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](http://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 $667 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.