

Backyard Burning

Backyard fires causes air pollution in the region and the smoke can be a nuisance to neighbours. The fumes can impact respiratory health, particularly for those with low immune systems.

There are penalties for causing a smoke nuisance and burning prohibited articles.

For the safety of our community and the preservation of public health and the environment, please read the following information when considering backyard burning.

In the Shoalhaven region you are **only permitted to burn dry vegetation** from routine property maintenance. The Bushfire Danger Period usually runs from **1 October until 1 April**, however it can be extended by the fire authorities depending on seasonal conditions.

What can be burnt?

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 centimeters in diameter should not be burnt as these will extend the time the pile will burn for and increase the chance of the smoke causing a nuisance.

All other materials **must not be burnt** and may result in the issue of an on the spot fine, including –

- wet or green vegetation,
- rubbish,
- tyres,
- coated wire,
- paint solvent containers and residues,
- treated timber.

Before you burn

- You must give adjoining neighbours at least 24 hours verbal or written notice to before the fire is lit.
- Ensure the vegetation is not wet.
- Consider the wind, weather and how long the fire will burn.
- Read the Rural Fire Services *Standard for Pile Burning*. These are simple things you can do to burn safely and reduce the impacts of smoke on others.

During the burn

An adult must stay with the fire until it is fully extinguished and have sufficient firefighting resources on-hand to safely maintain the fire.

BBQs and campfires

Having a BBQ or campfire for recreational purposes is exempt from these conditions, provided that only dry seasoned wood, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas or proprietary barbecue fuel is used.

The Legislation

Shoalhaven City Council is in Part 3 of the Schedule in the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010*.

Under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act* may issue an **on-the-spot fine of \$2000 for an individual and \$4000 for a corporation** for the following offences:

- Burning otherwise than to prevent/ minimise air pollution
- Burn a prohibited article

In the event of a prosecution, the maximum penalty is \$5,500 for an individual and \$11,000 for a corporation.

If Council investigates and finds a smoke pollution incident has occurred a Clean Up Notice will be issued.

A Clean Up Notice comes with a fee \$535 administration fee (current fee for the 2017/2018 financial year).

For further information please contact Council's Environmental Health Team **between 9.00am and 11.00am Monday to Friday on 4429 3610**.