

# Backyard Burning

Local Law No.3 (Community and Environment Management) 2011

## FACT SHEET

*Smoke and particles from open-air fires can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their normal daily activities. If severe, it can also have health impacts.*



### The Criteria

Backyard fires in the Fraser Coast are allowed by Council's Local Law only if contained within a firepit or brazier and the smoke from the fire does not cause a smoke impact.

Burning of commercial, domestic, green and recyclable waste is strictly prohibited in non-rural areas.

Rural area land is defined as land that is greater than 20,000sqm and designated rural or rural residential in the Fraser Coast Planning Scheme.

If burning vegetation material that is larger than 2m in height, length, or width you must obtain Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) approval. QFES will only issue permits for fires on rural area land.

All fires must comply with any associated permit conditions, fire restrictions, or bans declared by the State Government from time to time.

### Managing Complaints

When investigating a smoke nuisance complaint, Council will consider

- The amount of smoke,
- The duration, rate of emission and characteristics,
- The sensitivity of the environment and impact that it has had or may have,
- Views of other neighbours or complainants, and
- Other relevant criteria

Council may take enforcement action if fires are:

- Not contained within a firepit or brazier, and
- Causing a smoke impact.

### Be a Good Neighbour

Talk to your neighbours. Find out what concerns they have or ask for suggestions to solve problems. Solutions can often be found which satisfy everyone.

### Handy Hints

- Use clean dry firewood.
- Recycle or reuse wastes.
- Take large branches, palm fronds or trees to Council waste tips or transfer stations.
- Give fires maximum airflow for efficiency, resulting in less smoke.
- Ensure adequate fire-control for safety.
- Observe weather conditions before lighting fires. If possible, choose a calm day.

### Additional Information

To obtain further information about Backyard Burning, please feel free to reach out to Council using any of the following methods:

- Visit the website:  
<http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au>
- Contact us by phone at 1300 79 49 29
- Send an email to:  
[enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

For information about your local fire warden or and State Government fire bans or restrictions visit:

[www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au)

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