

Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

COMPLIANCE DUE BY:

1 December 2024

ASSESSMENTS COMMENCE FROM:

1 December 2024

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 1 December 2024 and maintained in this state up to and including 31 May 2025.

Notice to all owners of land within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

Pursuant to Section 33 of the **Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)**, the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (Shire) gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy within the Shire. Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5000. The Shire advises that its officers, servants, workmen, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by the date specified above, 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 Serpentine Jarrahdale. Please refer to the column that best describes your land size to view your legal responsibilities.

All land with an area of:	Less than 4,047m ²	Between 4047m ² & 25,000m ²	Greater than 25,000m ²
Fire Breaks Install and maintain mineral earth fire breaks as per fire break specifications.		✓	✓
Driveways Ensure driveways and access ways to all buildings are maintained at a minimum of three (3) metres in width and a vertical clearance height of four (4) metres, with all over hanging vegetation trimmed back to clear access.	✓	✓	✓
Dead Flammable Material Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below eight (8) tonne per hectare.	✓	✓	✓
Slashing Unstocked Land Slash, mow, or trim grasses, to a height no greater than 50mm and remove cutting/swath across the entire property.	✓	✓	✓
Slashing Stocked Land Slash, mow, or trim grasses, to a height no greater than 50mm and remove cutting/swath across the entire property.	✓	✓	
Asset Protection Zone Maintain a fuel-reduced zone around all buildings or assets which extends 20 metres (m) from the outermost point of the building or asset. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained. » Fuel load within the 20m zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonne per hectare. » Trees over 5m in height within the 20m zone to be under pruned up to 2m. » Trees or shrubs within 2m of the asset shall be pruned to a height no greater than 2m and/or pruned away from the asset to a distance no greater than 2m. 		✓	✓

Definitions

Fire Break:

A strip of land free of all flammable material with the intention of minimising the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access on the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations.

- » Clearance must be **no less than 3 metres wide** and **4 metres in height** inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves).
- » Must not be more than 5 metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application for approval to the Shire).
- » Maintained and living lawns are acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of mineral earth firebreaks, provided that the same width and height requirements for a firebreak are maintained.
- » Must have a **corner turning radius of up to 12 metres**.
- » Must be a mineral earth break with a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, **be clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a dead end**.

Fuel Load:

Can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation.

Fine fuels include:

Leaf litter, grasses, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc.

Heavy (coarse) fuels include:

Branches, logs, stumps etc.

- » A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) to the mineral earth is indicative of approximately 8 tonne per hectare. The more fuel load, the higher the flame height and increased fire intensity.
- » Mulch piles, stored firewood and burn piles can contribute to fuel loading on land and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Control Officer.



Fuel Dumps and Depots

Remove all flammable material within 10 metres of fuel dumps, fuel ramps or where fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored.



Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

If you consider it impractical to meet a requirement/s of this Notice, you may apply to the Shire for a variation no later than **1 October 2024**.

Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ other 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 2024/2025. Variation request application forms are available before 1 October 2024 on the Shire's website at: www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/fem



Haystacks

Clear and maintain a firebreak completely surrounding any haystack on the land, within 60 metres of the haystack.

Emergency Management Plans and Shire Approved Treatment Plans



Where a property is affected by an approved Bushfire Management Plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in this notice and with any additional requirements outlined within that Plan.

All properties and/or land subject to a Bushfire Management Plan or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a Shire approved treatment plan, must comply with the listed requirements in their entirety. Compliance with any additional plans does not constitute compliance with this Notice.



Environmental Conditions

Any property subject to environmental value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora and Fauna (DRF) sites, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites, etc, should seek further information about what can or cannot be done prior to carrying out requirements under this Notice.



Additional Works

You may be required to carry out further bushfire property preparedness works on your land to reduce any fire hazards considered necessary by a Fire Control Officer. If required, these will be outlined in a 'work order' and sent to the address of the owner.

If you require any further information, please contact the **Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Emergency Services Team** on **(08) 9526 1111**.

Paul Martin | Chief Executive Officer

Scan the QR code for more information on Fire and Emergency Management.



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