Helping to keep our community safe

The new Community Local Law came into effect in 2016, and was developed to achieve a greater balance between managing fire risk and addressing environmental and health concerns.

Why burn off?
Burning off is one way residents can dispose of dry dead vegetation such as leaves, branches and weeds that have been removed as part of their annual fire preparedness activities. Open air burning can be a dangerous activity and there are strict rules and guidelines about when and what can be legally burned.

Alternatives to burning off
Burning off should only be used when not other alternative solution is suitable. Other alternatives to burning off include, mulching and composting and hard waste disposal.

More information on alternative options can be found on Council’s website at www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

When can I burn off?
Whether you are permitted to burn off or not will depend on what zone you are in. Other than the residential zone where burning off is not permitted, each zone has different burn off conditions.

Residential Zone
Open air burning, is not permitted within residential areas, except when being used for warmth or cooking, such as barbecues, pizza ovens, chimeneas and fire pits.

Low Density Residential Zone
Open air burning is permitted in low density residential areas if the fire is lit on a Friday, Saturday or Monday between 9.00am and 6.00pm, is not bigger than 5 cubic metres and is not within 20 metres of neighbouring houses.

Rural Zone
Open air burning is permitted if the burn off is not within 100 meters of a neighbouring house and general provisions are met.

Other Zone
A permit from Council is required for open air burning on land that is not zoned as residential, low density residential or rural.

What can’t be burnt?
Materials NOT to be burnt include plastic, rubber, chemicals, petroleum-based products, painted/treated timber, strippers, resins, batteries, glues and aerosol cans, green or wet vegetation.

Near Me
Find your local services and ward information.

For more information contact Council’s Community Compliance Team on 5624 2411 or visit our website at www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
General Provisions
There are a number of general provisions that must be met for burning in the open air:

• Open air burning must not be offensive or a nuisance to other people, be the cause of a health hazard, affect motorists ability to see on the roads, or create any other hazard on or near a road.

• **A notification of burn must be registered** with the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority on 1800 668 511, two hours before the burn off.

• The fire must be supervised by an adult at all times.

• Sufficient fire protection equipment (including an adequate water supply) must be available to extinguish the fire if required.

• At the site of the fire, the wind speed must not exceed 15 kilometres per hour (light breeze and rustles leaves on trees).

• The temperature must be not more than 30 degrees Celsius, and

• Vegetation must be dead and dry prior to burning and must not contain prohibited materials.

More Information
For more information and resources for safe burning, please contact:

• Baw Baw Shire Council’s Community Compliance team on 03 5624 2411.

• Go to [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au) and search ‘Burning Off’.


• Keep informed and up to date on incidents and emergencies via the VicEmergency website at [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

Am I burning off safely?
Before burning off, make sure you have ticked all of the safe burning boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>✓</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Safe Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have you checked your zone and burn off conditions?</td>
<td>This will ensure you are complying with the conditions for when burning off. Find these on Council’s website or by calling 5624 2411.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have you checked the weather?</td>
<td>Check weather forecasts for the day you plan to burn. If it is too windy it is recommended that you postpone your burn. Also check the weather forecast for a few days afterwards. Strong winds on days following your burn can reignite the fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do you have an adequate water supply?</td>
<td>You need to have enough water ready to extinguish a possible outbreak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clean up around your burn site.</td>
<td>Create a 3 metre clearance of all flammable material around your whole burn site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have you registered your burn off?</td>
<td>Register your burn off at 1800 668 511. This will reduce the possibility of CFA being called out unnecessarily to your burn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have you notified your neighbours?</td>
<td>Ensure you are considerate of your neighbours when burning off. Notify them if you are in close proximity and the smoke may affect them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have you put the fire out properly?</td>
<td>Make sure there are enough capable adults to monitor, contain and extinguish your burn safely and effectively. Ensure that your fire is 100 per cent out before you leave it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>