

Bush Fire Risk Management Plan

Planning together



Hawkesbury

Bush Fire Management Committee

Local Government Area of Hawkesbury

Bush Fire Coordinating Committee – Policy No 01/2023

Commencing 2026

Approval

In accordance with the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, this Bush Fire Risk Management Plan has been prepared by the Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee and has been endorsed at the BFMC meeting on 17 November 2025 for submission to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee.

Recommended



Craig Burley
Chair
Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee

Approved



2/9/2026

Trent Curtin
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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgement to Country

The Hawkesbury 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 the Hawkesbury 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 fires 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 Hawkesbury 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 Plan of Operations 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 Hawkesbury BFMC considered the number and location of Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) within the BFMC area. All NSPs in the Hawkesbury BFMC area require ongoing treatment by the applicable landowner 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 Hawkesbury 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 landowners 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 treated. 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 treat 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 Hawkesbury 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 Hawkesbury 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 nine Focus Areas within the Hawkesbury BFRMP. These are:

- Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights;
- Blaxlands Ridge;
- Bligh Park and Windsor Downs;
- Bowen Mountain;
- Colo and Colo Heights;
- Comleroy Hills;
- Macdonald Valley and St Albans;
- Mountain Lagoon; and
- Yarramundi

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 Plan.

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
	Grazing Program
Ignition Prevention Prevention or reduction of bush fire ignitions (arson & accidental).	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness
	Access Restriction; addressed in BFMC Ignition Prevention Plan
	Patrol; 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.	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness
	Community Engagement; Planning
	Community Engagement; Preparation
	Community Engagement; Community Resilience
	Community Engagement; Community Response
Response Area specific response requirements in addition to standard procedures.	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 Hawkesbury Focus Area descriptions, Key Objectives and Treatment Strategies.

3.2 Bush Fire Management Zones

Bush Fire Management Zones identified within the Hawkesbury 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 Hawkesbury 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

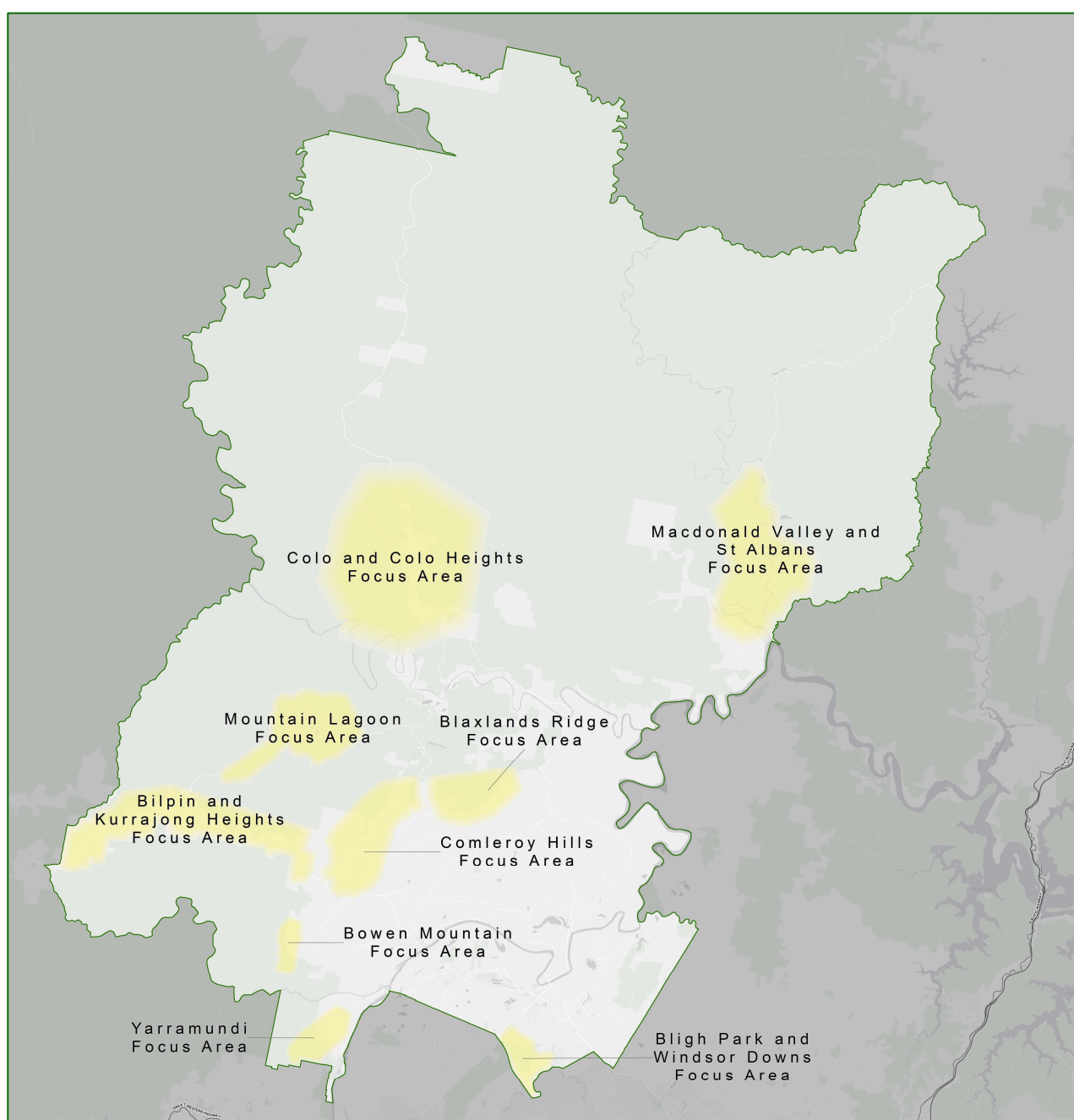
This BFRMP is supported by a number of appendices, including:

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	
1.1 Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1.6 Comleroy Hills
1.2 Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1.7 Macdonald Valley and St Albans
1.3 Blaxlands Ridge	1.8 Mountain Lagoon
1.4 Bowen Mountain	1.9 Yarramundi
1.5 Colo and Colo Heights	



1.1 Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) has identified Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights as a Focus Area following an assessment of risks to residential properties, Special Fire Protection assets (including schools, healthcare facilities and childcare centres), economic, environmental and cultural assets. Social vulnerability within the area was also a key consideration.

Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights are rural and semi-rural communities located along the Bells Line of Road on the north-eastern escarpment of the Blue Mountains. The area is characterised by dispersed settlement with small acreage holdings within close proximity to the Blue Mountains National Park and Wollemi National Park. The steep terrain increases the risk of rapid-fire spread and impact on both the environment and the local community during periods of elevated fire danger ratings.

Primary ignition sources historically include lightning strikes, accidental ignitions associated with rural land management, and human activity along transport corridors. The region has experienced significant bush fires in the past including the 2002 Graham Creek fire, 2013 State Mine Fire, and the 2019 Gaspers Mountain Fire.

Key assets include Bilpin Public School, Bilpin District Hall as well as local tourism and hospitality venues. Bilpin has a strong agricultural base, and supports a seasonal agritourism economy including orchards, farm gate sales, cafés and visitor accommodation. Kurrajong Heights is predominantly residential, interspersed with bushland and tourism-based businesses. Population levels increase during weekends and holiday periods due to visitors, short-term accommodation and rural lifestyle properties.

Access and egress is heavily dependent on the Bells Line of Road. Disruption to this arterial route during a bush fire would significantly constrain evacuation and emergency response, further heightening the risk to the community.

Social vulnerability in the Focus Area has been identified as ranging from medium to high. Factors such as isolation, limited transport options, and a local ageing population may make the community more vulnerable to bush fires. The area's popularity with tourists adds to the risk as visitors may be less aware of bush fire danger and how to respond if a significant fire occurs.

There is a risk that bush fire events could negatively impact the significant environmental assets in the region, including endangered and vulnerable species. Key threatened fauna in the area includes the Endangered Koala, Spotted-tailed Quoll, and Giant Dragonfly, as well as Vulnerable species like the Powerful Owl and Grey-headed Flying-fox. The landscape also contains Endangered ecological communities such as the Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest and the Critically Endangered Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Forest, alongside rare flora like the Endangered Eucalyptus Copulans.

Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights are located within the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council on Dharug Country. There are 24 known Aboriginal cultural heritage value sites in the area, as well as 13 sites of local historic heritage significance. Bush fire events and associated management activities may pose a risk to these cultural assets.

A key BFMC objective in the Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights Focus Area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within mapped Strategic Fire Advantage Zones. Asset Protection Zones will also be maintained.

Other key objectives of the Hawkesbury BFMC are Community Preparedness and Ignition Prevention, which will help residents and visitors to better understand their bush fire risk, prepare and respond in the event of a bush fire and reduce the risk of starting fires. The BFMC intends to conduct Community Engagement Risk Awareness and Planning activities such as Street meetings, a Tourists and Travellers Campaign and other Community Preparedness activities.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights are listed in Table 1.

Table 1

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	BK.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	BK.PL
Fuel Management	Asset Protection Zone(s)	BK.AP
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	BK.SF
Ignition Prevention	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	BK.RA

1.2 Bligh Park and Windsor Downs

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Bligh Park and Windsor Downs as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection, (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural assets. Social vulnerability within the area was also a consideration.

Bligh Park and Windsor Downs are adjacent suburbs in the eastern part of the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, separated by the Windsor Downs Nature Reserve. Bligh Park is a predominantly residential suburb with recreational reserves and sporting fields. Windsor Downs is a semi-rural locality with larger residential lots and direct interface with bushland. Special Fire Protection Purpose assets include Bligh Park and Windsor Park Public School, Evolve Early learning centre and Captain Bligh Early Learning Centre. The John Morony correctional complex is also adjacent to the Focus Area. The residential areas have been assessed as low to moderate risk.

There are significant economic assets (commercial and industrial) in and surrounding the Bligh Park and Windsor Downs Focus Area that have been assessed in the moderate to high-risk category.

Social vulnerability in the Focus Area has been assessed as medium to very high. Factors such as frequent housing turnover and reliance on public transport may make the community more vulnerable to bush fire events. Richmond Road, a major arterial road, dissects the forested area between Windsor Downs Nature Reserve and Castlereagh Nature Reserve and may become impacted during bush fire, affecting evacuation and emergency response.

The nature reserve attracts many visitors, and the proximity of assets to vegetation increases the potential of fire spread affecting both the environment and the local community during periods of elevated fire danger ratings. It is easily accessible to the public and there is a known history of arson occurring within the reserve. The area has a history of bush fires, including the 2002 Berkshire fire, 2009 Peter Place fire, and the 2013 Richmond Road Grass fire. These events have negatively impacted the environmental assets within the reserve.

Windsor Downs Nature Reserve has an AIS it is Nodding geebung (*Persoonia nutans*) and contains important environmental and cultural values. The Focus Area is home to 23 species of threatened fauna, including the Critically Endangered species such as the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot, along with the Vulnerable Powerful Owl, five species of threatened flora and the Endangered Nodding Geebung. Approximately 845 hectares of the area is mapped as a threatened ecological community, including the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland. The Focus Area also contains four active Saving our Species priority management sites and important habitat for threatened species, including koalas.

Bligh Park and Windsor Downs are located within the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council on Dharug Country and contain 24 known Aboriginal cultural heritage value that may be vulnerable to bush fire sites (including sites with artefact features).

A key BFMC objective in the area is Fuel Management. Fuel Management will involve careful consideration of the most appropriate treatment methods in order to minimise impacts on the Asset of Intergenerational Significance. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC intends on reducing bush fire fuel levels through Strategic Fire Advantage Zone prescribed burns, Transport Corridor Fire Breaks and Asset Protection Zones.

Another key objective is Ignition Prevention. The BFMC will focus on enhancing Risk Awareness in the area to reduce accidental and deliberate bush fire ignitions caused by careless and illegal fires.

Another key objective of the Hawkesbury BFMC is Community Preparedness, which will aim to help both long term and newer residents (including visitors) to better understand their bush fire risk and plan and prepare prior to a bush fire. The BFMC intends to conduct Community Engagement activities such as Street meetings, Get Ready Weekend and other Community Preparedness activities in support of the local community.

As a Response strategy, the BFMC will develop a Pre-Incident Plan for Bligh Park and Windsor Downs, to be included in the BFMC Plan of Operations.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Bligh Park and Windsor Downs are listed in Table 2.

Table 2

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	BW.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	BW.PL
Fuel Management	Asset Protection Zone(s)	BW .AP
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	BW .SF
	Fire Break; Transport Corridor	BW.TF
Response	Pre-Incident Plan; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	BW .PI
Ignition Prevention	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	BW.RA

1.3 Blaxlands Ridge

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Blaxlands Ridge as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection, (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural assets.

The area borders the southern extent of Wollemi National Park and predominantly comprises small to medium-sized farms in a semi-rural setting. This location is exposed to significant bush fire risks due to large areas of vegetation and heavily forested north-west to south-east gullies and steep terrain. This area is highly susceptible to intense and rapidly spreading bush fires during periods of elevated fire danger.

The current residential risk ranges from low to moderate within this Focus Area and Economic assets have been assessed as low risk. This is due to the relatively low bush fire fuel loads in the area as a result of recent fire activity in the broader landscape (including the 2020 Gospers Mountain Fire), and an extensive hazard reduction program in the immediate vicinity (2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018). The BFMC identified isolated properties, limited water supply, environmental concerns and limited vehicle access as key factors in defining Blaxlands Ridge as a Focus Area and noted that the bush fire risk is likely to increase over the 5 year planning period as the vegetation recovers and fuel loads increase.

Access to the area is heavily dependent on the Blaxlands Ridge Road. This main road is constructed on the ridgetop leaving it exposed to rapid impact from bush fires. Disruption to this road during a bush fire would significantly constrain evacuation and emergency response, further heightening the risk to the community.

The area has a significant bush fire history and there is a risk that additional bush fires could significantly impact environmental assets including approximately 596 hectares of threatened ecological communities mapped within the area, such as the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland and the Shale Sandstone Transition Forest. The area also contains habitat for 12 species of threatened fauna and four species of threatened flora, including the endangered Koala and Gang-gang Cockatoo.

Blaxlands Ridge Focus Area is located within the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council on Dharug Country and contains Aboriginal cultural heritage that may be vulnerable to bush fire. There are also 2 Historic Heritage sites (Kooroowal and Blaxlands Ridge Public School).

A key BFMC objective in the Blaxlands Ridge Focus Area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within mapped Strategic Fire Advantage Zones.

Other key objectives of the Hawkesbury BFMC are Community Preparedness and Ignition Prevention. Activities will be undertaken to help residents to better understand their bush fire risk, plan and prepare prior to a bush fire event, and know how to reduce the risk of uncontrolled fires starting. The BFMC intends to conduct Community Engagement activities such as Street meetings, Get Ready Weekend and other local Community Preparedness activities.

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

Table 3		
BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	BR.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	BR.PL
	Community Engagement; Preparation	BR.PR
Fuel Management	Asset Protection Zone(s)	BR.AP
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	BR.SF
Ignition Prevention	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	BR.RA

1.4 Bowen Mountain

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Bowen Mountain as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural Assets. Social vulnerability within the area was also a key consideration.

Bowen Mountain is a small, semi-rural community bordered by Blue Mountains National Park to the west. The area is popular with both residents and visitors, resulting in fluctuating population levels, particularly during weekends and holiday periods. The residential area is interspersed with bushland and rural properties, creating a close interface between assets and vegetation. The bush fire risk to residential assets has been assessed as moderate to high. Key assets include Bowen Mountain Community Centre, Crago Observatory, short-term accommodation and local tourism and hospitality venues.

Access to the Focus Area is limited, with Bowen Mountain Road providing the primary route for entry and exit. This restricted access and egress in the area may affect evacuation options and emergency response during a bush fire event, further heightening the risk to the community.

There is a history of bush fires impacting the community and surrounding landscape. Significant fire events include the 2002 Graham Creek Fire and 2020 Gaspers Mountain Fire.

Social vulnerability in the Focus Area has been identified as ranging from moderate to high. Factors such as the large number of unoccupied dwellings, residents requiring assistance, frequent housing turnover and limited transport options may make the community more vulnerable to bush fires. The area's popularity with tourists adds to the risks, as visitors may be less aware of bush fire danger and how to respond if a significant fire occurs.

The Focus Area contains important environmental and cultural values. It includes four threatened ecological communities, with approximately 42 hectares of threatened ecological communities, including the critically endangered Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest. The area is also home to 22 species of threatened fauna and two species of threatened flora, including the critically endangered Scrub Turpentine. Habitat for the endangered Macquarie Perch population is also present within the area. The Focus Area includes a declared wilderness area and two active Saving our Species priority management sites. These environmental values may be at risk from the adverse impacts of bush fire, suppression operations or hazard reduction activities.

Bowen Mountain is located within the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council area on Dharug Country and contains a site of local heritage significance (Bowen Hut). There is a risk that bush fire events and fire suppression operations could negatively impact the cultural value of this site.

A key BFMC objective in the Bowen Mountain area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within mapped Strategic Fire Advantage and Land Management Zones.

Local residents are generally well aware of the bush fire risk however visitors from outside the area may be less aware, so Community Preparedness and Ignition Prevention treatments for residents will focus on strategies that encourage Risk Awareness, Planning and Preparation. Activities will include Get Ready Weekend, strategies targeting tourists and travellers and other local Community Preparedness activities.

The BFMC will also develop an operational readiness Pre-Incident Plan for Bowen Mountain, which will be addressed in the BFMC's Plan of Operations.

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

Table 4

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	BM.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	BM.PL
	Community Engagement; Preparation	BM.PR
Fuel Management	Land Management Zone; prescribed burn	BM.LM
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	BM.SF
Response	Pre-Incident Plan; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	BM.PI

1.5 Colo and Colo Heights

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Colo and Colo Heights as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural Assets.

Colo and Colo Heights are located along the Putty Road, bordered by Wollemi National Park and the Colo River to the west, and the Parr Conservation Area to the east. The Focus Area is a forested landscape with dense vegetation, steep terrain and isolated rural properties. The area is popular with tourists. Although fuel loads are currently low, there is a risk that bush fires will impact both the environment and the local community during periods of elevated fire danger ratings.

Primary ignition sources historically include lightning strikes and accidental ignitions associated with rural land management and camping activities. The region has experienced significant bush fires including the 2002 Graham Creek & Limit Hill Fires, 2007 Stoney Waterhole Fire, 2013 Howes Swamp & State Mine Fires, 2015 Terraborra North Fire and the 2020 Gaspers Mountain fire.

Key assets include Colo Heights public school, communication towers, local tourism and hospitality venues (such as Wheelbarrow lodge). Population levels increase during weekends and holiday periods due to visitors in short-term accommodation and rural lifestyle properties. Access and egress to the area is heavily dependent on the Putty Road (the only access route within the area). Disruption to this arterial route during a bush fire would significantly constrain evacuation and emergency response, further heightening the risk to the community.

The risk to residential assets within the Focus Area has been assessed as low due to the current bush fire fuel loads within the broader landscape. However, when identifying Colo and Colo Heights as a Focus Area, the BFMC considered factors such as the isolation of dwellings, limited access routes, constrained water supply, a well-documented history of bush fire activity and the likely increase of bush fire fuel loads over the planning period. Social vulnerability within parts of the Focus Area is assessed as high, reflecting demographics such as vulnerable age groups, residents requiring assistance during an emergency, and a high number of unoccupied dwellings. In addition, reserves and river corridors within the area attract tourists who may have limited awareness of local bush fire risk.

There are a number of critical environmental and cultural assets in the area that are sensitive to bush fire. The Focus Area includes the Critically Endangered Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, as well as habitats for 27 threatened species such as the Regent Honeyeater and Macquarie Perch. There are three Saving Our Species priority management sites within the area (Giant Burrowing Frog, Stuttering Frog, Scrub Turpentine and the Wollemi Pine) and an Area of Regional Koala Significance.

Colo and Colo Heights Focus Area is within 2 Aboriginal land councils, Deerubbin and Metropolitan and is located on Dharug Country. The area holds immense cultural significance, containing 59 recorded Aboriginal heritage sites including art, grinding grooves, habitation structures and artefacts.

A key BFMC objective in the area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within mapped Strategic Fire Advantage Zones and an Ignition Management Zone.

The BFMC will also undertake Community Preparedness treatments to help residents and visitors to better understand their bush fire risk and plan and prepare for bush fire events. Community Engagement activities may include Street meetings, Get Ready Weekend and other local Community Preparedness activities.

As part of the response strategy, the BFMC will identify and formally document all fire trails and fire access routes within the Colo and Colo Heights area for inclusion in the BFMC Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plan.

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

Table 5

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	CC.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	CC.PL
	Community Engagement; Preparation	CC.PR
Fuel Management	Ignition Management Zone; prescribed burn	CC.IM
	Asset Protection Zone	CC.AP
	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	CC.SF
Response	Fire Access or Fire Trail; addressed in BFMC FAFT Plan	CC.PI

1.6 Comleroy Hills

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Comleroy Hills as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural Assets.

Comleroy Hills is situated within the broader Hawkesbury region. The area is characterised by small to medium-sized farms in a semi-rural setting surrounded by rugged forested terrain. The area has agricultural value and contains significant indigenous sites.

Primary ignition sources are historically from lightning strikes. The region has experienced a number of significant bush fires including the 2002 Graham Creek Fire and 2020 Gaspers Mountain fire.

Residential Assets across the area have been categorised as Moderate to High Risk. There is limited access and egress and a restricted water supply. Special Fire Protection Purpose assets within the area include Comleroy Road Public School, Hawkesbury Independent School, Scout and Guide halls, numerous places of worship, and accommodation venues. Social vulnerability assessment ranges from very low to high. Social vulnerability factors such as isolation, limited public transport options and age may impact evacuation during a fire event.

The region contains a number of environmental and cultural assets that are highly vulnerable to fire related impacts. The area encompasses Threatened Ecological Communities, including the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland, Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, and Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest. It also supports 31 threatened flora and fauna species, notably the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and Scrub Turpentine, alongside vital habitats for the endangered Macquarie Perch and an Area of Regional Koala Significance. Furthermore, the landscape features sensitive Wetlands, all of which require careful protection during bush fire suppression and hazard reduction activities.

The Comleroy Hills region is within the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council area on Dharug Country and holds cultural and historical significance with a diverse range of heritage assets. This includes nine recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage sites including artefacts and grinding groove sites and two items of State Heritage Significance (Goldfinders Inn Group and Singleton Watermills Archaeological Site).

A section of the World and National Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains Area is located within the Focus Area.

A key BFMC objective in the Comleroy Hills Focus Area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within mapped Strategic Fire Advantage Zones.

Other key objectives are Community Preparedness and Ignition Prevention. The Hawkesbury BFMC will undertake activities which help residents and visitors to better understand their bush fire risk, understand how to prepare and respond in the event of a bush fire, and reduce the risk of bush fires starting. Community Engagement activities may include Street Meetings, Get Ready Weekend and other local Community Preparedness activities.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Comleroy Hills are listed in Table 6.

Table 6

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	CH.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	CH.PL
	Community Engagement; Preparation	CH.PR
Fuel Management	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	CH.AP
Ignition Prevention	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	CH.RA

1.7 Macdonald Valley and St Albans

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Macdonald Valley and St Albans as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural assets.

St Albans is a small historic village situated along the Macdonald River. Both St Albans and the Macdonald Valley are surrounded by the vast and heavily forested Yengo National Park which contains several threatened species that are vulnerable to impacts from bush fire.

The main access to St Albans and the MacDonald Valley is via two vehicular ferries from the Wisemans Ferry township. Both access routes follow the Macdonald River, one on the west side, the other on the east. In the event of a bush fire, these routes may cause access and egress issues for residents, visitors and emergency services and may increase the vulnerability of this community.

The area has a long history of bush fires including the 2020 Gosper's Mountain fire and the 2015 Terraborra North Fire. Historically, ignitions in this area are primarily caused by lightning strikes.

The risk to residential assets is assessed as low due to the current bush fire fuel loads. However bush fire risk is likely to increase over the next 5 years as the fuel loads increase in the broader area. Key Assets within the Focus Area include, Macdonald Valley Public School, various places of worship, accommodation facilities and commercial business (Settlers Arms Inn). Social vulnerability has been identified as high and has highlighted factors for consideration such as such as a large number of unoccupied dwellings, lower than average employment levels, and a number of people requiring assistance during an emergency. The BFMC also identified the isolation of residential properties and limited water supply as key factors.

This area has environmental assets sensitive to both bush fire and management activities. There are 5 Threatened Ecological Communities including the Critically Endangered Shale Sandstone Transition Forest. The region supports 19 threatened species, including endangered fauna such as the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Koala, and Large-eared Pied Bat. There is an Area of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS) and contains 69 hectares of protected Coastal Wetlands.

The Macdonald Valley and St Albans Focus Area is located within the Metropolitan local aboriginal land council on Dharug Country. The area features 64 recorded Aboriginal heritage sites (grinding grooves, modified trees, and stone arrangements). The area is part of the World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains Area and contains World Heritage listed Australian Convict Sites (Old Great North Road). There are also ten local historic heritage listings representing a diverse colonial history.

A key BFMC objective in the Macdonald Valley and St Albans Focus Area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within mapped Strategic Fire Advantage Zones.

Local residents are generally well aware of the bush fire risk in this area however people requiring assistance and newer residents may be less aware, so Community Preparedness and Ignition Prevention Treatments will focus on strategies that encourage Risk Awareness, Planning and Preparation. These may include street meetings, Get Ready Weekend and other local Community Preparedness activities.

The BFMC will also review the operational readiness arrangements for Macdonald Valley and St Albans area as part of the BFMC Plan of operations, ensuring all agencies are prepared to respond to fire danger ratings and potential incidents.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Macdonald Valley and St Albans are listed in Table 7.

Table 7

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	MS.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	MS.PL
	Community Engagement; Response	MS.RP
Fuel Management	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	MS.AP
Ignition Prevention	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	MS.RA
Response	Operational Readiness Arrangements; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	MS.OR

1.8 Mountain Lagoon

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Mountain Lagoon as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural Assets.

The Mountain Lagoon area faces significant bush fire risks from both lightning and accidental ignitions, with the potential for rapid impacts on local assets during periods of elevated fire danger. This Focus Area is situated on a ridge top, surrounded by steep valley systems within Wollemi National Park. The area has a notable history of bush fires, including the 2002 Graham Creek fire, 2013 State Mine fire, and 2020 Gaspers Mountain fire. It is accessible by a single road, making the area isolated and the community particularly vulnerable during bush fire activity.

The bush fire risk to residential assets has been assessed as high. Social vulnerability has also been identified in the high category due to factors such as the number of unoccupied dwellings, age, and household income.

This Focus Area contains significant environmental assets including 3 Endangered Ecological Communities (Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest, O'Hares Creek Shale Forest and Montane Peatlands and Swaps). It provides essential habitat for twelve threatened species, notably the Critically Endangered Scrub Turpentine and high-profile fauna such as the Koala, Gang-gang Cockatoo, and Southern Greater Glider. There is also an Area of Regional Koala Significance. There are currently four Saving Our Species Priority Management Sites in the Mountain Lagoon Focus Area including the Wollemi Pine, Scrub Turpentine, Giant Burrowing Frog and the Stuttering Frog.

The Mountain Lagoon Focus Area is located within the Deerubbin local aboriginal land council on Dharug Country. The area features three recorded Aboriginal heritage sites (grinding grooves, artefacts and art). The area also encompasses part of the World Heritage Listed Greater Blue Mountains Area and the Wollemi Wilderness Area.

A key BFMC objective in the Mountain Lagoon Focus Area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within mapped Land Management Zones.

The BFMC will also undertake Community Preparedness Treatments which will help residents and visitors to better understand their bush fire risk and plan for bush fire events. The BFMC intends to conduct Community Engagement activities such as street meetings, Get Ready Weekend and other local Community Preparedness activities.

The BFMC will address operational readiness arrangements for the Mountain Lagoon area as part of the BFMC Plan of Operations, ensuring all agencies are prepared to respond to fire danger ratings and potential incidents.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Mountain Lagoon are listed in Table 8.

Table 8

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	ML.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	ML.PL
Fuel Management	Land Management Zone; prescribed burn	ML.AP
Response	Operational Readiness Arrangements; addressed in BFMC Plan of Operations	ML.RA

1.9 Yarramundi

The Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) identified Yarramundi as a Focus Area after assessing recent bush fire activity within and around the area. The assessment considered risks to Residential, Special Fire Protection (such as schools, healthcare facilities, and childcare centres), Economic, Environmental, and Cultural Assets.

Yarramundi is a suburb located in the southwest of Hawkesbury's BFMC area along Springwood Road. Yarramundi Reserve attracts many visitors to the area and is known for its bushwalking trails and natural environment. Tourists and visitors to the Reserve may be unfamiliar with the local area and have a limited understanding of bush fire risk.

Hawkesbury Road/Springwood Road is the primary access and egress route and there is a risk that properties may become isolated if a bush fire impacts this road.

The Yarramundi Focus Area is bordered by the Grose Valley (Blue Mountains National Park), which is characterised by dense forests and steep valley topography. Key Assets within the Focus Area include, Yarramundi Community Centre, River Park Christian Youth Camp, accommodation facilities, Hawkesbury Valley Equestrian centre and Communication towers.

Residential properties have been assessed in the low to moderate bush fire risk category and there is a moderate risk to economic assets (agriculture). However, as bush fire fuel loads increase in the broader area, the risk is likely to increase. Properties are isolated, water supply is limited and the broader area is particularly susceptible to ridgeline ignitions. Social vulnerability has been assessed in the medium to high category with education being a contributing factor.

Historically there have been several bush fires in this area including 2013 Lynchs Creek Fire, 2013 Hawkesbury Road Fire and 2001 Vale of Avoca fire.

The Area contains 8 Threatened Ecological Communities, including the Critically Endangered Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest. It is also a habitat for 18 threatened fauna species, including the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater, and endangered species including Swift Parrot, as well as the Gang-gang Cockatoo and Southern Greater Glider. The environmental value of the landscape is further enhanced by the Blaxland Area of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS), the Grose Wilderness Area, and protected wetland pockets, all of which are highly sensitive to fire. There are currently two Saving Our Species Priority Management Sites protecting the Scrub Turpentine, Giant Burrowing Frog and the Stuttering Frog.

The Yarramundi Focus Area is located within the Deerubbin local aboriginal land council on Dharug Country. The area features two recorded Aboriginal heritage sites (artefacts and grinding grooves). The area also encompasses part of the World Heritage Listed Greater Blue Mountains Area.

A key BFMC objective in the Yarramundi Focus Area is Fuel Management. As identified in the Fuel Management Register, the BFMC aims to reduce bush fire fuel levels by undertaking prescribed burns within the mapped Strategic Fire Advantage zones.

Other key Treatments include Community Preparedness and Ignition Prevention. These strategies will aim to help residents and visitors better understand bush fire risk, plan and prepare for bush fire events and reduce the risk of uncontrolled fires starting. The BFMC will undertake Community Engagement activities such as Get Ready Weekend, Street meetings and other local Community Preparedness activities.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for Yarramundi are listed in Table 9.

Table 9

BFMC OBJECTIVE	TREATMENT STRATEGY	REFERENCE
Community Preparedness	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	YA.RA
	Community Engagement; Planning	YA.PL
Fuel Management	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone; prescribed burn	YA.SF
	Asset Protection Zone	YA.AP
Response	Community Engagement; Risk Awareness	ML.RA

Appendix 2

Fuel Management Register

Table 2.1 Asset Protection Zones				
ID	Name	Focus Area	Priority	Responsible Agency
AP.2	Powell Park APZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.3	Blaxlands Ridge APZ	Blaxlands Ridge	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.8	Surprise Crescent APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.10	George Street 2 APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.11	George Street APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.14	Peter Place APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.15	Rich Close APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.4	Alex Place APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.5	Sanctuary Drive 1 APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.6	Sanctuary Drive 2 APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.7	Sanctuary Drive 3 APZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.9	Colo Heights School APZ	Colo and Colo Heights	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.17	Riverside Drive APZ	Yarramundi	1	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.1	Glossodia School APZ		2	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.12	Midson Road North APZ		2	Hawkesbury City Council
AP.13	Midson Road South APZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
AP.16	Saunders Road APZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service

Table 2.2 Prescribed Burning/Fire Breaks					
ID	Name	Strategy*	Focus Area	Priority	Responsible Agency
IM.18	Grassy Hill	IMZ	Colo and Colo Heights	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
LF.19	Scheyville Powerline LFB	LFB		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
LM.20	Burralow Creek West	LMZ	Bowen Mountain	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
LM.21	Green Scrub	LMZ	Mountain Lagoon	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
LM.22	Lagoon Creek	LMZ	Mountain Lagoon	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.23	Berambing North	SFAZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.24	Bilpin Springs	SFAZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.25	Burralow Road East	SFAZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.26	Little Islands	SFAZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.27	Piggery Powell	SFAZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.28	Warks Hill Road	SFAZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.29	Wheeny Gap	SFAZ	Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.33	Blaxlands Ridge East	SFAZ	Blaxlands Ridge	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.34	Colo Junction	SFAZ	Blaxlands Ridge	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.35	Gees Arm North	SFAZ	Blaxlands Ridge	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.36	Gees Arm South	SFAZ	Blaxlands Ridge	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.37	Roberts Creek	SFAZ	Blaxlands Ridge	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.38	Agliss	SFAZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.39	Airstrip	SFAZ	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.30	Bowen Mountain East	SFAZ	Bowen Mountain	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.31	Bowen Mountain West	SFAZ	Bowen Mountain	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.32	Devils Hole	SFAZ	Bowen Mountain	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.40	Angowara HR	SFAZ	Colo and Colo Heights	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.41	Mt Townsend	SFAZ	Colo and Colo Heights	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.42	Blue Gum Creek	SFAZ	Comleroy Hills	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.43	Comleroy Reserve	SFAZ	Comleroy Hills	1	Rural Fire Service

Table 2.2 Prescribed Burning/Fire Breaks					
ID	Name	Strategy*	Focus Area	Priority	Responsible Agency
SF.44	Little Wheeny	SFAZ	Comleroy Hills	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.45	Middle Island	SFAZ	Comleroy Hills	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.46	Middle Island South	SFAZ	Comleroy Hills	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.47	Fowlers Gully	SFAZ	Macdonald Valley and St Albans	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.48	Keif Trig	SFAZ	Macdonald Valley and St Albans	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.49	Left Arm Creek	SFAZ	Macdonald Valley and St Albans	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.50	Sunnyvale	SFAZ	Macdonald Valley and St Albans	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.71	Lynches Creek South	SFAZ	Yarramundi	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.72	Mahons Creek East	SFAZ	Yarramundi	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.73	Mahons Creek West	SFAZ	Yarramundi	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.74	Nepean Park East	SFAZ	Yarramundi	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.75	Nepean Park West	SFAZ	Yarramundi	1	Rural Fire Service
SF.76	Woods Creek	SFAZ	Yarramundi	1	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.51	Barns	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
SF.52	Bird Banders West	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.53	Bull Ridge East	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
SF.54	Creek Flat Road	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.55	Greens Swamp	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.56	Hebron Road	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
SF.57	Lower Half Moon	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
SF.58	McDougall	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
SF.59	Minefield	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.60	Orchard	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.61	Paddock	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.62	Portland Head Rd	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
SF.63	Quarry	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.64	Research	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.65	Rocky Hall Road	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
SF.66	Russell Park	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service

Table 2.2 Prescribed Burning/Fire Breaks					
ID	Name	Strategy*	Focus Area	Priority	Responsible Agency
SF.67	Saunders Road	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.68	Sitella	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.69	Training Farm	SFAZ		2	National Parks and Wildlife Service
SF.70	West Portland Lookout	SFAZ		2	Rural Fire Service
TF.77	Richmond Road TCFB	TCFB	Bligh Park and Windsor Downs	1	Transport for NSW

*Strategy: GP (Grazing Program); IMZ (Ignition Management Zone); LFB (Linear Firebreak); LMZ (Land Management Zone), SFAZ (Strategic Fire Advantage Zone), TCFB (Transport Corridor Fire Break). See Annex C BFCC Policy 01/2023 for further information on bush fire management zones including a description of the zones and their purposes.

The Transport Corridor Fire Breaks identified by Transport for NSW along the state road network noted in the Fuel Management Register will be managed in line with the Transport for NSW Roadside Clearing Guidelines (defined by the back of the table drain or 4 m from the edge of asphalt, or 1.2 m beyond the back of the safety barrier).

Table 2.3 Neighbourhood Safer Places*			
Title	Type	Location	LGA
Nepean Park	Open Space	Access off Shearwater Crescent, Yarramundi	Hawkesbury
Maraylya Park	Open Space	Cnr of Boundary Road and Dunns Road, Maraylya	Hawkesbury

*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 Hawkesbury 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/hawkesbury>

Known Aboriginal sites were also 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 being shared at this time.

Appendix 4

Communication Strategy

Date/ timeframe	Target Audience	Method of communication	Method of notification	Key messages/ purpose	Resources required	Responsibility
May 2023	General Public	BFMC website Have Your Say survey	Social media NSW Government website	Have Your Say Survey. To gain an understanding of the public perceptions of bush fire risk and assets of concern.	Have Your Say Website Survey	BFMC Members
June 2023	Senior Volunteer Firefighters	Internal NSW RFS consultation workshop	Email	Introduction to next generation BFRMP methodology. Data validation.	Venue, Facilitator(s). PowerPoint presentation. Maps.	NSW RFS District Office
June 2023	Hawkesbury BFMC	BFMC Workshop	Email	Workshop 1 Introduction to next generation BFRMP methodology. Data validation.	Venue, Facilitator(s). PowerPoint presentation. Maps.	BFMC XO
Jan 2024	Hawkesbury BFMC	BFMC Workshop	Email	Workshop 2 Review Risk. Identify Focus Areas and Treatments	Venue, Facilitator(s). PowerPoint presentation. Maps.	BFMC XO
Jan 2024	Senior Volunteer Firefighters	Internal NSW RFS consultation workshop	Email	Data validation. Identify Focus Areas	Venue, Facilitator(s). PowerPoint presentation. Maps.	NSW RFS District Office
April 2024	Hawkesbury BFMC	BFMC Workshop	Email	Workshop 3 Evaluate Treatments and prepare draft Plan for Public Exhibition	Venue, Facilitator(s). PowerPoint presentation. Maps.	BFMC XO

April 2025	Senior Volunteer Firefighters	Internal NSW RFS consultation	Email	Revise Focus Areas Determine Treatment(s)	Venue, Facilitator(s). PowerPoint presentation. Maps.	NSW RFS District Office
May 2025	General Public	NSW RFS website Social media Public Display: - Hawkesbury Council - Hawkesbury Fire Control Centre. - Windsor library. -Hawkesbury Show	Social media	Public Exhibition Invite community to provide feedback on the draft Plan and maps throughout the public exhibition period. Notification of public exhibition of BFRMP. How to get a copy of plan How to make a submission	Social Media package distributed by Agencies. BFMC members' NSW RFS website. Hawkesbury Council Website.	BFMC Members NSW RFS District Office
Nov 2025	Hawkesbury BFMC	BFMC Workshop	Email	Workshop 4 Review Public Exhibition comments. Endorse BFRMP.	Venue, Facilitator(s). PowerPoint presentation. Maps.	BFMC XO



Planning together

Hawkesbury

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