Barwon Darling Zone Bush Fire Management Committee

Bush Fire Risk Management Plan

2014
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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 Barwon Darling Zone Bush Fire Management Committee and has been endorsed at the BFMC meeting on 17/09/2012 for submission to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee.

Recommended

Chairperson

Barwon Darling Zone Bush Fire Management Committee

Approved

On Behalf of the
NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee
## Amendment List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Entered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signature</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 BFRMP, the Barwon Darling Zone 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 Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area.

This BFRMP has been prepared by the Barwon Darling Zone 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 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 Barwon Darling BFMC Area

1.3.1 Location and land tenure
The Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area is located in north western New South Wales and includes the Local Government areas of Bourke and Brewarrina.

The area covered by the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC is 4.5 million hectares (45,313 sq Km) 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>6.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Lands</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.1 Land Tenure

1.3.2 Climate and bush fire season
The typical / average climate in the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area is characterised by a hot, arid climate with the driest months being from May to August. The mean rainfall for Bourke Shire is 300mm and Brewarrina Shire 409.5 mm per year. The bush fire season generally runs from October to March.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area are warm to very hot days with temperatures sometimes exceeding 40 degrees, humidity of less than 10% and dry north westerly winds. There can also be frequent electrical storms during the bush fire season.

1.3.3 Population and demographic information
The population of the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area is approximately 5,300 people. Bourke Shire has a population of approximately 3,100 and Brewarrina Shire population is approximately 2,200. The major population centres are the towns of Bourke and Brewarrina. The Bourke Shire has a number of smaller villages, being Byrock, Wanaaring, Fords Bridge, North Bourke, Enngonia, Barrinun and Louth. The villages of Goodooga, New Angledool, Weilmoringle and Gongolgon are located in Brewarrina Shire.

There are a number of discrete Aboriginal communities across the Barwon Darling Zone. The Alice Edwards’s Village and Clara Hart Village are located in the Bourke Shire. Goodooga Aboriginal Reserve, Wytaliba Community, Barwon Four and West Brewarrina are the discrete Aboriginal communities in the Brewarrina Shire.

1.3.4 History of bush fire frequency and ignition cause
Bush fires on a large scale are an irregular occurrence in the Barwon Darling Zone area. Such events usually only occur after a prolonged period of above average rainfall. Information on fire history in the area is lacking in detail, with the last known large scale fire occurring in the 1980’s in the Brewarrina area. The larger 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.

![Figure 2.1 Overview of the risk assessment process](image)

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 Barwon Darling Zone 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 Barwon Darling Zone 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 Barwon Darling Zone 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.
- Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) is defined by the *Rural Fires Act 1997* as *land or a building designated as a neighbourhood safer place under section 62C*. 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](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

**Economic**
- Agricultural; e.g. major silos, Regional Saleyards, cropping/grazing land;
- Commercial/industrial e.g. major industries, waste treatment plants,
- 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
- 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 Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area. See Maps 1 and 2 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 Barwon Darling Zone 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. Due to circumstances surrounding NSPs and their use during a bush fire, stricter requirements for vulnerability assessment and rating will also apply to these assets.

**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 Barwon Darling Zone 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 Barwon Darling Zone 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 Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area the level of acceptability is low. Areas of low risk are likely to be managed by routine procedures and so do not require a specific application of resources. However, where possible and practical the BFMC will also endeavour to treat all low risk assets identified within this Plan.

All NSPs for a BFMC area will require ongoing treatment by the applicable land owner to ensure that the assets remains viable as a place of last resort for people during a bushfire. Therefore, all NSP assets are allocated specific treatments in this Plan, regardless of the level of bush fire risk identified and the risk acceptability nominated by the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC.
Chapter 3. Treating the Risk

3.1 Bush Fire Management Zones

Bush Fire Management Zones were identified within the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area and mapped (see Maps 1 and 2). 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).

All major and secondary shire roads in BFMC area have been identified as SFAZ. It is intended that these SFAZs function as fire breaks and will also provide ignition management treatments across the landscape. Due to the number of roads that are classified as major and secondary, these SFAZs have not been mapped in the Plan. The SFAZ are defined as up to 20m from the edge of the road. Slashing maintenance of these SFAZs for bush fire protection purposes will be in addition to the routine maintenance conducted by Local Government or the Roads and Maritime Services.

<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>As per RFS document Standards for Asset Protection Zones.</td>
<td>Zone width related to suppression objectives and dependant upon:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Topography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Aspect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Spotting propensity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Location of adjacent firebreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Mosaic pattern of treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assess Overall Fuel Hazard (OFH) once vegetation communities reach minimum fire thresholds within this plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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>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: Parallel Attack suppression strategies within the zone. and/or Indirect Attack (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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Topography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Aspect</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Spotting propensity</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assess Overall Fuel Hazard (OFH) once vegetation communities reach minimum fire thresholds within this plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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>
</tbody>
</table>
To meet relevant land management objectives in areas where APZs or SFAZs are not appropriate.

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

As appropriate to achieve land management e.g. heritage and/or fire protection e.g. broad scale mosaic burning objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Management Zone</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></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 Barwon Darling Zone 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.

\(^1\) NSW Rural Fire Service 2006 Planning for Bush Fire Protection: A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers.
• **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 an appliance required in an area, and considers members, training, assets and hazards.

• **Preparation of a S52 Operations Coordination Plan**
  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 four 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 Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area are listed below. A full list of the treatment strategies in the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area are in Appendix 3.
Table 3.2 Asset specific treatments used in the Barwon Darling BFMC area

### 3.4 Fire Thresholds

The vegetation in the Barwon Darling Zone 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>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 3.3 Fire Thresholds for Vegetation Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetation Category</th>
<th>Max Fire Interval</th>
<th>Min Fire Interval</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semi-arid woodlands (grassy subformation)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-arid woodlands (shrubby subformation)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arid shrublands (chenopod subformation)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>15</td>
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---

### 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 permits issuing/hazard reduction burning exclusion periods*

In the Barwon Darling Zone BFMC area the issuing of permits is not permitted during the period from 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 Barwon Darling Zone 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

BARWON DARLING BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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 the Barwon Darling Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Village progress associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bushfire 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 Barwon Darling Zone – Cobar, Central Darling, West Darling and North West Team.</td>
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</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 Barwon 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 Rural Fire District Liaison Committee, Senior Management Committee, Local Emergency Management Committee, RFS brigade and Captains meetings as well as Local Council village liaison 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 may assist in creating discussion.

Internet
The Bourke and Brewarrina Council websites will be utilised to inform and promote the BFRMP review to the wider community as well as local RFS public websites such as www.barwondarling.rfs.nsw.gov.au

RFS volunteer members will be made aware of the BFRMP through the local district section of MyRFS website, the Blaze newsletter and Barwon Darling Zone website www.barwondarling.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Flyers/posters
These will be used to raise awareness of the BFRMP 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 be evenly distributed to communities throughout the Bourke and Brewarrina shire areas.

Media/local networks
The local media outlets may be utilised to further disseminate information to members of the public, some examples may include newspaper articles and radio interviews/discussion. Also Council newsletters and similar networks will be considered.

Information phone line
The Barwon Darling Zone Fire Control Centre phone numbers 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 BFRMP. 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: BarwonDarlingRisk.Plan@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Postal address:
The Executive Officer,
Barwon Darling Zone Bush Fire Management Committee
PO Box 639
BOURKE NSW 2840
## 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>
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<tr>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>RFS volunteers, Local Government and agency representatives</td>
<td>Bush Fire Management Committee, Brigade Captains some media attention and web based dissemination.</td>
<td>Agenda items, media and websites</td>
<td>Introduce BFRMP, community issues, identify assets &amp; assessment, discuss treatment options, responsibilities</td>
<td>Plan Templates Presentation, initial maps</td>
<td>RFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>February/March 2012</td>
<td>Agency reps, community</td>
<td>BFMC, District Liaison, Senior Mgt meetings and LEMC</td>
<td>Report to meeting</td>
<td>Discuss, BFRMP, community issues, identify assets &amp; assessment, discuss treatment options, responsibilities</td>
<td>Presentation, maps</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>Brigade meetings</td>
<td>Agenda item</td>
<td>Introduce BFRMP, community issues, identify assets &amp; assessment, discuss treatment options, responsibilities</td>
<td>Presentation, maps, Flyer (MyRFS/Bourke/Brewarrina Councils, local RFS site)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June 2012</td>
<td>General public</td>
<td>Contact number/ PO Box/email address</td>
<td>Details advertised on notice boards, displays, websites, newsletters etc</td>
<td>Maintain community participation Record &amp; consider issues and comments Provide feedback</td>
<td>Presentation, maps, Flyer Website (MyRFS/Bourke/Brewarrina Councils, local RFS site)</td>
<td>RFS</td>
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</table>
Documentation

Records and business arising from all meetings will be documented and kept on file at the Bourke Fire Control Centre.

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>Asset Location</th>
<th>Display Area</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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### Appendix 3 Treatment Register

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<th>MDA</th>
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<td>Fort Bourke</td>
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<td>Non Indigenous</td>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
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<td>Human Settlement</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Hazard Reduction</td>
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<td>Support Agencies</td>
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<td>Magpie Oval Goodooga</td>
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Appendix 4 Maps

List of maps
Map 1 – Brewarrina Shire LGA Map
Map 2 – Bourke Shire LGA Map
Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Hazard Reduction

Aboriginal

2A

3A

NA

30°45'0"S

Low

NA

RFS

30°50'0"S

Economic

T42;41

Preparedness

RFS

Residential

Community Education

LGA (RFS)

30°40'0"S

Other

RFS

Extreme

LGA (Private, RFS)

Community Education

30°0'0"S

Hazard Reduction

T46

Endangered

LGA (Private, RFS)

Community Education

30°55'0"S

Environment

Low

LGA (FRNSW, Private, RFS)

Community Education

Hazard Reduction

T46

Hazard Reduction

29°0'0"S

NA

LGA (Private, RFS)

Community Education

30°40'0"S

NA

Hazard Reduction

30°15'0"S

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Agricultural

OEH

30°55'0"S

Action

LGA (Private, RFS)

Agencies (Support)

4

NA

LGA (Private, RFS)

Aboriginal

Agencies (Support)

Byrock

Environment

Undertake targeted community engagement

Medium

Treatment strategy

29°15'0"S

Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Bourke

Hazard Reduction

RFS

Human

Undertake targeted community engagement

Low

RFS (LGA, OEH)

Endangered

LGA (Private, RFS)

Non

29°0'0"S

Community Education

30°40'0"S

NA

Hazard Reduction

T46

LGA (Private, RFS)

Agencies (Support)

4

NA

LGA (Private, RFS)

Aboriginal

Agencies (Support)

Warroo

Environment

Undertake targeted community engagement

Medium

Treatment strategy

144°0'0"E

Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Agricultural

OEH

30°55'0"S

Action

144°30'0"E

Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Bourke

Hazard Reduction

RFS

Human

Undertake targeted community engagement

Low

RFS (LGA, OEH)

Endangered

LGA (Private, RFS)

Non

29°0'0"S

Community Education

30°40'0"S

NA

Hazard Reduction

T46

LGA (Private, RFS)

Agencies (Support)

4

NA

LGA (Private, RFS)

Aboriginal

Agencies (Support)

Byrock

Environment

Undertake targeted community engagement

Medium

Treatment strategy

144°0'0"E

Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Agricultural

OEH

30°55'0"S

Action

144°30'0"E

Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Bourke

Hazard Reduction

RFS

Human

Undertake targeted community engagement

Low

RFS (LGA, OEH)

Endangered

LGA (Private, RFS)

Non

29°0'0"S

Community Education

30°40'0"S

NA

Hazard Reduction

T46

LGA (Private, RFS)

Agencies (Support)

4

NA

LGA (Private, RFS)

Aboriginal

Agencies (Support)

Byrock

Environment

Undertake targeted community engagement

Medium

Treatment strategy

144°0'0"E

Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Agricultural

OEH

30°55'0"S

Action

144°30'0"E

Inspect and maintain fire breaks as required

Cultural

NA

Preparedness

Other

Bourke

Hazard Reduction

RFS

Human

Undertake targeted community engagement

Low

RFS (LGA, OEH)

Endangered

LGA (Private, RFS)

Non

29°0'0"S

Community Education

30°40'0"S

NA

Hazard Reduction

T46

LGA (Private, RFS)

Agencies (Support)

4

NA

LGA (Private, RFS)

Aboriginal

Agencies (Support)