



**MEDIA RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH, 2018**

**SUMMER MAY BE OVER BUT FIRE DANGER REMAINS**

We may have reached the end of summer, but the threat of fire is still very much a reality.

Victoria is becoming increasingly warmer and drier, with comparably lower rainfall and higher temperatures year round.

This has led to longer and harsher fire seasons and extended fire restrictions in the Strathbogie Shire, with restrictions currently still in place.

Permits for planned burning in the Strathbogie Shire are yet to be issued by the Country Fire Authority and the public will be notified when applications can be made.

Council urges residents to remain vigilant with fire prevention requirements.

Properties within townships or less than 2.6Ha must remove all flammable rubbish from their yards and ensure grass and weeds are kept cut to a height of no more than 100mm.

Properties greater than 2.6Ha must slash around all buildings to a minimum distance of 20 metres.

Property boundaries must be slashed to a width of 6 metres. When neighbouring dwellings and assets are nearby this must be increased to 20 metres.

Strathbogie Shire Municipal Emergency Manager, Ken Ross said it is not just grass fires that pose a threat to properties, but the risk of house fire actually increases as we approach the cooler months.

“Where a fuel burning fire exists in your house or shed, it is important to make sure the flu or chimney has been cleaned as many house fires start due to a build-up in chimneys,” Mr Ross explained.

“It is also important to make sure your nearest fire plug to your house is clear of weeds, grass or other debris.”

“You can identify the location of a fire plug by a white post with a red top. There will also be a blue reflector positioned on a made road adjacent to the fire plug,” Mr Ross said.

For enquiries relating to fire prevention please contact Council Customer Service on 1800 065 993 or email [info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au).

-ENDS-

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