

# FACT SHEET



## CONTROL OF OPEN BURNING

Lithgow City Council adopted a Control of Open Burn Policy in February 2015, with the objective to establish guidelines for the safe burning on land with minimal health and environmental impacts.

### Why Have Control on Backyard Burning

The burning of rubbish and vegetation in urban areas results in many complaints due to adverse public health effects. It is also a significant contributor to air pollution in urban areas. Some material commonly burnt within urban areas (such as paper and cardboard which could be recycled), is unnecessary. However, the burning of vegetation in or near urban areas causes the most concern.

### Environmental Responsibilities

To effectively manage Council's obligation under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act (Clean Air) Regulation 2010, (Regulation) Open Burn will be managed through the Open Burning Policy.

### Green Waste Services

The disposal of garbage or [Green Waste](#) by burning is generally not necessary as waste collection services are available in residential areas. Disposal of domestic waste at landfill site across the LGA are free for residence making waste disposal easier.

### Control of Burning Regulation

Under the Clean Air Regulation 2010, only dead and dry vegetation may be burnt which has accumulated on the parcel on land during normal use. The approval to burn does not include approval to burn for bushfire hazard reduction, subject to the Rural Fires Act 1007, or clearing of vegetation for construction activities, subject to development consent.

### When is backyard burning Allowed?

All private properties within the Lithgow Local Government Area are permitted to conduct the following burning activities outside of the declared Fire Danger Period (generally April -September) without Council approval for the following purposes:

1. An easily controlled fire for cooking or barbequing, with the fire area covering 1m x 1m or less. It is required that the fire be contained within a properly constructed vessel or container such as a clean metal fire drum.

2. To conduct an easily controlled fire for recreational purposes (eg: camping, scouting, and picnicking), excluding bonfires, with the fire area covering 1m x 1m or less.
3. To conduct training in methods of firefighting by an authorised person.
4. In a licensed incinerator meeting the requirements of the Environment Protection Authority.

### **Larger Properties**

Burning is allowed without the need for approval on a property greater than 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> (1 Acer) for dead and dry vegetation in the course of carrying out agricultural operations on which the vegetation has grown; within the following areas identified under Council's Local Environmental Plan 2014;

- RU1 – Primary Production
- RU2 – Rural Landscape
- RU5 - Village
- R5 – Rural Residential

Notice must be provided to Rural Fire Service (RFS), all adjoining landholders/occupiers and burning must be in accordance with **RFS Standards for [Pile Burning](#)**

### **Application Process**

All other properties requesting to burn are required to submit an application form to Council at least two weeks prior to proposed burn. There is no administration fee, approval are valid for 21 days from the date of issue.

### **Further Information**

Lithgow City Council	- 6354 9999
Rural Fire Service	- 6353 1862
NSW Fire & Rescue	- 6351 3366