

Bush Fires Act 1954

SHIRE OF WILUNA

FIRE CONTROL ORDER 2026-2027

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, notice is hereby given to owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Wiluna, that owners and/or occupiers of land are required to carry out fire prevention work in accordance with this notice. All works required by this notice shall be completed by **1 November 2026 and kept maintained until the close of the Restricted Burning Period on 12 May 2027 (or as amended).**

ALL FIRES SHOULD BE REPORTED BY DIALING 000

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIODS

During the Restricted Burning Period it is unlawful to set fire to the bush (including garden refuse) without a valid Permit being issued by a Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO). During the Prohibited Burning Period it is unlawful to set fire to the bush at any time.

DATES TO REMEMBER		
Restricted Burning Period 20 September – 30 October	Prohibited Burning Period 31 October – 31 March	Restricted Burning Period 1 April to 12 May
The Restricted or Prohibited Burning Periods can be varied due to seasonal conditions and owners and occupiers are urged to contact the Shire of Wiluna prior to lighting any fire.		

DEFINITIONS

Buildings

Includes all buildings, dwellings, outhouses, sheds, containers or other such structures.

Firebreak

Means ground from which all flammable material has been removed by scarifying, cultivating, ploughing or other means to bare mineral earth to a width of 3 meters; and on which no flammable material is permitted to accumulate during the period specified in this notice. It includes the pruning and removing of any living or dead trees, scrub or other material that overhangs the cleared firebreak area or a vertical height of four (4.0) meters from the ground and to provide suitable access for fire fighting vehicles.

Explosives

Has the same meaning given to it by the *Dangerous Goods Act 2004*.

Fuel Depot

Means an area of land, a building or structure where combustible liquid or gas (i.e. petrol, diesel, kerosene, liquified natural gas or any other fossil fuel) is kept in any container or manner.

Low Fuel Zone

Means the removal of accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, grass over 100mm in height, timber, boxes, cartons, paper and any other combustible material, capable of carrying a running fire but excludes living standing trees and shrubs.

Townsite Land

Means land within the Shire of Wiluna that is within the boundaries of a townsite. For the purposes of the definition "townsite" has the meaning given it in section 6(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

MINIMUM FIRE PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

1. Townsite Land with an area of 2024m² or less

The area is to be maintained as a *low fuel zone* to the whole of the land.

2. Townsite Land with an area greater than 2024m²

- a) The area is to be maintained as a *low fuel zone* to the whole of the land; or
- b) A *firebreak* is to be installed inside and along all external boundaries of the land and a *low fuel zone* is to be installed surrounding all buildings, dwellings and sheds for at least 20 metres.

3. All land outside of Townsites:

Two firebreaks are to be installed surrounding all buildings on the land. The inner firebreak is to be not more than twenty 20 metres from the perimeter of the building or groups of buildings and the outer firebreak not less than twenty 20 metres and not more than one hundred 100 metres from the inner firebreak.

4. Fuel Depot:

A *low fuel zone* is to be installed surrounding the entire *fuel depot* for at least 20 metres. This distance is to be measured from the outside perimeter of any *fuel depot* (whether or not containing fuel).

A *low fuel zone* must be installed between any *fuel depot* (where there is more than one such facility).

5. Explosives Magazines and Storage Area:

A *low fuel zone* is to be installed surrounding the entire *explosives* magazine or storage area for at least 20 metres. This distance is to be measured from the outside perimeter or *explosives* magazine or storage area.

A *low fuel zone* must be installed between any *explosives* magazine or storage area (where there is more than one such facility).

6. Power Lines and Power Transmission Lines:

Aerial hazards to power and transmission lines shall be cleared or reduced as per guidelines issued by the Office of Energy Safety. For power lines conducting less than or equal to 33,000 volts; ground fuels such as grasses shall be cleared to a minimum of 3 metres either side of a centre line created by the poles or towers. The total cleared area shall not be less than 6 metres wide and the entire area shall be maintained to the standard of a *firebreak*.

For power transmission lines greater than 33,000 volts two mineral earth breaks are required to be at least three (3) metres either side of the widest point of any arms on the pole or tower. All power and transmission lines are to be maintained as per Australian Standard AS7000, to assist in minimizing the risk from sparks or arcing.

VARIATIONS

If it is considered to be impractical to comply with the provisions of this Notice, you should apply for an exemption to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take other action to abate fire hazards. Applications should:

- Be submitted in writing to the Shire of Wiluna; and
- Provide a detailed fire management plan for your land detailing the alternate positions of firebreaks and/or other prevention measures that will be undertaken to abate fire hazards.

Approval for variations will only be granted up to and before 15 November in any year. If approval is not granted by the Council or its Duly Authorised Officer, then the owner or occupier shall comply with the requirements of this Notice.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The requirements of this Notice are considered the minimum standard for fire prevention. The Shire of Wiluna or its Duly Authorised Officers, have the power to issue Special Orders pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to individual landowners or occupiers if hazard removal or reduction, or any additional works are considered necessary.

CONTACTS

All enquiries relating to fire control and prevention should be directed to the Shire of Wiluna on 9981 8000 or to the Captain of the Bushfire Brigade on 0474 641 883.

Matt McIntyre
Chief Executive Officer