

# BUSHFIRES ACT 1954

## CITY OF KWINANA

### FIRE HAZARD COMPLIANCE NOTICE 2023/2024

**Important:** The works outlined below must be completed by midnight 30 November 2023 and maintained up to and including 31 May 2024.

COMPLIANCE DUE BY 30 November 2023

INSPECTIONS COMMENCE FROM 1 December 2023

#### **Notice to all landowners within the City of Kwinana**

This Firebreak/Hazard Compliance Notice is issued by the City of Kwinana pursuant to section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 to assist with the prevention, control, and extinguishment of bush fires or to prevent the spread or extension of a bush fire to any adjoining land. All property owners and/or occupiers of land within the City of Kwinana are hereby served with a first and final Firebreak/Hazard Compliance Notice (the Notice) and are required to comply with the requirements in full. **Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and may result in a penalty of up to \$5,000.**

#### **Land with a total area of 3,501m<sup>2</sup> (0.35ha) or greater**

**Fire Breaks** Owners and/or occupiers of land that is 3,501m<sup>2</sup> or greater are required to construct and maintain a 3-metre-wide mineral earth, by 4-metre-high vertical clearance, continuous (no dead ends) trafficable fire break as close as possible inside and along all boundaries of the entire perimeter of the land.

**Asset Protection Zone** Maintain a reduced fuel zone around all buildings and assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings and assets. Flammable Material Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained. Asset Protection Zone Maintain a reduced fuel zone around all buildings and assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings and assets.

**Flammable Material** Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained. Ensure that all long grass and weeds are slashed, mowed or trimmed down to a height no greater than 50mm across your entire property.

**Land with a total area of 1,500m<sup>2</sup> (0.15ha) up to 3,500m<sup>2</sup> (0.35ha)** *The works outlined in this category must be maintained all year round.*

**Asset Protection Zone** Maintain a reduced fuel zone around all buildings and assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings and assets.

**Flammable Material** Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained. Ensure that all long grass and weeds are slashed, mowed or trimmed down to a height no greater than 50mm across your entire property.

**Land with a total area up to 1,500m<sup>2</sup> (0.15ha)** *The works outlined in this category must be maintained all year round.*

**Flammable Material** Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained. Ensure that all long grass and weeds are slashed, mowed or trimmed down to a height no greater than 50mm across your entire property.

### **Definitions**

**'Firebreak'** A strip of land 3 metres wide of mineral earth, effectively creating a 3-metre by 4-metre area that is clear of all vegetation allowing unrestricted access for fire and emergency vehicles. Living green lawn may be accepted instead of mineral earth.

**'Flammable Material'** Any bush, plant, tree, grass, vegetation, object, or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn.

**'Asset protection zone'** An area with radius of 20 metres measured from any building/s or as stated in your approved Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment, within the boundaries of the lot. Fuel loads in this zone shall be maintained to 2 tonnes per hectare or less.

**'Bush Fire Control Officer'** An officer appointed by the City to exercise the powers and duties of a Bush Fire Control Officer appointed under s38(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954.

**'Industrial zoned areas'** Land on which manufacturing, processing, warehousing, and related activities are undertaken, as defined in Metropolitan Region Schemes.

**'Mineral earth'** Land clear of flammable material, consisting of ploughed or cleared soil, stone, hardstand, or any mixture of these.

**'Trafficable'** To be able to travel from one point to another in a fire vehicle on a firm and stable surface, unhindered without any obstruction that may endanger resources. A firebreak must not terminate without provision for egress or a cleared turn around area of not less than a 21-metre radius.

### **Variations to Notice Firebreak Specifications**

If it is impractical for you to install a firebreak as specified in this Notice, you may apply to vary the location of your firebreak within your property by completing and submitting an 'Application to Vary Location and Type of Firebreaks' to the City of Kwinana no later than 31 October 2023.

### **Additional Works**

Regardless of land size and location, the City or its Bush Fire Control Officers may require additional work to be undertaken on a property to improve access, and/or undertake further works to reduce a hazard that may be conducive to preventing an outbreak and/or the spread or extension of a bush fire.

'Industrial Zoned' areas may require additional works as identified by the Bush Fire Control Officer during fire hazard inspections. Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owner and/or occupier must still comply with all requirements in this notice and with ALL additional requirements outlined within that plan.

Owners and/or occupiers of land should note that emergency access ways, if any, are for emergency service vehicles only and are not to be considered as an escape route unless declared as such by the Incident Controller during an emergency.

### **Engagement of contractors by owner and/or occupier to carry out works**

Any owner and/or occupier who engages a contractor to undertake works on their behalf is responsible for ensuring that such works when completed meet the requirements of this Notice.

**Firebreak/fire hazard compliance inspections** To promote community safety and education, property inspections will be carried out by the City's Bush Fire Control Officers to identify non-compliant properties. In addition, Drones (Unmanned Remotely Piloted Aircraft) may also be used at times to conduct firebreak/fire hazard inspections. Drones are required to be operated in accordance with the guidelines of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

**No burning in areas defined as Urban**

Pursuant to section, 24G (2) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, no burning of garden refuse is to be undertaken in areas defined as "Urban" without written approval by the City of Kwinana.

Wayne Jack, **Chief Executive Officer**