

INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GATHERING DOMESTIC FIREWOOD IN THE SWAN REGION

The following information is provided to assist in collecting firewood from the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, (DBCA) gazetted firewood areas in the most environmentally sensitive way possible.

Areas are provided under the CALM Act & Regs 1984, Forest Regs 1993 and the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023 and can only occur within State Forest. Taking firewood from other land tenures, such as National Parks, Nature Reserves or Conservation Parks is illegal. Penalties apply, DBCA act & regs.

When?

- The Summer period runs from the 1st November to 30th April
- The Winter Period runs from 1st May to 31st October.
- During the Winter season there is a Restricted Period, between 1st June to 30th September, an individual is only permitted to collect up to one tonne in any 60 day period.
- In the Perth Hills, firewood areas are Fee Payable. The fees are currently; Summer \$11.00 and Winter \$22.00

Collecting the firewood!

- Before you can collect firewood you are required to purchase a collection authority. The authority outlines the conditions of collection and you will be issued with a map of the firewood area.
- **The Authority is valid for one visit only**
Fees are not refundable. Please sign and date the validation on the bottom of the authority before departing. Un-validated firewood may be seized as illegal forest produce.
(Note: There is an Expiry date, a maximum of 4 weeks after the issuing date, or the remainder of the season if issued within the last month of that season.)
- Firewood may only be collected for private use. (selling firewood sourced from a firewood area is an offence)
- **A maximum of 1 tonne of firewood per vehicle per visit** may be removed from a designated area. A trailer connected to car is part of one vehicle.
- A 6x4 trailer or a standard utility will carry approximately half a tonne.

Protecting the Environment!!

- If the firewood area is within in a Disease Risk Area (DRA), the authority holder must abide to the additional conditions on the Authority. The person in charge of the vehicle that enters DRA must read and sign the DRA Entry section of the permit. This is to acknowledge they have read and understood these conditions of entry.
- Disease Risk Areas are closed for 3 days following major rainfall.
- Firewood cannot be collected from environmentally sensitive areas within the gazetted firewood areas. These areas are shown on the maps. White crosses may delineate them in the field. Sensitive areas include stream reserves and fauna and flora protection zones.
- You only permitted to collect wood that is on the ground. Falling trees poses a severe risk to your safety.
- **Prevent the spread of dieback.** Stay on the access roads marked blue on your map. Do not disturb vegetation, rehabilitation or open any closed tracks. **PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE OFF THE ROAD INTO THE BUSH.**
- Do not cut any logs marked with an "H". These logs have been identified as important habitat for native fauna.
- Do not take any garden refuse or rubbish into the firewood area. This is illegal and introduces weeds and diseases.
- Pets should NOT be taken into State forest, the **poison 1080** is likely to be present in bait form to control feral animals as part of the ongoing baiting program for native fauna recovery and pets will be at risk. There is no antidote.

Public firewood collection in Perth metropolitan State Forest

The public have traditionally been able to collect firewood from areas previously harvested by the native forest timber industry. However, this has reduced significantly over the past decade and at the end of 2023 conventional native timber harvesting has ceased.

This has and will result in no areas being available close to the metropolitan area that contain suitable amounts of wood able to sustain current public firewood demand.

With the resource now limited, households may need to seek alternate heating options such as gas or electricity or purchase their firewood from licensed firewood suppliers.

Changes to Public Firewood Sale and Collection on and from Private Property

Firewood cannot be taken from any land without the landholder's permission.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act and Regulations provides licensing arrangements for commercial firewood and timber logs sourced from private property, this wood may be sold either directly to the public, or to a wholesaler (e.g. wood yard) or timber mill.

A license is not required to take firewood (flora) from the owner's property for personal use, or to give this firewood away (for example to family or friends who do not intend to sell it). Any clearing on Private property must conform to Department of Water and Environment, Acts and Regulations.

The new DBCA regulations do not apply to plantation-grown wood of non-native species such as pine and blue gum. For more information on the Biodiversity Conservation Act and Regulations visit www.dbca.wa.gov.au.

Please note that pine can not be taken or transported due to European House Borer infestation.