

Backyard Burning in Wingecarribee Shire

The Bushfire Danger Period runs from **1 October to 31 March**, however it can be extended by the fire authorities depending on seasonal conditions.

Burning **dead and dry vegetation** from routine property maintenance is permitted in certain areas and under certain conditions. Information on burning not covered by this approval or where different approvals are required, such as for bushfire hazard reduction and clearing for development, is found on page two.

What alternatives are there to burning?

Burning causes fine particulate air pollution and can impact respiratory health. Most residents now have alternative ways to dispose of unwanted garden vegetation, including using a green waste bin which is collected fortnightly, composting, mulching or taking the waste to the Resource Recovery Centre for mulching.

Where and when is burning allowed?

1. Across the shire, properties that are 4000 square metres and above are able to burn, provided that the property is not zoned medium density (R3).
2. Burning is not allowed during a **Total Fire Ban** or on **No Burn Days**.

Permits

3. A fire permit must be obtained from the relevant fire authority.
 - a. For fires in the Fire and Rescue zone, a permit is required all year round. Contact Fire and Rescue on 4822 9395.
 - b. For fires in the Rural Fire Service zone, a permit is required during the Bushfire Danger Period or where a fire is likely to be dangerous to a building. Contact RFS on 4868 5500.

What can be burnt?

4. Only dead and dry vegetation that comes from the property on which the burn occurs can be burnt. For example dead leaves, sticks and dry prunings can be burnt. Logs over 15 centimetres in diameter should not be burnt.
5. All other materials, including wet or green vegetation, rubbish, tyres, coated wire, paint containers and residues, solvent containers and residues and treated timber must not be burnt.

Other Requirements

6. Steps must be taken to reduce smoke and the impact on neighbours before starting the fire, such as ensuring the material is not wet, considering how long the fire will burn and taking wind and weather into account.
7. The Rural Fire Services *Standard for Pile Burning* must be followed. The Standard can be found at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.
8. Give at least 24 hours verbal or written notice to adjoining neighbours before the fire is lit.
9. An adult must stay with the fire until it is fully extinguished and have sufficient firefighting resources on hand to safely maintain the fire.

What are the penalties for not complying with the approval conditions?

Failure to comply with the approval conditions may result in an on-the-spot fine of \$500 for an individual or \$1000 for a corporation. In the event of prosecution, the maximum penalty is \$5500 for an individual and \$11,000 for a corporation.

What situations are not covered by this approval?

Different approvals are required for:

- Burning from land clearing under the 10/50 clearing code. For more information see the NSW Rural Fire Service website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.
- Burning native vegetation for bush fire hazard reduction or ecological burns. A hazard reduction certificate is required from NSW Rural Fire Service at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au. NSW Rural Fire Service undertakes an assessment and approval under the Rural Fires Act.
- Burning from land clearance. Development consent is required for the clearing of native vegetation which can be obtained from Council at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au.
- Burning from clearing for commercial development or building construction. Development consent must be obtained from Council at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au.

BBQs and campfires

Having a BBQ or campfire for recreational purposes is exempt from needing Council approval, provided that only dry seasoned wood, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas or proprietary barbecue fuel is used. A permit is not required for fires that are in a permanently constructed fireplace and meet the conditions on the RFS webpage at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP.

Contact your fire authority for any questions on other types of recreational burning that cannot meet the conditions on the RFS webpage as a permit to light a fire may be required.

Wood heaters

Indoor wood heaters are covered by different standards. Wood heaters are required not to produce excessive smoke. More information can be found at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au.

Agriculture Burning

Burning as part of agricultural activities is exempt from needing Council approval. This includes burning stubble, orchard pruning, diseased crops, weeds or pest animal habitats on farms, pasture for regenerative purposes, or for agricultural clearing other than construction.

However, a permit to light a fire is required all year round for agricultural burning in a Fire and Rescue zone and during the Bush Fire Danger Period in the Rural Fire Service zone. Steps must also be taken to minimise and prevent air pollution from the fire.

Domestic waste

For properties where no domestic waste service is available, domestic waste is allowed to be burnt.