

## 2023/2024 Rates Notices

**Tip passes waived:** We would like to remind the community that, due to a mailing error causing tip passes to be missing from this year's Rates Notices, we have waived the need for passes to be presented for tip access. Simply show proof of your Shire residency or property ownership (e.g. Rates Notice, drivers licence, utility bill) for entry.

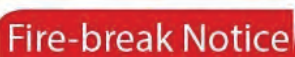
**Payment reference numbers:** We have also experienced a printing error with this year's rates, causing some payment reference numbers to be incorrect and preventing successful online payments. To fix this issue, add '100' to the beginning of the reference number listed on your notice, or use the reference number on your previous notice.

**Change of due dates:** Finally, please note that, as some Rates Notices were delayed by post, we have amended the due dates for both one-payment and instalment payments, giving all residents and ratepayers extra time to pay. Refer to the amendment notice in this month's Herald or visit our website for full details.

If you are having problems paying your rates online or in any other capacity, please contact us so we can assist you.

## Make sure your property is prepared for fire season

As of November 1, the Shire of Toodyay is in the Prohibited Burning Period. Property preparation in line with our Fire-break Notice is now due, fire-break inspections have commenced, and requirements must be maintained until April 30. Fire-break Notice requirements can be checked via the notice included in your rates package, or online at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/resident-services/fire-information/fire-break-notice.aspx](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/resident-services/fire-information/fire-break-notice.aspx).



**Fire-break Notice**

Your legal responsibilities and fire safety information - **First and Final Notice**

The Fire-break Order below sets out the legal responsibilities for land owners and occupiers in the Shire of Toodyay. As a landowner or occupier you are required under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act 1954 to carry out the preparation work on your property. It is important that you read and understand your obligations.

**Shire of Toodyay Fire-break Notice**  
Pursuant to Section 35 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, all residents and occupiers within the Shire of Toodyay are required to comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

**Due Date: 1 November Annually**  
Maintenance must be completed by 30 April Annually.

**Nil:** If you purchase land during the period you have 24 days from purchase to comply with this order. Failure to comply may result in a fine or prosecution.

**1. All land less than or equal to 1 hectare:**

- 1.1 All land with an area less than 1 hectare (2.47 acres) are required to be fire hazards reduced by mowing.
- grass height does not exceed 100mm; and
- no tree crowns overhanging the building; and
- total available fuel load is maintained at 3 tonnes per hectare or lower.

**2. All land greater than 1 hectare**

- 2.1 Land up to and including 200 hectares in size shall have a fire-break cleared and maintained within 30 metres of the external boundary.
- 2.2 Land exceeding 200 hectares in size shall have fire-breaks cleared and maintained to restrict the firebreak into parcels of land less than 200 hectares.
- 2.3 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained within 15 metres from external walls of buildings and around paddocks, solar panels and fuel storage areas.
- 2.4 A 30 metre wide Asset Protection Zone (low fuel load) shall be maintained from external walls of buildings and around paddocks, fuel storage areas such that:
  - grass height does not exceed 100mm; and
  - no tree crowns overhanging the building; and
  - total available fuel load is maintained at 3 tonnes per hectare or lower.
- 2.5 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained immediately surrounding a stationary motor.

**DEFINITION:** Fire-break - An area cleared of all inflammable materials 3 metres horizontally (wide) and 4 metres vertically (high).

**Further Fire-break Notice information over the page**

**Penalties apply including infringement, prosecution or recovery of costs by the Shire of Toodyay.**

**Limited Burning Periods**

<b>RESTRICTED</b> 1 October - 31 October Annually Permit Required
<b>PROHIBITED</b> 1 November - 8 March Annually No Burning
<b>RESTRICTED</b> 9 March - 30 April Annually Permit Required

**OTHER TIMES**  
Restrictions may apply outside the above periods including days of high fire danger or above

**Further During Restrictions and Permit information at rear of this brochure.**

**Administrative Centre**  
15 Fienes St, PO Box 96  
Toodyay WA 6566  
E: [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

**08 9574 9300**  
R: 0874 1118  
E: [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

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From left: Cr Shelly Dival, Cr Rosemary Madacsi and Cr John Prater

## Fresh and familiar faces for Council after Toodyay's October election

Local government elections were held across WA on Saturday October 21, and in Toodyay – after a count of 1,569 votes, many including optional preferential voting for the first time at a local government level – candidates Shelly Dival, Rosemary Madacsi and John Prater were declared elected Councillors for the next four years.

Cr Madacsi continues on Council after initially being elected in 2019, while Cr Prater previously served from 2009-2013. Cr Dival takes on the role for the first time.

All three Councillors were officially sworn in

at a Special Council Meeting on October 23, with sitting Cr Michael McKeown being elected by Council as Shire President, and Cr Dival as Deputy President, for the remainder of their respective terms.

We congratulate all Council candidates for nominating; and thank outgoing Councillors Beth Ruthven, Phil Hart and Susan Pearce for their service and contributions to Council while elected.

Visit our website to view the full 2023 election results, and to find out more about your Shire's current Elected Members.

## An action-packed calendar at the CRC



The September/October school holidays were more entertaining than ever at Toodyay CRC, thanks to our diverse, engaging – and above all, fun – youth programs. First off was a **Stand-Up Comedy Workshop**, where the budding comedians evolved from hesitant beginners to on-stage stars, showcasing remarkable creativity, self-confidence and senses of humour. Toodyay definitely has talent! Then came **Minecraft Day**, featuring a return visit from Craft Dojo (Perth's premier Minecraft club), which saw participants from Toodyay, Northam and beyond building impressive mansions and imaginative hotels. October began with the comfiest kind of costume party – our **Pyjama Party**, complete with games, baking, and 'Murder in the Dark'. Last but not least was an electrifying **Virtual Reality Night** for teens, including 3D multi-brush games and 'Acron: Attack of the Squirrels.' We had it all covered for local kids, and we can't wait to run more events to keep them entertained in future.

A fantastic one for the adults was our Be Connected session, held as part of Get Online Week 2023. Participants explored online shopping, Wi-Fi and data connections, social media and more,

learning how to navigate it all safely and securely – even paying a visit to a virtual reality world in the process. Our appreciation goes out to Kirsten from Bendigo Bank, who stopped by to share some valuable information about online banking and scam awareness; Good Things Foundation, for their generous sponsorship of the event; and Good Things' Cassandra, who represented the organisation and made this event possible.



## Know your plant and machinery fire extinguisher requirements

Did you know that if you are operating any plant or other machinery during the Shire's Restricted or Prohibited Burning Periods, you must carry a fire extinguisher with you? This applies but is not limited to tractors, harvesters and graders.

These requirements are listed in the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and associated regulations, with the intention that any fires sparked may be extinguished while they are still small. With this in mind, operators of plant and machinery must



## Understanding Fire Bans

As we move into fire season, it's important that we all play our part in complying with fire restrictions. These restrictions include Total Fire Bans and Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Bans.

**Total Fire Bans** are declared by DFES. On a Total Fire Ban day, it is illegal to conduct any activity that could start a fire – however, exemptions can be granted for certain industries and activities, as listed on the DFES website: [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/). Total Fire Bans usually begin at midnight and last for 24 hours. To check if a Total Fire Ban has been declared, visit [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) (an RSS feed option is available from this source).

Harvesting operations for agricultural purposes may continue during a Total Fire Ban, until a **Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Ban** is declared by the Shire. Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Bans prohibit vehicle movement across vegetation, crops or similar, and as per a Total Fire Ban, restrict other activities that may cause a fire (such as the use of abrasive tools like welders and grinders). This type of ban can be declared at any time, and is effective immediately until lifted. When in place, it may affect Total Fire Ban exemptions issued by DFES. It can also be declared when no Total Fire Ban is in place. Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Bans are notified via our free SMS service – to receive SMS notifications, text the word 'BANS' to 0408 017439.

Both Total Fire Bans and Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Bans may be declared where reduced fire-fighting resources are available, either at a state or local level respectively. Remember, it's your individual responsibility to be aware of and comply with all bans.

carry a serviceable water fire extinguisher of 7.5lt minimum capacity.

Fires are likely to take hold behind moving machinery, so regularly check the rear of your vehicle. A spotter or fitment of a rear view mirror can help identify fires faster and increase the chances of extinguishing them quickly.

Also note that most plant and machinery carry a dry powder extinguisher for vehicle-based fires. This does not meet legislation requirements, but retaining it is highly recommended.