

## **Burning in the Robe Township**

The *Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016* (the Policy) came into effect on 23 July 2016.

The Policy was created by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) following a consultation period in late 2015 and early 2016 to consolidate a number of existing policies and guidelines with the intent of better protecting and improving the health of South Australians and our environment through improved air quality. The Policy regulates air emissions including those from wood heaters and burning in the open.

### Wood Heaters

- The Policy includes rules regulating the sale and installation of wood heaters to target health impacts associated with smoke from wood heaters.
  - The Policy requires compliance with various Australian Standards for the sale and installation of all wood heaters, ensuring that wood heaters are engineered to operate efficiently, decreasing emissions to the atmosphere.
  - The Policy requires firewood retailers do not sell domestic firewood with a moisture content of greater than 25% (dry weight) to protect the community against excessive smoke from burning of inappropriate fuel.
- There is also a requirement that the owner of a solid fuel heater does not allow excessive smoke to be generated from the heater.

### Burning in the Open

A number of changes are now in place in relation to burning in the open following the introduction of the Policy including bushfire hazard reduction, disposal of agricultural and forestry waste and backyard burning in townships.

#### Notable Changes

- Under the Policy, property owners within Townships (Robe township) require approval from the Council to undertake burning for bushfire hazard reduction and for disposal of agricultural and forestry waste.
- Burning in townships that previously occurred Monday to Saturday, 10am to 3pm, is no longer allowed.
- Inside the Robe township, only charcoal can be used in a brazier, chiminea or fire pit for heating an outdoor area. No other fuels are permitted.
- Fires for recreational purposes within the Robe township, including camp fires, are not allowed.

### Next Steps – Burning in the Robe Township

The introduction of the Air Quality Policy results in a number of changes to controls relating to burning in the open. In regards to the Robe township, the burning that was previously permitted without the requirement for any approval, Monday to Saturday, 10am to 3pm, **now requires a burning permit from Council.**

The District Council of Robe has developed a Township Burning Permit Policy to establish a set of criteria to be considered by Council's delegated officers when assessing permit applications for burning within the Robe township.

A Burning Permit will be required to carry out one or more of the following burning activities outside of a fire danger season:

- burning agriculture or forestry waste; or
- burning off vegetation for fire prevention or control; or
- burning vegetation for any other purpose.

In assessing Burning Permit applications, Council's Authorised Officers, will use their discretion, taking into account the following criteria, in determining whether a permit will be issued or not:

- Bushfire risk of the area
- Purpose of the proposed burning
- Amount of material to be burnt
- Fuel load present on adjoining properties
- Properties in close proximity or adjoining reserves or national parks
- Proximity and potential impact to neighbouring residents
- Availability of other reasonable means to dispose of the vegetation
- Legitimacy of the proposed burning – i.e. is this genuine fire hazard reduction or rubbish removal
- Nature of material to be burnt
- Size of the Allotment
- Terrain of the allotment and locality
- Accessibility to the allotment and area where the vegetation is to be burnt
- Is the material declared and or woody weeds
- Is the material diseased plant material
- Requirements of the Country Fire Service Broad Acre Burning Code of Practice
- Requirements of the Country Fire Service Vegetation Pile Burning Code of Practice
- Religious or Cultural purposes

The **Application for Permit for Burning in the Open** will be required to be completed and sent to the Council office to enable a Council Authorised Officer to assess an application for burning in the open. The Council Authorised Officer will then determine if a Burning Permit will be issued and any conditions that will apply. Policy 2.32 'Township Burning Permit Policy' can be viewed on the website.

### Contact Details

Applicant name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant property address \_\_\_\_\_

Address burning to take place \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant postal address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime contact number \_\_\_\_\_

### Details of Burning Activity

<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational purposes/birthday/wedding/event	Proposed date	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of agricultural and forestry waste	Proposed date	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Burning off for bushfire hazard reduction	Proposed date	_____

Other please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity of material (e.g. 2 trailer loads) \_\_\_\_\_

Material to be burnt (e.g. tree prunings) \_\_\_\_\_

*Forward your completed form to*

District Council of Robe  
PO Box 1, Robe SA 5276

or e-mail to [council@robe.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@robe.sa.gov.au)

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### All burning must be in accordance with

*CFS Code of Practice for Broad Acre Burning 2015 and CFS Code of Practice for Vegetation Pile Burning 2015*

- Only dry seasoned material can be burnt
- Noxious material such as tyres, plastics, oils and painted or treated timber must not be burnt
- Burning only to be conducted between 10am and 3pm Monday to Saturday inclusive unless exceptional circumstances (recreational purposes)
- Any fire lit must be completely extinguished within the set time

### Application conditions

All applications to burn will require an inspection by an Authorised Officer of the District Council of Robe. Applications should allow minimum of seven days (from receipt of application) before approval may be granted. Applications will be assessed in accordance with District Council of Robe EPA Burning Permit Policy guidelines. The fact that a person has complied with the conditions of this application does not relieve a person from liability for any loss or damage caused by a fire lit under the authority of the notice.

For general information and frequently asked questions on burning in the open in the District Council of Robe area please visit [www.robe.sa.gov.au](http://www.robe.sa.gov.au) or [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)

Prohibited Burning Off Zone

