

## Fire Bans and Restrictions

If there is a period of extreme fire danger where predicted conditions and weather forecasts indicate that fires may be difficult to control and pose a danger to communities, or if there is a rising fire emergency, the Commissioner QFES can impose either a Local Fire Ban or declare a State of Fire Emergency. A Fire Ban or State of Fire Emergency can be declared to parts or all of the state and remains in force until cancelled.

All Fire bans are advertised widely in local media and on the RFS website. There is also an Information Hotline by phoning free call **1800 020 440** at any time.

**Local Fire Bans** – A local fire ban can be declared over an entire or part of a local government area and generally prohibits the lighting of all or certain types of fires.

**State of Fire Emergency** - A State of Fire Emergency can be declared throughout the state or in part of the state. This declaration imposes stricter restrictions and prohibitions on lighting fires and can prohibit the use of certain tools and equipment that can pose a fire risk. If a State of Fire Emergency is declared it must be published in the Queensland Government Gazette and advertise the timeframe of the declaration and the area to which the emergency situation applies.

What restrictions are in place during a local Fire Ban or during a State of Fire Emergency?

- The lighting of fires in the declared fire ban areas are prohibited, subject to any special conditions or exemptions.
- All open fires are prohibited (Gas and electric barbecues may be used).
- All Permits to Light Fire issued in the declared area are cancelled.
- Other special conditions (or exemptions) may be imposed.

Where can I find information on fire bans?

- Check the RFS website at **[www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au)**
- Call the Fire Ban Information Line on **1800 020 440**
- Check the weather forecast and warnings at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- Monitor your local radio station, television channel and newspaper.

## Further Information

These documents will provide you with additional information that will assist you in safely using fire on your property. They are available from RFS Area offices or the RFS website.

- Applying to Light Fires in Queensland
- Obligations and Responsibilities of Permit Holders
- Information for Landholders

## Contact Us

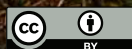
Barcaldine	(07) 4651 1190
Bundaberg	(07) 4153 3244
Burnett	(07) 4162 3163
Caboolture (Brisbane)	(07) 5420 3733
Cairns	(07) 4232 5468
Caloundra	(07) 5420 7517
Charters Towers	(07) 4761 5130
Emerald	(07) 4983 7580
Gladstone	(07) 4899 2200
Innisfail	(07) 4061 0650
Mackay	(07) 4965 6641
Maryborough	(07) 4190 4839
Rockhampton	(07) 4938 4736
Roma	(07) 4622 2074
South Coast (Gold Coast)	(07) 5587 4101
Darling Downs	(07) 4616 1945
Townsville	(07) 4796 9082
West Moreton (Ipswich)	(07) 3294 4944

# Lighting Fires in Queensland

As a landholder in Queensland you are ultimately responsible for managing fire on your land. The following information aims at providing advice for those planning to burn vegetation or use fire on their property.

**Remember - Your fire – your responsibility!**

**[www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au)**



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Fire can be a useful tool for removing vegetation, managing pastures and reducing bushfire risk. Fire can also be used to achieve ecological outcomes such as the regeneration of some plant species or the improvement of habitat for wildlife. However, if used inappropriately, fire can endanger lives, properties and the environment.

Lighting fires on your property is regulated under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (The Act) which is the principal legislation for fire prevention and fire protection in Queensland. The Act provides the authorisation for the use of fire throughout the state. You may require a permit to use fire on your property for debris removal (stack burn) or to burn a larger area for hazard reduction, pasture management or other land management purposes.

**Note:** Smoke from your fire can negatively impact on your community and neighbours and can contribute to local and regional air pollution issues. Many Local Government Authorities have local laws in place that restrict or prohibit the lighting of fires in part or all of the local government area. Always check with your local Council if you can use fire on your property.

## Do you need a Permit to Light Fire?

A Permit to light fire is required for most fires throughout the year. You must obtain a Permit to Light Fire from your local Fire Warden to use fire on your land. There are significant liabilities and penalties for failing to obtain a permit or for failing to comply with permit conditions. You can find your local Fire Warden by using the Fire Warden Finder on the Rural Fire Service (RFS) website at [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the local RFS Area Office.

**Note:** if you plan to mechanically clear native vegetation to burn it in a stack or windrow you may need to obtain a separate permit for clearing vegetation from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines Queensland.

The aim of the Permit to Light Fire is to ensure your fire will be managed safely and may include certain conditions on the way the fire is lit and maintained. It also informs Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) on when and where you intend to burn and ensures that adequate and appropriate measures are in place so that fires remain under control.

An Application for a Permit to Light Fire is made through your local Fire Warden. It is also available from the local RFS Area Office, or it can be downloaded from the RFS website.

Before applying for a permit to light fire you need to undertake reasonable steps to contact your neighbours and inform them of your intent to apply for a permit. The reason for this notification is to allow a reasonable timeframe for your neighbours to contact the Fire Warden to lodge an objection to the intended burn or to assist with a more coordinated property burn.

Following receipt of your application, the Fire Warden will assess your application and if a permit is issued, impose a range of conditions to reduce risk or nuisance to people, property, and the environment. The Fire Warden can also refuse an application if they believe that appropriate safety measures cannot be reasonably achieved, or if neighbouring owners/occupiers have not been given enough time to raise any concerns about the intended fire.

## Fires that do not require a permit

Under The Act there are a number of fires that normally do not require a permit to light fire (unless the fire is not permitted under a local law or other legislation). If there is a local law in your local government area prohibiting the lighting of fires, a permit will not be issued by the fire warden unless you have obtained written permission from the local government.

Providing that adequate precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire the following fires may be lit without a permit:

- Fires less than two (2) metres in all directions (these fires are not exempt during notification periods and you must obtain a permit from a fire warden).
- BBQs and campfires (for cooking) enclosed in a fireplace, constructed as to prevent the escape of fire or any burning materials.
- A fire lit for the purpose of burning the carcass of a beast.
- A fire lit at a sawmill for the purpose of burning sawdust or other residue resulting from the operation of a sawmill.
- A cane fire may also be subject to a notification and may be lit under certain conditions.

**Note:** During periods of increased fire danger the Commissioner QFES can issue an official notification under The Act to amend the permit requirements for some fires in your area. This notification can be activated at any time of the year within a nominated area or across the whole state.

Check the RFS website at [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au) for fire ban information.

