

# Fire Access Track Order 2023/2024

Note that Fire Access Track shall have the same meaning as Fire Break in the Bush Fires Act 1954.  
Important Bush Fire Information Dates You Must Remember

**Prohibited Burning**  
**15 December 2023 to 14 March 2024 inclusive**

**Restricted Burning**  
**2 November 2023 to 14 December 2023 inclusive**  
**and from 15 March 2024 to 26 April 2024 inclusive**

These dates are subject to variation according to seasonal conditions

***Alterations will be advertised locally; however owners/occupiers intending to burn shall contact the Council Office or Local Brigade Captain after 26 April to determine whether the restricted burning period has been extended.***

**SHIRE OF BODDINGTON IS IN ZONE 8**  
**Fire Access Tracks must be installed by 15 November 2022**  
**and maintained up to and including 26 April 2023**

**An inspection of Fire Access Tracks will be carried out**  
**in all areas of the Shire by an Authorised Officer.**

**The basis for inspections will be:**

Audit system where properties are chosen by random ballot. This is to be determined annually in consultation with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO);  
Visit known potentially high risk areas where exemption requests have not been lodged; and  
Visit past non-compliant properties.

Failure to comply with this Fire Access Track Order is an offence under Section 33 of the Bushfires Act. Penalty maximum \$15,000. Additionally

Council may carry out the required work at cost to the owner or occupier.

If it is considered for any reason to be impractical to clear Fire Access Tracks or remove flammable materials as required by this notice, or if natural features render Fire Access Tracks unnecessary, you may apply to the Council in writing not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> **September** for permission to provide Fire Access Tracks in alternative positions or to take alternative action to abate fire hazards on the land. If permission is not granted by the Council, you shall comply with the requirements of this notice.

## **DEFINITIONS**

In this Fire Access Tracks (FAT) Order unless the context otherwise requires –

Shall have the same meaning as fire breaks in the Bush Fires Act 1954. Fire Access Tracks are spaces that can provide vehicle and pedestrian access in the case of fire. They shall be maintained, cleared of all flammable material for the purpose of fire control and in a trafficable condition. These areas shall be 2.5 metres wide as a minimum and have a 4.0 metre vertical clearance.

**Flammable material** means dead or dry grass and crops, timber, boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material or rubbish, but does not include green standing trees, growing bushes and plants in gardens or lawns.

**Low – Fuel** means an area in which flammable material has been reduced to a height of not more than 50mm. This can be achieved through mowing, slashing, parkland clearing, grazing, spraying, ploughing or other methods that achieve the objective. In an area of low fuel, tree canopies should not be touching.

**Building Protection Zone (BPZ)** is a low fuel area immediately surrounding a building on private land and is designed to minimise the likelihood of flame contact with buildings. These areas have a minimum of 20 metres around all buildings.

Swathers, Balers, Track Chainers and Tree Harvesters – these are subject to the same conditions as HARVESTING, i.e. An engine powered pumping unit and not less than 450 litres of water must be in attendance during operations from 15th November onwards (Excluding canola swathing).

Oxyacetylene, Butane Torch, Arc Welders, Friction Cutting Equipment etc. – these are subject to the same conditions; whilst used in the open. In addition, the work site must be cleared (2.5m wide Fire Access Track and 20 metres clearance) of flammable material before the use of the above described equipment.

## **RURAL LANDS**

- a) Fire Access Track not less than 2.5 metres wide and have a 4.0 metre vertical clearance must be established along, inside and as close as practically possible to all external boundaries of each property (i.e. cleared/part cleared or uncleared land) and where the boundary is adjacent to or adjoins a used gazetted road but can deviate up to 250 metres around natural rock formations, deep gullies and the like, without submitting an exemption request.
- b) In the interest of protection from soil erosion, Fire Access Tracks may be established on the land contours but only with prior approval of the Council or its duly authorised officer.

- c) Building Protection Zone of an area at least 20 metres wide cleared of all flammable material shall be established immediately around the perimeter of all homesteads, buildings, haystacks and fuel storage areas.
- d) In such positions as is necessary to divide land in excess of 200 hectares into areas not exceeding 200 hectares each completely surrounded by a Fire Access Track.
- e) A firefighting unit with a minimum capacity of 450 litres is to be kept available during harvesting operations and is to be available in the same paddock or within 50 metres of that paddock.
- f) This work must be carried out by 15 November and kept maintained throughout the summer months until 26 April.

### ***PINE AND EUCALYPTUS PLANTATIONS***

#### **Existing Plantings of Pine or Eucalyptus Plantations**

Any pines or eucalyptus planted for commercial purposes constitutes a pine or eucalyptus plantation and you are hereby required to keep clear of all flammable materials Fire Access Tracks not less than 10 metres wide around the perimeter of each plantation, and any plantation exceeding 29 hectares will also require a subdivisional Fire Access Track 6 metres in width for each 30 hectares, and bush surrounding planted areas is to be kept in a low fuel condition.

There shall be no plantings either:

1. 75 metres from existing infrastructure; or
2. 75 metres from the external edge of a Fire Access Track on a property; or
3. 75 metres from any new infrastructure.

A firefighting unit with a minimum capacity of 450 litres is to be kept available during harvesting, thinning and pruning operations and is to be available in the same paddock or within 50 metres of that paddock.

#### **New Plantings of Pine or Eucalyptus for Commercial Purposes**

A Fire Access Track of not less than 15 metres wide must be established around the perimeter of each plantation. Any plantation exceeding 29 hectares will also require a subdivisional Fire Access Track 15 metres in width for each 30 hectares, and bush surrounding planted areas is to be kept in a low fuel condition.

There shall be no plantings either:

1. 75 metres from existing infrastructure; or
2. 75 metres from the external edge of a Fire Access Track on a property; or
3. 75 metres from any new infrastructure.

A firefighting unit with a minimum capacity of 450 litres is to be kept available during harvesting, thinning and pruning operations and is to be available in the same paddock or within 50 metres of that paddock.

#### ***PRIVATE BUSH HOLDINGS/UNCLEARED LAND GREATER THAN 50 HECTARES***

- a) Fire Access Track not less than 2.5 metres wide and have a 4.0 metre vertical clearance must be established along, inside and as close as practically possible to all-external boundaries of each property (i.e. cleared/part cleared or uncleared land) and where the boundary is adjacent to or adjoins a used gazetted road but can deviate up to 250 metres around natural rock formations, deep gullies and the like, without submitting an exemption request.
- b) In such positions as is necessary to divide land in excess of 200 hectares into areas not exceeding 200 hectares each completely surrounded by a Fire Access Track.

#### ***SMALL LOT HOLDERS OR HOBBY FARMS 20 HECTARE OR LESS***

- a) On or before 15th November every year a Fire Access Track not less than 2.5 metres wide and have a 4.0 metre vertical clearance must be established along, inside and as close as practically possible to all external boundaries of each property (i.e. cleared or part-cleared land) and where the boundary is adjacent to or adjoins a used gazetted road but can deviate up to 250 metres around natural rock formations, deep gullies and the like, without submitting an exemption request.
- b) All lot/property holders provides for a Fire Access Track around the entire perimeter of their property.
- c) Building Protection Zone of an area at least 20 metres wide cleared of all flammable material shall be established immediately around the perimeter of all homesteads, buildings, haystacks and fuel storage areas.
- d) A 2.5m diameter low fuel area cleared of flammable material around all "green electrical domes" where underground power is provided to a lot.

#### ***TOWNSITES OF BODDINGTON AND RANFORD***

On or before 15 November every year all town lots under 10,000 square metres in area and all fuel depots within the Shire are required to be kept cleared to a low fuel condition. Lots 10,000 square metres and over are to have a minimum 2.5 metre wide and have a 4 metre vertical clearance Fire Access Track installed immediately inside all external boundaries.

Building Protection Zone of an area at least 20 metres wide cleared of all flammable material shall be established immediately around the perimeter of all homesteads, buildings, haystacks and fuel storage areas.

#### **SPECIAL NOTE TO LAND OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS**

The requirements of this order are considered to be the minimum standard of fire prevention work to protect not only individual properties but the district generally. In addition to the requirements of this order Council may issue separate special orders on owners or occupiers if hazard removal is considered necessary in specific areas.

#### **PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED BURNING TIMES**

Restricted Burning – 2 November 2023 to 14 December 2023

Prohibited Burning – 15 December 2023 to 14 March 2023

Restricted Burning – 15 March 2024 to 26 April 2024

Permits are required during restricted burning periods. No burning is permitted on days when the fire danger rating is high or above or a Total Fire Ban is declared.

Permits to burn on a Sunday can be issued during the restricted season only by the Authorised Bush Fire Control Officer but only for broad acre farm land.

No permits to be issued during the prohibited burning season.

A permit in writing to burn on a public holiday during the restricted period can be sought from the Authorised Bush Fire Control Officer.

### **WHERE DO I GET A PERMIT FROM?**

Permits must be obtained from your local volunteer Bush Fire Control Officer. Contact details for your local officer are featured in the annual Fire Access Track Notice.

### **CAN I BURN GARDEN RUBBISH DURING THE PROHIBITED BURNING TIME?**

No, under no circumstances should any garden rubbish be burnt during the prohibited burning period including the hours between 6pm and 11pm.

### **IF THERE IS A FIRE WHO DO I RING?**

Always ring 000 to report any fire and emergencies. An expert 000 officer has all the latest contact details for all local emergency services.

### **PERMIT CONDITIONS**

The permit conditions include but are not limited to:

- Neighbours must be notified at least 24 hours prior to burning;
- Cut or rake long grass around trees, buildings and fencing before burning;
- Have water on site and a hose long enough to reach rear of the fire.