

Town of Cambridge

FIREBREAK NOTICE

Section 33 — Bush Fires Act 1954

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, you are hereby required, on or before **1 November**, to remove from the land owned or occupied by you, all flammable material and/or clear firebreaks in accordance with the following table and thereafter to maintain that land and/or firebreak/s up to and including **31 March**:

Requirements for land

Land *under* 2,000 m²

Owners and occupiers must:

- Slash/mow all grass and vegetation to a height of no more than five (5) centimetres.
- Remove all slashed/mowed grass and vegetation from the land.
- Prune trees and shrubs and remove all flammable matter from the whole land (except regulated trees without approval).
- Ensure the roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable matter.

Land *over* 2,000 m²

Owners and occupiers must:

- Slash/mow all grass and vegetation to a height of no greater than five (5) centimetres.
- Remove all slashed/mowed grass and vegetation and install a continuous firebreak of three (3) metres wide and three (3) metres high along all external boundaries of the land.
- Prune trees and shrubs and remove all flammable matter from the whole land (except regulated trees without approval).
- Ensure the roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable matter.

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Variations to notice

If it is considered impracticable to clear a firebreak, or to remove flammable material from the land as required by this Notice, written approval may be sought from the Town of Cambridge (the Town) to create or modify firebreaks in alternative positions, or to take other measures to mitigate the fire hazard. Where approval is sought, this must be made in writing to the Town prior to **31 October**. Unless written approval is granted from the Town, compliance with this Notice is required.

Bushfire management plans

Where a property is subject to an approved Bushfire Management Plan, Emergency Management Plan, or an approved Bushfire Attack Level Assessment, the requirements outlined within this Notice must still be complied with. Compliance with additional Plans does not constitute compliance within this Notice.

Property inspections

The Town's Bush Fire Control Officers assess compliance and fire prevention measures of properties within the Town between 1 November and 31 March each year.

Residents are encouraged to report incidents of possible fire hazards by contacting the Town on (08) 9347 6000 or via email at mail@cambridge.wa.gov.au

Burning off restrictions

Residents are reminded that burning off is strictly prohibited within the Town at all times pursuant to the Town of Cambridge *Health Local Law 2016* and the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. Pursuant to section 24B of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, burning refuse, rubbish or garden waste without written authorisation is strictly prohibited.

Failure to comply

In accordance with section 33(3) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, failure to comply with the requirements of this Notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to $5,000.

Under section 33(4) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, where the owner or occupier of a property fails or neglects to comply with this Notice within the specified timeframes, the Town may enter the land and carry out any requirements of this Notice that have not been complied with. The Town may also recover from the owner or occupier any costs and expenses incurred in achieving compliance.



Lisa Clack
Chief Executive Officer

Definitions

Act: means the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Bush Fire Control Officer: means an officer appointed by the Town to exercise the powers and duties of a Bush Fire Control Officer appointed under s38 of the Act.

Town: means the Town of Cambridge.

Firebreak: means a continuous strip of land, at least 3 metres wide with 3 metres of vertical clearance, that is cleared and maintained free of bush and flammable material along the property's external boundaries to help prevent the spread of fire and provide unrestricted access for emergency vehicles.

Flammable matter: means any bush, plant, tree, grass, vegetation, object, thing, or matter that may or is likely to catch fire and burn.

Regulated tree: means a living tree as defined within the Town of Cambridge Local Planning Policy 3.25: Tree Retention.

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