin Shire area).

It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that firebreaks are maintained throughout the firebreak season which occurs from 1 November through to the 15 May annually. Any flammable material needs to be removed from firebreaks during this period.



Firebreak is correct width of a minimum 3m and free of flammable material.

There is a clear vertical access of a minimum of 4m to allow access for emergency vehicles



Clear vertical access of a minimum of 4m **NOT** maintained to allow access for emergency vehicles

Firebreaks can:

- ✓ Detour around single large trees without a variation (as long as you comply with the required dimensions of your firebreak).
- ✓ Be achieved by chemical application, ploughing and grading. However, loose soil may erode in steep areas and will require constant maintenance. Stepping and grading the firebreak into the incline will reduce this effect.

Firebreaks cannot:

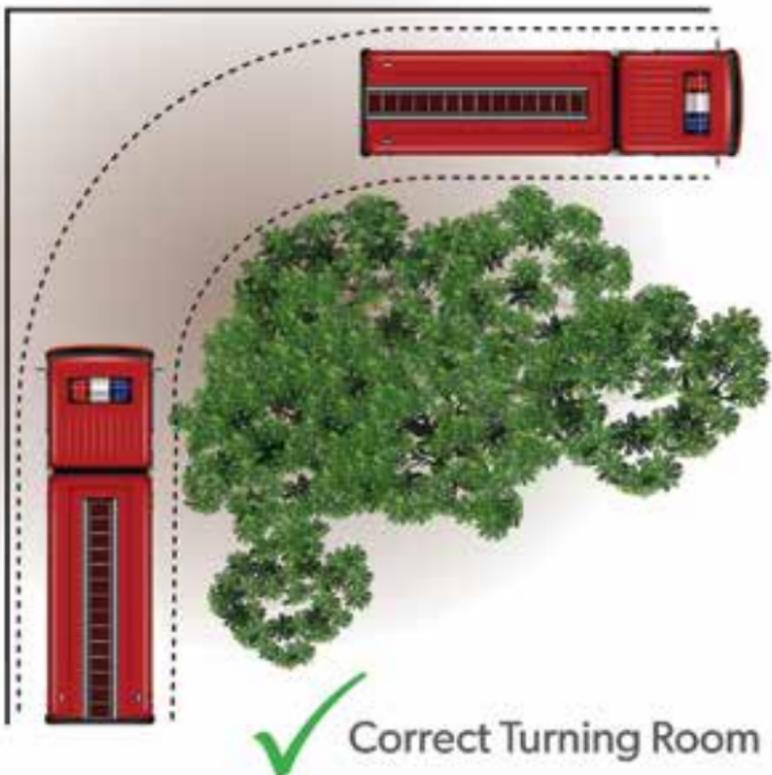
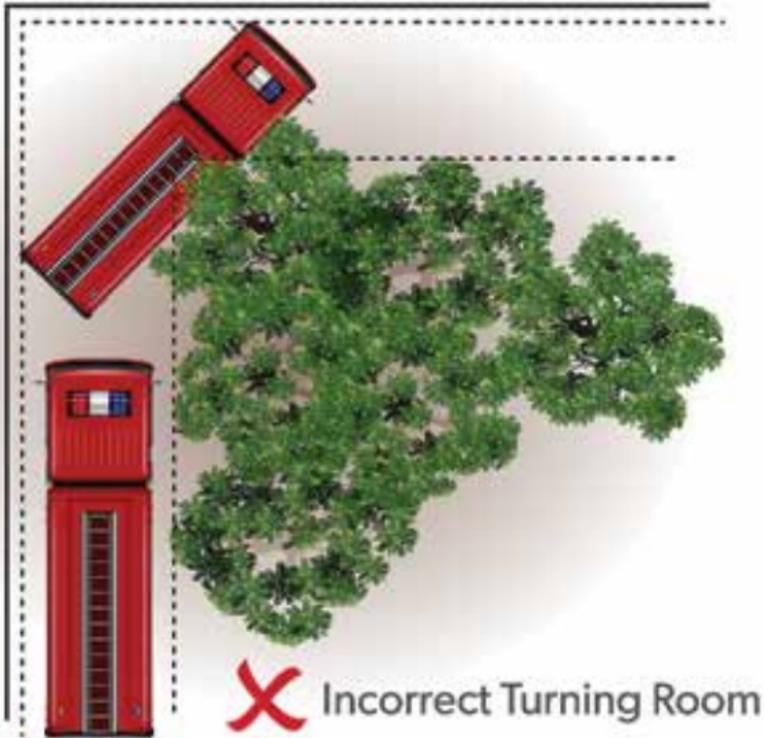
- ✗ Detour around multiple large trees without a variation.
- ✗ Be outside the boundaries of your land.
- ✗ Be on roads, verges, bridle paths, footpaths, dual access ways or reserves.
- ✗ Be an existing emergency access way unless it is on your land and was required as a condition of planning approval.

Can we fit?



Do your firebreaks allow turning room for emergency vehicles?

Long emergency vehicles such as firetrucks need more room when they need to turn a corner. Consequently, your firebreaks should be curved on the corners so that a firetruck can comfortably navigate any corner on your property in the event of an emergency where they require access to your property.



FIREBREAK CONTRACTORS

Disclaimer: Contractor details are included at the Contractor's request and inclusion in the Firebreak Orders should not be taken as endorsement by the Shire of Gingin of any particular contractor.

Contractor	Contact	Area
Anspach Agricultural Contracting	9655 7074	Cullula, Cowalla, Beermullah, Red Gully, Mindarra & Boonanaring
Colin Santoro	0427 751 213	All Areas
Daniel Di Trento	0408 914 345	Seaview Park & Nilgen
Exterior Enhancement	0419 962 431	All Areas
Graham Knight	0427 982 134 9655 1094	Seaview Park & Ledge Point
John Hakesley	0419 164 417	Gabbadah
Kim Gray	0408 321 955 9575 2426	Gingin & Surrounds
Lancelin Sands	9655 1211	Lancelin, Seaview Park, Nilgen & Ledge Point
Limestone Park	0418 908 538	All Areas
Luke Crowe	0427 386 952 9575 2339	Gingin & Surrounds
Mick Basille	0427 553 032	Ocean Farm, Karakin, Orange Springs & Seaview Park
MR Mulching	0400 852 477 9655 1296	All Areas
Paddy Murphy	0419 900 471 9575 7537	Gingin West & Neergabby
Perth's Bobcat Buddy	0467 570 060	Woodridge
Richard Dean	9577 1677 0466 247 271	Woodridge
Seaview Contractors	0428 632 451	Seaview & Surrounds

Failure to install firebreaks on your property may result in the Shire of Gingin engaging a contractor to complete the required works at your expense.

Firebreak Variations

You may apply to vary your firebreak if:

- It would be impractical or dangerous to construct a firebreak on your land due to its landscape.
- A normal firebreak would encroach on a reticulated lawn. You need to keep the lawn green and maintained to a height of less than 25mm from **1 November to 15 May** each and every year.
- A normal firebreak would encroach on reticulated feed paddocks. You need to keep the paddocks green and maintained to a height of less than 50mm from **1 November to 15 May** each and every year.
- A normal firebreak would encroach on reticulated garden beds, orchards or other sustained cultivation. You need to ensure clear trafficable access for emergency vehicles to your buildings and land.
- Trees were previously planted where the firebreak would normally be placed so alternative firebreak is required.

Parcels of land that are contiguously rated do not require a variation and a shared firebreak may be installed around the boundary of all the lots.



To apply

Only the owner of a property can apply for a Firebreak Variation and, if approved, a variation is provided to the owner and not to the land itself.

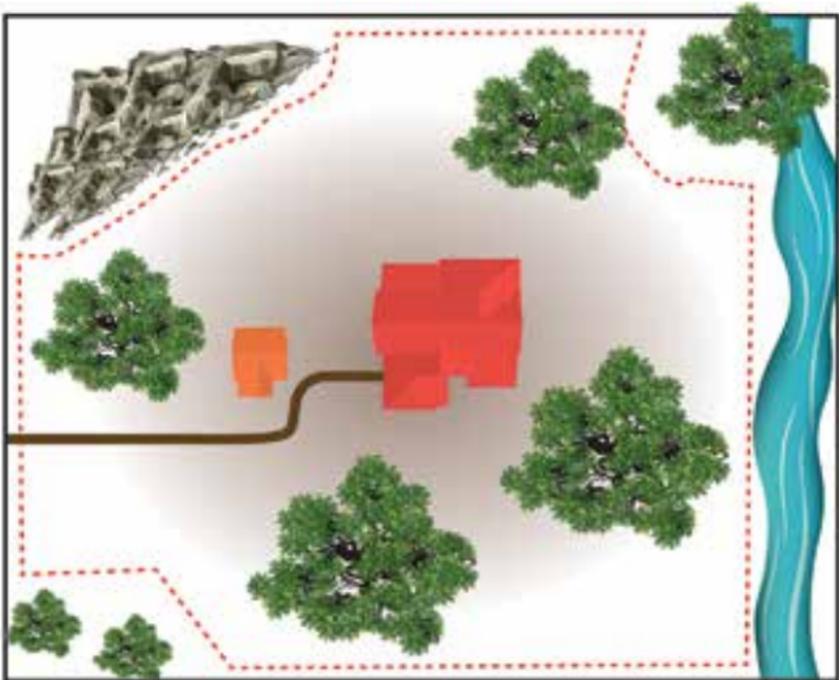
Download the Firebreak Variation application form from the Shire's website www.gingin.wa.gov.au or alternatively complete the tear-out form at the rear of this Firebreak Order booklet.

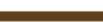
You don't need to apply for a variation every year but if there is a change to the law or you fail to comply with your variation then the Shire will advise you. Please note if there is a change of ownership then the new owner needs to reapply.

Compliance

If approved, all firebreak conditions will be as per your approved variation. If your variation isn't approved or your previous variation is cancelled, you must comply with the requirements of the Shire's Firebreak Orders within 14 days.

Example of a Firebreak Variation



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|------------|
|  | Fire Break |  | Stream |
|  | Rocky Outcrop |  | Driveway |
|  | Property Boundary |  | Vegetation |

Burning

Burning Periods

Depending upon the time of year, burning may be restricted or not permitted. Burning Periods define what activities are allowed during these different periods of risk. The Shire may vary Burning Periods depending upon the weather and other conditions so it's essential that you adhere to the dates set for Prohibited, Restricted and Unrestricted Burning Periods as listed in these Firebreak Orders.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Prohibited Burning Period: 1 December to 31 March

All burning and fires are prohibited during this time including cooking/camp fires and solid fuel BBQs.



Restricted Burning Period: 1 April - 15 May and 1 October - 30 November

(No burning on Sundays/Public Holidays)

You need a permit to burn grass/bush land, paddocks, garden refuse piles greater than 1m x 1m, or 1m x 1m piles outside stipulated burn times, or multiple 1m x 1m piles. Details about permits can be found on pages 17 to 21.



Unrestricted Burning Period: 16 May - 30 September

(Burning allowed on any day)

There are no fire restrictions on burning. However, health legislation is still applicable. Let your neighbours know you intend to burn and consider the impact. **It's also advisable to notify DFES to prevent unnecessary 000 call-outs which can sometimes happen with planned burns. Call (08) 9395 9209 to register your burn with DFES.**

When can I use my BBQ?

Electric/Gas BBQs

Anytime of the year, even during a TFB.

Solid fuel BBQs

Cannot be used when the FDR is High or above, during a TFB or the Prohibited Burning Period. They can be used during the Restricted Burning Period and Fire Permits are not required to use them between 6.00pm - 11.00pm.

Remember that during the Prohibited Burning Period there must be no flammable material within a 3 metre radius of your electric or gas BBQ at all times.

Fire Bans

A fire ban may be called for a variety of reasons and can be authorised by the Shire of Gingin, the Chief Bushfire Control Officer, or DFES.

Penalties apply should you light a fire during a Fire Ban or undertake any activity deemed to increase the risk of a fire starting, e.g. driving motorbikes on bush tracks, vehicles through paddocks, etc. Fire permits are cancelled in the event of a Fire Ban. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out if a Fire Ban is in place before you light any fire.

There are two different types of fire bans which can be authorised at any time of the year (not just the Prohibited or Restricted Burning Periods) and both may be applied at the same time or just one of them. They are:

- **Total Fire Ban** (enacted by DFES)
- **Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban** (enacted by the Shire of Gingin)

A Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban is automatically applied by the Shire on Christmas Day.

For information on Fire Bans go to:

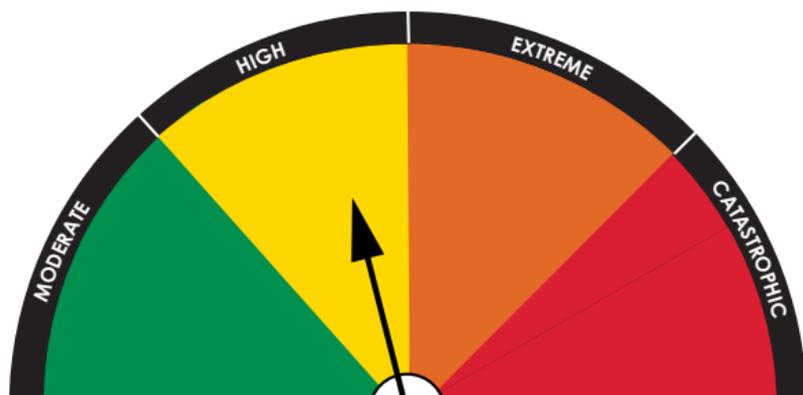
- **Emergency WA** emergency.wa.gov.au
- **Shire of Gingin** www.gingin.wa.gov.au

FREE SMS service - contact the Shire on (08) 9575 5100 to subscribe.

Fire Danger Rating (FDR)

The FDR advises what the level of bushfire threat could be on any given day and is supplied daily by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The FDR is available at www.bom.gov.au or www.emergency.wa.gov.au.



Name	Fire Behaviour index (FBI) Range	High Level Messaging
NO RATING	0-11	No action required
MODERATE	12-23	Plan to prepare
HIGH	24-49	Be ready to act
EXTREME	50-99	Take action to protect life and property
CATASTROPHIC	100+	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

Burning Permits

If you want to burn grass, paddocks and bush during the Restricted Burning Period then you will need a burning permit. To apply for a permit, go to the Shire's website gingin.wa.gov.au and follow the quicklink on the Fire Information page or contact your local Fire Control Officer. They will assess your proposed burn and issue a written permit (if approved). See page 20 to see a list of Fire Control Officers.

Before you apply

- Have your address ready.
- Know the size of your burn and ensure materials are dry.
- Check your firebreaks are maintained and that the burn area is trafficable.

- Check your firefighting equipment and resources are in good working order.
- **Have the contact numbers of 3 able-bodied people who will be at the burn.**
- Remove plastics, treated wood, tyres and other materials (you can only burn vegetation).
- **Double check that a Fire Ban (imposed by the Shire, DFES or both) is not in place. All permits are automatically cancelled in the event of a Fire Ban. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to make sure you do not burn when a ban is in place. An infringement of \$1,000 may be issued if you light a fire during a Total Fire Ban.**

Permit Approval

When your request for a Fire Permit is approved, you will be asked to comply with certain conditions. Five conditions are always mandatory and you **must comply** with these prior to undertaking any burn, in addition to anything else the FCO may ask you to comply with.

- Notify the Shire 24 hours prior to burning.
- Notify DFES on (08) 9395 9209 (any time you burn you should do this to avoid false call-outs resulting from 000 calls).
- Your permit is **NOT** valid for Sundays or public holidays.
- Notify all your neighbours with a common boundary.
- You must remain in attendance throughout the burn until it is completely extinguished.

You are asked to comply with these conditions for a number of reasons including the safety of yourself and your neighbours. Notifying the Shire and DFES will also mean that if a fire is reported to us on your property, we will know that a controlled burn is being conducted in the area.

A guide from DFES is available for this season to assist community members to plan and **BURN SMART** on your property. Don't let your controlled burn escape and threaten your community. Visit dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning for a copy of this useful guide.

Refer to page 23 of these Orders for a list of Fire Control Officers.

Your Fire: Your Responsibility

If you conduct a controlled burn on your property you are responsible if that fire gets out of control even during non-prohibited periods of the year.

If a Bushfire Control Officer thinks that your fire is out of control then you may be asked to extinguish it. If a Volunteer Bushfire Brigade is required to extinguish the fire then costs may be incurred.

If your burn escapes then you must report the incident to the Shire within 7 days including how it escaped, any losses, and the equipment used to suppress the fire.

It is recommended that before you burn you have appropriate insurance to cover you, your land, and your public liability responsibilities.

We also recommend you undertake weed control after burning to help maintain the reduced fuel loading.

Remember the Environment

Some properties have environmental issues that need to be considered. These include but are not limited to:

- Threatened ecological communities.
- Environmentally sensitive areas.
- Areas protected under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- Specific development or subdivision approval conditions.

If you think your land may be affected by environmental concerns, please contact the Shire on **(08) 9575 5100**.



FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

To apply for a Fire Permit you can:

- Apply online at gingin.wa.gov.au/fire-information
- Scan the QR code below.
- Contact a Fire Control Officer.

CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER / COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

Phil Barrett 0408 943 576

DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

Gary Barrett Ledge Point 0419 961 048
9655 1456

James Morton Gingin West 0427 141 078

Murray Hyne Gingin town site 0407 380 708
9575 2250

Wayne Fewster Beermullah 0428 754 017

FCO NAME AREA CONTACT NO.

Brad Alp Beermullah 0427 476 529

David Roe Beermullah 0427 754 059

Peter Crowe Gingin 0427 385 287

Tony Maddern Gingin 0439 383 475
9575 3595

Jon Palette* Guilderton/
Redfield Park
Seabird 0467 588 143

Tom Richardson* Guilderton/
Sovereign Hill 0429 083 176

Colin Walker* Lancelin/
Seaview Park 0404 600 530

Tom Kusters* Lancelin/
Seaview Park 0438 943 156

Brendon Ladner Ledge Point 0410 540 190

Gary Brown* Nilgen 9655 3142

Jennifer French Nilgen 0417 171 425

Rod Croucher* Ocean Farm 0427 085 499

Allister Butcher* Red Gully 0409 591 244

Errol Howard Red Gully 0427 557 035
9655 7007

Shire of Gingin Ranger Services (all areas) 9575 5140

* Permits Only



Fines & Penalties

As per the *Bushfires Act 1954*.

Offence	Infringement	Maximum Penalty
Failure to produce permit to burn.	\$100	\$500
Failure to comply with the directions of a Fire Control Officer.	\$250	\$2,000
Offences relating to lighting a fire in the open air.	\$250	\$3,000
Obstruction of an authorised officer.	\$250	\$5,000
Disposal of burning cigarettes, etc.	\$100	\$5,000
Apply to another Fire Control Officer for a permit where a permit has already been refused or granted subject to special conditions.	\$250	\$10,000
Failure of occupier to extinguish bush fire.	\$250	\$10,000
Setting fire to the bush during prohibited burning period.	\$250	\$10,000 and/or 12 month imprisonment
Failure to comply with a Total Fire Ban.	\$1,000	\$25,000 and/or 12 month imprisonment

The Shire of Gingin takes Total Fire Bans and Harvest, Hot Works & Vehicle Movement Bans very seriously. They are imposed to protect communities and/or protect firefighting resources when they may be inundated battling multiple fires throughout the south west of WA.

It may be frustrating not to be able to have a bonfire or a fire pit for a weekend but ultimately, a ban is only ever placed to protect our communities.

Our Shire is frequently affected by dangerous bush fires. Let's all do our part to keep our Shire safe during 2022/23.

Asset Protection Zone

Creating and maintaining an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is one of the most effective things you can do to reduce your risk in a bush fire.

An APZ is:

A zone created between the bush and your property which will reduce the risk of your house and/or assets being damaged or destroyed by direct flame or the intense heat that is given off during a fire.

An APZ serves to:

Reduce the likelihood of hot embers (that can be carried in the wind during a fire) from igniting items that can burn on or around your home and/or assets. Additionally a well maintained APZ can provide a safer and more accessible area for you and/or firefighters to defend your property.

Maintaining your garden:

The following guidelines have been set out by the WA State Government for property owners which specify recommendations for the spacing and height of vegetation. Small variations in spacing and height will occur depending on the type of plants you have, your exposure to the wind, and the slope of your property. Refer to Figure 1 (page 16) for a visual guide.



Figure 1: APZ - Vegetation Separation Distances.

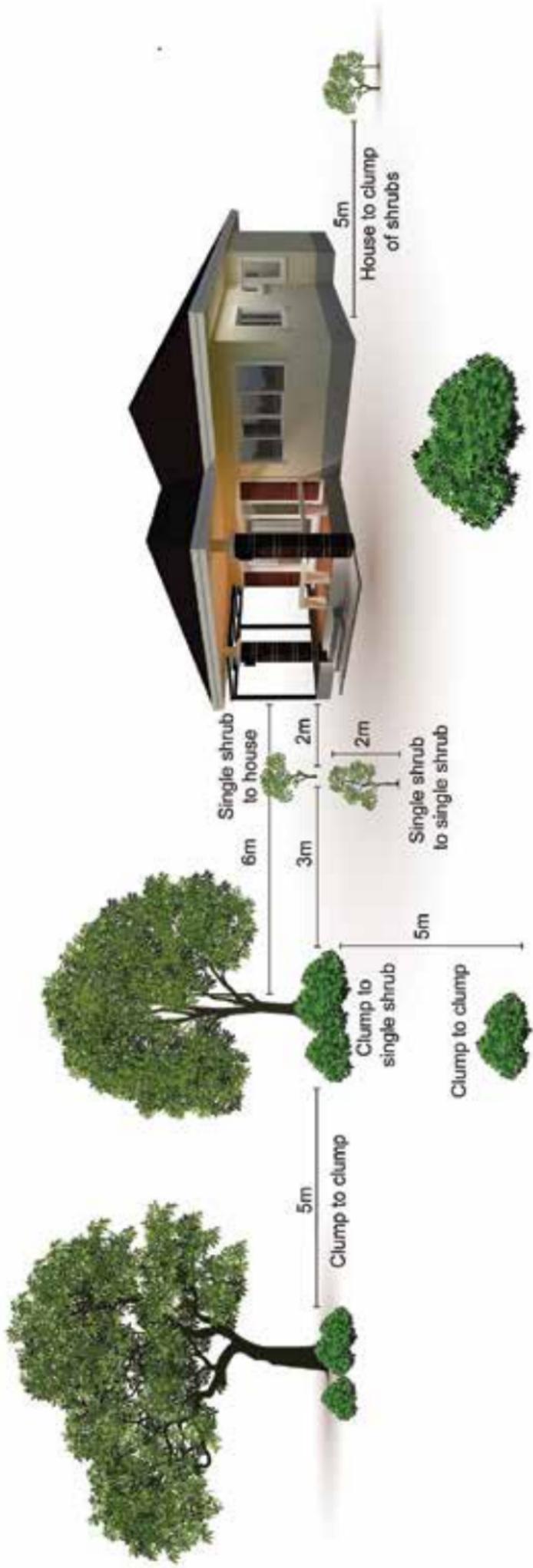
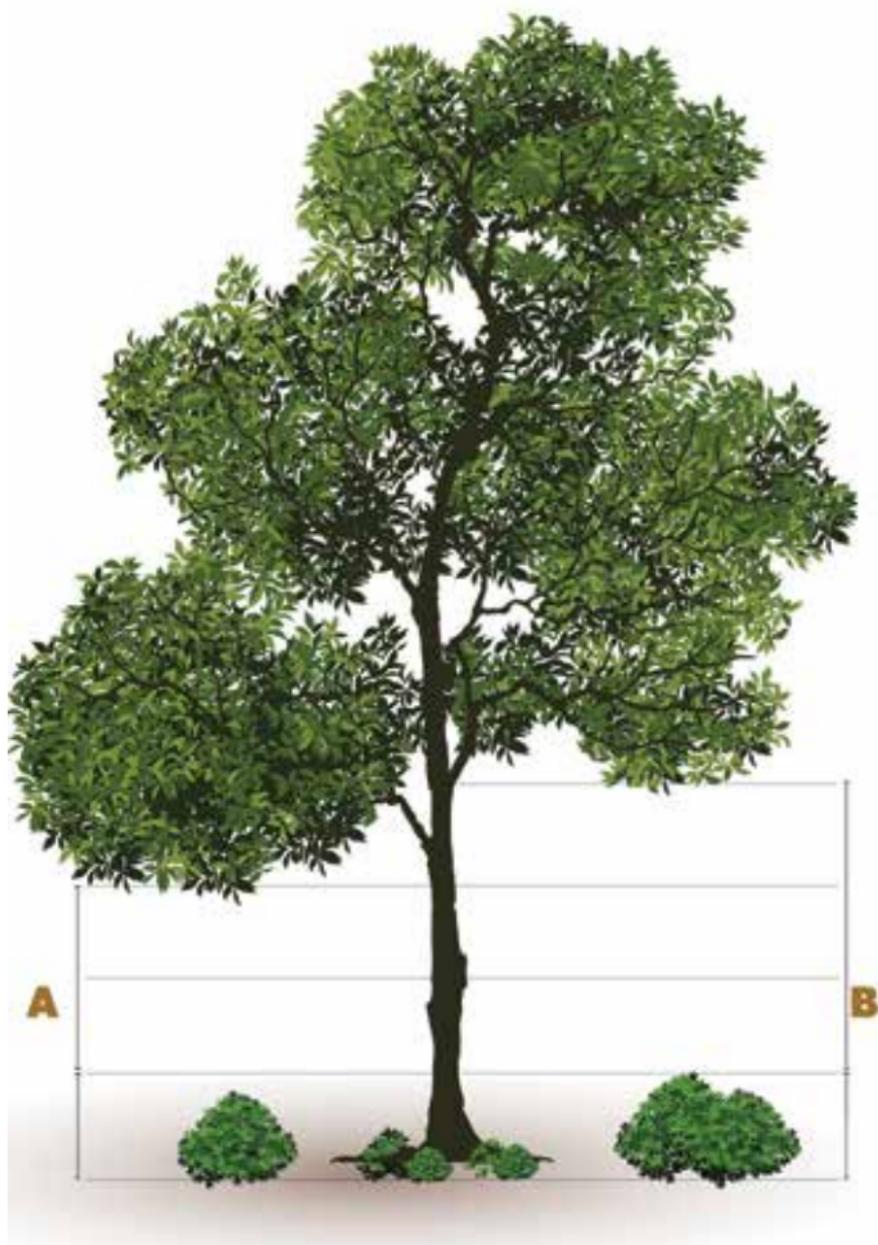


Figure 2: Shrub Foliage Separation from Tree Foliage.



A Maximum clearance between tree foliage and the top of an individual shrub = 2 x height of shrub foliage, i.e. 6m in this case.

B Maximum clearance between tree foliage and a clump of shrubs = 3 x height of shrub foliage, i.e. 9m in this case.



The height of the shrub foliage is 3m.

**For more information on APZs visit the
Shire's website - www.gingin.wa.gov.au**

FIREBREAK VARIATION APPLICATION

Ranger Services
Shire of Gingin Administration Centre
PO Box 510
GINGIN WA 6503
mail@gingin.wa.gov.au

I would like to apply for a Variation to the Shire of
Gingin Firebreak Orders.

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Postal Address (if different): _____

Contact Number: _____

Reason for Variation request: _____

On the reverse is a sketch of my property including the areas in
which I seek the Variation to the Shire of Gingin Firebreak Orders.



FIREBREAK VARIATION APPLICATION

Draw a detailed map of the property to include the new firebreak variation.



Tick this box if you have attached a separate map.



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000

**For the latest information during
an emergency, refer first to:**

www.emergency.wa.gov.au

Other Important Numbers

DFES Public Information	13 33 37
Main Roads WA	138 138
State Emergency Service	132 500
Western Power	13 13 51
Water Corporation	13 13 75
Telstra	13 22 03
RSPCA WA	9209 9300
Wildcare Helpline	9474 9055

For more information please contact
the Shire of Gingin:

GINGIN ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

A: 7 Brockman St, Gingin WA 6503

T: (08) 9575 5100

LANCELIN OFFICE

A: 255 Vins Way, Lancelin WA 6044

T: (08) 9575 5155

E: mail@gingin.wa.gov.au

W: gingin.wa.gov.au

f facebook.com/ShireOfGingin

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