

Requirements for pile burning in Hornsby Shire

SOME REQUIREMENTS PILE BURN CONSTRUCTION

- Only dead and dry natural vegetation may be burnt. Branches must be less than 15cm diameter to aid faster combustion and reduce smoke emissions.
- If practical, place vegetation in an area where it will receive direct sunlight to allow the pile to dry out. Material must be dry when the pile is burnt.
- Construct long and wide, flat piles rather than tall piles.



RECREATIONAL FIRES

An approval to burn is not required for the purposes of cooking or internal fires i.e. barbeques or slow combustion.

A recreational fire is classed as one for the purposes of cooking. It would typically be less than 1 metre in diameter and contained within an appropriate structure such as a bar-be-que. Smoke emissions from burning must be minimised at all times.

Note: Bonfires for recreation purposes are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** at all times.

AGRICULTURAL BURNING

The removal and burning of stubble or diseased crops is permitted where the property in question has agricultural land uses. Council can issue a permit if required.

ECOLOGICAL BURNING

Burning for the purposes of native bushland regeneration and maintaining species diversity is permitted in bushland reserves and parks where there are legitimate environmental purposes and environmental approvals have been issued by qualified personnel.

BUSHFIRE HAZARD REDUCTION WORK

If you wish to undertake works to protect your property through manual works and or burning you may be eligible for a Hazard Reduction Certificate.

To undertake hazard reduction works you must contact the NSW RFS Hornsby District Office on telephone 9883 2000. Staff will determine your eligibility and discuss the process over the phone.

Note: Hazard reduction activities involving burning cannot be undertaken without approval.

For more information and advice on types of burns, please phone 9847 6666.

Think before you light that fire



REQUIREMENTS

Various pieces of legislation affect how we undertake activities involving burning across NSW.

This fact sheet outlines how the legislation may affect you and provides advice on obtaining an approval to burn, for the following activities:

- Burning piles of vegetation
- Additional approvals for burning
- Recreational fires
- Agricultural burns
- Ecological burns
- Bush fire hazard reduction work

APPROVAL TO BURN PILES OF VEGETATION

An 'Approval to Burn' is required for burning vegetation in the open within Hornsby Shire at all times of the year. The approval is issued by Hornsby Shire Council to meet requirements in accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010.

The approval is for burning dead and dry vegetation only. Burning rubbish, plastics, building materials, cardboard, food waste or grass clippings is strictly prohibited.

Burning vegetation is generally not permitted if you live in a suburban area and have access to green waste services.

Note: When burning piles under an Approval To Burn, please refer to guidelines set out in the NSW Rural Fire Service 'Standards for Pile Burning'. A summary is provided in this brochure.

OBTAINING AN APPROVAL TO BURN

For enquiries relating to Approvals To Burn please phone 9847 6666.

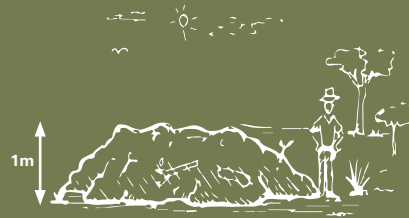
ADDITIONAL APPROVALS FOR PILE BURNING

If you live in a Fire & Rescue District, a Fire Permit is also required to be issued for burning for safety reasons. Please contact your local Fire & Rescue station to obtain a Fire Permit. If you live in a NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) District a safety permit is required during Bushfire Danger Period, generally 1 October to 31 March. This permit may be obtained from the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai District Office of the NSW RFS, phone 9883 2000.

CORRECT BURN PROCEDURE



Make the pile wide and long rather than high. This will spread the heat, be safer and give better native plant regeneration.



Give power lines a wide berth. Consider the radiant heat and smoke the burn will generate.



Try to choose a space with open canopy away from the base of trees. Wait until piles have been burnt or removed before planting.



Stay away from fences, assets such as buildings, tennis courts, outdoor furniture and property boundaries. Consider neighbours and their needs. Maintain a clear area between piles and any other combustible material.



INCORRECT BURN PROCEDURE



Pile burns are not bonfires, they don't need to be high. This pile will be too hot. Pile burns must be constructed from natural vegetation only. Bonfires for recreational purposes are not permitted.



Never construct piles under or near power lines. Smoke and ash can cause powerlines to arc, and the heat will damage the lines.



Don't pile vegetation around the base of trees or directly under low canopy. Don't plant new trees near piles that are planned for burning.



Don't pile vegetation close to neighbouring properties or valuable assets such as fences or buildings.



Material with a diameter larger than this line (15cm) cannot be burnt.