Shire of
GNOWANGERUP
BORDEN ◆ GNOWANGERUP ◆ ONGERUP
Heart of the Stirlings

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF PROPERTIES IN THE SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP

2026/2027 FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION ORDER

Bush Fires Act 1954 – Section 33

FIREBREAKS
MUST BE INSTALLED ON ALL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE SHIRE BY
15 OCTOBER 2026
AND MAINTAINED CLEAR OF ALL FLAMMABLE MATERIAL
UP TO AND INCLUDING
30 APRIL 2027

DATES YOU MUST REMEMBER

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD	PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD *NO BURNING ALLOWED*	RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD
15 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER You must obtain a permit to burn from your nearest Fire Control Officer	**1 NOVEMBER TO 16 FEBRUARY** *Protective Burning may be carried out between 4pm – 12 midnight provided you obtain a permit from your nearest Fire Control Officer	**17 FEBRUARY TO 30 APRIL** You must obtain a permit to burn from your nearest Fire Control Officer

You must obtain a permit to burn from your nearest Fire Control Officer during Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods

IN CASE OF FIRE - FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

PHONE 000

Base Operator 0427 281 018
Harvest Ban/Vehicle Movement Hotline 9827 1711

FIREBREAK INFORMATION

THE SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT IS
STIRLING NORTH

RURAL (FARM) PROPERTIES

EXTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- Boundary firebreaks are not compulsory within the Shire of Gnowangerup Rural Area. Landholders can provide boundary firebreaks if they wish.

CROPS

- Firebreaks around crops are not compulsory however landowners are strongly encouraged to maintain voluntary firebreaks. All owners or occupiers of land being used for pasture or crops which exceeds 20 hectares (50 acres) in area shall maintain a mobile firefighting unit in working order with a capacity of not less than 600 litres of water.

BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES / FUEL STORAGE / STAND-ALONE POWER SYSTEMS

- Asset Protection Zones of at least **20 metres** must be constructed and maintained around the perimeter of any building or group of buildings, fuel tanks, haystacks or stand-alone power systems, to fully encircle the asset.
- *Asset Protection Zone: removal of inflammable material, dead trees, leaf litter, trash. Removal of dead branches to a height of 1.5m from live standing trees. Grass slashed to a height not exceeding 100mm.*

PRIOR TO BURNING (permit requirement)

Firebreaks of bare earth 3 metres wide must be constructed around stubble and pasture prior to burning.

RURAL RESIDENTIAL

It is a requirement for Rural Residential landowners to have a 10,000 litre tank on property and complete the following bush fire mitigation measures;

- Firebreaks of not less than **3 metres** constructed along and within 20 metres of all external boundaries of your property.
- Asset Protection Zone of at least **20 metres** around the perimeter of any building or group of buildings, fuel tanks or haystacks.

FIREBREAK INFORMATION
URBAN PROPERTIES

TOWNSITE PROPERTIES - 2000m^2 OR LESS

- Clear entire block of all flammable debris.
- Dry grass, dry bush to be mowed/slashed to a height of no more than 50mm.

TOWNSITE PROPERTIES - LARGER THAN 2000m^2

- Firebreaks not less than 2 metres wide must be constructed immediately inside and along all external boundaries.

PLANTATIONS

All plantations with in the Shire of Gnowangerup are to comply with the "FESA Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection" 2011. A copy of this is located on the Shire of Gnowangerup's website www.gnowangerup.wa.gov.au

DEFINITION OF A PLANTATION

- A plantation / tree farm is defined as an area exceeding three hectares within townsites or an area exceeding 10 hectares within rural areas, of trees planted or land under preparation for planting for commercial purposes.

BOUNDARY FIREBREAKS

- Boundary Firebreaks are to be 15 metres wide and free of flammable material, with a trafficable surface of at least 6 metres. A vertical clearance is to be established to a height of 5 metres above the ground level over the trafficable portion of the firebreak.

PLANTING COMPARTMENTS

- A planting compartment is defined as an individual area of approximately 30 hectares surrounded by firebreaks cleared of all flammable material six metres wide (with a five metre trafficable surface) and a vertical clearance of all overhanging branches at least four metres above ground level to allow unrestricted access for firefighting equipment. This applies to all established and subsequent rotation (coppice) plantations.

REMAINDER OF THE PROPERTY

- All areas of the property which do not comply with the Plantation / Tree Farm definition, i.e. farmland or native vegetation, must comply with the requirements detailed elsewhere in this Notice.

A FIRE CONTROL OFFICER HAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE *BUSH FIRES ACT 1954* TO HALT ANY ACTIVITY OR OPERATION THAT THEY DEEM AS HAZARDOUS OR LIKELY TO START A FIRE.

FIREBREAK OFFENDERS AND PENALTIES

- **It is the responsibility of the owner/occupier to ensure compliance with the 2026/2027 Firebreak Order - FAILURE TO DO SO MAY PLACE PROPERTY INSURANCE AT RISK.**
- **Failure to comply with the requirements of the firebreak order may result in a FINE OF UP TO $5000.**
- **In addition, the Shire of Gnowangerup may arrange for the required work to be carried out at the cost of the owner/occupier.**

Immediately following a firebreak inspection, offenders are categorised as follows:

- **CATEGORY 1**
  14 days' notice is given to have the firebreaks put in place.
- **CATEGORY 2**
  Burning on open ground may only be done between the hours of 6pm and 11pm during the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Period provided that you obtain a permit from your nearest Fire Control Officer. An area of five (5) metres is to be cleared around the burn. At least one person is to remain in attendance until the fire is out.

  It remains the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure the validity of permit due to weather conditions prior to commencement of burning.

  A Category 1 offender in the past automatically becomes Category 2. Penalty – 21 days' notice given to comply.
- **CATEGORY 3**
  A Category 2 offender in the past automatically becomes Category 3. Penalty – Immediate prosecution by council plus costs for Council having to put in firebreaks.

NOTE

PERMITS ARE SUSPENDED IF A TOTAL FIRE BAN IS ISSUED FOR THE STIRLING NORTH-FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT OR THE FDR IS SET AT FIRE DANGER RATING: HIGH

HARVEST INFORMATION

HARVEST BAN / VEHICLE MOVEMENT HOTLINE 9827 1711

Subject to 38A: A ban on harvesting and the movement of vehicles in paddocks is likely to be imposed when actual local weather conditions make harvest and movement of vehicles in pasture/crop too dangerous. Please be aware it remains the responsibility of the landholder to ensure they are aware a ban has been put in place. The Shire of Gnowangerup provides a text service to landholders to inform them when a ban has been imposed. Please contact the Shire should you wish to be added to this list.

NO HARVESTING WHEN A BAN IS IMPOSED

HARVEST BAN IN PLACE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

HARVESTING / VEHICLE MOVEMENT IN PADDOCK BAN

(1) Where a Bush Fire Control Officer is of the opinion that the use or operation of any engines, vehicles, plant or machinery during the prohibited burning times or restricted burning time, or both, is likely to cause a bush fire or would be conductive to the spread of bush fire, the Bush Fire Control Officer may, by notice or direction, prohibit or regulate the carrying out of any activity or operation in a specified area either absolutely or except in accordance with conditions specified in the notice or direction, or with consent of the Local Authority Bush Fire Control Officer.

(2) A notice of direction, under regulation (1) of the regulation.

(a) May be given by wireless broadcast or in writing;

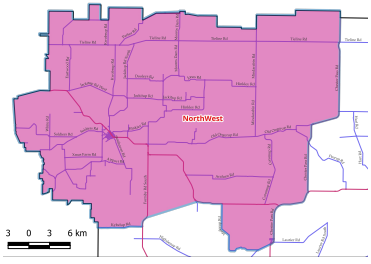
(b) Shall have effect for such period during the prohibited burning times or restricted burning times, or both, as is specified in the notice or direction;

(c) May be varied or cancelled by a Bush Fire Control Officer by subsequent notice or direction in the manner set out in the sub-regulation.

HARVEST INFORMATION

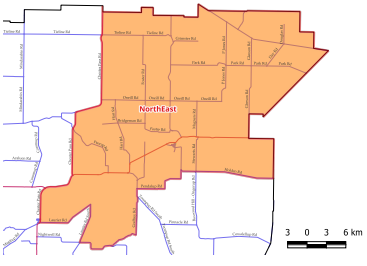
HARVEST / VEHICLE MOVEMENT / FIRE BANS

MAY BE IMPOSED IN THE WHOLE SHIRE OR IN A PORTION ONLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING SHIRE DIVISIONS:



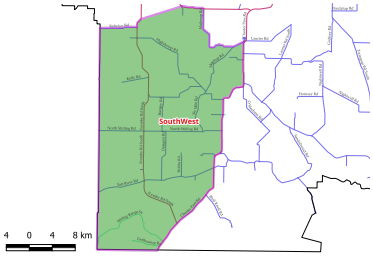
NorthWest Section

Bounded by the Chester Pass Road from the northern boundary of the Shire to Magitup Road, then Maileeup Road. It follows Maileeup Road west to the Warperup Creek, along the Warperup Creek to the Pallinup River. Along the Pallinup River to Formby South Road, down to Kybelup Road and along to the Western boundary of the Shire.



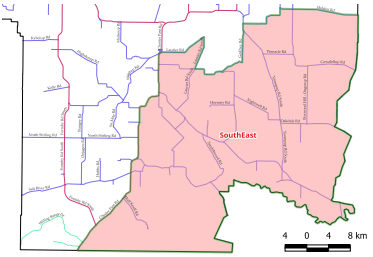
NorthEast Section

Bounded by the Chester Pass Road from the northern boundary of the Shire to Laurier Road, along Godfrey Road, Toompup South Road, Pendelup Road, Boxwood/ Ongerup Road along Holden Road to the eastern boundary of the Shire.



SouthWest Section

Bounded by Kybelup Road from the western boundary of the Shire, to Formby South Road. Up Formby South Road to the Pallinup River, then follow the Pallinup River east to the Warperup Creek, to Maileeup Road, to Magitup Road, then to Chester Pass Road. It then follows Chester Pass Road south to the southern boundary of the Shire.



SouthEast Section

Divided by a line commencing at a point on the eastern boundary of the Shire at Holden Road, Boxwood/ Ongerup Road, Pendelup Road, Godfrey Road, Laurier Road to the Chester Pass Road. It then follows the Chester Pass Road south to the southern boundary of the Shire.

View in Google Maps
(Some versions of iPhones may not work)

FIRE BAN SHIRE DIVISIONS

PROHIBITED / RESTRICTED BURNING REGULATIONS

USE OF MACHINERY

OPERATION OF HARVESTING, AND OTHER MACHINERY REGULATIONS (Regulations 38 & 38A)

A person shall not operate any harvesting machinery or header in any crop during the prohibited and restricted time unless:-

- One hand held, water filled fire extinguisher (minimum capacity 7.5 litres) is fitted in a readily available accessible position on the machine.
- A vehicle mounted operational unit, of a minimum 600 litre capacity powered by an engine driven pump, is situated in, or adjacent to, the entrance of the paddock being harvested.
- All trucks/tractors must carry a hand held fire extinguisher while operating in the paddock during harvest time.
- Council will issue a written warning to a resident for a first time breach of this policy, provided the offence was not deliberate, then issue a penalty for every offence thereafter.

MINIMUM STANDARD FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT	
Number of Headers or Harvester	Equivalent Fire Fighting Capacity
1	1 x mobile firefighting unit (minimum 600L capacity)
2 or more	2 x mobile firefighting units (minimum 600L capacity)

TRACK RAKING, WHEEL TRACK RENOVATING, SLASHING AND STUBBLE CRUNCHING

- **A Fire Control Officer has the authority under the Bush Fires Act 1954 to halt any activity or operation that they deem as hazardous or likely to start a fire.**
- During the Prohibited & Restricted Burning Period, slashing is not permitted unless permission is granted by a Fire Control Officer.
- Track raking, wheel track renovating and stubble crunching are not permitted on Total Fire Ban days.
- It remains the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure the validity of permits due to weather conditions.
- In the Restricted and Prohibited burning times fire-fighting equipment must be available in the immediate area of the track raking, slashing or similar operations. Such firefighting equipment must meet the minimum standard currently required by the Local Government for harvesting operations.

BURNING TO COLLECT CLOVER DURING PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

- A special permit is required from an Authorised Officer, not a Bush Fire Control Officer, unless specially authorised.
- Burning may take place between the hours of 4pm and 12 midnight of the same day.
- Proposed burn to be advertised on local ABC Radio Station.

NOTE

PERMITS ARE SUSPENDED IF A TOTAL FIRE BAN IS ISSUED FOR THE STIRLING NORTH-FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT OR THE FDR IS SET AT FIRE DANGER RATING: HIGH

PERMIT TO BURN: RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

DURING THE RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD LANDHOLDERS MUST OBTAIN A PERMIT TO BURN FROM THEIR NEAREST FIRE CONTROL OFFICER (FCO) (refer to the listing on back page)

CONDITIONS OF A "PERMIT TO BURN"

1. Have a permit on-site and available for inspection and Permit Holders must comply with all conditions on the permit.
2. Must have a readily available firefighting unit, of a minimum of 600 litres capacity, powered by an engine driven pump with min 20mm, 10m rubber hose in attendance at all fires lit under a permit.
3. The fire-fighting unit must remain in the location of the fire (do not light several paddocks at once).
4. Three able-bodied persons are to be in attendance at all times.
5. Notify all of your neighbours.
6. Notify The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions if adjoining its reserve within 3km radius.
7. Ensure all firebreaks are in place (as per the firebreak order on Page 1). **Reminder: 3 metre wide firebreak must be constructed around stubble and pasture prior to burning.**
8. **ALL PERMITS ARE SUSPENDED OVER THE EASTER PERIOD.** Permits are invalid and fires are to be extinguished by midnight on the Wednesday before Good Friday.
9. Notify radio base station or your FCO before you burn.
10. **PERMITS ARE SUSPENDED IF A TOTAL FIRE BAN IS ISSUED FOR THE STIRLING-NORTH FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT OR THE FDR IS SET AT HIGH.**

INSTRUCTIONS: ATTENDING A FIRE

- FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE, YOU ARE UNDER THE INSTRUCTION OF THE FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS.
- ENSURE YOU ARE WEARING YOUR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING OR EQUIVALENT (LONG PANTS AND SHIRTS – NO SYNTHETIC MATERIALS, BOOTS AND GOGGLES/GLASSES – PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BUSHFIRE BRIGADE TO OBTAIN A FIREFIGHTING UNIFORM PRIOR TO THE FIRE SEASON).
- THE DFES RURAL FIRE AWARENESS COURSE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS ATTENDING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGED FIRE (CONTACT THE SHIRE FOR REQUIRED COURSE INFORMATION).
- REGISTER/RADIO IN TO YOUR LOCAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICER SO THAT HE CAN GUIDE YOU WHERE TO GO. **UHF 5**
- IF YOUR LOCAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICER IS NOT IN ATTENDANCE, THEN RADIO THE NEXT CLOSEST FIRE CONTROL OFFICER AND SO ON.
- PLEASE LISTEN TO INSTRUCTIONS – THEY ARE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.
- AS OF OCTOBER 2021 FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPPED TRAILERS ARE NO LONGER PERMITTED ONTO THE FIRE GROUND DURING A FIRE EMERGENCY.
- WATER TANKERS MAY ONLY BE USED FOR WATER TRANSFER TO OTHER APPLIANCES FIGHTING AN ACTIVE FIRE.
- **FROM APRIL 2025 ACTIVELY FIGHTING FIRES FROM THE BACK OF ANY PRIVATE VEHICLE IS PROHIBITED UNLESS APPROVED SAFETY RAILS ARE FITTED.**

NOTHING IN THE FOREGOING SHALL BE DEEMED TO RELIEVE ANY PERSON FROM LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE

KNOW THE BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEM

During a bushfire, emergency services will provide you with as much information as possible through a number of different methods.
The alerts provide information on the severity of a bushfire once it has started. The alert levels reflects the risk to life and property.

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 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.

BROADCAST OF HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS

ABC - will broadcast harvest and vehicle movement bans daily at 12.35pm.

Shire's Harvest Ban Hotline – 9827 1711 recorded message stating what type of ban is currently active in the Shire.

SMS Messaging of harvest and vehicle movement bans, and other important information are sent to mobile phones as the information is received. Contact the Shire Office 9827 1007 if you would like to include your mobile on the SMS register.

The Shire has a dedicated number that you will receive messages on **0421 268 868** - please save this number to your phone.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

000	for fire or life-threatening emergencies
132 500	for SES Assistance
13 3337	for Emergency Information
1800 709 355	for Total Fire Ban Information

Please refer to the https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au for the best available information and community warnings about emergencies in Western Australia.

FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS 2026-2027

Chief Fire Control Officer:	**WAYNE PECH**	**0428 428 124**
Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer 1:	**RICK CARPENTER**	**0428 544 970**
Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer 2:	**CHRIS STONE**	**0427 281 018**
Fire Weather Officer:	**WILLIAM DILLON**	**0400 644 130**
Communications Officer:	**PAUL RICHARDSON**	**0447 279 232**
Base Operator:	**CHRIS STONE**	**0427 281 018**

FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

TITLE	NAME	MOBILE	CALL SIGN
Gnowangerup			
Captain	*Paul Nicholas*	*0427 387 690*	*Gnowangerup 1*
	Brad Kiddle	*0428 271 353*	*Gnowangerup 2*
	Bill O'Keeffe	*0428 273 522*	*Gnowangerup 3*
	Scott Hemley	*0428 436 539*	*Gnowangerup 4*
	William Dillon	*0400 644 130*	*Gnowangerup 5*
	Richard House	*0428 271 565*	*Gnowangerup 6*
	Brandon Wise	*0467 271 075*	*Gnowangerup 7*
	Shane Kingston	*0429 101 706*	*Gnowangerup 8*
	Tom McInerney	*0429 876 016*	*Gnowangerup 10*
	Wayne Pech	*0428 428 124*	*Gnowangerup*
Ongerup			
Captain	*Rick Carpenter*	*0428 544 970*	*Ongerup 1*
	Greg Hyde	*0428 353 047*	*Ongerup 2*
	Greg O'Neill	*0437 285 049*	*Ongerup 3*
	Mick Creagh	*0427 641 044*	*Ongerup 4*
	Kelvin Hams	*0428 258 226*	*Ongerup 5*
	Brenden O'Neill	*0427 282 195*	*Ongerup 6*
	Travis Hawkins	*0427 716 895*	*Ongerup 7*
	Graeme Savage	*0428 282 101*	*Ongerup 8*
	Michael Long	*0459 299 998*	*Ongerup 9*
	Darren Baum	*0427 471 015*	*Ongerup 10*
	Rohan Vaux	*0429 870 690*	*Ongerup 11*
Borden			
Captain	*Wayne Davis*	*0427 603 113*	*Borden 1*
	Jeremy Bailey	*0427 824 739*	*Borden 2*
	Paul Richardson	*0447 279 232*	*Borden 3*
	Will Gaze	*0488 273 538*	*Borden 4*
	Jeremy Hitsert	*0428 276 043*	*Borden 5*
	Jason Stone	*0427 998 398*	*Borden 6*
	Chris Stone	*0427 281 018*	*Borden 7*
	Brendan Barrows	*0428 281 113*	*Borden 8*
	Tim O'Meehan	*0428 279 296*	*Borden 9*
	Harry Milne	*0477 312 046*	*Borden 10*
	Darren Moir	*0428 279 256*	*Amelup 1*
	Murray Moir	*0427 464 555*	*Amelup 2*
CESM/FCO	*Phill Gunn*	*0499 899 189*	*CESM*
Shire Admin Office		*08 9827 1007*	
Shire President	*Kate O'Keeffe*	*0427 273 522*	