

Bush Fire Risk Management Plan

Planning together



Newcastle

Bush Fire Management Committee

Local Government Area of Newcastle

Bush Fire Coordinating Committee – Policy No 01/2023

Commencing 2025



Approval

In accordance with the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, this Bush Fire Risk Management Plan has been prepared by the Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee and has been endorsed at the BFMC meeting on Thursday 23rd January, 2025 for submission to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee.

Recommended

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Cl Charlotte McCabe".

Cl Charlotte McCabe

Chair

Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee

Approved



Chair

Bush Fire Coordinating Committee

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgement to Country

The Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work, and the lands we travel through. We also acknowledge our Elders – past, present and emerging.

1.2 Introduction

A Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) provides information on the bush fire risks within your community. It also outlines how land managers along with fire authorities are going to effectively manage those risks through implementing various treatment strategies.

The development of a BFRMP is a legal requirement under section 52 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (NSW) (the Act). The BFRMP, including the accompanying appendices and spatial data, is prepared by Newcastle BFMC and is approved by the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC).

A BFRMP is a strategic document that identifies community assets and values that may be at risk from bush fire and identifies coordinated multi-agency objectives and associated treatment strategies to reduce the risk over a five-year period. Treatment strategies may include such actions as hazard reduction burning, mechanical clearing, targeted community engagement programs and ignition prevention activities. The treatment strategies are implemented by the member agencies / organisation of the BFMC and are monitored and reported on an ongoing basis.

This document (including its appendices) and the accompanying maps form the BFRMP for the Newcastle BFMC area. It covers both public and private land and is to be reviewed and monitored annually.

This BFRMP is applied in conjunction with the BFMC's Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plan and Operations Coordination Plan to provide a comprehensive approach to risk mitigation and operational preparedness.

1.3 Aim and objectives

The aim of this BFRMP is to reduce the risk of adverse impacts of bush fires on life, property, infrastructure and environmental, economic, cultural, agricultural and community assets.

The objectives of this BFRMP are to:

- Objective 1:** Reduce the number of human-induced bush fire ignitions and their potential to cause damage to life, property, infrastructure and environmental, economic, cultural, agricultural and community assets.
- Objective 2:** Manage fuel to reduce the rate of spread, intensity and impact of bush fires on life and assets while minimising damage to environmental and cultural values.
- Objective 3:** Increase the community's resilience to bush fires by improving its preparedness, response and recovery.
- Objective 4:** Provide advice and strategies to plan, prepare and implement activities to effectively contain fires with the potential to cause damage to life, property, infrastructure and environmental, economic, cultural, agricultural and community assets.

1.4 The Planning Process

The Australia/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 31000: 2018 Risk Management was used to guide the bush fire risk assessment process. This is outlined in Figure 1 below.

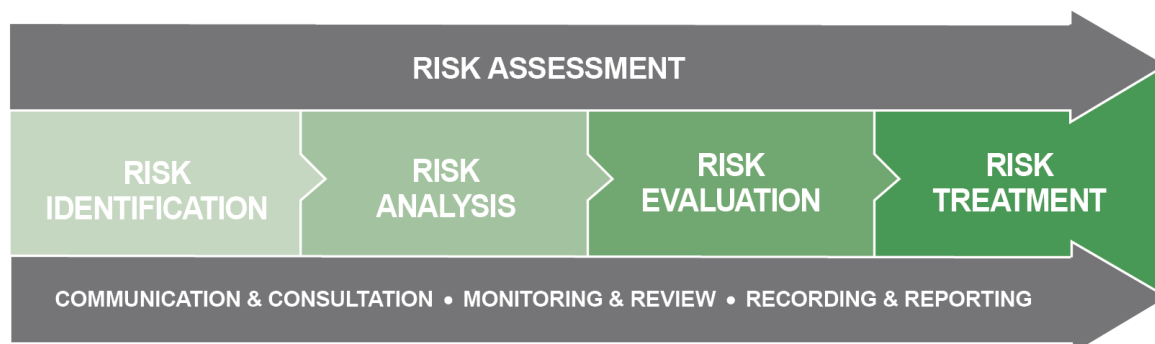


Figure 1: Overview of the risk assessment process

Chapter 2

Risk Assessment

2.1 Assets

An asset is something that is valued by the community. There are four main categories of assets considered in the BFRMP, each with subcategories.

2.1.1 Human settlement

- Residential areas including urban-bushland interface areas and rural properties; and
- Special Fire Protection areas including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and tourist facilities.

2.1.2 Economic

- Agricultural - includes crops, bulk grain storage, grazing, horticulture, intensive animal production, livestock, fencing and major machinery sheds;
- Commercial - includes commercial services, Defence facilities, research facilities and ports and water transport;
- Electrical - including transmission lines, substations and electricity generation plants;
- Forestry assets – native forests, hardwood and softwood plantations;
- Industrial - includes general purpose factories, food processing factories, major industrial complexes, abattoirs, oil refineries and sawmills;
- Infrastructure – airports, communication towers, roads, railways, waste treatment plants, water treatment plants;
- Mining - combustible, non-combustible and underground;
- Recreational – community recreation facilities and major sporting and recreation complexes; and
- Water catchments.

2.1.3 Environmental

- Threatened Flora and Fauna – includes iconic species such as koalas and the Wollemi pine, threatened species, threatened ecological communities (TECs), and threatened populations at risk of extinction in NSW;
- Fire sensitive vegetation communities – includes regulated wetlands, RAMSAR wetlands and rainforest vegetation communities;
- Land covered by statutory conservation and biodiversity agreements;
- World Heritage and national and state heritage listed areas;
- Land with geological significance – includes land with high erosion potential, or geotechnical risk, karst landscapes and sand dunes;

- Environmentally significant land identified by an Environmental Planning Instrument - including Local Environment Plans (LEPs) and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs); and
- Other locally important assets – including vegetation identified as bush fire refugia, bush regeneration areas and Assets of Intergenerational Significance (AIS).

Note: not all of these assets have quantitative risk assessment methodologies.

2.1.4 Cultural

- Aboriginal heritage – including items recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System and predictive site locations from the Aboriginal Sites Decision Support Tool (ASDST);
- Non-Indigenous cultural heritage – items and places from the State Heritage Inventory, Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register and the Historic Heritage Information Management System.

Assets across all four categories have been identified using geographic information system (GIS) data including land use classifications and cadastre (Lot boundaries), as well as local knowledge.

2.2 Neighbourhood Safer Places

A Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) is defined by section 62C of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* as “land or a building designated as a neighbourhood safer place”. NSPs provide a place of last resort for people during a bush fire. All designated NSP locations for NSW are available at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

The Newcastle BFMC considered the number and location of Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) within the BFMC area. All NSPs in Newcastle BFMC area require ongoing treatment by the applicable land owner to ensure that the asset remains viable as a place of last resort for people during a bush fire. Therefore, all NSPs within the BFMC area are required to be treated and have been included in the Fuel Management Register.

2.3 Risk Identification and Analysis

This BFRMP is underpinned by a risk quantification methodology based on fire behaviour modelling (Phoenix RapidFire). The fire simulation process applies an ignition model, local historical weather and historical fire information to determine where fires are most likely to occur in the landscape. A Bayesian Decision Network model is used to quantify the bush fire risk to each asset in the landscape based on relevant vulnerability criteria.

Bush fire risks may also be identified during the process from qualitative assessment methodologies. For example where expert local knowledge identifies a significant area of concern, challenges in firefighting or locally significant values.

The risk maps for each asset category are provided in Appendix 3.

For a detailed description of the methodology used for assessing bush fire risk, please see [BFCC Policy 01/2023 - Bush Fire Risk Management and supporting documents](#), available on the NSW RFS website.

Chapter 3

Treating Risk

3.1 Treatments

The purpose of risk treatment is to reduce the likelihood and/or harmful consequences of bush fire to the community and environment, through a process of selecting and implementing risk treatment options that modify the characteristics of the hazard, the community or the environment. There are three types of treatments considered in the BFRMP:

1. BFMC Wide Treatments;
2. Focus Area Treatments; and
3. Fuel Management Treatments.

BFMC members and land managers routinely implement risk treatment strategies in accordance with legislative requirements, policy and asset management. For example, vegetation management, restrictions on development in bush fire prone areas, bush fire education and fire suppression activities. We refer to these as BFMC Wide Treatments. These activities occur outside the BFRMP and reduce the bush fire risk to assets and communities throughout the BFMC area.

The risk assessment process applied in this BFRMP assists BFMCs in identifying strategic Fuel Management Treatments and Focus Area Treatments.

Fuel Management Treatments include hazard reduction burns and vegetation clearing. These are designed to protect life, property and the environment from intense bush fires. While they will not completely stop bush fires from starting and spreading, these treatments can help protect firefighters, assist with containment strategies and reduce the potential damage to community assets and environmental values.

Focus Areas are groups of assets in the landscape that the BFMC has identified as having significant or unacceptable risk. The BFMC has specifically identified Focus Area Treatments for these areas and they prioritise these treatments over all others.

3.1.1 BFMC Wide Treatments

BFMC wide treatments are activities which are undertaken to reduce the overall bush fire risk within the BFMC area.

The following table identifies the BFMC wide treatments applicable to the Newcastle BFMC area.

TREATMENT	DESCRIPTION
Plan of Operations	Under Part 3 Division 4 Sections 52 and 53 of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> , BFMCs are required to prepare and submit to the BFCC a Plan of Operations and must review the Plan every two years. The Plan of Operations details the co-ordinated firefighting arrangements and fire management practices and ensures that each BFMC member is able to execute its role and specific responsibilities.
Treatments in the Fire Access and Fire Trail Plan Treatment Register	Under section 52 of the Act, BFMCs must develop a Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plan for their area and must review the FAFT Plan every five years. Fire trails are an important part of ensuring firefighters can access fires and safely contain them. Fire trails may also be used as fire control lines for hazard reduction burns, however this is not their primary purpose. In accordance with the NSW RFS Fire Trail Standards the BFMC may prepare a Treatment Register which sets out a schedule of works for the construction and maintenance of fire trails. The Standards provide that the Treatment Register is updated annually and typically forms part of a FAFT Plan. Treatments contained within the FAFT Plan Treatment Register (as amended from time to time) are BFMC Wide Treatments under this BFRMP.
Ignition Prevention Plan	The BFMC will develop an Ignition Prevention Plan (IPP). The purpose of the IPP is to provide firefighting authorities, NSW Police and Local Authorities with localised strategies to prevent ignitions. In particular, deliberate or careless ignitions and illegal fires.
Land & Asset Management	There are organisational plans, standard policies, Regulations and procedures for the management of assets and/or land managed by BFMC members. For example vegetation clearance around power lines, maintenance of public land, and agency-specific fire management plans.
Local Environmental Plans	Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) guide planning decisions for local government areas. They do this through zoning and development controls, which provide a framework for the way land can be used. LEPs can be used to exclude development in significant bush fire risk areas or in areas where bush fire protection measures cannot be incorporated.
Environmental Approval for all Hazard Reduction	Land management agencies will obtain environmental approval (through the Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code, or other approval process) to undertake any activities that have the potential to impact the environment e.g. hazard reduction burning or vegetation removal. The environmental assessment process considers flora, fauna, threatened species, cultural assets, soil erosion, riparian areas, biodiversity fire regimes, weeds and air pollution (smoke).
Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping and Planning for Bush Fire Protection	Section 10.3 of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i> requires the land subject to a BFRMP to be mapped in accordance with Guide for Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping. Bush Fire Prone Land Maps are used as a trigger mechanism to ensure that new development is approved in accordance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP). PBP sets planning specifications which aim to increase the likelihood of structures surviving a bush fire, and in combination with Australian Standard 3959 Building in Bush Fire Prone Areas which specifies building standards. All new development on Bush Fire Prone Land will be assessed in accordance with PBP.

Hazard complaints	It is the duty of land owners to prevent the occurrence of bush fires on, and to minimise the danger of the spread of bush fires on or from, their land. Under section 66 of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>, a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Notice can be issued, directing a hazard be removed. This Notice can be issued to private and public landowners. If the Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Notice is not complied with, the NSW RFS will remove the hazard, and may pursue the cost from the landowner. Under Section 73 and Section 74E of the Act, the NSW RFS Commissioner may direct hazard reduction works to be undertaken.
Community engagement	This includes state-wide public awareness initiatives as well as local community interactions between fire agencies, land managers and local communities.
BFMC Bush Fire Danger Period	The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> sets the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period. A Fire Permit is required for burning activities during the Bush Fire Danger Period in Rural Fire districts and at all times in Fire and Rescue (FRNSW) districts around the state. Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely during the Bush Fire Danger Period. A permit imposes conditions on the way a fire is lit and maintained, and can only be issued by authorised Permit Issuing Officers. The permit provides landholders who intend to burn, with the conditions they are to adhere with to ensure adequate and appropriate measures are in place, and that fires remain under control.
Firefighting response	All firefighting authorities in NSW have legislation, regulations, policies and procedures for responding to bush fire events within their area of jurisdiction.
Prosecution of arsonists / offenders	Under the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> persons may be prosecuted for a range of offences. These offences include: • deliberately setting fire to the land of another person without consent; • lighting a fire without notifying the relevant authority; • breaching the conditions on a fire permit; • lighting a fire during a Total Fire Ban; • allowing fire to escape their property; or • other breaches of the Act.

Table 1: BFMC Wide Treatments

3.1.2 Fuel Management Treatments

Hazard reduction is an important component of managing bush fire risk. Hazard reduction involves removing or reducing the fuel (vegetation) in order to modify the potential fire behaviour, to reduce extreme bush fire behaviour and associated impact to firefighters and to community assets and values, to assist in fire suppression and to enable appropriate fire regimes to be implemented.

The BFRMP Fuel Management Register is a list of hazard reduction activities that the Newcastle BFMC has identified as strategic treatments in the BFRMP. The fuel management treatments include prescribed burns, vegetation removal in BFMC-managed asset protection zones and the development or maintenance of fire breaks.

All hazard reduction activities listed in the Fuel Management Register are proposed to be completed within the five-year term of BFRMP, however, those activities that are linked to a Focus Area will be treated as a priority. The occurrence of bush fires will necessitate annual revision and reprioritisation of the treatment schedules.

See Appendix 2 for the Newcastle BFMC Fuel Management Register.

3.1.3 Focus Area Treatments

The management of bush fire risks involves a coordinated approach from fire authorities, landowners, land managers, planning authorities, local councils and the community. Even with the combined resources of these stakeholders, it is still not possible or practical to actively treat all bush fire risks across the landscape. It is therefore important for communities and BFMCs to determine what areas will form the focus for the application of specific treatment strategies in this BFRMP.

Focus Areas were determined through an analysis of the quantitative risk assessment data, but also consider factors such as the social vulnerability of the community, access and egress and local significance.

There are five Focus Areas within the Newcastle BFRMP. These are:

- John Hunter;
- Kooragang Island;
- Hexham Swamp;
- Hunter Wetlands; and
- Glenrock North

These are areas that have been specifically identified as having an unacceptable risk and require additional, targeted treatment strategies within the five-year BFRMP.

There are four key objectives available to manage the bush fire risk to Focus Areas and each objective has a number of associated treatment strategies (Table 2). The BFMC has identified the most appropriate objectives and treatment strategies for each Focus Area. The Focus Area treatment strategies selected by the BFMC will be addressed annually as part of the BFMC Annual Works Program.

KEY OBJECTIVE	FOCUS AREA TREATMENT STRATEGY
Fuel Management Reduction or modification of bush fire fuel with the intent of slowing the spread of bush fire and aiding firefighting operations.	Asset Protection Zone
	Ignition Management Zone
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone
	Land Management Zone
	Fire Break; Linear
	Fire Break; Transport Corridor
Ignition Prevention Prevention or reduction of bush fire ignitions (arson & accidental).	Grazing Program
	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness
	Access Restriction; addressed in BFMC Ignition Prevention Plan
Community Preparedness Measures to enhance community preparedness for bush fire in order to reduce risk to life and assets.	Patrol; addressed in BFMC Ignition Prevention Plan
	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness
	Community Engagement; Planning
	Community Engagement; Preparation
	Community Engagement; Community Resilience
Response Area specific response requirements in addition to standard procedures.	Community Engagement; Community Response
	Operational Readiness Arrangements; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations
	Neighbourhood Safer Place; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations
	Pre-Incident Plan; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations
	Fire Access or Fire Trail; addressed in BFMC FAFT Plan

Table 2: Key objectives for treatment strategies.

For more information on Treatment Strategies see Annexure B of [BFCC Policy 01/2023 - Bush Fire Risk Management](#) See Appendix 1 for the Newcastle Focus Area descriptions, Key Objectives and Treatment Strategies.

3.2 Bush Fire Management Zones

Bush Fire Management Zones identified within the Newcastle BFMC area have been mapped as part of the Fuel Management Register. These zones identify the fire management intent for a specific area. The five categories of Bush Fire Management Zones are:

- Asset Protection Zone (APZ);
- Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (SFAZ);
- Ignition Management Zone (IMZ)
- Land Management Zone (LMZ); and
- Fire Exclusion Zone (FEZ).

See Annexure C of [BFCC Policy 01/2023 - Bush Fire Risk Management Zones](#) for further information on Bush Fire Management Zones including a description of the zones and their purposes.

3.3 Relationship with other Plans

Under section 52 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, each BFMC must prepare and submit to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee a draft of each of the following:

- A bush fire management plan (defined to be both a BFRMP and a fire access and fire trail plan (FAFT Plan); and
- A Plan of Operations.

These BFMC planning documents should complement each other, however, a FAFT Plan prevails over the BFRMP to the extent of any inconsistency in accordance with section 59A(4) of the Act.

Treatments contained within the FAFT Plan Treatment Register (as amended from time to time) are BFMC Wide Treatments under this BFRMP.

Additionally, an Ignition Prevention Plan will be prepared for the BFMC. Other plans such as Community Protection Plans, agency specific Fire Management Strategies, or private property fire plans may be prepared, however as this BFRMP has been prepared in accordance with the Act, all other plans are subordinate to it.

Chapter 4

Communication and Consultation

4.1 Communication and Consultation

Community participation is an integral part of risk management. The BFMC undertook consultation with the community during the development phase of the BFRMP as outlined in Appendix 4. The Communication Strategy involved developing and implementing a process to address the needs, issues and concerns of stakeholders within the BFMC area in regards to the BFRMP. This involved member agencies engaging with their stakeholders to ensure their views are represented in the BFRMP and that they understand their own responsibility in risk management.

In accordance with section 57 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, the draft BFRMP was placed on public exhibition to provide an opportunity for the community to have formal input, and that input has been taken into account and reflected in the BFRMP.

This plan will be available from the RFS web site and must also be available for public inspection at, and be able to be obtained free of charge from, the office of the local authority for the area to which it relates during ordinary office hours.

Chapter 5

Performance Monitoring and Review

5.1 Monitoring and Review

This BFRMP must be reviewed and updated within each successive five-year period from the constitution of the BFMC. The Newcastle BFMC will also review this BFRMP as necessary to account for any changes in context or risk on account of changes to the BFMC area, organisational responsibilities or legislation; changes to the bush fire risk in the area; changes to the Treatment Register; or following a major fire event.

The BFMC is required to monitor progress towards the completion of treatment works listed in the BFRMP, and the timeliness of the works. This is done through an Annual Works Program and also an Annual Report. The BFRMP may also be audited at the request of the NSW RFS Commissioner or the BFCC.

Appendices

This BFRMP is supported by a number of appendices, including:

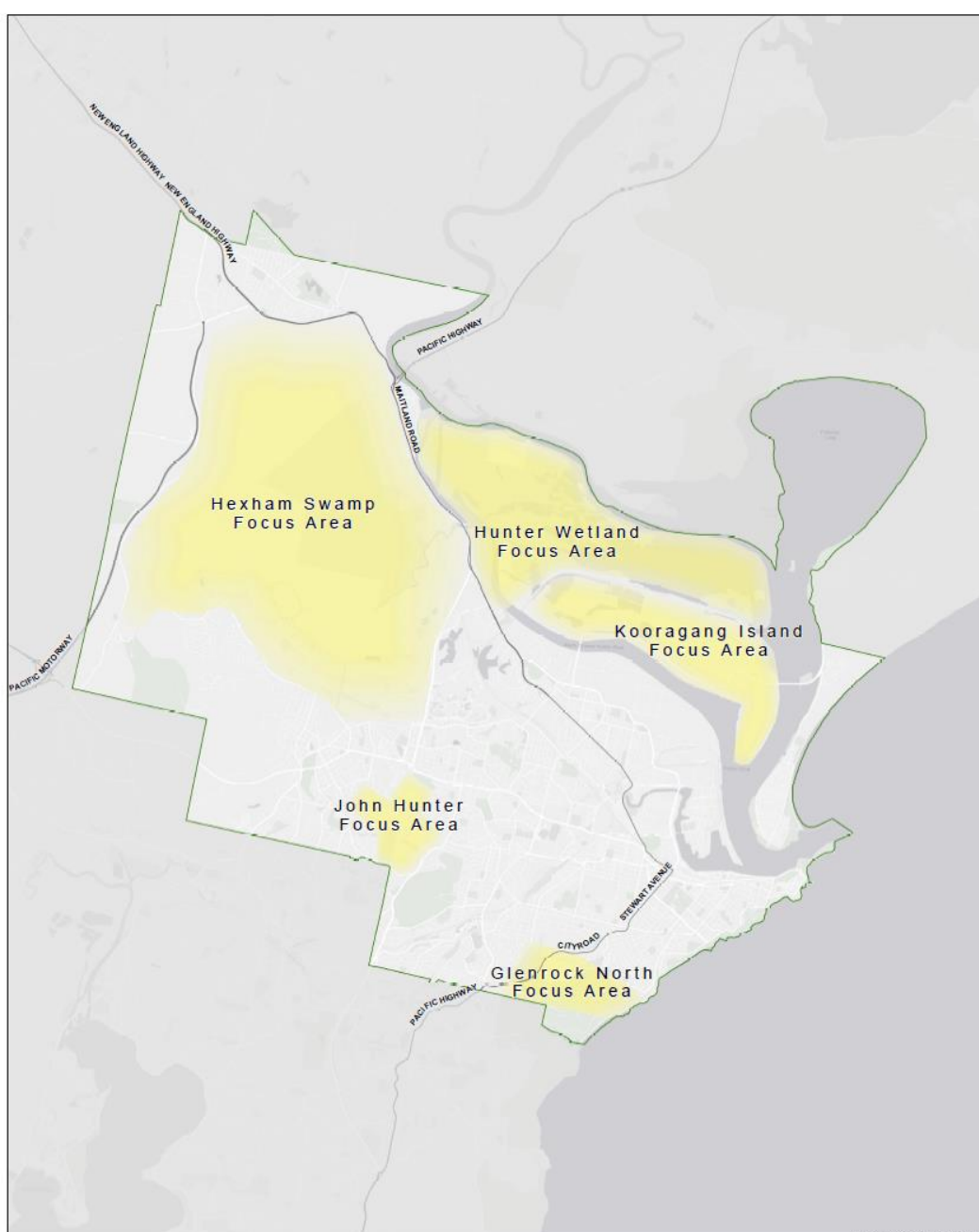
1. Focus Areas
2. Fuel Management Register (List)
3. Maps:
 - 3.1 Residential and Special Fire Protection Purpose Risk Current
 - 3.2 Economic Risk Current
 - 3.3 Aboriginal Predicted Sites Risk Current
 - 3.4 Environmental Risk Current
 - 3.5 Historic Heritage Risk Current
 - 3.6 Focus Areas and Fuel Management Register
4. Communication Strategy

Appendix 1

Focus Areas

FOCUS AREAS

John Hunter
Kooragang Island
Hexham Swamp
Hunter Wetland (Ash Island)
Glenrock North



John Hunter

Risk Profile

The Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) has assessed the risk to residential, special fire protection purpose (schools, health facilities, childcare etc), economic, environmental and cultural assets and has identified John Hunter as a Focus Area.

The Focus Area encompasses the John Hunter Hospital precinct and surrounding bushland located within the Newcastle Local Government Area suburbs of Lambton, New Lambton Heights, Rankin Park and Elemore Vale. The area has a history of bush fire ignition and potential for rapid fire development. Significant bush fires have occurred in the focus area in 2014 and 2017. While the area has good access and egress with major road networks (including the extension of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass) there are also large areas of interface and population in the suburbs surrounding the bushland and a high severity bush fire event could quickly impact on people, assets and roadways causing negative outcomes and major disruption.

Bush fire is a key threatening process for many environmental assets within the Focus Area. The vegetation across the focus area is dominated by Hunter-Macleay and Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests with some minor segments of Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forest. There is a risk that a high severity bush fire event in the area would cause serious damage or irreversible loss of habitat for 43 species of threatened Fauna including habitat for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera Phrygia*), four species of threatened Flora including the Critically Endangered Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*), there is also a risk that bush fire could negatively impact six Threatened Ecological Communities including the Critically Endangered Kincumber Scribbly Gum Forest and five Save Our Species (SoS) Program conservation sites.

There is also a risk that bush fire could negatively impact the cultural values of six Aboriginal sites, four heritage sites and other cultural landscapes that have been identified within the focus area.

Significant hospital infrastructure has been identified as at risk from bush fire. The John Hunter health complex consists of 820 beds in total and is co-located next to the 174-bed Newcastle Private Hospital, as well as the regional Hunter Area Pathology Service. The 820-bed hospital is the main teaching hospital of the University of Newcastle. The John Hunter Children's Hospital and Royal Newcastle Centre are located within the same building as the John Hunter Hospital. Also on the same grounds are Rankin Park Hospital providing rehabilitation services, Newcastle Private Hospital and the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI).

There is a risk that a high severity bush fire event would negatively impact on staff, patients, visitors and hospital systems. Patients from the Hunter Region and beyond are referred to John Hunter for treatment in a range of specialities. The hospital contains the only trauma centre in New South Wales outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area and has the busiest emergency department in the state. John Hunter is one of the busiest trauma hospitals in the country.

Risk Profile (continued)

As identified in the Fuel Management Register, The BFMC will maintain Asset Protection Zones within the Focus Area to allow a reduced vegetation buffer between assets and space for firefighters to access during emergencies and implement prescribed burning hazard reductions to achieve different fire management objectives including strategic fire protection and land and biodiversity management.

To increase resilience within the Focus Area the BFMC will identify specific operational response strategies and exercise pre-incident plans for assets and areas of concern including multi-agency emergency scenarios in conjunction with the NSW Police and Hunter New England Health within the hospital precinct.

A key BFMC objective in the John Hunter Focus Area is Community Preparedness. In particular to increase community level planning and preparation for bush fire to bush fire through Community Engagement at local community events, targeted advertising campaigns for the hospital precinct, home fire safety visits and the preparation of bush fire survival plans. To facilitate effective community response during emergency events, BFMC agencies will work to provide timely public information during and after bush fire or other emergencies through provision of field liaison officers, Emergency Alert warnings, radio and social media updates and community meetings.

While every effort is made to maintain Asset Protection Zones and plan, prepare and conduct prescribed burning as described in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC acknowledge the weather and environmental factors such as vegetation types, geography, presence of threatened flora and fauna, fire intervals and thresholds and previous or nearby wildfires can impact time frames and feasibility of delivering Fuel Management Objectives. The suite of treatment strategies proposed will assist in protecting the assets within this Focus Area.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for John Hunter are listed in Table 1.

Table 1

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Community Resilience	JH.CR
	Community Engagement; Response	JH.RP
Fuel Management	Asset Protection Zone(s)	JH.AP
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	JH.SF
Response	Pre-Incident Plan; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	JH.PI

Kooragang Island

Risk Profile

The Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) has assessed the risk to residential, special fire protection purpose (schools, health facilities, childcare etc), economic, environmental and cultural assets and has identified Kooragang Island as a Focus Area.

The Focus Area encompasses Kooragang Island industrial and economic area and contains many critical transport links, critical infrastructure, private buildings and major hazard facilities. The focus area is bounded by the Tourle St Bridge in the South, Stockton Bridge to the East and the Hunter Wetlands National Park boundary to the North and West.

Bush fire is a key threatening process for economic assets. The Kooragang Island Focus Area holds significant Local and State economic value. There is potential that assets in this Focus Area could be exposed to embers from the vegetation to the North and North West during bush fire events. There is also potential for fire impact to industrial infrastructure from facilities within the Focus Area causing negative outcomes and major disruption to the area.

The Focus Area is populated by a range of industries with the majority of companies operating continuously. The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data shows that there are almost 3100 people employed across the Newcastle Port / Kooragang Island Destination Zone. The primary categories of employment are Manufacturing (900 people) and Transport, Postal and Warehousing (1100 people). Over 85% of people employed in Newcastle Port / Kooragang travel to work by vehicle. Tourle Street, Cormorant Drive, Teal Street and Nelson Bay Road are the main thoroughfares to Newcastle International Airport and the RAAF Base Williamtown from the Newcastle area. The Hunter River and Newcastle Harbour are important trade gateways with an estimated 4600 shipping movements annually contributing billions of dollars to the NSW economy.

Vegetation within the Focus Area is mostly grass or cleared due to the industrial nature of activities in the Focus Area. Significant areas of Mangrove Swamps and Salt Marshes exist along the Hunter River South Arm and to the North within the Hunter Wetlands National Park. Fuel management treatments are not appropriate in these wetland vegetation types and there are limited opportunities for Asset Protection Zones. Bush fires have occurred in the Focus Area in 2019 with the Kooragang Island Waste Emplacement fire (KIWEF) requiring substantial specialist resources to fully extinguish due to the fire burning underground.

A key BFMC objective within the Focus Area is to review and maintain pre-incident plans for assets and areas of concern and exercise specific operational response strategies regularly to ensure plans are accurate, current and allows crews to effectively deal with incidents in the precinct. This includes the Kooragang Precinct Emergency Management Sub Plan (Sub Plan of the NSW State Emergency Management Plan), Transport for NSW Main Road 108 Incident Response Plan, Orica Kooragang Island Emergency Response Plan, Origin Energy LPG

Risk Profile Kooragang Island (continued)

A key BFMC objective in the Kooragang Island Focus Area is Community Preparedness. In particular to facilitate effective community response to fire through the provision of timely public information during and after a bush fire or major incident through emergency alerts, radio and social media updates and provision of field liaison officers and community meetings with stakeholders and provision of resources to restore normality.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Kooragang Island are listed in Table 2.

Table 2		
BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Response	KI.RP
Response	Pre-Incident Plan; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	KI.PI

Hexham Swamp

Risk Profile

The Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) has assessed the risk to residential, special fire protection purpose (schools, health facilities, childcare etc), economic, environmental and cultural assets and has identified Hexham Swamp as a Focus Area.

The Focus Area encompasses the Hexham Swamp and surrounding suburbs of Shortland, Birmingham Gardens, Maryland, Fletcher, Minmi, Lenaghan and Black Hill located within the Newcastle Local Government Area. The area has a history of bush fire ignition and potential for rapid fire development. Significant bush fires have occurred in the Focus Area in 2013 and 2019.

The Focus Area has major road networks nearby with the M1 Motorway and New England Highway being major transport corridors. Large areas of interface and population exist in the Western Newcastle suburbs that surround the swamp including rural and urban centres. A high severity bush fire event could impact on people, assets and roadways causing negative outcomes and major disruption.

Bush fire is a key threatening process for many environmental assets within the Focus Area. The Hexham Swamp wetland system is of international significance, offering exceptional conservation values. Flood gates installed in 1970-71 to help mitigate flooding in surrounding creeks starved the swamp, drastically changing the landscape for decades with freshwater reed taking over much of the Focus Area. Since 1990, Local Land Services have been implementing The Hexham Swamp Rehabilitation Project which in 2008 after years of planning, research and stakeholder consultation, progressively opened the flood gates to restore the ecology of the Swamp. A vegetation survey in 2021 compared to a 2005 survey found the area of mangroves had increased from 11ha to 185 ha, saltmarsh from 58ha to 109 ha and tidal mudflats and shallow ponds from 1ha to 135 ha. The area of freshwater reed has reduced from 1005ha to 792 ha.

There is a risk that a high severity bush fire event in the area would cause serious damage or irreversible loss of habitat for 43 species of threatened Fauna including habitat for the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) and Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), four species of threatened Flora including the Endangered Eucalyptus camaldulensis, there is also a risk that bush fire could negatively impact 11 Threatened Ecological Communities including Freshwater Wetlands and 6 Save Our Species (SoS) Program conservation sites.

The area provides important habitat for migratory bird species listed under international agreements, including the endangered curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), the Black necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) and the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The Hexham Swamp is also important habitat for native fish including the endangered Purple Spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*).

Risk Profile Hexham Swamp (continued)

There is also a risk that bush fire could negatively impact the cultural values of 92 Aboriginal sites and other cultural landscapes including Rocky Knob Hexham Wetlands Aboriginal Place, known for its importance to the Awabakal People and all Aboriginal people of the Hunter as a place of spiritual connection and ceremony.

There is also a risk that bush fire could cause serious damage or irreversible loss to the heritage values of 36 local historical sites that represent some of Newcastle's early European settler history including the Thomas Family Grave, which is of state heritage significance.

Hexham Swamp provides important scientific research opportunities in the fields of climate change impacts, estuarine and freshwater wetland rehabilitation, shorebird behaviour and habitat requirements and the management of threatened species and communities.

A key BFMC objective in the Hexham Swamp Focus Area is Community Preparedness. In particular to facilitate effective risk awareness and preparation through the provision of resources such as bush fire survival plans and activities such as school visits and home fire safety visits that aim to increase and improve people's awareness and understanding of their bush fire risk and take action to prepare their home and property for bush fire.

Another key BFMC objective in the Hunter Wetlands is to implement an integrated approach encompassing fuel management, ignition prevention and response treatments as outlined in the BFMC plan of operations, BFMC Ignition Prevention Plan, Hunter Wetlands National Park Plan of Management, National Park Fire Management Strategy for the Hunter Wetlands and Local Land Services Bushfire Management Plan.

The BFMC acknowledge there are limited opportunities for prescribed burning to be an effective hazard reduction treatment strategy in this area due to predominant wetland and grassland vegetation communities present. The BFMC however will consider any emerging prescribed burn treatment priorities if required to deliver Fuel Management Objectives.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Hexham Swamp are listed in Table 3.

Table 3

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	HS.RA
	Community Engagement; Preparation	HS.PR
Fuel Management	Asset Protection Zone(s)	HS.AP
Response	Pre-Incident Plan; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	HS.PI
Ignition Prevention	Patrol; addressed in BFMC Ignition Prevention Plan	HS.PT

Hunter Wetland (Ash Island)

Risk Profile

The Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) has assessed the risk to residential, special fire protection purpose (schools, health facilities, childcare etc), economic, environmental and cultural assets and has identified Hunter Wetland as a Focus Area.

The Focus Area is part of the Hunter Wetlands National Park including Ash and Hexham Islands and lies in the lower estuarine reaches of the Hunter River. It is located between the North and South channels of Hunter River, west of Stockton and Fern Bay townships and North of the Kooragang Industrial area.

Bush fire is a key threatening process for many environmental assets within the Focus Area. The wetland system is of international significance and has been listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since 1984. It is of exceptional conservation value, containing the second largest area of mangroves in New South Wales and extensive areas of coastal saltmarsh. Significant bushfires have occurred in the focus area in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

There is a risk that a high severity bush fire event in the area would cause serious damage or irreversible loss of habitat for a range of wildlife including 43 threatened fauna species including seven endangered species such as the Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*), three species of threatened flora including the critically endangered *Euphrasia arguta*, six Threatened Ecological Communities and 11 Save our Species program conservation sites. Assets include green and golden bell frog constructed habitat sites throughout Ash Island. The Hunter Wetlands are also important habitat for native fish including the endangered Purple Spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*).

The area provides important habitat for migratory bird species listed under international agreements, including the curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), sharp-tailed sandpiper (*C. acuminata*) the red knot (*C. canutus*) and breeding habitat for the eastern freetail-bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*). The National Park is a site on the East Asian – Australasian Flyway and is part of the Hunter Estuary Important Bird Area (BirdLife International 2017).

The Hunter Wetlands are part of Country for the Awabakal People and the Worimi People. Awabakal Country stretches south from the Hunter River, including Newcastle; and Worimi Country lies to the north and east of the Hunter River. Sites of particular cultural significance exist in the wetlands vicinity and a high severity bush fire event could negatively impact these sites. Archaeological sites are of high significance to the Awabakal and Worimi peoples because they provide a tangible connection to cultural practices and their ancestors.

There is a risk that a high severity bush fire event in the area would cause serious damage or irreversible loss to the heritage values of areas that represent some of Newcastle's earliest European settler history, including the early coal and timber industries, quick lime production for colonial building construction, salt, agriculture and food production and the physical remnants of the pre-1950s dairying industry. The Focus Area contains the 1890 Ash Island Schoolmasters

Risk Profile Hunter Wetland (continued)

House, which is of local historical significance, and the World War II Radar Station buildings, which are of state heritage significance.

The Wetlands are also an important tourist and scientific area and is important to the Newcastle community as a free, accessible, recreational National Park for uses such as walking, birdwatching, cycling and fishing. The area provides ongoing research potential in the fields of climate change impacts, estuarine and freshwater wetland rehabilitation, shorebird behaviour and habitat requirements and the management of threatened species and communities.

Fuel management treatments are not appropriate in these wetland vegetation types and there are limited opportunities for Asset Protection Zones. As such a key BFMC objective in the Hunter Wetland Island Focus Area is Community Preparedness. In particular to increase the communities risk awareness through the provision of resources and activities that aim to improve visitors experience and develop their understanding of bush fire risk and how it might impact on a range of important values.

Another key BFMC objective in the Hunter Wetlands is to implement an integrated approach encompassing environmental management, ignition prevention and response treatments as outlined in the BFMC plan of operations, BFMC Ignition Prevention Plan, Hunter Wetlands National Park Plan of Management and the National Park Fire Management Strategy for the Hunter Wetlands.

The BFMC acknowledge there are limited opportunities for prescribed burning to be an effective hazard reduction treatment strategy in this area due to predominant wetland and grassland vegetation communities present. The BFMC however will consider any emerging prescribed burn treatment priorities if required to deliver Fuel Management Objectives.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Hunter Wetland are listed in Table 4.

Table 4

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	HW.RA
Response	Operational Readiness Arrangements; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	HW.OR
	Pre-Incident Plan; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	HW.PI
Ignition Prevention	Patrol; addressed in BFMC Ignition Prevention Plan	HW.PT

Glenrock North

Risk Profile

The Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) has assessed the risk to residential, special fire protection purpose (schools, health facilities, childcare etc), economic, environmental and cultural assets and has identified Glenrock North as a Focus Area.

The Focus Area encompasses the northern area of the Glenrock State Conservation Area and nearby adjacent suburbs of Merewether, Merewether Heights, Adamstown and Adamstown Heights within the Newcastle Local Government Area. The area has a history of bush fire ignition and potential for rapid fire development. Significant bush fires have occurred in the Focus Area in 2013. The area has good access and egress with Scenic Drive and City Road being major routes into Newcastle. There are large areas of interface and population nearby bushland and a high severity bush fire event could impact on people, assets and roadways causing negative outcomes and disruption to normality.

Glenrock State Conservation Area stretches along the coastline to the south of Merewether. The park is valued for its coastal vistas, ecological richness and the diverse range of accessible recreational opportunities that it provides for the people of Newcastle and surrounding communities. The park has significant Aboriginal cultural values and historic heritage values and provides opportunities for research, education and experiential learning.

Bush fire is a key threatening process for many environmental assets in the Glenrock Focus Area. There is a risk that a high severity bush fire event in the area would cause serious damage or irreversible loss of habitat for 25 Threatened Species of fauna and flora including the Newcastle Doubletail Orchid (*Diuris Praecox*) and the Critically Endangered Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*). Within the Focus Area there are also seven Threatened Ecological Communities at risk including areas of Littoral rainforest and Themeda Grasslands. There are also 13 Save our Species (SoS) program sites.

There is a risk that bush fires could negatively impact on the cultural values of 36 Aboriginal sites and other cultural landscapes within the Focus area. There are also 79 local heritage sites at risk in the focus area including early settlement buildings, Railways and Mining sites.

As identified in the Fuel Management Register, The BFMC will maintain Asset Protection Zones within the Focus Area to allow a reduced vegetation buffer between assets and space for firefighters to access during emergencies and implement prescribed burning hazard reductions to achieve different fire management objectives including strategic fire protection and land and biodiversity management.

To increase resilience within the Focus Area the BFMC will identify specific operational response strategies for assets and areas of concern.

A key BFMC objective in the Glenrock North Focus Area is Community Preparedness. In particular to increase the communities risk awareness through the provision of resources and activities that aim to increase and improve visitors awareness and understanding of bush fire risk and how its potential impacts on a range of important values.

Risk Profile Glenrock North (continued)

To facilitate effective community response during emergency events, BFMC agencies will work to provide timely public information during and after bush fire or other emergencies through provision of field liaison officers, Emergency alert warnings, radio and social media updates and community meetings.

While every effort is made to maintain Asset Protection Zones and plan, prepare and conduct prescribed burning as described in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC acknowledge the weather and environmental factors such as vegetation types, geography, presence of threatened flora and fauna, fire intervals and thresholds and previous or nearby wildfires can impact time frames and feasibility of delivering Fuel Management Objectives.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Glenrock North are listed in Table 5.

Table 5		
BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	GN.RA
	Community Engagement; Response	GN.RP
Fuel Management	Asset Protection Zone(s)	GN.AP
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone: prescribed burn	GN.SF
	Land Management Zone; prescribed burn	GN.LM
Response	Operational Readiness Arrangements; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	GN.OR

Appendix 2

Fuel Management Register

Table 2.1 Asset Protection Zones

ID	Name	Focus Area	Priority	Responsible Agency
AP.1	Faul Street South	Glenrock North	1	City of Newcastle
AP.2	NP-Baileys APZ	Glenrock North	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.3	NP-Hickson St APZ	Glenrock North	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.4	Perina Place	Glenrock North	1	City of Newcastle
AP.5	Aden Street	Hexham Swamp	1	Hunter Water
AP.6	Birrell Street APZ	Hexham Swamp	1	Hunter Water
AP.7	131 Elernmore Parade Wallsend	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.8	Boambee Close	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.9	Craignair Close	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.10	Dangerfield Drive	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.11	Drysdale APZ	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.12	JHH Forensic APZ	John Hunter	1	Hunter New England Health
AP.13	JHH Kookaburra House APZ	John Hunter	1	Hunter New England Health
AP.14	JHH Private Hospital APZ	John Hunter	1	Hunter New England Health
AP.15	JHH Ronald McDonald House	John Hunter	1	Hunter New England Health
AP.16	JHH Southern Side	John Hunter	1	Hunter New England Health
AP.17	Kerrai Close	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.18	Roberts Circuit Lambton	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.19	Sygna Close South	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
AP.20	121 Dangerfield Elernmore Vale		2	City of Newcastle
AP.21	38 Floralia Close		2	City of Newcastle
AP.22	Tallowood Crescent APZ		2	City of Newcastle
AP.23	Aldyth Street		2	City of Newcastle
AP.24	Andrew Close APZ		2	Hunter Water
AP.25	Birchgrove Drive		2	City of Newcastle
AP.26	Boronia Avenue		2	City of Newcastle
AP.27	Carisbrooke Avenue		2	City of Newcastle
AP.28	Carrington Parade		2	City of Newcastle
AP.29	Carrington Parade - East		2	City of Newcastle
AP.30	Condor Circuit		2	City of Newcastle
AP.31	Croudace Street		2	City of Newcastle
AP.32	Croudace Street - Extension		2	City of Newcastle
AP.33	Dunkley Avenue		2	City of Newcastle
AP.34	Fay Avenue		2	City of Newcastle
AP.35	Floralia Close		2	City of Newcastle
AP.36	Grinsell Street		2	City of Newcastle

Table 2.1 Asset Protection Zones				
ID	Name	Focus Area	Priority	Responsible Agency
AP.37	Jenny McLeod Retirement Village		2	City of Newcastle
AP.38	Lookout Road		2	City of Newcastle
AP.39	Lookout Road - Extension		2	City of Newcastle
AP.40	Lookout Road - North		2	City of Newcastle
AP.41	Mahogany Drive		2	City of Newcastle
AP.42	Meredith St to March St Kotara		2	City of Newcastle
AP.43	Minimbah Close		2	City of Newcastle
AP.44	Montrose Avenue		2	City of Newcastle
AP.45	NP-Picnic APZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.46	Rangers Cottage		2	City of Newcastle
AP.47	Ridgeway Road - North		2	City of Newcastle
AP.48	Ridgeway Road - South		2	City of Newcastle
AP.49	St James Road		2	City of Newcastle
AP.50	Sygna Close North		2	City of Newcastle
AP.51	Turana Road APZ		2	Hunter Water
AP.52	Windarra Close		2	City of Newcastle
AP.61	Milgate Street APZ	Hexham Swamp	1	City of Newcastle
AP.62	Administration Building APZ		2	City of Newcastle
AP.63	Fire Station APZ		2	City of Newcastle
AP.64	Fletcher APZ		2	City of Newcastle
AP.65	Kingfisher APZ		2	City of Newcastle
AP.66	Solar APZ		2	City of Newcastle
AP.67	Substation APZ		2	City of Newcastle

Table 2.2 Prescribed Burns					
ID	Name	Strategy*	Focus Area	Priority	Responsible Agency
LM.53	Barracks HR	LMZ	Glenrock North	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.54	Gun Club Road HR	SFAZ	Glenrock North	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.55	West Scenic Drive HR	SFAZ	Glenrock North	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.56	Dangerfield HR	SFAZ	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
SF.57	Jacaranda HR	SFAZ	John Hunter	1	Hunter New England Health
SF.58	Robinson HR	SFAZ	John Hunter	1	City of Newcastle
SF.59	North Lambton Depot West HR Janet Street	SFAZ		2	Hunter Water
SF.60	Janet Street HR Stage 2	SFAZ		2	Hunter Water
LF.68	Blue Gum linear fire break	LFB		2	City of Newcastle
LF.69	Middle Road linear fire break	LFB		2	City of Newcastle
LF.70	Southern linear fire break	LFB		2	City of Newcastle
LM.71	Blue Metal	LMZ		2	NSW Rural Fire Service
LM.72	Bulkara	LMZ		0	NSW Rural Fire Service
SF.73	Bottlebrush	SFAZ		2	City of Newcastle
SF.74	Coolbah	SFAZ		2	City of Newcastle
SF.75	Glendale Tafe Stage 2 HR (Newcastle portion)	SFAZ		2	NSW Fire and Rescue
SF.76	Hideaway	SFAZ		2	City of Newcastle

*Strategy: LMZ (Land Management Zone), SFAZ (Strategic Fire Advantage Zone), See Annexure C of BFCC Policy 01/2023 for further information on bush fire management zones including a description of the zones and their purposes.

Table 2.3 Neighbourhood Safer Places*			
Title	Type	Location	LGA
Merewether Beach - Car Park	Open Space	Cnr of Fredrick Street and Henderson Parade, Merewether	Newcastle
Mitchell Park Sports Field	Open Space	Mitchell Street, Merewether	Newcastle
Novocastrian Park	Open Space	24 Orchardtown Road, New Lambton	Newcastle
Elmore Vale Park	Open Space	125A Croudace Road, Elmore Vale (at rear of Elmore Vale Shopping Centre)	Newcastle
Swimming Centre, Lambton Park	Open Space	102 Durham Road, Lambton	Newcastle
Heaton Park	Open Space	48 Mordue Parade, Jesmond	Newcastle
Swimming Centre, Federal Park	Open Space	6 Frances Street, Wallsend	Newcastle
Beresfield Golf Course	Open Space	261 - 265 Anderson Drive, Beresfield	Newcastle

*This list is current at the date of BFRMP approval. Visit the NSW RFS website for live, up to date information on Neighbourhood Safer Place locations: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 3

Maps

- 3.1 Residential and Special Fire Protection Purpose Risk Current
- 3.2 Economic Risk Current
- 3.3 Aboriginal Predicted Sites Risk Current
- 3.4 Environmental Risk Current
- 3.5 Historic Heritage Risk Current
- 3.6 Focus Areas and Fuel Management Register

The Appendix 3 Maps for the Newcastle Bush Fire Risk Management Plan are not included in this pdf document. The Maps are available on the RFS Website <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees/newcastle>

Known Aboriginal sites were assessed in the development of this BFRMP, however due to the sensitive nature of the data, bush fire risk maps for these assets are not publicly available.

Appendix 4

Communication Strategy

Date/ timeframe	Target Audience	Method of communication	Method of notification	Key messages/ purpose	Resources required	Responsibility
September 2022	BFMC Members	Workshops	Email	Introduction to BFRMP methodology; data validation; Analyse risk maps; develop draft focus areas and treatment strategies;	Venue Facilitator(s) Presentation Maps	RFS Area Command/ RFS State Risk Planning Team
July - August 2023	General Public	Online survey	Social Media	Have your say feedback survey for general public on NSW State Government Website	Website	RFS State Risk Planning Team
April 2023-2024	BFMC Members	Workshops	Email	Analyse risk maps; develop draft focus areas and treatment strategies	Venue Facilitator(s) Presentation Maps	RFS Area Command/ RFS State Risk Planning Team
July 2024	BFMC Members	Workshops	Email	change in risk analysis treatment evaluation strategies.	Venue Facilitator(s) Presentation Maps	RFS Area Command/ RFS State Risk Planning Team
September/October 2024	BFMC Members	Email	Email	Notification to BFMC members of public exhibition	Model Plan Maps Annexure D Communication resources/ social media package	BFMC Executive Officer
September/October 2024	General Public	Local media	Email	Advise of exhibition, where to get copies and how to submit feedback	Annexure D media release template	BFMC Members
September/October 2024	Members	FRNSW Stations	Email	Advise of exhibition, where to get copies and how to submit feedback. Share social media schedule and encourage sharing of posts.	Social Media schedule links	FRNSW Zone Office

Date/ timeframe	Target Audience	Method of communication	Method of notification	Key messages/ purpose	Resources required	Responsibility
September/October 2024	General Public	BFMC website Online survey Social Media	Social Media	Invite / remind community to provide feedback on the draft plan and maps throughout the public exhibition period.	Social Media package distributed by BFMC members. BFMC website.	BFMC Members
September/October 2024	General Public	Print Media	Hardcopy notices	Notification of public exhibition of BFRMP. How to get a copy of plan. How to make a submission.	Public Notice. Hardcopies displayed in Council chambers. Website available at Council chambers and FRNSW station(s).	RFS Area Command



Planning together

Newcastle

Bush Fire Management Committee

Bush Fire Coordinating Committee – Policy No 01/2023

Adopted by the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee – Minute No 104.11



Prepared by the NSW Rural Fire Service
On behalf of the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee