

*Shire of*  
***RAVENSTHORPE***  
**FIRE CONTROL NOTICE**  
**AND FIREBREAK**  
**NOTICE**  
**2023-2024**

**FIRST AND  
FINAL NOTICE**

First and Final notice has been served to all landowner/occupiers within the Shire of Ravensthorpe, who have the legal responsibilities to prepare their properties to reduce the risk of outbreak and spread of fires.

**These are your legal requirements.**

**Please read carefully and retain for future reference.**

This notice sets out the actions that you must take to prepare your property for the fire season. As a measure for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, all owners and occupiers of the land within the Shire's district are required before **Tuesday, 31 October 2023**; to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this Notice and **maintain those firebreaks and measures in accordance with this Notice up to and including Tuesday, 30 April 2024.**

It is the responsibility of ALL landowners/occupiers within the Shire of Ravensthorpe to read and fully understand their requirements mentioned within this Notice.

This Notice constitutes the Shire of Ravensthorpe Firebreak Notice and is issued under *Section 33(1) Bush Fires Act 1954.*

**FOR ALL FIRE & EMERGENCIES  
000**

**TO REGISTER FOR SMS ALERTS  
08 9839 0000**

**BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY  
UHF CHANNEL 5**



## 1. RESTRICTED & PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES

The Shire of Ravensthorpe has gazetted the following datelines for its Restricted Burning Times (RBT) & Prohibited Burning Times (PBT).

ALL AREAS - SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE	
1 July - 31 October 2023	Restricted Burning Time, Permits required
1 November - 31 January 2024	<b>PROHIBITED BURNING</b>
1 February - 30 June 2024	Restricted Burning Time, Permits required

Pending on seasonal factors, above datelines can be changed or extended as permitted under the Bush Fires Act 1954. Any changes will be published in local newsletter, public notice board, Shire's SMS service and website.

- Burning is **PROHIBITED** on the following Public Holiday dates, within the Restricted Burning Time;
  - \* Monarch's Birthday: Monday 25th September 2023
  - \* Labour Day: Monday 4th March 2024
  - \* Easter: 29th March - 1st April 2024
  - \* Anzac Day: Thursday 25th April 2024
- Burning is **PROHIBITED** on Sundays, **except** between 1 March to 19 September every year.

## 2. OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

1 September 2023	Applications for individual Bushfire Management Plan - <b>Last Day!</b>
1 October 2023	Applications for Variation to the Fire Control Notice - <b>Last Day!</b>
30 October 2023	<b>Last Day!</b> for your property to be compliant to this notice
4—8 November 2023	<b><u>FIREBREAK INSPECTION</u></b> Dates for when properties will undergo their inspection for compliance to this Notice
31 October 2023 - 30 April 2024	<b><u>FIREBREAK COMPLIANCE PERIOD</u></b> Properties must be maintained to the requirements of this Firebreak Notice.

**ARE YOU  
BUSHFIRE  
READY?**



### 3. BURNING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to *Section 18, Bush Fires Act 1954* all landowner/occupiers, before setting fire to bush or burning off within the Shire during the Restricted Burning period, MUST obey the following conditions:

- Obtain a written Fire Permit from an endorsed Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Ravensthorpe (see contacts on back of pamphlet);
- Fire Permits are automatically deemed **invalid** on days where the Fire Behaviour Index issued by the Bureau of Meteorology is forecast "High" or above;
- **It is the Permit Holder's responsibility to comply with ALL conditions outlined on the front and rear of the permit;**
- A Fire Control Officer has the authority under the Bush Fires Act to halt any activity or operation that they deem as hazardous or likely to start a fire; and
- Failure to comply with requirements of any permit to burn may incur penalties as defined in the Bush Fires Act and/or Regulations 1954.

From the **31 May - 31 August every year** Fire Permits for burning under 0.1Ha in size are not required, but landowner/occupier MUST obey the following conditions:

- Burn area must have a 3m wide **bare earth firebreak\*** surrounding it
- Someone shall be in attendance at **all** times
- Inform your neighbours, prior to lighting
- Piles for burning can not be greater than 2 metre in diameter and 1 metre in height
- Have a fire unit carrying a minimum of 400lt or a hose connected to running water that can reach the whole burn area present at all times.

*Don't start a fire, if you are not prepared to be responsible for it!*

### 4. CAMPING & COOKING FIRES

Pursuant to *Section 25(1a) Bush Fires Act 1954*, the lighting of fires in the open air in the Shire of Ravensthorpe for the purpose of camping and cooking is prohibited during the Prohibited Burning Time, **except** in the Starvation and Masons Bay Camping areas and Hopetoun Caravan Park.

Lighting of fires in the open air in the Shire of Ravensthorpe, for the purpose of camping and cooking, is permitted during the period 30 April to 19 September, without a permit to burn.

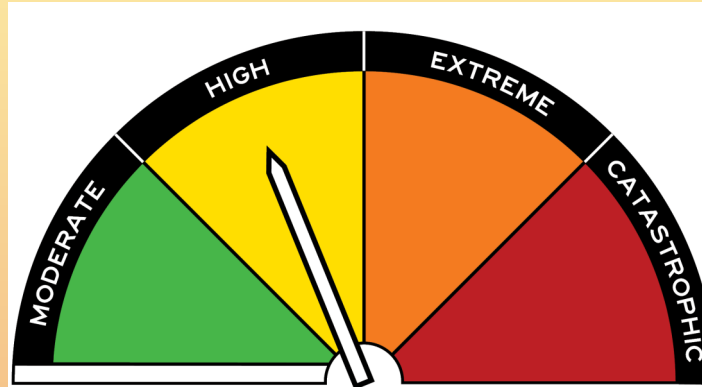
All open air fires are to be **contained** within a cement ring or designated fire areas, ie barbecue.

All fires must be **extinguished** when left unattended - Penalties apply.



## FIRE DANGER RATING INFORMATION

# AUSTRALIA'S FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM IS CHANGING



## FIRE DANGER RATINGS

MODERATE	PLAN AND PREPARE
HIGH	BE READY TO ACT
EXTREME	TAKE ACTION NOW
CATASTROPHIC	LEAVE BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

Australians now have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.

**Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bush fire start.**

## EMERGENCY ALERTS & BUSHFIRE WARNINGS



### EMERGENCY WARNING

There is a threat to lives or homes.

**You are in danger and need to take immediate action to survive.**



### WATCH AND ACT

There is a possible threat to lives or homes.

**You need to leave or get ready to defend – do not wait and see.**



### ADVICE

A fire has started but there is no immediate threat to lives or homes.

**Be aware and keep up to date.**

### Where can I get information during an emergency?

🌐 [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://emergency.wa.gov.au) 📞 13 DFES (13 33 37)

📱 @dfeswa 📺 @dfes\_wa 📻 Local ABC Radio



**Stay alert when a bushfire starts!**  
**Do not wait and see, this can be deadly.**

## 5. TOWN SITE: RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL AREAS

(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with “\*”)

Applies to all land zoned within the town sites of Fitzgerald, Hopetoun, Jerdacuttup, Munglinup & Ravensthorpe, you must:

- a. Where the area of land is 4,000m<sup>2</sup> or less;
  - i. Reduce **fire fuel**\* from the whole of land such that fuel loads are maintained  
Isolated trees and managed shrubs may generally be retained in a **parkland cleared** state.
- b. Where the area of land exceeds 4,000m<sup>2</sup>;
  - i. Establish and maintain an **Asset Protection Zone**\* around all habitable buildings;
  - ii. Grassed areas (dry or reticulated) to be maintained to a maximum height of 100mm; and
  - iii. A 3 metre wide **bare earth firebreak**\* shall be constructed and maintained inside ALL external boundaries and around **fuel storage tanks**, sheds, gas cylinders and within 6 metres of haystacks (see diagram 5.1) where practicable. Haystacks cannot be situated on the external boundary; or
  - iv. Implement **parkland clearing** of vegetation across the entire extent of the native and planted vegetation within the parcel of land in question.
- c. Where a **Bushfire Management Plan**\* which relates to the property has been adopted by Council, clear firebreaks and take measures in accordance with that **Bushfire Management Plan**\* as an alternative to the standard requirements listed in this Notice.
- d. Where the land has been cleared for the purpose of development and the land remains vacant it must be maintained in that cleared state.

**NOTE:** Where any conditions listed in Requirements 5a and 5b are physically impractical on a property, the Shire may approve a **Variation**\* in place of the standard requirement (refer to section 13 of this Notice).

**Diagram 5.1;**  
3 metre wide Bare Earth  
Firebreak.



## 6. RURAL AREAS

*(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with '\*')*

Applies to all land zoned as Rural, you must:

- a. Any rural land abutting or adjacent to land zoned as Rural Residential, Urban, industrial or Commercial must have a 3 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** constructed and maintained inside ALL external boundaries. Breaks should also have a 5 metre vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access (refer to diagram 6.1); or,
- b. Any Rural Land, Rural Small Holdings less than 200Ha and not being managed in a large single entity farming operation that includes stock and/or cropping practices:
  - i. Areas of unmanaged pasture or grassland must have a 20 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** constructed and maintained inside ALL external boundaries.
  - ii. Breaks to provide a 5 metre vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access. (refer to diagram 6.1); and,
  - iii. Driveways must be cleared to a minimum of 4 metres wide and 5 metres in height, and must provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles (refer to Section 14: Driveways)
- c. A 3 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** shall be located around **fuel storage tanks**, sheds, gas cylinders and within 6 metres of haystacks. Haystacks cannot be situated on the external boundary.
- d. Establish and maintain an **Asset Protection Zone\*** around all habitable buildings.

**Diagram 6.1;**

3 metre wide Bare Earth  
Firebreak with 5 metre  
vertical clearance



## 7. RURAL RESIDENTIAL:

*(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with '\*')*

Applies to all land zoned Rural Residential, you must:

- a. Clear either a 3 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** or a 3 metre wide mulched/slashed firebreak immediately inside on ALL external boundaries. Breaks should also have a 5 metre vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access. (refer to diagram 6.1 & diagram 7.1);
- b. **Parkland clearing** must be carried out in all open paddocks and along the boundary of the property. Clearing means that all dead vegetation and **flammable material\*** (excluding approved crops, pasture areas and living trees/shrubs) are removed;
- c. Unmanaged pasture and grasslands must be maintained to height no greater than 100 millimetres (refer to diagram 7.2);
- d. A 3 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** shall be located around **fuel storage tanks**, sheds, gas cylinders and within 6 metres of haystacks. Haystacks cannot be situated on the external boundary;
- e. Establish and maintain a Low Fuel Zone, 1 metre wide, around Power Infrastructure e.g. Metre Box, Poles and Above Ground Power Domes;
- f. Driveways must be cleared to a minimum of 4 metres wide and 5 metres in height, and must provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles; (refer to Section 14: Driveways for more details);
- g. Properties to establish & maintain a **Asset Protection Zone\*** around all habitable buildings (refer to Section 10: Asset Protection Zone); and



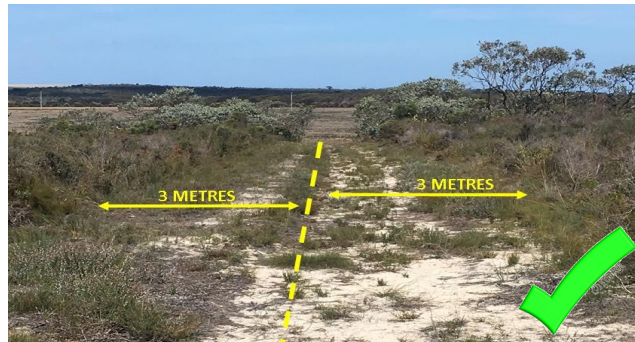


- h. Where a **Bushfire Management Plan\*** which relates to the property has been adopted by Council, clear firebreaks and take measures in accordance with that Bushfire Management Plan as an alternative to the standard requirement listed in this Notice.

**NOTE:** Where any conditions listed in Requirement 7a, 7b and 7f are impractical for site-specific, topographical or environmental reasons on a property, the Shire may approve a **Bushfire Management Plan\*** or **Variation\*** in place of the standard requirement (refer to section 13 of this Notice).



**Diagram 7.1;**  
3 metre mulched  
firebreaks



**Diagram 7.2;**  
Unmanaged pasture /  
grassland maintained  
no greater than 10cm



## 8. PLANTATIONS AND PRACTICES OTHER THAN FARMING

(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with '\*')

All Plantations MUST;

- a. Maintain a 15 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** inside all external boundaries with a 5 metre vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; and,
- b. Have an approved **Bushfire Management Plan\*** with the Shire of Ravensthorpe; or
- c. Plantations are to abide by the Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection developed by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services.

## 9. USE OF ENGINES, VEHICLES, PLANT OR MACHINERY LIKELY TO CAUSE BUSH FIRE:

If the Shire's Fire Control Officer is of the opinion that harvesting machines, headers, stubble mulchers, hay bailers, track raking, chaining, rock picking or any **other machine or activity** other than clover harvesters likely to cause a fire, or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire, during the prohibited and restricted burning times:

The Shire of Ravensthorpe hereby prohibits pursuant to *Regulation 38A(1) Bush Fires Regulation 1954* the following:

- a. The use of those machines or conduction of those activities during the prohibited and restricted burning times unless, in the paddock being harvested/mulched/raked or adjacent to the entrance of the paddock being harvested/mulched/raked, there are sufficient suitable mobile fire fighting units, or;
- b. A minimum of 400lt fire fighting water must be available per machine, operating within the same paddock.

Note: Shire of Ravensthorpe advises all primary producers and their workers should be registered to the Shire's Harvest Ban SMS system prior to operating any engines, vehicles, plant or machinery during the prohibited and restricted periods to receive Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban alerts.



[www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)



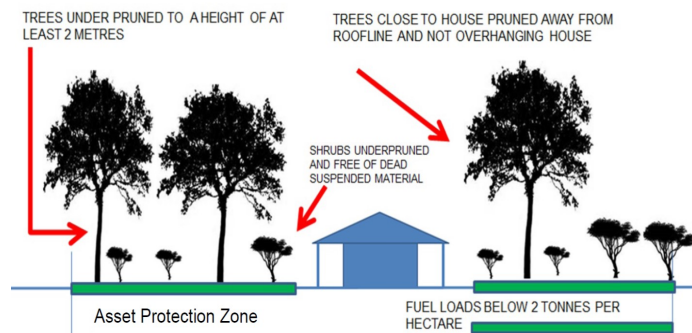
Providing you with information and community warnings about emergencies, Fire Danger Ratings and declared Total Fire Bans

Alerts and warnings about fires, floods, storms, earthquakes, cyclones, hazardous material incidents and more

## 10. ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)

Asset Protection Zone (formally Building Protection Zone) is a low fuel area immediately surrounding a building. These requirements are designed to reduce the fire's intensity and minimise the likelihood of flame contact with buildings. APZ gives more protection to families should a fire threaten suddenly and they cannot leave:

- a. The width of an APZ is to be a minimum of 20m, increasing by 10m per 10 degree in slope and located within the boundaries of the lot on which the building is situated;
- b. Fire fuels are to be reduced and maintained. All grasses **within** the APZ are to be maintained to a height no greater than 100mm;
- c. Trees (>5m in height) at maturity should be a minimum of 6 metres from the building, branches should not touch or overhang the building, lower branches should be removed to a height of 2 metres above the ground, canopies should be at least 5 metres apart and coverage should be less than 15%;
- d. Shrubs (0.5m to 5m in height) should not be located under trees or within 3m of buildings or planted in clumps of >5 metres square in area;
- e. Ground covers (<0.5m in height) can be planted under trees but must be maintained to remove dead material and any part within 2 metres of a building;
- f. Firewood piles to be stored a safe distance away from buildings and no greater than 1m in height; and,
- g. Fences and sheds within the APZ are constructed using non-combustible materials (e.g. iron, brick, limestone).



*Imagery of an 20 metre Asset Protection Zone*

**FIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS  
IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

## 11. NON COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to *Section 33(3)(4)(5) Bush Fires Act 1954*, failure to comply to the requirements mentioned within this notice, by the required compliance dates will result in the following:

a. An Infringement Notice:

a \$250.00 infringement will be issued to the landowner for non-compliance to this Notice. Landowner/occupiers will have 7 calendar days for the property to be compliant to this notice. Failure to comply to this notice will result in;

b. A Works Order:

Shire will engage an available contractor on your behalf and authorise the contractor to enter the property to carry out the required works in accordance with this Firebreak Notice.

***Note: Landowner/occupiers will NOT be provided with a warning notice for non-compliance to this Notice. Additionally, Landowner/occupiers will NOT be provided an additional 14 calendar days to comply.***

Landowner/occupiers issued with an Infringement Notice will have 28 days to arrange payment with the Shire, otherwise infringement notices may be referred to Department of Justice Fines Enforcement Registry for follow up payment, which can lead to the suspension of your Driver's Licence.

A Works Order can be issued at anytime throughout the compliance period for properties not maintained to the requirements within the Firebreak Notice. As such the Shire of Ravensthorpe will recover ALL cost incurred against the landowner as permissible under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

INFRINGEMENT	PENALTY
s33: Failure of owner or occupier of land to comply with a notice (Firebreak Notice)	\$250.00
S25: Offences relating to lighting of fires in the open air. (campfires, etc. during prohibited and restricted burning period)	\$250.00
s24E: Offences relating to fires in the open air during a Total Fire Ban.	\$1,000.00 or \$25 000 and/or 12 months
s18: Offences relating burning to the bush. (Burning without a fire permit)	\$250.00
r15B: Failure to comply with conditions of a fire permit.	\$250.00
r38A(3): Operating or using engines, vehicles plant or machinery contrary to notice or direction. (Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban)	\$500.00

## 12. APPLICATION TO VARY REQUEST

*(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with '\*')*

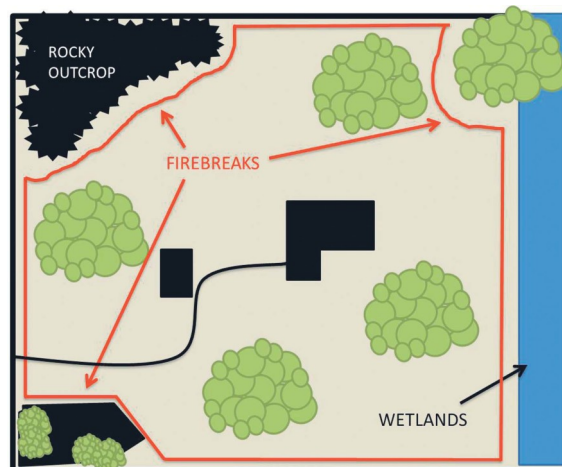
### (a) Variations:

If it is impracticable for any reason to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this Notice, you may apply to the Shire in writing before **1 October** each year for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative locations or take alternative measures to prevent the outbreak or spread of a bush fire. If permission is not granted in writing by the Shire, you shall comply with the requirements of this Notice.

The requirement for an **Asset Protection Zone\*** may be varied by Council on application. Where it is not practical for an existing dwelling to provide a 20 metre **Asset Protection Zone\*** a landowner may apply for a variation to the Firebreak Notice. In considering any such request regard will be given to;

- (i) The topography of the site or privacy issues;
- (ii) Potential environmental impacts; and,
- (iii) Provision of alternative low or managed fuel zones.

The Shire may approve variations to the Asset Protection Zone for a period not more than 5 years.



EXAMPLE OF A FIREBREAK VARIATION

(b) **Bushfire Management Plan:**

As an alternative to lodging a request for a variation, a landowner may have a site-specific **Bushfire Management Plan\*** prepared by a **Bushfire Planning Practitioner\*** that fully complies with the requirements of State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bush fire Prone Areas (SPP3.7) and associated Guidelines. This **Bushfire Management Plan\*** is to be approved by the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

Proposals for a **Bushfire Management Plan\*** (BMP) for permission to provide alternative fire mitigation measures on the land must be provided to the Shire no later than **1 September**.

- (i) If a BMP has been approved by the Shire, it will thereafter replace and totally extinguish the landowner's obligations to otherwise implement the standard regulations as described in the Fire Regulation Notice, appropriate to the zoning of the property; or,
- (ii) If a BMP has not been approved then the standard Regulations must be implemented by the due dates.

**Note:** A number of properties developed since 2015 will have an adopted BMP as part of their existing planning approval.

### 13. DRIVEWAYS

Driveways must be cleared to a minimum of 4 metres wide and 5 metres in height and must provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles gaining entrance and trans-versing your property during an emergency.



## 14. DEFINITIONS

- (a) **Asset Protection Zone;** refer to Section 10
  - (b) **Bare Earth Fire Breaks:** A strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable vegetation material leaving clear bare mineral earth - Achievable by ploughing, grading or early spraying.
  - (c) **Bushfire Management Plan (BMP):** A document that sets out short, medium and long-term risk management strategies for the life of the development. It is to be prepared by an accredited Bushfire Planning Practitioner in accordance with the requirements of State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (SPP3.7) and associated Guidelines.
  - (d) **Bushfire Planning Practitioner:** A person who holds Level Two or Level Three accreditation under the Western Australia Bushfire Accreditation Framework.
  - (e) **Flammable Material:** Any material that is easily ignited, capable of burning and of carrying a fire.
  - (f) **Fire Fuel:** Any combustible material, dead or alive, in isolation or clusters or aggregation with other combustible materials that, in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe, is likely to fuel a bush fire. Including but not limited to;
    - Heavy leaf litter on the ground, dead leaves in gutters, fallen branches and any combustible vegetation in clusters including combustible materials suspended off the ground
    - All Grasses exceeding a height of 100mm and
    - Any tree within the APZ or branch of a tree that may fall onto a building which in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe constitutes an unacceptable fire risk.
- Does not include;
- Vegetable within the APZ or branch of a tree that may fall onto a building which in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe constitutes an unacceptable fire risk.
  - Well compacted dead vegetative material e.g. mulch, that in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe does not constitute an unacceptable fire risk.



- (g) **Managed Land:** Land that is cropped, grazed or slashed.
- (h) **Parkland Clearing:** A technique of mulching understorey ladder fuel plants from within native vegetation and planted vegetation along with thinning any densely stocked over storey plants to create an open parkland similar in nature to that of the APZ but over a larger area of land.



## **BECOME A EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

“Our communities are served by dedicated group of emergency services volunteers, who require your help today!

There is a role to suit everyone and training is available.”

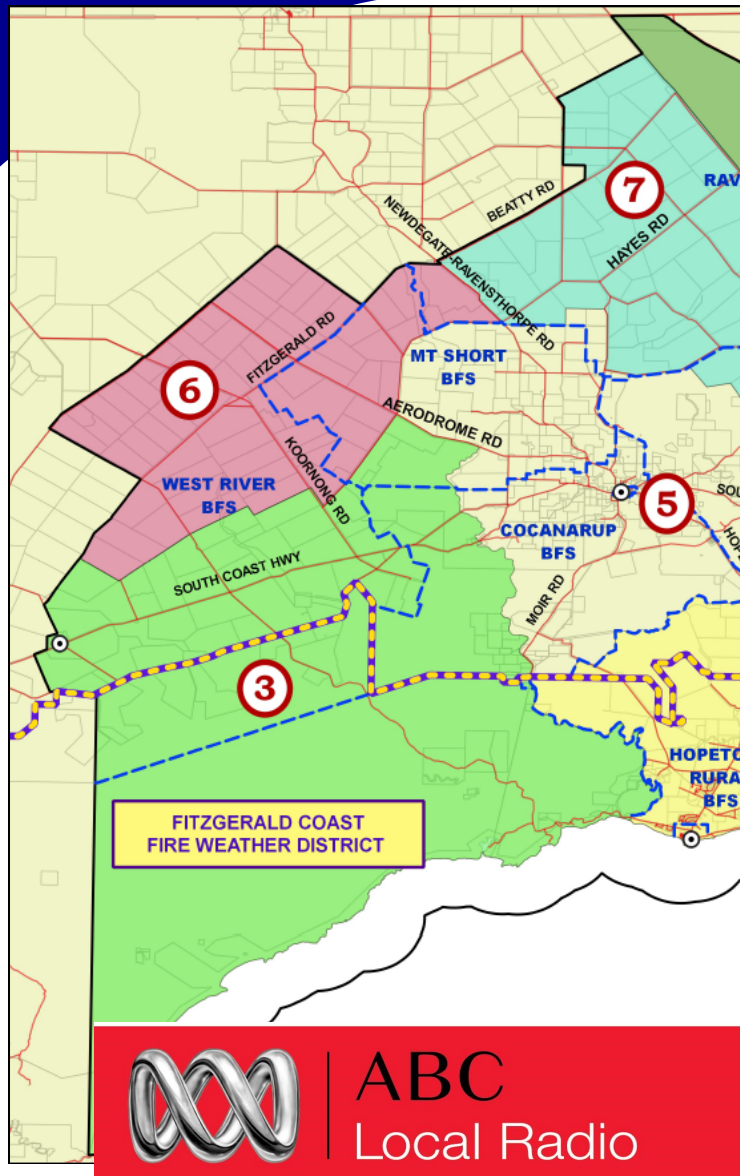


Contact the Community Emergency Services Officer at the Shire of Ravensthorpe  
on 08 9839 0000 for more details or how to join.



# SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE

## HARVEST BAN AREAS

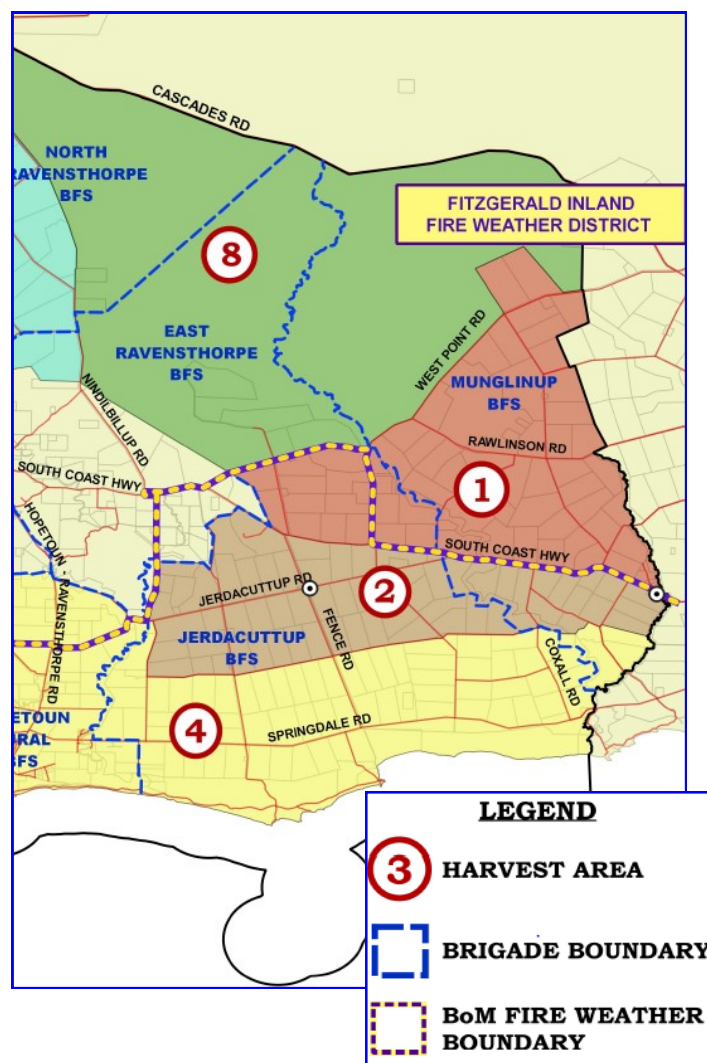


ABC  
Local Radio

## HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN / FIRE BAN INFORMATION

All Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans and Fire Bans will be communicated via the Shire's SMS system or on ABC local radio 558AM / 837AM at the following times; 10:05am, 12:35pm and 2:05pm weekdays, 12:35pm and 2:05pm week-ends.

If you are a farmer or a contractor and would like to receive notification by SMS of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban direct to your mobile phone, contact the Shire Office during office hours on 08 9839 0000.



# REAR COVER PAGE

## FIRE CONTROL OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS

<b>FOR ALL FIRE &amp; EMERGENCIES</b>		<b>000</b>
<b>SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE</b>		<b>08 9839 0000</b>
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Rod Daw		0429 396 010
Community Emergency Services Officer - Russell Palmer		0438 498 221
COCANARUP BFB	Luke Webster	0427 381 454
	Keith Rowe	0428 381 231
EAST RAVENS-THORPE BFB	Andy Daw	0429 396 031
	Devon Burton	0408 144 117
	Malcolm Grant	0499 351 155
HOPETOUN RURAL BFS	Stott Redman	0429 351 475
	Courtney Foulds	0423 819 270
	Andrew Venning ( <i>Permits Only</i> )	0427 383 552
HOPETOUN VFES	Peter Nankervis ( <i>Permits Only</i> )	0491 065 025
JERDACUTTUP BFB	Paul Bell	0429 075 118
	James Mollet	0429 396 035
MT SHORT BFB	Brad Clarke	0427 381 082
	Peter Belli	0427 381 122
	Richard Norrish	0427 507 561
MUNGLINUP BFB	Nathan Chapman	0475 400 434
	Gavin Gibson	0427 751 062
	Barnes Fetherstonhaugh	0427 751 089
NORTH RAVENS-THORPE BFB	Reece Laycock	0438 838 007
	Andrew Chambers	0429 380 084
	Kye Chambers	0427 380 084
	Chad Tuckett	0429 109 591
RAVEY VFES	Gary Webster	0427 381 114
WEST RIVER BFB	Peter Kuiper	0428 357 043
	Richard Norrish	0427 507 561
	Mark Mudie	0428 356 064
	Rian Duncan	0428 324 400
	Brett Kershaw	0427 356 053

