

# Prescribed Burn Plan: Bowen Hospital Hill

Version 3: 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2024

Scott Hardy  
Whitsunday Regional Council

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Prescribed Burn Plan is to document the proposed hazard reduction burn for the Bowen Hospital Hill. The prescribed burn is **targeting Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024**. The proposed burn will be a “Cooperative or multi-agency burn” between the Council, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (QDNRM), Queensland Health and Delta Rural Fire Brigade.

**Will include Mr Guy Hills lot on the northern edge of reserve (30SP194915) between Panoramic Place and Allan Place.**

Maps showing the proposed burn areas are found at the back of this report.

## 2. Planned burn overview

<b>Location</b>	Hospital Hill – Bowen
<b>Purpose</b>	Hazard reduction burn
<b>Outcomes sought</b>	Hazard reduction burn for Hospital Hill
<b>Regional ecosystems and bushfire hazard</b>	Cleared – mostly cleared but elements of: RE 11.12.1. (Eucalyptus crebra woodland on igneous rocks) – Bushfire hazard – medium - high RE: 11.12.7 (Eucalyptus crebra woodland with patches of semi-evergreen vine thicket on igneous rocks (boulder-strewn hillsides) – Bushfire hazard – medium - High
<b>Target fire intensity</b>	Low-moderate intensity –“late wet season- early dry season”
<b>Target fire frequency</b>	3-5 years
<b>Previous fire</b>	July 2018 and then 2014 (QDES, QFES, Council), June 2022
<b>Preferred timing</b>	<b>Target date is Monday 2nd of September 2024</b>
<b>Land tenure</b>	State Land, Whitsunday Regional Council is Trustee, Queensland Health
<b>Lots / land parcels</b>	14SP212227 – WRC (7.5ha) 16B66103 – USL – QDNRM (1.6ha) 53AP17193 – USL – QDNRM (0.5ha) 5B6677 – QLD Health (2.5ha) 30SP194915 – G.D. Hills (3.4ha) (Private property) – 27SP194915 – J Hillery (2.8ha) (Private property) (access only)
<b>Planned burn area</b>	13ha
<b>Fire controller</b>	QFES- Bowen (assisted by Delta Rural Fire and Heronvale Rural Fire Brigade)
<b>Fire permit holder</b>	Council
<b>Reference Bushfire Plan</b>	Hospital Hill Bushfire Plan (2019) (Original Bushfire Management Plan 2010) Fire management areas – all?
<b>Areas to protect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential areas – Reynolds Street, Yardley Court, Gregory Street</li> <li>Bowen Hospital</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred wind direction</b>	South – easterly to direct smoke away from the Hospital and less than 10 knots (15km/hr).
<b>Pre start meeting / briefing</b>	7:30am at Bowen QFES (Monday the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of September, 2024)
<b>Risk issues</b>	Bowen Hospital patients

	Bowen hospital helicopter flights – proposed re-routing to Bowen airport during planned burn. Telecommunication towers on hill
<b>Site preparation work/tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The firebreaks and edges will be sprayed with herbicide in the week before the fire. The firebreak map is found in the back of this Plan.</li> <li>The council will engage a contractor to slash breaks A, C and K.</li> <li>The firebreaks will be graded.</li> </ul>

### 3. Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Roles						
	Planning	Media	Community notification	Fire management	Fire controller	Mop up	Reporting
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	√	√	√	√	√		√
Delta Rural Fire Brigade	√			√		√	
Heronvale Rural Fire Brigade	√			√		√	
Whitsunday Regional Council	√	√	√				√
Queensland DES				√		√	
Queensland Health	√						
Bowen SES				√ (Traffic)			

- Note: Fire controller – Ian Patchett/Chris Neden from QFES (Bowen)

### 4. Resources available and required - Hospital Hill prescribed burn section

Stakeholder	Available - infrastructure	Available staff	Additional – infrastructure required	Additional staff required
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	1 x Urban type 2 appliance 2000lts water on board (Used for structure protection). 1 x 4x4 grassfire unit (2 firefighter) 400lts on board.	4-6	Nil	
Delta Rural Fire Brigade	2 x medium attack trucks.	2-4 staff	Nil	-
Heronvale rural fire brigade	1 x medium attack trucks.	2-3 staff	Nil	
Whitsunday Regional Council	0 contractor water truck – DJ Brazil - 0427 866 585	0	Nil	Nil
QDES	Resources have 4 x 41 units with 6 crew attending	4-6	Nil	Nil
Bowen SES	1 x traffic control unit	2-3	Nil	Nil

### 4. Fire targets

Attribute	Target
Wind direction	South-east wind / low wind (less than 15 km/hr)
Soil moisture	Medium
Fuel load	Medium
Time of day to start fire	Morning – 9am
Date	Monday the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of September 2024
Pre-start meeting	7:30am at Bowen Fire Station



## 7. Hospital Hill Burn Strategy (Draft)

North



Areas to protect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Residential areas</b> – Gregory Street (Area1), Yardley Court (Area2), Reynolds Street (Area 5),</li> <li><b>Bowen Hospital</b> (Area3)</li> </ul>
Weather Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Clear, wind from South Easterly Direction</b> - to direct smoke away from the Hospital and less than 10 knots (15km/hr).</li> </ul>

### Notes:

- Areas to be burnt are numbered sequentially, areas 1 through to 5. Plus Mr Hills lots on Northern section of reserve if possible.
- May start with Area 3 on Gregory Street first.
- With weather conditions as indicated above and areas burnt in the above depicted sequence, this will provide the most minimal impact on the Bowen Hospital and residents within the surrounding area.
- Prescribed burns in this area should be avoided in the event winds are predicted from the North to avoid any impact being shut down or evacuation of the Bowen Hospital.
- If winds become unfavourable, the burn will decelerate, finish and post-pone un-burnt areas.



## 8. Burn maps



Map 1. Showing Fire Breaks



Map 2. Fire Management areas





Map 3. Hospital hill lots



Map 4. Hospital hill lot owners





**Map 5.** Hydrant map.

## 9. Contacts

- Bowen QFES - Chris Neden/Ian Pratchett - 4786 1811 and 0419744821. Steve Bingham – 0438732712.
- WRC –
  - Scott Hardy – 0428722236 / 49450245.
  - Council – Works Manager - 0428725623.
  - Mat Bath- Mobile: 0427164471
- DoR Tim Koch - 0418 970 097
- Delta Rural Fire – Brent’s mobile no: 0408705922
- Anne Barton – Bowen Hospital Business Manager - 4786 8219. Rob Russell (Operations at the Hospital).
- Water truck contractor – Danny Brazil - 0427 866 585