

5.3 Harvest & Movement of Vehicles Bans

PURPOSE

To establish clear guidelines for the immediate implementation of Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans due to adverse weather conditions or during emergency situations within the Shire of Cunderdin.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all agricultural and harvesting operations within the Shire of Cunderdin boundaries. In accordance with the Bushfire Regulation 1954, Regulation 24C and 38A.

HVMB IMPLEMENTATION

Regulations and Requirements:

Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans can be implemented under two regulations of the Bushfire Regulations 1954.

- Under Regulation 24C, A Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban shall be imposed when the Weather Conditions are unsafe.
- Under Regulation 38A, A harvest Vehicle Movement Ban can be imposed when harvesting operations could have adverse effects on a situation, this may be due to an incident, resourcing or public holiday or events.

(Please note – definitions are summarised and do not quote the Bushfire Regulations)

IMPLEMENTATION OF HARVEST VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS UNDER REGULATION 24C

A Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban will be imposed when any of the following conditions occur:

- The Fire Danger Rating reaches or exceeds 40 FBI on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System, anywhere within the Shire of Cunderdin.
- The Fire Danger Rating is likely to reach or exceed 40FBI within the next hour.
- Pre-emptively based on forecasted conditions, generally on days forecasted for Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating, but not excluding High Fire Danger Days.
- On days where a Total Fire Ban has been imposed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, A Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban must be called when as soon as the FBI reaches 40 on the Australian Fire Danger Rating anywhere within the Shire of Cunderdin.

IMPLEMENTATION OF HARVEST VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS DURING INCIDENTS UNDER REGULATION 38A

A Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban will be imposed immediately when any of the following conditions occur:

Fire Incidents within the Shire of Cunderdin

- a) Upon notification of any fires occurring within the Shire of Cunderdin and the Fire Behaviour Index is over 30, this is overridden in the event of (d) below.
- b) The ban applies to the entire Shire regardless of the fire's location within the Shire.

Fire Incidents on or near the boundary of the Shire of Cunderdin

- c) When a fire occurs on the boundary between the Shire of Cunderdin and neighbouring Shires where there is potential for the fire to impact the Shire of Cunderdin.
- d) When 50% or more of the Shire of Cunderdin firefighting resources (BFB Appliances) are deployed to such border incidents or within the Shire.

Fire Incidents requiring resourcing

- e) When any incident requires the deployment of additional resources or sustain of a significant amount of resourcing, in the opinion of the authority, to ensure an incident is made safe.

Public Holidays/Events

- f) On Public Holidays and dates previously agreed on at a Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting.
- g) Or when the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer or Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer deems it necessary to impose a ban on a select day. This may be due to limited resources, public holidays or other events.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Under Regulation 24C

The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer or the Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer can impose a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban. If time permits, two of the following positions should be consulted prior to imposing a HVMB; Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Deputy Bushfire Control Officer, Community Emergency Services Manager and/or Fire Control Officer.

Under Regulation 38A

The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Deputy Bushfire Control Officer, Community Emergency Services Manager. Can impose a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban under 38A, If it is for the following:

- Fire Incidents within the Shire of Cunderdin,
- Fire Incidents on or near the boundary of the Shire of Cunderdin,
- Fire Incidents requiring resourcing.

A Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban should be imposed as soon as these triggers are met.

If a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban is not being Imposed due to an incident, and if time permits, two of the following positions should be consulted prior to imposing a HVMB; Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Deputy Bushfire Control Officer, Community Emergency Services Manager and/or Fire Control Officer.

Under Regulation 24C and 38A

- The Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Deputy Bushfire Control Officer or Community Emergency Services Manager can issue a message to impose a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban when triggers are met via the “Cunderdin Fire Alerts”, “Cunderdin Harvest Ban” and “Shire of Cunderdin” WhatsApp Groups.
- The Shire of Cunderdin SMS system will also be used to notify those not on the WhatsApp Groups.
- Dependent on time of day and if time permits ABC radio broadcasting may also be contacted.

DURATION

Under Regulation 24C - The ban remains in effect until formally lifted by the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer or Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer after the weather has been reviewed and calculations of the Fire Danger Rating is below 40 FBI and the risk is decreasing.

Under Regulation 38A - The ban remains in effect until formally lifted by the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer or Community Emergency Services Manager after consultation with the Incident Controller of the Incident. This will happen once the incident has been declared under control and resourced appropriately, or resources have returned to the Shire of Cunderdin, or there is no further risk.

LIFTING

Under Regulation 24C and 38A

- The Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Deputy Bushfire Control Officer or Community Emergency Services Manager can issue a message to lift a Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban once it is deemed safe to do so via the “Cunderdin Fire Alerts”, “Cunderdin Harvest Ban” and “Shire of Cunderdin” WhatsApp Groups.
- The Shire of Cunderdin SMS system will also be used to notify those not on the WhatsApp Groups.
- If ABC radio broadcasting was used, they will be contacted.

AUTHORITY

This policy is administered under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, in accordance with the (Bushfires Act 1954) Bushfire Regulation 1954, Regulations 24C and 38A.

HISTORY

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| Former Policy | 21 February 2019 |
| New Policy Draft | 20 th November 2024 |
| Adopted | 27 th November 2024 |

REFERENCES

Bushfires Act 1954
Bushfires Regulations 1954