



Fire Prevention and Management

Council is obligated to undertake Fire Prevention work under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*. The role of a Council Fire Prevention Officer is to assess the extent of bushfire hazards within the council area, provide advice and assistance to the local Bushfire Management Committee, provide advice to owners on bushfire prevention and management and to undertake the issuing of permits and enforcement notices under the Act.

Fire Danger Seasons

In the Riverland region, the fire danger season will typically run from 15 November until the 15 April each year and is inclusive of these dates. These dates may alter each year and advice can be obtained from the Country Fire Service at www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

Permits may be required for burning during the Fire Danger Season, to see if you need a permit refer to the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

Prevention

Bushfire prevention is a year-round responsibility of all land owners and it is much more than a weekend clean-up prior to the bushfire season. As a measure to assist in the control of bushfire, or to prevent the spread or extension of a bushfire which may occur, all owner and occupiers of land are required to undertake fire prevention measures.

Pursuant to powers contained in Section 105 (f) of The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 you are hereby required to undertake fire prevention measures as set out below:

- Within 20 metres of any building reduce all grass, pest plants and undergrowth to a maximum height of 100mm.
- If the land is a vacant block under half a hectare in area reduce all grass, pest plants and undergrowth to a maximum height of 100mm over the whole block

- If the land is a vacant block over half a hectare in area, establish and maintain a fire break around the whole area, placed as practicable to the perimeter, the fire break shall be at least a (4) metre wide strip on which all grass, pest plants and undergrowth is reduced to a maximum height of 100mm.

Council Fire Prevention Officers monitor areas and may undertake work to reduce fuel loads where land owners are non-compliant. These costs will be incurred by the land owner and fines can be issued.

Land owners who don't prepare their property for the fire danger season not only endanger their own property, but also the lives and property of their neighbours and the community. During the fire danger season, Fire Prevention Officers undertake regular assessments of properties.

Clearance of Native Vegetation

Native vegetation is protected under the Native Vegetation Act 1991. The Act provides exemption along property boundaries and around assets such as dwellings. You are requested, however, to avoid any excess removal of native vegetation and should seek advice from the SA Country Fire Service website, www.cfs.sa.gov.au for further information.

What fires are permitted?

Fire restriction apply within all townships and all domestic burning, including the use of incinerators, is prohibited. Waste must be disposed of through the Council waste collection system provided.

Fires for cooking can be utilised if the fire is in 30cm deep trench or portable cooking appliance, no more than 1m square, has 4m clearance around and above the fire of combustible material a responsible person is in attendance with water or an extinguishing agent. The fire must be principally for the preparation of food - roasting marshmallows is not food preparation. During the Fire Danger Season clearances and conditions apply. Please visit the CFS website, www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

Fires for personal comfort are permitted if they are contained within a 30cm deep trench or portable cooking appliance, no more than 1m square, has 4m clearance around and above the fire of combustible material a responsible person is in attendance with water or an extinguishing agent. Please visit the SA Country Fire Service website for what you can and can't do, www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

Creating excessive smoke or burning anything other than dried wood, paper, cardboard or pruning's is still an offence and fines apply.

Total Fire Ban Days

On days of extreme weather conditions Fire Bans may be declared for various areas in the State. To determine whether a fire ban has been imposed, phone the CFS hotline on 1300 362 361 or visit CFS website on www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

All fires are prohibited on a total fire ban day unless a permit under Schedule 10 has been issued. However permits will only be issued in special circumstances.

Note: Electric welders, mechanical cutting tools and gas appliances require a permit before they can be used in the open on a day of total fire ban.

Permits

Permits must be issued prior to burning when required under Schedule 9 and 10 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 2005*. Schedule 9 permits are for burning during the Fire Danger Season and Schedule 10 permits are for burning during Total Fire Ban Days. These permits can only be issued by Council's Fire Prevention Officer who can be contacted during normal business hours.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Fire Prevention Officer at Council on (08)85821922, or through the CFS website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au. It is advisable that you contact Council prior to undertaking any activity if you are unsure if it is permissible.

For further information about any of the topics contained in this information sheet, please contact

the Environmental Services department of the Berri Barmera Council on (08) 8582 1922.

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