

Bush Fires Act 1954

City of Melville

Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice 2025-2026

Notice to all owners and / or occupiers of land situated in the City of Melville

Term	Definition
Authorised Officer	A person appointed by the City of Melville Chief Executive Officer as an authorised person/officer to exercise the powers and duties set out in the Local Government Act 1995, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Local Law(s).
Flammable Material	Any dead or dry grass, vegetation, substance, object, thing or material (except living flora including live and/ or habitat standing trees) that may or is likely to catch fire and burn or any other thing deemed by an Authorised Officer(s) to be capable of combustion.
Firebreak Time	The time of each year where fire hazard reduction works must be maintained as specified in this Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice. This time is 15 November of each year until and including 30 April of the following year.

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, you are hereby required on or before the Firebreak Time, or within 14 days of the date of you becoming the owner or occupier of land situated in the City of Melville should this be after the 15 November each year until 30 April of the following year, to comply with the following fire abatement requirements:

Properties 1,500 square meters or smaller, or land zoned “Residential”:

- A. Clear and remove all flammable material from the whole of the land except living trees, shrubs and plants under cultivation and lawns;
- B. Ensure the roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable material(s); and
- C. Living lawns must be trimmed to a height of 50mm or less during the Firebreak Time.

Properties above 1,500 square metres and all other zoned land;

The owner or occupier shall: -

Clear firebreaks of a minimum width of three (3) meters and height of four (4) meters inside all external boundaries of the land;

Clear firebreaks of a minimum width of five (5) meters and height of three (3) meters around all buildings situated on the land;

Where that area of land exceeds ten (10) hectares, clear firebreaks of a minimum width of five (5) meters so as to ensure that no area of land within the firebreak exceeds ten (10) hectares.

- A. In any event, clear the firebreaks to the satisfaction of the City's Authorised Officer(s); and
- B. Ensure the roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable materials.

Additional Works

Regardless of land size and location, the City of Melville or its Authorised Officer(s) may require you to undertake additional work(s) on your property to improve access and/or undertake further works where in the opinion of that Authorised Officer(s), these works would be conducive to preventing the outbreak and/or the spread or extension of a fire.

Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice Variation

If for any reason an owner or occupier considers it to be impractical to clear firebreaks or comply with other fire protection measures in accordance with these requirements, the owner or occupier may apply in writing to the City's Authorised Officer(s), no later than 31 October 2025 for an exemption or partial exemption from compliance with the requirements of this Notice.

Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with this Notice may result in the issue of an infringement notice or prosecution with a penalty of up to \$5,000. The City may also arrange for the required works to be completed, with all costs charged to the owner or occupier.

Any owner and/or occupier who engages a contractor to undertake works on their behalf is responsible for ensuring that the work completed meets the requirements of this Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice.



Gail Bowman
Chief Executive Officer