

Backyard Burning and Keeping Warm in Winter

Outside the fire danger season (1st May to 15th November) burning in the open, both inside and outside townships is only permitted under certain conditions.

Smoke and burning in the open is an issue of concern to the community and its impact on air quality and amenity are well recognized.

The Environment Protection (Air Quality Policy) 2016 outlines the conditions and controls that are imposed on burning in the open.

Council Officers are authorised under this act and are responsible for administering the policy.

What is burning in the open?

Essentially, burning in the open is burning outside of a dwelling where smoke, ash and odours are released directly into the atmosphere, not through a chimney.

Do I need permission to burn in the open?

Separate conditions and restrictions apply for those planning to burn in the open inside township areas vs outside township areas.

Residents **within township areas** are permitted to burn the following items:

- Dry paper, cardboard, wood and garden clippings (no green/wet materials) for the [preparation of food or beverages only](#).
- Charcoal is the [only permitted fuel](#) to be burnt as a comfort fire.

A permit or general notice is required from council for all other planned burns inside the township area, such as piled vegetation and hazard reduction activities.

Residents **outside township areas** are permitted to burn the following items:

- Dry paper, cardboard, wood, charcoal and garden clippings (no green/wet materials) for the preparation of food or beverages.
- Dry paper, cardboard, wood, charcoal and garden clippings (no green/wet materials) for heating, comfort purposes.
- Disposal of agricultural/forestry waste, in accordance with the CFS code of practice for Broad Acre Burning 2015.
- Burning off for bushfire hazard reduction, in accordance with the CFS code of practice for Piled Vegetation Burning 2015.

What can I burn?

It is important to ensure that the material being burnt is completely dry to ensure a quick, clean burn and thereby minimising the amount of smoke produced from the fire. Smoke and odours are a major source of complaints regarding backyard burning. Smoke may impact on the health and enjoyment of others and can damage your neighbours' property. The burning of damp, wet or green garden prunings or other material is [not permitted](#) and may attract an expiation notice. The burning of any wood treated with a chemical preservative or which contain glues or adhesives is also [not permitted](#) and may attract an expiation notice.

Is my premise inside or outside the township?

For the purpose of the EPA Air Quality Policy 2016, a township has the same meaning as the Local Government Act 1999 as follows: Any government township and any land laid out as a township where plans of the township have been deposited in the Lands Titles Registration Office, the General Registry Office, and the Surveyor-Generals Office.

OR

Any part of the area of a council that contains at least 20 residences and that is defined as a township by the council by notice in the Gazette. [Therefore all residences inside the city limits of Port Pirie, Napperby, Crystal Brook, Redhill and Koolunga are considered inside a township.](#)

Further considerations?

All burning activity must take place only on land owned or occupied by the person or on land with the consent or authority of the land owner or occupier, and the person complies with any mandatory or recommended measures of a prescribed burning Code of Practice that apply in relation to the burning activity. [Further-more a fire will not be taken to be for the purpose of preparing food or beverages unless the fire is of size and constructed in a way that reasonably corresponds to that purpose.](#) All planned burns/fires are subject to any ban, prohibition, restriction or other requirement/regulation under the Fire and Emergency Services act 2005, the Native Vegetation act 1991, and the Local Government act 1999.

If you are considering burning in the open please contact Council's Fire Prevention Officer on 8633 9777 who will provide you with the relevant guidelines to assist you in making the decision on whether you are able to undertake burning in the open and whether you will require a permit from Council.