



Community Safety –

Fire and Emergency Management

# Bushfire Compliance Season Summary Report

2023/2024



Version control of this document is managed by the Fire and Emergency Management team.

Document	Local Fire Season Summary Report 2023/2024
Prepared by	Community Safety
Version	0.1
Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External

## Disclaimer

All data and information in this report are provided in good faith and make no representation or warranty regarding its accuracy, availability, or completeness. This document is not intended to be operational in nature and all agencies are responsible for undertaking prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and/or strategies in their capacities.

## Acknowledgement

The local government fire season is indicative of the declaration made under sections 17, 18 and 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*, and all authorisations for local government to modify such dates determined by local conditions. Commonly, fire seasons across the Perth Metropolitan area commence each year from 1<sup>st</sup> October and conclude on 31<sup>st</sup> May the following year.

The summary acknowledges external agencies that through their media platforms and documentation have contributed to expanding the context surrounding the local data captured for the City of Kalamunda.



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## Executive Summary

The City of Kalamunda commenced its first year of the five-year Fire Hazard Assessment Plan this season. The program aimed at evaluating bushfire readiness on privately owned properties. This plan embodies a fair and equitable approach to managing bushfire risks, incorporating strategies to ensure both compliance and preparedness with an emphasis on education first.

Led by senior Community Safety personnel, the program has been meticulously developed and put into action, bolstered by the support of skilled Community Safety administrative staff. The team includes a full-time Senior Fire & Emergency Management Officer and two full-time Community Bushfire Preparedness Officers (CBPO), all authorised Fire Control Officers (FCOs) under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

This adept and seasoned team collaborates with the community year-round, not only conducting fire hazard inspections but also executing various emergency management tasks to enhance community preparedness for potential catastrophic events. By investing in full-time personnel to oversee bushfire preparedness and emergency management operations, including hazard inspections, ensures consistency and fosters stronger ties among stakeholders.

The overall outcome of the 2023/2024 City of Kalamunda bushfire compliance inspections improved on the previous 2022/2023 season. Results indicate compliance outcomes were up, this could be due to having permanent full-time officers able to work more closely with the community.

The fire hazard assessments returned notable results, with 2508 properties assessed, of which 2447 were deemed compliant by the end of the inspection period. The assessment results indicate that a total of 314 work orders were issued. A total of 29 infringements were issued due to residents' failure to take sufficient action in response to their Work Order notices.

The number of permits to burn decreased compared to last season. The 2023 springtime permit period was shortened by 2 weeks due to the onset of early unseasonal heatwave weather conditions.

Illegal burning incidents were limited mainly to the escarpment region; however, Forrestfield recorded the most breaches. These areas will be considered for a more targeted engagement approach in burning requirements and general safety.

A review of the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice is conducted each year. The significant updates this season included:

- Changing the layout to a pamphlet-style look of the Notice.
- Increasing land size differentiation of greater than or less than 5,000m<sup>2</sup>s from previously being 4,000m<sup>2</sup>. This change of size to the property land tenure changes if a landowner is required to install a firebreak on their land.

- Introducing Low Threat Minimal Fuel Vegetation variation was introduced to work with the orchards and vineyards in the district and to acknowledge the treatment plans in place for these properties.

Annually variations requests need to be submitted prior to 1 October each year. This year the decision was made to go to lifetime variations. This means if your variation is approved, it will remain in place until a change of ownership or the conditions of the Notice can be met. This will eliminate the need to submit a new variation every year for nearly 200 residents. The only variation that needs to be submitted every year is if the resident wants a variation for grazing. Grazing variations can be approved from 1 November and expire on 1 December each year, following which all conditions of the Notice must be met.

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive summary of the City of Kalamunda's (the City) bushfire compliance outcomes from 1 October 2023 to 31 May 2024 (the fire season). This report was developed to expand on the City's prior documentation by including all elements of bushfire compliance and efforts toward bushfire preparedness.

## Scope

The report will refer to specific data collected from the City's internal corporate systems for the following.

1. Permits to burn.
2. Illegal burns.
3. Fire hazard assessments.

## Aim

This report aims to analyse the data collected throughout the local 2023/2024 bushfire season to develop stronger engagement plans, more targeted communication strategies, and to review compliance procedures under the authority of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (the Act) and *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*. The report will also provide the City with valuable information to assist with reviewing processes and working through a process of continuous improvement.

## Context

The report has been developed to align with the City's strategic objectives (table 1) along with the 2019 Lesson Management Cycle produced by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (figure 1).



PRIORITY 1: Kalamunda Cares and Interacts		
Objectives	Strategies	Success Management
1.1 To be a community that advocates, facilitates, and provides quality lifestyles choices.	1.1.1 Facilitate the inclusion of the ageing population and people with disability to have access to information, facilities, and services. 1.1.2 Empower, support, and engage and with young people, families, and our culturally diverse community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase number of community education events.</li> </ul>
1.2 To provide safe and healthy environments for community to enjoy.	1.2.1 Facilitate a safe community environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing community perception of safety in the City.</li> <li>• Increasing compliance with fire protection requirements.</li> <li>• Increasing level of satisfaction with programs, facilities, and activities.</li> </ul>

PRIORITY 4: Kalamunda leads		
Objectives	Strategies	Success Management
4.1 To provide leadership through transparent governance.	4.1.1 Provide good governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>
4.2 To proactively engage and partner for the benefit of community.	4.2.1 Actively engage with the community in innovative ways. 4.2.2 Increase advocacy activities and develop partnerships to support growth and reputation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing satisfaction with community engagement activities.</li> <li>• Level of external funding acquired.</li> </ul>

FIGURE 1: Kalamunda Advancing 2027 Strategic community plan objectives.



FIGURE 2: Lessons Management Cycle (AIDR, 2019).

## Objectives

The emergency management framework that incorporates the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (PPRR) model places a significant emphasis on developing resilient and prepared communities in relation to bushfires.

Our objective is to review and implement the City's Fire Hazard Reduction Notice (FHRN) under Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* by July each year to ensure sufficient time for distribution with the City's rates while also being gazetted in the local newspaper.

To implement and conduct training for the Community Bushfire Preparedness Officers (CBPO) including revising knowledge leading into each bushfire season. All CBPOs employed by the City will conduct quality, fair and equitable property fire hazard assessments abiding by established processes, procedures, and directions.

Ensure processes and procedures across bushfire preparedness are captured in line with City policies and followed throughout the bushfire season, also ensuring a review is conducted to identify gaps and make recommendations at the end of the season.

Demonstrate a fair and equitable approach towards enforcement in line with the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Bush Fires Regulations 1954* throughout the local bushfire season.





## Outcomes

### Permits To Burn

41 permits were issued.

A decrease of 51.9% compared to the same period last year.

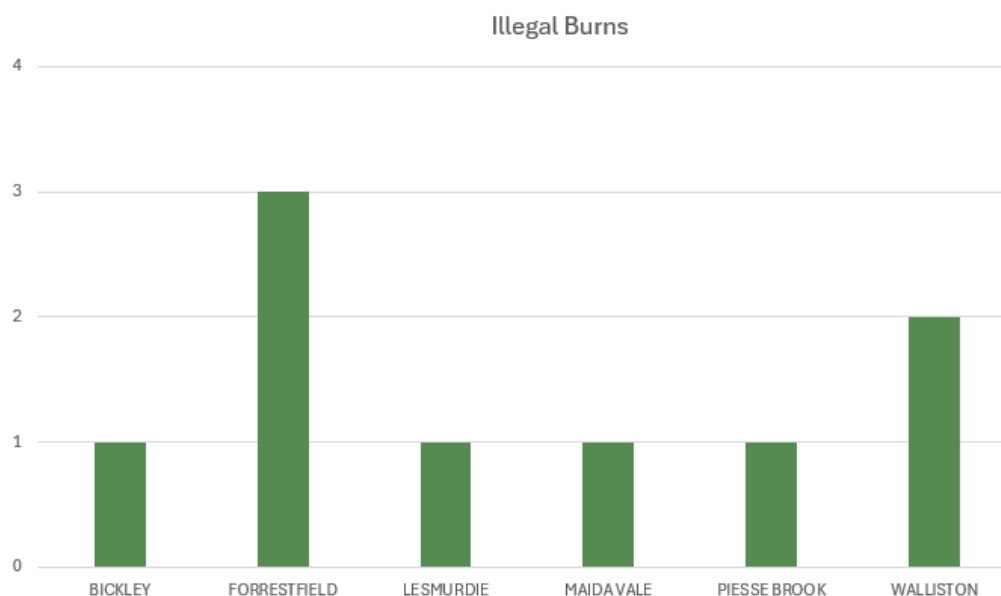
Permits to burn are required during the restricted burning period of 1 October to 30 November. This Spring, the Permit to burn period was shortened by 2 weeks due to the onset of heatwave weather towards the end of the restricted burning period.

### Illegal Burns

23 reports of illegal burns were attended to by City of Kalamunda officers.

9 infringements were issued for illegal burns.

The majority of illegal burning incidents were within the Eastern Rural District region; however, the suburb of Forrestfield had the greatest number of illegal burns with three.



**FIGURE 3:** Illegal Burns by suburb

Variations

195 variations were approved, of which 22 were for grazing purposes.

Copies of the variation approval letter were used by the inspectors when doing the assessments to ensure the property was prepared in line with the conditions set out in the letter of approval. If the property did not meet the conditions set out in the letter of approval a work order was issued.

Fire Hazard Assessments

Final stats:

3011 assessments completed.

2508 Individual properties attended.

314 Work Orders issued.

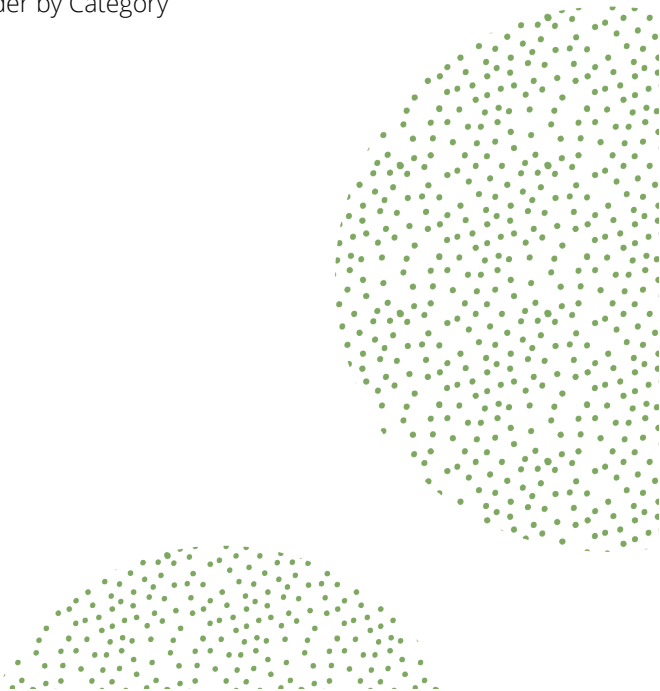
731 items were listed in the Work Orders.

29 Infringements and Work Orders issued.

The City of Kalamunda has 23,340 private residential properties (2021 ABS) within the City. The assessments were conducted on 2508 of those properties (11%). Officers completed 3011 assessments which resulted in 314 work orders being issued for 731 items to be remediated.

ITEMS	COUNT
Additional Works	81
Firebreaks	405
APZ	72
Fuel Loading	173
TOTAL	731

TABLE 1: Work Order by Category





SUBURB	Work Order Item											Grand Total
	Additional works	Dead flammable materials (leaf litter, twigs etc) across the entire property are not reduced down below 8 tonnes per hectare	Dead flammable materials within the APZ are not reduced to 2 tonnes per hectare or less	Dead grass, dead shrubs and dead plants are NOT slashed to a height no greater than 50mm across the property	Firebreaks are not 3 metres wide	Firebreaks are not 4 metres high	Firebreaks are not free of Dead Flammable or combustible material	Firebreaks are not free of inflammable and combustible material or trafficable	Gutters are not free of flammable matter	Trees or shrubs that are within 2 metres of the asset are not pruned 2 metres or more away from the asset	Trees over 5m in height within the APZ are not under-pruned up to 2 metres	
BICKLEY	2			2	4	4	8	3	5			28
CARMEL	2			7	9	8	16	4	2			48
FORRESTFIELD	13	6		29	8	7	16	5	10			94
GOOSEBERRY HILL	12	1		13	17	19	42	8	12	1		125
HACKETTS GULLY					3	1	1	2				7
HIGH WYCOMBE	12	3		20				1	8	1		45
KALAMUNDA	8	3		7	1		1	1	7	1		29
LESMURDIE	2	9		10					3			24
MAIDA VALE	8	3		16	2	5	5	4	5	3	3	54
PAULLS VALLEY	4	2	2	6	4	6	5	6		1		36
PICKERING BROOK	1			3	2	6	18	3				33
PIESSE BROOK	4			4	10	12	17	10	1	1		59
WALLISTON	2	2		4	1		1	1	1			12
WATTLE GROVE	11	3	1	20	29	14	46	9	4			137
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>731</b>

TABLE 2: Break Down of Work Order Items by Suburb

With having full time officers, the team were able to follow-up nearly all inspections. At close of the inspections period 5 properties remained inaccessible, 31 work orders were outstanding, leaving 2447 properties compliant at their time of last inspection.

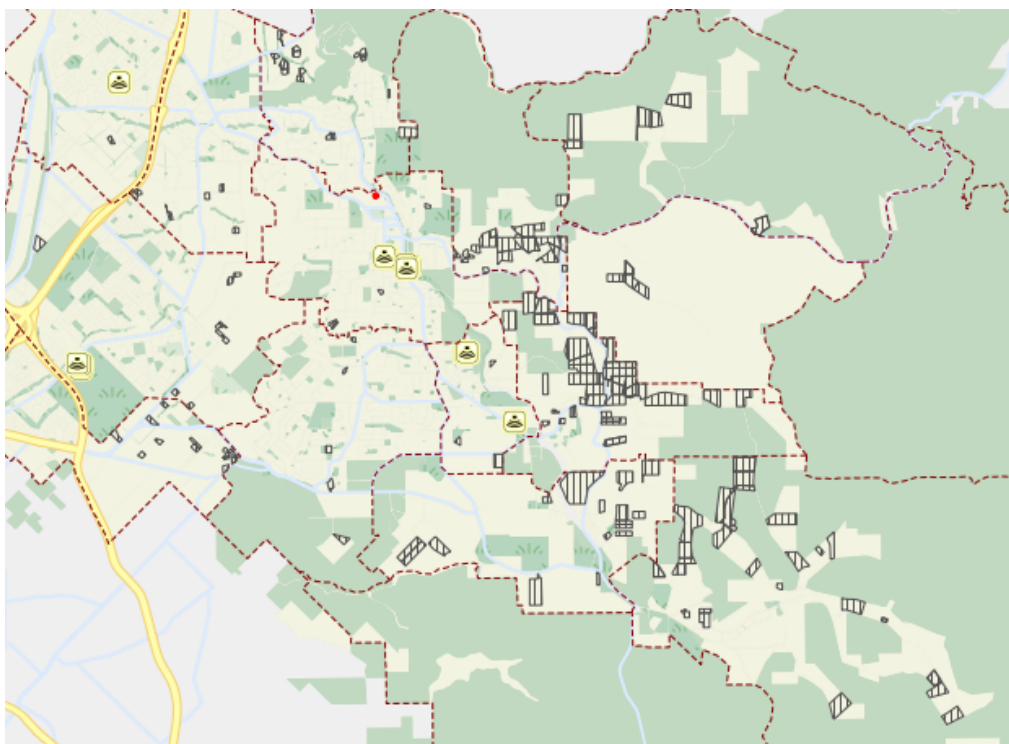
Inspection outcome	Number of Inspections
Infringement and Work Order	25
No Action Required	2447
Property Inaccessible Notice	5
Work Order	31
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2508</b>

TABLE 3: Totals of End of Season Assessment Status

As per the execution of the plan, if a property remained in breach of the Notice after the initial work order was sent and the time period had passed, an infringement can be issued and a further work order to action. A total of 29 infringements were issued due to residents' failure to take sufficient action in response to their Work Order notices. Property owner and / or land occupier that are issued a section 33 bushfire infringement have the right to appeal if the reason for wanting to appeal falls under appealable grounds. There were four successful appeals, leaving 25 infringements remaining in place.

From 2023/24 variation submissions have been approved for the duration of the property owner's tenure. This will diminish the need to apply for a variation annually unless the

variation is for grazing purposes. During the 2023/24 season, Officers processed applications for variations to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice, notably concentrated in the Pickering Brook, Bickley, and Carmel regions. Work Orders were given to 29 properties and one infringement was issued for not complying with their approved variation.



During the lead-up to the Bushfire compliance period, Community Bushfire Preparedness Officers were available to attend private residential properties for a pre-season property walkthrough, where they would give general advice on works that could better assist the City of Kalamunda residents' understanding of the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice and be prepared for a fire hazard inspection.

#### During the compliance period:

84 private landowners requested City officers attend to provide advice and assistance in preparing their land for the compliance period.

- 58 of these properties were inspected.
- 26 properties that had a pre-season walkthrough did not receive an inspection during the compliance period.
- 44 being compliant on the first instance,
- 7 properties were issued Non-compliance Work Orders,
- 7 were inaccessible on the first inspection.



- All 14 properties that were not accessible or where work ordered were followed up and marked as compliant at the time of their last inspection.

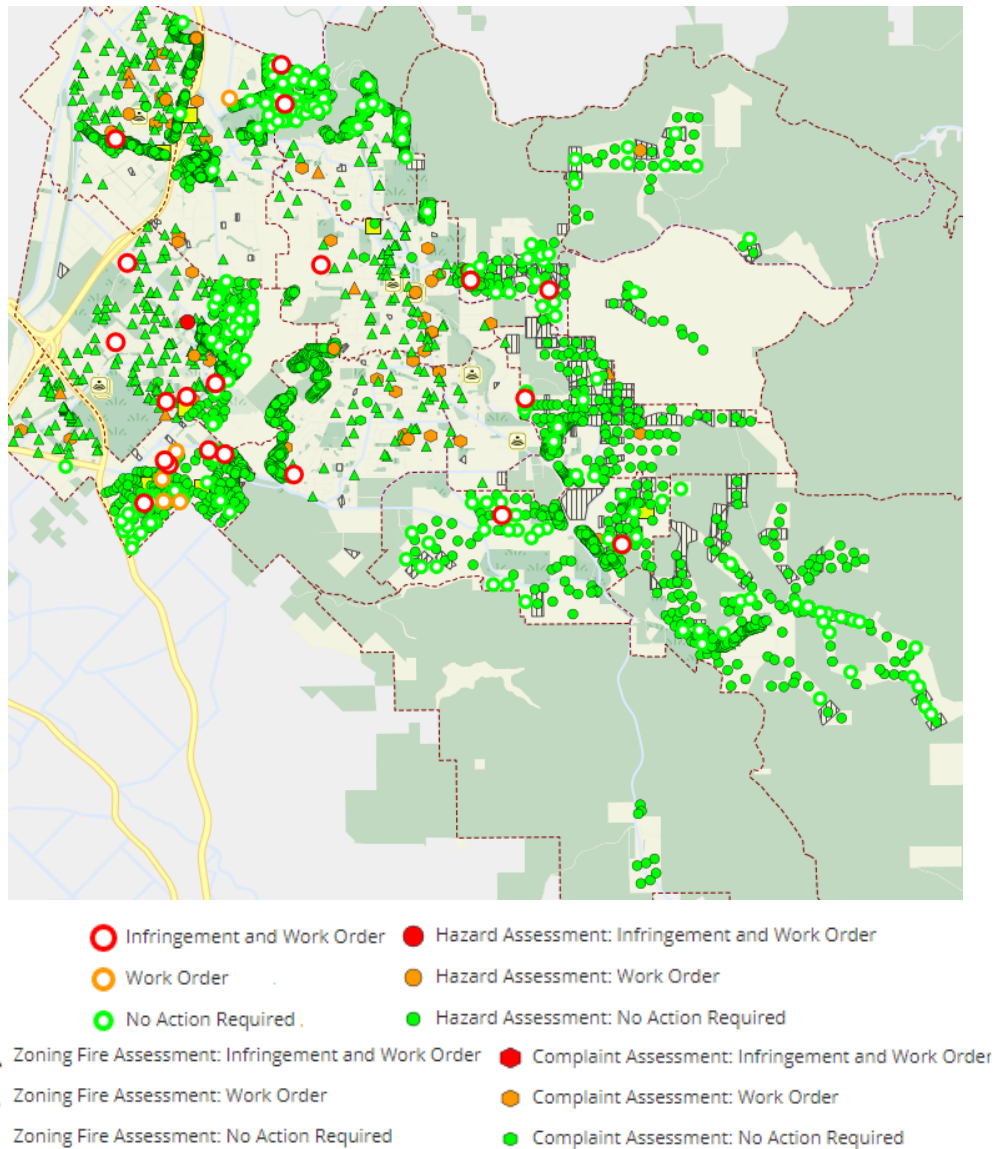
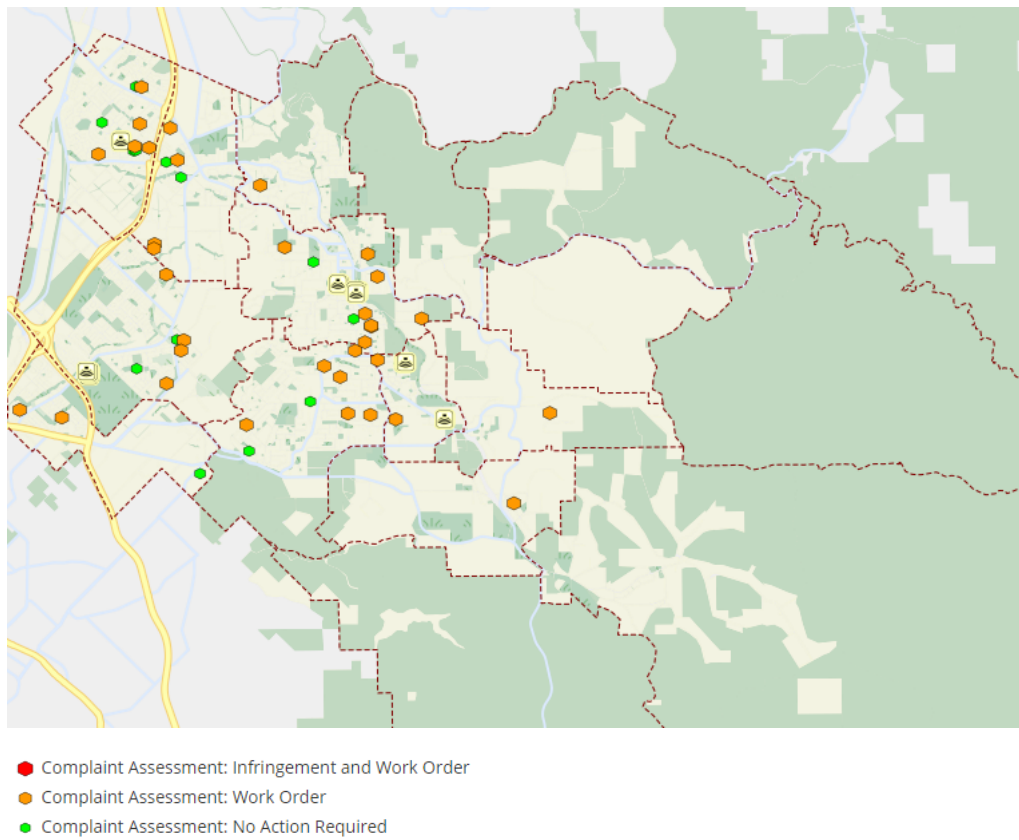


FIGURE 4: Heat Map of all Inspections for 2023/2024



**FIGURE 5:** Heat Map of Properties that Complaints were made against.

Breakdown by Zone and Suburb  
Rural Eastern District

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE		NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
<b>BICKLEY</b>			<b>PAULLS VALLEY</b>		
Total Inpections	222		Total Inpections	50	
Inaccessible	10	4.5%	Inaccessible	5	10%
Over 5000sqm	115		Over 5000sqm	45	
Infringements Issued	1	0.9%	Infringements Issued	0	0%
Compliant outcome	104	90.4%	Compliant outcome	35	77.8%
Work Order Issued	10	8.7%	Work Order Issued	10	22.2%
Under 5000sqm	97		Under 5000sqm	0	
Infringements Issued	0	0.0%	Infringements Issued	0	0%
Compliant outcome	93	95.9%	Compliant outcome	0	0%
Work Order Issued	4	4.1%	Work Order Issued	0	0%
<b>HACKETTS GULLY</b>			<b>PIESSE BROOK</b>		
Total Inpections	17		Total Inpections	84	
Inaccessible	1	5.9%	Inaccessible	5	6.0%
Over 5000sqm	15		Over 5000sqm	73	
Infringement Issued	0	0%	Infringement Issued	4	5.5%
Compliant outcome	12	80%	Compliant outcome	50	68.5%
Work Order Issued	3	20%	Work Order Issued	19	26.0%
Under 5000sqm	1		Under 5000sqm	6	
Infringements Issued	0	0%	Infringements Issued	0	0%
Compliant outcome	1	100%	Compliant outcome	6	100%
Work Order Issued	0	0%	Work Order Issued	0	0%
<b>WALLISTON</b>			<b>PICKERING BROOK</b>		
Total Inpections	12		Total Inpections	244	
Inaccessible	0	0%	Inaccessible	11	4.5%
Over 5000sqm	4		Over 5000sqm	156	
Infringements Issued	1	25%	Infringements Issued	0	0%
Compliant outcome	2	50%	Compliant outcome	133	85.3%
Work Order Issued	1	25%	Work Order Issued	23	14.7%
Under 5000sqm	8		Under 5000sqm	77	
Infringement	0	0%	Infringement	0	0%
Compliant	6	75%	Compliant	77	100%
Work Order	2	25%	Work Order	0	0%
<b>CARMEL</b>					
Total Inpections	240				
Inaccessible	24	10.0%			
Over 5000sqm	126				
Infringements Issued	2	1.6%			
Compliant outcome	106	84.1%			
Work Order Issued	18	14.3%			
Under 5000sqm	90				
Infringements Issued	0	0%			
Compliant outcome	88	97.8%			
Work Order Issued	2	2.2%			



## Foothills

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE		NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
<b>HIGH WYCOMBE</b>			<b>WATTLE GROVE</b>		
Total Inspections	350		Total Inspections	347	
Inaccessible	1	0.3%	Inaccessible	28	8.1%
Over 5000sqm	15		Over 5000sqm	225	
Infringements Issued	0	0%	Infringements Issued	6	2.7%
Compliant outcome	14	93.3%	Compliant outcome	168	74.7%
Work Order Issued	1	6.7%	Work Order Issued	51	22.7%
Under 5000sqm	334		Under 5000sqm	94	
Infringements Issued	1	0.3%	Infringements Issued	1	1.1%
Compliant outcome	313	93.7%	Compliant outcome	91	96.8%
Work Order Issued	20	6.0%	Work Order Issued	2	2.1%
<b>MAIDA VALE</b>			<b>FORRESTFIELD</b>		
Total Inspections	273		Total Inspections	398	
Inaccessible	2	0.7%	Inaccessible	17	4.3%
Over 5000sqm	32		Over 5000sqm	138	
Infringements Issued	0	0%	Infringements Issued	0	0%
Compliant outcome	24	75%	Compliant outcome	114	82.6%
Work Order Issued	8	25%	Work Order Issued	24	17.4%
Under 5000sqm	239		Under 5000sqm	243	
Infringements Issued	1	0.4%	Infringements Issued	7	2.9%
Compliant outcome	230	96.2%	Compliant outcome	224	92.2%
Work Order Issued	8	3.3%	Work Order Issued	12	4.9%

## Escarpment

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE		NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
<b>CANNING MILLS</b>			<b>LESMURDIE</b>		
Total Inspections	9		Total Inspections	261	
Inaccessible	0	0%	Inaccessible	1	0.4%
Over 5000sqm	8		Over 5000sqm	1	
Infringement	0	0%	Infringement	0	0%
Compliant	8	100%	Compliant	1	100%
Work Order	0	0%	Work Order	0	0%
Under 5000sqm	1		Under 5000sqm	259	
Infringement	0	0%	Infringement	1	0.4%
Compliant	1	100%	Compliant	245	94.6%
Work Order	0	0%	Work Order	13	5.0%
<b>GOOSEBERRY HILL</b>			<b>KALAMUNDA</b>		
Total Inspections	373		Total Inspections	131	
Inaccessible	25	6.7%	Inaccessible	2	1.5%
Over 5000sqm	144		Over 5000sqm	2	
Infringement	3	2.1%	Infringement	1	50%
Compliant	91	63.2%	Compliant	0	0%
Work Order	50	34.7%	Work Order	1	50%
Under 5000sqm	204		Under 5000sqm	127	
Infringement	0	0%	Infringement	0	0%
Compliant	184	90.2%	Compliant	115	90.6%
Work Order	20	9.8%	Work Order	12	9.4%

TABLE 4: Compliance Reached by Suburb

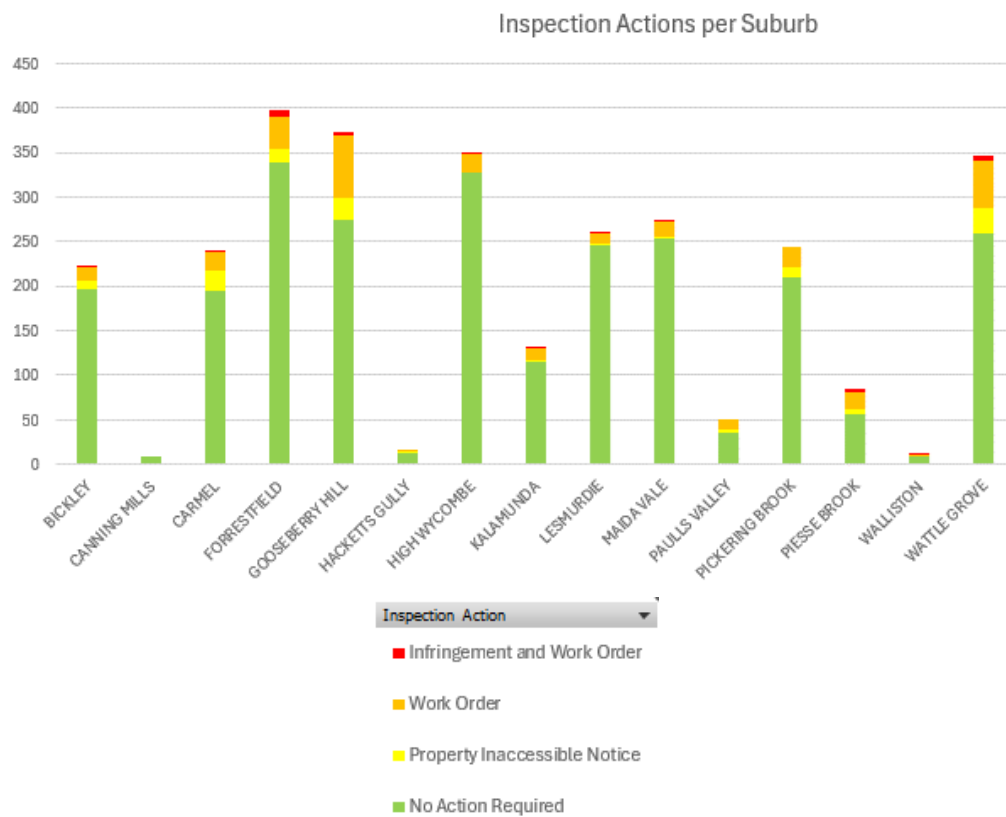
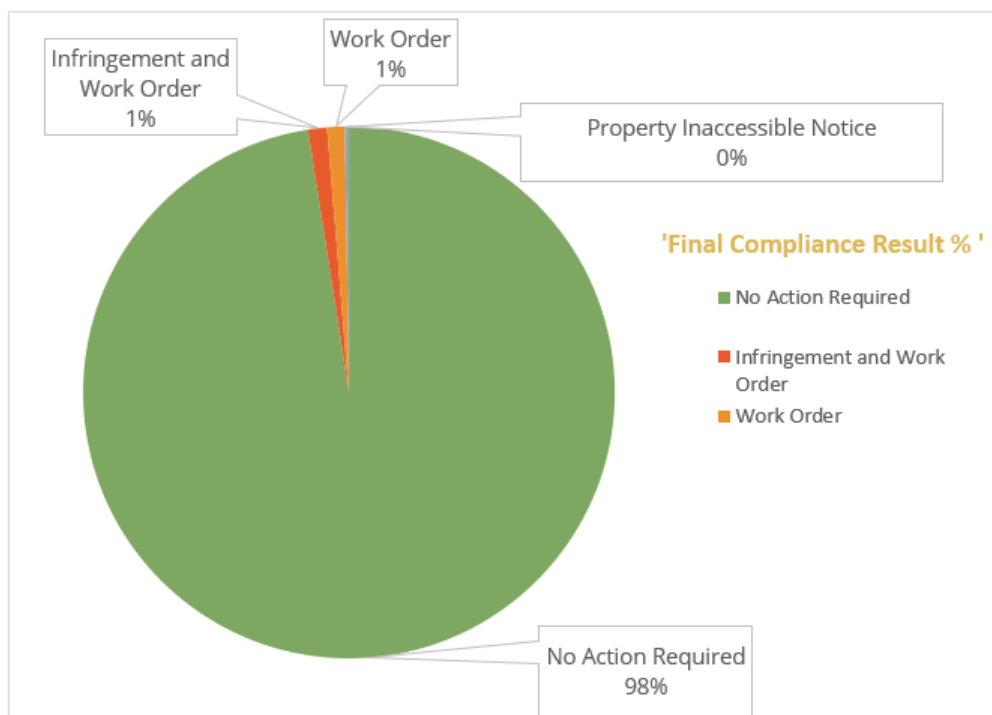


FIGURE 4: Inspection by Suburbs



**FIGURE 5:** Pie Chart of Outcome of Final Inspections as a Percentage

#### Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

The Fire Hazard Reduction Notice (the Notice) is reviewed, Gazetted in the Government Gazette and sent out with the rates each year. A copy of the Notice is also available on the City's website, at City libraries and published in the local newspapers. The City officers also leave a copy of the Notice as a door hanger if they attend a property if no one is onsite the time of inspection.

### Fire Management Requirements for all Land with a Total Area less than 5000m<sup>2</sup>



**Dead Flammable Material (DFM)**  
Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonne per hectare (see definition FUEL LOAD).

**Slashing**  
Slash, mow, or trim unmanaged grasses or dead grasses/weeds, dead shrubs, and dead plants to a height no greater than 50mm.

**Clean Gutter Debris**  
Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.

**Asset Protection Zone (APZ)**  
Maintain a fuel reduced zone around all buildings or assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of the building or asset.

- » Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.
- » Fuel load within the 20-metre zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonne per hectare.
- » Trees over 5 metres in height within the 20-metre zone to be under pruned up to 2 metres.
- » Trees or shrubs within 2 metres of the asset shall be pruned to a height no greater than 2 metres and/or pruned away from the asset to a distance no greater than 2 metres.

### Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

If you consider it impractical to meet a requirement/s of this Notice, you may apply to the City for a variation no later than 1 October 2023.

Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ alternative methods of property preparedness to land that you own and/or occupy.

An administration fee of \$150 applies for all applications received after 1 October 2023.

If your application is not granted you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2023/2024.

Variation request application forms are available before 1 October 2023 on the City's website at: [www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/fire](http://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/fire)

If you require any further information, please contact the City of Kalamunda Community Safety team on (08) 9257 9999, email at [enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au), [www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au) or visit [www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/fire](http://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/fire)

**Gary Ticehurst**  
A/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 2023/2024

**FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE**  
**COMPLIANCE DUE BY: 1 NOVEMBER 2023**

Important: The works outlined within must be completed by 1 November 2023 and maintained in this state up to and including 31 March 2024.



### City of Kalamunda

PO Box 42, Kalamunda, 6926  
(08) 9257 9999  
[enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)  
[www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au)



### Notice to all owners and occupiers of land within the City of Kalamunda

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA), the City of Kalamunda (City) gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy within the City. Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5000. The City's Fire Hazard Inspectors are authorised under the Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA) (Act) and have powers to enter land pursuant to Section 14 of the Act. The City advises that its officers, servants, workmen, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by 1 November 2023, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.



**Fire Break:**  
A strip of land free of all flammable and combustible material with the intention of preventing the outbreak of a bush fire and provides a visible safe access on the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations. It is acceptable to install a firebreak around naturally occurring obstacles. Fire breaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, raking, chemical spraying, or another method as approved by an Authorised Officer.

- » Clearance must be no less than 3-metres wide and 4-metres in height inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves).
- » Must not be more than 4-metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application for approval to the City). Maintained, reticulated living lawns are lawns considered to be kept completely green. Driveways may be acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of, fire breaks. Contact a City Fire Officer for further assistance.
- » Must have a corner turning radius of up to 10 metres.
- » Must be a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, be clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a cul-de-sac (dead end).

### Fuel Load:

Can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation.

Fine fuels include – leaf litter, grasses, weeds, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc.

Heavy (course) fuels include – branches, logs, stumps etc.

A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) to the mineral earth is indicative of approximately 8 tonne per hectare. The more fuel load, the higher the flame height and increased fire intensity.

Mulch piles, stored firewood and burn piles can contribute to fuel loading on land and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Officer.

**Additional Works**  
You may be required to carry out further bushfire property preparedness works on your land to reduce any fire hazards considered necessary by a Fire Control Officer. If required, these will be outlined in a 'work order' and sent to the address of the owner and/or occupier.

**Emergency Management Plans and City Approved Treatment Plans**  
All properties and/or land subject to a Bushfire Management Plan, Emergency Management Plan, or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a City approved treatment plan, must comply with the listed requirements in their entirety. Compliance with any additional plans does not constitute compliance with this Notice.

**Environmental and Heritage Conditions**  
Any property subject to environmental and heritage value such as, but not limited to, Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Bush Forever sites, Declared Rare Flora, and Fauna (DRF) sites and Aboriginal Heritage sites, etc should seek further information about what can or cannot be done prior to carrying out requirements under this Notice.

**Low Threat Minimal Fuel Vegetation**  
Minimal fuel condition means there is insufficient fuel available to significantly increase the severity of the bushfire attack. Low threat vegetation includes grassland managed in a minimal fuel condition, maintained lawns, golf courses, maintained public reserves and parklands, vineyards, orchards, cultivated gardens, commercial nurseries, nature strips and windbreaks. Properties of these description will still be assessed under this Notice and can apply for a variation.

### Fire Management Requirements for all Land with a Total Area of 5000m<sup>2</sup> or more

**Fire Breaks**  
Fire Breaks are to be installed or upgraded to:

- » 3-metre-wide,
- » 4-metre-high clearance,
- » Continuous (no dead ends) and trafficable
- » As close to as possible directly inside the entire perimeter of the land.

Maintained, reticulated living lawns that are kept completely green is acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of a fire break/s (see definition FIRE BREAK).

**Dead Flammable Material (DFM)**  
Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonne per hectare (see definition FUEL LOAD).

**Slashing**

- » If the land is an area above 5000m<sup>2</sup> and less than 50,000m<sup>2</sup> slash mow or trim unmanaged grasses or dead grasses/weeds and dead shrubs and plants to a height of 50mm. This is additional to Firebreak requirements.
- » If the land is an area of 50,000m<sup>2</sup> (5 hectares) or greater the grass must be maintained on the land to a height no greater than 50mm for a distance of 10 metres from any firebreak.

**Asset Protection Zone (APZ)**  
Maintain a fuel reduced zone around all buildings or assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of the building or asset.

- » Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.
- » Fuel load within the 20-metre zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonne per hectare.
- » Trees over 5 metres in height within the 20-metre zone to be under pruned up to 2 metres.
- » Trees or shrubs within 2 metres of the asset shall be pruned to a height no greater than 2 metres and/or pruned away from the asset to a distance no greater than 2 metres.

FIGURE 6: Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 23/24



In the pre-season, an extensive review into all variations that were approved the year before was commissioned. The review objective was to validate the existing application and to work with the landowners to ensure they have employed the relevant alternative mitigation strategies as outlined within the application before approving their variation for the life period.

A variation to the Notice is granted where applicants want to employ alternative methods of property preparedness to land if it's impractical. This could be, for example, due to the topography of the land not allowing for a firebreak to be installed or if there are natural features on the land that won't allow for a firebreak to be installed, such as rocky outcrop, or a creek line. Another reason could be if a house or building are positioned on the property in a way it stops the installation of a firebreak. These types of obstructions are not likely to change giving relevance to a lifetime variation approval.

A variation will not be approved for reasons such as it will cause dust, looks unsightly, erosion or its not impractical to install a fire break if an alternative route is available.

The outcome of the review is that (other than a grazing variation), variations will now be for the life of the ownership of the property if it is not practical to meet the conditions of the Notice.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are for consideration for the next fire inspection period:

- All lifetime variations are reviewed and the property inspected to ensure the conditions of the variation continue to be met.
- All properties that were infringed are to be inspected early in the inspection period.
- All properties issued a Work Order are to be inspected as a priority.

## Plan Execution

### Community Engagement Events and Education

The Community Bushfire Preparedness team attended 10 community events, including the Kalamunda show, Street Meets, Burn Smart, Plants for Residents. The team also attended Pre-Season Property walkthroughs where 84 properties were attended (full overview is included in the previous section 'During the compliance period').

### Zoned Risk Identification

The City of Kalamunda uses data from the Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS) to assess the risks posed by bushfires in the area. The BRMS is instrumental in developing the city's capacity to mitigate bushfires and reduce potential harm to lives and properties. Areas identified as high risk are strongly encouraged to implement preventive measures

and develop emergency response plans. One method of preparedness involves addressing the requirements outlined in fire safety notices (Work Orders) on their properties.

#### Issue the Annual Notice

The annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice was updated, designed and issued along with the annual rates notice, while further physical copies were available at the City Admin building libraries and other City Owned Facilities.

#### Approved Variations

Variations for the 2023/2024 season were changed from applications and approvals being required on an annual basis to applications and approvals being provided for the lifetime of property ownership by the same Property Owners. All previous and new applications were assessed by officers and a total of 121 Variations were applied for with 90 being approved and 33 being declined.

#### Staff and Training

The City of Kalamunda employs two full-time staff with the appropriate background and experience relevant to the role. All officers are appointed and gazetted as Fire Control Officers under the *Bushfire Act 1954* for the purpose of carrying out fire hazard assessments.

#### Fire Hazard Assessment Process

Properties within the City of Kalamunda are assessed between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The assessment of properties results in one of the following outcomes:

- Compliant
- Inaccessible
- Work Order
- Infringement and Work Order

This season there were 2441 inspections completed with 2365 (98%) properties deemed Compliant on the first occasion, 307 (13%) of properties were issued Non-compliance Work Orders, and 132 (5%) were sent Inaccessible notices, a further 39 (2%) Infringements were issued due to continued non-compliance after a follow-up assessment.

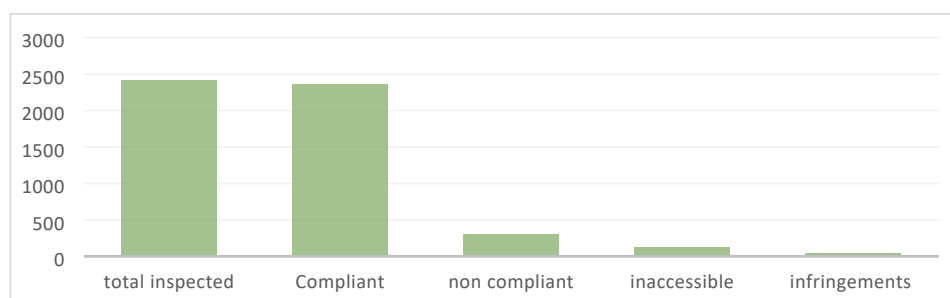


FIGURE 7: Bar Chart of End of Season Results

### Enforcement Process

Properties deemed non-compliant at the time of the assessment will be issued a Work Order, Community Bushfire Preparedness Officers continue to follow up on the assessment until compliance is achieved and if, after the second inspection, works are not attempted satisfactorily for the officer, they may issue a further work order or Infringement if a work order is issued on the second occasion and the officer returns a third time they will then issue an Infringement

### Measure of Achievement

Overall, this season there was a high level of compliance in the cross section of properties that received an assessment. It was noted a 9% increase from the previous season, this reflects the work officers have been doing in the pre-season with attending community engagement events and private property walkthroughs.

The successful initiation and execution of the five-year Fire Hazard Assessment Plan demonstrate the City's commitment to evaluating and managing bushfire risks on privately owned properties. The completion of assessments, compliance rates, and the issuance of work orders to address hazards has had the desired effect in mitigating bushfires in the City of Kalamunda.

The City will continue the emphasis on education and preparedness strategies as a proactive approach to engaging with the community. Achievement can be gauged by increased awareness, participation in preparedness programs, and changes in behaviours towards bushfire safety practices.

Overall, the measure of achievement is reflected in the city's ability to proactively manage bushfire risks, enhance community preparedness, and ensure compliance with regulations to minimize the potential impact of bushfires on lives and properties.

