

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

Shire of RAVENSTHORPE

FIRE CONTROL & FIREBREAK NOTICE

2025/2026

First and Final notice has been served to all landowner/occupiers within the Shire of Ravensthorpe, who have the legal responsibilities to prepare their properties to reduce the risk of outbreak and spread of fires.

**These are your legal requirements.
Please read carefully and retain for future reference.**

This notice sets out the actions that you must take to prepare your property for the fire season. As a measure for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, all owners and occupiers of the land within the Shire's district are required before **Thursday 31 October 2025**; to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this Notice and **maintain those firebreaks and measures in accordance with this Notice up to and including Wednesday 30 April 2026.**

It is the responsibility of ALL landowners/occupiers within the Shire of Ravensthorpe to read and fully understand their requirements mentioned within this Notice.

This Notice constitutes the Shire of Ravensthorpe Firebreak Notice and is issued under *Section 33(1) Bush Fires Act 1954.*

FOR ALL FIRE & EMERGENCIES

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TO REGISTER FOR SMS ALERTS

08 9839 0000

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY

UHF CHANNEL 5



1. RESTRICTED & PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES

The Shire of Ravensthorpe has gazetted the following datelines for its Restricted Burning Times (RBT) & Prohibited Burning Times (PBT).

ALL AREAS - SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE	
1 July - 19 September 2025	Unrestricted Burning Time, Rural only
1 July - 31 October 2025	Restricted Burning Time, Permits required.
1 November 2025 - 31 January 2026	PROHIBITED BURNING
1 February - 30 June 2026	Restricted Burning Time, Permits required
31 March - 30 June 2026	Unrestricted Burning Time, Rural only

Depending on seasonal factors, above datelines can be changed or extended as permitted under the Bush Fires Act 1954. Any changes will be published in local newsletter, public noticeboard, Shire's SMS service and website.

- Burning is **PROHIBITED** on the following Public Holiday dates, within the Restricted Burning Time;
 - * **King's Birthday:** Monday 29 September 2025
 - * **Labour Day:** Monday 2 March 2026
 - * **Easter:** 3 April to 6 April 2026
 - * **Anzac Day:** Saturday 25 April 2026
- Burning is **PROHIBITED** on Sunday's, **except** between 1 March - 19 September every year.

2. OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

1 September 2025	Applications for individual Bushfire Management Plan - Last Day!
1 October 2025	Applications for Variation to the Fire Control Notice - Last Day!
30 October 2025	Last Day! for your property to be compliant to this notice
3 - 7 November 2025	FIREBREAK INSPECTION Date for when properties will undergo their inspection for compliance to this Notice
31 October 2025 - 30 April 2026	FIREBREAK COMPLIANCE PERIOD Properties must be maintained to the requirements of this Firebreak Notice.

3. BURNING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to *Section 18, Bush Fires Act 1954* all landowner/ occupiers, before setting fire to bush or burning off within the Shire during the Restricted Burning period, **MUST** obey the following conditions;

- Obtain a written Fire Permit from an endorsed Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Ravensthorpe (see contacts on back of pamphlet);
- Fire Permits are automatically deemed invalid on days where the Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) is forecast "High" or above;
- It is the Permit Holder's responsibility to comply with ALL conditions outlined on the front and rear of the permit;**
- All permit holders must ring DFES ComCen on 1800 198 140 to register their burn with the nearest road intersection referenced as the location of the planned burn activity;
- All permit holders must notify the shire on 9839 0000 or shire@ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au;
- A Fire Control Officer has the authority under the Bush Fires Act to halt any activity or operation that they deem as hazardous or likely to start a fire; and
- Failure to comply with requirements of any permit to burn may incur penalties as defined in the Bush Fires Act and/or Regulations 1954.

From the **31 May - 31 August every year** Fire Permits for burning under 0.1 Ha in size are not required, but landowner/ occupier **MUST** obey the following conditions:

- Burn area must have a 3 metre wide **bare earth firebreak*** surrounding it.
- Someone to be in attendance at **all** times.
- Inform your neighbours, prior to lighting.
- Piles for burning can not be greater than 2 metre in diameter and 1 metre in height.
- Have a fire unit carrying a minimum of 400L or a hose connected to running water that can reach the whole burn area present at all times.

4. CAMPING & COOKING FIRES

Pursuant to *Section 25(1a) Bush Fires Act 1954*, the lighting of fires in the open air in the Shire of Ravensthorpe for the purpose of camping and cooking is prohibited during the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Times, **except** in the Starvation and Masons Bay Camping areas and Hopetoun Caravan Park.

All open air fires are to be **contained** within a cement ring or designated fire areas, ie barbecue.

Any fires are to be extinguished, or not lit, when a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is called in Harvest Zone 4 in the Shire.

Lighting of fires in the open air in the Shire of Ravensthorpe, for the purpose of camping and cooking, is permitted during the period 30 April to 19 September, without a permit to burn.

5. TOWNSITE: RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL AREAS

(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with ‘*’)

Applies to all land zoned within the townsites of Fitzgerald, Hopetoun, Jerdacuttup, Munglinup and Ravensthorpe, you must:

- a. Where the area of land is 4,000m² or less;
 - i. Maintain the whole of the land in a fire fuel reduced state,
 - ii. Properties to establish and maintain an **Asset Protection Zone*** around all habitable buildings,
 - iii. Isolated trees and managed shrubs may generally be retained in a parkland cleared state,
 - iv. Establish and maintain a Low Fuel Zone, 1m wide, around power infrastructure e.g. Meter Box, Poles and above Ground Power Domes.
- b. Where the area of land exceeds 4,000m²;
 - i. Establish and maintain an **Asset Protection Zone*** around all habitable buildings;
 - ii. Grassed areas (dry or reticulated) to be maintained to a maximum height of 100mm; and
 - iii. A 3m wide **bare earth firebreak*** shall be constructed and maintained inside ALL external boundaries and around **fuel storage tanks**, sheds, gas cylinders and within 6 m of haystacks (see diagram 5.1) where practicable. Haystacks cannot be situated on the external boundary; or
 - iv. Implement **parkland clearing** of vegetation across the entire extent of the native and planted vegetation within the parcel of land in question.
- c. Where a **Bushfire Management Plan*** which relates to the property has been adopted by Council, clear firebreaks and take measures in accordance with that **Bushfire Management Plan*** as an alternative to the standard requirements listed in this Notice.
- d. Where the land has been cleared for the purpose of development and the land remains vacant it must be maintained in that cleared state.

NOTE: Where any conditions listed in Requirements 5a and 5b are physically impractical on a property, the Shire may approve a **Variation*** in place of the standard requirement (refer to section 12 of this Notice).

6. RURAL AREAS

(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with ‘*’)

Applies to all land zoned as Rural, you must:

- a. Any rural land abutting or adjacent to land zoned as Rural Residential, Urban, industrial or Commercial must have a 3m wide **bare earth firebreak*** constructed and maintained inside ALL external boundaries. Breaks should also have a 5m vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access (refer to diagram 6.1); or,
- b. Any Rural Land, **including** Rural Small Holdings less than 200Ha and not being managed in a large single entity farming operation that is within 4km from the Ravensthorpe Post Office:
 - i. Areas of unmanaged pasture or grassland must have a 3m wide **bare earth firebreak*** constructed and maintained inside ALL external boundaries where possible or on the inside of large pockets of remnant vegetation located on the boundary of the land; and
 - ii. Breaks to provide a 5m vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access. (refer to diagram 6.1); and,
 - iii. Driveways must be cleared to a minimum of 4m wide and 5m in height, and must provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles (refer to Section 13: Drive-ways).
- c. A 3m wide **bare earth firebreak*** shall be located around **fuel storage tanks**, sheds, gas cylinders and within 6m of haystacks. Haystacks cannot be situated on the external boundary.
- d. Establish and maintain an **Asset Protection Zone*** around all habitable buildings.

Diagram 6.1;
3m wide Bare Earth
Firebreak with 5m vertical
clearance



7. RURAL RESIDENTIAL

(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with “*”)

Applies to all land zoned Rural Residential, you must:

- Clear either a 3m wide **bare earth firebreak*** or a 3m wide mulched / slashed firebreak immediately inside ALL external boundaries. Breaks should also have a 5m vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access. (refer to diagram 6.1 & diagram 7.1); and
- Unmanaged pasture and grasslands must be maintained to height no greater than 100mm (refer to diagram 7.2); and
- A 3m wide **bare earth firebreak*** shall be located around **fuel storage tanks**, sheds, gas cylinders and within 6m of haystacks. Haystacks cannot be situated on the external boundary; and
- Establish and maintain a Low Fuel Zone, 1m wide, around Power Infrastructure e.g. Metre Box, Poles and Above Ground Power Domes; and
- Driveways must be cleared to a minimum of 4m wide and 5m in height, and must provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles; (refer to Section 13: Driveways for more details); and
- Properties to establish and maintain an **Asset Protection Zone*** around all habitable buildings (refer to Section 10: Asset Protection Zone); and
- Where a **Bushfire Management Plan*** which relates to the property has been adopted by Council, clear firebreaks and take measures in accordance with that Bushfire Management Plan as an alternative to the standard requirement listed in this Notice.

NOTE: Where any conditions listed in Requirements are impractical for site-specific, topographical or environmental reasons on a property, the Shire may approve a **Bushfire Management Plan*** or **Variation*** in place of the standard requirement (refer to sections 14 and 12 of this Notice).



Diagram 7.1; 3m mulched firebreaks



The below outlines specific requirements or variations to the above for nominated Shire sub-divisions.

Steeredale Meadows and Blue Vista:

- Property owners may use stock to graze out all pastures and grasslands to achieve the less than 100mm height.

Krystal Park:

- Krystal Park falls within Special Control Area 1 and is a Drinking Water Protection Area, therefore stock cannot be used to manage property.
- Parkland clearing must be carried out in all open paddocks and along the boundary of the property. Clearing means that all dead vegetation and **flammable material*** are removed.

Whalebay / Seaview, Beach Barren Estate (Dunn Swamp), Lakes Entrance North and South:

- Property owners must mulch, or slash a 3m firebreak in order to minimise soil erosion.
- Property owners in the Lakes Entrance Estate must note that a population of *Caesia arcuata* has recently been discovered occurring in the Lakes Entrance Estate. *Caesia arcuata* is currently listed as a Priority 1 species under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.



8. PLANTATIONS AND PRACTICES OTHER THAN FARMING

(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with ‘*’)

All Plantations MUST;

- Maintain a 15m wide **bare earth firebreak*** inside all external boundaries with a 5m vertical clearance so that the firebreak provides unrestricted vehicular access; and
- Have an approved **Bushfire Management Plan*** with the Shire of Ravensthorpe; or
- Plantations are to abide by the Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection developed by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services.

9. USE OF ENGINES, VEHICLES, PLANT OR MACHINERY LIKELY TO CAUSE BUSH FIRE

If the Shire's Fire Control Officer is of the opinion that harvesting machines, headers, stubble mulchers, hay bailers, track raking, chaining, rock picking or any **other machine or activity** other than clover harvesters are likely to cause a fire, or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire, during the prohibited and restricted burning times:

The Shire of Ravensthorpe hereby prohibits pursuant to *Regulation 38A(1) Bush Fires Regulation 1954* the following:

- The use of those machines or conduction of those activities during the prohibited and restricted burning times unless, in the paddock being harvested / mulched / raked or adjacent to the entrance of the paddock being harvested / mulched / raked, there are sufficient suitable mobile fire fighting units, or;
- A minimum of 400L fire fighting water must be available per machine, operating within the same paddock.

NOTE: Shire of Ravensthorpe advises all primary producers and their workers should be registered to the Shire's Harvest Ban SMS system prior to operating any engines, vehicles, plant or machinery during the prohibited and restricted periods to receive Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban alerts.

EmergencyWA

www.emergency.wa.gov.au

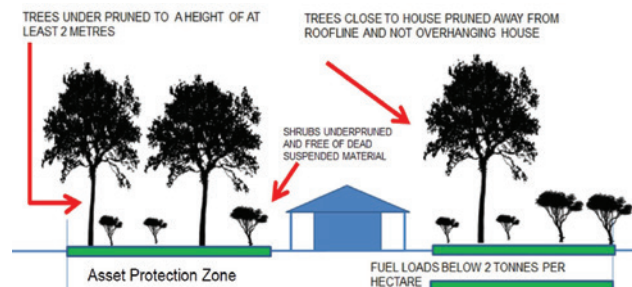
Providing you with information and community warnings about emergencies, Fire Danger Ratings and declared Total Fire Bans

Alerts and warnings about fires, floods, storms, earthquakes, cyclones, hazardous material incidents and more

10. ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)

Asset Protection Zone (formally Building Protection Zone) is a low fuel area immediately surrounding a building. These requirements are designed to reduce the fire's intensity and minimise the likelihood of flame contact with buildings. APZ gives more protection to families should a fire threaten suddenly and they cannot leave:

- The width of an APZ is to be a minimum of 20m, increasing by 10m per 10 degree in slope and located within the boundaries of the lot on which the building is situated;
- Fire fuels are to be reduced and maintained. All grasses **within** the APZ are to be maintained to a height no greater than 100mm;
- Trees (>5m in height) at maturity should be a minimum of 6m from the building, branches should not touch or overhang the building, lower branches should be removed to a height of 2m above the ground, canopies should be at least 5m apart and coverage should be less than 15%;
- Shrubs (0.5m to 5m in height) should not be located under trees or within 3m of buildings or planted in clumps of >5m² in area;
- Ground covers (<0.5m in height) can be planted under trees but must be maintained to remove dead material and any part within 2m of a building;
- Firewood piles to be stored a safe distance away from buildings and no greater than 1m in height; and,
- Fences and sheds within the APZ are constructed using non-combustible materials (e.g. iron, brick, limestone).



Imagery of a 20m Asset Protection Zone

**FIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS
IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

11. NON COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to *Section 33(3)(4)(5) Bush Fires Act 1954*, failure to comply to the requirements mentioned within this notice, by the required compliance dates will result in the following:

a. An Infringement Notice:

A \$250 infringement will be issued to the landowner for non-compliance to this Notice. Landowner / occupiers will have 7 calendar days for the property to be compliant to this notice. Failure to comply to this notice will result in;

b. A Works Order:

Shire will engage an available contractor on your behalf and authorise the contractor to enter the property to carry out the required works in accordance with this Firebreak Notice.

NOTE: Landowner / occupiers will NOT be provided with a warning notice for non-compliance to this Notice. Additionally, Landowner / occupiers will NOT be provided an additional 14 calendar days to comply.

Landowner / occupiers issued with an Infringement Notice will have 28 days to arrange payment with the Shire, otherwise infringement notices may be referred to Department of Justice Fines Enforcement Registry for follow up payment, which can lead to the suspension of your Driver’s Licence.

A Works Order can be issued at anytime throughout the compliance period for properties not maintained to the requirements within the Firebreak Notice. As such the Shire of Ravensthorpe will recover ALL cost incurred against the landowner as permissible under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

INFRINGEMENT	PENALTY
s33: Failure of owner or occupier of land to comply with a notice (Fire Break Notice)	\$250
s25: Offences relating to lighting of fires in the open air. (campfires etc. during prohibited and restricted burning period)	\$250
s24E: Offences relating to fires in the open air during a Total Fire Ban.	\$1,000 or \$25,000 and /or 12 months
s22B:	
s18: Offences relating burning to the bush (burning without a fire permit).	\$250
r15B: Failure to comply with conditions of a fire permit.	\$250
r38A(3): Operating or using engines, vehicles plant or machinery contrary to notice or direction. (Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban)	\$500

12. APPLICATION TO VARY REQUEST

(please refer to the definition section of this notice for words marked with ‘*’)

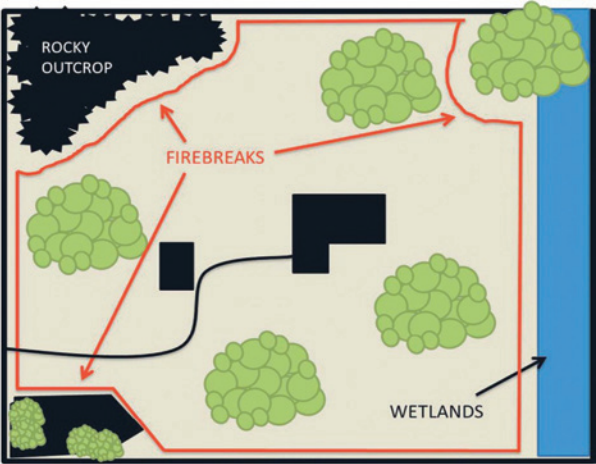
(a) Variations;

If it is impracticable for any reason to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this Notice, you may apply to the Shire in writing before **1 October** each year for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative locations or take alternative measures to prevent the outbreak or spread of a bush fire. If permission is not granted in writing by the Shire, you shall comply with the requirements of this Notice.

The requirement for an **Asset Protection Zone*** may be varied by Council on application. Where it is not practical for an existing dwelling to provide a 20m **Asset Protection Zone*** a landowner may apply for a variation to the Firebreak Notice. In considering any such request regard will be given to;

- (i) The topography of the site or privacy issues;
- (ii) Potential environmental impacts; and,
- (iii) Provision of alternative low or managed fuel zones.

The Shire may approve variations to the Asset Protection Zone for a period not more than 5 years.



**ARE YOU
BUSHFIRE
READY?**

(b) Bushfire Management Plan:

As an alternative to lodging a request for a variation, a landowner may have a site-specific **Bushfire Management Plan*** prepared by a **Bushfire Planning Practitioner*** that fully complies with the requirements of State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bush fire Prone Areas (SPP3.7) and associated Guidelines. This **Bushfire Management Plan*** is to be approved by the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

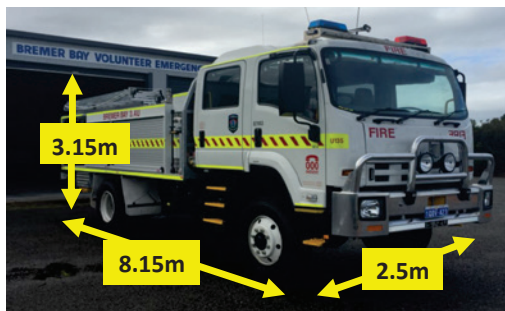
Proposals for a **Bushfire Management Plan*** (BMP) for permission to provide alternative fire mitigation measures on the land must be provided to the Shire no later than **1 September**.

- (i) If a BMP has been approved by the Shire, it will thereafter replace and totally extinguish the landowner's obligations to otherwise implement the standard regulations as described in the Fire Regulation Notice, appropriate to the zoning of the property; or,
- (ii) If a BMP has not been approved then the standard Regulations must be implemented by the due dates.

NOTE: A number of properties developed since 2015 will have an adopted BMP as part of their existing planning approval.

13. DRIVEWAYS

Driveways must be cleared to a minimum of 4m wide, 5m in height and must provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles gaining entrance and transversing your property during an emergency.



14. DEFINITIONS

- (a) **Asset Protection Zone;** refer to Section 10
- (b) **Bare Earth Firebreaks;** A strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable vegetation material leaving clear bare mineral earth - Achievable by ploughing, grading or early spraying.
- (c) **Bushfire Management Plan (BMP);** A document that sets out short, medium and long-term risk management strategies for the life of the development. It is to be prepared by an accredited Bushfire Planning Practitioner in accordance with the requirements of State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (SPP3.7) and associated Guidelines.
- (d) **Bushfire Planning Practitioner;** A person who holds Level 2 or Level 3 accreditation under the Western Australia Bushfire Accreditation Framework.
- (e) **Flammable Material;** Any material that is easily ignited, capable of burning and of carrying a fire.
- (f) **Fire Fuel;** Any combustible material, dead or alive, in isolation or clusters or aggregation with other combustible materials that, in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe, is likely to fuel a bush fire. Including but not limited to:

- Heavy leaf litter on the ground, dead leaves in gutters, fallen branches and any combustible vegetation in clusters including combustible materials suspended off the ground;
- All Grasses exceeding a height of 100mm; and
- Any tree within the APZ or branch of a tree that may fall onto a building which in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe constitutes an unacceptable fire risk.

It does not include:

- Vegetable gardens, tended lawns, landscaped gardens (including deciduous or ornamental planted trees), isolated planted shrubs, established natural or planted trees that, in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe, do not constitute an unacceptable fire risk ;
- Well compacted dead vegetative material e.g. mulch, that in the opinion of an authorised officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe does not constitute an unacceptable fire risk.

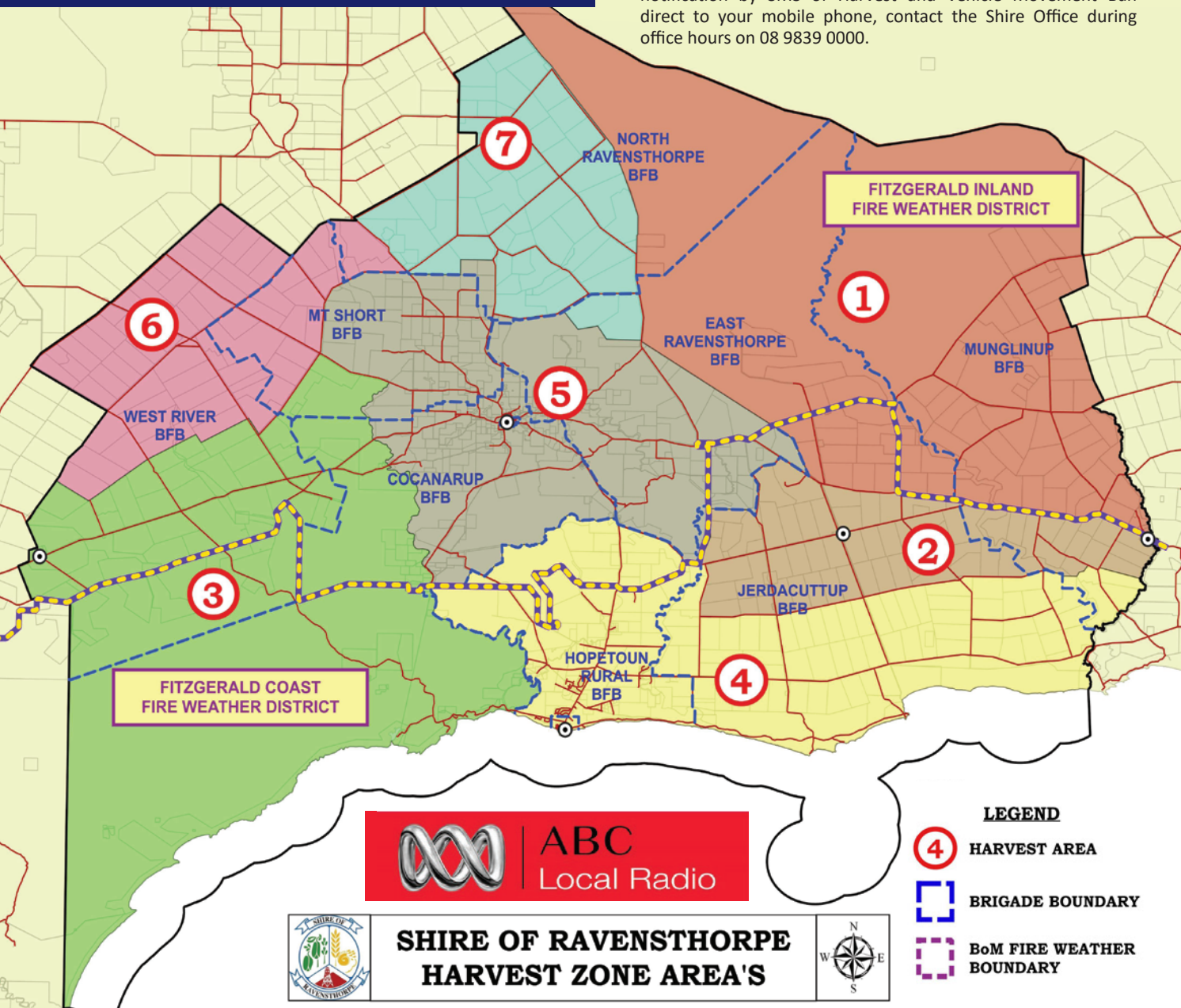
- (g) **Managed Land;** Land that is cropped, grazed or slashed.
- (h) **Parkland Clearing;** A technique of mulching understorey ladder fuel plants from within native vegetation and planted vegetation along with thinning any densely stocked over storey plants to create an open parkland similar in nature to that of the APZ but over a larger area of land.

HARVEST BAN AREAS

HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN / FIRE BAN INFORMATION

All Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans and Fire Bans will be communicated via the Shire's SMS system or on ABC local radio 558AM / 837AM at the following times; 10:05am, 12:35pm and 2:05pm weekdays, 12:35pm and 2:05pm weekends.

If you are a farmer or a contractor and would like to receive notification by SMS of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban direct to your mobile phone, contact the Shire Office during office hours on 08 9839 0000.



FIRE CONTROL OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS

FOR ALL FIRE & EMERGENCIES		000
SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE		08 9839 0000
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Malcolm Grant		0499 351 155
Community Emergency Services Officer		
COCANARUP BFB	Luke Webster	0427 381 454
	Gary Webster	0427 381 114
	Keith Rowe	0428 381 231
EAST RAVENSTHORPE BFB	Andy Daw	0429 396 031
	Devon Burton	0408 144 117
	Rod Daw	0429 396 010
	Malcolm Grant	0499 351 155
HOPETOUN RURAL BFS	Stott Redman	0429 351 475
	Courtney Foulds	0423 819 270
	Andrew Venning <i>(Permits Only)</i>	0427 383 552
HOPETOUN VFES	Peter Nankervis <i>(Permits Only)</i>	0491 065 025
JERDACUTTUP BFB	Paul Bell	0429 075 118
	Matthew Bell	0419 933 113
	James Mollet	0429 396 035
Shire	Shire Rangers	0427 381 098
MT SHORT BFB	Peter Belli	0427 381 122
	Richard Norrish	0427 507 561
MUNGLINUP BFB	Gavin Gibson	0427 751 062
	Barn Fetherstonhaugh	0427 751 089
	Kieren Barrett	0427 449 677
	Sam Fetherstonhaugh	0427 751 054
	Brody Wickstein	0417714543
NORTH RAVENSTHORPE BFB	Reece Laycock	0438 838 007
	Andrew Chambers	0429 380 084
	Kye Chambers	0428 380 084
	Chad Tuckett	0429 109 591
RAVEY VFRS	Gary Webster	0427 381 114
WEST RIVER BFB	Peter Kuiper	0428 357 043
	Richard Norrish	0427 507 561
	Nathan Mudie	0429 304 462
	Rian Duncan	0428 324 400
	Brett Kershaw	0427 356 053