

4 – Shared responsibility for sustainability.

1. Policy Objective

- 1.1. To provide clear guidelines for the burning of road verges throughout the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This applies to all burning permits being issued by the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup for the burning of any road verge within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.
- 2.2. This is a discretionary Council Policy.

3. Policy Definitions

- 3.1. Nil.

4. Policy Statements

- 4.1. A Permit is to be issued prior to any road verge burn in accordance with this policy.
- 4.2. Burns are to be conducted by the relevant Bush Fire Brigade or authorised Shire staff. No road verge burning may be carried out by individuals unless authorised.
- 4.3. No authority can be given by an officer of Council or Fire Control Officer to burn roadside verges that are not under the control of Council unless written approval has been received from the controlling body.
- 4.4. Site inspections will take into consideration the environmental impact on the road verge, the potential hazard the verge would pose in the event of bush fire and the weather patterns and forecasts for that time of year.
- 4.5. Permits to burn road verges will only be issued to Brigade Fire Control Officers and authorised Shire staff and are to state the measures that must be taken using the following broad guidelines:
 - a. Prevent damage to infrastructure (i.e., Telstra infrastructure, culverts and fencing).
 - b. Minimise damage to native vegetation by completing a desktop assessment during the planning phase.
 - c. Ensure acceptable weather conditions have been considered.
 - d. Comply with normal permit requirements.
 - e. Only one side of a road to be burnt in any one year.

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- f. No single hazard reduction burn to exceed 500 metres within 3kms along a single road verge subject to environmental approval;
 - g. Adjoining strips may not be burnt within three years.
- 4.6. The use of fire to abate fire hazards and to clear roadside drains should be confined to areas where distinct hazards, high ignition risks and high values can be identified. In general, these relate to road verges where native plant species have been replaced by annual weeds and grasses. Where possible, mowing and approved herbicide treatment is to be used as opposed to road verge burns.
- 4.7. On approval of a road verge burn, a Traffic Control Plan will be prepared and implemented when necessary by Shire staff or its appointed contractors.

5. Delegation and Authorisation

- 5.1. Delegation 3.1.2 Prohibited Burning Times – Vary.
- 5.2. The Chief Executive Officer or nominated representative are the only officers authorised to issue burning permits for hazard reduction burns along road verges, and only after a site inspection has been carried out by authorised Shire staff.

6. Legislation

- 6.1. *Bush Fire Act 1954*
- 6.2. *Bush Fire Regulations 1954*

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7. Version Control – Governance

Related Policy(s):	Nil		
Related Procedure(s):	Nil		
Responsible Department(s):	Emergency		
Review to be conducted by:	Community Emergency Services Manager		
Review frequency:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual (1 year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biennial (2 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Triennial (3 years)		
Version Date:	09/01/2024	Next Due:	2026

Policy Version Details:				
Ver. #:	Synopsis:	Ver. Date:	Ref.:	Synergy:
1	<i>Initial adoption of procedure</i>	23/01/2008		
2	<i>Removed policy 8.3 and added new policy ID; Renamed; Added scope and legislation; Moved delegation and authorisation under the heading</i>	21/12/2021	213/21	NPP7992
2	<i>Updated to new template</i>	09/01/2021	148/23	NPP11530