



SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE

FIREBREAK NOTICE 2025-2026: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
What is the Shire of Ravensthorpe Fire Control and Firebreak Notice?	The Shire of Ravensthorpe <i>Fire Control and Firebreak Notice (The Notice)</i> is a legal document under section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 that instructs landowners/occupiers of the actions they must take to prepare their properties for the upcoming fire season. It is important to read through this document, if you are unsure about any sections of the Notice please contact the Shire. Landowners/occupiers who fail to comply with conditions contained in <i>The Notice</i> by the date of inspection may be issued with a penalty of up to \$5,000.00 under the Act.
I didn't know what the Notice was so I threw it in the bin OR I don't believe I received a copy. What should I do?	There are a few options available to you: • You can visit a Shire office in person to collect another copy • Read and download <i>The Notice</i> from the Shire website www.ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au • Ask for another copy to be sent out to you As the landowner/occupier you are the legal entity responsible for making sure your land complies with the conditions contained within <i>The Notice</i>. Not reading <i>The Notice</i> does not provide an excuse for not complying with your legal requirements.
I have recently purchased a property; the real estate or the previous owner(s) did not inform me of any works required to be completed on the property.	As the new landowner/occupier you are the legal entity responsible for making sure your land complies with the conditions contained within <i>The Notice</i>.
Why am I now liable when I didn't know?	After settlement all new landowners are contacted by the Shire and provided relevant information, including zoning information, a copy of <i>The Notice</i> and links to sections of the Shire website. If you are having difficulty meeting the requirements, contact the Shire as soon as possible during business hours to discuss options for a variation or extension.

I live in town – do I need to comply with <i>The Notice</i>?	Yes. All residents/landowners/occupiers of land within the Shire of Ravensthorpe, including those with land within town sites, are required and have the shared responsibility to ensure that they comply with <i>The Notice</i>.
Can the Shire recommend any Contractors?	No. The Shire is unable to recommend/promote any particular contractor.
What do I do if I can't meet some or all of <i>The Notice</i> requirements?	If you are unable to comply with some or all of the conditions contained within the notice, you must apply for a Variation to <i>The Notice</i> before the date specified in <i>The Notice</i>. There are a few options available to you: • Contact us during office hours and ask for a form to be emailed or posted out to you • Forms can be picked up in person from a Shire office • Variation forms are available to be downloaded from the Shire website www.ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au
Am I able to clear my Asset Protection Zone (APZ) and firebreak area without a clearing permit?	Yes, but only around existing assets (houses, sheds, tanks, etc) and to area/dimensions as specified in <i>The Notice</i>.
Do I need to maintain my firebreaks and low fuel zones throughout the whole fire season?	Yes. It is the landowner/occupiers responsibility to establish and maintain firebreaks and low fuel zones, including asset protection zones, until April 30 each year.
Why does a firebreak need to be 3 metres wide with 5 metres vertical clearance?	Firebreaks assist in preventing the spread of fire into neighbouring properties. The 3 metres wide and 5 metres vertical clearance allows access for firefighting vehicles.
My neighbour hasn't installed their firebreaks. What can I do?	Firebreaks that are not compliant should be reported to the Shire.

Who will check my property and can they enter my property without my permission?	The Shire uses local Fire Control Officers to carry out inspections and under the Bush Fire Act 1954, they are permitted to enter your property to undertake inspections to ensure compliance with <i>The Notice</i>.
What happens if my property is not compliant?	If you fail to meet the requirement stipulated in <i>The Notice</i> you will receive an Infringement of \$250.00, and an additional 7 calendar days in which to ensure your property is compliant. Your property will then be inspected again. If you again fail to meet the requirements, the Shire will engage a contractor to carry out the work and you will be billed for this work along with any associated administrative cost. Works Orders can be issued at any time throughout the compliance period.
Why am I receiving a notice when the contractor advised me the required works have been completed?	The Landowner/occupier is the legal entity for the property and as such needs to be fully aware of the requirements mentioned within <i>The Notice</i>. As the landowner/occupier it is your responsibility to make sure the contractor is aware of what works are required and the date they are due.