



LO1 Bush Fire Control - Camping and Cooking Fires

Policy Objective

Council, in consultation with the Bushfire Advisory Committee (BFAC), establishes local conditions, designated locations and seasonal requirements for camping and cooking fires to reduce bushfire risk and support compliance with the Bush Fires Act 1954 and Shire fire controls.

Policy

Camping and cooking fires in the open air within the Shire of Ravensthorpe are subject to the requirements below. Current Total Fire Bans, Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, seasonal changes to burning periods, Fire Control Officer directions and site-specific restrictions take precedence over this policy.

Burning period requirements

- During a Restricted Burning Period a written permit/approval is required for camping and cooking fires outside the designated locations listed below.
- During a Prohibited Burning Period, camping and cooking fires are only permitted at the designated locations listed below, subject to all conditions in this policy.
- Fires directly on the ground are not permitted during Restricted or Prohibited Burning Periods.

Designated locations

- Starvation Bay camping area
- Mason Bay camping area
- Hopetoun Beachside Caravan Park

Conditions of use

- A fire must not be lit when a Total Fire Ban is in force.
- A fire must not be lit, and any existing fire must be fully extinguished, when the Shire declares a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban for Harvest Zone 4.
- During a Restricted or Prohibited Burning Period, a camping or cooking fire must not be lit when the applicable Fire Danger Rating is High, Extreme or Catastrophic.
- The fire must be contained in a fire drum, fire ring, portable fire stove, concrete ring, barbecue or other approved containment vessel.
- The fire must not be within 3 metres of a log or stump, and a radius of at least 3 metres around the fire must be cleared of bush and other inflammable material. Keep the fire at least 3 metres from tents, camping equipment, gas cylinders, fuel containers and other flammable items.
- A responsible person must remain in attendance while the fire is alight and a suitable supply of water must be immediately available.
- Flammable liquids must not be used to start or maintain the fire.
- The fire must be completely extinguished with water before leaving the site or going to sleep. Fires must not be buried as a method of extinguishment.
- Wood and kindling must not be collected from Shire camping areas. Campers must bring their own fuel or use an approved fuel source.
- Any direction given by an authorised Fire Control Officer to cease or modify an activity must be followed.

Operational note

Before lighting any fire, users must check current Shire restrictions and notices and current emergency information. Where a permit or written approval is required, all permit conditions and notification requirements must be complied with.

DOCUMENT CONTROL BOX		
Custodian: Executive Manager Projects and Regulatory Services		Decision Maker: Council
Compliance Requirements: Bush Fires Act 1954; Bush Fires Regulations 1954; applicable gazetted burning periods and notices; Total Fire Ban declarations; Shire Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans; Delegated Authority DA 2.1.3 - Burning Garden Refuse / Open Air Fires.		
Legislation: Bush Fires Act 1954 - s 22B (Total Fire Bans) and s 25(1)(a), (1aa), (1a)-(1d) (camping and cooking fires, local government prohibition, designated places and approvals); Bush Fires Regulations 1954.		
Industry: DFES Total Fire Ban guidance; Australian Fire Danger Rating System.		
Organisational: LO3 Bush Fire Control - Burning Restrictions; Shire of Ravensthorpe Bushfire Safety 2026/27; Fire Control and Firebreak Notice 2026-2027.		
Document Management: Annual review with BFAC and after material changes to legislation, gazetted burning periods or Shire fire-control arrangements.		
Risk Rating: High	Review Frequency: Annually	Next Due: 2027/28 annual review
Version #	Decision Reference:	Description:
a	OCM 21/07/20 - Item 13.2	Comprehensive policy register review.
b	OCM 19/07/22 - Item 12.1.2	Comprehensive Policy Register Review
c	OCM 17/12/2024 Item 12.1.2	Policy Reconfirmed - No Amendments
d	OCM 15/12/2025 Item 12.1.1	Comprehensive Policy Register Review
e	OCM 22/09/2026 Item 12.3.5	Annual review - proposed amendments to align with the 2026/27 Bushfire Safety booklet and current Shire fire-control information.