

Planned Burns Information





Fire Management

Given Logan's leafy areas and large areas of natural bushland, bushfire is a potential hazard, particularly in the drier months. Bushfire season can vary significantly from year to year, depending on the fuel loads, long-term climate and short-term weather conditions.

Logan City Council is responsible for the sustainable management of 900 parks and several bushland reserves in the city. This requires a proactive approach to help minimise uncontrolled bushfires, through the provision of targeted training, systems and procedures to facilitate fire management planning, implementation and monitoring across the City of Logan.

Council's fire management program is guided by the National Guidelines for Prescribed Burning Operations: Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC).

As part of the program Council undertakes a range of bushfire mitigation activities, including:

- planned burning to reduce fuel loads when weather conditions are favourable;
- regular fire break maintenance to ensure access is maintained for emergency vehicles and fuel reduced areas to limit fire intensity where access is not possible
- targeted community education to inform residents of actions they can take to better prepare for bushfires.

Planned Burn Program

Logan City Council's Planned Burn Program intends to strategically reduce the bushfire hazard in selected areas of parks and reserves throughout the city.

Council mitigates the impacts of bushfires by working in partnership with Queensland Fire Department and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake planned burns on Council-owned land and State-controlled land.

Council staff involved in fire management activities are trained in bushland management, planned burning techniques and bushfire suppression.

What is planned burning?

Planned burning is the process of planning and using controlled fire in a predetermined area to reduce the amount of ground vegetation, potentially decreasing the intensity of bushfires.

There are a number of factors that are considered when planning for burns. This includes the monitoring of fuel loads and weather conditions to identify when a planned burn can be conducted safely and effectively.

Planned burning is also referred to as controlled burning, fuel reduction burn, prescription fire and prescription burn.

Why conduct planned burns?

Planned burning not only reduces fire fuel hazards but also helps to maintain biodiversity and assists with vegetation management across the City of Logan.

A planned burn is an operation used to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce the fuel hazard rating in bushfire prone areas by slowly burning off undergrowth in controlled conditions
- Improve forest health by allowing and promoting natural regeneration of local plant communities
- Bushland safety by conducting the fire under a Permit to Light, issued by Queensland Fire Department (QFD) in suitable weather conditions.

Reducing fuel hazards can make bushfires easier to control and also help prevent a bushfire spreading to residential areas.

How planned burns are managed

Planned burn season generally runs from April through to July. The Council works closely with Queensland Fire Department to identify year round operations pending suitable weather and site conditions to align with QFD Operation Sesbania. This timeframe can be extended based upon favourable seasonal conditions.

- Burn block selection is identified using a prioritised, risk based approach relating to overall bushfire risk, safety for operations staff and the impact on flora and fauna
- Council staff use online weather forecasts to determine the most suitable day to implement the planned burn as per the permit
- Council staff that develop and implement the planned burns are trained in conservation and land management, fire management and bushfire suppression.

How we will let you know when burns are planned

Council will keep the community informed of planned burns by:

- Delivering community notifications via individual letter mail out to properties adjoining a reserve as per the requirements in the Permit to Light; and
- Providing information via social media stories (24 hours before the planned burn) and the Council website to provide a wider reaching communication leading up to a planned burn.
- Burns postponed due to poor weather conditions will be rescheduled at the next suitable day and communicated via social media stories
- Register with the Logan Early Warning Network by visiting logan.qld.gov.au/residents/disasters-and-emergencies/logan-early-warning to receive alerts, updates and notifications of proposed timing of planned burns in your area.



How to prepare for a planned burn in your local area

A planned burn may cause some inconvenience however, you can prepare yourself and your property to reduce its impact by:

- > closing doors and windows
- > taking in washing
- > limiting outdoor activities if smoke is a nuisance
- > driving to suit conditions if there is decreased visibility.

For more information on how you can prepare for a planned burn in your local area, and the proposed locations please visit Council's website:

logan.qld.gov.au/plannedburns

Prepare yourself and your property

You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfires. Fires can occur in suburbs where houses are surrounded by grassland, bush or parkland. When there is a bushfire in or near your area, you and your home may be affected by burning material, embers and smoke.

Residents as a private landowner are responsible for maintaining their own property safety and preparedness for bushfire.

If you see or are experiencing a bushfire near your home please call 000.

There are a number of steps that residents can take to minimise the impact of bushfires:

- > Prepare a Bushfire Survival Plan and contact your local fire brigade for more information and advice
- > Trim low-lying branches and shrubs growing too close to the house
- > Remove all rubbish, leaf litter, firewood and fuel containers near the house
- > Mow your grass regularly to keep it short
- > If possible, make a firebreak around your home (use mower, rake and spade)
- > Some landowners may benefit from conducting controlled burns on their land with appropriate weather conditions, planning and advice. Landowners must seek information and approvals from their local fire brigade before conducting any burning on private property.

For more information on preparing for a bushfire, visit Council's website:

logan.qld.gov.au/bushfires

If you have any immediate concerns regarding bushfires please dial 000.

For more information, visit the Queensland Fire Department website.

