

Shire of Wongan-Ballidu **BUSHFIRE NEWSLETTER**

2025/2026



HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS

A Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (H&VMB) may be declared by the Local Government on days when fire conditions are particularly dangerous. These bans are typically put in place during a Total Fire Ban (TFB) when the fire behaviour index reaches or exceeds 40, usually during the hottest and windiest part of the day. During this time, all movement of vehicles, machinery, and harvesting operations must stop to help reduce the risk of fires starting or spreading.

In some cases, the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer may issue a H&VMB even on non-TFB days if local conditions—such as limited firefighting resources or dangerous weather—pose a serious fire risk. These bans are essential for keeping our community safe during high-risk periods.

Stay informed and stay safe by following all ban announcements.



CALL 9671 2500...

to find out if there is currently a ban on in our Shire. If you would like to receive SMS notifications advising of details of harvest bans and bushfire communications, please register via the below link or scan the QR code:

www.wongan.wa.gov.au/community/emergency-management/harvest-and-vehicle-movement-bans.aspx



TOTAL FIRE BAN

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared by DFES on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched.

Some of the activities that are illegal to do during a Total Fire Ban, include:

- Lighting a fire in the open air.
- Using any appliance that consumes solid fuel eg. fire pits.
- Welding, grinding and cutting of metal in the open air.
- Using an internal combustion engine powered equipment in or near bush.
- Using motor bikes, quad bikes or other motorised vehicles in bush or paddocks, unless it is for the feeding or watering of stock.

For more information on what you can and cannot do, visit <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire/total-fire-ban>



Mon to Fri - 9.00am - 4.30pm
shire@wongan.wa.gov.au
(08) 9671 2500
www.wongan.wa.gov.au

Shire Customer Service Centre
'The Station' 1 Wongan Road
PO Box 84
Wongan Hills WA 6603

BUSHFIRE NEWS

COMMUNICATION

The Shire has set up a WhatsApp group for BFB volunteers and key personnel who would need to be across comms in the event of a fire emergency. If you are a BFB volunteer and you are not in this group, please contact your Brigade Captain. Please use UHF Channel 5 on active fireground. Please do not reply to general comms sent out in this group in a non-emergency scenario. Anyone entering a fire ground must have basic firefighter training, be wearing PPE and have a DFES Vehicle ID sticker. All reports of fire must be provided to 000 immediately.



BUSHFIRE SYMBOLS



ADVICE - An incident is active but there is no immediate threat to lives or homes. Be aware and keep up to date.



WATCH AND ACT - There is a possible threat to lives or homes. Take action now to protect yourself and others.



EMERGENCY WARNING - There is a threat to lives and homes. You may be in danger and need to take immediate action.

BUSHFIRE WARNINGS

Please visit: www.emergency.wa.gov.au to stay informed during a bushfire, or download the DFES *Emergency WA* app via your app store. The *My Bushfire Plan* app is also available to help you be bushfire ready - have a plan and stay safe.



VEHICLE SAFETY

Trailers are not permitted to be brought onto the fire ground with the exception of the property owner. Ensure no personnel are riding on the back of Utes or non-DFES units. These rules are in place for your safety and the safety of those around you.

AFTER A FIRE: THE FIRE GROUND MUST BE MONITORED AFTER BEING HANDED BACK TO LANDHOLDERS TO ENSURE FIRE DOES NOT RELIGHT.

ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

Bushfire Ready is a community-led program that encourages local residents to learn about planning and preparing for bushfires by working together. More information on how to prepare can be found at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire/prepare#bushfire-ready. Please ensure all available water storage on premises are full and firefighting equipment is serviced and in working order.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our volunteers who attend and fight bushfires within our region each year ensuring our community stays safe. Have you ever considered signing up to be a bushfire brigade volunteer? Reach out to your local brigades Captain to find out more (contact details on back page).

Land owners and/or occupiers are required to ensure your property meets fire break compliance standards. The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu will be patrolling locales within the Shire to ensure all properties meet the requirements as per the following notice:

Fire Break Notice

Pursuant to section 33(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu gives notice that the owners and/or occupiers of land within the district are required to undertake the following works on land owned or occupied by them.

The requirements of this notice are to be in place for the period commencing on the 13th day of October 2025 until the 31st day of March 2026 (inclusive).

The land owner (or occupier) must complete on, or before the 13th day of October 2025, ploughing, scarifying, cultivating, spraying or otherwise clear and thereafter maintain free of all inflammable material until the 31st day of March 2026 firebreaks in the following dimensions on the land owned or occupied by you.

1. Townsites

1. An owner of land zone Residential, Rural Townsite and Commercial is required to reduce all annual grass and herbage to a height of not more than 75mm.
2. An owner of any land of less than 1 hectare (10,000 square metres) and zoned under the Town Planning Scheme as Rural Residential or Industrial is required to have all annual grass and herbage slashed or mowed to a height of not more than 100mm and construct a clear earth firebreak of not less than 2 metres in width immediately surrounding all buildings and/or haystacks situated on the land.
3. All land greater than 1 hectare (10,000 square metres) is required to construct a clear earth firebreak of not less than 3 metres in width immediately inside all external boundaries and immediately surrounding all building and/or haystacks situated on the land, and to reduce all annual grass and herbage to a height of not more than 100mm within 15 metres surrounding any building.

2. Fuel Dumps and/or Depots

1. All grass and flammable material is to be cleared from areas where fuel is stored and such areas are to be maintained free of grass and similar inflammable material until the 31st day of March.

3. Rural Land

1. Firebreaks of not less than three metres in width immediately inside and along the whole external boundaries of the properties owned and occupied by you. In addition, firebreaks of at least three metres in width area required surrounding, and not more than fifty metres from the perimeter of any building, group of farm buildings, haystack or fuel storage situated on the land.

4. Harvesting and Straw Raking, Bailing and Chaining Operations

1. A person shall not operate any harvesting machine or header or undertake straw raking, bailing or chaining activities in any crop or paddock during the restricted and prohibited period unless a readily available mobile fire fighting unit containing a minimum of 400 litres of water capacity powered by an engine driven pump is in attendance in or adjacent to the entrance of the paddock being harvested, raked, baled or chained.

5. Storage of Hay and Straw

1. All hay and straw stacks in the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu that are stored outdoors are no larger than 10,000 bales 4 x 4 foot or 12,000 bales 4 x 3 foot, with a height no greater than 7.5 metres high and distance between stacks a minimum of forty metres clear ground.

6. General Provisions

1. "Flammable Material" means material that can be easily ignited, i.e. dead or dry grass, leaves, timber, paper plastic and other material or things deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion.

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIODS

RESTRICTED: 13 OCT 2025 - 14 NOV 2025

PROHIBITED: 15 NOV 2025 - 13 FEB 2026

RESTRICTED: 14 FEB 2026 - 31 MAR 2026

Permits are required within restricted burning periods. Contact your local Bush Fire Control Officer for a permit to burn. Conditions apply to permits stipulating how burning shall be carried out. Any burning carried out without a permit or without following applied conditions are subject to fines.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

If you see any signs of smoke or fire, it's crucial to act quickly. Call 000 immediately and report what you see.
000 is the only officially recognised notification of an incident.

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Ross Lane

0429 201 963

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chris Wilding

0427 711 183

Ballidu Volunteer Emergency Service

Jarrold Hood

0428 247 930

Steve Whyte

0427 428 727

Burakin BFB

Mal Sutherland

0427 743 010

Matt Reynolds

0439 690 371

Cadoux/Manmanning BFB

Shaun Kalajzic

0428 573 584

Shayne Booth

0427 732 013

Lake Ninan/Hinds BFB

Chris Wilding

0427 711 183

Andrew Robinson

0427 471 676

Mocardy BFB

Stewart Oliver

0429 377 514

Erik Thenander

0427 550 543

Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

Ben Moss

0423 663 594

Trent Breen

0448 871 198

Wongan Hills Town Fire Control Officers

Ben Moss

0423 663 594

Trent Breen

0448 871 198

WONGAN HILLS LOCAL CONTACTS

POLICE

08 9633 3120

HOSPITAL

08 9691 1222

MEDICAL CENTRE

08 9671 1000



When calling 000 to report a fire - quote landholders name and nearest road intersection.



Do you need your property mowed or slashed prior to October 13th 2025?



Wongan Hills Golf Club
Eion Ganzer - 0428 415 089
(large blocks only)

Ballidu VFES
Jarrod Hood - 0428 247 930

