



Victoria Government Gazette

No. S 48 Monday 12 February 2024
By Authority of Victorian Government Printer

Safety on Public Land Act 2004

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONES

I, Jason Hellyer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Grampians, as delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, make the following declaration of public safety zones under section 4(1) of the **Safety on Public Land Act 2004**.

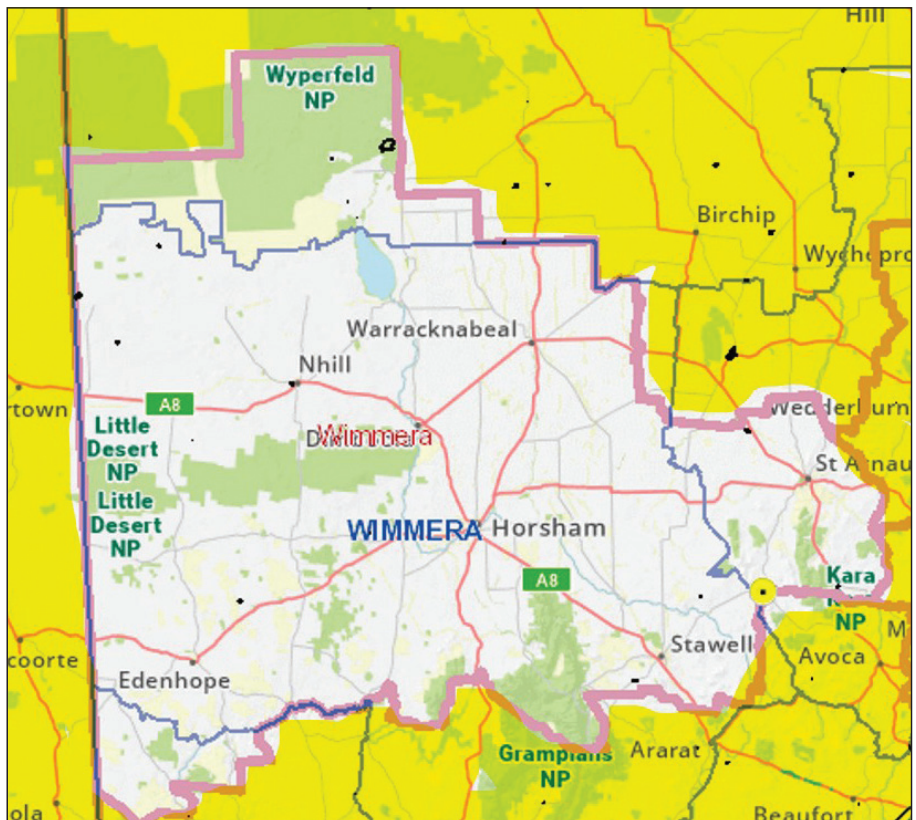
1. Definitions

In this declaration:

- (a) 'the Act' means the **Safety on Public Land Act 2004**;
- (b) 'the declared public safety zone' means the area declared under clause 2 of this declaration;
- (c) 'the Schedule' means the Schedule to this declaration;
- (d) 'Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating' means a forecast rating announced by the Bureau of Meteorology that represents the fire behaviour index predicted for a specific area.

2. Declaration of Public Safety Zones

- (a) The areas of State Forest and Crown Land Water Frontages contained within the Wimmera Fire Weather District, as shown in the map below the area bounded by the yellow shading.



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3. Purpose for which the area has been declared

The purpose for which the declared public safety zones have been declared is for the maintenance of public safety.

4. Period of the declaration

The period for which the declared public safety zones are declared is the period commencing from 12.00 am 13 February 2024 and ending at 11.59 pm on 13 February 2024 inclusive.

5. Activities prohibited

The activities that are prohibited in the declared public safety zones are:

- (a) knowingly entering a declared public safety zone during a period when access is prohibited; and
- (b) knowingly remaining in or being present in a declared public safety zone during a period when access is prohibited.

6. Periods when access is prohibited

Access is prohibited to the declared public safety zone throughout the period of the declaration.

7. Exempt persons or classes of person

Pursuant to section 5(2) of the Act, the following persons or classes of person are exempt from the operation of this declaration:

- (a) Employees, agents and contractors of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action engaged in carrying out their functions;
- (b) Employees, agents, volunteers and contractors of the Country Fire Authority engaged in carrying out their functions;
- (c) Employees, agents and contractors of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board, Ambulance Victoria, WorkSafe Victoria and Environment Protection Authority Victoria engaged in carrying out their functions;
- (d) Members of the police force of Victoria engaged in carrying out their functions;
- (e) Employees, agents and contractors of the Local Government Areas engaged in carrying out their functions;
- (f) Employees, agents and contractors of the Department of Human Services engaged in carrying out their functions;
- (g) Employees, agents, volunteers and contractors of Emergency Management Services engaged by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action or the Country Fire Authority to carry out emergency management functions;
- (h) Employees, agents, volunteers and contractors of Networked Emergency Organisation partners engaged by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action or the Country Fire Authority to carry out their functions;
- (i) Employees, agents and contractors of Water Authorities engaged in carrying out their functions;
- (j) Members of the public using State forest roads as the most practical access to and from private properties surrounding State Forest;
- (k) Employees, agents and contractors engaged in accessing and carrying out functions within a prescribed mine, as defined by regulation 5.3.3 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007, where both an approved work plan, as defined by section 40 of the **Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990**, and an Emergency plan, prepared in accordance with regulation 5.3.34 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007, are in place which address the risk of bushfires.

Dated 12 February 2024

JASON HELLYER
Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Grampians

as delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action

Notes:

1. A map showing the public safety zone is held at the Horsham DEECA office and at the Department's head office at 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002. The map is also available on the following web site: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests>.
 2. In addition to the above persons or classes of person exempted under section 5(2), section 9 of the **Safety on Public Land Act 2004** provides that a public safety zone declaration does not apply to the following:
 - the Secretary;
 - an authorised officer;
 - a utility engaged in the carrying out of its functions in a State Forest;
 - a transport authority engaged in the carrying out of its functions in a State Forest;
 - a person or class of person authorised under section 10 of the **Safety on Public Land Act 2004** to be in the public safety zone.
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