

SMOKE GUIDELINES

At this time of the year, farmers and small property owner(s) are preparing their properties for cropping or reducing fuel loading for the next fire season. As per the requirements of a permit to set fire to the bush, these guidelines need to be followed to ensure compliances under the Bush Fires Act 1954.

DO I NEED A PERMIT?

- Do I need to burn or can this be loaded onto a trailer and taken to the tip or put into a bin and taken away in the weekly collection.
- Some burning activities are not allowed under the Local Government Local Law or in the Gazetted Fire District. Check with the City of Greater Geraldton for the specific requirements of your area.
- Burning will generate smoke and will affect residences Please inform your neighbours and make them aware that you are going to burn (if permitted), as they may have washing on the line or even windows open in the house and this will allow them time to prepare.
- Obtain a current weather forecast for the day of the burn.
- Burn only when weather conditions (check the Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au) are likely to disperse the smoke readily and take it away from residential areas if possible.
- Avoid putting smoke across a road, as it may create a traffic hazard.

MINIMISE SMOKE WHEN BURNING

- Ensure that no petroleum products (tyres, plastics, etc.) chemicals or similar materials (this can cause excessive black smoke and toxic gases) are included in the material to be burned.
- Ensure the material is free from animal manure.
- Ensure large piles of green waste are dry and 100% cured (dead).
- Burn only small amounts at any one time, this will ensure the burn can be completed within one day and minimal smoldering can occur.
- Before you burn, have a hose on standby to completely put the fire out at the end of the burn.
- Ensure fire burns hot and continue to move unburnt material, as this will minimize smoke.
- If your burn creates excessive smoke, either a Fire Control Officer or an Environmental Health Officer may need to attend to assess the burn and if the burn is in breaching the Local Government's Local Laws or a State Law (i.e. Bush Fires Act) you will be requested to extinguish the burn.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

In regards to the following questions, if the answer to any are NO, then either;

- Appropriate action needs to be taken; or
- The ISEM06 – Application for an Intention Prior to the Intention to Burn will be declined.

Q1. Is material arranged such that the fire can be easily extinguished if a problem arises? <i>e.g. in rows rather than in a big pile.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q2. Is the material to be burned free of plastics, tyres, chemical containers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Q3. Is the material free of animal manure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Q4. Is material arranged in small lots so that the fire will be extinguished by the end of the day?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Q5. Is the pile of material arranged so that sufficient air can enter the pile to allow clean burning?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Q6. Are the weather conditions like to disperse smoke readily and away from neighbours?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Q7. Is the material dry and brown?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Q8. Does the Gazetted Fire District and the Local Laws permit burning activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Q9. Have the neighbours been advised (at least 7 days' notice, prior the burn)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information regarding fire control measures, please visit the City of Greater Geraldton website www.cgg.wa.gov.au or contact the Emergency Management Team during office hours on (08) 9956 6600.