# Policy ES1 – Bushfire Preparedness, Prevention, Planning and Enforcement

## Policy Intent

To confirm the critical importance of bushfire preparedness and prevention activities and appropriate planning to adequately prepare for or mitigate the spread or extension of bushfires in the district and acknowledge enforcement of the approved compliance standards or for additional notices (Special Works Orders).

## Policy Statement

To enhance community safety and assist in reducing bushfires or the impact of bushfires, the Shire of Murray is committed to:

- actively encouraging property owners and occupiers throughout the district to meet the requirements and obligations outlined in the Shire of Murray Firebreak Notice made pursuant to the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*;
- supporting the issue of Special Works Order to individual property owners and occupiers by employees appointed as Fire Control Officers to formally direct additional preventative or preparedness (bushfire hazard reduction) work, where specific hazards are identified;
- enforcing the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* generally, and where non-compliance with the Firebreak Notice or Special Work Orders occur, inclusive of completing bushfire hazard reduction work on private land, at the landowners/occupier cost; and
- supporting the rigorous application of the States Bushfire Policy Framework prepared by the Western Australian Planning Commission under Part 3 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* with the Support of the Department of Fire and Emergency Service, inclusive of but not limited to:
  - State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas; and
  - Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas.

## Legislation

*Bush Fires Act 1954*

*Planning and Development Act 2005*

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| Policy Detail | | |
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| **Responsible Directorate** | Corporate Services | |
| **Responsible Department** | Ranger and Community Safety | |
| **Responsible Officer** | Manager Ranger and Community Safety | |
| **Next Policy Review / Schedule** | 2028 (3-yearly) | |
| **Council Adoption** | **Date / Resolution** | 22 February 2018 (OCM18/008) |
| **Amendment Record** | **Date / Resolution** | 23 June 2022 (OCM22/070) |
| | **Date / Resolution** | 18 December 2025 (OCM25/159) |