

	<b>Township Burning Permit Policy</b> <i>Policy No. ENVPOL 19</i>	<b>Version No:</b>	1.0
		<b>Responsible Officer/s</b>	Director of Environmental Services
		<b>Issued:</b>	05/06/2017
		<b>Next Review:</b>	Apr 2019

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set a criteria that Council's authorised officers can consider when assessing permit applications outside of the Fire Danger Season for burning within townships in the District Council of Grant.

## 2. Scope

This policy is made subject to the Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016.

## 3. Definitions

### 3.1 Agricultural Waste

Waste produced in the course of agriculture and includes dead stock, diseased crops, crop stubble or other crop waste and waste resulting from the clearing of land for farming.

### 3.2 Authorised Officer

An employee of Council delegated with the authority to issue a Burning Permit in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1993 and the Delegations by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority to Employees of Councils.

### 3.3 Burning Permit

A permit issued by an Authorised Officer of the District Council of Grant, issued in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016, to carry out one or more of the following burning activities outside of a Fire Danger Season:

- Burning agriculture or forestry waste; or
- Burning off vegetation for fire prevention or control; or
- Burning vegetation for any other purpose.

*Permits for lighting or maintaining a fire during the Fire Danger Season are covered under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 and are subject to a separate application and permit.*

### 3.4 Township

A township as declared and gazetted by the District Council of Grant.

## 4. Policy

In July 2016 the new Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016 (the Air Quality Policy) came into effect. The Air Quality Policy, created by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regulates air emissions including those from wood heaters and burning in the open. The intent of the Air Quality Policy is to better protect and improve the health of South Australians and the environment through improved air quality.

The introduction of the Air Quality Policy results in a number of changes to controls relating to burning in the open. In regards to townships within the District Council of Grant area, burning of agricultural waste was previously permitted without the

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requirement of any approval, out of the Fire Danger Season but now requires a burning permit from Council.

In assessing permit applications, Council's authorised officers will use their discretion, all burning piles will be inspected prior to permits being authorised and taking into account the following criteria in determining whether a permit will be issued or not:

- Bushfire risk of the area
- Purpose of the proposed burning
- Amount material to be burnt
- Fuel load present on adjoining properties
- Properties in close proximity or adjoining reserves or national parks
- Proximity and potential impact to neighbouring residents
- Availability of other reasonable means to dispose of the vegetation
- Legitimacy of the proposed burning (i.e. genuine fire hazard reduction or rubbish removal)
- Nature of material to be burnt
- Size of the allotment
- Terrain of the allotment and locality
- Accessibility to the allotment and area where the vegetation is to be burnt
- Is the material declared and/or woody weeds
- Is the material diseased plant material
- Requirements of the Country Fire Service Broad Acre Burning Code of Practice
- Requirements of the Country Fire Service Vegetation Pile Burning Code of Practice
- Religious or Cultural purposes

**5. Responsibilities**

The Director of Environmental Services has the delegation to approve, amend and review any procedures that shall be consistent with this Policy.

**6. References:**

- Environment Protection Act 1993
- Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016
- Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005

**7. Review**

This Policy shall be reviewed by the District Council of Grant at minimum every four (4) years, within 12 months of a general election of Council (or on significant change to legislation or other matters which could affect this policy).

Action	Date	Minute Reference
Adopted by Council	5 June 2017	17079.1