

MEDIA RELEASE

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Act now to reduce fire hazards around your home

As we move into the fire season, Towong Shire Council is urging every household to take action now to prepare their properties for a safe summer. Inspections of properties in township areas will soon take place to ensure that fire hazard risks are addressed as soon as possible.

Cr David Wortmann, Councillor and member of the Towong Shire Municipal Fire Prevention Committee said that clearing up around the home is an essential part of being fire ready.

"Some straightforward jobs such as cleaning out gutters, pruning overhanging branches and removing flammable items that are close to the house will help you to prepare your home for the fire season," advised Cr Wortmann.

As part of Council's preparations for the fire season, Council inspects properties in township areas for fire hazards. If a property is overgrown or contains derelict cars, buildings or other rubbish, a Fire Prevention Notice can be issued. Property owners or occupiers must then remove the hazards within fourteen days or risk incurring a \$1,476 fine plus the cost of Council removing the hazard.

"We encourage all households to access the CFA's Fire Ready information," said Cr Wortmann. "The CFA has a number of tools designed to help you prepare for the fire season," he said.

Visit the *Plan & Prepare* section of the CFA's website www.cfa.vic.gov.au or contact Council to obtain a hard copy of the Fire Ready Kit.

For more information about Council's fire preparation and prevention activities, contact Mr Craig Reid on 02 6071 5100.