

Backyard Burning

Managing the fire & reducing the smoke

In the Shoalhaven local government area, the burning of dry, dead vegetation is only permitted for domestic purposes in a controlled environment.

Before lighting a fire, it is important to check if any bans have been declared or a seasonal permit is required.

A fire permit is required during the statutory **Bushfire Danger Period, starting 1 October until 31 March annually**. If you intend to light a fire in this period, you will need a fire permit. To apply for a fire permit, contact your local [NSW RFS Fire Control Centre](#), or NSW Fire and Rescue Brigade station.

Please note: The Bushfire Danger Period may be extended depending on seasonal conditions.

A fire permit is automatically suspended on Total Fire Ban Days or when the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) declares a No Burn Notice.

Click on the item to find out more in your area:

- [Fire Permit](#)
- [Total Fire Ban](#)
- [No Burn Notice](#) or contact the NSW EPA - Environment Line by phone 131 555 or email info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Before you burn

- Read the [Rural Fire Services Standard for Pile Burning](#).
- Ensure you have sufficient firefighting resources to safely maintain the fire.
- Give adjoining neighbours a minimum of 24 hours' verbal or written notice.
- Consider the potential for smoke to impact others. Consider the wind direction, weather conditions, and the length of time that the material is likely to burn for.
- A responsible adult must stay with the fire, safely maintaining the burn until it is fully extinguished.

What can be burnt?

Only dry, dead vegetation is permitted to be burnt. This includes:

- ✓ **Dry leaves, sticks, pruning, seasoned wood**

Logs over 15 centimetres in diameter shouldn't be burnt as these will extend the time the pile will burn for and increase the chance of the smoke causing a nuisance.

What CANNOT be burnt?

All other materials must not be burnt. Items that cannot be burnt include, but are not limited to:

- × **Rubbish, tyres, coated wire, paint solvent containers and residues**
- × **Wet or green vegetation**
- × **Treated timber**

Reporting concerns or burnings

If you observe a fire that is larger than an appropriate size or including articles that should not be burnt, during a Total Fire Ban or when a No Burn Notice has been declared or is causing concerns for the health and safety of the community exposed to the fire, **please report it immediately to Emergency Services on Triple Zero (000)**.

The legislation

People who burn anything by open fire or an incinerator have a legal responsibility to prevent or minimise air pollution. Under the [Protection of the Environment Operations \(Clean Air\) Regulation 2021](#) Council may issue an on-the-spot fine.

Contact Us

P 02 4429 3111 (Mon-Fri – 9am-5pm)

E council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

In-person (Digital meeting) At our office

36 Bridge Road, Nowra (Mon-Fri – 9am-5pm)

shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au