West Darling Bush Fire Management Committee

Bush Fire Risk Management Plan

8 SEP 2011
Prepared by the West Darling Bush Fire Management Committee; pursuant to section 52 of the Rural Fires Act, 1997
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Authorisation

In accordance with Part 3 Division 4 of the Rural Fires Act 1997, this Draft Plan has been prepared by the West Darling Bush Fire Management Committee and has been endorsed at the BFMC meeting on 14th October 2010 for submission to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee.

Recommended

[Signature]

Chairperson
West Darling Bush Fire Management Committee

Approved

On behalf of the 8 SEP 2011
NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee
# Amendment List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Entered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
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Glossary

Assets: anything valued by the community which includes houses, crops, heritage buildings and places, infrastructure, the environment, businesses, and forests, that may be at risk from bush fire.

Bush Fire: a general term used to describe fire in vegetation, includes grass fire.

Bush Fire Hazard: the potential severity of a bush fire, which is determined by fuel load, fuel arrangement and topography under a given climatic condition.

Bush Fire Risk: the chance of a bush fire igniting, spreading and causing damage to the community or the assets they value.

Bush Fire Risk Management: a systematic process that provides a range of treatments which contribute to the well being of communities and the environment, which suffer the adverse effects of wildfire/bush fire.

Bush Fire Threat: potential bush fire exposure of an asset due to the proximity and type of a hazard and the slope on which the hazard is situated.

Consequence: outcome or impact of a bush fire event.

Fire Fighting Authorities: the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Forests NSW.

Likelihood: the chance of a bush fire igniting and spreading.

Major Bush Fire: A bush fire which requires the attendance of multiple brigades, or causes damage to property or injury to one or more persons.

Display area: geographic area determined by the Bush Fire Management Committee which is used to provide a suitable area and scale for community participation and mapping display purposes.

Recovery costs: the capacity of an asset to recover from the impacts of a bush fire.

Risk Acceptance: an informed decision to accept the consequences and the likelihood of a particular risk.

Risk Analysis: a systematic process to understand the nature of and to deduce the level of risk.

Risk Assessment: the overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation.

Risk Identification: the process of determining what, where, when, why, and how something could happen.

Risk Treatment: the process of selection and implementation of measures to modify risk.

Vulnerability: the susceptibility of an asset to the impacts of bush fire.
Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 Background
Under the Rural Fires Act 1997 the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) must constitute a Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) for each area in the State, which is subject to the risk of bush fires. Each BFMC is required to prepare and submit to the BFCC a draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP).

A BFRMP is a strategic document that identifies community assets at risk and sets out a five-year program of coordinated multi-agency treatments to reduce the risk of bush fire to the assets. Treatments may include such things as hazard reduction burning, grazing, community education, fire trail maintenance and establishing community fireguard groups.

Annual programs to implement the treatments identified in this plan will be undertaken by the relevant land managers and fire fighting authorities.

In exercising its functions under the Rural Fires Act 1997, including the preparation of a draft bush fire risk management plan, the West Darling BFMC is required to have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

This document and the accompanying maps together form the BFRMP for the West Darling BFMC area.

This BFRMP has been prepared by the West Darling BFMC and covers both public and private lands. This BFRMP must be reviewed and updated within each successive five-year period from the constitution of the BFMC.

The BFCC recognises that climate change has the potential to increase bush fire risk. The risk assessment process applied in this BFRMP is based on current climatic conditions. The BFCC will monitor information on climate change and will modify the process when necessary.

1.2 Aim and Objectives
The aim of this BFRMP is to minimise the risk of adverse impact of bush fires on life, property and the environment.

The objectives of this BFRMP are to:

- reduce the number of human-induced bush fire ignitions that cause damage to life, property and the environment;
- manage fuel to reduce the rate of spread and intensity of bush fires, while minimising environmental/ecological and cultural heritage impacts;
- reduce the community’s vulnerability to bush fires by improving its preparedness; and
- effectively contain fires with a potential to cause damage to life, property and the environment.
1.3 Description of the West Darling BFMC Area

1.3.1 Location and land tenure

The West Darling BFMC area is located in Far Western New South Wales and is not part of any local government area. The area that makes up the West Darling BFMC area is known as the Unincorporated Area of NSW and is managed by the Dept of Lands.

The area covered by the West Darling BFMC is 9.4 million hectares and includes the land tenures outlined in Table 1.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Manager</th>
<th>% of BFMC area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests NSW</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Lands</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>97.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.1 Land Tenure

1.3.2 Climate and bush fire season

The typical / average climate in the West Darling BFMC area is characterised by a hot, arid climate with the driest months usually from May to September and the bush fire season running from October to March. It is unusual to have major fires until well into November or December. There is significant variation in rainfall in the West Darling area, often unreliable with long periods of low rainfall and drought a natural feature of this district.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the West Darling BFMC area are hot dry days with temperatures often exceeding 40 ° C, humidity of less than 10% and dry westerly winds. There are frequent dry electrical storms during the bush fire season.

1.3.3 Population

The population of the West Darling BFMC area is approximately 1100 people, most of who live on isolated rural properties. The Unincorporated Area also includes the villages of Silverton, Tibooburra and Milparinka. Due to the nature of the country surrounding these settlements, it is unlikely that evacuations would ever be required during a bush fire. The City of Broken Hill is surrounded by the Unincorporated Area; Broken Hill City Council has an area of 179 sq km and has a population of approximately 20,000.

Bush fires on a large scale are an irregular occurrence in the West Darling Rural Fire District. Such events usually only occur after a prolonged period of above average rainfall. Such conditions occurred in 1050-51, 1955-56, 1975-76, 1984-85. These large scale wild fires usually originate from electrical storms associated with hot, dry north westerly winds.
Chapter 2. Identifying and Assessing the Bush Fire Risk

2.1 Process
The Australia/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4360: 2004 Risk Management was used as the basis for the risk assessment process. See Figure 2.1 for the steps involved. For a detailed description of the process undertaken see the Bush Fire Risk Management Planning Guidelines for Bush Fire Management Committees on the RFS website: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

2.2 Communication and Consultation
Community participation is an integral part of risk management. The Community Participation 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. See Appendix 1 for the Community Participation Strategy used by the West Darling BFMC in preparing this BFRMP.
2.3 Identifying the Bush Fire Risk

Identifying the level of bush fire risk firstly involved identifying important community assets considered to be at risk from bush fire in the West Darling BFMC area, and then assessing the likelihood and consequence ratings.

2.3.1 Assets

BFMC members and the community, including RFS volunteers, identified assets within the West Darling BFMC that they believed were at risk of bush fire.

The assets were divided into four asset types:

**Human settlement**
- Residential areas including urban bushland interface areas and rural properties;
- Special Fire Protection areas including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and tourist facilities; and
- Other human settlement areas including commercial and industrial areas where distinct from major towns.

**Economic**
- Agricultural; e.g. major silos, regional saleyards, cropping/grazing land;
- Commercial/industrial e.g. major industries, waste treatment plants, sawmills;
- Infrastructure e.g. large power lines, gas and oil pipelines, railway lines, electricity substations, communication facilities;
- Tourist and recreational e.g. tourist sites and facilities, resorts, retreats;
- Mines;
- Commercial forests e.g. pine plantations, eucalypt plantations and commercial native forests; and
- Drinking water catchments.

**Environmental**
- Threatened species, populations and ecological communities and Ramsar wetlands;
- Locally important species and ecological communities, such as species and ecological communities especially sensitive to fire.

**Cultural**
- Aboriginal significance – Aboriginal places and items of significance;
- Non-indigenous heritage – places and items arising from the early occupation of NSW by European or other non-indigenous settlers; and
- Other cultural assets – community halls, clubs and recreational facilities.
See Appendix 2 for the full list of assets identified in the West Darling BFMC area. See map 1 for the location of assets to be treated under this BFRMP.

2.3.2 Assessing the Bush Fire Risk - Consequence

Once the assets were identified, the consequence of a bush fire impacting on these assets was assessed.

See Appendix 2 for the consequence ratings assigned to each asset identified in the West Darling BFMC area.

The different asset types had different assessment processes used to determine the consequence. These processes are identified below.

**Human settlement**

A potential fire behaviour model using vegetation type, slope and separation distance was used to produce a threat rating for human settlement assets. The vulnerability of the asset to a bush fire was also assessed and a rating assigned. These ratings were then used to assess the consequence of a bush fire impacting upon a human settlement asset.

Special Fire Protection (SFP) assets were considered inherently more vulnerable to bush fire due to mobility capacity, knowledge or other issues relating to their inhabitants, (e.g. the elderly, infirm, children or tourists) and therefore stricter requirements for vulnerability assessment and rating were applied.

**Economic**

The level of economic impact e.g. local, regional or state, as well as the economic recovery costs (how long and complicated a financial recovery will be) of the asset were identified. These ratings were used to assess the consequence of a bush fire impacting upon an economic asset.

**Environmental**

Environmental assets with known minimum fire threshold were assessed to determine if they were at risk of a bush fire within the 5 year life of the BFRMP using fire history data. Those environmental assets which were within or above the fire threshold were not assessed in the BFRMP, as the negative impact of a fire within the 5 year period was determined as being low and may even be of benefit to the asset and surrounding habitat.

The vulnerability of an environmental asset was determined by its conservation status and its geographic extent (distribution across the landscape). Vulnerability and potential impact of bush fire were used to assess the consequence of a bush fire impacting upon an environmental asset.
Cultural
For non-indigenous historical, Aboriginal and other cultural assets a potential fire behaviour model using fuel load, slope and proximity was used to produce a threat rating. The physical vulnerability of the asset to a bush fire was also assessed. These ratings were then used to assess the consequence of a bush fire impacting upon a cultural asset.

2.3.3 Assessing the Bush Fire Risk - Likelihood
For all asset types the likelihood of a bush fire occurring was assessed. This involves considering fire history, including ignition cause and patterns, known fire paths, access, containment potential and potential fire run (size of the vegetated area). See Appendix 2 for the likelihood ratings assigned to each asset identified in the West Darling BFMC area.

2.3.4 Identifying the level of risk
The consequence and likelihood ratings were then used to identify the level of risk. See Appendix 2 for the risk ratings assigned to each asset identified in the West Darling BFMC area.

2.3.5 Evaluating the Bush Fire Risk
Once the risk ratings for each asset were identified, they were evaluated to:

   a) confirm that risk levels identified in the risk analysis process are appropriate and reflect the relative seriousness of the bush fire risk;
   b) identify which assets require treatments; and
   c) identify treatment priorities.

2.3.6 Prioritising Treatments
No organisation has limitless resources to deal with adverse risk. It is therefore necessary to define priorities. The bush fire risk ratings determined were used to prioritise the risk treatments, i.e. areas of extreme risk were considered first for treatment, then very high, then high then medium then low.

2.3.7 Risk Acceptability
Risks below a certain level were assessed as not requiring treatment within the life of this plan. This is due to a combination of risk priority and capacity to undertake the works. Within the West Darling BFMC area the level of acceptability is high. Areas of medium or low risk are likely to be managed by routine procedures and so do not require a specific application of resources.
Chapter 3. Treating the Risk

3.1 Bush Fire Management Zones

Bush Fire Management Zones were identified within the West Darling BFMC area and mapped (see map 1). These zones identify the fire management intent for a specific area. See Table 3.1 for descriptions of the zones and their purposes. The four categories of Bush Fire Management Zones are:

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

Some of these zones (usually Land Management Zones) may be further classified within this category by the land manager, e.g. LMZ - Heritage Management Zone (NPWS).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Suppression Objective(s)</th>
<th>Zone characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asset Protection Zone</td>
<td>To protect human life, property and highly valued public assets and values.</td>
<td>To enable the safe use of <strong>Direct Attack</strong> suppression strategies within the zone. To minimise bush fire impacts on undefended assets.</td>
<td>As per RFS document Standards for Asset Protection Zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Fire Advantage Zone</td>
<td>To provide strategic areas of fire protection advantage which will reduce the speed and intensity of bush fires, and reduce the potential for spot fire development; To aid containment of wildfires to existing management boundaries.</td>
<td>To improve the likelihood and safe use of: <strong>Parallel Attack</strong> suppression strategies within the zone. and/or <strong>Indirect Attack</strong> (back burning) in high to very high fire weather conditions within the zone. To reduce the likelihood of: Crown fire development within the zone. and/or Spot fire ignition potential from the zone . **</td>
<td>Zone width related to suppression objectives and dependant upon: Topography Aspect Spotting propensity Location of adjacent firebreaks Mosaic pattern of treatment Assess Overall Fuel Hazard (OFH) once vegetation communities reach minimum fire thresholds within this plan. Management practices should aim to achieve mosaic fuel reduction patterns so that the majority of the SFAZ has an OFH of less than high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Management Zone</td>
<td>To meet relevant land management objectives in areas where APZs or SFAZs are not appropriate.</td>
<td>As per the land management and fire protection objectives of the responsible land management agency. To reduce the likelihood of spread of fires. To undertake mosaic burning</td>
<td>As appropriate to achieve land management e.g. heritage and/or fire protection e.g. broad scale mosaic burning objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Exclusion Zone</td>
<td>To exclude bush fires.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Variable dependant on size of fire sensitive area requiring protection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.1 Bush Fire Management Zones: Purpose, objectives and characteristics**

NB: OFH refers the Overall Fuel Hazard Guide as described in the document published by (Dept. of Sustainability and Environment 3rd ed. 1999 & NPWS version); State-wide procedures for assessment of fuel hazard will be developed in conjunction with the BFCC.

**Note:** All areas that are not mapped or described as APZs or SFAZs are considered as LMZs.
3.2 BFMC Wide Treatments

BFMC wide treatments are activities which reduce the overall bush fire risk within the BFMC area and are undertaken on an ongoing basis as part of normal business. These treatments are not linked to specific assets in the BFRMP, rather they are applied across all or part of the BFMC area as designated by legislation or agency policy. BFMC wide treatments include the following:

- **Reviewing the bush fire prone land map**
  These maps identify bush fire prone land and are used to trigger whether a development application is assessed using *Planning for Bush Fire Protection*\(^1\).

- **Ensuring developments in bush fire prone land comply with Planning for Bush Fire Protection**
  This assessment process requires new applications for development to include bush fire protection measures.

- **Using the Local Environment Plan/s (LEPs) to control developments in areas with a bush fire risk**
  LEPs can be used to exclude development in extreme bush fire risk areas or where bush fire protection measures cannot be incorporated.

- **Varying the standard bush fire danger period as required**
  In years where the weather is particularly adverse the bush fire danger period may be brought in early or extended. This is assessed every year by the BFMC.

- **Requiring permits during the bush fire danger period**
  In the bush fire danger period a fire safety permit is required to light a fire in the open. Permits specify conditions such as fire fighting equipment that must be on site, or restrict burns based on weather conditions.

- **Prosecution of arsonists/offenders**
  Under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* persons may be prosecuted for 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.

- **Investigation of bush fire cause**
  All bush fires which do not have a known cause are investigated to identify how they started.

- **Normal fire suppression activities**
  Responding to bush fire is a normal business activity for the fire fighting authorities.

- **Assessing and managing compliance with strategic fire fighting resource allocation provisions**
  Strategic fire fighting resource allocation provisions is the process used to identify the number of stations, brigades and appliances required in an area, and considers members, training, assets and hazards.

- **Preparation of a S52 Operations Coordination Plan**

\(^1\) NSW Rural Fire Service 2006 *Planning for Bush Fire Protection: A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers.*
The Operations Coordination Plan is prepared biannually and sets out how coordinated fire fighting will occur. It includes specific operational restrictions on fire fighting techniques in certain areas, where fires will be managed from, and how agencies involved can communicate during operations.

- **Fire Management Plans or Plans of Management**

Some land management agencies have developed fire management plans or plans of management with specific fire or fuel management strategies, for example a Forests NSW Regional Fuel Management Risk Plan, a NPWS Fire Management Strategy. These publicly exhibited plans form the basis for operational fire planning on public parks, reserves and forests.

- **Bush Fire Hazard Complaints**

If someone is concerned about possible bush fire hazards on a neighbouring property or any other land, then this can be reported to the RFS Commissioner or their local RFS Fire Control Centre. The complaint will be investigated and may result in a notice being issued to the landowner or manager to reduce the hazard.

### 3.3 Asset Specific Treatments

There are three broad strategy groups available to treat the bush fire risk to assets identified in the BFRMP.

The types of asset specific treatments in each strategy group used in the West Darling BFMC area are listed below. A full list of the treatment strategies in the West Darling BFMC area are in Appendix 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Targeted treatments used in the <em>West Darling</em> BFMC area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ignition Management</td>
<td>Ignition management systems in the West darling BFMC area involves implementation of the permit system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
<td>Hazard reduction treatments in the West Darling BFMC include inspection and maintenance of fire breaks and create and maintain SFAZ along major roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Education</td>
<td>Community education programs and activities to raise awareness and enhance preparedness levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.2 Asset specific treatments used in the West Darling BFMC area

### 3.4 Fire Thresholds

The vegetation in the West Darling BFMC area was classified into fire threshold categories (Table 3.3).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetation formation</th>
<th>Minimum SFAZ Threshold</th>
<th>Minimum LMZ Threshold</th>
<th>Maximum Threshold</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rainforest</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Fire should be avoided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine complex</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Fire should be avoided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Sclerophyll forest (shrubby subformation)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Sclerophyll forest (grassy subformation)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassy woodland</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Minimum interval of 10 years should apply in the southern Tablelands area. Occasional intervals greater than 15 years may be desirable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Occasional intervals greater than 7 years should be included in coastal areas. There was insufficient data to give a maximum interval; available evidence indicates maximum intervals should be approximately 10 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry sclerophyll forest (shrub/grass subformation)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Occasional intervals greater than 25 years may be desirable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry sclerophyll forest (shrub subformation)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Occasional intervals greater than 25 years may be desirable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathlands</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Occasional intervals greater than 20 years may be desirable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater wetlands</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Occasional intervals greater than 30 years may be desirable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forested wetlands</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Some intervals greater than 20 years may be desirable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline wetlands</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Fire should be avoided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-arid woodlands (grassy subformation)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No max</td>
<td>Not enough data for a maximum fire interval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-arid woodlands (shrubby subformation)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No Max</td>
<td>Not enough data for a maximum fire interval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arid shrublands (chenopod subformation)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Fire should be avoided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arid shrublands (acacia subformation)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No Max</td>
<td>Not enough data for a maximum fire interval.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.3 Fire Thresholds for Vegetation Categories

3.5 Annual Works Programs

The land management agencies and fire fighting authorities responsible for implementing the treatments identified in this plan will include those treatments in their annual works programs detailing how, when, and where the required activities will be undertaken.
3.6 Implementation

When the treatments identified in this BFRMP are implemented there are a number of issues that need to be considered by the responsible agency including environmental assessments and approvals, smoke management and prescribed burn plans.

Local permit issuing/hazard reduction burning exclusion periods

In the West Darling BFMC area, the issuing of permits is not permitted between 23rd December to 2nd January each year.
Chapter 4. Performance Monitoring and Reviewing

4.1 Review

This BFRMP must be reviewed and updated within each successive five-year period from the constitution of the BFMC. The West Darling BFMC will also review this plan as necessary to account for any changes in context or risk. This may be triggered by a range of circumstances, including but not limited to:

- changes to the BFMC area, organisational responsibilities or legislation;
- changes to the bush fire risk in the area; or
- following a major fire event.

4.2 Monitoring

The BFMC is required to monitor progress towards the completion of treatment works listed in the BFRMP, and the timeliness of the works.

4.3 Reporting

The BFMC is required to report annually to the BFCC on its progress in implementing the bush fire risk management activities identified in this plan.

4.4 Performance Measurements

State wide performance measurements which are linked to the BFRMP have been identified by the BFCC. All BFMCs must use these to monitor and report on their success in reducing the bush fire risk in their BFMC area.
Appendices

Appendix 1 Community Participation Strategy

WEST DARLING BFMC
Bush Fire Risk Management Plan
Communications Strategy

Purpose

- To ensure that specific and targeted communication occurs between the BFMC and the community throughout the development of bush Fire risk management Plans (BFRMP)
- To ensure prominent stakeholders do not make judgements of the acceptability of the risk based on their own perception of risk.
- To provide greater opportunity for local brigades, land holders and other stakeholders to have input into the bush fire risk management process.
- To determine the concerns of the community regarding bush fire risks within the community.
- To ensure that the community’s concerns and perception of risk be identified, understood, documented and addressed in the BFRMP
- Improve community confidence in bush fire risk management across the landscape and provide the community with a sense of ownership of the BFRMP
- Educate the community regarding bush fire risk management in the area so that they can contribute towards risk reduction.

Target audience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target audience</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency networks</td>
<td>The formal and informal networks within &amp; between emergency services, land management agencies, councils and the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General community</td>
<td>People who live or have assets in the area, especially those who may be impacted by bush fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community groups</td>
<td>CWA V Village progress associations Bush fire Prevention Schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFS volunteers &amp; brigades</td>
<td>Formal volunteer groups with active interest in fire management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other BFMC’s</td>
<td>BFMC's adjacent to Far West- Wentworth, Barwon Darling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues to be communicated

- Identification of risks- where are the hazards and threats
- Determination of likelihood/consequence
- Prioritisation of risks
- Risk treatment strategies

Methods of communication

Meetings
Due to the isolated and remote areas involved, the West Darling BFMC believe that tapping into pre-planned meetings in the area will be more productive than holding special community meetings. These pre-planned meetings include District Liaison Committee, Senior Management Committee, Local Emergency Management Committee and RFS brigade meetings.

RFS volunteer members will be made aware of the BFRMP review through the local district section of MyRFS website, Blaze newsletter and brigade meetings.

Community displays
Displays will be set up at a number of local events such as fetes, field days and market days. Maps showing recognisable assets will assist in attracting attention.

Internet
The Broken Hill Council website will be utilised to inform and promote the BFRMP review to the wider community.

Flyers/posters
These will be used to raise awareness of the risk plan and the consultative process. These posters will be placed in prominent locations such as shop windows and notice boards. A reasonable quantity will be required to evenly distribute to communities throughout the West Darling area.

Information phone line
The Cobar Fire Control Centre phone number will be advertised as a point of contact with general enquiries regarding the risk management plan.
Information e-mail address

An email address will be set up and monitored to allow the public to make enquiries and comments regarding the risk management plan. Monitoring of the email account will be the responsibility of the RFS and the supply of any specific information that is requested would be the responsibility of the appropriate agency/organisation. Any emails received, like all written comments and submissions will be kept on file. The community can also write to the BFMC.

Email address: WestDarlingRisk.Plan@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Postal address:

The Executive Officer,
West Darling Bush Fire Management Committee
PO Box 280
COBAR. NSW. 2835
## Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Target group</th>
<th>Method of communication</th>
<th>Method of notification</th>
<th>Key message</th>
<th>Resources required</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2009</td>
<td>RFS volunteers, senior LGA reps</td>
<td>District Liaison &amp; Senior Mgt meeting</td>
<td>Letter &amp; agenda</td>
<td>Introduce BFRMP, community issues, identify assets &amp; assessment, discuss treatment options, responsibilities</td>
<td>Presentation, maps</td>
<td>RFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2009</td>
<td>Agency reps, community</td>
<td>LEMC</td>
<td>Report to meeting</td>
<td>Introduce BFRMP, community issues, identify assets &amp; assessment, discuss treatment options, responsibilities</td>
<td>Presentation, maps</td>
<td>RFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>RFS volunteers</td>
<td>Brigade meetings MyRFS Cobar District Blaze newsletter</td>
<td>Agenda item</td>
<td>Introduce BFRMP, community issues, identify assets &amp; assessment, discuss treatment options, responsibilities</td>
<td>Presentation, maps, Flyer Website (MyRFS)</td>
<td>RFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>General public</td>
<td>Contact number/ PO Box/email address</td>
<td>Details advertised on notice boards, displays</td>
<td>Maintain community participation Record &amp; consider issues and comments Provide feedback</td>
<td>Presentation, maps, Flyer Website (MyRFS)</td>
<td>All agencies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Documentation

Records and business arising from all meetings will be documented and kept on file at the Far West Team office in Cobar.

An issues database has been created in the RFS filing system. Any issues raised will be recorded on the database and follow up actions will also be recorded.

Written public comments/submissions are to be actioned by the BFMC and filed.
### Appendix 2 Asset Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map Ref No.</th>
<th>Asset type</th>
<th>Asset sub type</th>
<th>Asset name</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Treatment No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Endangered Flora &amp; fauna</td>
<td></td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>1;2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Vulnerable Flora &amp; fauna</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unlikely</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1;2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Aboriginal Significance</td>
<td>Aboriginal site NPWS</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Aboriginal Significance</td>
<td>Aboriginal site private land</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Coombah radio Mast</td>
<td>Unlikely</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Human Settlement</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Broken Hill City</td>
<td>Unlikely</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Residential</td>
<td>Milparinka</td>
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<td>Minor</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<td>Residential</td>
<td>Tibooburra</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Residential</td>
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<td>Low</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Human Settlement</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Isolated grazing homesteads</td>
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<td>Low</td>
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<td>Tourist and Recreational</td>
<td>National parks and reserves</td>
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<td>Priority (Risk Rating)</td>
<td>Asset ID</td>
<td>Asset Name</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Treatment ID</td>
<td>Action Description</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Responsible Agencies</td>
<td>Support Agencies</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
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<td>3A (High)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Flora &amp; fauna</td>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Implement NPWS Fire Mgt plans</td>
<td>Implement NPWS Fire Mgt plans</td>
<td>DECCW</td>
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<td>Ignition Management</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Implement and maintain permit system</td>
<td>Implement and maintain permit system in West Darling area</td>
<td>RFS</td>
<td>[1011] [1112] [1213] [1314] [1415]</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 (Medium)</td>
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<td>Vulnerable flora &amp; fauna</td>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Implement NPWS Fire Mgt plans</td>
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<td>DECCW</td>
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<td>Implement and maintain permit system in West Darling area</td>
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<td>Aboriginal site</td>
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<td>Implement and maintain permit system</td>
<td>Implement and maintain permit system in West Darling area</td>
<td>RFS</td>
<td>[1011] [1112] [1213] [1314] [1415]</td>
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<td>NA (Low)</td>
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<td>Grazing lands</td>
<td>Ignition Management</td>
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<td>Isolated grazing homesteads</td>
<td>Community Education</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Distribute Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>DECCW; NSWFB</td>
<td>[1011] [1112] [1213] [1314] [1415]</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Inspect &amp; maintain fire break as required</td>
<td>Maintain existing fire break system of South West Mallee Bushfire Prevention Scheme in southern parts of BFMC area.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Clear roadside SFAZ of major roads as req.</td>
<td>SFAZ not mapped on all roads, refer to text in plan</td>
<td>RTA</td>
<td>[1011] [1112] [1213] [1314] [1415]</td>
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<td>National parks and reserves</td>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
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<td>Implement NPWS Fire Mgt plans</td>
<td>Implement NPWS Fire Mgt plans</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coombah radio Mast</td>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Inspect APZ annually and maintain as required</td>
<td>Slashing and chemical treatment. Whilst tower is in West Darling Area, maintenance will be undertaken by Lower Western Zone of RFS</td>
<td>Police</td>
<td>RFS</td>
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<td>Distribute Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>RFS</td>
<td>NSWFB</td>
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<td>Community Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Distribute Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>RFS</td>
<td>NSWFB</td>
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<td>Tibbooburra</td>
<td>Community Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Distribute Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>RFS</td>
<td>NSWFB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Stephens Creek Reservoir</td>
<td>Community Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Distribute Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
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<td>Distribute Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
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<td>Distribute Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>Newsletters &amp; media as required</td>
<td>RFS</td>
<td>NSWFB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 4 Maps

List of maps
Map 1- West Darling BFMC