Fire Prevention Guidelines

Introduction

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish a clear process for Authorised Officers to follow when monitoring and undertaking enforcement of land which poses a potential fire risk during the warmer months (November to January annually).

Requirements

An owner or occupier of any land, including vacant land, must ensure that:

- all necessary steps are taken to prevent fire on, and to minimise the possible spread of fire from the land;
- the land is kept free of material or substances likely to assist the spread of fire; and
- grass or weeds on the land do not exceed 200 millimetres in height.

For the purposes of the above, material or substances likely to assist the spread of fire includes undergrowth, scrub, bracken, ferns, weeds, stubble and grass or other vegetation, whether alive or dead, standing or not.

Enforcement

While not limiting the discretion of Authorised Officers when enforcing Council’s Activities and General Amenities Local Law 2018, the following principles should guide enforcement action taken by Authorised Officers, where required:

- Enter the land to undertake an inspection in order to ascertain whether there are any materials or substances which constitute or are likely to constitute a fire hazard, or a danger to life or property.
- Measure the length of grass and photograph the site.
- Serve a Notice to Comply on the owner or the occupier of the land, or both.
- Issue an infringement notice to the owner or the occupier of the land.
- Engage a contractor to undertake work on the land to rectify the breach.
• Recover from the owner or occupier of the land the cost of work undertaken by the contractor.
• Initiate court proceedings against the owner or occupier of the land.

Enforcement action should be prioritised in situations where the condition of the land poses a specific amenity, safety or visual pollution issue.