

Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2026/2027

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 1 December 2026 and maintained in this state up to and including 31 May 2027.

Notice to all owners and occupiers of land within the Shire of Collie

To assist in the control of bushfires, and pursuant to the powers contained in section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (the Act) notice is hereby given to all owners and occupiers of land within the Shire of Collie (the Shire), you are required and therefore ordered by the local government to carry out fire prevention work in accordance with the requirements of this Notice, on or before 1 December 2026, and maintain the requirements up to and including 31 May 2027 or within 14 days of becoming an owner or occupier of land if after that date, to comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

Failure to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5,000 or the issue of a \$250 infringement notice and liability for any costs incurred by the Shire in relation to works undertaken on behalf of the landowner. The Shire's Authorised Officers are authorised under the Act and have powers to enter land pursuant to section 14 and section 33 (4) of the Act. The Shire advises that its officers, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by 1 December 2026, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

The table below outlines the requirements of land owners and/or occupiers in the Shire of Collie. Please refer to the column that best describes your land size to view your legal responsibilities.

All land with an area of:	Less than 204m ²	Greater than 204m ²
Asset Protection Zone (Fuel reduction near all houses, buildings and assets) Maintain a reduced fuel zone around all buildings or assets that extends 20m from the outermost point of the building or asset. - Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable material and maintained. - Fuel load within the 20m zone is to be reduced and maintained to no more than 5 tonnes per hectare (10,000m²), or approximately 10cm litter depth by removing dead branches, leaf litter, twigs, and bark. - Grasses are slashed/mowed and maintained to a height of less than 10cm. - Trees or shrubs within 2m pruned to maintain a 1m horizontal and 5m vertical clearance. - Garden beds are allowed within this area if they are reticulated and maintained.	✓	✓
Bushfire Management Plans Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owners must still comply with all the requirements in the Notice and any additional requirements outlined in that plan.		✓
Firebreaks Install and maintain continuous mineral earth fire breaks that have a minimum horizontal width of 3m and a vertical clearance of 4m, not more than 10m from the property's external boundary perimeter. Plantations require a 15m horizontal and 5m vertical clearance. *An exemption applies if the lot is under 5 Hectares (50,000m ²) and pasture is maintained below 10cm.		✓
Garden refuse and/or household wood stack piles Install and maintain a 2m clearance around all piles of garden refuse and/or wood.	✓	✓
Fuel storage and haystack protection zone Install and maintain a 4m firebreak not closer than 6m around haystacks and immediately around fuel storage tanks or gas cylinders.		✓
Hazard Separation Zone Maintain areas of natural vegetation within 100m of relevant buildings to, at or below 8 tonnes per hectare (10,000m ²) by passive methods of fuel reduction, removing dead branches, leaf litter, twigs, and bark, and reducing grass height to not more than 10cm.		✓
Ungrazed Pastureland Slash, mow, trim (or by other means) grasses to a height no greater than 10cm and remove cuttings/swath across the entire property.		✓
Vacant land – Cleared blocks Slash, mow, trim (or by other means) grasses to a height no greater than 10cm and remove cuttings/swath across the entire property.	✓	
Vacant land – Timbered or Bush Block Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonnes per hectare (10,000m ²) by removing dead branches, leaf litter, twigs, and bark.	✓	✓

Inspections, appointments, education and compliance

Landowners/occupiers who would like an early inspection by appointment, for reasons, including dangerous animals, biosecurity, locked gates, or for an explanation on the requirements of this Notice, should contact the Shire Rangers by 1 November 2026. Where inspections by appointment are not requested, Authorised Officers will be inspecting properties for compliance, without further notice from 1 December 2026.

Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

If you consider it impractical to meet any requirement of this Notice, you may apply in writing to the Shire for a variation no later than 1 November 2026. Variations will be considered where compliance is not practicable due to site-specific constraints such as topography, gradients, or waterways or due to environmental constraints. A submission for a variation is required annually.

Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ alternative methods of property preparedness to land that you own and/or occupy. If your application is not granted you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2026/2027.

Applications for Variations must be completed on the approved form, available from the Shire website and must provide alternative means of meeting the objectives of the Notice.

Environmental, Clearing and Heritage Considerations

It is the responsibility of the landowner and/or occupier to ensure appropriate environmental and heritage (including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage) due diligence relating to any works required by this Notice is undertaken. Please refer to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), and/or the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) websites for further information.

Additional Works

The Shire retains the ability to issue Special Work Orders pursuant to section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, to individual landowners should additional works be necessary for a potential fire hazard that may exist on a property. These can be issued at any time during the year.

Definitions

'Asset protection zone' is a low fuel area that is reduced of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding relevant buildings to minimise the likelihood and impact that direct flame contact, radiant heat or ember attack may have on buildings and assets in the event of a bushfire.

'Bushfire management plan' or 'fire management plan' is a plan that may be placed on the certificate of title(s) of land that has been developed as a condition of development or subdivision.

'Firebreak' means a 3m wide area of land cleared and maintained totally clear of all vegetation material (living or dead), with a trafficable surface over which any overhanging vegetation is no less than 4m above ground level, for the primary purpose of access for firefighting appliances.

'Flammable material' means accumulated fuel such as dry grass, leaf litter, twigs, branches, trash, bush, dead trees, firewood, stored fuels and scrub that can be easily ignited or is likely to catch fire and burn. It includes any other thing deemed by an Authorised Officer to be likely to catch fire but excludes living standing trees, growing bushes and plants in gardens and/or lawn areas under cultivation.

'Passive fuel reduction' means lowering the amount of available fuel that will burn under prevailing conditions by means that will not permanently reduce or modify the structure or life cycle of plant, shrub, scrub, or tree communities within a treated area.

'Reticulated' means an area that is watered and maintained, with all vegetation in an alive, green, and non-flammable state.

When and what can I burn?

	GARDEN REFUSE	WOOD OR SOLID FUEL BBQ, CAMP AND COOKING FIRES	GRASS, Paddock, Bonfire, Bush
Restricted Burning Period 2 November to 14 December**	Permit Required Contact your local Fire Control Officer	Allowable* Check Fire Danger Ratings	Permit Required Contact your local Fire Control Officer
Prohibited Burning Period 15 December to 14 March**	PROHIBITED	PROHIBITED	PROHIBITED
Restricted Burning Period 15 March to 31 May**	Permit Required Contact your local Fire Control Officer	Allowable* Check Fire Danger Ratings	Permit Required Contact your local Fire Control Officer

*Cannot be used when the Fire Danger Rating is High or above, or when a Total Fire Ban has been declared.

**Subject to seasonal changes. Please check with the Shire on 9734 9000.

If you require any further information, please contact the Shire of Collie Rangers on 9734 9000, visit collie.wa.gov.au/services/emergency-services/ or scan the QR code.

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