

Open Air Burning Rural Areas



October 2025

yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Safer Alternatives to Burning Off

Yarra Ranges Council encourages residents to use burning off as a last resort and to adopt safer, more environmentally and community friendly methods of fuel reduction. These alternatives help reduce fire risk while minimizing the health, environmental, and community impacts associated with traditional burning off.

Recommended Methods:

- **Mulching**
Converts garden waste into useful material for soil improvement and moisture retention.
- **Weekly Food Organic and Garden Organic (FOGO) Collection**
Convenient curb side service for disposing of organic waste responsibly.
- **Bundled Branch Collection (November–December)**
Seasonal service allowing residents to prepare and dispose of branches in a safe, scheduled manner.
- **Hiring a Skip for Green Waste Removal**
Ideal for larger clean-ups, ensuring green waste is removed efficiently and sustainably.

The following burning off regulations apply to residents living in Rural areas:

- A person must not, without a permit, light a fire in a public place
- No burning on a CFA declared Total Fire Ban Day or during the Fire Danger Period
- Barbecues or manufactured fireplaces for the purposes of heat, comfort or cooking are permitted for use except where a total fire ban or other restrictions apply. This exemption ceases immediately if offensive material is burnt or offensive smoke or smoke hazard is caused.

Other legal requirements under the local law:

- Burning off is permitted for fuel reduction and biosecurity purposes* only
- The person has given prior notification to Triple Zero Victoria on 1800 668 511
- Never burn when the wind speed is more than 19km/hour
- There is adequate supervision, a supply of tools and water supply available at all times.
- The smoke/odour does not cause offensive smoke to enter another property or create a smoke hazard for traffic
- The fuel is not noxious or offensive
- The distance from the outer extremity of the fire to any other fuel is at least 3m, including above.

**Burning off for Bio-security purposes is designed to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases.*

These restrictions do not apply to a fire lit in the course of duty by an officer or a member of the Metropolitan Fire and Fire Emergency Services Board, the Country Fire Authority or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Yarra Ranges residents need to be aware of the Open Air Burning Local Law.

The new local law came into effect in 2020 and was developed to achieve a greater balance between managing fire risk and addressing environmental and health concerns.



Council is committed to ensuring a safe and clean environment for all visitors and residents.

As part of that commitment, Council's Open Air Burning Local Law aims to:

- Minimise nuisance and hazards caused by smoke
- Manage fuel loads and protect biosecurity
- Minimise bushfire risk
- Protect the amenity of the Yarra Ranges

A full description of the Yarra Ranges Council Open Air Burning Local Law can be found on Council's website: **yarraranges.vic.gov.au** or by calling: **1300 368 333**

Which area do you live in?

To look up your area, visit **yarraranges.vic.gov.au/myneighbourhood** and enter your address. Ensure that suffixes such as "road" and "street" are spelled out in full.

For more information, visit cfa.vic.gov.au or call Yarra Ranges Council on: 1300 368 333