Somerset
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Why We...
## Plan Burns
### HAZARD REDUCTION BURNS FACTSHEET



**Fire is normally viewed as unpredictable and destructive.**

However, in a planned and controlled environment it can reduce accumulated fuel loads and promote renewed growth in our environment.

Council does not do planned burns itself. Instead, we engage qualified fire management agencies such as the Rural Fire Brigades to plan and conduct burns on Council land.

## What determines when hazard reduction burns happen?

Hazard reduction burns are generally undertaken during the cooler months of February and September, ahead of the peak bushfire season. Burns may also be performed throughout the year if weather conditions are safe and suitable.

Safety considerations include:

- Wind speed and direction
- Temperature
- Future weather forecast
- Moisture

As a rural community Somerset will be exposed to bush fires. To manage that risk, hazard reduction burns help us to plan and control fire under the most ideal conditions, allowing us to focus primarily on protecting the community when severe weather occurs.

**Watch our video**



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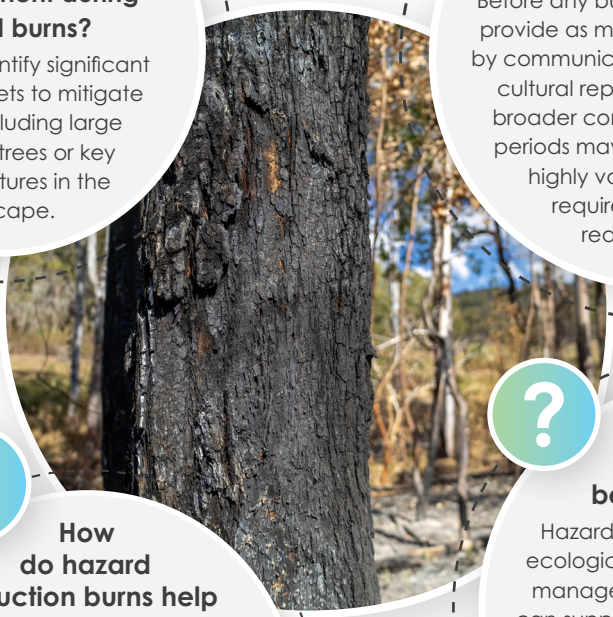
# Hazard Reduction Burns - FAQs

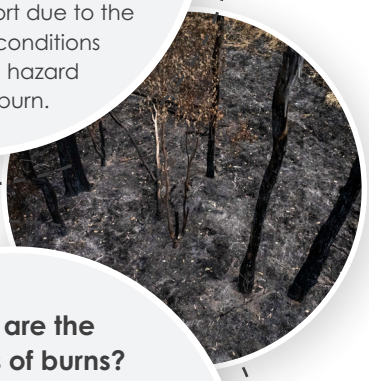
### How does Council prevent damage to the environment during planned burns?

Council will identify significant ecological assets to mitigate damage including large established trees or key habitat features in the landscape.

### Who does Council communicate with prior to a burn?

Before any burns occur, Council will provide as much notice as possible by communicating with landowners, cultural representatives and the broader community. Notification periods may be short due to the highly variable conditions required for a hazard reduction burn.





### How do hazard reduction burns help reduce bushfire risks?

Hazard reduction burns allow Council to manage accumulating fuel loads such as leaf litter, dead vegetation and grass. This proactive action keeps residents safe and reduces fuel if a wildfire were to occur.

### What are the benefits of burns?

Hazard reduction burns provide ecological benefits when carefully managed. A well-managed burn can support the regeneration of fire-adapted plant species, help maintain habitat diversity and contributes to the long-term health of many of Somerset's fire adapted native ecosystems.



