

MEDIA RELEASE



Fire Prevention Inspections

Municipal Fire Prevention Officers have now commenced inspections to identify potential fire hazards across all urban properties throughout the Buloke Shire. Owners of urban properties are asked to ensure maintenance works have been undertaken on their properties to reduce the threat of fire. This includes mowing and slashing of high grass, stacking of all dry timber, removal of flammable rubbish and the proper storage of flammable substances.

Owners who fail to undertake the required work or maintain their properties throughout the fire season may be issued with a Fire Clearance Notice. Failure to comply with a Fire Clearance Notice may result in a \$1,517 Infringement Notice being issued. In addition to an Infringement Notice, Council will also recover the costs of undertaking any fire hazard clearance works.

Unfortunately, as two landowners in the Shire recently found out, whatever the cost of undertaking fire prevention work it is easier and a far cheaper option than ignoring a Fire Clearance Notice. The St. Arnaud Magistrates Court recently issued fines totalling \$1476 plus \$735 in legal fees and clearance costs to both of these landowners because they didn't attend to last year's Fire Clearance Notices.

To avoid a similar predicament, all residents are urged to clean up their blocks and maintain them throughout the fire season.

"If everyone does their bit to reduce the potential for fire, Buloke will be a safe place for all in our community", said the Buloke Shire Mayor, Cr Reid Mather.

For more information on fire hazards and Fire Clearance Notices visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au or call Buloke Shire Council on 1300 520 520.

End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520