

Fire Prevention

Be Fire Ready; protect your Life & Property.

The Country Fire Authority introduces Fire Restrictions over the summer fire danger period each year. Start and end dates are set by the CFA and vary from year to year. However are generally between November and April. Declared dates can be found on the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au and Glenelg Shire Council website.

Why does Council issue Fire Prevention Notices?

Council has a legal obligation to ensure any fire risk to the community is reduced. Glenelg Shire Council Municipal Fire Prevention Officers have the power, under section 41 of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* to inspect and issue Fire Prevention Notices within the Municipality.

I have received a Fire Prevention Notice. What does this mean?

Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer recently assessed your property for fire risks and hazards in the lead up to summer and the Fire Danger Period. It was determined that your property constitutes or may constitute a danger to life or property.

What do I have to do?

The works specified on the notice must be completed by the required date and maintained throughout the declared fire season. Property owners are to maintain their property to an acceptable standard throughout the year – long grass, fine fuel, weeds and/or rubbish is not allowed to accumulate on private property or vacant urban land.

What does fine fuel mean?

All plants provide fuel for a bushfire. However, it is the fine fuels (those less than a finger's width, approximately 6mm and less) that contribute most to the heat and speed of a fire. Fine fuel includes dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark.

Minimising fine fuels reduces the ability of a fire to spread across the ground. Trees are not the main factor in increasing fire intensity and spread.

What if I don't comply with the notice?

Failure to comply with the Fire Prevention Notice will result in Council arranging for the works to be carried out. Council will then send you an invoice for the costs incurred. The property owner or occupier will also incur an **infringement penalty of \$1612 for non-compliance of the Fire Prevention Notice.**

Am I able to apply for an extension of time?

If you or your contractor is unable to meet the deadline of the Fire Prevention Notice by the completion date please contact Council's Local Laws Unit on 5522 2208 during office hours or by email locallaws@glenelg.vic.gov.au to request an extension of time. However you must contact Council before the completion date on your notice.



What if I have stock on my property?

You may still receive a Fire Prevention Notice even though you have stock on your property. The Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or appointed assistants may consider the amount of stock on the property not substantial enough to reduce the fire risk within the required timeframe.

My paddock will be cut for hay or silage.

Please contact the Glenelg Shire Council's Local Laws Unit and discuss your plans for your paddock before the completion date on the Notice.

What can I do if my roadside is a fire hazard?

Within townships, Council cuts roadsides in the lead up to the fire season. Sealed roads get a single cut to the white posts. Generally gravel roads are not cut, however consideration will be given to these if it is an escape route.

I am worried about snakes

Snakes in the country are a fact of life and a protected species. Ensure you maintain a safe area around your house and outbuildings. Snakes are attracted to the places we live as they provide shelter, water and food. Try to remove attractions for snakes from your property and maintain open areas where children play free of long grass.

What about land behind my property owned by a Public Authority?

Council is not empowered to issue a Fire Prevention Notice to a public authority. It is suggested you contact the relevant authority and inform them of your concerns.

More information about Fire Season:

- CFA – www.cfa.vic.gov.au ;
- Glenelg Shire Council - www.glenelg.vic.gov.au ;
- Information Sheet – “Can I or Can't I” (CFA website);
- A list of contractors is enclosed for your reference. (You are not obligated to use a contractor on this list.)



Glenelg Shire Council – Local Laws Services

T: (03) 5522 2208 / 1300 Glenelg
E: locallaws@glenelg.vic.gov.au
W: www.glenelg.vic.gov.au