

Hepburn

SHIRE COUNCIL



Collecting Firewood
from council roadside reserves

Guidelines

2021/2022



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Hepburn Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we live and work. On these lands, Djaara have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We recognise their resilience through dispossession and it is a testament to their continuing culture and tradition, which is strong and thriving.

We also acknowledge the neighbouring Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri to our South East and the Wadawurrung to our South West and pay our respect to all Aboriginal peoples, their culture, and lore. We acknowledge their living culture and the unique role they play in the life of this region.



Introduction

Firewood from Council roadside reserves can be an important and affordable fuel source for many in our community.



Collecting firewood from roadsides may also help to reduce fuel loads in some areas in the event of a bush fire. Although this may be the case, we need to make sure that when we collect firewood as a community, we are doing it in a safe and sustainable way to ensure we protect our wildlife, the local environment and you.



Protecting our wildlife

Did you know road reserves with fallen hollow logs in Hepburn Shire provide important habitats for a range of species like the Brushtail Phascogale, Brown Toadlet, Marbled Toadlet, Growling Grass Frog, Antechinus and a range of other reptiles and small mammals. We need to ensure that these habitats are maintained to support these important and sometimes rare species.

Protecting our local environment

Collecting firewood from high conservation areas along road reserves may also contribute to the spread of noxious weeds, threatening native flora. We need to ensure that wood is not collected in high conservation areas to reduce the risk of spreading invasive weeds into these important areas.

Protecting you

There are potential dangers associated with the collection of firewood including the operating of chainsaws and stopping and parking of vehicles on roads. We want to ensure everyone collects firewood in a safe way.

Do I need a permit to collect firewood from Council land?

Yes. It is easy and quick to apply for a permit, which you can do online at: www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/firewood or in person at any Council hub location. Also permits are free for Hepburn Shire residents and are valid for 12 months.

Guidelines

These guidelines have been developed to support the community to collect firewood safely and in a way that protects local wildlife and flora. The guidelines relate to the collection of firewood (where, when and how much) on Council land, in particular Council road reserves and for personal or domestic use only (selling firewood collected from public land is illegal).

These guidelines have been developed by a community reference group in consultation with Council and endorsed by Council.

Where you can collect



You CAN collect firewood from:



Council road reserves that are allocated as low conservation areas.



Some areas of State Forests during Autumn and Spring - Visit the Forest Fire Management Victoria website for more information.



Items that are not accepted



Any VicRoads roads – VicRoads do not allow firewood collection on any roadside they manage. Find out which roads are managed by VicRoads by visiting www.vicroads.vic.gov.au



Council roadsides that are allocated as high/ medium conservation areas and busy high traffic collector roads (see the list of roads where you cannot collect fire at the end of these guidelines or on our website at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/firewood)



Within 20 metres of a watercourse (dam, reservoir, lake, wetland, channel, estuary)



Council parks or reserves

What you can collect

You can collect logs and small branches that are already on the ground.



▶ example of wood **ok** to collect



What you cannot collect

You can collect logs and small branches that are already on the ground.



▶ example of wood **not** to be taken



How much you can collect?

You are allowed up to 1 cubic metres of firewood from Council road reserves each time you collect and a maximum of 6 cubic metres in total per year. This photo shows an example of 1 cubic metre in a 6 x 4 ft trailer. Putting a limit on how much firewood can be collected encourages people to only collect for domestic purposes and helps to conserve this resource into the future.



When you can collect firewood

Firewood on Council permitted road reserves can be collected all your round, except during **CFA declared Fire Danger Periods** and on total fire ban days. Firewood must be collected during daylight hours and not during heavy rainfall.

Safety – must do’s

Must do:

Preventing bushfires

- Chainsaws must be fitted with a proper exhaust and spark arrester
- Chainsaws are only to be refilled or filled with oil on a hard water-proof surfaces

Preventing traffic hazards and incidents

- Cars/ vehicles must be parked clear off the road including side lanes or road shoulders
- People stopping to collect firewood on roadsides must follow all Victorian Road Rules and are responsible for safety of traffic
- Firewood loads must be secured

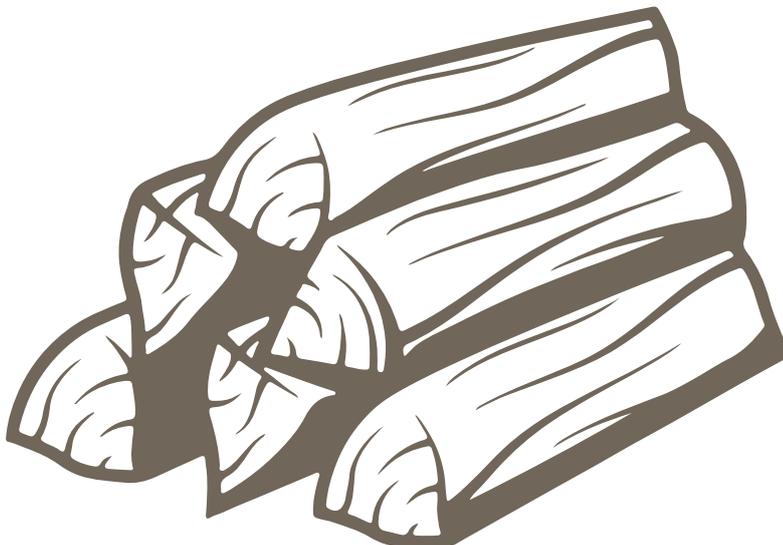
- Heavy vehicles (bigger than 4.5 tonne including any trailer) or heavy machinery (eg: bulldozer, crane, excavator, forwarder, hydraulic log splitter, saw bench, skidder, skid steer loader or tractor) must not be used for firewood collection
- Logs/ trees must not be towed or winched along the ground
- No damage must come to any trees, fences, roadside drainage or other Council asset during the collection of firewood
- Areas must be kept free of litter and left in a tidy manner (i.e. take all personal litter with you)
- Native flora and fauna must not be damaged, disturbed or destroyed

Preventing spread of weeds

Equipment, trailers and vehicles, as much as possible, must be kept free of mud, waste and weed material to minimise the spread of noxious weeds

Preventing accidents

People collecting firewood must wear appropriate Personal Protective and Hi Vis clothing



Safety tips

- It is strongly recommended that all people collecting firewood in Hepburn Shire be trained in the safe use of chainsaws. **Find out more about where to undertake chainsaw safety courses.**
- Avoid working alone or with children and always carry a first aid kit with you
- Assess the area for hazards before you start collecting firewood, including snakes
- Avoid collecting firewood when it is wet, windy or hot
- Keep your equipment well-maintained
- Keep your vehicle on formed roads or tracks

Do I need a permit to collect firewood from Council land?

Yes. By applying for a permit, we can ensure that everyone receives and follows these guidelines to encourage people to do the right thing and to collect firewood from the permitted areas. Applying for a permit is quick and easy. You can apply for a permit online at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/firewood or in person at any Council hub location.

- If you are a Hepburn Shire resident permits are FREE.
- If you are a non-Hepburn Shire resident there is a permit fee (call us on 5348 2306 for more information)"
- Permits are issued throughout the year, however permits are valid from 1 April to 30 March (renewed annually).
- You have to be 18 years or older to obtain a Firewood Collection Permit.

The regulatory stuff

These guidelines have been written to support clause 2.18 of Hepburn Shire's Local Law No2, which states: A person must not, without a permit, remove firewood, including dead trees and fallen branches, from a road reserve or municipal place, unless permitted to do so by Council signage.

(A municipal place refers to any land owned or managed by Council).

The collection of firewood must be in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004, Hepburn Shire's Road Management Plan, and any other Act or Regulation relating to this activity.

Collecting firewood from signed areas

There may be the occasional situation (like after a storm) where firewood may be available from designated areas for collection. These areas will be signed by Council.

More information

For more information visit hepburn.vic.gov.au or contact us via email at Shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au or by phone on (03) 5348 2306.

Hepburn Shire Roads

where firewood collection is **NOT** permitted

Arterial Roads

All Arterial Roads (Roads under the responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria)

A map of these roads can be found in the below link.

This is the best way to show all arterial roads as defined by Regional Roads Victoria.

<https://vicroadsmaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e8fa54687853433eb58e51584b36f681>



Street Name	Suburb	From Street	To Street	Length (m)	Road Hierarchy
Campbelltown-Carisbrook Rd	Campbelltown	Creswick-Newstead Rd	Whites Rd	1598	Link
Daylesford-Clunes Rd	Clunes	Slaughteryard Rd	Midland Hwy	25770	Link
Glengower Rd	Clunes	Angus St	Campbelltown-Carisbrook Rd	16519	Link
Bald Hills Rd	Creswick	Reed St	Gillies Rd	4082	Link
Drummond-Lauriston Rd	Drummond	Daylesford-Malmsbury Rd	Shire Boundary	1076	Link
Hepburn-Newstead Rd	Franklinford	Daylesford-Newstead Rd	Twentieth St	8341	Link
Main Rd Hepburn	Hepburn Springs	Mineral Springs Cr	Twentieth St	3344	Link
Springhill Rd	Spring Hill	Trentham Spring Hill Rd	Daylesford-Malmsbury Rd	11568	Link
Falls Rd	Trentham	Falls Rd S/R	Daylesford-Trentham Rd	1512	Link

Link Roads

Definition - Link roads provide a strategic link between identifiable points of interest, may carry a large volume of vehicles, have a high percentage of heavy vehicles and a high percentage of the vehicles will be travelling the entire length of the road. It primarily provides a linkage between significant residential, industrial or commercial nodes and/or the arterial road network.'



Street Name	Suburb	From Street	To Street	Length (m)	Road Hierarchy
West Berry Rd	Allendale	Lone Hand Rd	R Charlesons Rd	4976	Collector
Blampied-Kooroocheang Rd	Blampied	Daylesford-Clunes Rd	Kingston-Werona Rd	7895	Collector
Blampied-Molonghip Rd	Blampied	Midland Hwy	Dean-Molonghip Rd	11512	Collector
South Bullarto Rd	Bullarto	Daylesford-Trentham Rd	Lynchs Rd	3361	Collector
Clunes-Mt Cameron Rd	Clunes	Glengower Rd	Shire Boundary	8945	Collector
Fairview Rd	Clunes	Ballarat-Maryborough Rd	McDonalds Rd	1707	Collector
Learmonth Rd	Clunes	Kilkenny La	Cooks Rd	4642	Collector
Ascot Rd	Creswick	Gillies Rd	Ellis Rd	3160	Collector
Creswick-Dean Rd	Creswick	Creswick-Bungaree Rd	Daylesford-Ballarat Rd	5047	Collector
Ajax Rd	Daylesford	Raglan St	Fifteenth St	3581	Collector
Old Ballarat Rd (Daylesford)	Daylesford	Chatfield St	Midland Hwy	1718	Collector
Dean-Molonghip Rd	Dean	Daylesford-Ballarat Rd	Molonghip Rd	5587	Collector
Dean-Newlyn Rd	Dean	Daylesford-Ballarat Rd	Midland Hwy	6973	Collector
Back Hepburn Rd	Dry Diggings	Forest Av	Midland Hwy	1949	Collector
Back Glenlyon Rd	Glenlyon	McMahons Rd	Daylesford-Malmsbury Rd	6362	Collector



Street Name	Suburb	From Street	To Street	Length (m)	Road Hierarchy
Forest Av	Hepburn Springs	Mineral Springs Res	Back Hepburn Rd	629	Collector
Church Pde	Kingston	Kingston Rd	Kingston-Newlyn Rd	1047	Collector
Kingston Rd	Kingston	Midland Hwy	Creswick-Newstead Rd	6123	Collector
Werona-Kingston Rd	Kingston	Kingston-Newlyn Rd	Deep Creek	14169	Collector
Millers Rd	Mollongghip	Dean-Mollongghip Rd	Width Change	1372	Collector
Telegraph Rd	Sailors Falls	Ballan-Daylesford Rd	Midland Hwy	10831	Collector
Coliban Rd	Trentham	Daylesford-Trentham Rd	Rothes Rd	2524	Collector
Rothes Rd	Trentham	Trentham-Spring Hill Rd	Coliban Rd	4791	Collector
Trentham-Spring Hill Rd	Trentham	Rothes Rd	Spring Hill Rd	5803	Collector
Ullina-Kooroocheang Rd	Ullina	Daylesford-Clunes Rd	Kingston-Werona Rd	13551	Collector
Griffiths La	Wheatsheaf	Daylesford-Malmsbury Rd	Lightwood Dr	542	Collector
Lightwood Dr	Wheatsheaf	Griffiths La	Gays Rd	414	Collector
Limestone Rd	Yandoit	Daylesford-Newstead Rd	Midland Hwy	6805	Collector

*Note – These list do not every Link or Collector road. Inner urban based roads are of the same classification have not been listed as these are would not be appropriate for roadside firewood collection.

Firewood Collection

PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

Date: _____

TYPE OF PERMIT

Local Hepburn Shire resident Non-resident Permit (call us on 5348 2306 for more information)

CONTACT DETAILS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

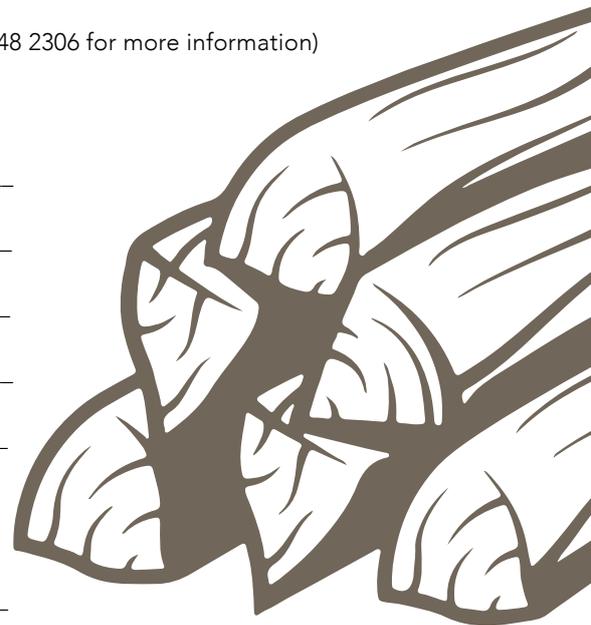
Mobile: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____

Vehicle registration of car used to collect firewood: _____

LOCATION OF COLLECTION:

Please list the location (road) where you wish to collect firewood from:



I have read, understood and agree to all conditions as outlined in the Collecting Firewood from Council Roadside Reserves Firewood Guidelines.

TERMS OF USE

- This permit is valid for 12 months or until 30 March (when it is due for renewal).
- The permit holder shall carry this permit when collecting firewood and must present this permit when requested by an authorised officer.
- Firewood must be transported in the nominated vehicle on this permit.
- The Permit holder accepts that they are the sole parties responsible for any damages or claims arising out of their activities and that Hepburn Shire Council will not be held liable under any circumstances.
- The repair of any damage caused to the surrounding vegetation or Council assets by the collection of firewood will be at the cost of the permit holder.
- The permit holder is 18 years or older
- Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may result in the cancellation of this permit.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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TRENTHAM

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Trentham