

CANE BURNING NOTIFICATION

The Cane Burning Notification gives cane growers the authority to burn sugar cane in accordance with the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, provided minimum conditions are met.

Any cane grower can still apply to burn cane under the authority of a Permit to Light Fire.

What the Cane Burning Notification is used for

The Cane Burning Notification is one of two mechanisms available to cane growers to ensure that burning of sugar cane is authorised in accordance with the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*.

The Notification issued in the Queensland Government Gazette on 31 May 2019, sets out minimum conditions for the burning of sugar cane and replaces previous versions released in 2004 and 2010.

[Click here to obtain the Cane Burning Notification.](#)

When should cane growers apply for a Permit

Any cane grower can apply for a Permit to Light Fire, regardless of whether their land is eligible for burning under the Notification.

Cane growers must apply for a Permit to Light Fire if they cannot meet conditions of the Notification or if they believe that they are unable to meet these conditions.

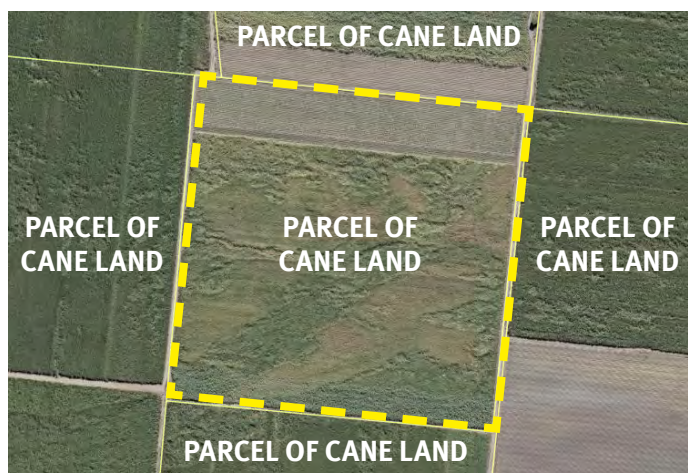
[Click here to apply for a Permit to Light Fire.](#)

Land eligible under the Notification

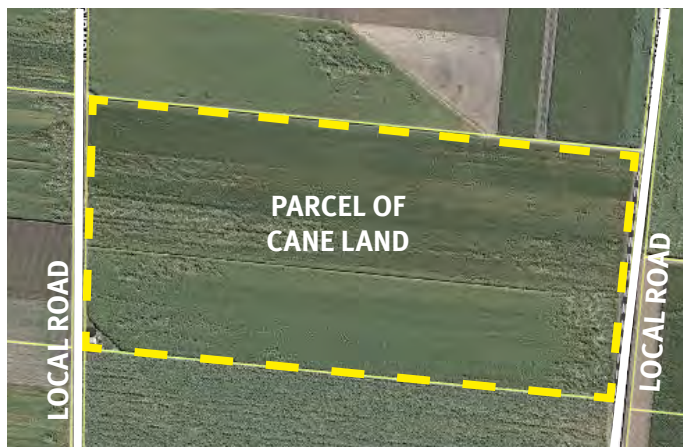
The Notification applies to parcels of land that are used to produce sugar cane under a supply contract with a sugar mill.

Four cases define if an area of cane is eligible for burning under the Notification. These are:

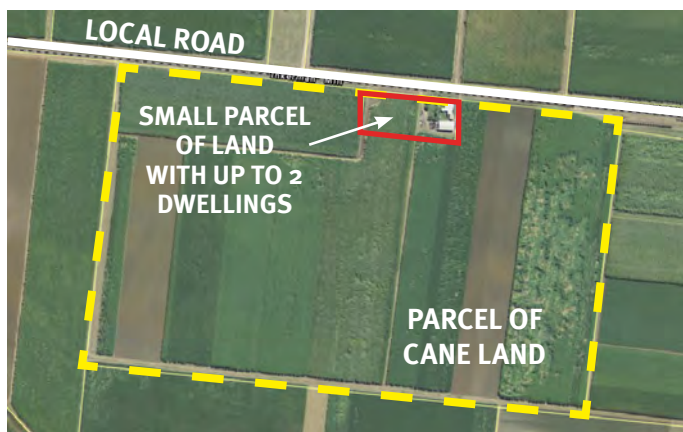
- *Case 1. The parcel of cane land (i.e. Lot) is fully surrounded by other parcels of cane land (see Clause 12 a i)*



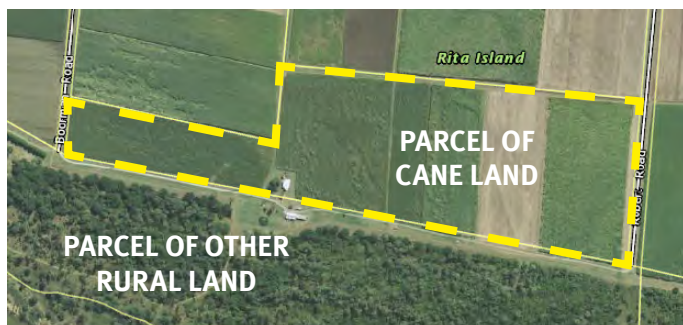
- *Case 2. The parcel of cane land is adjacent to a road reserve that may contain a local road but not a main road or highway (Clause 12 a ii).*



- *Case 3. The parcel of cane land is adjacent to a single parcel of land (no greater than 2,000 square metres) with up to two dwellings (Clause 12 a iii).*



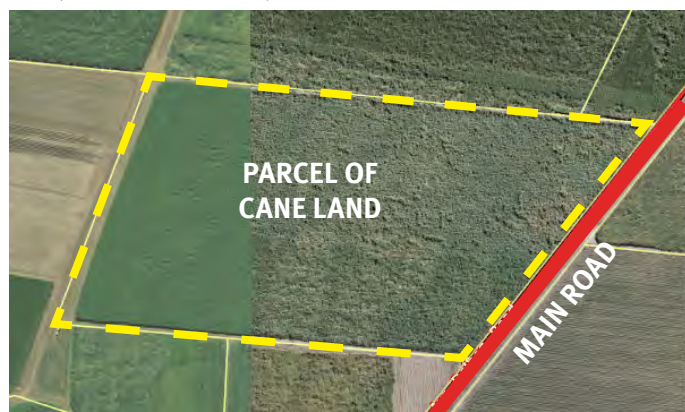
- *Case 4. The parcel of cane land is adjacent to parcels of land used for rural purposes other than the production of sugar (Clause 12 a iv), provided that:*
 - » *the area of cane to be burned is separated from any flammable material, buildings or other property on the adjoining parcel of land by an area no less than 10 metres wide that is clear of flammable material, and*
 - » *the owner or occupier of the adjoining parcel of land has provided written advice that they do not object to the proposed lighting of fire.*



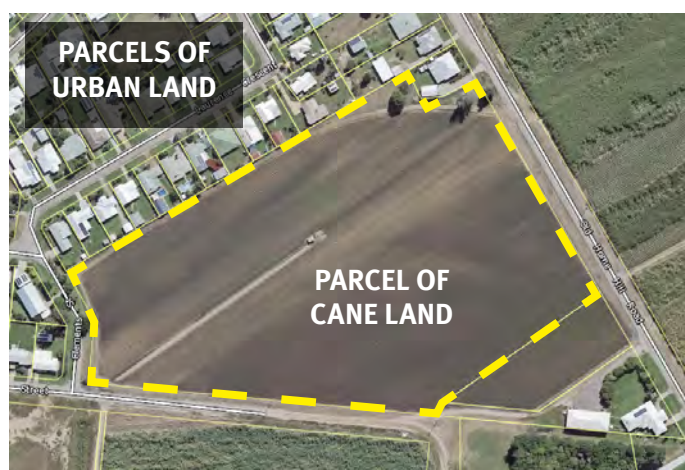
Land NOT eligible under the Notification

There are two cases where land is not eligible for authorised burning under the Notification. These are:

- *Case 5. The parcel of cane land adjoins a road reserve that includes a highway or main road (See Clause 12 b i).*



- *Case 6. The parcel of cane land adjoins a parcel of land that is used for urban purposes or other intensive activities (Clause 12 b ii).*



Compliance with other law

- The notification does not exempt the owner or occupier from complying with other legislation, laws, regulations or policies (Clause 7).
- The lighting of fire must conform with any Local Law administered by a Local Government and provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Clause 9).
- Where the area to be burned is within 25 metres of a high voltage transmission line, the owner or occupier must comply with requirements of Powerlink Queensland (Clause 17).

Minimum conditions: Separation

- The area of cane to be burned must be separated from any flammable material on adjoining parcels by a vehicular access track that is clear of flammable material (Clause 10).
- Any residual tops or trash to be burned must be at least 10m from any headland and from all other flammable material (Clause 11).

- If the parcel of cane land adjoins a small single parcel of land (less than or equal to 2,000 square metres) owned or occupied by the grower with no less than two residential dwellings, the residential dwellings must be separated from the area of cane to be burned by an area clear of flammable material no less than 10 metres wide (Clause 12 a iii).
- If the parcel of cane land adjoins parcels of land used for other rural purposes, the area of cane to be burned must be separated from any flammable material, buildings or other property on the adjoining parcel of land by an area clear of flammable material that is no less than 10 metres wide (Clause 12 a iv).

Minimum conditions: Weather

No burning is to be conducted under the Notification:

- If a Local Fire Ban has been declared (Clause 6).
- Between 10 o'clock in the morning and 2 o'clock in the afternoon (Clause 13 a).
- If the forecast wind speed from the Bureau of Meteorology exceeds 24 kph (Clause 13 b).
- If the wind direction is likely to cause smoke from the fire to become a hazard on a local road, main road or highway (Clause 13 c).

Minimum conditions: Smoke hazard signs

- Where the area to be burnt adjoins or is within 100 metres of a local road, highway, or main road, a smoke hazard sign must be erected (Clause 14).



Minimum conditions: Equipment and persons

The following minimum precautions must be in place while the fire is active:

- at least three persons must be on site who are mentally and physically capable of undertaking fire-fighting (Clause 15 a).
- all persons and vehicles on site must have communications equipment (Clause 15 b).
- at least one vehicle must be on site fitted with a water tank, able to access and extinguish fire (Clause 15 c).
- at least one vehicle or equipment capable of creating a bare earth firebreak must be available (Clause 15 d).

Once the fire is no longer active, the perimeter of the burnt area must be patrolled (Clause 16).

Further information

Contact your local Fire Warden or Rural Fire Service Area Office. For contact details visit the Rural Fire Service website.