



MEDIA RELEASE: MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 2019

REMAIN VIGILANT THIS FIRE DANGER PERIOD

Strathbogie Shire Council urges residents to remain vigilant with keeping their properties maintained this Fire Danger Period (FDP).

Properties within townships or less than two hectares must remove all flammable rubbish from their yards and ensure grass and weeds are kept cut to a height of no more than 100 millimetres.

Properties greater than two hectares must slash around all buildings to a minimum distance of 20 metres.

Property boundaries must be slashed to a width of 6 metres. When neighbouring dwellings and assets are nearby this must be increased to at least 20 metres.

Property owners and occupiers have a responsibility to ensure their land is as safe as possible to reduce the risk and impact of fires. Failure to prepare and maintain your property during the fire season can put you and your neighbours at a much greater risk.

If owners and occupiers fail to keep a fire safe environment, a fire prevention notice will be issued requesting the property owner to take action.

This notice will include a \$113 administration fee. It is a requirement for the owner or occupier to follow the requests in the Fire Prevention Notice throughout the entire FDP, not just at the time the notice is received.

A further failure to maintain the requirements of the Fire Prevention Notice will result in a fine of \$1,652.

Council has an active role in reducing fire hazards within and abutting urban areas. If you have any questions or concerns relating to your obligations, please feel free to contact Council Offices on 1800 065 993.

Fire Danger Period information:

- ✓ A written permit is required to burn off grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation during the FDP. This permit may be issued by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) District Office by calling 5833 2400. However, it is expected that no further permits will be issued in 2019 beyond mid November 2019, subject to weather conditions.
- ✓ Lighting a fire in the open without a permit is an offence and can bring a penalty of over \$19,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment. Barbeques and fires for cooking and warmth

do not require a permit, but must be lit in properly constructed fireplaces (to view complete conditions visit cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can)

- ✓ Farmers can find legal guidelines and practical advice at cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/farms – this information is important especially for new farmers, bush block owners or hobby farmers
- ✓ A Total Fire Ban declaration means no fires can be lit for the declared district for that day unless there is a specific exemption or special permit issued. This applies irrespective of the Fire Restriction status for a given municipality. Further details at cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can

For more information and advice about fire safety and restrictions during the Fire Danger Period, please visit the Country Fire Authority's website www.cfa.vic.gov.au or contact your local CFA.

To receive information about fires in your region, download the VicEmergency app on your mobile or device, which is also available at www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

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