

**Clean Air Regulation 2002
Notice of Approval
Rural Areas and Villages**



Hawkesbury City Council hereby grants general approval for the pile burning of dead and dry vegetation grown on that property, in the open, on land which is 4,000 square metres (one acre) or greater and/or is designated as an Extreme Risk under the Hawkesbury Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.

Properties from Yarramundi, Bowen Mountain, Tabaraga Ridge - Kurrajong Heights, "The Islands Estate", Blaxlands Ridge, Grose Vale and Kurrajong village are designated as Extreme Risk. ***In all circumstances Council should be contacted to confirm the individual property is designated Extreme Risk.***

This approval remains in force from 30 September 2006 to the 30 September 2010.

It is prohibited to burn

1. Without the approval of the NSW Fire Brigade throughout the year in the following areas: McGraths Hill, Windsor Downs, Bligh Park, South Windsor, Windsor, Vineyard, Clarendon, Richmond, and North Richmond.
2. Without the approval of the Rural Fire Service between 1 October to 31 March or until the commencement of the Bush Fire Season if declared earlier.

This approval does not include:-

1. The burning of other matter other than dead and dry vegetation grown on the property;
2. The burning of vegetation resulting from land clearance. Development consent is required to be obtained from Council;
3. The burning of vegetation which has been cleared for commercial development or building construction as development consent must be obtained from Council;
4. The removal of dead or dying trees as written notification needs to be provided to Council under its Tree Preservation Order;
5. Ecological/bush regeneration burns which are carried out to destroy infestations of noxious weeds or the clearance of land for native species regeneration. Individuals and organisations that wish to carry out these burns should apply to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), PO Box 668 Parramatta NSW 2124.

The approval is granted subject to the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operation (Clean Air) Regulation 2002 and to the following conditions:

1. Pile burning of dry and dead vegetation should NOT be seen as the best method for disposing of dry and dead vegetation. Alternative means of disposal such as re-use; recycling; composting; disposal through Council's waste service, kerbside collection service or waste management facility; should be thoroughly investigated and are the preferred disposal methods.
2. Only dry and dead vegetation originating on a property that is included in this approval shall be burnt on that property. Burning is to be conducted in accordance with the NSW Rural Fire Service "Standards for Pile Burning" February 2006; <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/19544.html>
3. Burning must at all times be carried out by such practical means as are necessary to prevent or minimise air pollution. The potential for smoke impacting on any person due to wind direction and weather conditions must be taken into account.
4. In the event of a Total Fire Ban being declared, this approval is suspended. Any existing fire is to be extinguished and cannot be re-commenced until the Total Fire Ban is lifted.

5. In the event of a No Burn Day being declared by the EPA, this approval is suspended for the duration of the declaration. When a "No Burn" notice is issued, it applies to the lighting of new fires in the declared areas. Existing fires should be allowed to continue as extinguishing the fire will result in more smoke. "No Burn Notices" are notified in the Public Notices section of the Sydney Morning Herald not later than on the day on which the order is to take effect. Recorded information about "No Burn Notices" is usually available from 4pm the day before the notice comes into effect and can be accessed by calling ph: 1300 130 520 or is available on the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW (DECC) website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/airqual.htm
6. Adjoining neighbours and people likely to be affected by smoke are to be notified at least 48 hours before the fire is lit. This will allow for smoke-sensitive people such as asthmatics, to plan to be away from the area when the burn is conducted.
7. The Bush Fire Season runs from the 1st October to the 31st March each year unless declared earlier or extended. Prior to burning, the Rural Fire Service should be contacted on (02) 4575 1601 for confirmation of Fire Season dates.

Burning during Fire Season period:

A Fire safety Permit is required from your local Rural Fire Brigade Permit Issuing Officer, at least (48) forty-eight hours before the time and date the proposed burn takes place. To apply for a permit contact the number below.

RFS Permit issuing line Ph: (02) 4575 1601

Burning outside of fire season period:

Written or oral notice is to be given to the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service at least 24 hours prior to the burn. Such notice must specify the location, purpose, period and time of the fire proposed to be lit. Contact details include:

RFS Pile burning notification line Ph: (02) 4575 1143, FAX 4575 1475, email hawkesbury@rfs.nsw.gov.au

8. A responsible supervising adult over the age of eighteen shall be on site at all times with enough water to extinguish the fire, if required, for that time the fire is active.
9. Burning shall only be conducted between the hours of 8am and 5pm on any day.
10. Any residue waste from the burning must be disposed of in an environmentally satisfactory manner and in accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 1996". On completion of the burn, the burnt area must be maintained in a condition that minimises or prevents the emission of dust from the area and prevents sediment or ash from fires being washed from the area into waters.

Failure to comply with this approval may result in an On The Spot fine of \$500.00 for an individual or \$1,000.00 for a corporation. In the event of prosecution, the maximum penalty is \$5,500.00 for an individual and \$11,000.00 for a corporation.

If you do not comply with the conditions specified above you are not permitted to burn without separate approval being issued by Council.

For further information please contact:

Hawkesbury City Council
Regulatory Services
PO Box 146
Windsor NSW 2756

Ph: (02) 4560 4444
Fax: (02) 4560 4400
Email: council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au