

Permits to Burn - Frequently Asked Questions

What are the alternatives to burning off?

Burning garden waste is one way of reducing the fire hazard around your home. However, nuisance smoke and the danger of a fire escaping control means that it is not necessarily the best option.

Before lighting a fire, you should consider if there are any suitable alternatives available, such as mulching the material, putting it out for a City green waste collection or taking it to the tip. For more information on disposing of garden waste visit the City of Albany web site at <http://www.albany.wa.gov.au/residents/bins-waste/green-waste/>.

When can I burn off on my property?

To help protect the community from the risk of bush fires, the City of Albany imposes restricted burning times and prohibited burning times at various times during the year. Fires can be lit without a permit outside of the restricted or prohibited times; however all care must be taken to maintain control of all fires lit at any time of the year.

During restricted burning times you can only burn off if you have obtained a permit to burn:

- If you live in the North East fire brigade sector (east of Manypeaks), the restricted burning times are 1 October to 14 November 2016 and 1 March to 30 April 2017.
- If you live in the South West fire brigade sector (west of Manypeaks), the restricted burning times are 1 November to 14 December 2016 and 16 March to 30 April 2017.

These dates may be changed by the City in response to prevailing weather conditions.

When can't I burn off?

During prohibited burning times, it is an offence under the Bush Fires Act 1954 to light a fire in the open air:

- If you live in the North East fire brigade sector (east of Manypeaks), the prohibited burning time is 15 November 2016 to 28 February 2017 (inclusive).
- If you live in the South West fire brigade sector (west of Manypeaks), the prohibited burning time is 15 December 2016 to 15 March 2017 (inclusive).

These dates may be changed by the City in response to prevailing weather conditions.

On days where a Total Fire Ban (TFB) has been declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) the lighting of any fire in the open air is prohibited. This includes all open camping and cooking fires, and 'hot work' such as grinding or welding. For more information on TFBs visit the DFES website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au.

What can I burn?

You can obtain a permit to burn dry organic matter. Permits will not be issued for the following:

- green plant material or wet material;
- plastics, tyres, chemical containers, petroleum products; or
- animal manure.

What does a permit cost?

Permits currently issued free of charge.

Who can issue a permit to burn?

Burning permits can only be issued by Fire Control Officers gazetted for the City of Albany local government district. A Fire Control Officer (FCO) can only issue permits for his or her own brigade area. Therefore you must contact the FCO for your brigade district. Contact details are available at:

<http://www.albany.wa.gov.au/residents/emergency-management/become-a-volunteer>.

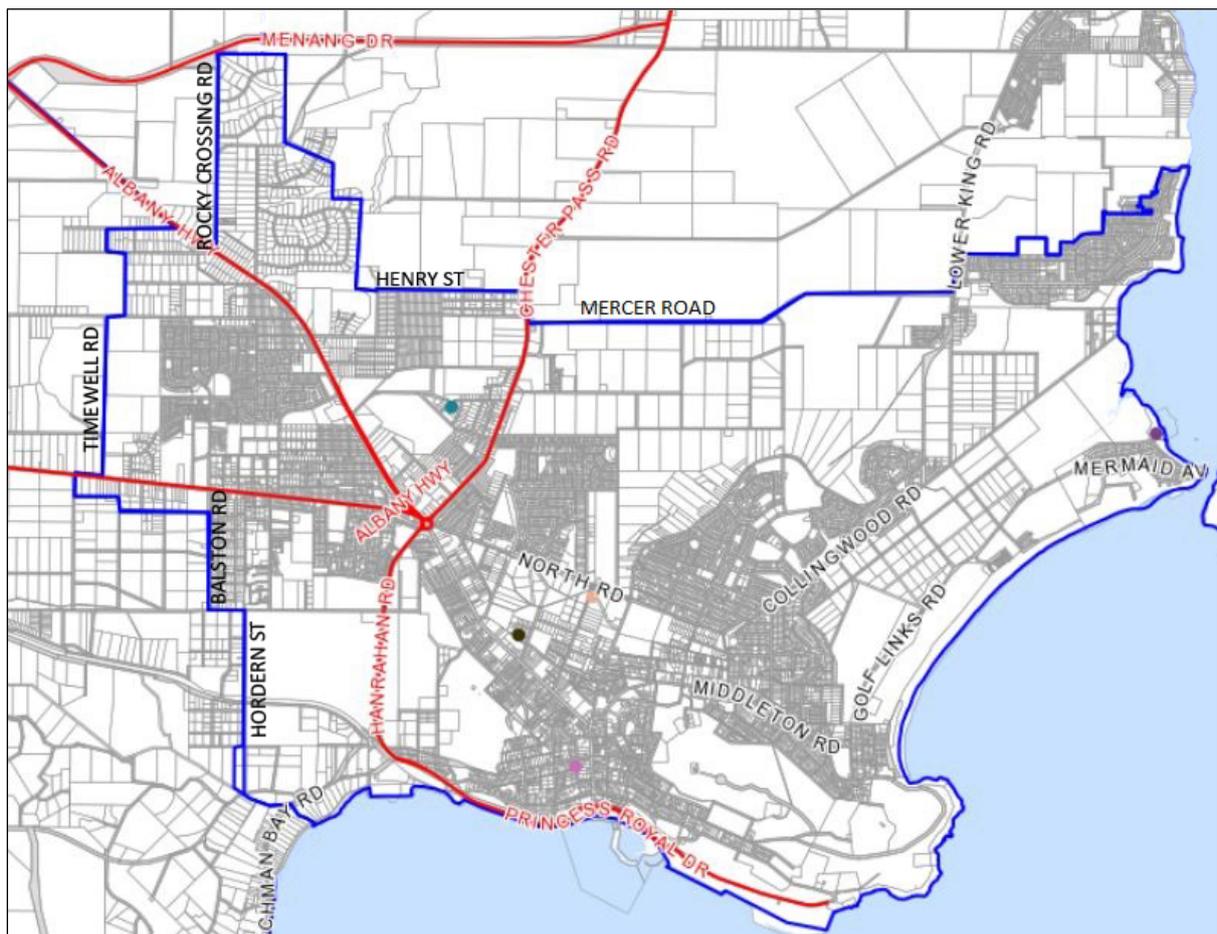
How do I obtain a permit to burn?

This depends on where you live. If you live within the area outlined by the blue line on the map below, contact the City of Albany.

To obtain a permit to burn within this area, please fill out and submit an application form, available for download at:

<http://www.albany.wa.gov.au/residents/emergency-management/fire/> and an authorised person will contact you to make an appointment to discuss your requirements.

If you live outside this area, contact your local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's Fire Control Officer. Contact numbers are available on the City of Albany website at <http://www.albany.wa.gov.au/residents/emergency-management/become-a-volunteer>.



Why would a Fire Control Officer need to inspect my property?

A Fire Control Officer may inspect your property prior to issuing a permit to ensure that the burn can be carried out safely and may also discuss with you alternatives to burning.

Are there any special conditions I need to obey?

The permit will list any special conditions that you need to abide by. This may include the number of people who must be in attendance, any fire fighting equipment that must be on site, the hours during which the burn can be conducted and people and agencies who you must notify before burning.

How long is a permit to burn valid?

A permit will be valid for the date range listed on the permit. If you are unable to light the fire during this period, a new permit must be applied for. The permit may be revoked by a Fire Control Officer if, in his or her opinion, the fire could be a source of danger if lit.

On days where the fire danger rating is very high or above, all permits are automatically cancelled. **It is the permit holder's responsibility to check the fire danger rating on the day of the planned burn.** The fire danger rating can be obtained at the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/fire-danger.shtml> . Albany is in Stirling Coast fire district.

You must be aware that, although you have been issued with a permit, you are responsible for ensuring that there is no danger of the fire escaping.