



PROCEDURE 114 PLANTATION FIREBREAK ASSESSMENT



1. PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES

Internal and external fire breaks are required for all plantations to enable access to all areas of a timber plantation in the event of fire. Access must be provided to and into plantations to meet fire suppression requirements.

The purpose of Procedure 114 is to provide FPC Officers with a tool to assist with the construction and maintenance of firebreaks in timber plantations and to ensure that plantation firebreak assessments are performed consistently and in accordance with the [Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection \(FESA 2011\)](#) and the [Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia \(FIFWA 2014\)](#).

This procedure applies to all Plantations Operations staff that have been tasked with assessing plantation firebreaks.

2. PROCEDURE

The following documents sets out the parameters by which all plantations firebreaks should be constructed by and provides items to assess against when checking firebreaks:

- Section 4.2 of the [Guidelines of Plantation Fire Protection \(DFES 2011\)](#);
- Section 5.1 of the [Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia \(FIFWA 2014\)](#);
- DFES's [Firebreak Location, Construction and Maintenance Guidelines](#).

3. MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT

It is crucial that firebreak assessments and maintenance are carried out prior to the fire season and on a regular basis to allow for remedial works to be undertaken before seasonal fire restrictions take place.

The Authorised Officer must ensure that plantation fire breaks are maintained in accordance with the documents mentioned in Section 2 above.

Fire break assessments should be recorded on an iForm FPC416 – Plantation and property inspection form. Details are automatically captured through electronic data capture and, once completed and can be emailed to the reporting officer for their own records.

4. LEGISLATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- [Bush Fires Act 1954](#)
- [Bush Fires Regulations 1954](#)
- Annual Firebreak Notice (Local Government) (*e.g. Section 33 the annual issuing of Fire Break Notice*)
- [Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection FESA 2011](#)
- [DFES Guideline Firebreak Location Construction and Maintenance](#)
- [DPAW Code of Practice for Fire Management](#)
- [Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia \(FIFWA 2014\)](#)