
ROADSIDE BURNING

APPROVALS

POLICY NUMBER	EI-POL-143	DOC.ID	4624430
CATEGORY	Administrative		
POLICY OWNER	Manager Infrastructure Planning & Technical Services		
APPROVAL DATE	30 October 2024	RESOLUTION NUMBER	8918

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to regulate the roadside burning of Isaac Regional Council (IRC) road reserves to ensure that burning does not interfere with either:

- The safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles; and or
- Damage to roadside furniture or structural damage to other structures within the road reserve.

SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all IRC road reserves and other Council-controlled reserves

DEFINITIONS

TERM / ACRONYM	MEANING
Fire Warden	A warden appointed under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i> .
IRC	Isaac Regional Council.
IRC Road	Roads governed and managed by IRC as set out under Section 59 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2009* imposes a responsibility on Council for the management of all local roads within its boundary and therefore Council plays a key role in the conservation and management of remnant vegetation that exists within the roadside reserve.

Additionally, *Section 97 of the Stock Route Management Act 2002* outlines the principles of Stock Route Network Management. Under these principles the stock route network must be managed:

- a. to ensure it remains available for public use; and
- b. to maintain and improve the network's natural resources and travelling stock facilities for use by travelling stock and for other purposes.

Prior to carrying out any fire prevention works, fuel loads need to be properly assessed and the desirability of burning or other fuel reduction methods determined.

Council encourages landholders to prepare for fire and ensure adequate firebreaks are put in place (on private land and not within the road reserve) to protect property and life. Landholders wishing to utilise reserves adjacent to their property for fire protection may apply for written approval from Council (in conjunction with obtaining any necessary permits or approvals from Queensland Fire Department or other agency as required). It is an offence to carry out any burn on a local road reserve or other Council-controlled reserve without the appropriate permit.

Applications received will be assessed in consideration of:

- Vegetation in the affected area and its susceptibility to fire
- Current fire danger ratings
- Previous burns in the area
- Current environmental and weather conditions
- Roadside furniture or structures in the location
- Fodder requirements for current and potential stock route network usage
- Applicant's ability to comply with the provisions of this policy

Landholders wishing to burn state-controlled road reserves must contact the Department of Main Roads for information and approvals.

Once approved by Council, landholders may submit their letter of no objection from Council to the Queensland Fire Department or relevant [fire warden](#) to support their application for a permit to light fire.

Prior to

POLICY PROVISIONS

- A permit to light fire is required for the relevant site from either Queensland Fire Department or relevant fire warden (*Find your local warden [here](#)*).
- Burning off may not be supported by Council if travelling stock is on or likely to utilise the road in the course of their passage within the Isaac Region.
- Depending on stock route needs, proposals may be limited to burning one side of the road only or not supported if one side of the road is already burned to ensure fodder is available for travelling stock.
- An area may be burnt when the wind is forecast to be blowing away from the roadway or at the discretion of the local Fire Warden.
- The following signs must be erected to face approaching traffic from each direction for the full duration of the burning operation:
 - "Smoke Hazard" (MUTCD T4-6 sign) must be erected at least 150 metres before the start of any possible hazard from flames or smoke in each direction.
- The signs must be erected so that they:
 - Are on the road shoulder, no closer than 0.6 metre from the edge of the traffic lane.
 - Can be clearly seen by approaching drivers from at least 150 metres.
 - Are not obstructed from the driver's view by either vegetation or parked vehicles.
 - Are securely mounted and not likely to be dislodged by wind from passing vehicles.

- Are mounted between 200mm -1500mm above ground level of the road surface.
- To ensure that the fire can be properly controlled, firebreaks must be cleared around an area no larger than the applicant can easily control.
- All combustible material within 3 metres of any concrete or timber structure must be cleared so that there is no likelihood of the structure being damaged by heat or flames.
- After the burning off, the road reserve must be left in a tidy condition. Any trees which are unstable due to fire must be felled and burned to ashes.

IRC accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any damage caused by a fire lit under the scope of the approval. All responsibility lies with the applicant and their public liability insurer with evidence of the current public liability insurance cover provided to IRC for the duration of the road burning activities.

POST-BURN NOTIFICATION

On completion of the hazard reduction burn, applicants must again contact Council to advise of the date that the burn was conducted, total area burnt (roadside kilometres, etc) and also to advise of any damage to road furniture.

LEGISLATIONS AND RELATED GUIDELINES

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990.*
- *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*
- *Stock Route Management Act 2002*
- [Stock Route Management Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- [MUTCD TC Signs Collection](#)

REFERENCES

ID	NAME
E&I-GDE-275	Burning of Roadside Reserves
E&I-FRM-629	Application to Burn Roadside Reserves