

Backyard Burning

There have been some complaints about backyard burning in your neighbourhood. This fact sheet sets out the laws related to lighting fires in residential areas and how Council handles complaints.

Lighting a fire

Under Council's Local Laws you may not light a fire that:

- Disrupts or inhibits an activity ordinarily carried out on adjoining or nearby residential premises
- Could cause irritation (smoke or fumes), annoyance or distress to others
- Could be a risk to people or property

Burning off

You can obtain a permit for burning off (such as burning garden or other rubbish in an incinerator, on vacant land or on a road reserve), from the Rural Fire Service Queensland (except where the fire is not permitted under Local Laws). For further information visit ruralfire.qld.gov.au (and search fire permit).

Cooking fire

You can light a fire, such as a barbecue, for cooking purposes but you **MUST** make sure the fire does not cause excessive smoke, irritation or annoyance to others.

What we do

When investigating complaints about smoke and fumes we consider:

- The amount of smoke or fumes being emitted
- The location and purpose of the fire
- The views of neighbours and those making a complaint

Penalty

We can issue a \$652 fine to anyone lighting a fire that doesn't comply with the rules set out here.

More information

Please contact us on 1300 69 22 47 or council@cairns.qld.gov.au if you have any questions or to report a problem.



If they get out of hand, backyard fires can be a risk to neighbouring properties as well as to your own. They can also produce smoke and fumes that are a nuisance