

Fire Danger Period in force

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) introduced the Fire Danger Period for Bass Coast and South Gippsland yesterday.

CFA Group Officer for Bass Coast, Damien O'Connor, said the Fire Danger Period is when CFA restricts the use of fire in the community.

"When it starts depends on the amount of rain, grassland curing rate and other local conditions. These restrictions will be in place until 1 May 2017 unless revoked or varied," Mr O'Connor said.

Community members are encouraged to look at the CFA information sheet, 'Can I or Can't I?', or the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can/ for answers to commonly asked questions about lighting fires during the Fire Danger Period and on Total Fire Ban Days.

South Gippsland's Regulatory Services Manager Matthew Patterson urged people to seek out the available information before striking that match.

"Yes, you can have a barbecue or light your pizza oven during the Fire Danger Period – unless it's a declared Total Fire Ban Day – it's just that there are conditions in place to keep us all safe," said Mr Patterson.

Bass Coast Shire Council's General Manager Healthy Communities and Governance David Elder said the CFA information sheet highlights that some councils have local law conditions on the use of incinerators.

"In Bass Coast, incinerator fires are not permitted in residential areas at any time," Mr Elder said. "We can't stress enough that lives and property are put at risk when people do not comply with fire restrictions and regulations."

If you want further information on the Fire Danger Period call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 or visit <http://emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare/>.

Information on local laws across the Shires are available online from www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au for South Gippsland and www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/locallaws for Bass Coast.

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