



Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Whitsunday Regional Council** will be held at the Council Chambers, 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine on **Wednesday 10 February 2021** commencing at **9:00 a.m.** and the Agenda is attached.

Councillors: Andrew Willcox, Jan Clifford, Al Grundy, John Collins, Michelle Wright, Gary Simpson and Michael Brunker.

Local Government Regulation 2012

258.(1) Written notice of each meeting or adjourned meeting of a local government must be given to each councillor at least 2 days before the day of the meeting unless it is impracticable to give the notice.

(2) The written notice must state:

- (a) the day and time of the meeting; and
- (b) for a special meeting – the business to be conducted at the meeting

(3) A **special meeting** is a meeting at which the only business that may be conducted is the business stated in the notice of meeting.

Rodney Ferguson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





Agenda of the Ordinary Meeting to be held at
the Council Chambers, 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine
on Wednesday 10 February 2021 commencing at **9:00am**

Council acknowledges and shows respect to the Traditional Custodian/owners in whose country we hold this meeting.

9:00 am

- Formal Meeting Commences

10:00 am - 10.30 am

- Morning Tea

Agenda of the Ordinary Meeting to be held at
the Council Chambers, 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine
on Wednesday 10 February 2021 commencing at **9:00am**

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1. Apologies

No Agenda items for this section.

2. Condolences

2.1 CONDOLENCES REPORT

AUTHOR: Tailah Jensen – Governance Administration Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Rod Ferguson - Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Council observes one (1) minutes silence for the recently deceased.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Council Meeting to be held 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Council has received advice of the passing of community members within the Whitsunday Region.

PURPOSE

To acknowledge and observe a minute silence for the recently deceased throughout the Whitsunday Region.

BACKGROUND

Bereavement cards have been forwarded to the families of the deceased by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Whitsunday Regional Council.

STATUTORY MATTERS

N/A

ANALYSIS

N/A

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Andrew Willcox – Mayor

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

N/A

CONCLUSION

Councillors, committee members, staff, general public and anyone participating in the meeting are to stand and observe a minute silence for the recently deceased.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

3.1 Declarations of Interest

No Agenda items for this section.

4.1 Mayoral Minute

No Agenda items for this section.

4.2 Mayoral Update

Verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES REPORT

AUTHOR: Tailah Jensen – Governance Administration Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Rod Ferguson – Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2021.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Council Meeting to be held 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Council is required to confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes held on 27 January 2021.

PURPOSE

At each Council meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting must be confirmed by the councillors present and signed by the person presiding at the later meeting. The Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2021 are provided for Councils review and confirmation.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with s272 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, minutes were taken at Council's Ordinary meeting held on 27 January 2021 under the supervision of the person presiding at the meeting. These unconfirmed minutes once drafted were submitted to the Chief Executive Officer for review and are available on Council's website for public inspection.

STATUTORY MATTERS

In accordance with the Act, Council must record specified information in the minutes of a meeting regarding any declared material personal interests or conflicts of interest. At the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2021, the following interests were declared and recorded in the minutes:

| Councillor | COI Type | Report No. | Particulars of the interest |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cr Michelle Wright | Declarable | 15.3 | <i>Cr Wright declared a declarable conflict of interest in item 15.3 regarding 'Request For Sponsorship - 2021 Pink Stumps Ladies Day - Bowen Cricket Club' (as per section 150EQ) of the Local Government Act 2009, due to her sister being a member in the Bowen Cricket Club Pink Ladies committee and being the applicant for the sponsorship which has been requested. Cr Wright however had considered her position and was firmly of the opinion that</i> |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | <i>she could participate in the debate and vote on this matter in the public interest.</i> |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

All required information regarding declarations of interest under the Act is recorded in the minutes and consolidated in Council's Councillor COI and MPI Public Register, which is available on Council's website at the following link:

<https://www.whitsunday.qld.gov.au/DocumentCenter/View/5358>

Additionally, the chairperson of a local government meeting must also ensure that details of an order made against a Councillor for unsuitable meeting conduct at a Council meeting are recording in the minutes of the meeting. At the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2021, the following orders were made:

| Councillor | Order Made |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>No orders made for the meeting of 27 January 2021</i> | |

All required information regarding orders made about the unsuitable meeting conduct of councillors at Council meetings under the Act is recorded in the minutes and consolidated in Council's Councillor Conduct Register. This register is available on Council's website at the following link: <https://www.whitsunday.qld.gov.au/DocumentCenter/View/5302>

Local Government Regulation 2012

Section 272 of the Regulation stipulates that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that minutes of each meeting of a local government are taken under the supervision of the person presiding at the meeting.

Minutes of each meeting must include the names of councillors present at the meeting and if a division is called on a question, the names of all persons voting on the question and how they voted.

At each meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting must be confirmed by the councillors present and signed by the person presiding at the later meeting.

A copy of the minutes of each meeting must be available for inspection by the public, at a local government's public office and on its website, within 10 days after the end of the meeting. Once confirmed, the minutes must also be available for purchase at the local government's public office(s).

ANALYSIS

Council's options are:

Confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2021

If Council is satisfied that the unconfirmed minutes are an accurate representation of what occurred at the meeting held on 27 January 2021 and comply with legislative requirements outlined in this report, no further action is required other than to confirm the minutes as per the recommendation.

Confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2021 with amendments

If Council is not satisfied that the unconfirmed minutes are an accurate representation of what occurred at the meeting held on 27 January 2021 and comply with legislative requirements outlined in this report, then they move a motion that they be confirmed but with a list of amendments to ensure they are correct and compliant.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Alignment to Corporate Plan

Outcome 1.1: Our Leadership engages with the community and provides open, accountable and transparent local government.

Alignment to Operational Plan

KPI: Council agendas and business papers are delivered to Councillors within required timeframes.

Financial Implications

The price for a member of the public to purchase a copy of the minutes must not be more than the cost to the local government of having the copy printed and made available for purchase, and if the copy is supplied to the purchaser by post, the cost of the postage.

Risk Management Implications

Council risks non-compliance with the local government legislation by not confirming minutes of the previous meeting.

TABLED MATTERS

| Unresolved Tabled Matters | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of Meeting | Resolution Number | Summary | Resolved |
| 13/05/2020 | 20191416 - Development Permit for Material Change of Use - Showroom - 2-12 Central Avenue Cannonvale - Yoogalu Pty Ltd 2020/05/13.07 | That the application lie on the table as the applicant has 'Stopped the Clock' for a period of 60 days, to 8 July 2020. | On hold pending the outcome of the intersection funding and discussion with DTMR - Corner Galbraith Park Road and Shute Harbour Road. |
| 13/05/2020 | 20140012 - Request to Extend Currency Period - Reconfiguration of A Lot One (1) Lot into Two (2) Lots - 106 Patullo Road, Gregory River - 12 Rp744909 2020/05/13.08 | That the application lie on the table until the application is properly made. | Remains on hold pending receipt of fees. |
| 25/11/2020 | Cantamessa Road Bridge 2020/11/25.27 | That the item be tabled pending further investigations for temporary access, replacement, or closure of the bridge and to seek further information regarding funding. | Council has visited the site and is arranging for geotechnical investigations. |

CONSULTATION

Jason Bradshaw – Director Corporate Services

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

These minutes from the 27 January 2021 are therefore submitted for adoption of their accuracy by the Councillors at this meeting of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Copy of the minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2021.

Attached Separately

6. Business Arising

No agenda items for this section.

7. Deputations

No agenda items for this section.

8. Petitions

No agenda items for this section.

9. Notice of Motion

No agenda items for this section.

10. Questions on Notice

No agenda items for this section.

11. Questions from Public Gallery

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Excerpt of Council's Standing Orders:

1. Questions from the Public Gallery must be submitted in writing to Council prior to the Council Meeting.
2. The time allocated shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes for each speaker (and no more than three (3) speakers shall be permitted to speak at any one (1) meeting).
3. If any address or comment is irrelevant, offensive, or unduly long, the Chairperson may require the person to cease making the submission or comment.
4. Any person addressing the Council shall stand, state their name and address, act and speak with decorum and frame any remarks in respectful and courteous language.

12. Office of the Mayor and CEO

No agenda items for this section.

13. Corporate Services

No agenda items for this section.

14. Development Services

14.1 20200158 - DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR MINOR CHANGE TO DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE (CARPORT) - 78 GLOUCESTER AVENUE HYDEAWAY BAY - MOFFAT -C/- WYNNE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

AUTHOR: James McEvoy-Bowe – Planner

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council refuse the application for Minor Change to Development Permit for Material Change of Use (Carport), made by N J Moffatt C/- Wynne Planning & Development, on L: 30 RP: 744452 T: N1329/45 and located at 78 Gloucester Avenue Hydeaway Bay, for the following reasons:

1. The enclosing of the Class 10A structure is contrary to a Development Permit condition; and
2. The structure does not comply with the Dwelling House Code PO2, whereby the structure (now enclosed) does not allow adequate daylight and ventilation into the habitable rooms of the existing dwelling house.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

The proposed Minor Change to the Development Permit has come in response to a Show Cause Notice dated 16 July 2020 issued by Council to the property owner of 78 Gloucester Avenue Hydeaway Bay for undertaking development in conflict with the associated Material Change of Use (MCU) Development Permit issued by Council. Namely, the applicant enclosed a Class 10A structure that was approved as an open carport only.

PURPOSE

Development Applications requiring decisions which are outside the Council officer delegated authority require Council consideration.

BACKGROUND

On 11 December 2019 Council resolved to approve an open carport within the required setbacks.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Planning Act 2016

Planning Regulation 2017

ANALYSIS

Council has received the following Development Application, which has been assessed against the provisions of the relevant legislation as reported below.

1. Application Summary

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Proposal: | Material Change of Use for Enclosed Carport |
| Landowner | N Moffat |
| Property Address: | 78 Gloucester Avenue Hydeaway Bay |
| Property Description: | L: 30 RP: 744452 T: N1329/45 |
| Area of Site: | 792 |
| Planning Scheme Zone: | Low density residential |
| Level of assessment | Code Assessable |
| Overlays: | Acid sulphate soils Coastal protection Flood hazard |
| Existing Use: | Dwelling house |
| Existing Approvals: | N/A |
| Public Notification: | N/A |
| Submissions received: | N/A |
| State referrals: | N/A |
| Infrastructure charges: | N/A |

2. Site Details

- 2.1. Location (refer to plan in attachment)
- 2.2. Zoning – Low density residential.
- 2.3. Site description – the site is relatively flat and contains a single dwelling house and a shed.
- 2.4. Access is direct from Gloucester Avenue.
- 2.5. Surrounding uses – the property is surrounded by low density residential development.

3. Proposal Details

The proposed Minor Change to the Development Permit has been lodged in response to a Show Cause Notice dated 16 July 2020 issued by Council to the property owner of 78 Gloucester Avenue Hydeaway Bay. The applicant enclosed a Class 10A structure that was approved as an open car port.

At the Council meeting of 11 December 2019, Council adopted the officer's recommendation to part approve and part refuse a Development Application (20191016) for an open carport on the front boundary and an enclosed shed on the side boundary. The open carport on the front boundary was recommended for approval and the enclosed 10A shed on the side boundary was recommended for refusal due to non-compliances with the Queensland Development Code (QDC) MP1.2.

The applicant reapplied for an Open Carport in the same location as the previously applied for enclosed shed, with a more reasonable setback from the side boundary. Council officers subsequently approved the Open Carport by delegation on 25 February 2020.

Council officers then received an anonymous complaint from a customer on 2 July 2020 that identified that 4 walls and a roller door had been erected on the structure that was approved as an Open Carport. The action of erecting walls on the Open Carport was in conflict with the conditions of the relevant Development Permit issued by Council (and subsequently the Building Permit issued by the Private Certifier BDD Group Pty Ltd, although this is a separate consideration).

The applicant's reasons for contravening the permit are security of possessions against theft and damage, and storm damage.

Despite the applicant's reasons for requiring an enclosed space and the proposed changes to the structure, it does not overcome the non-compliance with QDC MP1.2, the Dwelling House Code and the NCC 2019 Building Code of Australia. Due to the critical non-compliance with the QDC MP1.2 Performance Criteria, Council officers are unable to recommend approval for the Minor Change application and recommend that the enclosed carport is returned to the lawfully approved open carport.

4. Planning Assessment

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning Act, 2016* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017*.

The proposal is recommended for refused due to the following inconsistencies with the Planning Scheme, which cannot be satisfactorily conditioned to comply:

1. The enclosing of the Class 10A structure without a lawful Development Permit has resulted in a direct non-compliance with the Dwelling House Code PO2, whereby the structure (now enclosed) does not allow adequate daylight and ventilation into the habitable rooms of the existing dwelling house.
2. The enclosing of the Class 10A structure has resulted in a direct conflict with the existing Material Change of Use Development Permit and the consequent Building Permit issued by the Private Certifier.

4.1. State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)

The Application did not require referral to any State Agencies.

4.2. State Planning Policy – July 2017

The Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017 has been assessed by the State government to adequately reflect state interests included in the State Planning Policy 2017.

4.3. Mackay Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan – February 2012

The Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan was established to provide the vision and direction for the region to 2031. The plan provides certainty about where the region is heading in the future and provides the framework to respond to the challenges and opportunities which may arise. The proposal is generally consistent with the provisions of the plan.

The proposal is generally consistent with the provisions of the plan.

4.4. Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017

4.4.1. Strategic Framework

The proposal complies with the Strategic Framework.

4.4.2. Strategic Intent

The proposal complies with the Strategic Intent.

4.4.3. Overlay Codes

4.4.3.1. Acid sulphate soils

The engineering report accompanying the application states that it is unlikely acid sulphate soils will be disturbed during shallow excavation for carport and shed footings.

4.4.3.2. Coastal protection

The application is accompanied by an engineering report indicating a DSTE of 3.65m, the location of proposed works is above this and should not be required to consider hydrostatic or hydrodynamic loads. In addition, the proposed structures are not habitable.

4.4.3.3. Flood hazard

The proposed structures are non-habitable, and the engineering report recommends that the proposed shed and carport have a minimum floor level of 5.35m for protection against the Q100 flood event.

4.4.4. Zone Code

4.4.4.1. Low density residential Overall outcomes

The development is for an associated outbuilding on a dwelling house allotment. The development must comply with the required provisions of the Dwelling House Code to achieve a high level of residential amenity for existing residents in terms of the type, design and density of development. The development cannot comply with the Dwelling House Code and therefore cannot comply with the Low Density Residential Zone Code.

4.4.5. Development Codes

4.4.5.1. Dwelling house code

The site adjoins a road reserve (which is constructed for a short length and then terminates at the foreshore. A side boundary adjoining road reserve requires a 6m setback for all structures from the boundary. The applicant requests that Council considers this as a side boundary requiring a 1.5m setback. The applicant has also cited that the road reserve width is 24m which is 4m wider than a standard road reserve width.

The following assessment is undertaken based on a side boundary and not a road boundary. The Planning Scheme repeats the relevant requirements of the QDC. Due to the overall 10m length of the structure, the carport cannot comply with Accepted Solutions A2(d) of the QDC MP1.2, whereby a structure 9m or under is permitted in the setback area. The applicant has proposed to shorten the enclosed area of the shed from 10m to 9m to achieve a more compliant (but still non-compliant) outcome. As the development is unable to comply with the Accepted Solutions, it must now be assessed against and comply with all provisions of Performance Criteria P2 of the QDC. An assessment against QDC MP1.2 P2 is as follows:

a) provide adequate daylight and ventilation to habitable rooms;

A review of the dwelling house plans in **Attachment 6** details that the rooms facing the enclosed structure are bedrooms and in accordance with the NCC 2019 Building Code of Australia, the windows must provide natural light transmitting an area of at least 10% of the floor area of each habitable room. The dwelling plans identify that prior to the structure being erected, the windows achieved 17.5% natural light coverage in Bedroom 1. As illustrated in the development photos in **Attachment 5**, the enclosed structure almost completely blocks natural light from passing through the only window in Bedroom 1 and substantially blocks natural light from Bedroom 2.

In terms of providing adequate ventilation as per the requirements of NCC 2019 Building Code of Australia and QDC MP1.2, windows must achieve a ventilating area not less than 5% of the floor area of the room required to be ventilated; and must open on to:

- (a) a suitably sized court, or space open to the sky; or
- (b) an open verandah, carport, or the like.

In accordance with the above criteria, the window in Bedroom 1 without the enclosed structure achieves 8.7% ventilation, therefore making it compliant with ventilation requirements. However with the inclusion of the enclosed structure, the habitable bedroom becomes non-compliant for providing ventilation as the window does not open to an open carport as per item (b) above.

(b) allow adequate light and ventilation to habitable rooms of buildings on adjoining lots.

The development can meet this performance criteria as the development adjoins a road reserve and not any habitable structures.

(c) do not adversely impact on the amenity and privacy of residents on adjoining lots.

As per solution (b), the development has no adjoining properties and therefore the privacy and amenity of adjoining premises is not applicable.

5. Public Submissions

The development application did not require public notification.

6. Infrastructure Charges

The application does not attract additional infrastructure charges.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Alignment to Corporate Plan

Outcome 3.1: Our built environment is well planned, effectively managed and protects our region's heritage and character

Outcome 3.2: Our Natural environment is valued and sustainable

Outcome 3.3: Our infrastructure supports our region's current and future needs

Alignment to Operational Plan

KPI: Development Applications are decided within statutory timeframes

Financial Implications – (if not applicable, please put N/A)

Risk Management Implications - (if not applicable, please put N/A)

Strategic Impacts – N/A

CONSULTATION

Doug Mackay – Manager Development Assessment
Neil McGaffin – Director Planning & Development

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

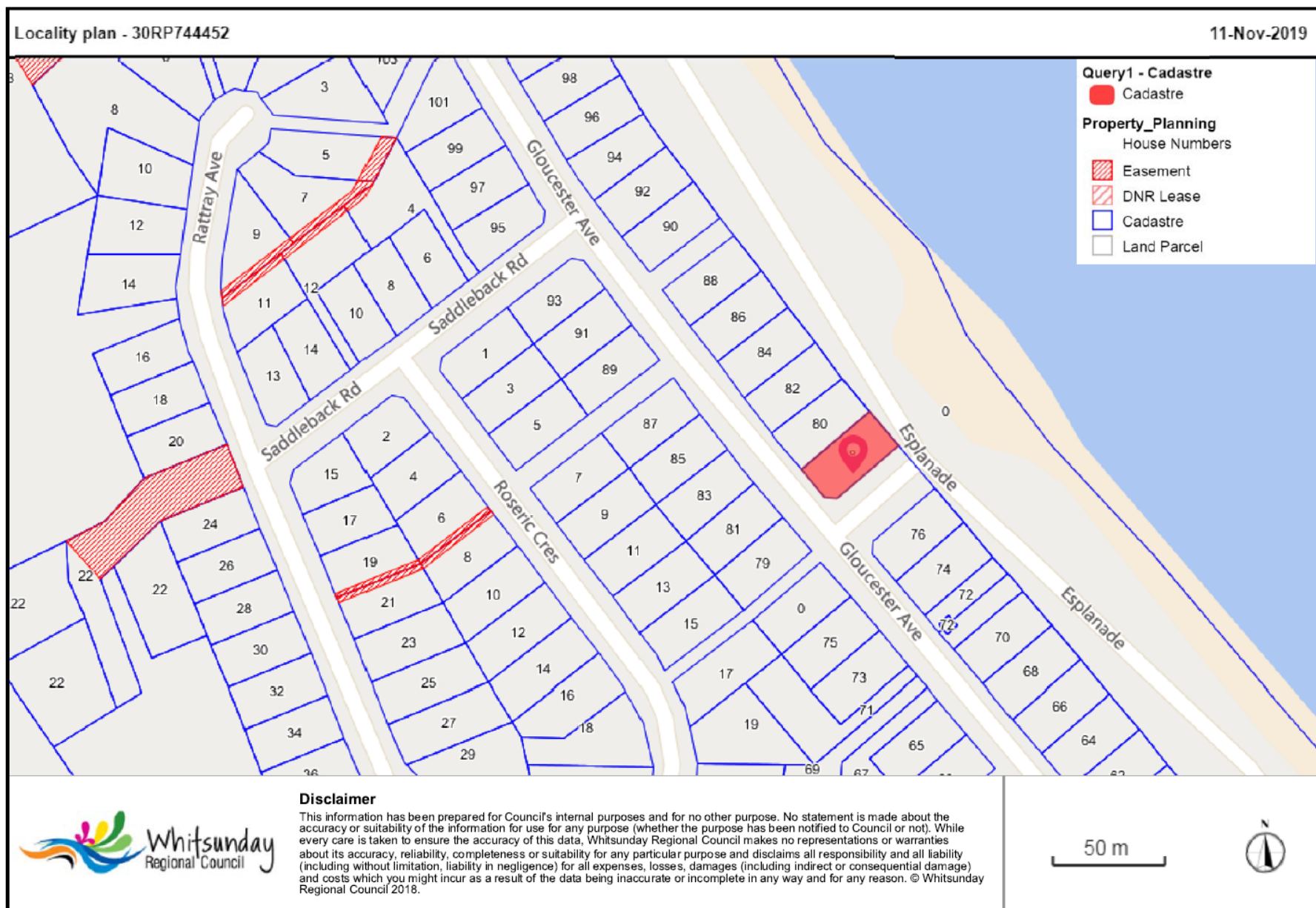
The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning Act, 2016* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017*.

The proposal is recommended for refused due to the following inconsistencies with the Planning Scheme, which cannot be satisfactorily conditioned to comply:

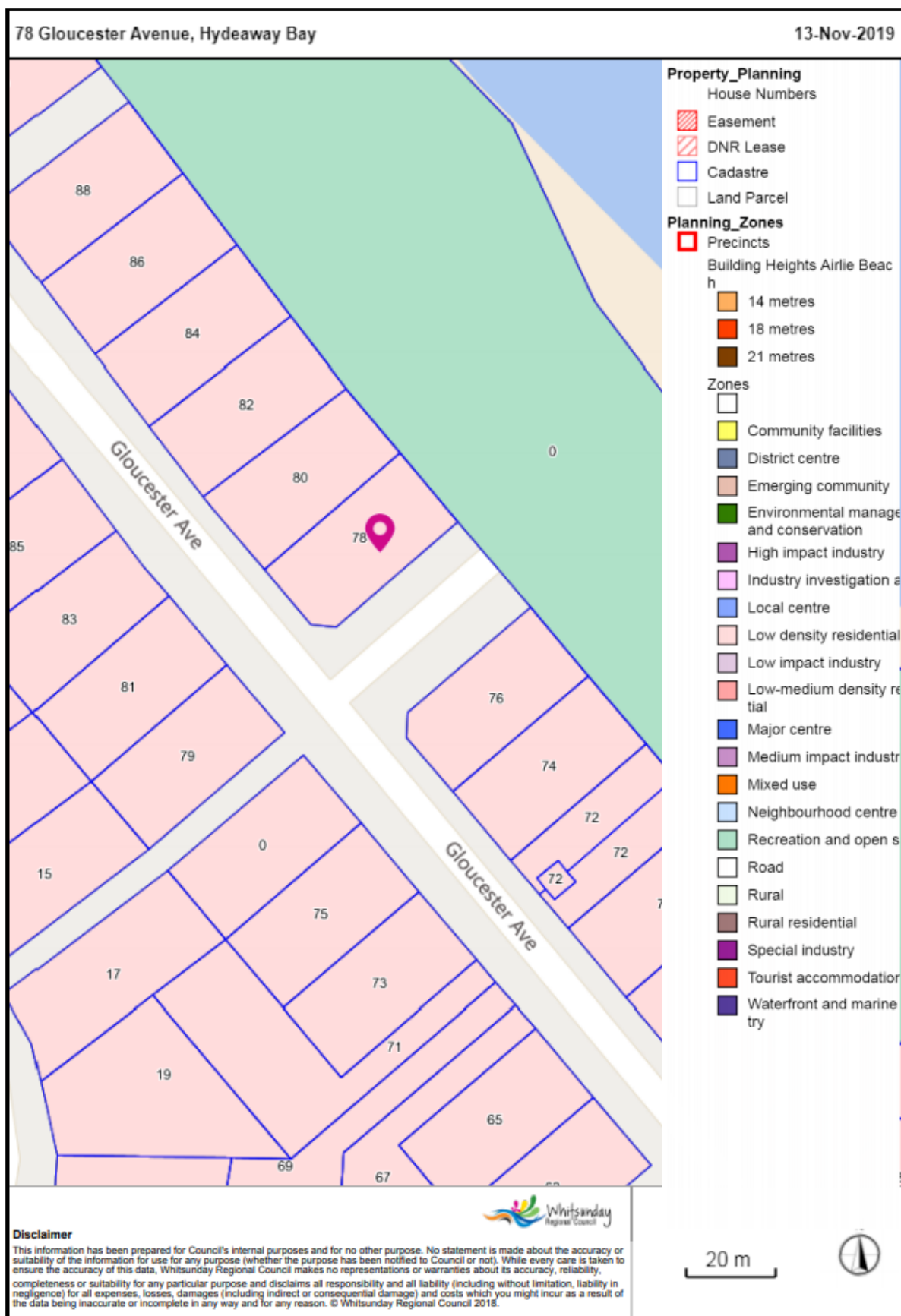
1. The enclosing of the Class 10A structure without a lawful Development Permit has resulted in a direct non-compliance with the Dwelling House Code PO2, whereby the structure (now enclosed) does not allow adequate daylight and ventilation into the habitable rooms of the existing dwelling house.
2. The enclosing of the Class 10A structure has resulted in a direct conflict with the existing Material Change of Use Development Permit and the consequent Building Permit issued by the Private Certifier.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Locality Plan
Attachment 2 – Zoning Plan
Attachment 3 – Proposal Plan
Attachment 4 – Photos of the Development
Attachment 5 – Dwelling House Plans

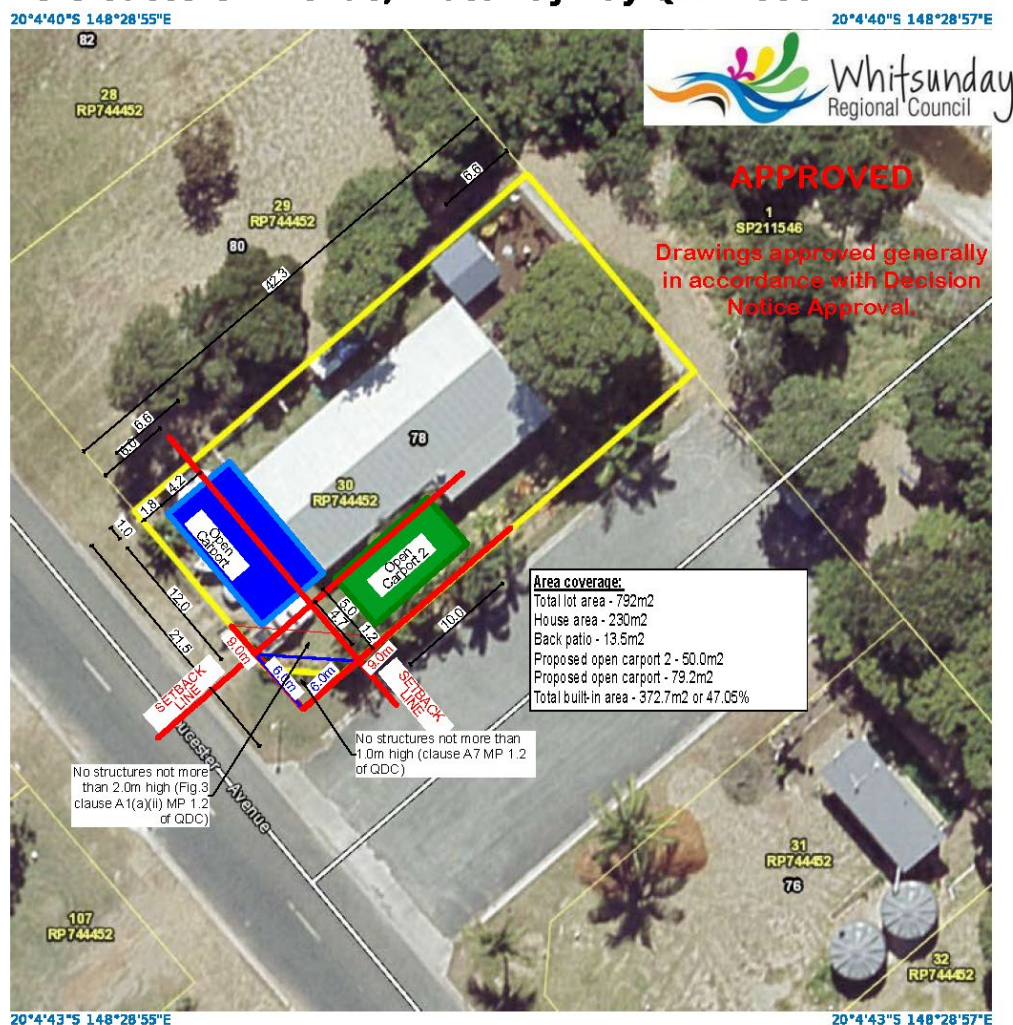


Attachment 2 – Zoning Plan



Attachment 3 – Proposal Plan

78 Gloucester Avenue, Hideaway Bay QLD 4800



A product of
Queensland Globe



10 metres

Print Date: 23/4/2019
Paper Size: A4

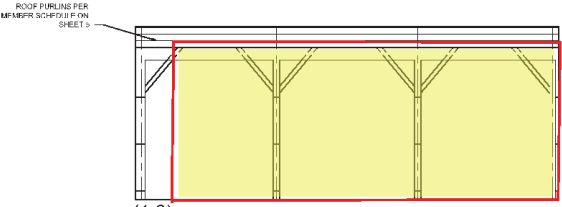
Imagery

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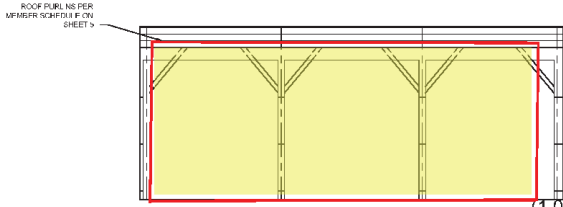
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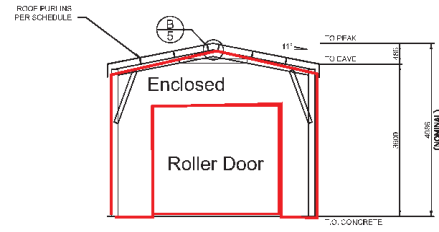
(1.0) Car Park View

1 SIDEWALL EXTERIOR ELEVATION
2 SCALE: 1 : 100

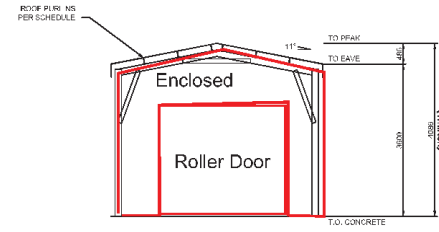


(1.0) Dwelling House View

2 SIDEWALL EXTERIOR ELEVATION
2 SCALE: 1 : 100






(4) ENDWALL INTERIOR ELEVATION
2 SCALE: 1 : 100



(3) ENDWALL INTERIOR ELEVATION
2 SCALE: 1 : 100

X BRACING NOT REQUIRED
FLY BRACING IS INCLUDED TO BE PLACED ON EVERY SECOND PURLIN AND GIRT ON ENDWALL MULLIONS, INTERNAL COLUMNS AND INTERNAL RAFTERS.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 OF 7 | SHEET | JOB NO. SUN58111 | DATE 21/8/2019 | CHECKED TM | DRAWN FDS | STEEL BUILDING BY (CONTACT) SUNSTATE GARAGES & SHEDS 07 4942 6349 PETOS 78 GLOUCESTER HYDEAWAY BAY |  |  Civil & Structural Engineers 50 Punari Street Curralong, Qld 4812 Fax: 07 4725 5850 Email: design@ncoeng.com.au ABN 541 008 173 56 Registered Chartered Professional Engineer Registered Professional Engineer (Civil & Structural) QLD Professional Consulting Engineer (Structural) N.T. Registered Engineer - (Civil) VIC Registered Engineer - (Civil) TAS | Mr Timothy Roy Messer BE MIEAust RPEQ Registered Professional Engineer 2558990 Signature:  Date: 21/8/2019 Registered on the NPER in the areas of practice of Civil & Structural National Professional Engineers Register |
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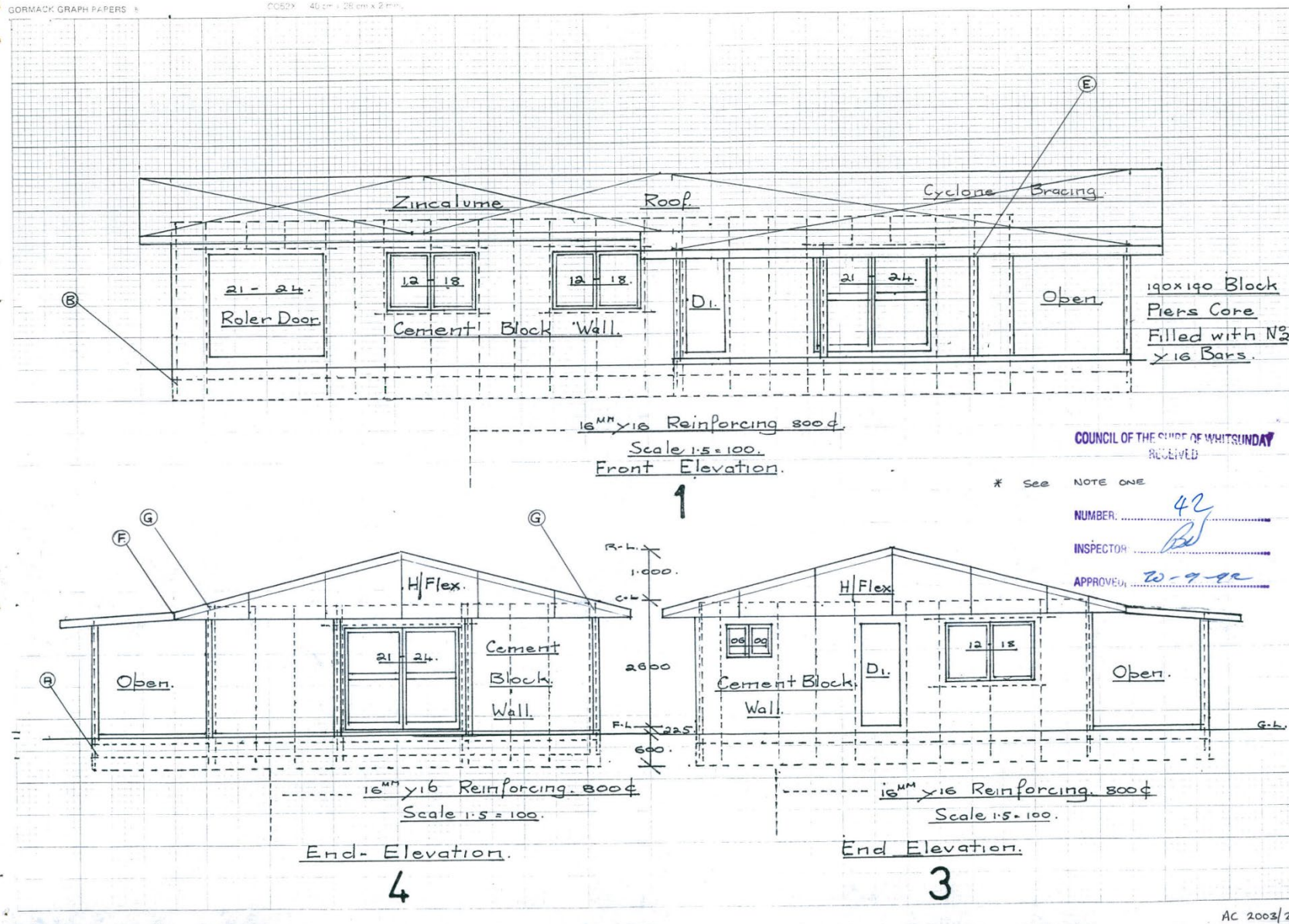
Attachment 4 – Photos of the Development





AC 2003/1





14. Development Services

14.2 20200991 - DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR A MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE - LOW IMPACT INDUSTRY (MECHANICAL WORKSHOP EXPANSION) - 9 MILL ST, PROSERPINE - T & D PROJECTS PTY LTD C/- VERIS

AUTHOR: James McEvoy-Bowe – Planner

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the application for Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Low Impact Industry (Mechanical Workshop Expansion), made by T & D Projects Pty Ltd, on L: 1 RP: 702841 T: N0779/163 and located at 9 Mill Street PROSERPINE, subject to the conditions outlined in Attachment 1.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

The application is for a Mechanical Workshop Expansion to an existing Low-impact industry Use at 9 Mill St, Proserpine. The development triggers Impact Assessment due to the Major Centre Zoning of the site. The use expanding is Davo's Cylinder Head & Block Repairs (Low-impact Industry) and requires additional space to fit a recently purchased machine that machines cylinder heads and engine parts. The expansion involves the construction of a new shed which adds an additional 79.90m² of GFA, requiring an additional two (2) on-site parking spaces to be provided. The applicant is not proposing to add any further spaces to the existing six (6) spaces that exist on-site, stating that only staff use the internal spaces and that customers exclusively use on-street parking directly adjacent the premises. Despite the shortfall in spaces, two vehicles can be placed within the new machinery shed which will supplement the shortfall. Based on the above, the Development Application is recommended for approval.

PURPOSE

Development Applications requiring decisions which are outside the Council officer delegated authority require Council consideration.

BACKGROUND

There is no previous Council decision relating to this matter.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Planning Act 2016

Planning Regulation 2017

ANALYSIS

Council has received the following Development Application, which has been assessed against the provisions of the relevant legislation as reported below.

1. Application Summary

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proposal: | Material Change of Use for Low Impact Industry (Mechanical Workshop Expansion) |
| Landowner | L D Fuller & W J Fuller |
| Property Address: | 9 Mill Street Proserpine |
| Property Description: | L: 1 RP: 702841 T: N0779/163 |
| Area of Site: | 809 |
| Planning Scheme Zone: | Major Centre Zone |
| Level of assessment | Impact Assessable |
| Overlays: | Acid Sulphate Soils; and Infrastructure. |
| Existing Use: | Business and Industry Uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auto One Proserpine;• Whitsunday Auto World Affordable Tyres; and• Davo's Cylinder Heads. |
| Existing Approvals: | Nil |
| Public Notification: | 4 November 2020 - 26 November 2020 |
| Submissions received: | Zero (0) |
| State referrals: | Nil |
| Infrastructure charges: | \$4,314.60 |

2. Site Details

2.1. Location (refer to plan in attachment)

2.2. Zoning (refer to plan in attachment – showing the immediate locality)

Major Centre Zone

2.3. Site description

Existing uses are Auto One Proserpine, Whitsunday Auto World Affordable Tyres and Davo's Cylinder Heads.

2.4. Access

Access is from a fully constructed crossover from Waite Street.

2.5. Surrounding uses

- North – Rod Grittner Nissan and Waite Street.
- East – Dee Jays School of Dance.
- South – Proserpine Palace Chinese Restaurant.
- West – Proserpine Sugar Mill and Mill Street.

3. Proposal Details

Council is in receipt of a Development Application for a Material Change of Use for Low Impact Industry (Mechanical Workshop Expansion) at 9 Mill St, Proserpine. The development triggers Impact Assessment due to the Major Centre Zoning of the site. Davo's Cyclinder Head & Block Repairs is currently one of three lawful existing uses on the site and requires an expansion in the form of a new machinery shed to cater for new machinery required to optimize the business. No new uses are proposed as part of this application as the business already provides this service, the expansion is solely required to accommodate the new machine for the workshop.

No new accesses are proposed as the site already has a suitable access point from Waite Street. Likewise, the site is already connected to reticulated water and sewer services. The business has 2 full-time staff and the proposal does not increase this number. The hours of operation are between 8am – 5pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 12pm, Saturday. The business is closed on Sundays and public holidays and the days/hours of operation will not change.

Two existing structures are being demolished to make room for the new workshop, which is in total 141.90m². With the inclusion of the removed structures, the overall increase in GFA due to the workshop expansion is 79.90m² which attracts two (2) additional car parking spaces as per the Planning Scheme requirements. The applicant does not intend to provide any additional spaces as the new workshop space can cater for two (2) vehicles that are to be worked on. The applicant also states that most customers use the on-street parking directly adjacent the premises and that the expansion will not result in an increase in traffic due to the expansion being an upgrade in machinery as opposed to an increase in sales area.

4. Planning Assessment

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning Act, 2016* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017*.

The proposal is considered to be generally in accordance with the Planning Scheme and is recommended for approval in accordance with the drawings and documents submitted, subject to reasonable and relevant conditions (Attachment 1).

4.1. State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)

The application does not trigger a referral.

4.2. State Planning Policy – July 2017

The Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017 has been assessed by the State government to adequately reflect state interests included in the State Planning Policy 2017.

4.3. Mackay Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan – February 2012

The Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan was established to provide the vision and direction for the region to 2031. The plan provides certainty about where the region is heading in the future and provides the framework to respond to the challenges and opportunities which may arise. The proposal is generally consistent with the provisions of the plan.

4.4. Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017

4.4.1. Strategic Framework

The proposal generally complies with the Strategic Framework.

4.4.2. Strategic Intent

As the use is lawfully existing and just expanding 79.90m², despite not having the correct zoning, the expansion is minor and does not remove the future use of the land for Major Centre purposes.

4.4.3. Overlay Codes

4.4.3.1. Acid Sulfate Soils Overlay

The site is identified within the Acid Sulfate Soils Overlay. The development can be conditioned to provide an Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) Management Plan at building works if ASS is identified at any point during construction.

4.4.3.2. Infrastructure Overlay (Bulk Water Supply Buffer)

Any building works will be over 40m away from the reticulated water main in Mill Street. The main is located in the road reserve of Mill Street therefore this development bears no impact on the main nor does it restrict access to the main.

4.4.4. Major Centre Zone Code

4.4.4.1. Overall outcomes

A review of Council's record keeping system of the premises, identifies that Low-impact Industry uses have been on the site since as early as 1970. Given that the proposal is for the continued use of the land for Low-Impact Industry purposes, it is considered that the use is compatible with character of the area and the expansion does not jeopardize the Whitsunday hierarchy of centres.

4.4.5. Development Codes

4.4.5.1. Industry Activities Code

The development proposal is still within the nominated site cover requirements of the code, achieving approximately 70% site cover with the maximum being 75%. A review of the property file on Council's record keeping system identifies that the industrial uses have been operating for many years with no complaints recorded against any operations on the site.

4.4.5.2. Transport and Parking Code

With the inclusion of the removed structures, the overall increase in GFA due to the workshop expansion is 79.90m² which attracts two (2) additional car parking spaces as per the Planning Scheme requirements.

The applicant is not proposing to add the required two (2) additional spaces as per the Scheme's requirements, leaving six (6) remaining on-site spaces to service the development. The applicant states *'the existing car parking is only used by employees as members of the public tend to utilise the on street car parking along Mill and Waite Street.'*

A review of the available on-street line-marked spaces along the boundary of the site reveals that there are six (6) additional spaces available. In addition, the development plans demonstrate that, if necessary, two (2) vehicles can be parked inside the new workshop area, which is an acceptable performance solution for the shortfall in on-site carparks.

It would not be reasonable to refuse the application on the basis of two spaces, but continuing parking concessions will result in a cumulative shortfall and needs to be monitored.

4.4.5.3. Infrastructure Code

A fully sealed access already exists, and the proposal does not result in any changes to this arrangement. All infrastructure services including water, sewer, electricity and telecommunications are already connected to the site. A Council sewer line runs behind the proposed workshop in the neighbouring allotment and provision will be required to ensure the relevant setbacks are achieved at building works.

4.4.5.4. Landscaping Code

The site contains existing landscaping in the limited spaces available to do so on the peripheries of the boundaries along Waite Street and Mill Street. The site cannot achieve additional landscaping and that what is existing facilitates an acceptable streetscape.

5. Public Submissions

The development application was placed on public notification between 04/11/2020 and 26/11/2020 in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Planning Act 2016. The Notice of Compliance was received on 27/11/2020. Zero (0) submissions were received during this period of Public Notification.

6. Infrastructure Charges

6.1. Adopted Infrastructure Charges Resolution

The following is a breakdown on the Infrastructure Charges for the development:

| Adopted Charge | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|
| Type of Development | Development Category | Demand Unit & Qty | Charge Rate* | | Adopted Charge |
| MCU | Low-impact Industry | 141.90m2 | \$54.00 | | \$7,662.60 |
| Total Adopted Charge | | | | | \$7,662.60 |
| Credit | | | | | |
| Type of Development | Development Category | Demand Unit & Qty | Charge Rate* | Discount | Total Credit |
| Existing Lawful Use | Low-impact Industry | 62m2 | \$54.00 | 100% | \$3,348.00 |
| Total Credit | | | | | \$3,348.00 |
| Total Levied Charge | | | | | \$4,314.60 |

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Alignment to Corporate Plan

Outcome 3.1: Our built environment is well planned, effectively managed and protects our region's heritage and character

Outcome 3.2: Our Natural environment is valued and sustainable

Outcome 3.3: Our infrastructure supports our region's current and future needs

Alignment to Operational Plan

KPI: Development Applications are decided within statutory timeframes

Financial Implications – N/A

Risk Management Implications - N/A

Strategic Impacts – N/A

CONSULTATION

James McEvoy-Bowe – Planner
Doug Mackay – Manager Development Assessment
Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

Statutory Consultation Requirements - Public Notification 15 business days per Planning Act 2016 requirements

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning Act, 2016* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017*.

The proposal is considered to be generally in accordance with the Planning Scheme and is recommended for approval in accordance with the drawings and documents submitted, subject to reasonable and relevant conditions (Attachment 1).

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Conditions of Approval
Attachment 2 – Locality Plan
Attachment 3 – Zoning Plan
Attachment 4 – Proposal Plan

Attachment 1 – Conditions of Approval

1.0 **ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 The approved development must be completed and maintained generally in accordance with the approved drawings and documents:

| Plan/Document Name | Prepared By | Plan Number | Dated |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| Site Plan | Beachtech Designs | 4850 / P1 | Aug 2020 |
| Elevations | Beachtech Designs | 4850 / P2 | Aug 2020 |

- 1.2 The following further development permits are required prior to commencement of work on site or commencement of the use:
- Building Works.
- 1.3 All conditions of this approval must be complied with in full to Council's satisfaction prior to the commencement of the use.
- 1.4 The applicant shall demonstrate and provide evidence that compliance with all conditions of this development approval and any other subsequent development approvals as a result of this development approval have been complied with at the time of the commencement of the use.

2.0 **CLEARING, LANDSCAPING AND FENCING**

- 2.1 Any vegetation removed must be disposed of to the requirements of the Council. Transplanting, chipping or removal from site are the preferred solutions.
- 2.2 All vegetative waste cleared as part of the development of the site is to be either:
- a) stored neatly on site and shredded within sixty (60) days of clearing; or
 - b) removed off the site to an approved disposal location.

3.0 **BUILDING**

- 3.1 Buildings are to be finished with external building materials and colours to reduce scale and bulk.
- 3.2 Building and landscaping materials are not to be highly reflective, or likely to create glare, or slippery or otherwise hazardous conditions.

4.0 **ACCESS AND PARKING**

- 4.1 A minimum of six (6) car parking spaces must be provided on site prior to commencement of the use.

5.0 **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

5.1 **Noise Management**

- (1) Conduct all activity in a manner that achieves:
- (a) the default noise standards outlined in chapter 8, part 3B, division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*; and/or
 - (b) the acoustic quality objectives outlined in Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019* and does not allow the unreasonable noise emission to the environment and sensitive receptors.

5.2 **Air Quality Management**

- (1) All practical measures must be taken to limit odour, dust, smoke, fumes or other emissions beyond the boundary of the premises and achieve the air emission standards outlined in the applicable planning scheme, provision of section 440 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the air quality objectives outlined in

Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019* and the General Environmental Duty Code of Practice for motor vehicle workshop operations.

- (2) In the event of an environmental nuisance complaint regarding the operation of the activity, conduct an appropriate investigation to determine whether the operation of the activity has exceeded the air emission standards outlined in the applicable planning scheme, provision of section 440 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the air quality objectives outlined in Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019*.
- (3) Dust and other emissions, such as fumes, sediments, or odour from the operation of the activity and building work are to be confined on-site and all reasonable steps are to be taken to prevent a release to neighbouring properties.

5.3 Land and Water Contaminants Management

- (1) Ensure stockpiles of soil and sediment are contained and appropriate erosion and sediment control measures are installed to prevent contamination of waterways.
- (2) At all times, prescribed water contaminants mentioned in Schedule 10 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019* must not be flushed, moved or left to accumulate in a location that could reasonably be expected to wash into waters, roadside gutters, or stormwater drainage in accordance to section 440ZG of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the General Environmental Duty Code of Practice for motor vehicle workshop operations.
- (3) All liquid chemicals and fuel storage are to be located in a covered bunded area. The minimum holding capacity must be maintained at all times in accordance with *Australian Standard AS 1940:1993: The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids*.
- (4) Chemical spill kits must be available and appropriately maintained onsite.

5.4 Waste Management

- (1) The commercial waste must be stored on an imperviously paved area, suitably drained to the satisfaction of Council's Environmental Health Unit.
- (2) All general waste disposal must be in compliance with the provision of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* and regulation, and the General Environmental Duty Code of Practice for motor vehicle workshop operations.
- (3) All waste bins or storage must be provided with measures that prevent public health risk as defined by the *Public Health Act 2005*.

6.0 MISCELLANEOUS

- 6.1 If any item of cultural heritage is identified during site works, all work must cease and the relevant State Agency must be notified. Work can resume only after State Agency clearance is obtained.
The Applicant is reminded of their obligations under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003. Further information and databases are available from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships at: www.datsip.qld.gov.au
- 6.2 A trade waste approval must be obtained from Council's Trade Waste Department prior to the discharge from the premises of any trade waste to Council's wastewater system. All discharges must be in accordance with Council's wastewater system admission limits.
- 6.3 Any alteration necessary to electricity, telephone, water mains, sewerage mains, and/or public utility installations resulting from the development or in connection with the development, must be at full cost to the developer.
- 6.4 Any building materials, equipment and the like must be appropriately tied down, placed indoors and secured on site at the time of preparation for cyclone events. The on site

supervisor is to ensure that all contractors/employees take the necessary steps to secure the construction site in the event of a cyclone.

- 6.5 All construction materials, waste, waste skips, machinery and contractors' vehicles must be located and stored or parked within the site. No storage of materials, parking of construction machinery or contractors' vehicles will be permitted in Mill Street or adjoining land unless written permission from the owner of that land and Council is provided.
- 6.6 It is the developer's responsibility for the full rectification of any damage caused to neighbouring public infrastructure (such as footpaths, driveways, fences, gardens, trees and the like) caused by contractors, including clean up of any litter or waste that is a result of the subject development.

7.0 ADVISORY NOTES

7.1 Hours of work

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994, which prohibits any construction, building and earthworks activities likely to cause nuisance noise (including the entry and departure of heavy vehicles) between the hours of 6.30 pm and 6.30 am from Monday to Saturday and at all times on Sundays or Public Holidays.

7.2 Dust Control

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Nuisance of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 which prohibits unlawful environmental nuisance caused by dust, ash, fumes, light, odour or smoke beyond the boundaries of the property during all stages of the development including earthworks and construction.

7.3 Sedimentation Control

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and Schedule 9 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 to prevent soil erosion and contamination of the stormwater drainage system and waterways.

7.4 Noise During Construction and Noise in General

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

7.5 General Safety of Public During Construction

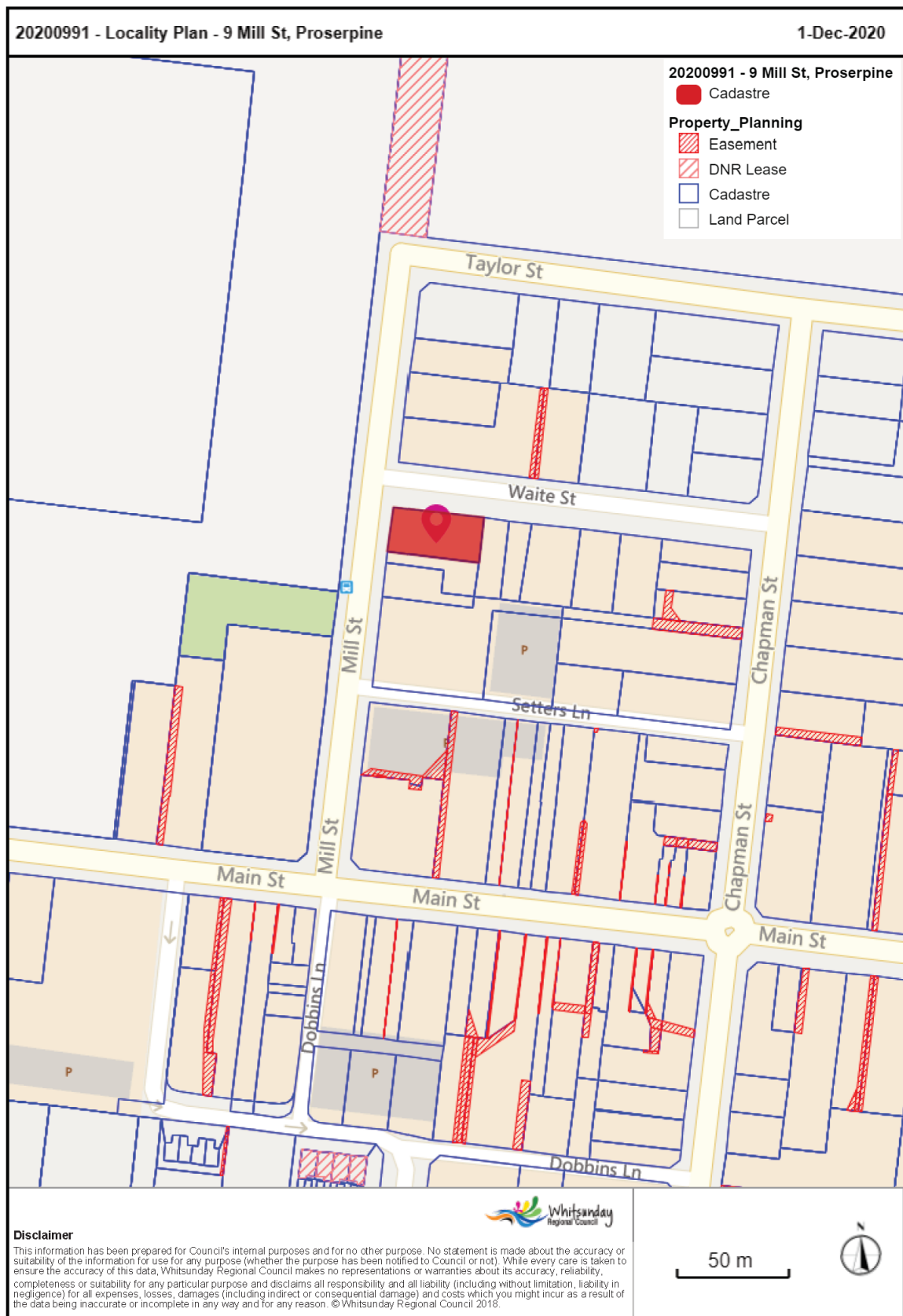
It is the project manager's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. It states that the project manager is obliged to ensure construction work is planned and managed in a way that prevents or minimises risks to the health and safety of members of the public at or near the workplace during construction work.

It is the principal contractor's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. It states that the principal contractor is obliged on a construction workplace to ensure that work activities at the workplace prevent or minimise risks to the health and safety of the public at or near the workplace during the work.

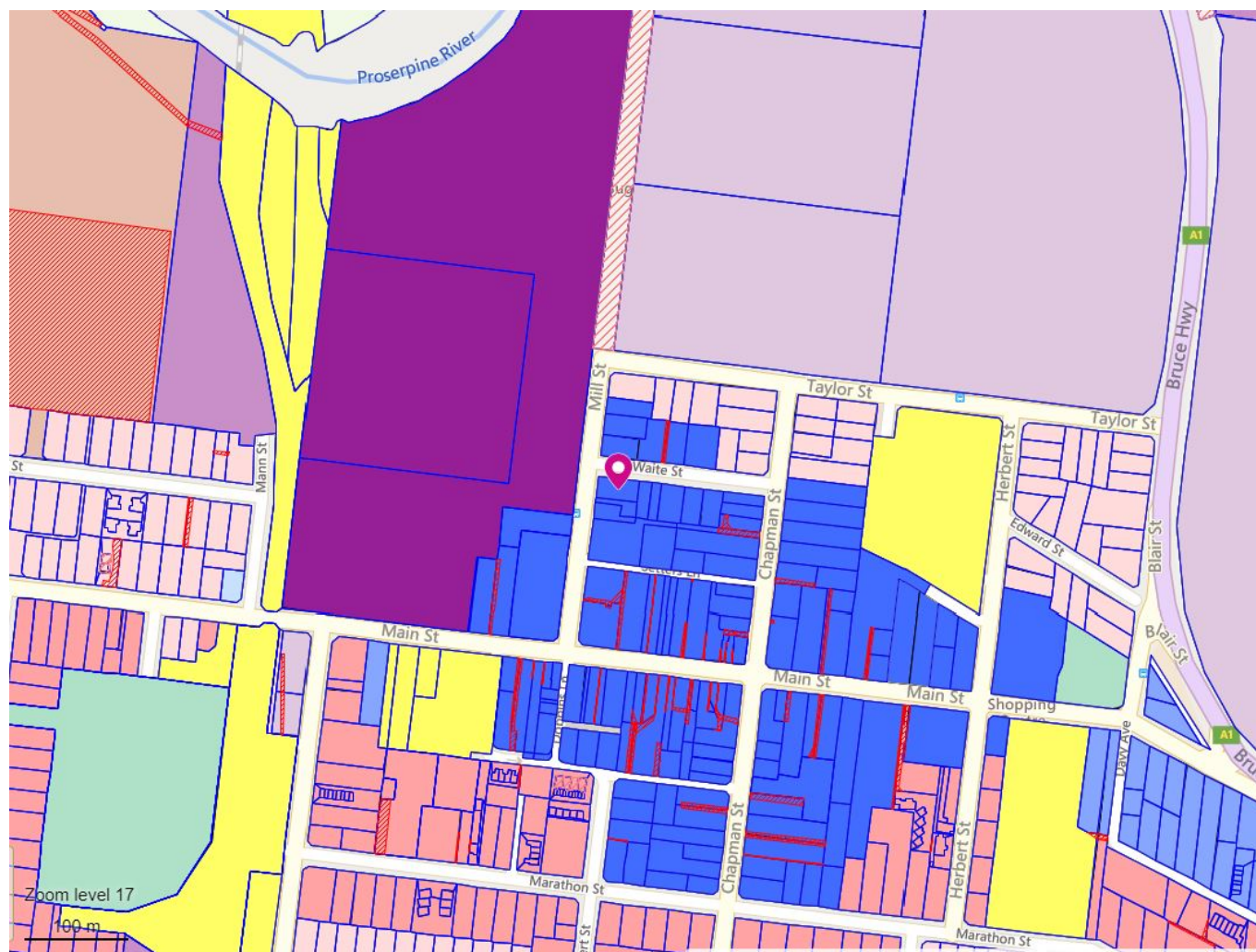
It is the responsibility of the person in control of the workplace to ensure compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. It states that the person in control of the workplace is obliged to ensure there is appropriate, safe access to and from the workplace for persons other than the person's workers.

- 7.6 Enquiries relating to the aforementioned conditions should be directed to the Planning and Development Directorate who will direct the enquiry to the relevant officer.

Attachment 2 – Locality Plan

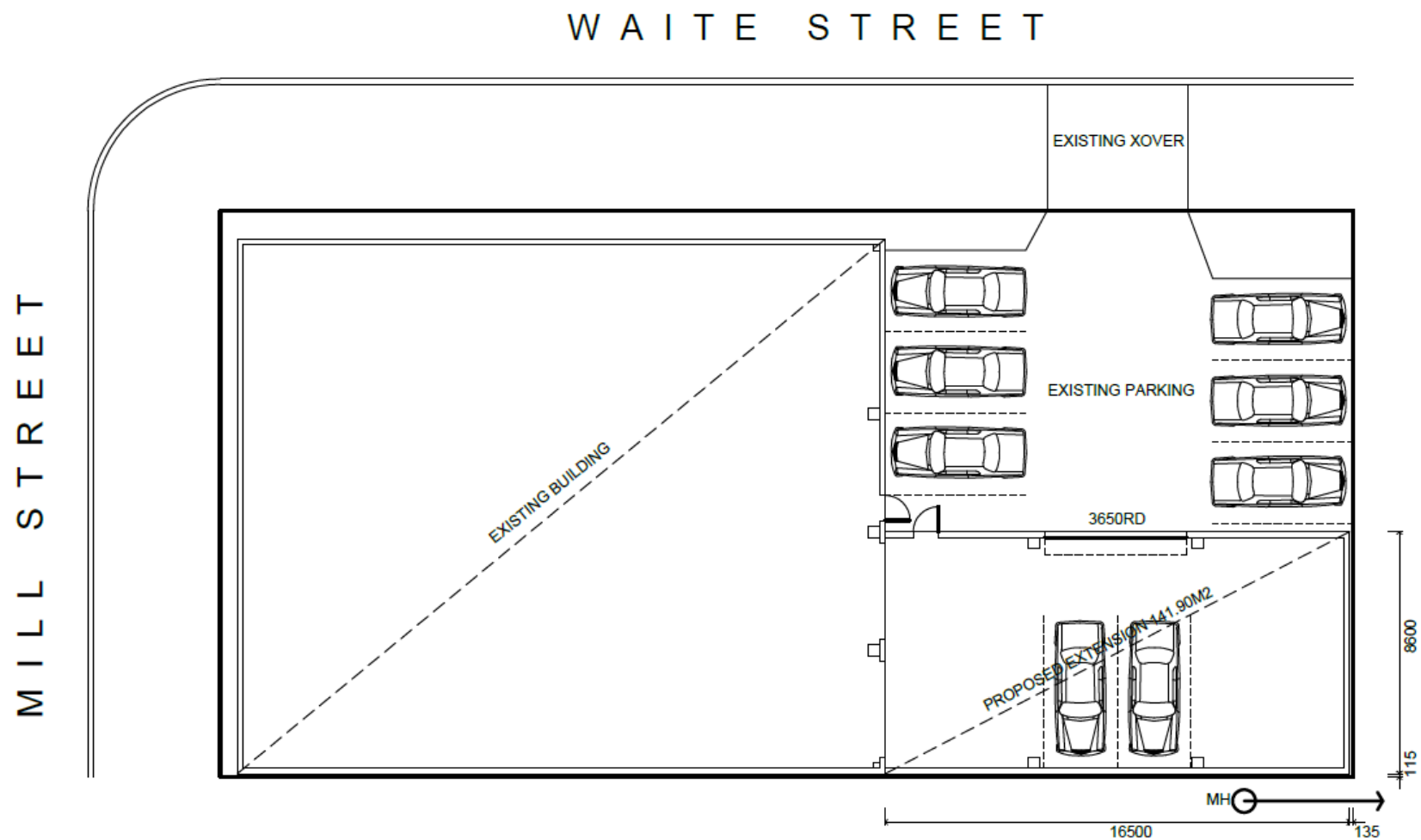


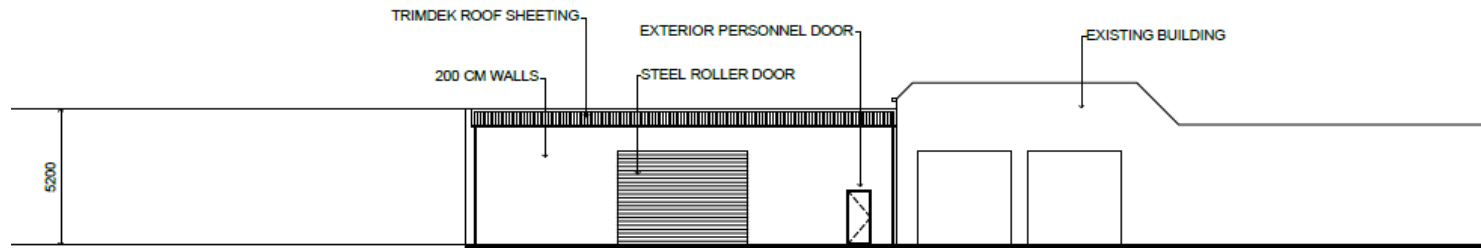
Attachment 3 – Zoning Plan



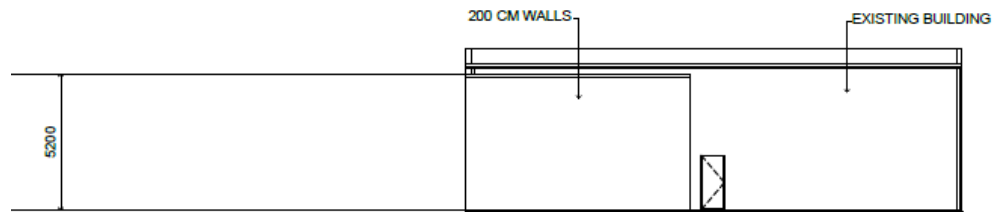
- Road
- Community facilities
- District centre
- Emerging community
- Environmental management and conservation
- High impact industry
- Industry investigation area
- Local centre
- Low density residential
- Low impact industry
- Low-medium density residential
- Major centre
- Medium impact industry
- Mixed use
- Neighbourhood centre
- Recreation and open space
- Road
- Rural
- Rural residential
- Special industry

Attachment 4 – Proposal Plan

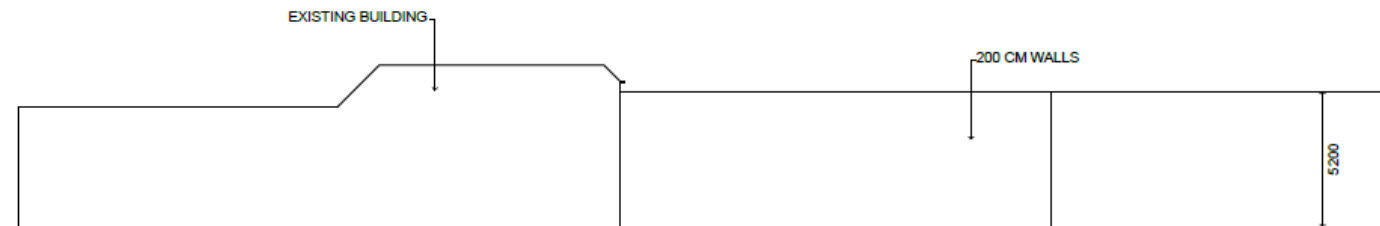




ELEVATION 1



ELEVATION 2



ELEVATION 3

14. Development Services

14.3 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - COMMUNITY DROUGHT SUPPORT PROGRAM 2020-21

AUTHOR: Elouise Lamb - Project Officer Economic Development and Major Grants

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council support a submission to the Community Drought Support Program to seek funds up to the amount of \$8,000 to deliver a Morning Melodies event in Collinsville between May 2021 – July 2022.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

The Whitsunday Region has been allocated up to \$26k under the Community Drought Support Program to fund events that can contribute to connectedness and social well-being in drought impacted communities.

The Program provides the opportunity for Council to host a Morning Melodies event for the Collinsville Community which delivers a social occasion for the Seniors demographic, who are at most risk of social isolation, in our most drought impacted township.

PURPOSE

To provide information to Council on the opportunity to apply for funds under the Queensland Government's Community Drought Support Program to provide community events for our drought affected areas.

BACKGROUND

There is no previous Council decision relating to this matter.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

N/A

ANALYSIS

In 2020-21, a total of \$5 million has been made available through the Queensland Government's Community Drought Support Program grants. The grants aim to strengthen the resilience of drought-affected Queenslanders through the delivery of Community events and activities that contribute to connectedness and social well-being.

As a partially drought declared area, the Whitsunday Region has been allocated up to \$26k for event programs to be delivered between May 2021 – July 2022. Community groups, not-for-profit organisations, local councils, neighbourhood and community centres, emergency relief providers, and school P&Cs are the types of organisations that are encouraged to apply.

Submissions due: 15 February 2021

Eligible Events or Activities include (but not limited to) -

- existing events and subsidised entry fees
- comedy nights
- outdoor movies
- sporting events e.g. cricket or fun run
- arts performances
- campdraft and horse sports days
- Christmas events
- morning teas or high teas
- pamper day
- fishing trip/golf day
- family fun day

Council's event program has been reviewed to find options that best support and encourage participation in drought impacted communities. There is an opportunity to submit an application for funds to support the delivery of the Morning Melodies program in Collinsville over the available time frame.

The Morning Melodies program has previously attracted around 100 attendees in Collinsville (with a pre-covid venue capacity of 145).

The proposed project includes providing a Morning Melodies event at the Collinsville Community Centre between May 2021 – July 2022 with live entertainment and light catering targeted at the senior's demographic. The total cost is estimated to be between \$7,000 - \$8,000 based on past events.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Financial implications - The funding program does not require a co-contribution by Council. The program allows for 10% of administration costs to be funded in addition to venue hire, entertainment, equipment hire and catering.

CONSULTATION

Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services
Julie Wright – Director Community Services
Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries
Donna Foster – Economic Development Coordinator
Emily Hart – Community Development Officer

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

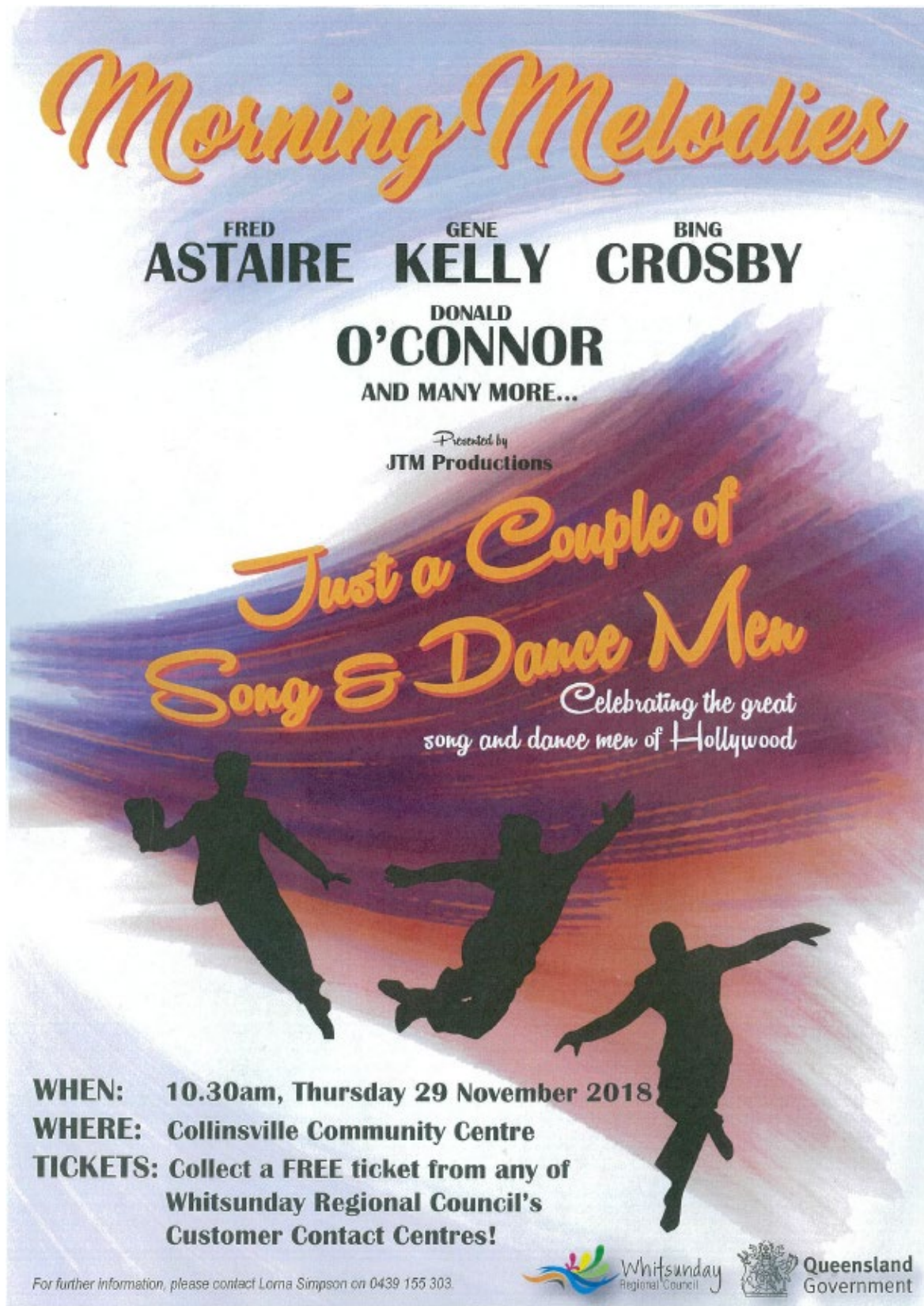
CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council submit an application for up to \$8,000 to deliver a Morning Melodies program in 20/21 to improve wellbeing for the drought affected Collinsville community.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Sample of past event

Attachment 1 – Sample of past event



Morning Melodies

FRED ASTAIRE GENE KELLY BING CROSBY

DONALD O'CONNOR
AND MANY MORE...


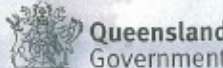
Presented by
JTM Productions

**Just a Couple of
Song & Dance Men**

*Celebrating the great
song and dance men of Hollywood*

WHEN: 10.30am, Thursday 29 November 2018
WHERE: Collinsville Community Centre
TICKETS: Collect a FREE ticket from any of
Whitsunday Regional Council's
Customer Contact Centres!

For further information, please contact Lorna Simpson on 0439 155 303.

14. Development Services

14.4 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES CATEGORY C FLEXIBLE FUNDING GRANTS (ROUND 2)

AUTHOR: Elouise Lamb - Project Officer Economic Development and Major Grants

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Neil McGaffin- Director Development Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council apply for funding under the *Queensland Bushfires Category C Flexible Funding Grants (Round 2)* program to deliver the following two (2) projects:

- 1. Collinsville Community Centre - Recovery Hub Establishment up to \$100k**
 - 2. Whitsunday Landholders Rural Fire Safety Training \$50,000**
-

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

This report provides a recommendation to submit two projects to the Queensland Bushfires Category C Flexible Funding Grants opportunity (Round 2). Projects were selected based on current operational and capital priorities of Council's Community Disaster Management Team.

Each project recommended for submission is aimed at better preparing the Whitsundays for future disaster events and will contribute to delivering outcomes against the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience, Queensland State Disaster Management Plan and Whitsunday Regional Council Disaster Management Plan.

Funding for these projects does not require co-contribution.

PURPOSE

To provide information to Council on the opportunity to apply for funds in alignment with the Queensland Bushfires CAT C funding opportunity to improve the regions disaster resilience services and enhance community disaster preparedness.

BACKGROUND

The Queensland Bushfires Category C Flexible Funding Grants Program has been jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to provide flexible funds to implement projects aimed at driving recovery, building awareness and resilience. Local Government's including Whitsunday Regional Council are eligible to apply.

As per Council resolution 2020/05/27.27, the *Bushfire Resilience – Fire Break Improvement Program (\$45k)* was submitted by Council for Queensland Bushfires Category C Flexible Funding Grants (Round 1). The submission was successful, and the project is currently underway.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Projects must be aligned with national disaster resilience and recovery outcomes (not limited to human and social recovery), the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience, the National

Disaster Recovery Principles as outlined in the Queensland State Recovery Plan and the Community Recovery Handbook.

ANALYSIS

Round 2 of the Queensland Bushfires Category C Flexible Funding Grants opportunity provides the opportunity for Council to attain funds to deliver projects that can contribute to one or more of the following Disaster Recovery Outcomes:

- the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed in disaster recovery
- the community is aware of the disaster recovery processes
- the community can express its changing disaster recovery needs
- community members are aware of the risks of future disasters
- the community has improved capacity and capability to respond to future disasters
- business and not-for-profit organisations have in place adequate mitigation practices for risks and threats
- government, private sector, civil society and organisations are engaged in plans for mitigation and management of the recovery.

Funding available: \$2,500 - \$50,000 (small grant) & \$50,001 - \$100,000 (large grant).

The total amount of funds available is \$4.2M across 23 Local Government Areas in Queensland.

The funding opportunity and recommended projects were reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and identified as a valuable opportunity to support attainment of priority equipment to enable the Collinsville Community Centre to support disaster recovery operations and to deliver a program aimed to improve bushfire hazard management skills for land managers across the Region.

The following two projects have been recommended to submit for this program:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project Name | Collinsville Community Centre - Recovery Hub Establishment |
| Project Summary | <p>Purchase and installation of a generator and network communications for the Collinsville Community Centre to contribute to the Centre becoming a 'recovery hub' which provides a place for disaster operations and refuge pre and post a disaster event.</p> <p>Quotes have been attained for a generator and switchboard installation with a cost estimated at \$56,115.</p> <p>Costs to add new communication networks to the facility will also be incorporated in this project submission up to a maximum total project cost of \$100k.</p> |
| Project Name | Whitsunday Landholders Rural Fire Safety Training |
| Project Summary | <p>The object of this project is to increase land manager bushfire hazard management. The project will train 50 land managers on Bushfire safety and bushfire planning. The outcome of the project is to increase land manager skill levels and confidence in planning and conducting planned burns. A sample program is provided in attachment 3.</p> <p>The project will take 12 months and involve engaging an external contractor to deliver the courses to landholders in high bushfire hazard localities.</p> |

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Financial implications - The funding program does not require a co-contribution by Council.

Corporate Plan – People: 2.1.1 Maintain and develop Council’s emergency and disaster management planning, prevention, response and recovery capabilities.

Operational Plan – Disaster Management - Emergency management planning and preparedness, community awareness, risk identification and mitigation, WDM Group training and simulation.

CONSULTATION

- Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services
- Donna Foster – Economic Development Coordinator
- Sandra Black – Disaster Management Coordinator
- Peter Shuttlewood – Executive Manager Procurement, Property & Fleet
- Scott Wilkinson – Manager Innovation & Technology
- Scott Hardy – Coordinator Natural Resource Management and Climate

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER’S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council submit two (2) projects to the Queensland Bushfires Flexible Funding CAT C funding opportunity to increase Council’s capacity to support and provide disaster preparedness services.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

14. Development Services

14.5 ADVERTISING DEVICES CODE

AUTHOR: Jonathan Cutting – Strategic Planner

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the amendments to the Advertising Devices Code for inclusion in the Major amendment to the Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017, including any associated administrative amendments.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

To amend the Advertising devices code within the Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017 through the Major Amendment to permit an increase in face area for Pylon signs, trigger illuminated signs as assessable development and minimise the proliferation of advertising devices not associated with the on-site uses.

PURPOSE

That Council adopt the amendments to the Advertising Devices Code for inclusion in the Major Amendment.

BACKGROUND

On the 11 October 2017, Council resolved to make a Major amendment to the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Planning Act 2016;
Planning Regulation 2017; and
Ministers Guidelines and Rules 2020.

ANALYSIS

Proposed amendments to the advertising devices code for inclusion to the Major amendment for the *Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017* have been identified in response to issues identified by the Development assessment team, regarding:

1. The permitted size (m²) of *Freestanding signs – Pylon*:

Freestanding signs – Pylon (Figure 1) are permitted with a maximum sign face area of 4.5m², and maximum allowable height of 9m. It is recommended that sign face area be increased to align with the maximum permitted size of a *Freestanding sign – Billboard* (short and wide), being 18m² (9m² per face), in line with other Local Government Planning Schemes. Where exceeding this sign size, the sign will become assessable development.



Figure 1: Pylon sign example.

2. Making illuminated signs assessable development to avoid off-site impacts:

A variety of sign types are permitted with illumination as accepted development, not requiring planning assessment. Council has received a variety of complaints regarding illuminated signage that is impacting on amenity. Therefore, proposed amendments will trigger illuminated signage to submit a planning application, so that potential impacts can be appropriately assessed and conditioned within the development assessment process.

While undertaking the review, other minor amendments were also made to improve functionality of the code and reduce the proliferation of signage clutter on a premise that are not related to the use on the premise. This has been achieved through proposed:

AO1.3 *Advertising devices, other than billboards, must advertise a lawful business, product or service offered on the subject premises.*

Amendments are set out in red within **Attachment 1**.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Proposed amendments will enable larger Freestanding signs – Pylon, to be constructed as-of-right, only where advertising the uses on the premises. Amendments will also result in a higher number of operational works applications for advertising devices involving illumination, required to mitigate potential off-site impacts of illuminated signage.

CONSULTATION

Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services
Shane Neville – Manager of Strategic Planning
Doug Mackay – Manager Development Assessment
Matthew Twomey – Development Assessment
Mary Partridge – Strategic Planner

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

The amendment to the Advertising Devices Code will ensure better outcomes for the region.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Proposed Amendments to Advertising Devices Code (changes in red)

Attachment 1 - Proposed Amendments to Advertising Devices Code (changes in red)

9.1.1 Advertising devices code

9.1.1.1 Application




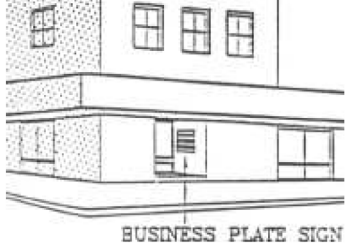
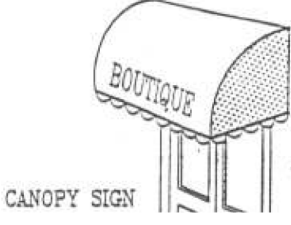
This code applies to accepted and assessable development identified as requiring assessment against the Advertising devices code by the tables of assessment in Part 5 (Tables of assessment).

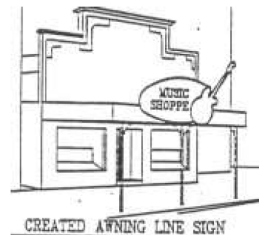
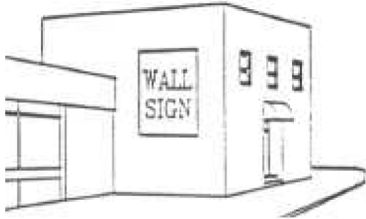
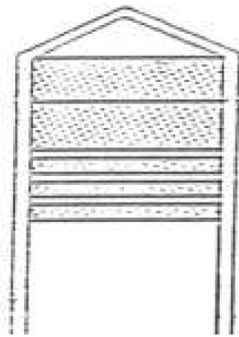


9.1.1.2 Purpose and overall outcomes

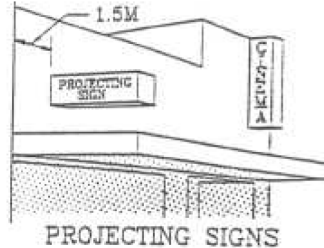

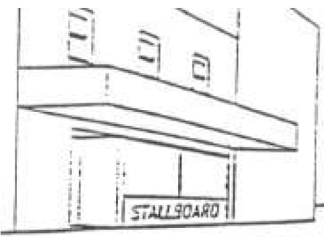
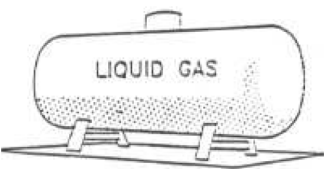
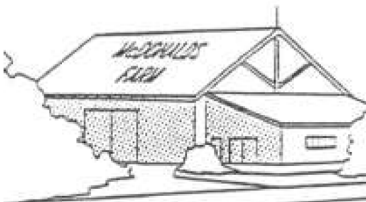
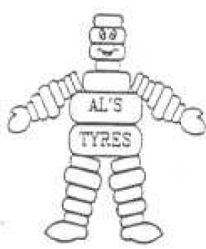
- (1) The purpose of the Advertising devices code is to ensure that advertising devices are established in a manner, which is consistent with the desired character and amenity of the Whitsunday region.
- (2) The purpose of the Advertising devices code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes:
 - (a) an advertising device complements and does not detract from the desirable characteristics of the natural and built environment in which the advertising device is exhibited;
 - (b) an advertising device is designed and integrated into the built form to minimise visual clutter;
 - (c) an advertising device does not adversely impact on the visual amenity of a heritage or neighbourhood character area or public open space;
 - (d) an advertising device does not adversely impact on the amenity of rural, rural residential or residential areas;
 - (e) an advertising device does not pose a hazard for pedestrians, cyclists or drivers of motor vehicles;
 - (f) **an advertising device that is only visible from an elevated location or the air, such as sky signs and written roof signs, are avoided;** and
 - (g) an advertising device accommodates the legitimate need to provide directions and business identification in a manner that is consistent with achieving overall outcomes (a) to (e) above.



9.1.2 Description of advertising devices

Table 9.4.1.3.1 Description of advertising device types

| Advertising device type | Written description | Pictorial description |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Above awning sign | An advertising device located on top of and attached to an awning or verandah. |  |
| Awning fascia or return fascia sign | An advertising device painted or otherwise affixed to a solid or flexible material suspended from an awning, verandah or wall. |  |
| Blind sign | An advertising device painted or otherwise affixed to a solid or flexible material suspended from an awning, verandah or wall. |  |
| Business name plate | An advertising device displaying the name, occupation and contact details for the business occupant, which may also include the hours of operation of the business. |  |
| Canopy sign | An advertising device painted on a canopy structure. |  |

| Advertising device type | Written description | Pictorial description |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Created awning sign | An advertising device positioned on the face, or aligned with the face of an awning, where the shape interrupts the natural line of the awning. |  A line drawing of a building facade with a sign that follows the contour of an awning. The sign is shaped like a musical note and contains the text 'MUSIC SHOPPE'. Below the drawing is the caption 'CREATED AWNING LINE SIGN'. |
| Flush wall sign | An advertising device painted or otherwise affixed upon, and confined within, the limits of a wall. |  A line drawing of a building corner. A rectangular sign is mounted flush against the wall, displaying the words 'WALL SIGN'. |
| Freestanding sign | An advertising device that is independent of a building and is supported by one or more columns, poles or pylons. The term includes devices containing third party advertising. Note: Freestanding sign includes billboard and pylon signs, where a billboard sign has a surface area wider than it is tall and a pylon sign has a surface area taller than it is wide. |  A line drawing of a tall, narrow sign structure supported by two vertical poles. The sign face is divided into several horizontal sections, some of which are filled with a cross-hatch pattern. |
| Ground sign | An advertising device that is independent of a building that is normally erected at a driveway entrance to identify the business or points of entry. |  A line drawing of a building with a sign on a tall pole in front of it. The sign is rectangular and displays the words 'GROUND SIGN'. |
| Hamper sign | An advertising device painted or otherwise affixed above the door head or its equivalent height and below the awning level or verandah of a building. |  A line drawing of a building entrance. A sign is mounted above the door frame, below the level of an awning. The sign displays the words 'HAMPER SIGN'. |

| Advertising device type | Written description | Pictorial description |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Projecting sign | An advertising device attached and mounted at a right angle to the façade of a building. |  |
| Sky sign | An advertising device placed at or near the top of a building and projecting above the building. |  |
| Stallboard sign | An advertising device located below the ground level window of a building. |  |
| Structure sign | An advertising device painted or otherwise affixed to any structure, which is not a building. |  |
| Written roof sign | An advertising device painted or otherwise affixed to the roof cladding of a building. |  |
| Three dimensional replica object or shape sign | An advertising device that replicates a real world object or shape. The replica may be enlarged, miniaturised or equal in scale and be freestanding or form part of another advertising device. |  |

| Advertising device type | Written description | Pictorial description |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Under awning sign | An advertising device attached or suspended under an awning or verandah. |  |
| Window sign | An advertising device painted or otherwise affixed to the exterior or on the inner surface of a glazed area of any window. It includes any devices that are suspended from the window frame. The term does not include product displays or showcases for viewing by pedestrians. |  |

Assessment benchmarks

Table 9.4.1.4.2 Benchmarks for accepted and assessable development

| Performance Outcomes | | Acceptable Outcomes | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Requirements for all advertising device types | | | |
| General | | | |
| PO1 | All advertising devices are: (a) compatible with the existing and future planned character of the locality in which they are erected; (b) compatible with the scale, proportion, bulk and other characteristics of buildings, structures, landscaping and other advertising devices on the site; (c) of a scale, proportion and form that is appropriate to the streetscape or other setting in which they are located; (d) sited and designed to: (i) be compatible with the nature and extent of development and advertising devices on adjoining sites; (ii) not interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of adjoining sites; (iii) not unreasonably obstruct lawfully | AO1.1 | The advertising device complies with the specific requirements of Table 9.4.1.4.2 Requirements of particular advertising devices. |
| | | AO1.2 | A three dimensional replica object or shape sign complies with the acceptable outcomes relating to wall, façade, awning, roof and freestanding signs, as applicable depending on the proposed location of the sign on the site. |
| | | AO1.3 | Advertising devices, other than billboards, must advertise a lawful business, product or service offered on the subject premises. |

| Performance Outcomes | | Acceptable Outcomes | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>established advertising devices;</p> <p>(iv) not unduly dominate the visual landscape;</p> <p>(v) maintain views or vistas of public value; and</p> <p>(vi) protect the visual amenity of scenic routes and lookouts;</p> <p>(e) designed, sited and integrated to avoid the proliferation of visual clutter.</p> | | |
| Movement and illumination | | | |
| PO2 | An advertising device: (a) does not incorporate elements that move; and (b) incorporates illumination and lighting only where required and in a manner that does not create nuisance or detract from the amenity of the area. | AO2.1 | The advertising device does not flash, revolve, move or contain mechanisms that give the impression of movement. |
| | | AO2.2 | Moving or variable message advertising devices are not located: (a) within 50 metres of land developed or intended for residential purposes; and (b) adjacent to any road which has a traffic speed of more than 60km/hr. |
| | | AO2.3 | The advertising device is not internally or externally illuminated. |
| Maximum site-based sign face area | | | |
| PO3 | The maximum sign face area of an advertising device does not unduly detract from a building or location where the device is positioned, including: (a) visually dominating the appearance of a building; or (b) being visually intrusive in the streetscape or natural landscape setting. | AO3.1 | The total sign face area of all advertising devices on a site does not exceed 0.75m ² of sign face area per linear metre of the street front boundary length. |
| Construction standards | | | |
| PO4 | An advertising device is constructed to an appropriate and safe standard. | AO4.1 | No support, fixing or other system required for the proper installation of an advertising device is exposed or protrudes in a manner that would create a potential safety hazard. |
| | | AO4.2 | The advertising devices are to be constructed from non-reflective materials that incorporate colours and finishes that complement and blend with the |

| Performance Outcomes | | Acceptable Outcomes | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | surrounding natural and built environment. |
| Traffic and safety hazards | | | |
| PO5 | An advertising device does not cause a traffic or safety hazard. | AO5.1 | The advertising device is not located in a position: (a) that presents a physical danger to pedestrians; (b) that disrupts pedestrian movement along the footpath or from the road to the footpath; or (c) that distracts the attention of motorists or obscures the view of drivers or road users. |
| | | AO5.2 | An advertising device adjacent to a State controlled road complies with the Department of Transport and Main Roads <i>Roadside advertising manual 2017</i> and must not: (a) give instructions to traffic; or (b) imitate a traffic control device. |
| PO6 | Advertising devices provide adequate clearance above pedestrian or traffic movement areas to ensure safe and unobstructed movement. | AO6.1 | Where located above a pedestrian area, the advertising device provides a minimum clearance of: (a) 2.4m if rigid; or (b) 2.1m if flexible. |
| Requirements for particular advertising device types | | | |
| Freestanding signs | | | |
| PO7 | A Freestanding sign is designed and sited to comply with the general amenity outcomes sought by PO1 of this code. | AO7.1 | Where related to the use of the site, the total number of all freestanding signs on a site does not exceed: (a) one sign where the street front boundary length of the site is 30m or less; or (b) two signs where the total street front boundary length of the site is more than 30m. |
| | | AO7.2 | Where not related to the use of the site, the total number of all freestanding signs on a site does not exceed one (1) sign per three (3) km of frontage. |
| Requirements for advertising devices associated with a particular use | | | |
| Home based business | | | |
| PO8 | Advertising devices for Home based business uses are of a scale and design consistent with the residential amenity of the locality. | AO8.1 | Home based business uses are not permitted to display any advertising device other than a Business Name Plate. |

Table 9.4.1.4.3 Requirements for particular advertising devices.

| Advertising device type | Permitted zone | Orientation | Design Characteristics | Maximum surface area | Minimum clearance |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Above awning sign | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | (a) Orientated at right angles to the building frontage; and (b) centrally located along the frontage of each shop or tenancy. | (a) Does not extend past the width of the awning or verandah to which it is attached; (b) does not exceed a maximum height of 600mm and a maximum depth of 300mm; and (c) is rigidly fixed and not constructed from materials that are potentially dangerous (e.g. Glass). | (a) Maximum sign face area of 1.4m ² . | Not specified. |
| Awning fascia or return fascia signs | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | Not specified. | (a) Does not exceed a depth of 100mm; (b) do not project above or below the awning line by more than 20% of the vertical depth of the awning face; and | In accordance with Table 9.4.1.4.1. Does not exceed the total area of the fascia. | Minimum clearance of 2.4m between the footway pavement and the lowest part of the sign. |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | (c) does not project out from either face of the awning. | | |
| Blind signs | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | Not specified. | Not illuminated. (a) Is predominantly constructed out of flexible materials; and (b) can be retracted or removed. | (a) Maximum sign face area of Does not exceed 50% of the blind. | (a) Minimum clearance of 2.1m between the footpath pavement and any flexible part of the blind; and 2.4m between the footpath pavement and rigid part of the blind. |
| Business name plates | All zones. | Limited to one sign per business entry point. | In accordance with Table 9.4.1.4.1. Displays only the name, occupation, contact details and hours of operation of the business. | Maximum sign face area of 1.0m². | Not applicable. |
| Canopy signs | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | Not applicable. | (a) Does not exceed a height of 600mm; (b) does not project out from the surface of the canopy; and (c) does not project above or below the canopy on which it is displayed; and (d) not illuminated. | In accordance with Table 9.4.1.4.1. Does not exceed 50% of the canopy. | (a) Minimum clearance of 2.1m between the footpath pavement and any flexible part of the canopy; and 2.4m between the footway pavement and rigid part of the canopy. |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Created signs | awning | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | Not applicable. | (a) Does not project out from either face of the awning; and (b) does not extend more than 600mm above or below the fascia to which it is attached. | 'Created' sign face area not exceeding 25% of the existing awning face area. | Minimum clearance of 2.4m between the footway pavement and the lowest part of the sign. |
| Flush wall signs | | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | (a) Do not obscure any window or architectural feature of the building on which it is located. | (a) Does not project more than 300mm from the wall on which it is affixed; and (b) does not project beyond the property boundary, except as an authorised encroachment onto a road reserve. | Maximum display area, The lesser of: (i) 30m ² ; or (ii) 20% of the area of the wall. | Not applicable. |
| Freestanding signs - In the form of a billboard | | The Rural zone, only where adjacent to a State controlled road. | (a) Minimum spacing between freestanding billboard signs is: (i) 3km, if erected on land in the Rural zone; and (ii) (b) is situated at least 3m from any adjoining site boundary. | (a) Does not project beyond the front alignment of the site; (b) Has a maximum of two sign faces; (c) is mounted as a freestanding structure in a | (a) Maximum of two sign faces; and (i) each sign face has a maximum area of 18m ² 9m per sign face. | Not applicable. |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | <p>landscaped environment;</p> <p>(d) designed and treated in such a way that the supporting framework, supports and back of the sign face area are not visible or blend with the surrounding streetscape or field of view; and</p> <p>(e) has a maximum height of 9m.</p> | | |
| <p>Freestanding signs – Not in the form of a billboard Pylon</p> | <p>(a) A Centre zone;</p> <p>(b) an Industry zone;</p> <p>(c) Recreation and open space zone;</p> <p>(d) Community facilities zone;</p> <p>(e) Mixed use zone; and</p> <p>(f) Rural zone, only where adjacent to a State controlled road.</p> | <p>(a) Minimum spacing between freestanding pylon signs is:</p> <p>(i) 3km, if erected on land in the Rural zone; or</p> <p>(ii) otherwise, 20m; not less than the combined height of all freestanding signs on the site multiplied by 4, if erected on land in another permitted zone; and</p> <p>(iii) (b) is situated at least 3m from any</p> | <p>(a) Do not project beyond the front alignment of the site;</p> <p>(b) Has a maximum of two sign faces;</p> <p>(c) is mounted as a freestanding structure in a landscaped environment;</p> <p>(d) designed and treated in such a way that the supporting framework,</p> | <p>(a) Maximum of two sign faces; and</p> <p>(b) each sign face has a maximum area of 4.5-9m² per sign face.</p> | <p>Not applicable.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | adjoining site boundary. | supports and back of the sign face area are not visible or blend with the surrounding streetscape or field of view; (e) has a maximum height of 9m; and (f) has a maximum width of 3m | | |
| Ground signs | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | (a) Displayed within a landscaped environment; and (b) separated from another ground sign by a Minimum spacing between ground signs is of 100m of street front boundary length. | (a) Is displayed in a landscaped environment; (b) has a maximum of two sign faces; and (c) has a maximum height of 1.5m. | (a) Maximum of two sign faces; and (b) each sign face has a maximum area of 4m² per sign face. | Not applicable. |
| Hamper signs | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | Not applicable. | (a) Project no more than 300mm from the wall to which it is attached; (b) do not extend below the door head of the main entrance; and (c) do not extend beyond the length of the | Maximum sign face area— Limited to that area between the door head and the underside of the verandah or awning roof. | Not applicable. |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | building wall above the door head. | | |
| Projecting signs | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | (a) Situated at least 2m from any site boundary; and (b) not more than one projecting sign is erected for the premises. | (a) Does not project higher than the gutter line of the building on which it is erected. | (a) If a vertical projecting sign, maximum sign face area of 2m².; or (b) if a horizontal projecting sign, maximum sign face area of 1m². | Minimum of clearance of 2.4m between the footpath pavement and the lowest part of the sign. |
| Sign written roof sign | Is not erected within the Planning Scheme area. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| Sky sign | Is not erected within the Planning Scheme area. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| Stallboard signs | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | Are designed such that the sign face is recessed inside the Stallboard facing. | (a) Does not project beyond the property boundary, except as an authorised encroachment onto a road reserve. | Maximum sign face area— Limited to the stallboard area below a street front window. | Not applicable. |
| Structure signs | (a) A Centre zone; (b) an Industry zone; and (c) Mixed use zone. | Not applicable. | (a) Does not project beyond the surface of the structure; and (b) must be on a structure ancillary to the | Maximum sign face area of 4m². | Not applicable. |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | use of the premises. | | |
| Three-dimensional replica object or shape sign | (a) A Centre zone; (b) an Industry zone; and (c) Mixed use zone. | Not applicable. | In accordance with Table 9.4.1.4.1. Council may determine to allocate an additional advertising device type and assess against those requirements based on the characteristics of the sign. | In accordance with Table 9.4.1.4.1, where the surface area is Is calculated by taking the largest two-dimensional cross section of the object and multiplying by two. | In accordance with Table 9.4.1.4.1. |
| Under awning signs | (a) A Centre zone; (b) an Industry zone; and (c) Mixed use zone. | (a) Oriented at right angles to the building frontage; and (b) centrally located along the frontage of each shop or tenancy, provided that one additional sign may also be erected at the entrance of an arcade. | (a) Is no longer than the width of the awning or veranda to which it is attached ; (b) has a maximum height of 600mm and maximum depth of 300mm; (c) has a maximum of two sign faces; and (d) is rigidly fixed and not constructed from materials that are potentially | Maximum sign face area of 2.5m² per sign face. | Minimum clearance of 2.4m from the footway pavement to any part of the sign. |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | dangerous (e.g. glass) to pedestrians. | | |
| Window sign | All zones, where associated with the lawful use of the land, except a home-based business. | (a) Only located on the premises which the advertisement relates to; and (b) Located on ground storey windows only. | (a) Does not contain running lights giving the illusion of movement, if illuminated. Not applicable. | In accordance with Table 9.4.1.4.1. Does not exceed 50% of the window. | Not applicable. |

14. Development Services

14.6 WASTE MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

AUTHOR: Jonathan Cutting – Strategic Planner

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the proposed waste management amendments for inclusion in the Major amendment to the Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017, including any associated administrative amendments.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Presently, provisions within the Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017 guiding waste management provide general principles but lack specific detail for development assessment to condition developers to ensure appropriate waste management systems are provided. As a result, a variety of historic issues exist in urban areas where too many bins clutter streets, bins obstruct vehicles, insufficient bins are on-site and waste vehicles have poor access to bins, which impacts on efficiency. The recommendation to alleviate these problems is to amend the Planning Scheme to provide guidance on improved waste management outcomes for residential and mixed-use developments by including a Planning Scheme Policy - Waste Management Plan and amendments to the Infrastructure Code.

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement to include waste management amendments to the Planning Scheme to improve future development within the Region.

BACKGROUND

On the 11 October 2017, Council resolved to make a Major amendment to the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Planning Act 2016

Planning Regulation 2017

Ministers Guidelines and Rules 2020

ANALYSIS

Existing waste management benchmarks within various development codes in the Planning Scheme are set out within **Attachment 1**, including the following general principles:

- sufficient area is provided for refuse bins;
- bin areas are appropriately screened; and
- development provides internal circulation and service areas for nominated design vehicles, in accordance with the Development Manual.

To supplement existing principles and ensure each development provides an adequate waste design system to service waste generation from the development, the proposed Planning Scheme Policy (PSP) defines expectations for Waste Management Plans to govern future residential and mixed-use developments. Whilst only residential developments are serviced by Council, poorly designed waste systems associated with mixed use retail or commercial developments become an issue for local laws where amenity is impacted.

The proposed PSP within **Attachment 2** defines the required information an applicant must provide to properly assess a development's waste management design and includes:

- Waste generation rates for various residential uses;
- Waste bin sizes and requirements in response to waste generation calculations;
- Bin storage amenity requirements;
- Details of waste system, if required (i.e. compactors, chutes etc);
- Collection method and frequency (on-site, verge side, centralised or individual bins);
- Collection vehicle sizes and access requirements; and
- Assignment of duties, where part of a body corporate.

To empower the proposed Planning Scheme Policy, the following assessment benchmark needs to be added to the Infrastructure code, which is triggered for all Material change of use and Reconfiguring a lot assessable development.

Infrastructure Code

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PO3 | <p>Short-term accommodation, Multi-unit uses, mixed use development with two or more uses on-site and Reconfiguration of a lot involving a private road:</p> <p>(a) provides an effective waste system for anticipated waste generation;</p> <p>(b) mitigates operational and amenity impacts of waste collection; and</p> <p>(c) minimises the proliferation of individual wheelie bins for collection at the road frontage of the development through a Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Note – This may be demonstrated by undertaking a Waste management plan in accordance with PSP SC6.9 – Waste management policy.</p> | AO3.1 | <p>A Waste Management Plan is developed in accordance with SC6.9 Waste Management Policy for a:</p> <p>(a) residential subdivision with 4 or more lots;</p> <p>(b) Multiple dwelling;</p> <p>(c) Short-term accommodation;</p> <p>(d) Relocatable home park;</p> <p>(e) Retirement facility;</p> <p>(f) Tourist park;</p> <p>(g) Rooming accommodation;</p> <p>(h) Resort complex; or</p> <p>(i) Mixed use development with two or more uses onsite.</p> |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

The proposed amendment will require applicants to demonstrate appropriate waste management practices for their development, which may include the preparation of a Waste Management Plan. This control is considered necessary to ensure that

development design and layout considers waste management and mitigates potential amenity impacts. Where Council does not support a proposed Waste Management Plan, this amendment will allow Council to condition a development approval to comply with the requirements within the proposed PSP, reducing waste management impacts in new development.

CONSULTATION

Neil McGaffin - Director Planning & Development
Shane Neville – Manager Strategic Planning
David De Jager – Manager Waste Services

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

The amendments to the Planning Scheme through the Major Amendment will ensure better waste management outcomes for the region through new development requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Overview of existing waste provisions within the Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017
Attachment 2 – Schedule 6 - Planning Scheme Policy – Waste Management Policy (New)

Attachment 1 - Overview of existing waste provisions within the *Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017*

Dual occupancy code

- Separate areas for each dwelling to accommodate the permanent storage of waste and recyclable items in standard waste containers; and
- Waste storage areas are screened from public view.

Home based business code:

- Refuse waste storage and service areas associated with the home-based business are suitably screened from the street.

Industry activities code:

- The layout and design of the industrial activity provides for the on-site loading and unloading of goods; and
- storage of refuse is to the rear of the site.

Market code

- An appropriate number of waste containers are provided.

Multi-unit uses code:

- Waste service areas are screened; and
- The multi-unit use provides for the on-site storage of refuse.

Transport & parking code:

- Development provides internal circulation and service areas for nominated design vehicles, in accordance with the Development Manual.

Relocatable home park and tourist park code

- Where a tourist park provides a central waste collection area for every 50 caravan sites; or
- Where a relocatable home park provides refuse collection to every relocatable home park site.

Service station code

- The collection, treatment and disposal of waste ensures that off-site releases of contaminants do not occur;
- measures to minimise waste generation and maximise recycling are implemented; and
- Waste bin areas are screened.

Attachment 2 – Schedule 6 - Planning Scheme Policy – Waste Management Policy (New)

SC6.1 Waste Management Policy

SC6.1.1 Introduction

SC6.1.1.1 Relationship to the Planning Scheme

- (1) This planning scheme policy provides:
 - (a) information the Council may request for a development application; and
 - (b) guidance or advice about satisfying assessment benchmarks which identifies this planning scheme policy as providing that guidance or advice.

SC6.1.1.2 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of this planning scheme policy is to provide information guidance and advice for satisfying the assessment benchmarks for the preparation of a site-specific Waste Management Plan for residential and mixed-use developments.
- (2) this guideline provides guidance to Developers, Architects, Waste Consultants and Town Planners when designing new subdivisions, multi-unit and mixed-use developments.

SC6.1.1.3 Preparation of a Waste Management Plan

Waste management must be considered at the design stage of a development. This will ensure sufficient waste capacity has been allowed for, enough space has been provided to store waste and recycling prior to collections, sufficient clearance and access for waste collection has been considered and potential health, safety and environment risks are minimised.

A waste management plan is to include at a minimum the following requirements:

Introduction: Design Principles

(1) Residential Subdivisions

It is essential that residential subdivisions be designed to be serviced by Council's standard waste service upon occupancy. Providing functional subdivision layouts is essential for safe and adequate service of these developments. The following will be considered in the assessment of Development Applications for residential subdivisions:

- (a) Site planning, lot layout and road design responsive to Council's servicing requirements and provision of safe and adequate bin presentation areas; and
- (b) Site planning of the development ensures residential and other user's amenity and safety at all stages of the waste management process.

The standard waste service for residential single unit properties is a once weekly service for waste and fortnightly for recycling, collected from the verge. The design of subdivisions with over four (4) units/lots may need to incorporate on-site collection where adequate verge space is not available to accommodate bin presentation or where bulk bin services are provided as an alternative to 240L mobile garbage bins.

(2) Multi-Unit Developments

It is essential that the design of all residential multi-unit developments provides a waste management system that is responsive to the development's needs and is able to be integrated with Council's standard waste management service.

To ensure that multi-unit development can access the Council's waste service in an efficient and effective manner, the following will be considered in the assessment of Development Applications:

- (a) Site planning of the development accommodates on-site waste collection and allows the waste collection vehicle to enter and exit in a forward direction, manoeuvre within the site and access the nominated collection point;
- (b) Waste management system selection ensures safe and convenient use for residents; and
- (c) Adequate waste storage area(s) are provided within the development site to store the required number of waste, recycling, or bulk bin services.

The standard waste service for multi-unit development is an on-site collection service where a nominated bin collection point and loading area is provided. The design of the proposed multi-unit development will need to consider how the waste management systems will be integrated with Council's existing waste collection service.

(3) Mixed Use Developments

It is essential that the design of all mixed-use development provides a waste management system for the residential component of the development that can be integrated with Council's standard waste management service. Separation of commercial and residential waste storage areas must be maintained.

SC6.1.1.4 Waste Management Plan

A Waste Management Plan which meets the requirements of these guidelines is to be submitted for the following types of developments:

- (a) Residential subdivisions with 4 or more lots;
- (b) Multi-unit (including multiple dwellings, short term accommodation, rooming accommodation, relocatable home park) residential properties; and
- (c) developments with multiple uses onsite.

The Waste Management Plan requires details on the following items:

- (a) Summary of development;
- (b) Anticipated waste generation;
- (c) Receptacle size, type and quantity;
- (d) Bin storage area;
- (e) Collection vehicle access; and
- (f) Proposed presentation and collection method (on-site, verge side)

(1) Summary of Development

The summary of the development must contain the following information:

- (a) Location of the Development;
- (b) Number of storeys;
- (c) Number of dwellings units by size (one, two or three bedrooms);
- (d) Size of each commercial unit; and
- (e) Details of the intended use of the development.

(2) Anticipated Waste Generation

Details of the anticipated waste generation for refuse, recycling and other wastes must be calculated using the figures in **Section 18 – Waste Generation Rates**.

(3) Receptacle Size and Quantity

Details of the size and quantity of the receptacles to be used must be provided. **Section 17 – Receptacle Dimensions** contains details of the common size receptacles. Other size receptacles may be used, subject to approval by Councils' Waste Services Department. Details of these receptacles must be provided with the Waste Management Plan.

(4) Bin Storage Area

Design details of the bin storage area must be included in the Waste Management Plan covering the requirements outlined in **Section 16 – Bin store size**. This includes:

- (a) How waste is transported from the source to the bin storage area;
- (b) Bin storage area size;
- (c) Bin storage area layout;
- (d) Wash-down area;
- (e) Ventilation;
- (f) Vermin prevention;
- (g) Noise reduction; and
- (h) Stormwater ingress prevention.

(5) Waste System

Details of any waste systems must be provided including chutes, compactors, and any other waste management equipment or devices to be used.

(6) Collection Method

The Waste Management Plan must provide details on proposed collection method to be used in servicing the development. This will include information about the following subjects:

- (a) Movement of collection vehicle;
- (b) Collection location; and
- (c) Transfer of waste to the collection vehicle.

Upon the completion and occupation of the development the Waste Management Plan will provide the framework for the management and collection of waste and recycling.

(7) Waste Collection - Council Services

Council provides the following services to all rateable (residential) properties.

- (a) Mobile Garbage Bin (MGB) services consisting of:
 - i. 1x 240 L MGB for waste and 1x 240 L MGB for recycling (kerbside); and
 - ii. 1100 L and 660 L MGBs for waste and recycling (for on-site collection in multi-unit dwellings by arrangement).

Council's collection services operate Monday to Friday for residential properties.

Council's collection contractor operates the following collection vehicles:

- (a) Side Loaders (29m3 compactor) – waste collections;
- (b) Side Loaders (29m3 compactor) – recycling collections; and
- (c) Rear Loaders (28m3 compactor) – waste and recycling collections.

Note - Council does not provide commercial waste collection services.

(8) Collection Frequency

Council's standard residential service comprises a weekly collection of waste and fortnightly collection of recycling. Multiple weekly services may be provided for multi-unit residential developments by negotiation with Council's Waste Services department.

Note – Multiple weekly services are subject to agreement with Council and may not always be possible. Where not possible, Council may encourage premises to enter into a commercial agreement with a local service provider. A minimum service charge will still apply in accordance with Council's revenue statement.

(9) Collection at the Verge

For collection of MGBs at the verge the following conditions shall be met:

- (a) A flat area is required of sufficient size to accommodate all the MGBs to be serviced on that day;
- (b) The MGBs are to be placed in single file with no less than 100 mm between each MGB. The flat area can either be paved or grass;
- (c) The MGBs placed at the verge shall not obstruct pedestrian traffic or vehicles using the adjacent street and be clear of street signs, trees, seats, litter bins or other permanent fixtures on the verge;
- (d) Consideration shall be given to ensure there is no impediment to sight distances to nearby cross-overs and intersections;
- (e) The bin collection area shall not be adjacent to street parking bays;
- (f) The MGB shall be placed on the verge no more than 1.5 m from the kerb with the lid opening to the road. All bins for collection shall be placed on the verge prior to 6.00 am on the collection day; and

- (g) The movement of MGBs from the complex to the collection point shall not occur on the vehicular access ways.

Note - Overfull bins with lids not closed, 240L MGBs that weigh in excess of 70 kg and waste placed outside the MGBs will not be collected.

(10) Collection within the Premises

MGBs at multi-unit and mixed-use developments may be serviced by Council's contractor from within the bin store or from a location within the premises. If within the premises, a signed indemnity will need to be provided to permit Council's contractor to enter private property.

Where receptacles are presented for service outside of the bin store:

Bin Manoeuvrability

- (a) The surfaces which are traversed must be designed to allow easy transportation of the MGBs and be finished in a way which reduces the noise caused by the MGBs as they are manoeuvred;
- (b) The distance between the bin store and the presentation area is no greater than 10.0 m;
- (c) Gradients on the path used to transfer the MGBs from the bin store to the collection point must not exceed 1 in 14 for two wheeled MGBs and 1 in 20 for four wheeled MGBs;
- (d) The area between the bin store and the collection point shall be a flat smooth surface with no kerbs or steps;

Bin Access

- (e) The minimum pavement width for access to bin stores shall be 4.0 m and the gradient of the access ramp shall be no more than 1 in 8;
- (f) Where bin rooms are secured, a compatible key system is necessary to enable access by collection truck drivers. Details of the proposed locking system are to be included in the Waste Management Plan for approval by Council's Waste Services Department. All costs associated with the locking system are the responsibility of the developer, property owner/s and/or the strata managers;

Bin Collection

- (a) Where on-site collections occur, roadways and infrastructure traversed by the collection vehicle must be constructed to accommodate a heavy truck of 25 tonne Gross Vehicle Mass;
- (b) Sufficient overhead clearance is required for access to bin stores that are located in basements or under crofts. This includes clearance to all structural beams, suspended pipe work, suspended services and the like;
- (c) The basement area shall be free of columns, kerbs and other permanent structures that would inhibit the manoeuvrability of the collection truck;
- (d) Sweep paths for the proposed collection vehicles shall be clearly shown on the plans of the proposed development and included in the Waste Management Plan; and
- (e) Where private collections are employed the collections must comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations.

The waste collection vehicle must be able to enter and exit the development in a forward direction, with limited reversing (max 3 point turn), parking in a designated location within the property boundaries. This could be facilitated by the inclusion of a turntable.

Please see vehicle dimensions for required adequate vehicle clearance. Where alternative access is proposed, the design is to take into consideration the safety of pedestrian traffic, other vehicles using the area and traffic density on the servicing street.

(11) Waste Chutes

In high rise developments waste chutes are often proposed to convey waste and recycling from the lobby areas to the bin store. With regard to the lobby area the Designer shall consider space restraints, chute design, mechanisms for the separation of waste from recycling and the management of bulky items such as cardboard in the lobby area.

At bin store level consideration shall be given to the safety aspects of the chute operation, rotation of the MGBs beneath the chute, ventilation and mechanical breakdown of the chute system.

Sufficient space shall be provided in the bin store for the manoeuvring of MGBs from beneath the waste and recycling chutes.

(12) Compaction

Compaction of garbage can be used where there are constraints on space. Typically the garbage is compacted directly in the MGB using downward force. Garbage compaction shall be restricted to no more than 50% (2:1) of the original garbage volume. Compaction shall not be used for recycling.

(13) Bin Store

All multiuse developments, which include multiple dwellings, are to provide a dedicated area for the storage of MGBs. The bin store must be of sufficient size to house all the requisite MGBs, include room for manoeuvring the MGBs and include a bin washing area.

(14) Design Requirements

The bin store will have the following as a minimum:

- (a) Minimum 75 mm thick concrete slab floor with fall to a floor waste trap connected to a sewer;
- (b) A tap with hose to facilitate bin washout and bin store cleaning;
- (c) Walls will be constructed of brick, concrete or similar with the inside walls sealed and painted in a light colour to facilitate washout;
- (d) Fully enclosed with a wall of 1.8 m minimum height;
- (e) Doors to be solid in nature and lockable with a minimum clear width of 1,200 mm, fitted with an efficient self-closing device and a method of holding the doors open when required;
- (f) Adequate ventilation to be provided;
- (g) Artificial internal and external lighting with movement sensor or mechanical switch controlled;
- (h) All applicable signage;
- (i) MGBs must not be visible from the property boundary except when presented for collection;
- (j) The bin storage area shall be undercover to prevent stormwater from entering the sewer;

- (k) Where located within a building, the bin store shall be ventilated in accordance with Australian Standard 1668.2: The Use of Ventilation and Air Conditioning in Buildings (as amended);
- (l) Where mechanical ventilation is used, the outlet for vented air must be in a location which will not adversely impact residents;
- (m) Sufficient space must be provided to allow the easy passage of MGBs in and out of the bin storage area; and
- (n) Separate bin storage areas are required for residential and commercial waste storage.

(15) Bin Store Signage

An information sheet shall be affixed at the entry to the bin store containing the following information to facilitate safe and efficient waste management at the proposed development. The information sheet will include:

- (a) Caretaker contact details for any waste related issues;
- (b) Bin collection days and times;
- (c) Waste types appropriate for each bin type;
- (d) The information sheet will be regularly updated by the Caretaker;
- (e) Any changes or amendments to the waste services shall be passed on to the residents and tenants;
- (f) Where waste chutes are used the same sign shall be affixed to the wall in each lobby adjacent to the waste chutes; and
- (g) A sign stating "NO STANDING" fixed to the door of the bin store.

(16) Bin Store Size

The size of the bin store shall be determined using the following criteria:

- (a) Double the footprint of each MGB shall be used per MGB for MGB storage; and
- (b) Three times the footprint of the largest MGB for the wash bay.

The area to be allowed per MGB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Allocation of area per MGB

| MGB Type | Width | Depth | Area of MGB | Allowance per MGB | Allowance for Wash Bay |
|----------|---------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 240 L | 0.585 m | 0.73 m | 0.43 m ² | 1.0 m ² | 2.0 m ² |
| 660 L | 1.26 m | 0.78 m | 0.98 m ² | 2.0 m ² | 3.0 m ² |
| 1100 L | 1.24 m | 1.07 m | 1.33 m ² | 3.0 m ² | 4.0 m ² |

(17) Receptacle Dimensions

(a) 240 L Mobile Garbage Bin

Typical 240 L MGB's used by Council are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Details of 240 L MGB

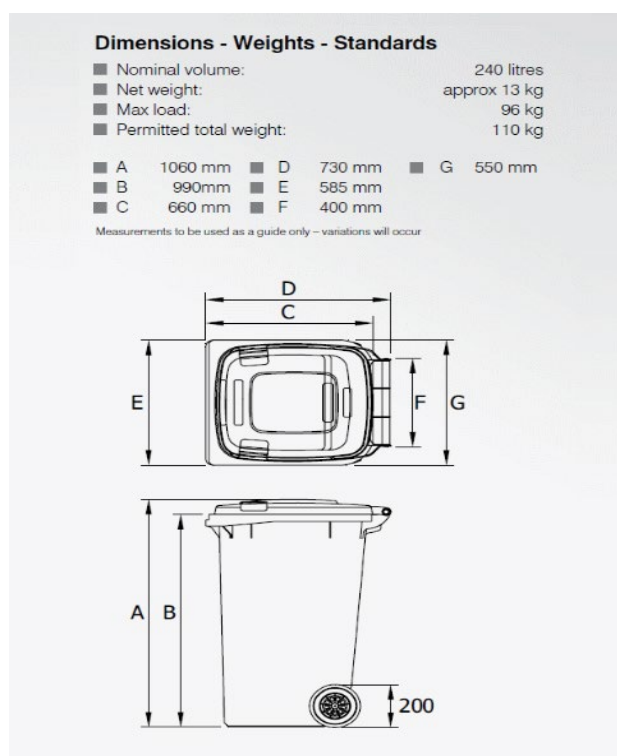


Figure 2: 240 L MGB colours



(b) 660 L Mobile Garbage Bin

Typical 660 L MGB used by Council are shown in **Figure 3**.

Figure 3: 660 Litre MGB dimensions

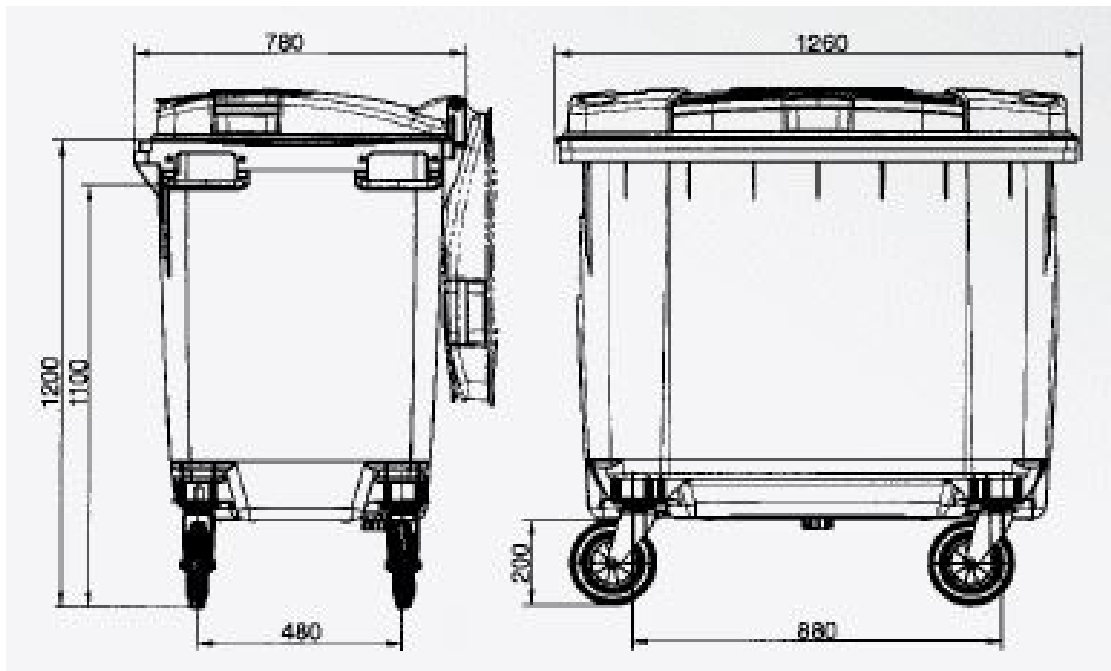


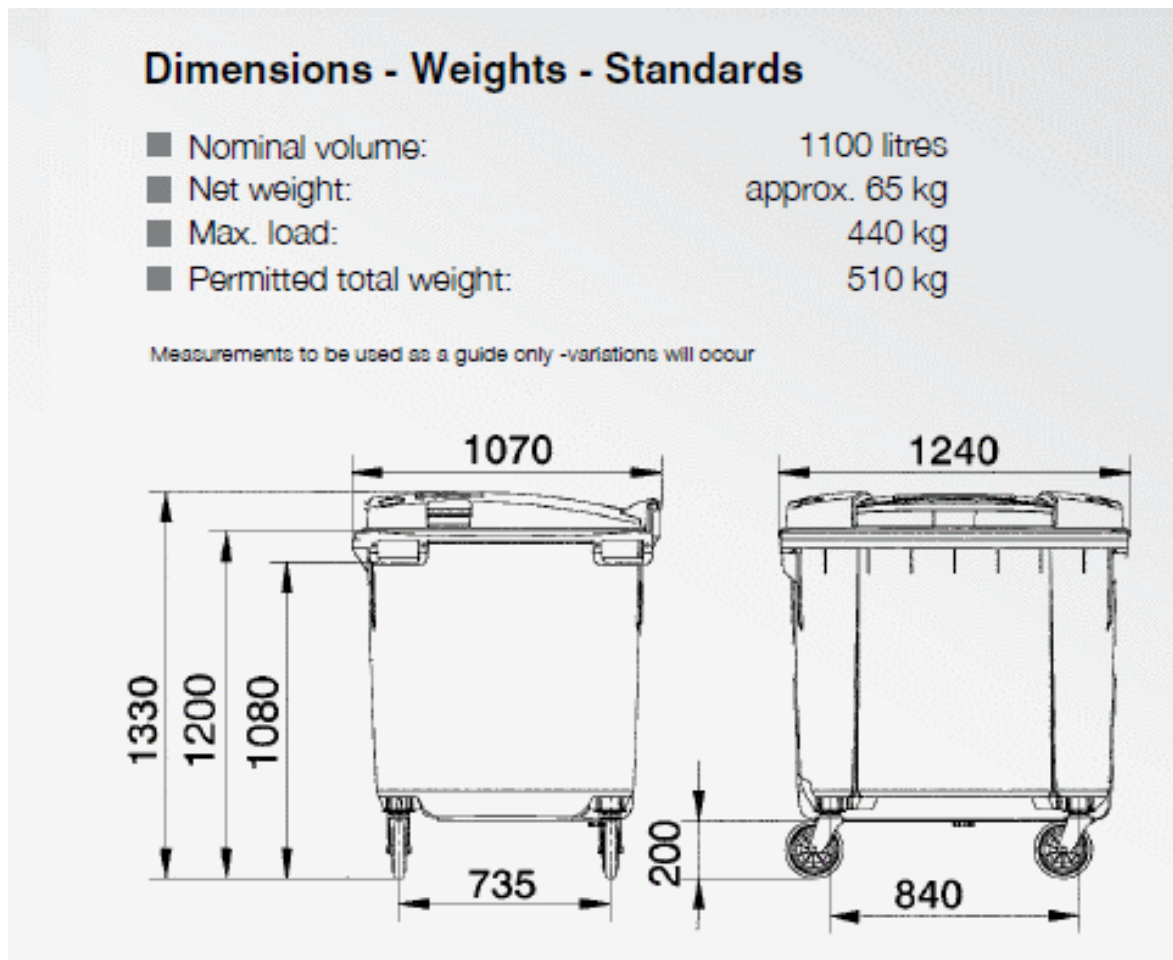
Figure 4: 660 L and 1100 L MGB Colours



(c) 1100 L Mobile Garbage Bin

Typical 1100 L MGB used by Council are shown in **Figure 5**.

Figure 5: 1100 Litre MGB dimensions



(18) Waste Generation Rates

- (a) Developments are to be designed to incorporate waste and recycling storage in accordance with the waste and recycling predicted weekly generation rates shown in **Table 2** and **Table 3**.

Table 2: Residential waste and recycling generation rates

| Type of Premises | Waste | Recycling |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | (Litres per week) | (Litres per week) |
| Serviced apartment | 35 | 35 |
| 1 bedroom apartment | 80 | 40 |
| 2 bedroom apartment | 100 | 60 |
| 3 bedroom apartment | 120 | 60 |
| Individual dwelling | 240 | 120 |

Table 3: Commercial waste and recycling generation rates

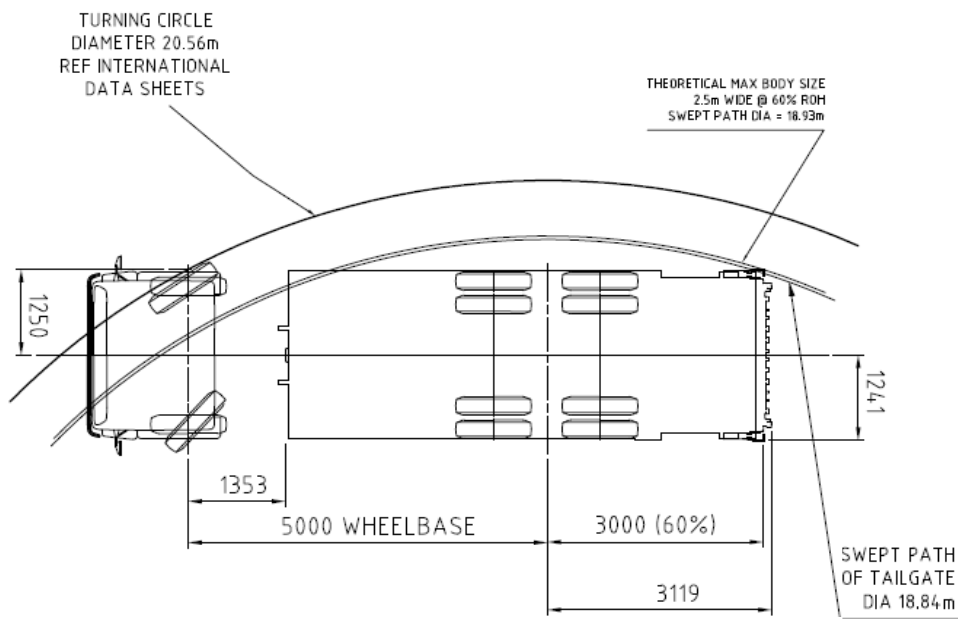
| Type of Premises | Waste | Recycling |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Litres/100m ² floor area/day | |
| Take Away Food Outlet / Corner Store / Convenience Store / Lunch Bar | 150 | 150 |
| Café | 300 | 130 |
| Restaurant | 660 | 130 |
| Shops with less than 100 m ² floor space | 50 | 25 |
| Shops with more than 100 m ² floor space | 50 | 50 |
| Showrooms | 40 | 10 |
| Taverns and Bars | 50 | 50 |
| Hotel and motel restaurants (dining area) | 660 | 130 |
| Offices | 10 | 10 |
| Hotel and motel accommodation | 5 L/bed/day | 1 L/bed/day |

- (b) Where the waste or recycling requirements outlined in the Tables 2 and 3 above result in a partial bin requirement, this is to be rounded up to the next bin number.
- (c) Where waste chutes are used an additional MGB per chute shall be provided to ensure that there will be MGBs under the chutes in the bin store during times of waste and recycling collection.

(19) Sweep Paths

- (a) Figure 6 shows the sweep radius of a typical 25 tonne rear load waste collection truck.

Figure 6: Sweep radius of a 25 tonne rear load truck



(20) Assignment of Duties

The Waste Management Plan shall clearly convey the responsibilities and duties of Council, Strata Manager, Caretaker, residents and commercial tenants.

(a) Strata Manager

- i. The Strata Manager shall be required to ensure that the management of waste and recycling at the facility complies with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and *Public Health Act 2005*, and an appropriately qualified and experienced Caretaker is appointed to manage the waste and recycling activities at the complex. The engagement of a Caretaker will form part of the Strata Management Agreement for the property, endorsed by all building owners. Provision for the payment of the Caretaker will be included in the annual strata fees.

(b) Caretaker - The Caretaker shall:

- i. Inspect the waste chutes on each floor of the complex (if used) on a daily basis to ensure that there is no accumulation of waste in the lobby areas, that signage is visible, lobby areas are clean and that the waste chutes are functioning correctly;
- ii. Ensure that the doors on the waste chutes (if used) at the bin store are functioning correctly and that there is no blockages in the waste chutes;
- iii. Change the MGBs at the base of the waste chutes (if used) in the bin store as the MGBs become full;
- iv. Compact waste in the MGBs (if compaction is used) to increase bin capacity;
- v. Clean and maintain the MGBs and bin store;
- vi. Washing and deodorising MGBs as required; and
- vii. Keep up to date with waste collection issues, such as public holiday collection schedules, local service disruptions or changes in collection days;

(c) Commercial Tenants - The commercial tenants will be responsible to undertake the following:

- i. Practice correct waste separation of waste and recycling;
- ii. Deposit recyclables loose in their respective recycling MGB; and
- iii. Coordinate with the Caretaker in regards to waste management practices and report any issues.

(d) Residents - The residents will be responsible to undertake the following:

- i. Practice correct waste separation of waste and recycling;
- ii. Deposit recyclables loose in the recycling chute (not bagged); and
- iii. Deposit recyclables loose in their respective recycling MGB.

14. Development Services

14.7 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT - DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021

AUTHOR: Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Neil McGaffin – Director Development Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Development Services Monthly Report for December 2020 & January 2021.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Development Services Monthly Report – December 2020 & January 2021.

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of Whitsunday Regional Council's Development Services Directorate for the 2020/2021 Financial Year, with focus on the month of December 2020 & January 2021.

BACKGROUND

The Development Services Directorate has a departmental vision of a prosperous, liveable and sustainable Whitsundays.

The Directorates purpose is to lead the delivery of economic, social and environmental outcomes for the Whitsundays through services in partnership with stakeholders.

The Directorates vision is delivered by bringing together the functions of Economic Development, Strategic Land Use and Infrastructure Planning, Development Assessment, Building and Plumbing Assessment and Compliance.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

N/A

ANALYSIS

This report represents the activity within the Directorate for the month of December 2020 & January 2021.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Alignment to Corporate Plan

Outcome 1.1: Out leadership engages with the community and provides open, accountable and transparent local government.

Alignment to Operational Plan

Strategy 1.1.1: Provide sound, competent leadership as to maximise the organisation's operational performance, productivity and efficiency.

Financial Implications N/A

Risk Management Implications Regular reporting on the Directorate's progress and achievements ensures accountability and fosters a positive culture.

CONSULTATION

Doug Mackay – Manager Development Assessment
Shane Neville – Manager Strategic Planning
Emily Reck – Cadet Building Certifier
Donna Foster – Coordinator Economic Development

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council receives the Development Services Monthly Report for December 2020 & January 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Development Services Monthly Report – December 2020 & January 2021

Development Services

Strategic Planning
Development Assessment
Building, Plumbing & Compliance
Economic Development

Monthly Report
December 2020 & January 2021

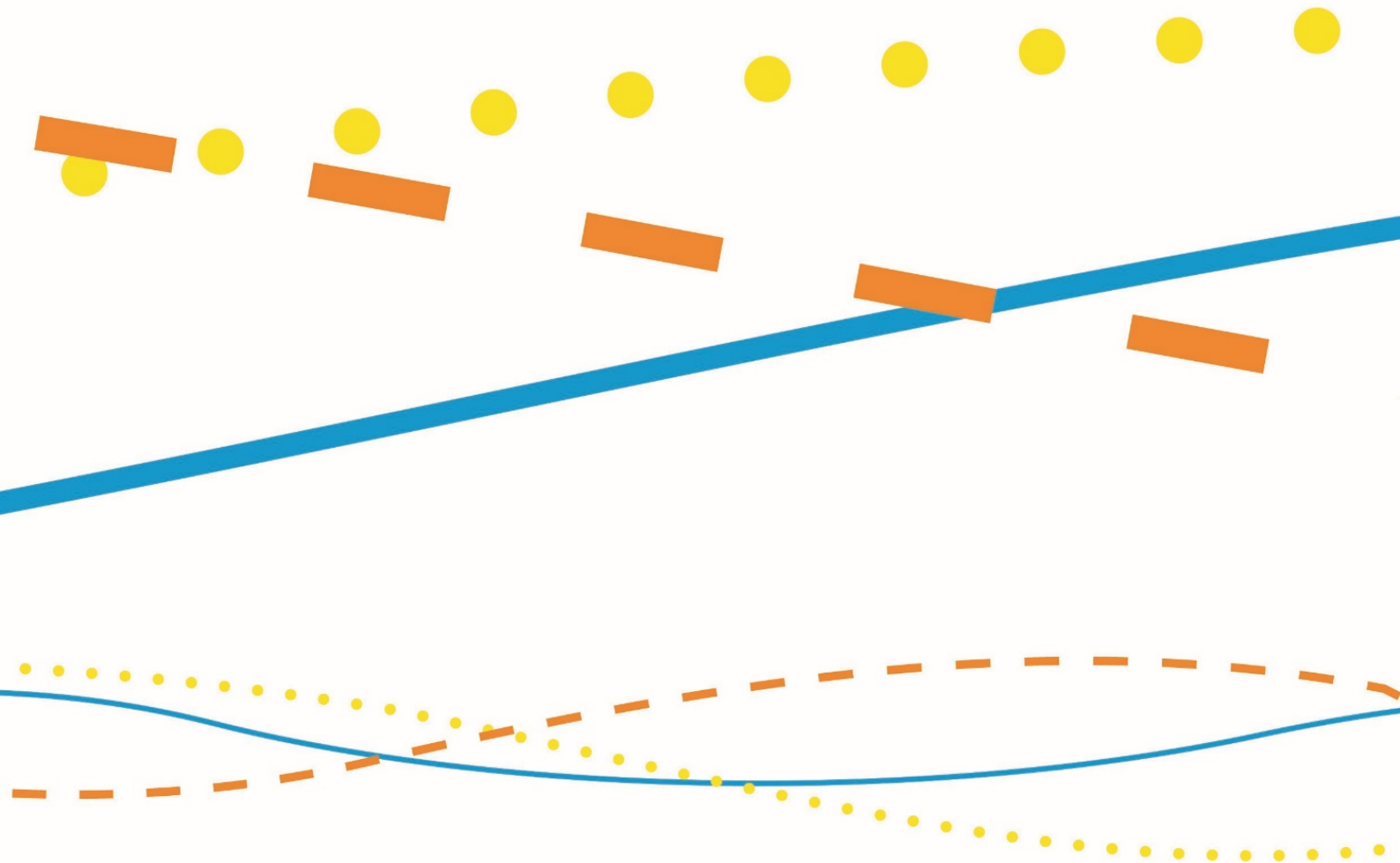


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Directors Report

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In December the Airlie Beach Local Plan was presented to Council and gained support for inclusion in the Planning Scheme Major Amendment. The Infrastructure Register for the receipt and spending of trunk infrastructure charges underwent its annual review and update.

The team participated in the Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategy (CHAS) workshop to assist the Natural Resource Management and Climate team and Strategic Manager participated in a targeted interview with the consultants advising on the CHAS.

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) was briefed on Advertising Devices Code Amendments and Waste Management Planning Scheme Policy Amendments for inclusion in the Planning Scheme Major Amendment. The ELT were also briefed on the Land Register Review, which seeks to identify future uses of Council owned land, maintenance cost reduction and land that is underutilised.

Council will consider these items at its February meeting.

The team participated in the Matters of Local Environmental Significance (MLES) workshop with Natural Resource Management and Climate team, to explore options of including MLES in the Planning Scheme and the potential of triggering environmental offsets. Further work was contributed on the Urban Heat Reduction Strategy.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

A total of 18 development applications were approved in December. The Material Change of Use development applications lodged were above the December average. The Reconfiguring of a Lot applications lodged declined steadily from September while Operational Works applications lodged were comparable with earlier years.

The number of Operational Works applications decided and the number of subdivision plans finalised increased steadily through to December.

Blake Coulston resigned in December and approval has been given to fill the vacancy created. Internal recruitment has commenced to fill the vacant Development Services administration position created by a one-year secondment.

A total of 11 development applications were approved in January. Starting next month, statistics will include the numbers of lots proposed and sealed, which will give a better indication of the scale of development activity. The value of contributed assets will also be reported on.

Two development offences were responded to as a result of heavy rains in the first week of January.

BUILDING, PLUMBING & COMPLIANCE

Plumbing applications have been consistent with previous years for the month of December and the team has kept application processing, issuing permits and inspections consistent with legislative timeframes. Plumbing inspections have been consistent across the region with some 70 plumbing inspections being carried out in December.

Processing times for existing applications have continued to be within legislative timeframes and Building inspections have been consistent across the region. The reduction in new building applications has allowed the team to catch up on the backlog of lapsing reminders that need to be issued for all existing approvals and is generating an influx in final inspections for previous applications.

The current projects involving the data-clean continues which will generate more accurate records in relation to swimming pools, budget-accommodation buildings, residential care buildings and private certifiers records.

Building Compliance concerns have been consistent for the month of January and have been investigated in order of priority. There has been an increase in concerns around stormwater discharge due to the wet season.

Plumbing applications have been well above average for January. Processing times have remained within legislative limits for assessing applications, issuing permits, and carrying plumbing inspections. Plumbing inspections have been consistent across the region with some 40 inspections being carried out in January.

Processing times for existing applications have continued within legislative timeframes. The reduction in new building applications has allowed the team to catch up on the backlog of lapsing reminders that need to be issued for all existing approvals and is generating an influx in final inspections for previous applications.

As of the start of January 2021 the Building Team have taken back the assessment of Siting Variations and Building Over Infrastructure applications.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Key activities for December centred around the continuation of ongoing projects such as the Whitsunday Trails Concept Plan which has significant potential to increase total visitation to the region. The projected year three direct and indirect annual economic impact is estimated to be \$17.1m. Community consultation on the concept plan is scheduled for the month of February.

The team also contributed business case information for the Commonwealth Governments Mobile Black Spot Program to improve telecommunication access across the region.

Successful grant submissions included funding for the Mount Coolon Waste Improvement project, Whitsundays 'Healthy Heart' Carbon Neutral Tourism – Sustainable Destination Project and Whitsunday Coast Airport Screening Area.

Stakeholder engagement focused on meeting with the Agricultural industry to support the Mango harvest workforce, Chambers of Commerce to discuss the Small Business Friendly Councils initiative and Regional Skills Investment Strategy reference group.

January saw the welcoming of our new Economic Development Coordinator, Donna Foster. In Donna's first month the focus has centred on activities to set the strategic agenda of the team.

January also saw the finalisation of the Provenance Magazine Volume 2 which is currently being printed. The Provenance Magazine shines a light on a selection of Whitsunday producers and food related businesses. The initiative supports both the Tourism and Agriculture industries through the growing Agritourism industry. Expanding our Agritourism offering will allow visitors to experience first-hand the amazing climate and pristine natural environment that allows our farmers to grow world class product.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Branch is responsible for developing and maintaining land use and infrastructure plans and policies, such as the Planning Scheme, as well as reviewing various planning related State planning instruments and legislation, including the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday Region Plan.

Operational Activities

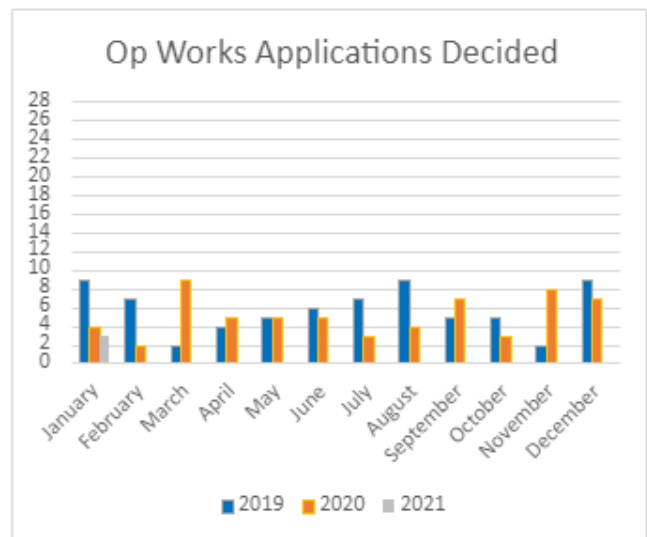
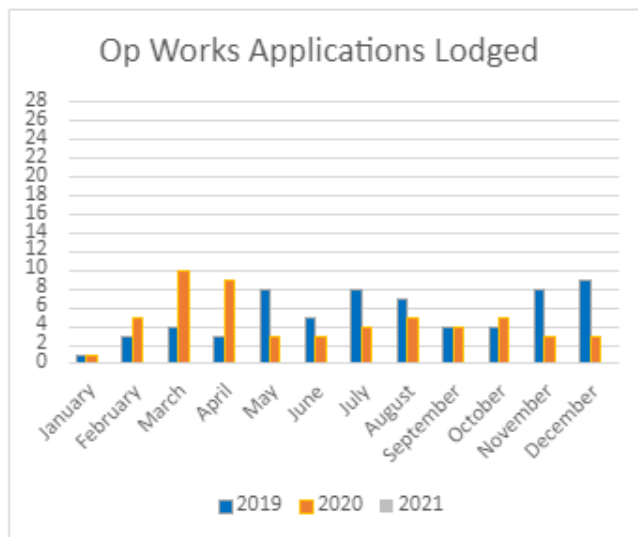
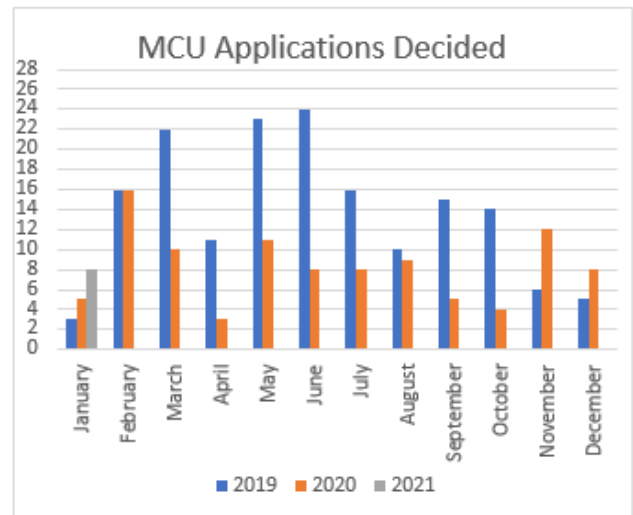
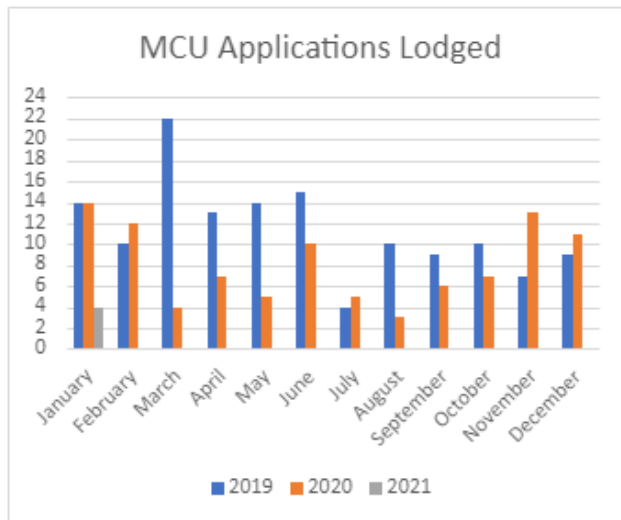
The Strategic Planning Branch is undertaking several projects, including;

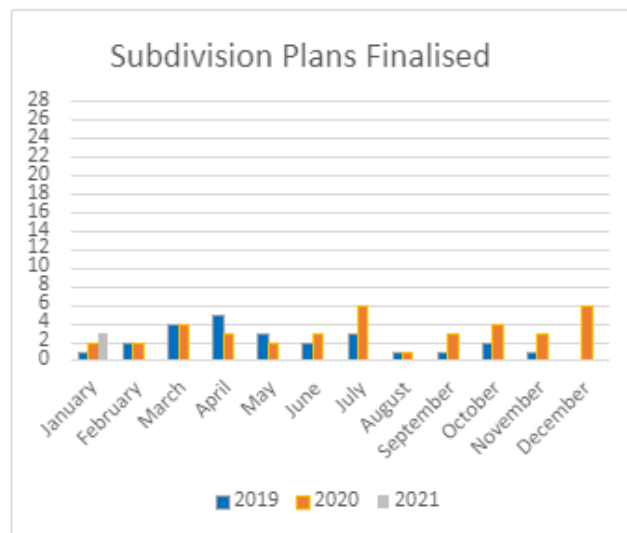
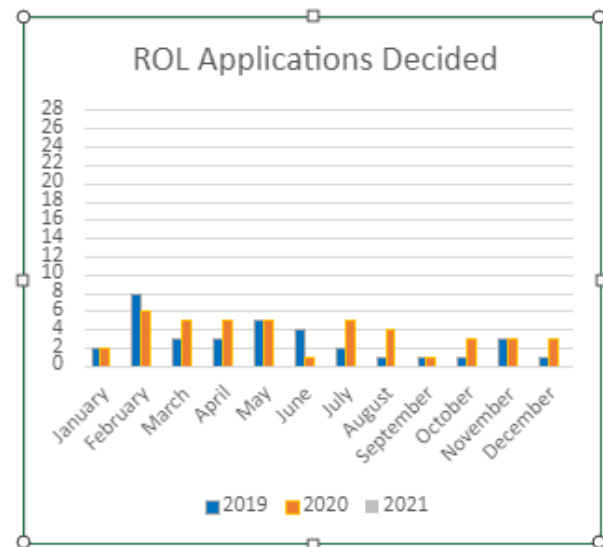
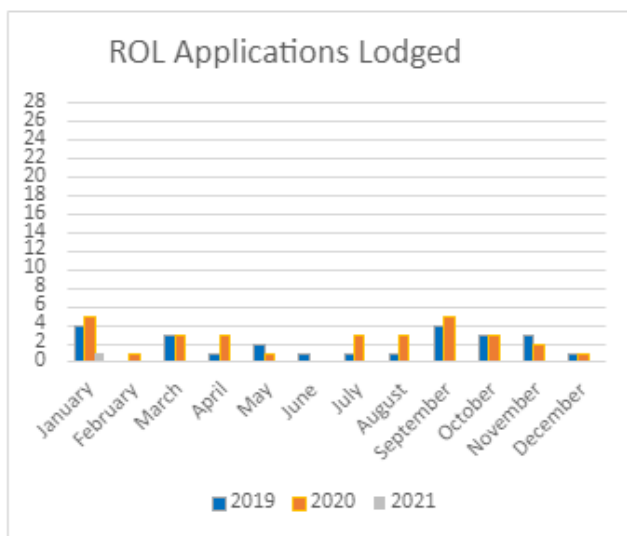
- Continuing Planning Scheme Integration and Review
- Council resolution and Consultation of the Collinsville Master Plan
- Council resolution and Consultation of the Proserpine Master Plan V2
- Finalisation of the Land Register Lot Review
- Finalisation of the Bowen Master Plan
- Finalisation of the Interim LGIP Amendment
- Review of the amended Airlie Beach Land Management Plan
- Review of the Cannon Valley Growth Strategy
- Review of the Local Heritage Register
- Preparation of the Greater Airlie Beach Area Master Plan
- Preparation of the Open Space Standards (Development Manual) – Community and Stakeholder Surveys
- Research Affordable Housing Strategy
- Research Smart City Strategy; and
- Assessment of Façade Improvement Policy Applications.

Development Assessment

The Development Assessment Unit is responsible for assessing development applications, reviewing referrals for state land, environmental impact statements and other material for coordinated projects, activities, preparing planning and development certificates and inspecting developments for compliance with development approvals and other planning requirements.

Development Statistics





Summary of Applications Approved

DECEMBER 2020

| Application # | Applicant & Location | Approval Details |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20101136 | Securacorp Limited Botanica Drive, Woodwark | Development Permit for a Reconfiguration of a Lot and Change of Use |
| 20140562 | Clarence Property Developments Pty Ltd Abell Road, Cannonvale | Extension of Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20170458 | Meridien AB Pty Ltd The Cove, Airlie Beach | Extension of Development Permit for Material Change of Use and Reconfiguration of a Lot |

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20170726 | Whitsunday Sportspark Inc Shute Harbour Road, Jubilee Pocket | Development Permit for Material Change of Use (Outdoor Recreation Facility) |
| 20191044 | Sanctuary Living Investments Pty Ltd Riordanvale Road, Riordanvale | Other Change to Development Permit for Material Change of Use (Golf Course) |
| 20200751 | AJ Brown 1753 Conway Road, Conway | Development Permit for Reconfiguration of a Lot 1 into 5 |
| 20200752 | MN Williams 108 Forrestry Road, Brandy Creek | Development Permit for Material Change of Use (Short Term Accommodation) |
| 20200898 | Waymark Hotels Properties No 2 Pty Ltd 5 Herbert Street, Bowen | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20200919 | Copp & Co Plant Hire Proserpine River, Proserpine | Development Permit for Material Change of Use (Transport Depot) |
| 20200926 | GF Challoner 141 Telford Road, Strathdickie | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20200953 | Paluma Road Pty Ltd 48 Paluma Road, Cannonvale | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20200980 | Blue Jeep Investments Pty Ltd Duval Road, Preston | Development Permit for Reconfiguration of a Lot (Boundary Realignment) |
| 20201046 | Hutchinsons Builders 2489 Shute Harbour Road, Jubilee Pocket | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20201051 | CL Caruana Mandalay Road, Mandalay | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20201055 | AD Tween 150 Rifle Range Road, Mount Marlow | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20201113 | A Moscato 206 Mandalay Road, Mandalay | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20201132 | RAPID Building Approvals Mandalay Road, Mandalay | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20201157 | Relag Group Pty Ltd 3 Leet Crescent, Proserpine | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |

JANUARY 2021

| Application # | Applicant & Location | Approval Details |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 20201210 | Hallwill Properties Pty Ltd 15 The Beacons Road, Airlie Beach | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20200377 | Capricorn Property Developments Pty Ltd Mill Street, Mt Coolon | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20201169 | Lowcock Builders Pty Ltd 22 Baxter Ave, Heronvale | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 20201191 | L Cookson 44E Bolt Street, Bowen | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20201201 | Tropical Mulch Pty Ltd 11 –13 Anzac Road, Proserpine | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20201150 | PM Caruana 21 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20201163 | AM Cussinet 27 The Beacons, Airlie Beach | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20201168 | FM Warren Main Street, Proserpine | Development Permit for Operational Works |
| 20190008 | A Towfigh cNBia 23 Rattray Ave, Hydeaway Bay | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20200904 | CJHA Pty Ltd 26-28 Broadwater Ave, Airlie Beach | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |
| 20201133 | Beek Qld Pty Ltd 20 Gregory Street, Bowen | Development Permit for Material Change of Use |

Building, Plumbing & Compliance

The Building, Plumbing & Compliance branch is responsible for assessing/reviewing building and plumbing applications, developing and maintaining various building and plumbing related policies and registers; carrying out Building regulatory functions; and manage and regulate enforcement and compliance procedures.

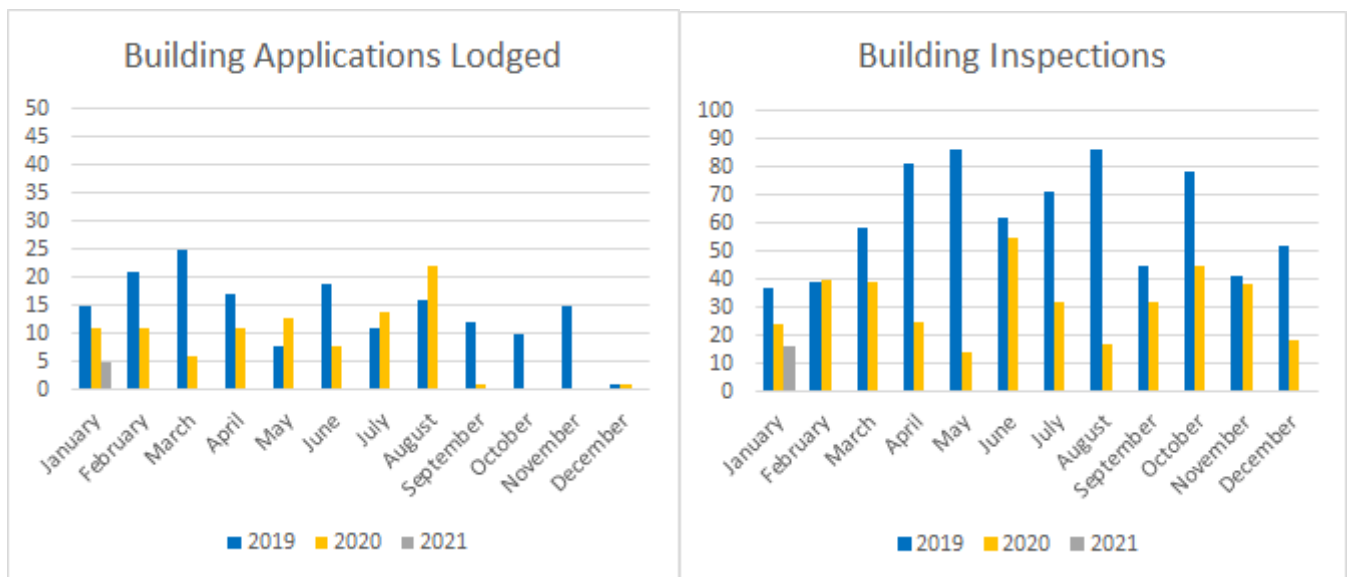
Plumbing Services

Just prior to Christmas Education Qld commenced work at Cannonvale State School on a new administration / library building with the building progressing quickly. Plumbing inspections are currently being carried out on the internal plumbing with fit-off and completion not too far away.

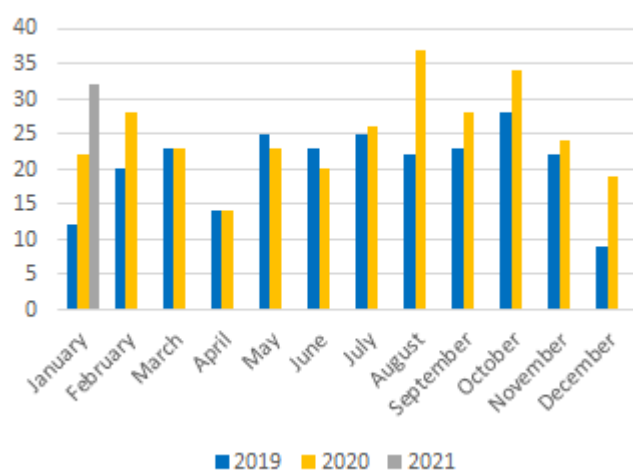
Shute Harbour Redevelopment continues to progress well with the new terminal building, which includes amenities, café and offices, making its way out of the ground. The innovative design of the buildings slab, being partially made up of precast slabs has provided some challenges for the contractors on site by restricting access for installation of the sanitary drainage pipework.

Plumbing approvals & inspections for 2021 are off to a quiet start but will pick up considerably once all the building and plumbing contractors are back at work after the Christmas break.

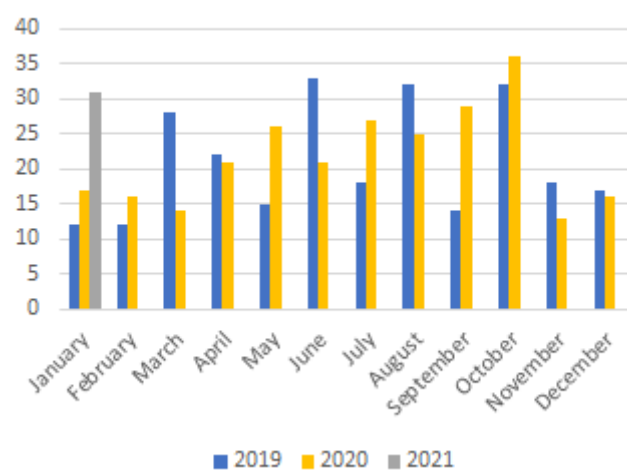
Building, Plumbing & Compliance Statistics



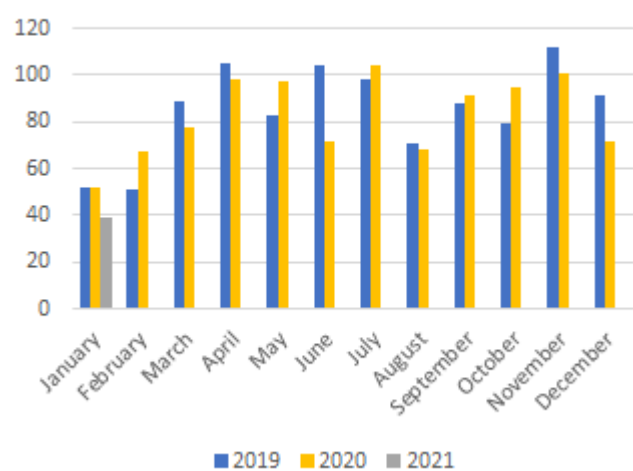
Plumbing Applications Lodged



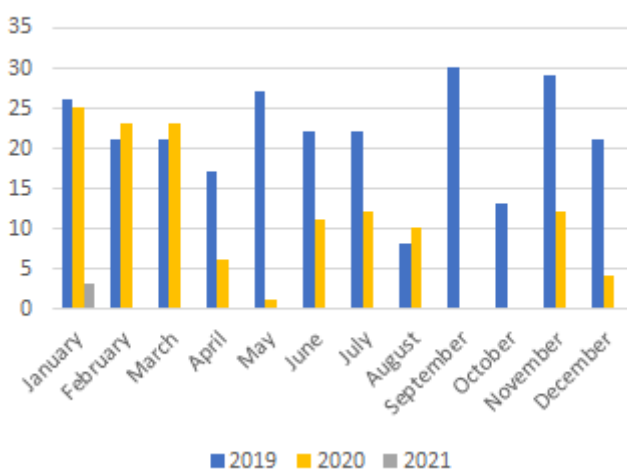
Plumbing Applications Decided



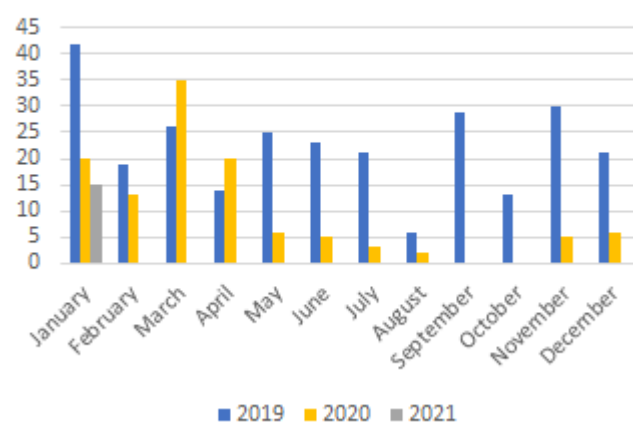
Plumbing Inspections



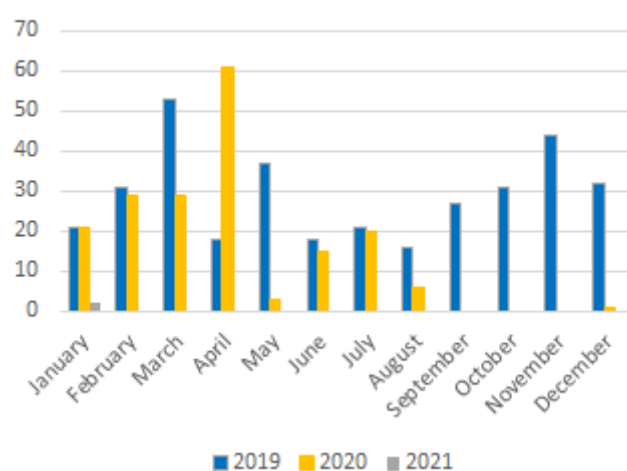
Compliance Complaints Received



Compliance Complaints Investigated



Compliance Inspections



Economic Development

The Economic development branch undertakes actions that progress the growth and overall prosperity of the region. This includes the provision of support to local businesses, delivery of actions contained within the Economic Development Strategy, stakeholder engagement, facilitation and development of investment enquiries and business cases for targeted investment, advocacy towards issues of regional economic and social importance, and development of research and reports on the economy.

Monthly Highlights

- Provenance Magazine Volume 2
- Business Unit planning

Current Projects

- Regional Skills Investment Strategy
- ASBAS Digital Skills Program
- Whitsunday Jobs Board Development
- Annual Investment Prospectus
- Food Branding and Agritourism Mapping

Stakeholder Meetings

- Introductory meetings for new ED Coordinator

Funding Submissions

| Program | Project | Amount Requested |
|--------------|---------|------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| TOTAL | | |

Funding Attained

| Program | Project | Amount Requested |
|---------|---------|------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Unsuccessful Applications – NIL

15. Community Services

15.1 REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION - FLYING FISH SCULPTURES - WHITSUNDAY ARTS FESTIVAL

AUTHOR: Jacqueline Neave – Arts & Community Programs Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council decline the offer to purchase 12 Flying Fish Sculptures for a total cost of \$25,000.00, from the Whitsundays Arts Festival.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Council has received a proposal from the President of Whitsundays Arts Festival with an offer for Council to purchase 12 Flying Fish Sculptures designed by Australian artist Sue Ryan. The sculptures were displayed at the inaugural Whitsundays Arts Festival which was held from 3 to 5 October 2020.

PURPOSE

For Council to consider the recommendation regarding the 'Flying Fish' Sculptures.

BACKGROUND

Sue Ryan is an internationally recognised Australian artist that specialises in sculpture, with her works displayed at various museums and galleries around the world. Sue was art director of Lockhart River Aboriginal community for six years and director of the Australian Ghostnet Project.

Resolutions that relate to this matter:

- 2019/11/13.16 – Special Projects Grant for \$15,000.00 to fund festival

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Procurement Policy

ANALYSIS

Sue Ryan was commissioned by the Whitsunday Arts Festival committee to design the 'Flying Fish' installation for the inaugural Whitsunday Arts Festival. It is proposed that the sculptures be permanently housed within the new marina terminal at Shute Harbour displaying the significance of our marine environment and in turn recognising the artistic contribution made by Whitsunday residents.

The installation will comprise of:

- 1 x large Fish with wings: Length 3m x Height 1.5m x Width 1m
- 1 x mid-sized Fish with wings: Length 1.5m x Height 0.8m x Width 0.5m

- 10 x smaller Fish with wings: Length 1m x Height 0.6m x Width 0.5m

The armatures are constructed from bamboo, structured tie wire, marine debris for the outside of the fish, which was gathered from Western Cape York and the East Coast, and recycled materials including marine rope and crab pot netting using techniques of layering and weaving, to form a solid sculpture. The wings are made from structured bamboo and galvanized wire. It has been suggested the use of marine debris will help raise public awareness of the effect on the local environment of discarded materials that end up in the ocean.

All sculptures need to be housed indoors, as they are not suitable for permanent outdoor placement.

Council has the following options:

Option 1 – That Council decline the purchase for the Flying Fish Sculptures, as the request does not meet the criteria in Council's Procurement Policy.

Option 2 – That Council approve the purchase for the Flying Fish Sculptures.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 2.2 – Our region is inclusive and motivated by a range of social, cultural and recreation opportunities.

Strategy 2.2.6 – Support community groups in facilitating a variety of cultural, community, sporting and recreation activities, events, and programs.

Operational Plan

Action 2.2.6.1 – Support the Whitsunday community through the facilitation of the community grants and donations programs.

Financial Risks – There is an estimated cost of \$25,000.00 for the purchase of the Sculptures, with the retail value of the installation approximately \$90,000.00. This has not been budgeted for.

Reputational Risks – If Council does not provide any level of support it may be looked upon in a negative way by the local community.

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council decline the offer to purchase 12 Flying Fish Sculptures for a total cost of \$25,000.00, from the Whitsundays Arts Festival

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Proposal to Whitsunday Regional Council for 'Flying Fish' Sculptures

Attachment 1 – Proposal to Whitsunday Regional Council for ‘Flying Fish’ Sculptures

PROPOSAL TO
WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR
‘FLYING FISH’ SCULPTURES

Submitted by:

Whitsundays Arts Festival Inc

Contact:

Email:

Phone:

1. OVERVIEW

Renowned Queensland artist Sue Ryan designed the 'Flying Fish' installation for the inaugural Whitsundays Arts Festival in 2019. The 12 flying fish were constructed over 4 weeks prior to the festival and displayed at the inaugural Whitsundays Arts Festival from 3-5 October 2020. .

The sculptures are made from bamboo and recycled materials primarily rope and crab pot netting. Sue worked collaboratively with Whitsunday regional residents to complete the installation.

The 'Flying Fish' are aesthetically pleasing sculptures that reflect the true spirit of the Whitsundays. The use of recycled marine debris helps raise public awareness of the effect on the local environment of discarded materials that end up in our ocean.

Permanently housing the display in the new marine terminal in Shute Harbour would be a significant cultural addition that recognises the magnificence of our marine environment and the artistic contribution made by Whitsunday residents to highlight its beauty and vulnerability.

2. SPECIFICATIONS

The installation comprises:

1 Large Fish with wings: Length: 3 metres Height 1.5 metres; width 1 metre (see *Figure 1* below)

1 x mid sized Fish – Length: 1.5 metre Height .8 metres Width .5 metres (see *Figures 2 and 3* below)

10 x smaller fish – Length: 1 metre Height .6 metres Width .5 metres

The sculptures need to be housed indoors. They are not suitable for permanent outdoor placement.

Figure 1 - Large Fish



Whitsunday Art Festival Inc

2

Figure 2 – Mid Sized and Smaller Fish



Figure 3



3. MATERIALS:

The armatures were constructed from bamboo and wire to create lightweight frames for suspension (see Figure 4 below)

Marine debris including nets and rope, as well as other recycled debris leftover from construction of the foreshore lawn were collected and affixed to the frame using a number of techniques including layering and weaving, to form a solid sculpture.

Figure 4 - Frame Construction



4. PRICE

It is proposed that Council purchases the Sculptures at the cost price paid by Whitsunday Arts Festival Inc of **\$25,000**.

The retail value of the installation is approximately \$90,000.

5. Sue Ryan is an internationally recognised Australian artist specialising in sculpture. Her art works are collected by museums and private collectors around the world. Sue's art practice is multi-disciplinary contemporary artworks often made through collaboration and workshops using recycled materials particularly ghostnets and other marine debris. Sue was art director of Lockhart River Aboriginal community for 6 years and director of the Australian Ghostnet project. Her accomplishments include:

Solo Exhibitions

2017 Precious, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney

2014 Sue Ryan: Camp Dogs, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns

2013 Mongrel, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney

2011 Tip Dog Diaries, Centre of Contemporary Art, Kick Arts, Cairns

1995 Mythos, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns

Selected Group Exhibitions

2020 Flying Fish, residency and installation for Whitsunday Arts Festival, Airlie Beach, QLD
2020 Artisan Collects, Artisan, Brisbane
2019 Summer Group Exhibition, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
2019 Planet or Plastic, Melbourne Zoo, Melbourne
2018 Auckland Art Fair, Martin Browne Contemporary, Auckland, NZ
2017 -2018 Territoire du Rêve Pierre, Fondation Pierre Arnaud, Crans Montana, Switzerland
2017 - Open House, Tamworth Textile Triennial, National Touring exhibition.
2017 Sydney Contemporary, Martin Browne Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney
2016 Summer Exhibition, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
2016 Hidden, Rookwood Cemetery Sculpture Walk, Sydney
2016 Auckland Art Fair/ Martin Browne Contemporary, New Zealand
2016 -2017 Ghost Net Installation at The Oceanographic Museum, Monaco; MEG Geneva (collaborative with Ceduna Art Centre/ Darnley Arts)
2016 WWW.W Weaving, Warp, Weft & Women, Ewart Gallery, Sydney
2015 Our Island, Our Sea, an Ocean Away, ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2015 Spring Group Exhibition, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
2015 Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks/ Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
2015 The Dog Show, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane
2015 Celebrating 20 years: Works from the Permanent Collection, Cairns Regional Gallery
2014 Spring Collectors Exhibition, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
2014 Martin Browne Contemporary at Melbourne Art Fair
2014-2015 Gyre: The Plastic Ocean, Anchorage Museum, USA; David J. Spencer CDC Museum, Atlanta, Georgia, USA; Fisher Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
2014 Coast, Janet Holmes 'a Court GaL of Art, Los Angeles, USA
2014 Coast, Janet Holmes 'a Court Gallery, WA
2013 Summer Exhibition, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
2013 MBC at Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney
2013 Mesh, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville
2000 Unchartered - The River, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns; Mildura Regional Gallery

1993 The Fish John West Regrets, Cairns Regional Gallery

1989 Appropriately After, Arch Lane Public Art, Brisbane

1985 Notuvida Jungle, That Contemporary Art Space, Brisbane

Collections

Museum of Natural History, Le Havre, Normandy, France

Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland

Janet Holmes 'a Court Collection, Perth, WA

Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns, QLD

City of Melbourne, (Lead artist/collaborative), VIC

Tamworth Regional Gallery (Lead artist/collaborative), NSW

Australian Maritime Museum (Lead artist/collaborative), NSW

Bérengrère Primat Collection, (Lead artist/collaborative), Switzerland

Sealife, Sydney

Private collections in Australia and overseas

Selected Artist Residencies

Whitsunday Arts Festival, Airlie Beach, QLD

Dubai- Tashkeel Art Hub and Dubai Government for Expo 2020

Fremantle Arts Centre, WA

Erub Arts Centre, Torres Strait, QLD

Aurukun, Cape York, QLD

Ceduna Arts, Ceduna, SA

Broken Hill Regional Gallery, NSW

Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth, NSW

Australian Maritime Museum, Sydney, NSW

TedX <https://tedxinnovations.ted.com/2016/09/01/trash-into-art/>

15. Community Services

15.2 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT - MINGLE & MOVE PROGRAM 2021 - NORTH QUEENSLAND SPORTS FOUNDATION

AUTHOR: Erin Finau – Community Development Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That if the Program is fully funded by the North Queensland Sports Foundation, Council agree to provide additional in kind support for the expansion of the Bowen Mingle and Move program.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

That Council provide in kind support for the expansion of the Bowen Mingle and Move program pending confirmation the program will be fully funded by the North Queensland Sports Foundation.

PURPOSE

For Council to consider a request from the North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF) to supply resources for the development of the expansion of the Mingle & Move program.

BACKGROUND

The Bowen Mingle & Move program funded by NQSF targeted those members of the community impacted by mental health and social isolation issues to get them active and reconnected with the community.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

ANALYSIS

Whitsunday Regional Council previously supported the delivery of the community health & wellbeing Bowen Mingle & Move program. The program targeted those members of the community impacted by mental health and social isolation issues to get them active and reconnected with the community. Bowen Mingle & Move targeted a very worthy and at the same time challenging demographic of the community. The program was backed by the North Queensland Sports Foundations Move It NQ program where they provided \$9,600 last financial year.

NQFS have approached Council regarding the possibility to invest in the expansion of the Bowen Move & Mingle program in 2021, which could include a contribution of more than \$10,000.00. It is recommended that Council provide in kind support which may include administrative support and program promotion, pending confirmation the program will be fully funded by the North Queensland Sports Foundation.

Council has the following options:

Option 1 – That Council approve the request to provide in kind support for the expansion of the Bowen Mingle and Move program and support the NQSF.

Option 2 – That Council decline the request from NQSF.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 2.2 - Our region is inclusive and motivated by a range of social, cultural and recreation opportunities.

Strategy 2.2.6 - Support community groups in facilitating a variety of cultural, community, sporting and recreation activities, events and programs.

Operational Plan

Action 2.2.6.1 - Support community groups in facilitating a variety of cultural, community, sporting and recreation activities, events and programs.

Financial Implications – In the event the NQSF are unable to fund the Bowen Mingle & Move program, the funds will be taken from JC: 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074). YTD Budget Remaining is \$46,000.00.

Risk Management Implications – There is a financial risk to Council, however the support provided to this group ensures strong relationships are built and Council's reputation is perceived in a position manner in the community.

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council provide in kind support for the expansion of the Bowen Mingle and Move program pending confirmation the program will be fully funded by the North Queensland Sports Foundation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Request for In Kind Support – North Queensland Sports Foundation

Attachment 1 – Request for In Kind Support – North Queensland Sports Foundation

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 November 2020 12:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 411 Move It NQ

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

The Whitsundays Regional Council previously delivered the community health & wellbeing Bowen Mingle & Move program.
The program targeted those members of the community impacted by mental health and social isolation issues to get them active and reconnected with the community.
Bowen Mingle & Move targeted a very worthy and at the same time challenging demographic of the community.
The program was backed by the NQSF's Move It NQ program where we provided \$9,600.

Move It NQ will support 11 community health and wellbeing programs partnered with LGA members this FY with technical support and over \$200,000 in funding.
We have allocated funding to expand the Whitsunday Regional Councils Bowen Move & Mingle program in the new year.
Initial discussions with Rod Cousins and his team have highlighted that council is limited in terms of providing resources for the expansion of the program.
Rod indicated that he doesn't have the resources at this stage to invest into the proposed expansion of the project.
LGA budgets and resources are obviously being scrutinised in anticipation of the fall out of the pandemic and the NQSF is not in a position to participate in that conversation.

The Move It NQ project is designed to provide support to LGA members in terms of technical advice and funding for the development and delivery of programs.
During this period, some LGA's are adapting their community health and wellbeing program to include the Move It NQ project due to the project providing the necessary support to deliver the programs.

As mentioned in our meeting today with Rod and his team council will need to invest some resources into the development of the expansion ie: review, development, delivery & marketing strategy.
The proposed timeline:
November 2020 – January 2021 review, design the program and application.
February 2021 - March 2021 application approval and Bowen Move & Mingle commencement. (\$10,000)
July 2021 proposed expansion.

The NQSF conducted a Move It NQ Workshop on Friday November 6th where we had 37 representatives from 12 NQLGA's, State Government & Federal Government in attendance.
We are in our 3rd year with this project and are 3 years ahead in terms of delivering a systems approach to combat obesity and mental health which is on everyone's agenda.
Whitsunday Regional Council has been involved in the project for 12 months and we now need to take Bowen Mingle & Move to the next level.
Gents can we fast track some resources into this area?
Happy to come down and present to council.
Thank you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive Officer
North Queensland Sports Foundation
Townsville Sports House
PO Box 347, Belgian Gardens, QLD, 4810
Mob: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.nqsports.com.au

15. Community Services

15.3 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT - FUNDING OF ARTS ACQUISITION PROGRAM - WHITSUNDAY ARTS FESTIVAL

AUTHOR: Jacqueline Neave – Arts & Community Programs Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves an initial investment of \$5,000.00 in 2020/21 to fund the proposed Arts Acquisition Program, with future support to be reviewed annually.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Council has received a proposal from the President of Whitsundays Arts Festival where Council would invest in an Arts Acquisition Program as part of the five-year plan to build the annual Whitsundays Arts Festival into a significant event.

PURPOSE

For Council to consider the recommendation regarding the funding of an Arts Acquisition Program.

BACKGROUND

The proposed Whitsunday Art Acquisition Program will provide the opportunity for Council to build a collection of two-dimensional award-winning Art pieces which can be housed in Council offices, the New Entertainment Centre, or donated to other institutions, such as the Hospital, Airport, Nursing Homes etc. The funding of an acquisition prize will attract a higher standard of submissions and elevate national interest in the event, which will benefit local artists and contribute to tourism and the economy in the region.

There is no previous Council decision relating to this matter.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

ANALYSIS

The Festival Committee is developing a major curated Art Exhibition to be conducted during the 2021 Whitsundays Arts Festival. The aim is to build the Whitsundays Arts Exhibition into an event that can be listed on the National Arts calendar, thereby promoting the event to a broader audience. To build this interest, the Whitsundays Arts Festival requires a prize pool, a partnership with Council, support of the local artist community and a solid promotion plan.

The exhibition will be open to Australian citizens over the age of 16 years and will have 5 prize categories, as follows:

- *Whitsunday Region Arts Prize (Council acquisition)*
- Excellence Award – local artist
- Young Artist Award 16-30 years in 2021
- Photography Prize
- People's Choice Award

Entries will open 1 March and close 15 July 2021, with finalists announced 30 July and winners announced 1 September 2021. The exhibition will be from 18-19 September 2021 and the People's Choice Award announced 30 September 2021. A panel will assess all entries and announce the 60 finalists for the exhibition, with a judge determining the winning entries.

Option 1 – That Council approve the funding for an Arts Acquisition Program for the inaugural year.

Option 2 – That Council decline the funding for an Arts Acquisition Program.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 2.2 – Our region is inclusive and motivated by a range of social, cultural and recreation opportunities.

Strategy 2.2.6 – Support community groups in facilitating a variety of cultural, community, sporting and recreation activities, events, and programs.

Operational Plan

Action 2.2.6.1 – Support the Whitsunday community through the facilitation of the community grants and donations programs.

Financial Risks – There is a cost of \$5,000.00 per annum for the investment in the Arts Acquisition Program. This has not been budgeted for.

Reputational Risks – If Council does not provide any level of support it may be looked upon in a negative way by the local community.

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council approves an initial investment of \$5,000.00 in 2020/21 to fund the proposed Arts Acquisition Program, with future support to be reviewed annually.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Proposal to Whitsunday Regional Council for Arts Acquisition Program

Attachment 1 – Proposal to Whitsunday Regional Council for Arts Acquisition Program



WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSAL FOR ARTS ACQUISITION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Whitsundays Art Festival aims to be a 'destination event', encouraging tourists to travel to this region. The five -year plan will build the annual Whitsundays Arts Festival into a 'significant event' which will not only benefit local artists but will contribute to tourism and the economy in the Whitsundays. These objectives are aligned with Council's 'Whitsunday Region Major Festivals and Events Attraction Strategy: 2019-2023'.

To this purpose the Festival Committee is developing for the 2021 Festival a major curated Art Exhibition. The inaugural exhibition is the first step in our long term plan to build the Whitsundays Arts Exhibition into a significant event listed on the National Arts calendar. To build national interest in the Exhibition WAF requires a significant prize pool, strong partnership with WRC, the support of the local artist community, and a solid promotion plan.

It is proposed that WRC invests in an Arts acquisition program, the first acquisition being the 2021 major prize category, the 'Whitsundays Region Arts Prize'. The support of WRC through an acquisition prize will demonstrate Council's commitment to fostering the growth of arts in our community.

OVERVIEW OF WHITSUNDAYS ARTS FESTIVAL – ARTS EXHIBITION 2021

The exhibition will be open to Australian citizens over the age of 16 years. There are 5 prize categories:

Whitsunday Region Arts Prize (Council acquisition)

Excellence Award - Local Artist

Young Artist Award turning 16 – 30 years in 2021

Photography Prize

People's Choice Award

EXHIBITION TIMELINE

Entries Open: 1/3/2021

Entries Close: 15/7/2021

Finalists Announced: 30/7/2021

Winners Announced: 1/9/2021

Exhibition Dates: 18-19 September, 2021

People's Choice Award Announced: 30/9/2021

A Panel will assess all entries and announce 60 x finalists. The finalists will be displayed in the Exhibition on the 18/19th September. A Judge will then determine the winning entries.

WRC INVESTMENT

It is requested that WRC invests \$8000 per annum in the Acquisition program, commencing in 2021. The Whitsunday Art Prize is modeled on the very successful annual Sunshine Coast Art Prize. We are excited to work with Council in developing the concept of a regional art collection. With the construction of the new event centre in Proserpine and the beautiful new Council offices we can envision art enhancing the experience of local residents and visitors to the region.

We heartily appreciate the support we have received from Council from the very inception of the idea to celebrate the artistic community with an annual Arts Festival. We also acknowledge that from an economic point of view, cultural tourism is a growth industry. We now have underwater art and encourage you to consider supporting the creation of a Whitsundays arts collection through an acquisition prize for the annual arts exhibition.

With Regards



President, Whitsundays Arts Festival Inc.

On behalf of the WAF Committee

15. Community Services

15.4 REQUESTS FOR DONATION ON COUNCIL FEES - JANUARY 2021

AUTHOR: Meredith Davis – Administration Officer Community Development

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the donation on fees, from budget code JC: 2967.11074 - Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074), for the following applicants:

- Whitsunday Arts Festival Inc. – Class 1 Event Application Fee - \$927.00
- Club Outrigger Whitsunday – Class 3 Event Application Fee - \$399.00
- Whitsunday Running Club Inc. – Class 2 Event Application Fee - \$664.00

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Community groups are invited to apply for a Donation on Council Fees when submitting applications to Council prior to the event or works commencing.

PURPOSE

Council to consider providing financial support for Not for Profit organisations to enable their events and facilities to continue to be an invaluable resource to our local communities.

BACKGROUND

Donations on Council Fees are only available for Not for Profit organisations and only apply for:

- Planning, Building and Event Applications,
- Local Law Licence Applications,
- Local Law Licence Annual Renewals, and
- Green Waste Disposal Fees.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

ANALYSIS

| Organisation | Event/Description | Application Type | Amount |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Whitsunday Arts Festival Inc. | Whitsunday Arts Festival 2021 | Class 1 Event Application Fee | \$927.00 |
| Club Outrigger Whitsunday | Outrigger Grand Prix Regatta | Class 3 Event Application Fee | \$399.00 |
| Whitsunday Running Club Inc. | Airlie Beach Marathon Festival | Class 2 Event Application Fee | \$664.00 |

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------|
| | | Total | \$1,990.00 |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------|

Council has the following options:

Option 1 – That Council approve the payment of fee donations for January 2021.

Option 2 – That Council decline the request for fee donations.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 2.2 – Our region is inclusive and motivated by a range of social, cultural and recreation opportunities.

Strategy 2.2.6 – Support community groups in facilitating a variety of cultural, community, sporting and recreation activities, events and programs.

Operational Plan

Action 2.2.6.1 – Support the Whitsunday community through the facilitation of the community grants and donations programs.

Financial Implications – The funding for the support will be taken from budget code JC: 2967.11074 - Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074). There is currently \$46,162.00 in this budget line item.

Risk Management Implications – The donation of Council fees for activities undertaken by community groups shows Council is committed to investing in the community, while recognising the work done by our local, Not for Profit community groups.

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council approves the donation on fees, from budget code JC: 2967.11074 - Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074), for the month of January 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Donation on Council Fees - Whitsunday Arts Festival Inc.

Attachment 2 – Donation on Council Fees - Club Outrigger Whitsunday

Attachment 3 – Donation on Council Fees - Whitsunday Running Club Inc.

Attachment 1 – Donation on Council Fees - Whitsunday Arts Festival Inc.



Donation on Council Fees Application Form 2020/2021

Donation on Council Fees Application Form

Please complete this application in BLOCK LETTERS and tick or fill in boxes where applicable. If a question does not apply, please indicate 'n/a'.

Application Information

Community groups are required to complete this form to apply for a Donation on Council Fees prior to the event or application. Donations on Council Fees are only available for Not for Profit organisations and only apply for Application Fees, Licence Fees and Disposal of Green Waste Fees.

On receiving the completed form, it will be processed and presented to Council at the next available meeting for consideration. Once a decision has been made, formal notification will be made to the listed applicant.

Forms can be emailed to info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au or in person at any of Council's Customer Service Centres.

Section 1 – Applicant Details

Clear Form

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Applicant Name | WHITSUNDAYS ARTS FESTIVAL INC. | Contact Person | [REDACTED] |
| Postal Address | PO BOX 2136 CANNONVALE Q 4802 | | |
| Phone Number | [REDACTED] | Mobile Number | [REDACTED] |
| Email Address | [REDACTED] | | |

Section 2 – Details of Donation on Council Fees

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 1 Application Fee: | \$ 927.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Law Licence Fee: | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Application Fee: | \$ 664.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Application Fee: | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3 Application Fee: | \$ 399.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Application Fee: | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Category 1 Food Licence Fee: | \$ 525.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | \$ |

Section 3 – Linked Applications

Is this Donation on Council Fees linked to an Event Application? If yes, please complete below:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Event Name | WHITSUNDAYS ARTS FESTIVAL 2021 | Location | AIRLIE BEACH FORESHORE |
| <p>Please Note: *If the fee has been paid, please attach the receipt and complete Council's EFT Form for a refund. *If you are in receipt of a refund, please indicate the amount and date of receipt.</p> | | | |
| Signature | [REDACTED] | Date | 4/1/2021 |
| <p>Privacy Statement: We are processing your application. Your information is handled in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2000. We have been authorised to do so. Your information will not be given to any other person or organisation without your consent. Disclosure is required by law.</p> | | | |

OFFICE USE ONLY:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined | Number: | Date: |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|

Correspondence: Chief Executive Officer, Whitsunday Regional Council, PO Box 104, Proserpine, QLD 4800
P: 1300 WRC QLD (1300 972 753) F: (07) 4945 0222 E: info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

Bowen
Cnr Herbert & Powell Streets
Bowen QLD 4805

Proserpine
83-85 Main Street
Proserpine QLD 4800

Collinsville
Cnr Stanley & Conway Streets
Collinsville QLD 4804

Cannonvale
Shop 23, Whitsunday Plaza
Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale QLD 4802



Attachment 2 – Donation on Council Fees - Club Outrigger Whitsunday



Donation on Council Fees Application Form 2020/2021

Donation on Council Fees Application Form

Please complete this application in BLOCK LETTERS and tick or fill in boxes where applicable. If a question does not apply, please indicate 'n/a'.

Application Information

Community groups are required to complete this form to apply for a Donation on Council Fees prior to the event or application. Donations on Council Fees are only available for Not for Profit organisations and only apply for Application Fees, Licence Fees and Disposal of Green Waste Fees.

On receiving the completed form, it will be processed and presented to Council at the next available meeting for consideration. Once a decision has been made, formal notification will be made to the listed applicant.

Forms can be emailed to info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au or in person at any of Council's Customer Service Centres.

Section 1 – Applicant Details

Clear Form

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Applicant Name | Club Outrigger Whitsunday | Contact Person | [REDACTED] |
| Postal Address | PO Box 158 Cannonvale Qld 4802 | | |
| Phone Number | | Mobile Number | [REDACTED] |
| Email Address | [REDACTED] | | |

Section 2 – Details of Donation on Council Fees

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 1 Application Fee: | \$ 927.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Law Licence Fee: | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Application Fee: | \$ 664.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Application Fee: | \$ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 3 Application Fee: | \$ 399.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Application Fee: | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Category 1 Food Licence Fee: | \$ 525.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | \$ |

Section 3 – Linked Applications

Is this Donation on Council Fees linked to an Event Application? If yes, please complete below:

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Event Name | Grand Prix Regatta | Location | Boathaven Beach |
|------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|

Please Note:

*If the fee has been paid, please attach the receipt and complete Council's EFT Form for a refund.

*If you are in receipt of an invoice, please attach a copy to this application.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|------|----------|
| Signature | [REDACTED] | Date | 15/12/20 |
|-----------|------------|------|----------|

Privacy Statement: Your information is being collected for the purpose of processing your application. Your information is handled in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 and will be accessed by persons who have been authorised to do so. Your information will not be given to any other person or agency unless you have given Council permission to or the disclosure is required by law.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined | Number: | 262.2020. /215.2020.79 | Date: | 15/12/2020 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------|------------|

Correspondence: Chief Executive Officer, Whitsunday Regional Council, PO Box 164, Proserpine, QLD 4800
P: 1300 WRC QLD (1300 972 753) F: (07) 4945 0222 E: info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

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Proserpine
83-85 Main Street
Proserpine QLD 4803

Collinsville
Cnr Stanley & Conway Streets
Collinsville QLD 4804

Cannonvale
Shop 23, Whitsunday Plaza
Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale QLD 4802

Attachment 3 – Donation on Council Fees - Whitsunday Running Club Inc.



Donation on Council Fees Application Form 2020/2021

Donation on Council Fees Application Form

Please complete this application in BLOCK LETTERS and tick or fill in boxes where applicable. If a question does not apply, please indicate 'n/a'.

Application Information

Community groups are required to complete this form to apply for a Donation on Council Fees prior to the event or application. Donations on Council Fees are only available for Not for Profit organisations and only apply for Application Fees, Licence Fees and Disposal of Green Waste Fees.

On receiving the completed form, it will be processed and presented to Council at the next available meeting for consideration. Once a decision has been made, formal notification will be made to the listed applicant.

Forms can be emailed to info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au or in person at any of Council's Customer Service Centres.

Section 1 – Applicant Details

[Clear Form](#)

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Applicant Name | Whitsunday Running Club Inc. | Contact Person | |
| Postal Address | 64 Galbraith Park Drive, Cannon Valley, Qld 4800 | | |
| Phone Number | | Mobile Number | |
| Email Address | | | |

Section 2 – Details of Donation on Council Fees

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 1 Application Fee: | \$ 927.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Law Licence Fee: | \$ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Application Fee: | \$ 664.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Application Fee: | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3 Application Fee: | \$ 399.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Application Fee: | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Category 1 Food Licence Fee: | \$ 525.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | \$ |

Section 3 – Linked Applications

Is this Donation on Council Fees linked to an Event Application? If yes, please complete below:

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Event Name | Airlie Beach Marathon Festival | Location | Airlie Beach Foreshore |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------|

Please Note:

*If the fee has been paid, please attach the receipt and complete Council's EFT Form for a refund.

*If you are in receipt of an invoice, please attach a copy to this application.

| | | | |
|-----------|--|------|-----------------|
| Signature | | Date | 29 January 2021 |
|-----------|--|------|-----------------|

Privacy Statement: Your information is being collected for the purpose of processing your application. Your information is handled in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 and will be accessed by persons who have been authorised to do so. Your information will not be given to any other person or agency unless you have given Council permission to or the disclosure is required by law.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined | Number: | | Date: | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|-------|--|

Correspondence: Chief Executive Officer, Whitsunday Regional Council, PO Box 104, Proserpine, QLD 4800
P: 1300 WRC QLD (1300 972 753) F: (07) 4945 0222 E: info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

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Cnr Herbert & Powell Streets
Bowen QLD 4805

Proserpine
83-85 Main Street
Proserpine QLD 4800

Collinsville
Cnr Stanley & Conway Streets
Collinsville QLD 4804

Cannonvale
Shop 23, Whitsunday Plaza
Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale QLD 4802

15. Community Services
15.5 REQUEST FOR DONATION - CLUB START UP COSTS - BOWEN JUNIOR MOTORSPORTS CLUB INC.

AUTHOR: Emily Hart – Community Development Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves a donation of \$5,000.00 from budget code JC: 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074) to assist the Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc. with the start-up costs of the club.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Council is approached by community groups for donations and attempts to assist where possible.

PURPOSE

For Council to consider a request from the Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc. for financial assistance to aid them with the start-up costs of the club including membership affiliation, insurances, safety measures and permits.

BACKGROUND

The Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc. is a newly formed incorporated entity. The group is affiliated with Motorcycling Queensland which is the State governing body for motorcycle sport and has a formal committee who meet regularly.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

ANALYSIS

The Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc. has acquired land on Woodlands Road, Bowen and is planning to build a 9.7ha Motocross track and a 1ha BMX track to provide local youth a place to ride and build their confidence and skills within the sport. Facilities that are included in their proposal are a clubhouse, canteen and toilet block, as well as a parking and camping area. Once the track is established the club hopes to hold major events that could potentially attract up to 300 people to Bowen over an event weekend.

The Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc. is seeking financial assistance of \$5,000.00 from Council to aid them with the start-up costs associated with the newly formed club including, membership affiliation, insurances, safety measures and permits.

Council has the following options:

Option 1 – That Council approve the request for a \$5,000.00 donation to support the Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc.

Option 2 – That Council decline the request for a donation from the Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 2.2 – Our region is inclusive and motivated by a range of social, cultural and recreation opportunities

Strategy 2.2.6 – Support community groups in facilitating a variety of cultural, community, sporting and recreation activities, events and programs

Operational Plan

Action 2.2.6.1 – Support the Whitsunday community through the facilitation of the community grants and donation programs.

Financial Implications – The funds will come out of JC: 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074). YTD budget remaining is \$46,162.00.

Risk Management Implications – There is financial risk to Council, however the support provided to this group ensures strong relationships are built and Council's reputation is perceived in a positive manner in the community.

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council approved a donation of \$5,000.00 from budget code JC: 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074), to assist the Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc. with the start-up costs of their club.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Donation Request - Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc.

Attachment 1 – Donation Request - Bowen Junior Motorsports Club Inc.

Subject: Bowen Motorsports Donation Request Att: Community

Hi Rod Ferguson

Bowen Junior Motorsports Club is a newly established club with no current financial members or the ability to generate income. We kindly request a donation of \$5,000.00 from the Whitsunday Regional Council to go towards start up costs.

Regards

[Redacted Signature]

President

Bowen Junior Motorsports Club

15. Community Services

15.6 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP – 2021 WHITE ON WHITEHAVEN EVENT – FISH D’VINE CATERING & EVENTS

AUTHOR: Emily Hart – Community Development Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves sponsorship of \$5,000.00 from budget code JC: 2967.10249 – Community Donations (2967) / Sponsorships (10249) for the 2021 White on Whitehaven event to be held on 29 May 2021.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council’s Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Council is approached by community groups and businesses for donations and sponsorships and attempts to assist where possible.

PURPOSE

For Council to consider a request from Fish D’Vine Catering & Events to support the 2021 White on Whitehaven event.

BACKGROUND

The White on Whitehaven event has previously been held as part of the Bi-Annual Clipper Carnival event in 2018 and 2020, which have been supported and coordinated by Council.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

ANALYSIS

Through ongoing consultation with Tourism and Events Queensland and Tourism Whitsundays, the White on Whitehaven event has been identified as having the potential to be iconic to the Whitsunday region and highly marketable to intrastate, interstate and to international visitors if delivered as a stand-alone event and delivered in alignment with peak visitor periods.

Fish D’Vine Catering and Events has affirmed intent in hosting White on Whitehaven as a stand-alone event on Saturday, 29 May 2021 and has sought support from Tourism Events Queensland, Tourism Whitsundays and Council to assist with the event delivery and marketing.

The event is aiming to attract 250-500 unique visitors will generate an estimated \$158,000.00 in direct benefits for the local region through event organiser expenditure and visitor spend. An additional \$83,000.00 in benefits is expected in the supply chain and consumption flow on effect.

In return for support, Council will receive recognition via Council logo on all marketing, social media and collateral.

Council has the following options:

Option 1 – That Council approve the request to sponsor the 2021 White on Whitehaven event.

Option 2 – That Council decline the request from D’Vine Catering & Events.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 2.2 – Our region is inclusive and motivated by a range of social, cultural and recreation opportunities

Strategy 2.2.6 – Support community groups in facilitating a variety of cultural, community, sporting and recreation activities, events and programs

Operational Plan

Action 2.2.6.1 – Support the Whitsunday community through the facilitation of the community grants and donation programs.

Financial Implications – The funds be taken from JC: 2967.10249 – Community Donations (2967) / Sponsorships (10249). YTD budget remaining is \$181,000.00.

Risk Management Implications – There is financial risk to Council, however the support provided to Fish D’Vine Catering & Events ensures strong relationships are built and Council’s reputation is perceived in a positive manner in the community.

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER’S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council approved a donation of \$5,000.00 from budget code JC: 2967.10249 – Community Donations (2967) / Sponsorships (10249), to assist Fish D’Vine Catering & Events with hosting the 2021 White on Whitehaven event.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

15. Community Services
15.7 COMMENCE PAID PARKING IN MARCH 2021 IN THE OFF-STREET PARKING AREA ADJACENT THE WHITSUNDAY SAILING CLUB - AIRLIE BEACH

AUTHOR: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- a) Commence paid parking in March 2021, in the off-street parking area adjacent the Whitsunday Sailing Club Airlie Beach, and
 - b) Set the following fees –
 - 0-2 hours - \$3.00
 - 2-4 hours - \$5.00
 - 4-12 hours - \$8.00
 - 12-24 hours - \$10.00
 - c) Parking permits –
 - 28 days - \$174.00
 - 6 months - \$874.00
 - 12 months - \$1,398.00.
-

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

Council approve the commencement of the new paid parking system in the off-street parking area adjacent the Sailing Club Airlie Beach in March 2021 with the following fees to be charged:

- 0-2 hours - \$3.00
- 2-4 hours - \$5.00
- 4-12 hours - \$8.00
- 12-24 hours - \$10.00

Parking permits:

- 28 days - \$174.00
- 6 months - \$874.00
- 12 months - \$1,398.00

PURPOSE

The installation of the paid parking system will enable the Parking and Infringement Integrated Management System project to be completed.

The proposed fees will be in line with fees currently charged at the Port of Airlie, Abell Point, and Airlie Beach Lagoon Precinct carparks.

At an Ordinary Meeting held 26 September 2018, Council resolved the following:

2018/09/26.26

INSTALLATION OF PAY & DISPLAY

MACHINES - AIRLIE BEACH FORESHORE REVITALISATION AREA

Moved by: M BRUNKER
Seconded by: J COLLINS

Council resolves to:

- a) install Pay & Display Machines in the following locations:**
- i) Coconut Grove & Ocean Road - Airlie Beach (On-Street)**
 - ii) Sailing Club - Airlie Beach (Off-Street)**
- b) set the following fees for both on-street and off-street parking locations:**
- 0-2 hours - Free**
 - 2-4 hours - \$3.00**
 - 4-12 hours - \$5.00**
 - 12-24 hours - \$8.00.**

MEETING DETAILS:

The motion was Carried 5/1

CARRIED

- *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995* Part 6 permits local government to designate off-street parking areas (car parks), prescribe parking fees, install parking signage and under a local law prescribe an amount as an Infringement notice penalty for a parking offence.
- *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 5 (Parking) 2014* provides for declaration of off-street regulated parking areas.

Council implemented the new parking system at the Port of Airlie, Abell Point, and Airlie Beach Lagoon Precinct carparks in December 2020. However, chose not to install the system at the Whitsunday Sailing Club Carpark to reduce negative impact the system may have created due to the forthcoming Christmas Holiday period.

The new system included new paid parking machines and the introduction of a pay-by-phone app called EasyPark.

The new system has proved to be both successful and convenient with less breakdowns, machine errors and maintenance and allows the ability to pay online through the EasyPark app or by coin or credit card.

The proposed parking fees may also ensure less confusion with all paid parking areas charging the same prices.

Completion of the project will enable the capitalisation process to be commenced.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 1.3 – Our Organisation is innovative, efficient and financially sustainable.

Strategy 1.3.3 – Develop and implement business improvement systems and long-term asset management plans that support innovation and sustainability of service delivery.

Operational Plan – N/A

Financial Implications – Contract 500.2019.0101 Parking & Infringement Integrated Management System included \$130,567.69 (excluding GST) for the installation and set-up of the system. Installation of the system will enable the project to be practically completed.

Risk Management – To reduce negative impact the proposed fees will be uniform across the Airlie Beach area.

CONSULTATION

Milton Morsch – Coordinator Environmental Health & Local Laws

Scott Wilkinson – Manager Innovation and Technology

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council:

- a) commence paid parking in March 2021, in the off-street parking area adjacent the Whitsunday Sailing Club Airlie Beach, and
- b) set the following fees –
 - 0-2 hours - \$3.00
 - 2-4 hours - \$5.00
 - 4-12 hours - \$8.00
 - 12-24 hours - \$10.00
- c) Parking permits –
 - 28 days - \$174.00
 - 6 months - \$874.00
 - 12 months - \$1,398.00.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Map - Carpark Area for Installation of Paid Parking System

Attachment 1 – Map - Carpark Area for Installation of Paid Parking System



15. Community Services

15.8 COMMUNITY BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS - CONWAY, DITTMER-PAULS POCKET, MANGO TREE ESTATE, SHUTE HARBOUR & WOODWARK

AUTHOR: Scott Hardy – Coordinator Natural Resource Management & Climate

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Community Bushfire Management Plans for:

- Conway,
- Dittmer – Pauls Pocket,
- Mango Tree Estate,
- Shute Harbour, and
- Woodwark.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

In early 2020, Council Officers developed draft Community Bushfire Management Plans for the following high risk rural and rural residential communities and hamlets:

- Conway,
- Dittmer – Pauls Pocket,
- Mango Tree Estate,
- Shute Harbour, and
- Woodwark.

The community were consulted on the draft Community Bushfire Management Plans from the 14 September to 15 November 2020. On-line community meetings were organised to offer the opportunity for the community to comment.

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement of the Community Bushfire Management Plans for:

- Conway,
- Dittmer – Pauls Pocket,
- Mango Tree Estate,
- Shute Harbour, and
- Woodwark.

BACKGROUND

At an Ordinary Meeting held 22 August 2018 Council resolved the following:

13.9 2018/08/22.16 *BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY & PLAN 2018- 2021*

Moved by: J CLIFFORD
Seconded by: P RAMAGE

Council resolves to:

- a) adopt the Bushfire Management Policy 2018-2021; and*
- b) endorse the Bushfire Management Plan 2018-2021.*

MEETING DETAILS:

The motion was Carried 6/0

CARRIED

At an Ordinary Meeting held 25 March 2020, Council resolved the following:

12.1 2020/03/25.13 *WHITSUNDAY COMMUNITY BUSHFIRE
MANAGEMENT PLANS*

Moved by: CR J CLIFFORD
Seconded by: CR J COLLINS

That Council endorse the development of Community Bushfire Management Plans in consultation with the community for high bushfire risk rural and rural residential hamlets.

MEETING DETAILS:

The motion was Carried 6/0

CARRIED

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Council has an obligation to manage bushfire hazard and fire on its land under the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*. There is no obligation under the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* for Council to develop and endorse the five Community Bushfire Plans for the community.

ANALYSIS

The Bowen and Whitsunday Fire Management Groups meet in March to April each year to review bushfire management operations for the previous season and plan operations for the next bushfire season. The Fire Management Groups are coordinated by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and attended by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (QDNRM), Queensland Rail, Department of Transport and Main Roads (QTMR), Council and rural fire brigades.

There are a number of rural and rural residential community areas which back onto State land and have a medium to high bushfire hazard and risk of damage to infrastructure and threat to life. In recent years, State agencies such as QPWS and QDNRM have found it challenging to develop bushfire management strategies and coordinated planned burns with some of these rural communities. Often the decision to undertake planned burns is a complex process dealing with individuals to gain support and consent to conduct planned burns to reduce the bushfire hazard in these areas.

It has been suggested that the areas where rural and rural residential communities occur next to National Parks and State land, and where there is a medium to high bushfire hazard would

benefit from a longer-term approach to bushfire management. The QFES, QPWS and Council officers believe that the development of Community Bushfire Management Plans for areas which have high bushfire hazard and occur adjacent to National Parks and State land would benefit from the development of Community Bushfire Management Plans.

Council officers have developed draft community Bushfire Management Plans for the following areas in early 2020:

- Conway,
- Dittmer – Pauls Pocket,
- Mango Tree Estate,
- Shute Harbour, and
- Woodwark.

The purpose of the Community Bushfire Management Plans is to focus on rural and rural residential communities which have a perceived high risk of wildfires and develop a holistic Plan for each locality to over-time reduce bushfire hazard and risk to people and infrastructure. The Community Bushfire Management Plans aim to identify local bushfire hazards and outline suggested mitigation measures to reduce and manage bushfire hazard over-time in consultation with the community. It is envisaged that the Bushfire Plans will become a Community owned Plan to coordinate bushfire management activities across the localities.

In September to November in 2020, Council conducted a community consultation process on the five proposed Bushfire Management Plans. Minutes from the on-line meetings and public meetings were kept and a consultation report is attached to this report. The five Community Bushfire Management Plans have been reviewed by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff. The main points from the community consultation process were:

- The extent of bushfire management on rural and rural residential properties varied greatly from very proactive bushfire management planning and mitigation to no planned bushfire management actions.
- There is a need for more bushfire management training in the rural and rural residential areas. Some landholders expressed an interest in learning more about conducting planned burns.
- The coordination of machinery to develop useable bushfire breaks and fire control lines needed further investigation. Some landholders lacked the access to machinery to develop fire breaks.
- There are dwellings located in bushfire hazard areas which are at risk.
- Landholders on larger rural blocks should be encouraged to develop property bushfire management plans and share these with their neighbours.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Reputational:

- Council has an obligation under legislation to manage bushfire hazard and fire on its land.
- Council does not have a legislative obligation to develop Community Bushfire Management Plans.
- The development of Community Bushfire Management Plans could be viewed as a community service designed to protect rate payers and work with land management stakeholders to reduce the risk of wildfires damaging infrastructure and property.
- The development of the Community Bushfire Management Plans will demonstrate Council's commitment to bushfire hazard management and its commitment to being pro-active in managing and mitigating bushfire risk.

Financial:

- Council currently commits an operational budget towards bushfire hazard management and mitigation.
- The development of the Community Bushfire Management Plans have been developed by Council staff in consultation with land management State agencies and the public where available.
- The implementation of the Plans is not envisaged to cost additional funds.
- The endorsement of the will not require additional Council staff.
- Council will work with rural fire brigades and Natural Resource Management Groups to apply for grants to fund the implementation of the Plans and improve bushfire preparedness.

Community:

- Better formal arrangements with rural fire brigades and other stakeholders and the community will assist in clarifying roles and expectations surrounding bushfire management and planning.
- The implementation of the Community Bushfire Management Plans will hopefully lead to safer conditions for the community.

Council Policy:

- Council endorsed the Whitsunday Regional Council Bushfire Policy on 22 August 2018.
- The development of Community Bushfire Management Plans is consistent with the Bushfire Policy clause *“Assist with developing bushfire management plans for high priority areas”*.

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

Andrew Houley – Area Director - Queensland Fire & Emergency services (Mackay Area)

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council endorse the Community Bushfire Management Plans for Conway, Dittmer – Pauls Pocket, Mango Tree Estate, Shute Harbour, and Woodwark.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Consultation Summary - Local Bushfire Plans

Attachment 2 – Community Bushfire Management Plan - Conway

Attachment 3 – Community Bushfire Management Plan - Dittmer-Pauls Pocket

Attachment 4 – Community Bushfire Management Plan - Mango Tree Estate

Attachment 5 – Community Bushfire Management Plan - Shute Harbour

Attachment 6 – Community Bushfire Management Plan - Woodwark



Consultation Summary

LOCAL BUSHFIRE PLANS



KEY RESULTS

Overall, the survey results and online meetings indicate there is support for the actions outlined in the Local Bushfire Plans. 73% of participants support the frequency of planned burns outlined in the plans, 55% support the location of proposed firebreaks and control lines, and 55% indicated they are either 'Very Happy' or 'Happy' with the draft bushfire plans.

APPROACH

Whitsunday Regional Council asked the community for feedback on Local Bushfire Plans for several rural areas in the southern part of the Whitsunday Region.

An online survey was launched on our engagement platform, Your Say Whitsunday, and was open for approximately two months from 14 September to 15 November 2020.

Online meetings were held via Microsoft Teams for the communities of Woodward, Shute Harbour, Conway Beach-Wilsons Beach, Mango Tree Estate-Greta Creek and Dittmer-Paul's Pocket.

NEXT STEPS

The Consultation Report has been prepared and will be considered during the development of the Local Bushfire Plans for each area.

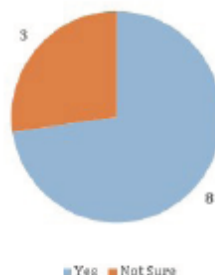
Further education and engagement will take place to raise awareness.

WHO GAVE FEEDBACK?

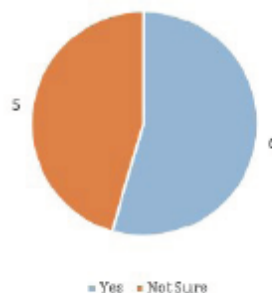
11 online surveys

5 people attended meetings

Q - Do you support the frequency of planned burns outlined in the draft plan?



Q - Do you support the location of the proposed fire breaks and control lines, indicated in the draft plan?



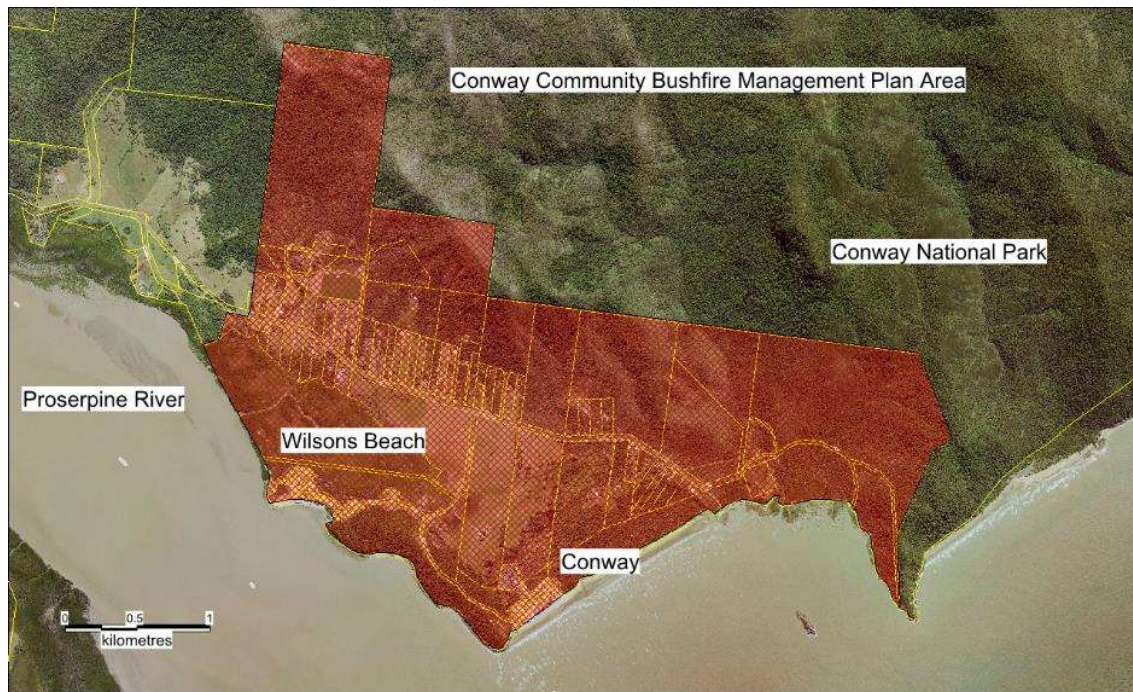
Q - Are you happy with the content of the Bushfire Plan?



Community Bushfire Management Plan: Conway (2020-2030)

Scott Hardy
Coordinator Natural Resource Management

Date: 22nd of January 2021



(Conway Fire Plan area)



Po Box 104
Proserpine, 4800

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan is to document bushfire hazard and describe how this hazard will be managed for the next 10 years (2020-2030). This Bushfire Plan is specifically written for the Conway residents and stakeholders. The Conway Fire Plan area covers the land between Repulse Bay, Conway National Park and Montrose Hill and covers 947 ha.

The Conway Community Bushfire Plan includes 81 rural residential lots and 108 residential properties (Wilsons Beach 57 lots and Conway 51 lots). The residential areas cover 14ha and the Council owns 235ha. The adjacent Conway National Park covers 12,910ha.

The reason why this Bushfire Management Plan has been developed is the large number of residential and rural-residential dwellings occurring in and adjacent to medium to high bushfire hazard areas in the Conway area. Fire management agencies are concerned that wild fires in the Conway area could threaten numerous residential properties. In addition, there was a wild fire in the Conway area in November 2017 which threatened a number of rural residential lots.

The Conway Bushfire Plan seeks the following outcomes:

- Describe the extent of bushfire hazard.
- Describe the location of existing and potential fire control lines and fire breaks.
- List the roles and responsibilities for bushfire management.
- List the proposed schedule of bushfire mitigation tasks.

While this proposed Community Bushfire Management Plan provides guidelines on how the Conway bushfire hazard could be managed. Each landholder is responsible under legislation to manage their own bushfire hazard. The Council encourages landholders to discuss their bushfire planning and management with their neighbours.

The Council has developed this Community Bushfire Management Plan in consultation with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Reef Catchment, and representatives of the local Rural Fire Brigade. The information contained in this Bushfire Plan is based on data collected from stakeholders over recent years and information available on the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade website.

Acknowledgements

The Whitsunday Regional Council would like to thank the following stakeholders who have contributed to the Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan;

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
- Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group
- Conway Rural Fire Brigade

Document control

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Title | Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan |
| Council work unit | Natural Resource Management |
| Contact officer | Scott Hardy |
| email | info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au |
| Version- 3 | 22 nd of January 2021 |

1. Introduction

The Conway area has been identified as having a medium to high bushfire hazard due to the vegetation type, slope and aspect. The Conway area includes the small residential area localities of Conway and Wilsons Beach.

The locality of Conway has a history of planned and unplanned bushfire in the Eucalypt woodlands of Conway National Park and some of the rural residential lots. The Conway locality has a risk for loss of life and/or property if the bushfire hazard is not managed appropriately. There are numerous residential dwellings located in and adjacent to flammable vegetation. Fire Management agencies are concerned that wildfires in the Conway area could cause damage to a number of properties which are surrounded by unmanaged Eucalypt and Acacia woodland.

The Council, together with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) have defined an area in the Conway area which has vegetation and topographic conditions which warrant more detailed community bushfire planning. The Conway Fire Plan area covers 947ha and includes 108 residential lots. The Whitsunday Regional Council owns or manages 235ha of land in this area. The Queensland government owns and manages 12,901ha adjacent to the Bushfire Management Plan area and residential land covers 14ha. The Conway Fire Plan area has been defined based on the likelihood of bushfires occurring and the residential lots which could be affected, but also the boundary of Conway National Park.

The purpose of this Community Bushfire Management Plan is to identify the actions required to reduce bushfire hazard in the Conway and surrounding area for the next 10 years (2020-2030) (Figure 1). This Plan is designed for the area between Conway National Park, repulse bay and Montrose Hill. The objectives of this Plan include;

- Identify where fire lines are required to protect life and property from fire,
- Maintain an ecologically appropriate controlled burn program,
- Improve community awareness,
- Maintain coordination and communication between landowners,
- Description of a maintenance program to manage bushfire hazard and risk.

It is envisaged that this Community Bushfire Management Plan will be used as a communication tool to inform stakeholders and the community of the bushfire hazard within Conway and how it could be managed. Ultimately, each landholder will be responsible for managing bushfire hazard on their own land. The Council encourages a coordinated and cooperative approach to community bushfire hazard management.

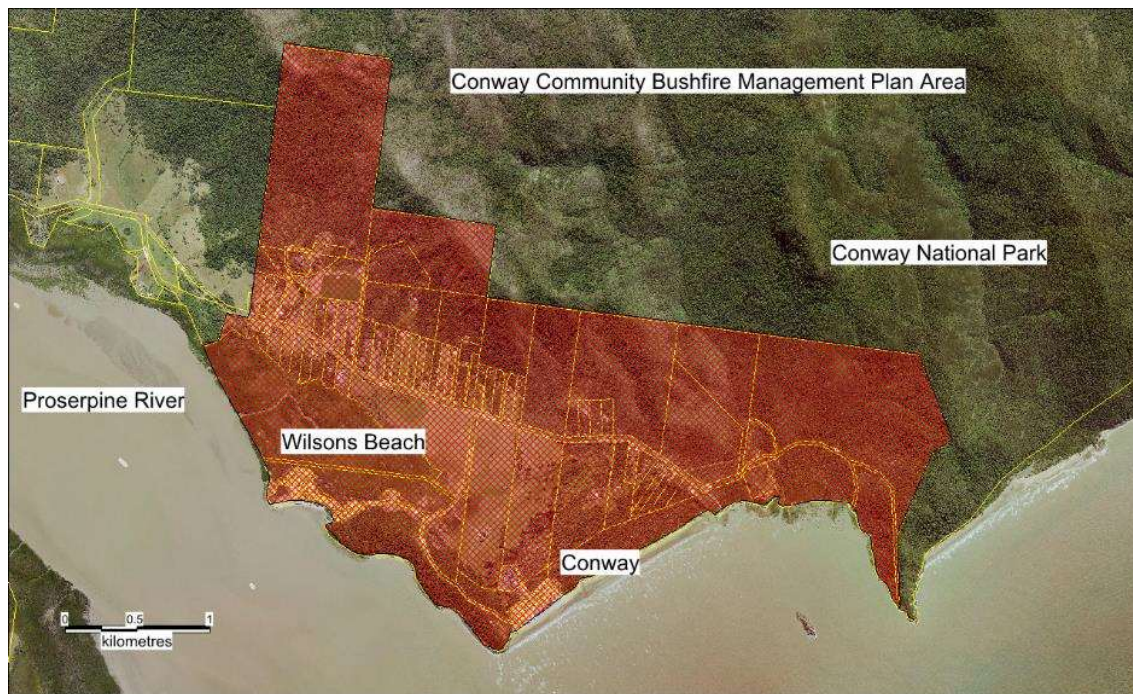


Figure 1. The application area for the Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan.

2. Background

2.1. Land tenure and ownership

The Conway Community Bushfire planning area covers approximately 947ha with 235ha being owned or managed by the Whitsunday Regional Council. There are 108 residential lots which cover 14ha.

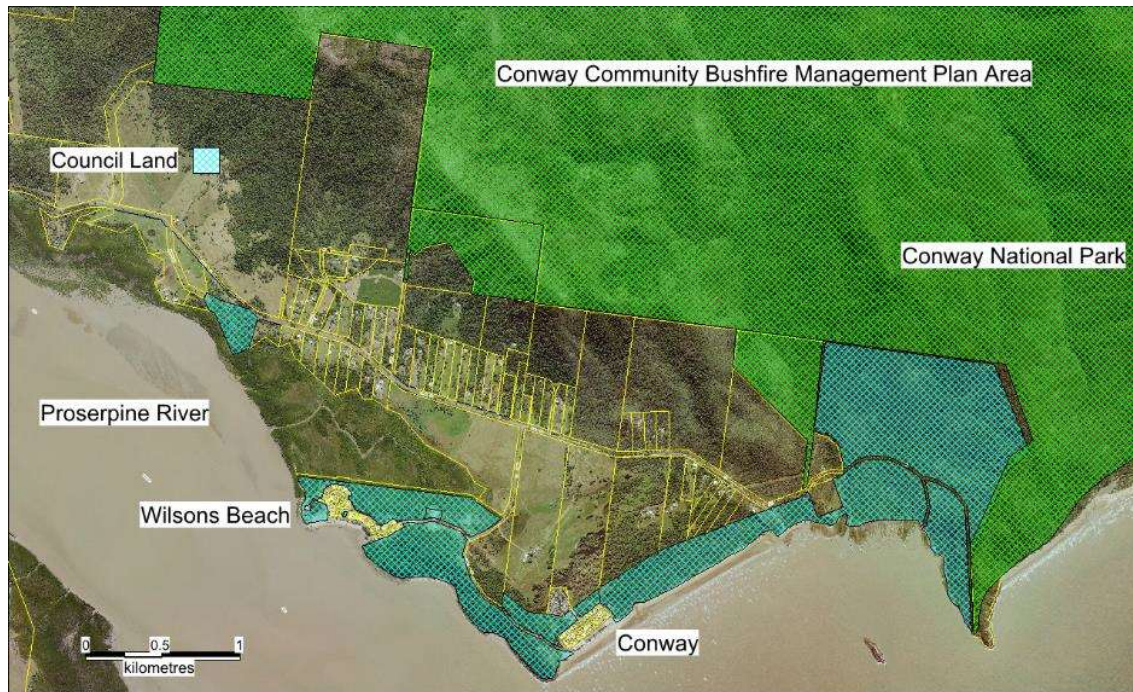


Figure 2. Location of Conway National Park and Whitsunday Regional Council land.

2.2. Site description

2.2.1. Geology, landform and soils

The geology of the Conway area was mapped by the Queensland government in 1972. An extract of the Proserpine geology map is shown in figure 4. The hills are formed on Proserpine volcanics (Kp) which are Lower Cretaceous in age and dominated by acid to intermediate volcanic and pyroclastic flows. The geology influences the fertility of the soils and also the type of vegetation which occurs.

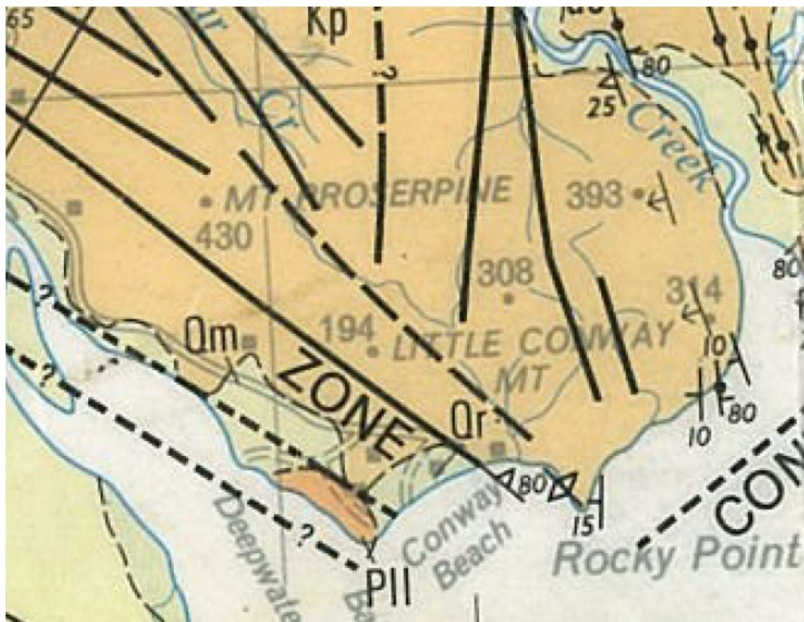


Figure 4. The geology map covering the Conway area (Paine and Cameron, 1972).

The soils of the Conway area was mapped by Hardy (2003). The main soils in the northern section of the Management Area in the hillslope areas are shallow sandy, dispersive duplex soils with low fertility (Dittmer and Ossa soil profile classes) (Figure 5). The southern areas of the management area are dominated by marine sediments and sand dunes.



Figure 5. The soils of the Conway area.

2.2.2. Vegetation

The vegetation of the Conway area has been mapped by the State government. The regional ecosystem map for the Conway area can be found in the appendix of this report. The geology, fertility of the soils and rainfall patterns influence the vegetation of the Conway area. The dominant vegetation surrounding the Conway area is eucalypt forest and Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket. The dominant regional ecosystems are:

- RE 8.1.1. Mangrove closed forest of marine clay plains and estuaries
- RE 8.3.5. Eucalyptus platyphylla and/or Lophostemon suaveolens and/or Corymbia clarksoniana woodland on alluvial plains
- Re 8.12.5: Eucalyptus portuensis and/or Lophostemon confertus and/or E. exserta and/or Corymbia trachyphloia and/or E. fibrosa open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks
- RE 8.12.18. Semi-evergreen notophyll/microphyll to complex notophyll Argirodendron spp. vine forest +/- Araucaria cunninghamii, of foothills and uplands on near-coastal ranges and islands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks

The regional ecosystem map for the Conway area can be found in the appendix.

2.3. Bushfire legislation and policy

2.3.1. Australia and Queensland

All levels of government have a responsibility and role in bushfire management. In 2014, the Council of Australian Governments approved the National Bushfire Management Policy Statement (National Forest Fire Management Group, 2014). The National Policy identifies Local government and other landholders having an important role in bushfire management and planning. The National Bushfire Policy identifies four main strategic objectives and 14 bushfire management goals.

The four strategic National bushfire management objectives are:

- Effectively managing the land with fire
- Involved and capable communities
- Strong land, fire and emergency partnerships and capability
- Actively and adaptively managing risk

There is a legislative requirement under Common Law and the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* for Local Government and residents as owners and occupiers of land to prevent fires escaping from their land and damaging property (Tran and Peacock, 2002). Councils and other landholders have an obligation to manage their land responsibly to prevent the loss of life or property and reduce the 'human' impacts of bushfires. Landholders are also required however to achieve this and still maintain their obligations under other legislation. Obligations under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for example require local authorities to protect and conserve rare or threatened species, biodiversity and ecological processes.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* is the principle legislation that deals with lighting fires in the open in Queensland. The Act makes it illegal to light a fire without a 'Permit to Light Fire' issued by a fire warden.

The *Queensland Vegetation Management Act (1999)* regulates vegetation clearing. However, there are exemptions available to clear vegetation to develop and maintain fire breaks and fire control lines. The exemptions are found in the appendix of this report.

2.3.2. Whitsunday Regional Council

The Whitsunday Regional Council developed a Bushfire Management Policy and Bushfire Management Plan in 2018. The purpose of the Policy is to define Council's intention in bushfire management, planning and on-ground actions. The purpose of the Council's Bushfire Plan is to identify high risk Council lots for bushfire risk and outline a program of works to better manage bushfire risk on Council managed lots. The Council Bushfire Management Plan lists community education and awareness concerning bushfire hazard as an important action and outcome.

The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed a local law which includes the regulation of fires.

2.4. Bushfire hazard and risk

2.4.1. Bushfire hazard

Bushfire hazard refers to the conditions which could support the presence of a fire. There are a number of methods that can be used to assess bushfire hazard. One of the most commonly used bushfire hazard assessment tool is documented in the Queensland State Planning Policy 1/03. According to Risk Frontiers (2011) the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have used the SPP 1/03 bushfire hazard methodology and the Interface Zone (I Zone) methodology to identify bushfire hazard areas. The I-Zone is where the urban-rural residential land use meet flammable vegetation (Risk Frontiers, 2011).

More recently the CSIRO have developed a slightly different approach to determining and mapping bushfire hazard (Leonard, 2014). The methods developed by Leonard *et al.*, (2014) have been used to develop the current Queensland bushfire hazard mapping. The CSIRO method uses vegetation type, slope and estimated fuel load to allocate land to 20 Vegetation Hazard Classes.

The Queensland State Planning Policy bushfire hazard process involves the assessment of vegetation, slope and aspect. Scores are allocated to vegetation, slope and aspect. The bushfire attribute scores are then added to determine the total hazard score.

The vegetation communities hazard assessment is shown in table 1, the slope assessment is shown in table 2 and the aspect assessment is shown in table 3. The classification of bushfire hazard is shown in table 4.

Table 1. Vegetation communities assessment table used to determine vegetation hazard score.

| Vegetation Communities | Fire behaviour | Hazard score |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wet sclerophyll forest, tall eucalypts (>30m), with grass and mixed shrub understorey | Infrequent fires under severe conditions, flame lengths may exceed 40m, floating embers attack structures for 1 hour, radiant heat and direct flame are destructive for 30 minutes. | 10 |
| Paperbark heath and swamps, eucalypt forest with dry-shrub ladder fuels. | Fire intensity depends on fuel accumulation, but can be severe, with flame lengths to 20m, spot fires frequent across firebreaks, radiant heat and direct flame for 15 minutes. | 8 |
| Grassy eucalypt and acacia forest, exotic pine plantations, cypress pine forests, wallum heath | Fire intensity may be severe with flame lengths to 20m, but less attack from embers | 6 |
| Native grasslands (ungrazed), open woodlands, canefields | Fast moving fires, available to fire annually to 4 years. Usually no ember attack, radiant heat for >10m, duration < 2minutes. | 5 |
| Intact acacia forests, with light grass to leaf litter, disturbed rainforests. | Fires infrequent, usually burn only under severe conditions, relatively slow fires, usually little ember attack. | 4 |
| Orchards, farmlands, kikuyu pastures | Fires very infrequent, slow moving, may be difficult to extinguish, frequent fire breaks. | 2 |
| Grazed grassland, slashed grass | Grazing reduces intensity and rate of spread of fire, duration < 2 minutes. | 2 |
| Desert lands (sparse fuels), mowed grass | Gaps in fuel, usually slow fire spread. | 1 |
| Intact rainforest, mangrove forest, intact riverine rainforest | Virtually fire proof. | 0 |

Table 2. The slope assessment table used to determine the slope hazard score.

| Slope | Hazard score |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Gorges and mountains (>30%) | 5 |
| Steep hills (20% - 30%) | 4 |
| Rolling Hills (10% to 20%) | 3 |
| Undulating (5% to 10%) | 2 |
| Plain (0% to 5%) | 1 |

Table 3. The aspect assessment table used to determine the aspect hazard score.

| Aspect | Hazard score |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| North to North-west | 3.5 |
| North – West to West | 3 |
| West to South | 2 |
| North to East | 1 |
| East to South and all land under 5% slope | 0 |

Table 4. The determination of bushfire hazard using the Queensland SPP 1/03 system.

| Total hazard score | Severity of bushfire hazard |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 13 or greater | High |
| 6 to 12.5 | Medium |
| 1 to 5.5 | Low |

Fuel load is a main contributor to bushfire hazard (Middelmann, 2007). There are a number of methods used to estimate, measure and assess fuel loads. Hines *et al.* (2010) have developed a system of measuring forest fuel loads in Victoria. The method developed by Hines *et al.*, (2010) for estimating fuel loads is based on separating the forest into fuel layers and then estimating or measuring the potential fuel within each of these layers. The amount of fuel contained in these layers is measured in terms of tonnes per hectare.

The Queensland Fire Emergency Service (QFES) have produced bushfire hazard rating maps for Queensland. Bushfire hazard is rated as either low, medium or high based on vegetation type, aspect, topography and climate. The QFES bushfire hazard rating maps are usually produced at a scale of 1:250,000 or 1:100,000. Bushfire hazard areas rated as low on the QFES maps mostly relate to rainforest areas, while high risk areas relate to Eucalypt and wattle areas. The bushfire hazard maps can be a useful guide to bushfire hazard and the likely risk of bushfire occurring in a locality. However, these bushfire hazard maps may not be accurate on properties less than 20ha. Land with a high or medium bushfire hazard rating should have some bushfire management plan or process in place.

2.4.2. Bushfire risk

Bushfire risk refers to the likely occurrence or frequency of a bushfire. Middlemann (2007) states that “the likelihood of bushfire hazard can be summarised in terms of the probability of a fire arriving at a point in the landscape and the intensity of the fire at that point “. Risk can be increased due to a number of factors including a high bushfire hazard and proximity to ignition sources such as roadsides and populated areas. Bushfire planning and mitigation measures can reduce bushfire hazard and risk.

Local governments are involved in bushfire risk reduction measures such as the development of local laws regulating fires, development planning, development of disaster management plans and implementation of bushfire mitigation measures (Middlemann, 2010).

There are a number of methods used to measure risk. The NSW Rural Fire Service (2008) have developed a matrix to describe bushfire risk (Figure 6). The NSW Rural Fire Service risk matrix requires the determination of the likelihood of a bushfire occurring and the likely consequences.

| Consequence \ Likelihood | Minor | Moderate | Major | Catastrophic |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Almost certain | High | Very High | Extreme | Extreme |
| Likely | Medium | High | Very High | Extreme |
| Possible | Low | Medium | High | Very High |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | High |

Figure 6. The determination of bushfire risk (NSW Rural Fire Service 2008).

The likelihood of a bushfire occurring will depend largely on the bushfire hazard. The consequence of a bushfire occurring at a given location will depend on the environmental values and development present (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2008).

2.4.3. Conway bushfire hazard

The Queensland State government have mapped the bushfire hazard in the Conway area (Figure 7). The bushland through most of Conway national Park and the south facing slopes have a medium to very high bushfire hazard.

The Conway National Park is periodically burnt by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife service every 3 to 12 years depending on fuel loads in mosaic burn patterns.

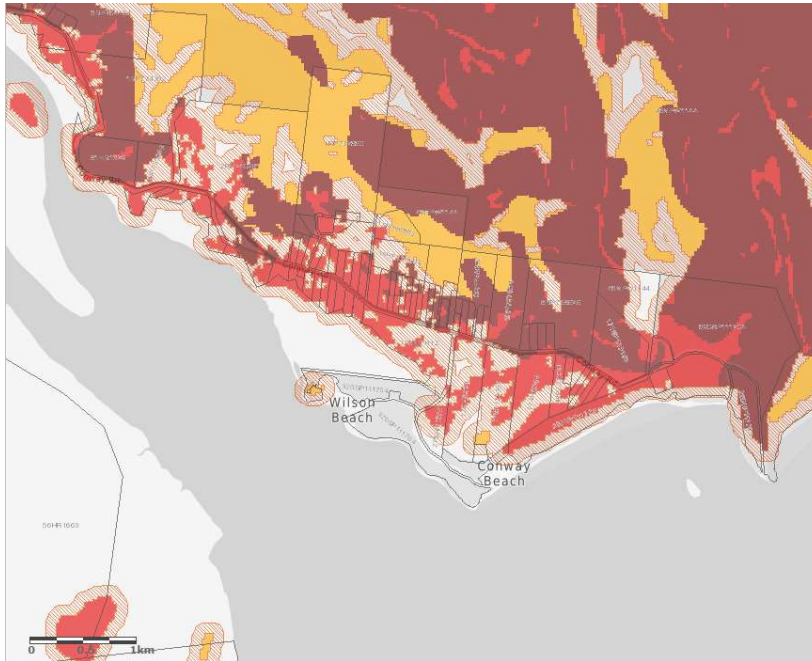


Figure 7. Showing the bushfire hazard in the Conway area (Red = High hazard, Orange = Medium hazard)

(Source: <https://spp.dsip.esriaustraliaonline.com.au/geoviewer/map/planmaking>) .

2.5. Bushfire management guidelines

2.5.1. Bushfire guidelines for regional ecosystems

The regional ecosystem characteristics can provide information which can guide bushfire management and planning. The Whitsunday Regional Council is partially included in the Central Queensland Coast and Northern Brigalow Belt bioregions. There are 83 individual regional ecosystems in the Central Queensland Coast bioregion and 172 regional ecosystems found in the Northern Brigalow Belt bioregion.

The type of vegetation community, its fire requirements and hazard can be used for bushfire planning. Bushfire management advice for a selected number of regional ecosystems are listed in table 5. The bushfire management advice provided by the Queensland State government for each regional ecosystem is found at:

<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/redd/resource/c77196df-7af9-4c09-ac88-256867c39806>

Table 5. Showing the bushfire management advice for selected regional ecosystems in the Conway area.

| Bioregion | Regional ecosystem | Description | Bushfire advice |
|-----------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CQC | 8.1.1 | Mangrove closed forest of marine clay plains and estuaries | ISSUES: Scorching within the supra-littoral margin, particularly when this ecotone merges into flammable vegetation such as woodlands and forests of <i>Melaleuca</i> spp. |
| CQC | 8.3.5 | <i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and/or <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> woodland on alluvial plains | SEASON: Vary; winter, late winter and storm burns. INTENSITY: Moderate. INTERVAL: No more frequent than 3 - 5 years except where weed control takes priority (i.e. within rehabilitation zones). STRATEGY: Aim to burn no more than 70 % of any given area preferably less. ISSUES: Fire regimes required by this ecosystem will be largely dependant on the level and type of weed infestations present, and/or the level of vine forest emergence present. The implications of grazing either domestic and/or feral animals also needs consideration. In areas historically subjected to cattle grazing (lack of fire over long periods) or frequent burning, this woodland may have significant gaps in canopy layering. Fire management should consider the long term goal of maintaining the woodland structure. |
| CQC | RE 8.12.5 | <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> and/or <i>E. exserta</i> and/or <i>Corymbia trachyphloia</i> and/or <i>E. fibrosa</i> open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | SEASON: 8.12.5a and c: Early winter. 8.12.5b: Any time when sufficient soil moisture is present (during growing season). INTENSITY: 8.12.5a: Moderate. 8.12.5b: Low to moderate. INTERVAL: 8.12.5a and c: 4 - 7 years. 8.12.5b: Minimum 4 - 7 years. STRATEGY: Attempt to retain at least 20% unburnt at any given time. ISSUES: 8.12.5a and b: Important to maintain layering within the forest structure. High fuel accumulations are possible and as such it is important to adopt fire regimes which will maintain fallen litter and timber habitats on the forest floor. 8.12.5c: In the Whitsunday sub-region prone to development of dense vine thicket understorey which will eventually preclude burning. High fuel accumulations are possible and as such it is important to adopt fire regimes which will maintain fallen litter and timber habitats on the forest floor. |
| CQC | 8.12.18 | Semi-evergreen notophyll/microphyll to complex notophyll <i>Argyrodendron</i> spp. vine forest +/- <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> , of foothills and uplands on near-coastal ranges and islands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | ISSUES: Fire sensitive. |

2.5.2. Other regional fire management guidelines

The Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group together with the Clarke Connors Range Bush Fire Consortium developed fire management guidelines for the Central Queensland coast region (Reef Catchments, 2009).

The fire guidelines have been developed for 12 landscape types. For each of the 12 landscape types recommendations are made for fire frequency, fire intensity, season and whether mosaic burns are required.

The purpose of the guidelines is to reduce unplanned burns (wild fires). The landscape types and the recommended guidelines are shown in table 6.

Table 6. Clarke - Connors range fire management guidelines.

| Landscape type | Fire frequency | Fire intensity | Preferred season for hazard reduction | Mosaic burning |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mangroves and estuaries | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Beaches and foreshores | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Hind dunes | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Riverine and wetlands | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Alluvial flat country | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Grassy woodlands and open forests | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Tall wet eucalypt forests | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Eucalypt forest and woodlands on hills | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 25% |
| Rainforest and vine thickets | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Island and rocky headlands | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |

The Queensland State government have developed Planned Burn Guidelines for Central Queensland Coast Bioregion of Queensland (DNPRSR, 2012). The planned burn guidelines are used to plan and implement prescribed burns in National Parks and State land. The State government guidelines are also applicable to Council owned and managed bushland lots.

2.6. Whitsunday bushfire management planning framework

The bushfire management and planning structure and workflow between organisations is reflected in figure 8. The Whitsunday Regional Council has a Bushfire Management Policy and a Bushfire Management Plan to guide the management of bushfire hazard and risk on Council managed lots.

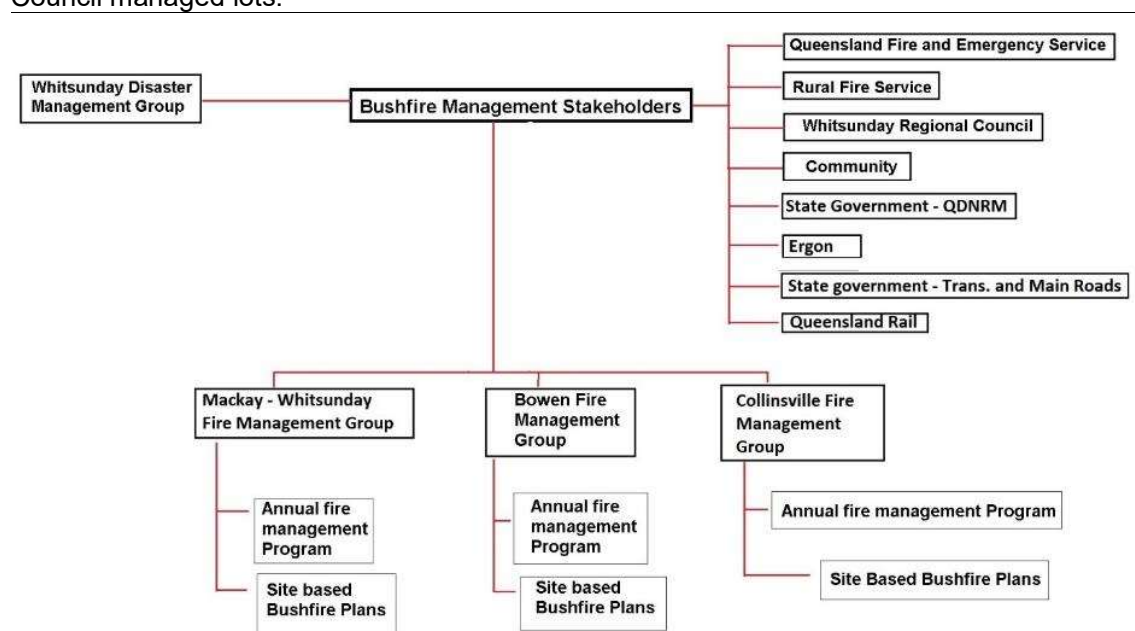


Figure 8. The bushfire management and planning framework.

2.7. Bushfire mitigation and management strategies

There are a number of strategies that can be undertaken to reduce bushfire hazard and risk. Table 7 lists the bushfire risk factors and some of the mitigation measures that can be used to reduce the occurrence of bushfires.

Table 7. Common bushfire mitigation strategies.

| Bushfire Factor | Mitigation strategy or measure |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Litter build up from Eucalypt vegetation communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a permit to light fire from the local fire warden to reduce fuel loads. Liaise with a local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake a fuel reduction burn. Subsequent burns may need to be conducted every 3 years. Clear juvenile gum tree samplings from areas near the house and property. Gum trees (such as Iron barks and Blue gums) should be removed from within 30 m of the house and properties. This may require an application to Council for permission. If in doubt contact the Council for advice. |
| Grass build up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass species such as Guinea grass (<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>) respond well to fire. This species needs to be chemically controlled, kept short through mowing or slashing, or grazed. Revegetate areas with rainforest species to shade out grass and therefore reduce fuel loads. Grass should be kept to a minimal height around houses and property using mowing, brush cutting or use of approved herbicides depending on site conditions. Establish separation zones between buildings and grassy fuel by installing hard areas e.g. paving and gravel etc. |
| Aspect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northerly aspects are worse for fires. The siting or positioning of houses on a property should consider aspect. The head of gullies should also be avoided East to south facing slopes generally have a low hazard rating. |
| Slope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updraughts assist fire movement upslope. There should be a sufficient distance down slope of houses and properties that are free of fire prone vegetation. Slopes above 30% have a higher hazard score opposed to flat to undulating land. Installation of hard areas of gravel and paving may be necessary. To reduce erosion on steep slopes, these areas could be revegetated using rainforest shrubs or low growing grasses that are easily controlled and are less flammable. |
| Climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot dry climates assist fire. Beware of climatic conditions that increase fire risk severity such as the dry season in the Whitsunday's, especially between the months of July and December. |
| Proximity to land uses that use fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce spread of fire, provide access for fire fighters, a secure line from which to burn from or back burn from. Sugarcane land has a moderate to high bushfire risk |
| Vegetation communities that have a high fire risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce the spread of fire. The SPP recommends that perimeter roads be constructed that are cleared for 20 m AND comply with local government standards. Fire maintenance trails should only be accepted if it is not practicable to provide firebreaks in the form of a road due to topographic conditions or vegetation constraints. The construction of the fire breaks should consider plants protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act (1992)</i> or communities protected under the Vegetation Management legislation. Site the house in the lowest risk area on the property. For lots greater than 2500m², buildings and structures should be set back from hazardous vegetation by at least 1.5 times the height of the canopy vegetation (particularly if they are Eucalypt) or a minimum of 10 m. Retention of rainforest in drainage lines and creeks will assist in reducing bushfire risk. Design subdivisions without cul-de-sacs and provide access for a conventional drive vehicle (e.g. fire engine). |

2.8. Previous bushfire management

This Bushfire Plan is the first formal Bushfire Plan for the Conway area. The QPWS has a fire management plan for Conway National Park.

The following is a brief summary of previous planned and un-planned burns in the Conway area:

- Unplanned-
 - Conway National Park and Conway locality – November – December 2018 (see appendix)

2.9. Community consultation

The Whitsunday Regional Council placed the Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan out for community comment from the 14th of September to the 15th of November 2020. There was one on-line community meeting which was held on the 29th of September. The main discussion points from the meeting were:

- Three people attended the meeting, no community members.
- One Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff attended.
- Could hire someone on a contract to approach each resident directly and meet/discuss with them the Plan and how it affects their property.
- Put in place a long-term strategy to build awareness and engagement over time. Have the plans available on the website for a 12 month period, engage directly with residents by letter in 2021 in the lead up to Bushfire season from May/June.
- Run social media campaigns each year to promote the actions of the bushfire plans and create content from prescribed burns and drone footage.
- Discussion around existing online platforms, eg WRC Disaster Dashboard, Rural Fire website has current burns/fires and DEA Hotspots website. Currently this mapping is reflected on WRC's Disaster Dashboard.
- Aim for 40% engagement from residents in a twelve month period.
- It was suggested that on Allens Road there is currently no firebreaks marked, and improved fire modelling should be done in this area to update the mapping.
- There are 50 plus residential properties which border the National Park area and there is no planning for reducing vegetation or installing fire breaks and control lines. It was suggested that QPWS engage with those residents to establish prescribed burns to help protect their properties in case of wildfire.

3. Management Plan

3.1. Bushfire Plan goals

The goals of this Bushfire Management Plan are:

- To protect life and property as a priority then ensure the bushfire management practises maximise biodiversity values.
- To ensure all stakeholders support a common bushfire management direction.
- To pro-actively manage the bushfire hazard within and surrounding Conway.
- To develop and maintain good relationships between the stakeholders and landholders and encourage cooperative approaches to manage bushfire hazard in the area.

3.2. Stakeholder general roles and responsibilities

The general roles and responsibilities for bushfire management, planning and mitigation are summarised in table 8.

Table 8. The main tasks for each stakeholder.

| Task | Council | Rural Fire | QFES | QDNRM | QPWS | Landholder |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|------------|------|-------|------|------------|
| Legal control of the fire | √ | √ | | | | √ |
| Conduct hazard reduction burns | | √ | | | | |
| Applying for permits | | | | | | √ |
| Supervising the hazard reduction burn | | √ | √ | | √ | |
| Informing the community | √ | √ | | | | |
| Monitoring fuel loads | | √ | | | | |
| Maintaining the fire breaks | | | | | | √ |
| Developing and updating the bushfire plan | √ | √ | √ | | √ | |
| Reporting hazard reduction burns | | √ | √ | | | |
| Regulating and control of illegal dumping | √ | | | | | |
| Manage accumulation of green waste | √ | | | | | |

3.3. Bushfire management areas and mitigation measures

The landscape of the Conway area needs to be prioritised in terms of bushfire management and planning. Areas close to residential areas need a higher level of monitoring and fuel management than areas further away. The Victorian state government has developed a system of prioritising bushfire management activities (DSE, 2012). The Victorian government have developed fire management zones as a means of prioritising land areas for bushfire management:

- APZ – Asset Protection zone - Areas close to residential areas – high priority for management.
- BMZ – Bushfire Moderation zone – aim to achieve asset protection and achieve some ecological outcomes.
- LMZ - Landscape management zone – planned burns are primarily undertaken for fuel reduction to maintain ecological processes.
- PBEZ - Planned burning exclusion zone – no fire permitted.

Each resident should be aware of the bushfire hazards on their property and adjacent to their property. The bushfire hazard on the Unallocated State land will be managed and monitored by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

There are 11 fire management areas identified for the Conway Fires Area (Figure 9). The bushfire management areas have been classified for bushfire hazard (Figure 10).

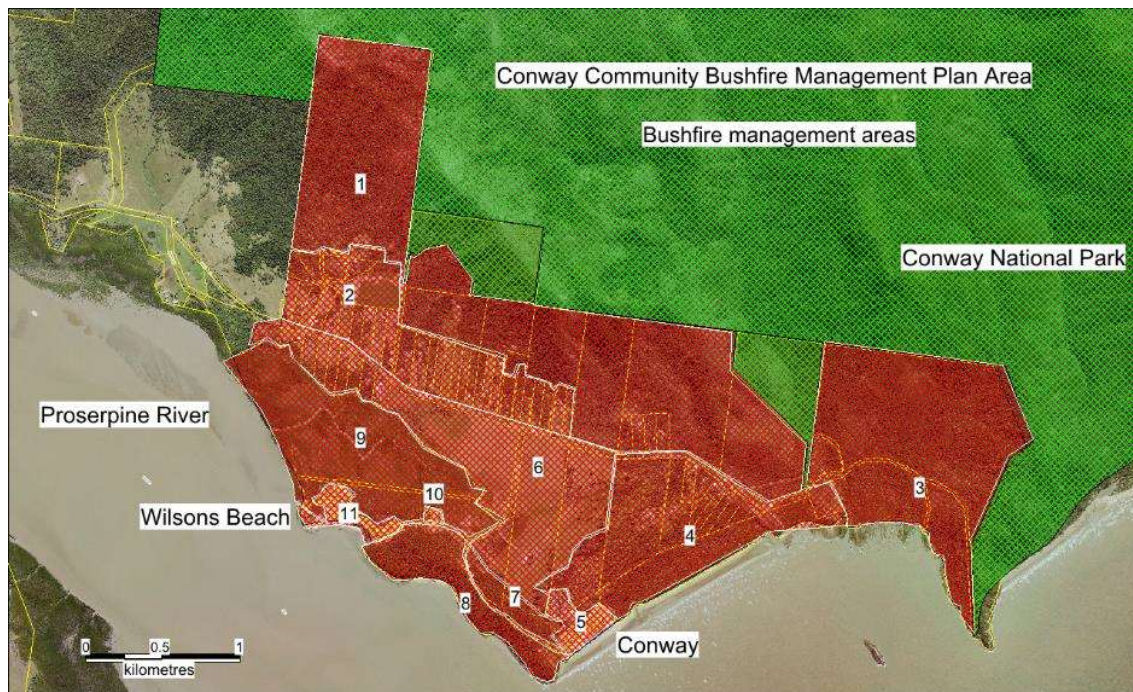


Figure 9. The Conway fire management areas.

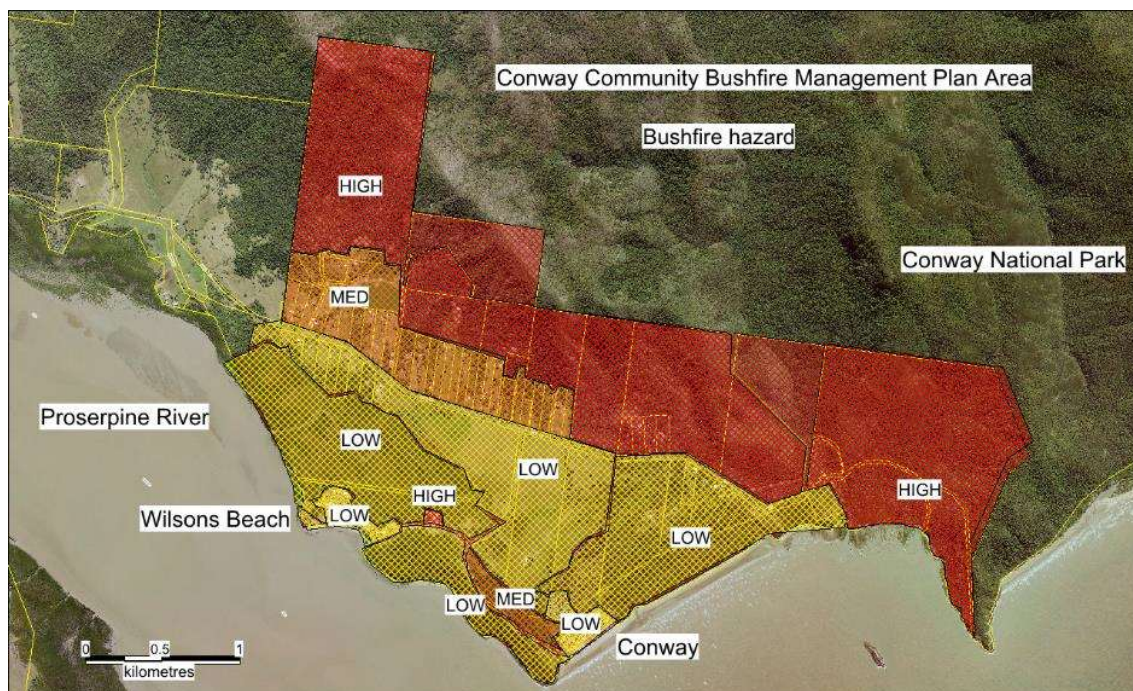


Figure 10. Revised Bushfire hazard rating.

The priority for bushfire management activities have been reviewed to reflect the bushfire hazard rating. It is noted that there are individual residential properties on most of the 26 lots. In many cases there is cleared around the residential houses. It is also noted that the dominant wind direction is from the south-east, consequently, if a wild-fire did occur it is unlikely to affect all lots. The majority of the Conway area has been mapped as “Landscape Management Zone” (LMZ) (figure 11). The LMZ areas are land units where planned burns may be necessary to reduce fuel loads and maintain ecological processes. The fire management areas can be further summarised as:

- Red = APZ (high hazard and high priority),
- Orange = BMZ (medium hazard and medium priority)
- Yellow = LMZ (medium hazard and low - medium priority)
- Green = PBEZ (low-medium hazard and lower priority).

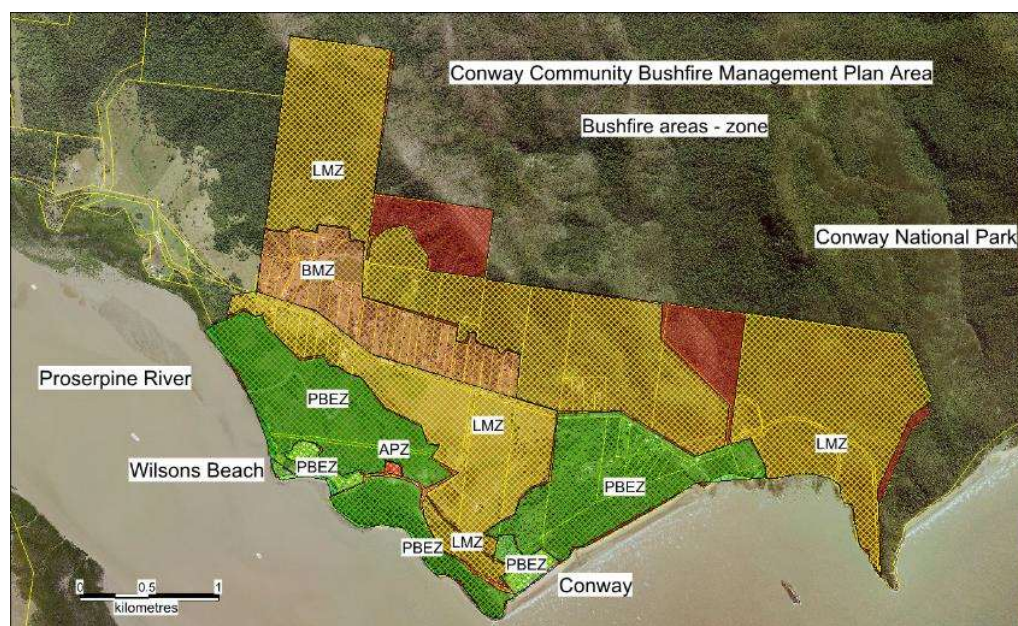


Figure 11. The fire management areas and fire management class.

The BEZ management units have the potential for wildfires to threaten residential properties. The bushfire hazard, risk to property and possible bushfire mitigation measures are suggested in table 9.

Table 9. The bushfire hazard and mitigation measures for fire management units in the Conway area.

| Fire area | Hazard | Zone | Mitigation options |
|-----------|--------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | HIGH | LMZ | Bushland- Ensure adequate separation distances between dwellings and bushland. |
| 2 | MED | BMZ | Rural residential areas. Monitor green waste fires. Keep property boundaries clear. Ensure water options identified. |
| 3 | HIGH | LMZ | Bushland- Nil |
| 4 | LOW | PBEZ | Marine environment and wetland. No mitigation required. |
| 5 | LOW | PBEZ | Conway Township |
| 6 | LOW | LMZ | Open flats. |
| 7 | MED | LMZ | Foot slope mixed vegetation on edge of Conway locality. |
| 8 | LOW | PBEZ | Mostly rainforest. Not to be burnt. |
| 9 | LOW | PBEZ | Mangroves |
| 10 | HIGH | APZ | Waste area. |
| 11 | LOW | PBEZ | Wilsons Beach township |

3.4. Hazard reduction burning frequencies and methods

The prescribed burn program for Conway area will be programmed around the site vegetation, seasonal fuel load and timed for optimum climatic conditions. The timing of prescribed burns will be based on recommendations as given at the time of annual hazard assessments. The frequency of prescribed burns will be guided by the recommendations set out in “Fire Management Guidelines” by Reef Catchments 2009, recommendations from the Queensland government and from site specific annual fuel load assessments.

The fire management areas will also be used to determine hazard reduction burn frequencies. The proposed planned burn frequencies for each vegetation type is shown in table 10.

Table 10. Vegetation communities and hazard reduction burn frequencies.

| Vegetation community | RE | Hazard reduction burn frequency | Fire management areas | Fire Zones |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Eucalyptus portuensis and/or Lophostemon confertus | 8.12.5 | 4 -7 years if present | 1, 2, 3 | LMZ |
| Semi-evergreen notophyll/microphyll to complex notophyll Argrodendron spp. vine forest +/- Araucaria cunninghamii, of foothills and uplands on near-coastal ranges and islands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | 8.12.18 | Not burnt | 7, 8 | PBEZ, LMZ |
| Eucalyptus platyphylla and/or Lophostemon suaveolens and/or Corymbia clarksoniana woodland on alluvial plains | 8.3.5 | 3-5 years | 6 | LMZ |
| Mangrove closed forest of marine clay plains and estuaries | 8.1.1 | Not burnt | (4), 9 | PBEZ |

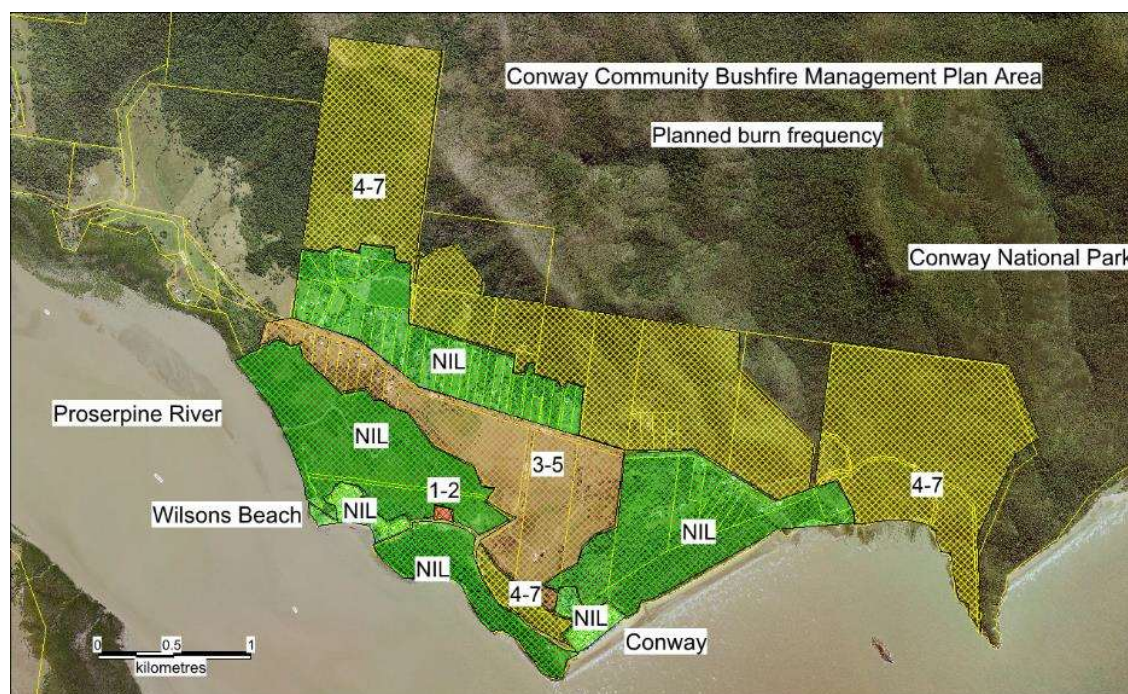


Figure 12. Proposed planned burn frequencies.

3.5. Schedule of bushfire management and mitigation tasks

The schedule of bushfire management and maintenance tasks is summarised in table 11.

Table 11. Schedule of bushfire management actions.

| No | Task | Who is responsible | Timing |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Assess fuel loads | Landholders and Rural Fire Brigade | May |
| 2 | Develop an annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade and residents | June |
| 3 | Approve the annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade | June |
| 4 | Slash fire lines/fire breaks | Landholders | May and October |
| 5 | Inspect condition of fire lines | Landholders | May |
| 5 | Earthworks for fire lines/breaks | Landholders | As required |
| 6 | Coordinate planned burns | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | As per approved plan |
| 7 | Community awareness | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | Use of media in May |
| 8 | Seeking fire permit | Landholders | As required |

The draft schedule of planned burns for the various fire management areas are shown in table 12.

Table 12. The proposed timing of future planned burns for Conway management areas.

| Fire Management area | Description | Zone | Planned burn frequency | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | Bushland | LMZ | 4-7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Rural residential areas | BMZ | Nil | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Bushland | LMZ | 4-7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Wetland and marine environment | PBEZ | Nil | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Conway township | PBEZ | Nil | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Open flats | LMZ | 3-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Footslope | LMZ | 4-7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Rainforest | PBEZ | Nil | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Mangroves | PBEZ | Nil | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Waste area | APZ | 1-2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Wilsons beach township | PBEZ | Nil | | | | | | | | | |

The development of fire breaks and fire control lines are a landholder's responsibility. Ideally the breaks should be created along property boundaries, or along contours, or between different forest types (e.g. rainforest- Eucalypt forest). Fire breaks or control line tracks located on steep slopes will be subject to erosion and will cost more to maintain. The more fire prone areas do not lend themselves to the creation of new fire breaks. There are no new fire breaks recommended for the Conway Fire Plan area.

One of the key conflict areas is the boundary between the Conway National Park and rural residential areas (areas 1 and 2). It is recommended between the National Park and rural residential properties, residents should ensure:

- there are cleared area between dwellings and bushland upslope.
- these areas have adequate water for fire fighting. There may be a case for a dedicated water tank for fire fighting which is monitored.
- Each property has a property bushfire plan.
- residents have suitable evacuation routes.

3.6. Fire fighting – response and resources

The responsibility of responding to fires in the Conway area is the primary role of the Conway rural fire brigade.

The water for fighting unplanned fires is sourced from:

- Conway fire station water tanks
- Residential water tanks and swimming pools.
- Farm dams

4. Conclusion

The Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan has been developed to document stakeholder responsibilities, guide mitigation measures and communicate the main bushfire priorities for this area. The Conway area covers 947ha and is divided up into 11 fire management areas based on land within similar land use and bushfire hazard. Each fire management unit has a set of recommendations to reduce the bushfire hazard and risk to property.

This Plan was placed on public notice from September to November 2020. During the public consultation period the following were the main points noted:

- There are possibly 50 rural residential lots which back onto Conway National Park, many do not have functional fire breaks and fire control lines (tracks).
- It would be a good goal to have all properties which back onto the National Park with individual property Bushfire Plans.
- How to coordinate and fund fire breaks and control lines between residential properties and the National Park?
- Need to investigate whether residents would like training on bushfire planning and management.

The intension of this Bushfire Plan is to enable bushfire management mitigation to occur under agreed conditions and to maximise community safety whilst recognising the importance of the areas ecological values.

5. References

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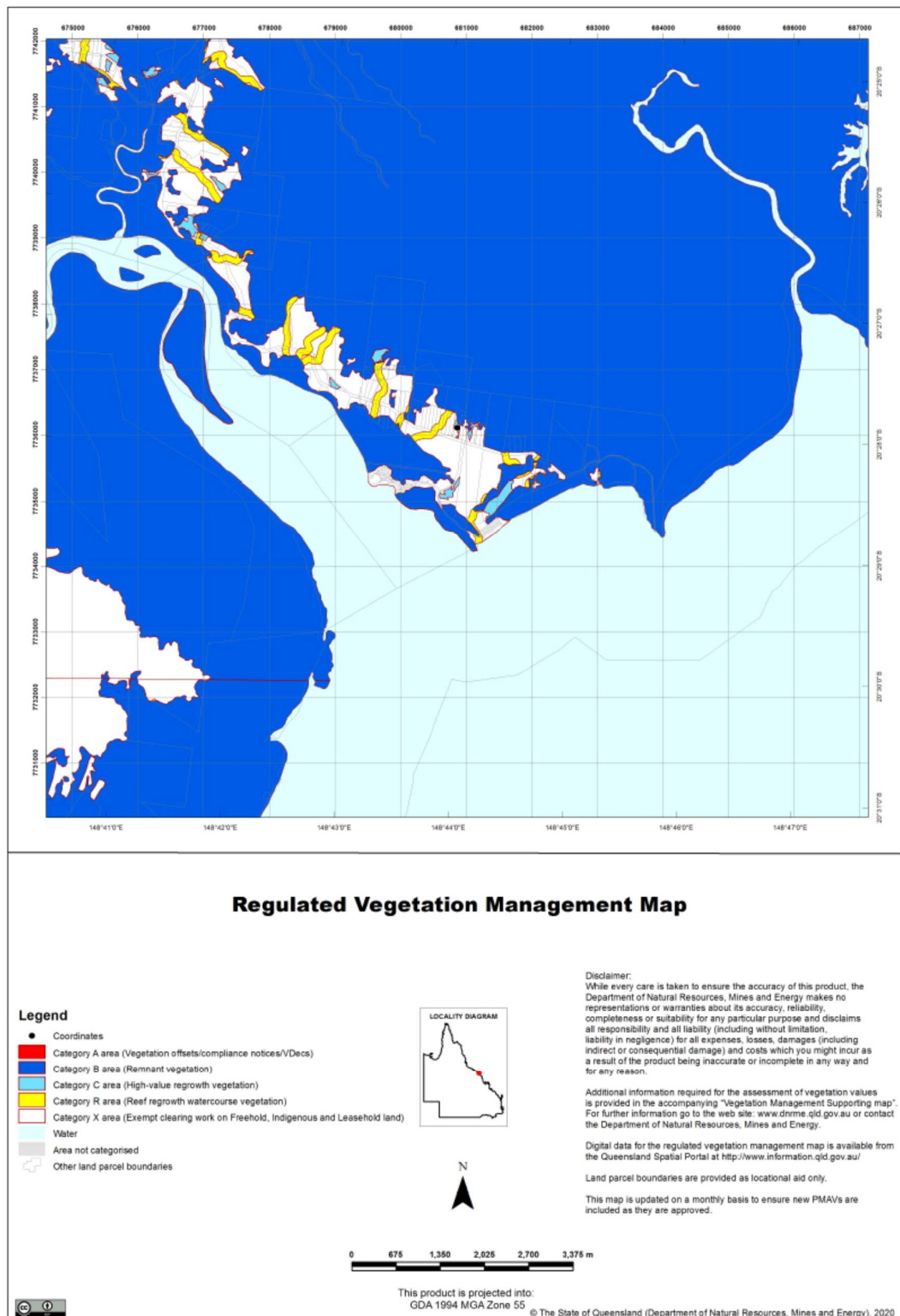
6. Appendix

6.1. Hydrant and water resources map

There is no town water – there are no water hydrants.

There are no or limited farm dams for water

6.2. Regional Ecosystem map



Map 2. Regional ecosystem map - regulated map.

Map 3. Extract of the regional ecosystem map.

6.3. Contours and fire breaks

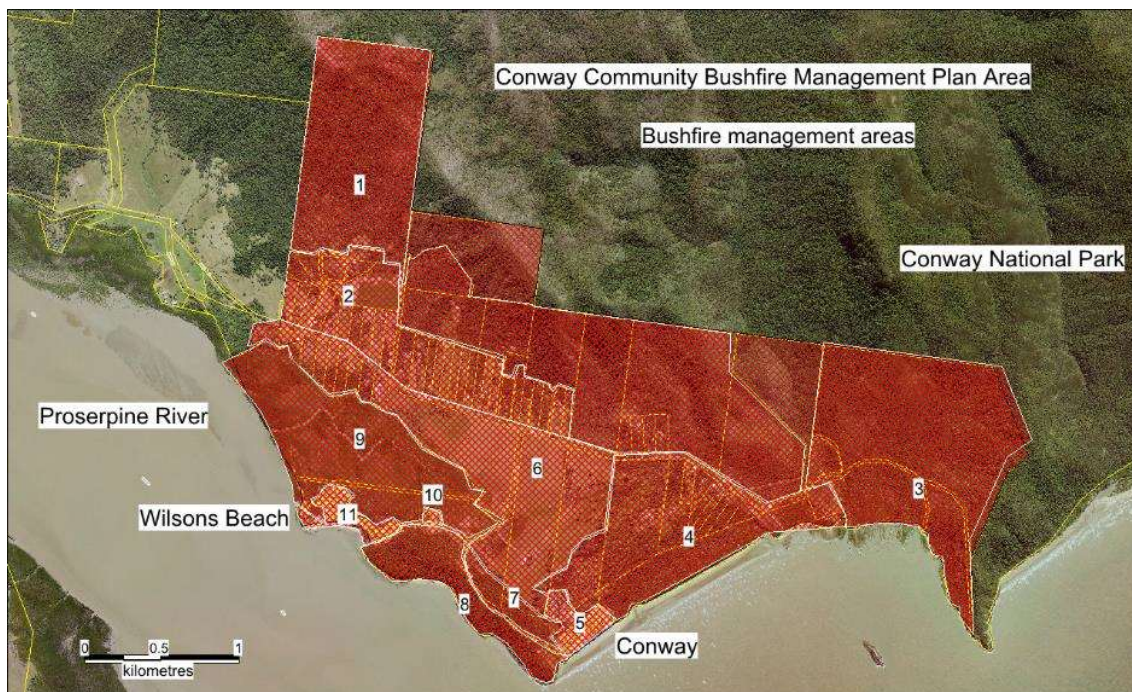
Bushfire Control lines and access tracks should be located along property boundaries and/or along the contour.



Map 4. Conway area contours

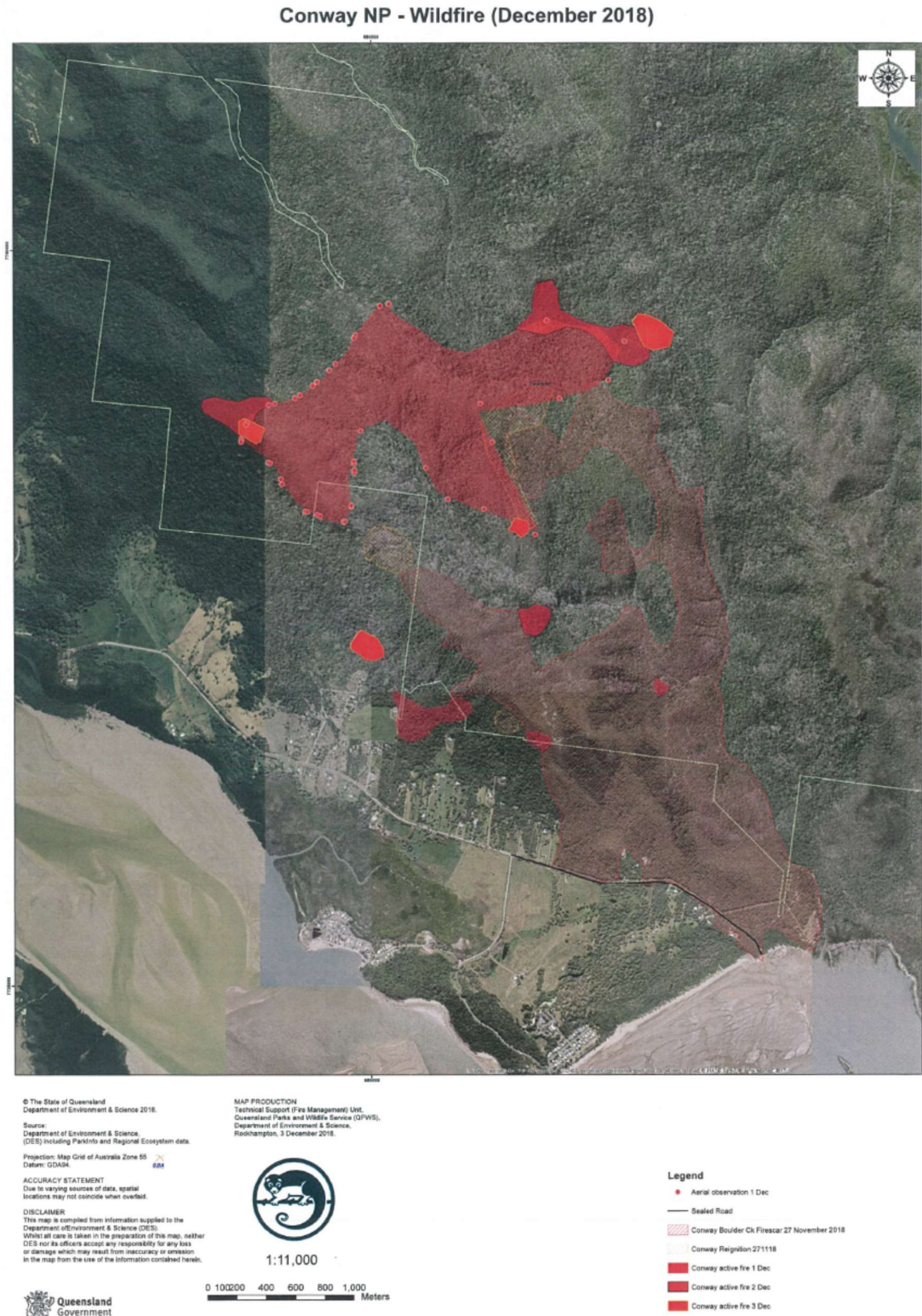
No fire break map

Map 5. Conway fire breaks

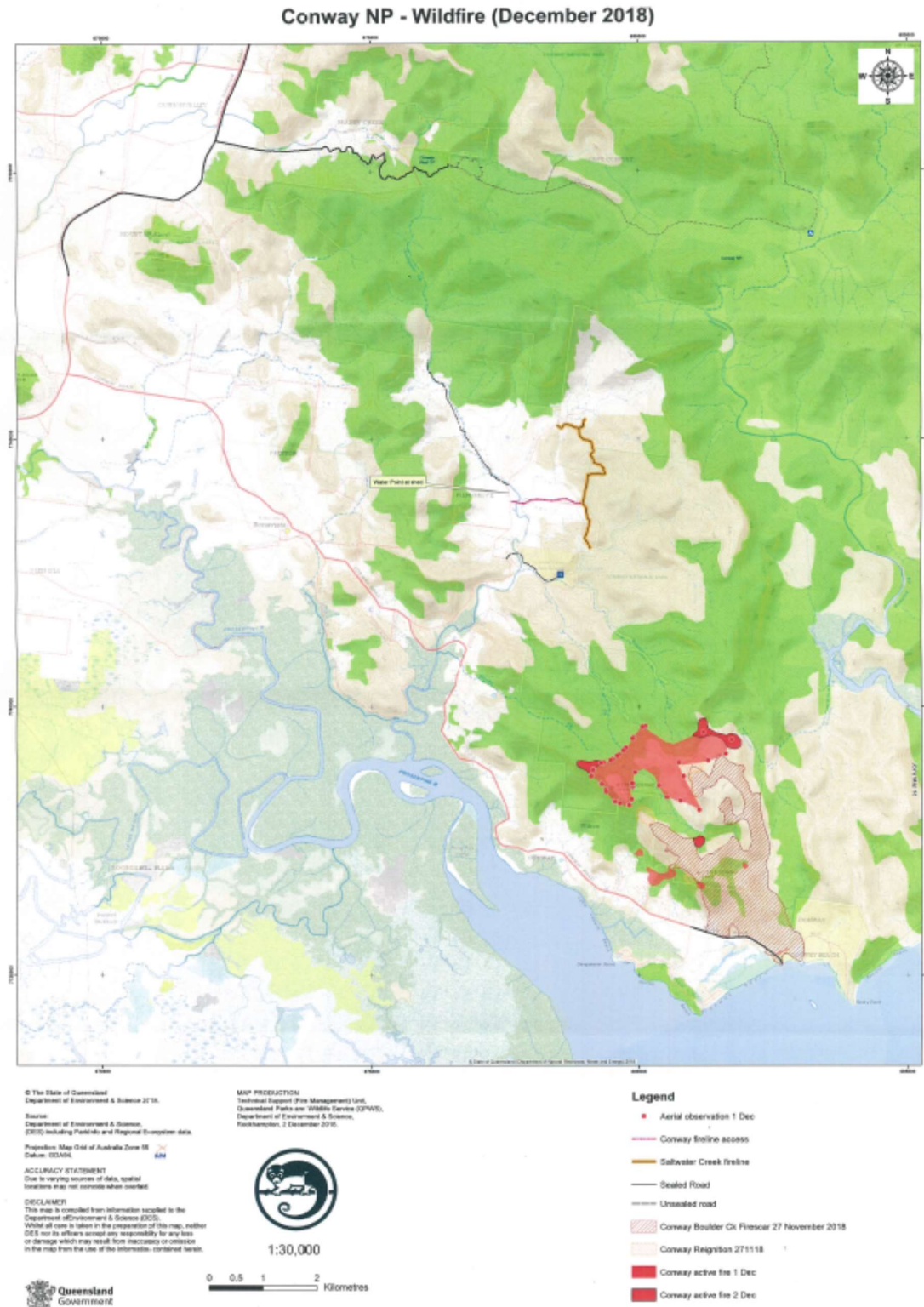


Map 6. Showing Fire management areas

6.4. Previous bushfire maps



Map 7. Wildfire December 2018.



Map 8. Wildfire December 2018.

6.5. Objectives for bushfire hazard reduction burning

Source: NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

A successful low intensity hazard reduction burn will reduce fuel load so that it creates a safe defensible area around an asset. It should also minimise the impact from the burn on the environment.

In carrying out a burn, you need to consider:

- 1) The fuel load and structure
- 2) The effects on the environment and the community
- 3) The specific zone objectives
- 4) If there are adequate fire breaks and control lines
- 5) The season and weather conditions
- 6) The topography and fire behaviour
- 7) What lighting patterns to use
- 8) Conducting a test burn
- 9) What safety measures may be needed
- 10) Mopping up afterwards
- 11) If you need to report the results

6.6. Check list for hazard reduction burns

The following is a checklist of tasks and activities that should be followed prior to hazard reduction burns:

| No. | Task | √ |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Fuel load assessment conducted | |
| 2 | Bushfire fire hazard sufficient to warrant a hazard reduction burn | |
| 3 | Fire breaks and control lines are in good condition | |
| 4 | Burn plan developed – identifying where the burn will occur, timing and personnel availability | |
| 5 | Ensure adequate trained personnel are on hand for planned burn | |
| 6 | Fire permit gained for proposed burn plan | |
| 7 | Proposed hazard reduction burn is approved by Conway / Conway fire brigade | |
| 8 | Community awareness plan is developed and activated prior to burn | |
| 9 | Bushfire stakeholders advised of hazard reduction burn timing | |
| 10 | Machinery and trucks are in good working order. Water available. | |
| 11 | Contingency plan developed in case fire escapes the target area | |
| 12 | Hazard reduction burn is undertaken in accordance with QFES guidelines | |
| 13 | Fire control personnel ensure fire is out before leaving fire control area. | |
| 14 | A brief account of the hazard reduction burn submitted to QFES and Council. | |

6.7. Stakeholder contacts

- Whitsunday Regional Council – Scott Hardy – 0428722236 / 49450245.
- QDNRM - Dan Burndred – 0472 847 894, Tim Koch - 0418 970 097
- QPWS – Ross Perry - 4962 5206
- Conway rural fire brigade – 49473056.

For more information regarding the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade:

https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw_finder.aspx

6.8. Map of rural fire areas and warden contacts



Map 9. Showing the rural fire areas and warden contact numbers.

6.9. Landholder bushfire planning checklist

The following checklist can be used by residential landholders to plan and manage their bushfire hazard:

| Task | Checked |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Structure | |
| Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters. | |
| Purchase and test the effectiveness of gutter plugs. | |
| Enclose open areas under decks and floors. | |
| Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes | |
| Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house. | |
| Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems. | |
| Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding. | |
| | |
| Access | |
| Display a prominent house or lot number, in case it is required in an emergency. | |
| Ensure there is adequate access to your property for fire trucks - 4 metres wide by 4 metres high, with a turn-around area. | |
| | |
| Vegetation | |
| Reduce vegetation loads along the access path. | |
| Mow your grass regularly. | |
| Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches). | |
| Trim low-lying branches two metres from the ground surrounding your home. | |
| Consider removing flammable trees near residential buildings (e.g. removal of eucalypt trees) and replace with non-flammable rainforest species. | |
| | |
| Personal | |
| Check that you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment. | |
| Relocate flammable items away from your home, including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture. | |
| Check the first aid kit is fully stocked. | |
| Make sure you have appropriate insurance for your home and vehicles. | |
| Find out if there is a nearby Neighbourhood Safer Place . | |
| Review and update your household Bushfire Survival Plan . | |
| | |
| Other | |
| Consider the location of water points and possible direction of bushfire threats. In rural residential areas ensure water tanks are more than half full in bushfire season. | |
| Keep swimming pool full of water. | |

Source: https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety/Pages/Prepare-for-bushfire-season.aspx

6.10. Vegetation clearing rules

Exemptions apply to some clearing activities permitted under other legislation, including the *Forestry Act 1959*, *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, *Electricity Act 1994*, *Electricity Regulation 2006* and *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Visit the [Department of Environment and Science website](#) for more information.

Exempt clearing work for fire management sourced from the Queensland government websites:

- You can undertake certain clearing activities to protect your property from bushfires without getting approval or notifying the Queensland government. These exemptions are summarised in the Table below.
- If you need to clear a wider area, you might be able to [clear using a vegetation clearing code](#) or [apply for a development approval](#).
- **Firebreaks** are low-fuel areas located immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure (including a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose) that are cleared and maintained to slow or stop the progress of a fire, or to perform back-burning.
- **Fire management lines** are roads, fence line clearings or tracks (including existing property tracks) used to access water for firefighting or divide the property for fuel reduction burning or back-burning.

| Purpose for clearing | Vegetation category | Clearing allowances |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fences roads and tracks | Least concern regional ecosystems | Clearing to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track to a maximum width of 10m |
| Fire management line | All | Clearing for a necessary for management line to a maximum width of 10m |
| Firebreaks | All | For a fire necessary to protect buildings and other structures (other than a fence line); to a width of up to 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation or 20m (which ever is the widest) |
| Hazardous fuel load reduction | All | Fuel reduction burns can be done under a permit issued by the local fire warden |
| Maintain existing infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to maintain existing buildings and other structures, fences, roads and watering points. |
| Risk to people and infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to remove or reduce imminent risk the vegetation poses to people or buildings and other structures. |

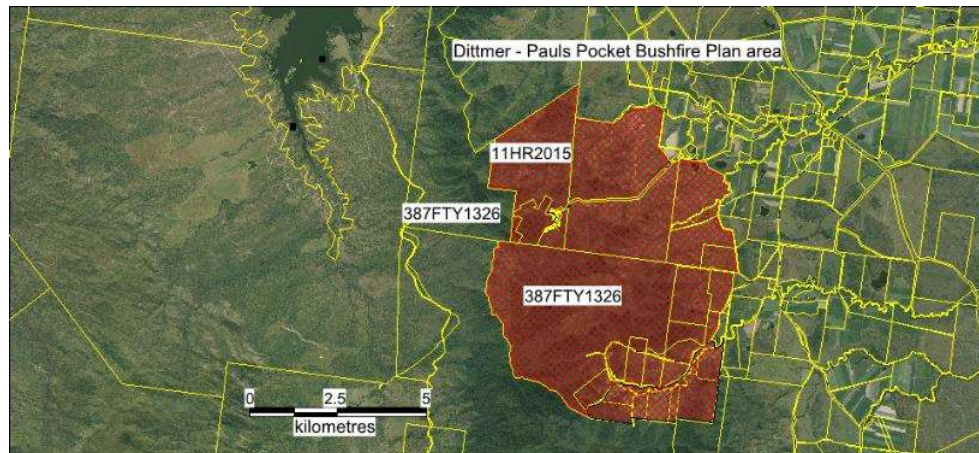
<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/vegetation/disasters/fire/code>

https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/847800/vegetation-clearing-exemptions.pdf

Community Bushfire Management Plan: Pauls Pocket-Dittmer (2020-2030)

Scott Hardy
Coordinator Natural Resource Management

Date: 22nd of January 2021



(Entrance to the township of Dittmer)



Po Box 104
Proserpine, 4800

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Community Bushfire Management Plan is to document bushfire hazard and describe how this hazard will be managed for the next 10 years (2020-2030). This Bushfire Plan is specifically written for the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer residents and stakeholders. The reason why this Bushfire Management Plan has been developed is the large number of residential and rural-residential dwellings occurring in and adjacent to high bushfire hazard areas in the localities of Pauls Pocket (Kurkowski Road) and Dittmer. Fire management agencies are concerned that wild fires in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area could threaten numerous residential properties.

This Community Bushfire Plan covers approximately 29 rural residential properties and lots, plus the township of Dittmer which is another 30 residential lots. This Plan covers 4800 ha with the Council owning or managing 0 ha. The main land owner is the Queensland Government with Forestry reserves associated with the Clarkes Range (approximately 2,600ha).

The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Bushfire Plan seeks the following outcomes:

- Describe the extent of bushfire hazard.
- Describe the location of existing and potential fire control lines and fire breaks.
- List the roles and responsibilities for bushfire management.
- List the proposed schedule of bushfire mitigation tasks.

While this proposed Community Bushfire Management Plan provides guidelines on how the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer bushfire hazard could be managed, each landholder is responsible under legislation to manage their own bushfire hazard. The Council encourages landholders to discuss their bushfire planning and management with their neighbours.

The Council has developed this Community Bushfire Management Plan in consultation with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Reef Catchment, and representatives of the local Rural Fire Brigade. The information contained in this Bushfire Plan is based on data collected from stakeholders over recent years and information available on the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade website.

Acknowledgements

The Whitsunday Regional Council would like to thank the following stakeholders who have contributed to the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Community Bushfire Management Plan;

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
- Kelsey Creek Rural Fire Brigade
- Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group

Document control

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Title | Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Community Bushfire Management Plan |
| Council work unit | Natural Resource Management |
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| Version- 4 | 22 nd of January 2021 |

1. Introduction

The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area has been identified as having a high bushfire hazard due to the vegetation type, slope and aspect. The Pauls Pocket area along Kurkowski Road and around the township of Dittmer have a history of bushfire threatening properties. The rural township and the surrounding land has a moderate to high risk for loss of life and/or property if the bushfire hazard is not managed appropriately. There are numerous residential dwellings located in and adjacent to flammable vegetation. Fire Management agencies are concerned that wildfires in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area could cause damage to a number of properties which are surrounded by unmanaged Eucalypt woodland.

The Council, together with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have defined an area in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer suburb which has vegetation and topographic conditions which warrant more detailed community bushfire planning. The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Fire Plan area covers 29 rural residential lots and 30 residential lots at the Dittmer township and covers over 4800ha. The Whitsunday Regional Council owns or manages 0ha of land in this area. The Queensland government owns most of the upland area which is Forestry Reserve and State land which is under lease agreements. The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Fire Plan area has been defined based on the likelihood of bushfires occurring and the residential lots which could be affected.

The purpose of this Community Bushfire Management Plan is to identify the actions required to reduce bushfire hazard in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer township and surrounding area for the next 10 years (2020-2030) (Figure 1). The objectives of this Plan include;

- Identify where fire lines are required to protect life and property from fire,
- Maintain an ecologically appropriate controlled burn program,
- Improve community awareness,
- Maintain coordination and communication between landowners,
- Description of a maintenance program to manage bushfire hazard and risk.

It is envisaged that this Community Bushfire Management Plan will be used as a communication tool to inform stakeholders and the community of the bushfire hazard within Pauls Pocket-Dittmer and how it could be managed. Ultimately, each landholder will be responsible for managing bushfire hazard on their own land. The Council encourages a coordinated and cooperative approach to community bushfire hazard management.

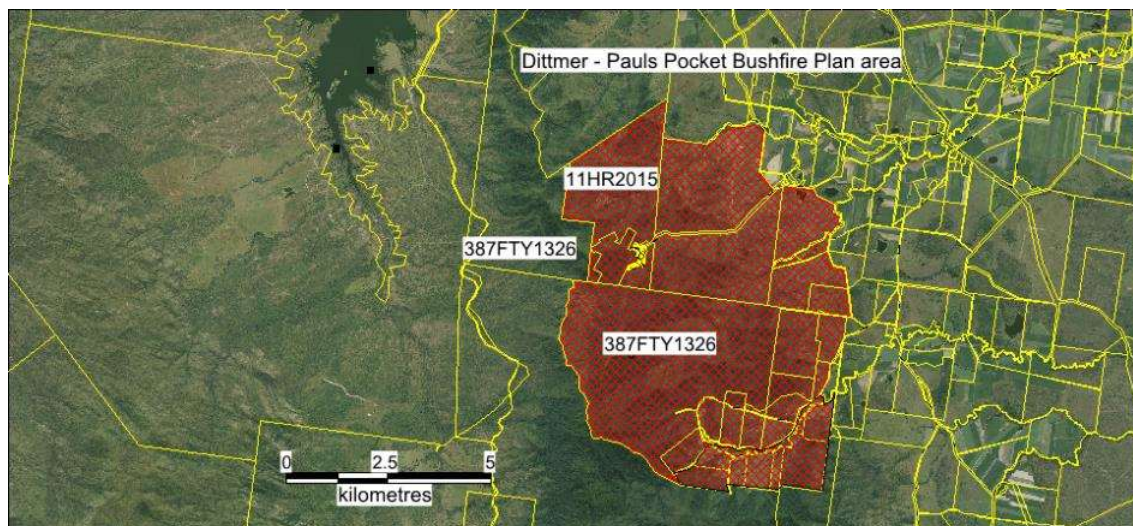


Figure 1. The application area for the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Community Bushfire Management Plan.

2. Background

2.1. Land tenure and ownership

The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Community Bushfire planning area covers approximately 4800ha with 0ha being owned or managed by the Whitsunday Regional Council and over 2600ha owned by the Queensland State government as Forestry reserve. In addition, there are approximately 1200ha of State land under lease arrangements. The bushfire planning area is bounded on the western side by the Clarke Range which is mostly State forest managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) (Figure 2). The township of Dittmer covers 29ha and the balance of the area is rural residential and small grazing properties.

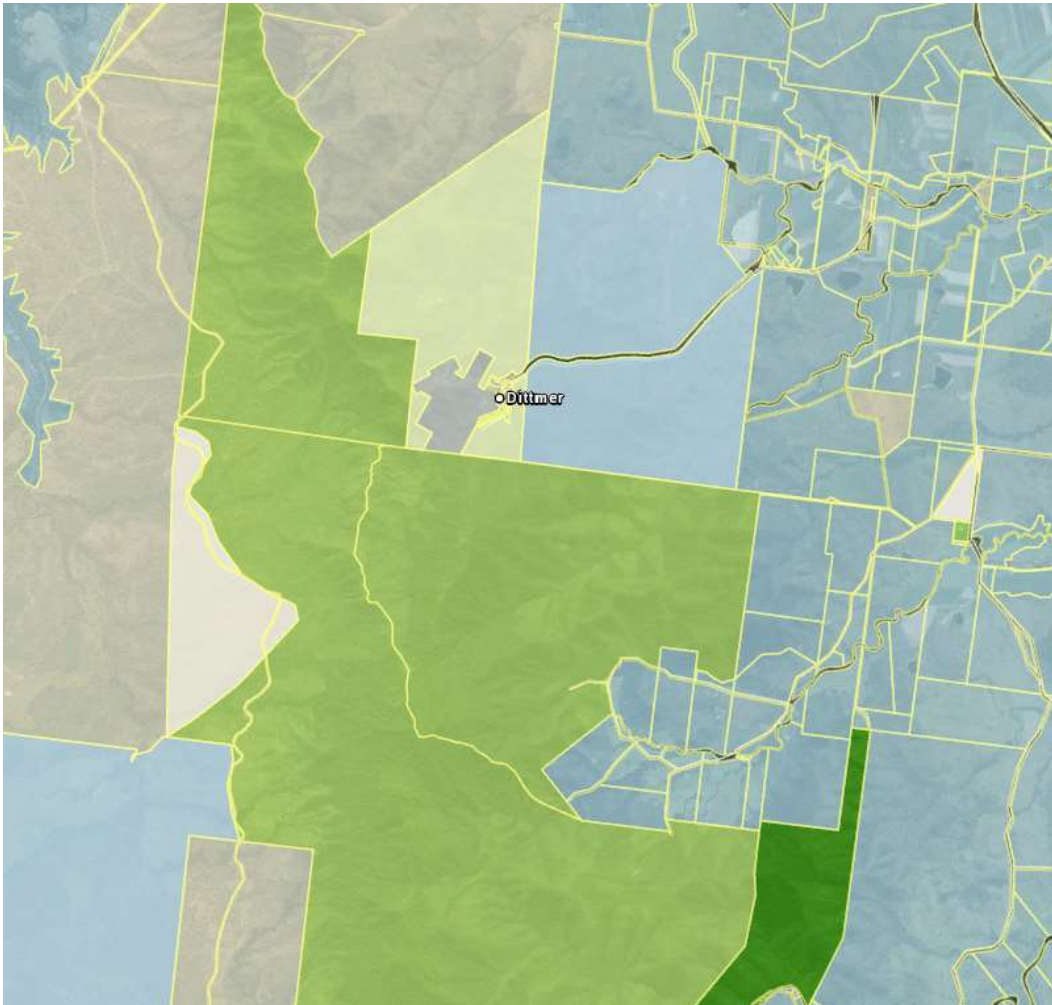


Figure 2. The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer community with the western hills forming the State Forest (State Forest coloured green).

2.2. Site description

2.2.1. Geology, landform and soils

The geology of the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area was mapped by the Queensland government in 1972. An extract of the Proserpine geology map is shown in figure 2. The hills of the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area are predominantly formed by the Permian Carmila Beds (Pla). The Carmila beds are composed of acid to intermediate volcanics and sedimentary rocks. The western side of the Clarke Range spur is mostly comprised of acid granites. The geology influences the fertility of the soils and also the type of vegetation which occurs.

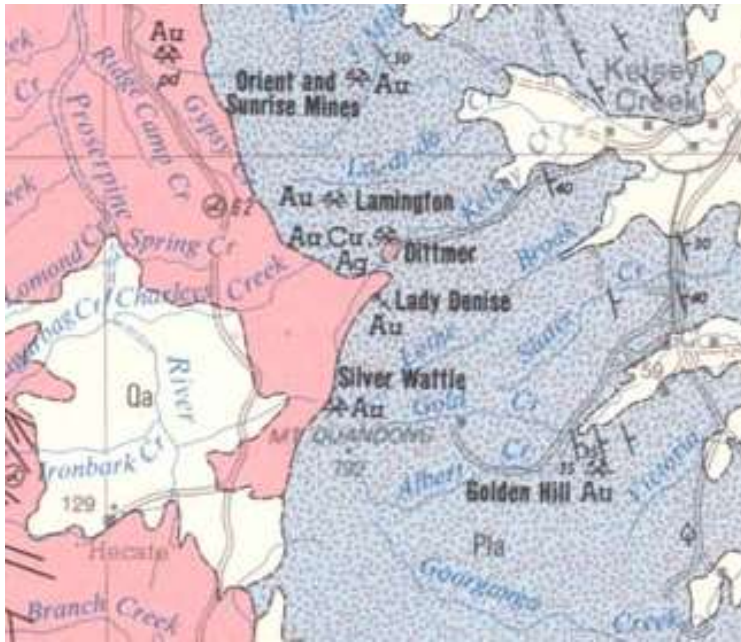


Figure 3. The geology map covering the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area (*Paine and Cameron, 1972*).

2.2.2. Vegetation

The vegetation of the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area has been mapped by the State government. The regional ecosystem map for the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area can be found in the appendix of this report. The geology, fertility of the soils and rainfall patterns influence the vegetation of the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area. The dominant vegetation surrounding the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area is open eucalypt forest and woodland and notophyll sub-tropical rainforest.

The dominant regional ecosystems are:

- 8.12.3 - Evergreen to semi-evergreen, notophyll to microphyll, vine forest to vine thicket, of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.
- 8.12.6. - Eucalyptus drepanophylla +/- E. platyphylla +/- Corymbia clarksoniana woodland on low to medium hills, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.
- 8.12.12. - Eucalyptus tereticornis and/or Corymbia spp. and/or E. platyphylla and/or Lophostemon suaveolens woodland to open forest on hill slopes on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.
- 8.12.19 - Semi-deciduous complex notophyll feather palm vine forest, of sheltered gullies and slopes, of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.

- 8.12.20. - *Eucalyptus drepanophylla* and/or *E. platyphylla* +/- *Corymbia* spp. +/- *E. crebra* woodland on low gently undulating landscapes on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.

The regional ecosystem map for the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area can be found in the appendix. The Eucalypt woodland on the foot slopes and mid-slope areas have a medium to high bushfire hazard.

2.3. Bushfire legislation and policy

2.3.1. Australia and Queensland

All levels of government have a responsibility and role in bushfire management. In 2014, the Council of Australian Governments approved the National Bushfire Management Policy Statement (National Forest Fire Management Group, 2014). The National Policy identifies Local government and other landholders having an important role in bushfire management and planning. The National Bushfire Policy identifies four main strategic objectives and 14 bushfire management goals. The four strategic National bushfire management objectives are:

- Effectively managing the land with fire
- Involved and capable communities
- Strong land, fire and emergency partnerships and capability
- Actively and adaptively managing risk

There is a legislative requirement under Common Law and the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* for Local Government and residents as owners and occupiers of land to prevent fires escaping from their land and damaging property (Tran and Peacock, 2002). Councils and other landholders have an obligation to manage their land responsibly to prevent the loss of life or property and reduce the 'human' impacts of bushfires. Landholders are also required however to achieve this and still maintain their obligations under other legislation. Obligations under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for example require local authorities to protect and conserve rare or threatened species, biodiversity and ecological processes.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* is the principle legislation that deals with lighting fires in the open in Queensland. The Act makes it illegal to light a fire without a 'Permit to Light Fire' issued by a fire warden.

The *Queensland Vegetation Management Act (1999)* regulates vegetation clearing. However, there are exemptions available to clear vegetation to develop and maintain fire breaks and fire control lines. The exemptions are found in the appendix of this report.

2.3.2. Whitsunday Regional Council

The Whitsunday Regional Council developed a Bushfire Management Policy and Bushfire Management Plan in 2018. The purpose of the Policy is to define Council's intention in bushfire management, planning and on-ground actions. The purpose of the Council's Bushfire Plan is to identify high risk Council lots for bushfire risk and outline a program of works to better manage bushfire risk on Council managed lots. The Council Bushfire Management Plan lists community education and awareness concerning bushfire hazard as an important action and outcome. The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed a local law which includes the regulation of fires.

2.4. Bushfire hazard and risk

2.4.1. Bushfire hazard

Bushfire hazard refers to the conditions which could support the presence of a fire. There are a number of methods that can be used to assess bushfire hazard. One of the most commonly used bushfire hazard assessment tool is documented in the Queensland State Planning Policy 1/03. According to Risk Frontiers (2011) the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have used the SPP 1/03 bushfire hazard methodology and the Interface Zone (I Zone) methodology to identify bushfire hazard areas. The I-Zone is where the urban-rural residential land use meet flammable vegetation (Risk Frontiers, 2011).

More recently the CSIRO have developed a slightly different approach to determining and mapping bushfire hazard (Leonard, 2014). The methods developed by Leonard *et al.*, (2014) have been used to develop the current Queensland bushfire hazard mapping. The CSIRO method uses vegetation type, slope and estimated fuel load to allocate land to 20 Vegetation Hazard Classes.

The Queensland State Planning Policy bushfire hazard process described in SPP1/03 involves the assessment of vegetation, slope and aspect. Scores are allocated to vegetation, slope and aspect. The bushfire attribute scores are then added to determine the total hazard score. The vegetation communities hazard assessment is shown in table 1, the slope assessment is shown in table 2 and the aspect assessment is shown in table 3. The classification of bushfire hazard is shown in table 4.

Table 1. Vegetation communities assessment table used to determine vegetation hazard score.

| Vegetation Communities | Fire behaviour | Hazard score |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wet sclerophyll forest, tall eucalypts (>30m), with grass and mixed shrub understorey | Infrequent fires under severe conditions, flame lengths may exceed 40m, floating embers attack structures for 1 hour, radiant heat and direct flame are destructive for 30 minutes. | 10 |
| Paperbark heath and swamps, eucalypt forest with dry-shrub ladder fuels. | Fire intensity depends on fuel accumulation, but can be severe, with flame lengths to 20m, spot fires frequent across firebreaks, radiant heat and direct flame for 15 minutes. | 8 |
| Grassy eucalypt and acacia forest, exotic pine plantations, cypress pine forests, wallum heath | Fire intensity may be severe with flame lengths to 20m, but less attack from embers | 6 |
| Native grasslands (ungrazed), open woodlands, canefields | Fast moving fires, available to fire annually to 4 years. Usually no ember attack, radiant heat for >10m, duration < 2minutes. | 5 |
| Intact acacia forests, with light grass to leaf litter, disturbed rainforests. | Fires infrequent, usually burn only under severe conditions, relatively slow fires, usually little ember attack. | 4 |
| Orchards, farmlands, kikuyu pastures | Fires very infrequent, slow moving, may be difficult to extinguish, frequent fire breaks. | 2 |
| Grazed grassland, slashed grass | Grazing reduces intensity and rate of spread of fire, duration < 2 minutes. | 2 |
| Desert lands (sparse fuels), mowed grass | Gaps in fuel, usually slow fire spread. | 1 |
| Intact rainforest, mangrove forest, intact riverine rainforest | Virtually fire proof. | 0 |

Table 2. The slope assessment table used to determine the slope hazard score.

| Slope | Hazard score |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Gorges and mountains (>30%) | 5 |
| Steep hills (20% - 30%) | 4 |
| Rolling Hills (10% to 20%) | 3 |
| Undulating (5% to 10%) | 2 |
| Plain (0% to 5%) | 1 |

Table 3. The aspect assessment table used to determine the aspect hazard score.

| Aspect | Hazard score |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| North to North-west | 3.5 |
| North – West to West | 3 |
| West to South | 2 |
| North to East | 1 |
| East to South and all land under 5% slope | 0 |

Table 4. The determination of bushfire hazard using the Queensland SPP 1/03 system.

| Total hazard score | Severity of bushfire hazard |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 13 or greater | High |
| 6 to 12.5 | Medium |
| 1 to 5.5 | Low |

Fuel load is a main contributor to bushfire hazard (Middelmann, 2007). There are a number of methods used to estimate, measure and assess fuel loads. Hines *et al.* (2010) have developed a system of measuring forest fuel loads in Victoria. The method developed by Hines *et al.*, (2010) for estimating fuel loads is based on separating the forest into fuel layers and then estimating or measuring the potential fuel within each of these layers. The amount of fuel contained in these layers is measured in terms of tonnes per hectare.

The Queensland Fire Emergency Service (QFES) have produced bushfire hazard rating maps for Queensland. Bushfire hazard is rated as either low, medium or high based on vegetation type, aspect, topography and climate. The QFES bushfire hazard rating maps are usually produced at a scale of 1:250,000 or 1:100,000. Bushfire hazard areas rated as low on the QFES maps mostly relate to rainforest areas, while high risk areas relate to Eucalypt and wattle areas. The bushfire hazard maps can be a useful guide to bushfire hazard and the likely risk of bushfire occurring in a locality. However, these bushfire hazard maps may not be accurate on properties less than 20ha. Land with a high or medium bushfire hazard rating should have some bushfire management plan or process in place.

2.4.2. Bushfire risk

Bushfire risk refers to the likely occurrence or frequency of a bushfire. Middlemann (2007) states that “the likelihood of bushfire hazard can be summarised in terms of the probability of a fire arriving at a point in the landscape and the intensity of the fire at that point “. Risk can be increased due to a number of factors including a high bushfire hazard and proximity to ignition sources such as roadsides and populated areas. Bushfire planning and mitigation measures can reduce bushfire hazard and risk.

Local governments are involved in bushfire risk reduction measures such as the development of local laws regulating fires, development planning, development of disaster management plans and implementation of bushfire mitigation measures (Middlemann, 2010).

There are a number of methods used to measure risk. The NSW Rural Fire Service (2008) have developed a matrix to describe bushfire risk (Figure 4). The NSW Rural Fire Service risk matrix requires the determination of the likelihood of a bushfire occurring and the likely consequences.

| Consequence \ Likelihood | Minor | Moderate | Major | Catastrophic |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Almost certain | High | Very High | Extreme | Extreme |
| Likely | Medium | High | Very High | Extreme |
| Possible | Low | Medium | High | Very High |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | High |

Figure 4. The determination of bushfire risk (NSW Rural Fire Service 2008).

The likelihood of a bushfire occurring will depend largely on the bushfire hazard. The consequence of a bushfire occurring at a given location will depend on the environmental values and development present (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2008).

2.4.3. Pauls Pocket-Dittmer bushfire hazard

The Queensland State government have mapped the bushfire hazard in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area (Figure 5). The upland areas north of Pauls Pocket-Dittmer have been mapped as having high bushfire hazard. The land with eucalypt woodland and open forest has a medium to high bushfire hazard. The close proximity of the eucalypt woodland to residential properties presents a high risk to residential dwellings and infrastructure.

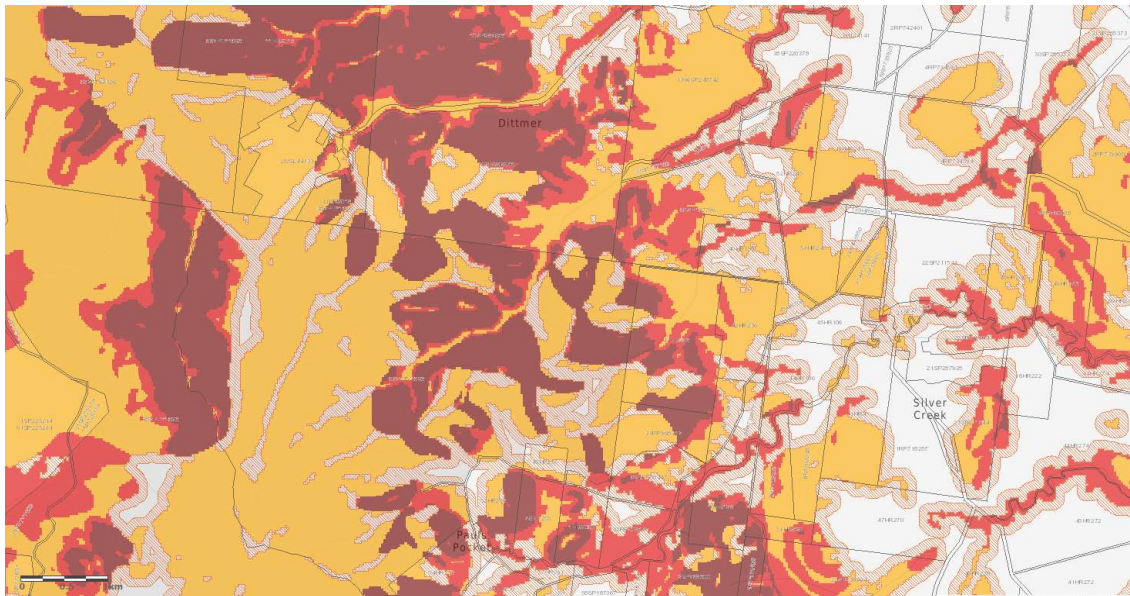


Figure 5. Showing the bushfire hazard in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area (Red = High hazard, Orange = Medium hazard).

2.5. Bushfire management guidelines

2.5.1. Bushfire guidelines for regional ecosystems

The regional ecosystem characteristics can provide information which can guide bushfire management and planning. The Whitsunday Regional Council is partially included in the Central Queensland Coast and Northern Brigalow Belt bioregions. There are 83 individual regional ecosystems in the Central Queensland Coast bioregion and 172 regional ecosystems found in the Northern Brigalow Belt bioregion.

The type of vegetation community, its fire requirements and hazard can be used for bushfire planning. Bushfire management advice for a selected number of regional ecosystems are listed in table 5. The bushfire management advice provided by the Queensland State government for each regional ecosystem is found at:

<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/redd/resource/c77196df-7af9-4c09-ac88-256867c39806>

Table 5. Showing the bushfire management advice for selected regional ecosystems in the Pauls Pocket – Dittmer area.

| Bioregion | Regional ecosystem | Description | Bushfire advice |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CQC | 8.12.3 | Evergreen to semi-evergreen, notophyll to microphyll, vine forest to vine thicket, of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | ISSUES: 8.12.3a: Fire sensitive. 8.12.3b: These areas are likely to be largely self protecting from fire due to their location within the landscape. |
| CQC | 8.12.6 | Eucalyptus drepanophylla +/- E. platyphylla +/- Corymbia clarksoniana woodland on low to medium hills, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | SEASON: Any time providing sufficient soil moisture is available. INTENSITY: Moderate. INTERVAL: 4-6 years. STRATEGY: Retain at least 20% unburnt in any given year. ISSUES: The location of this ecosystem within the landscape makes it susceptible to widespread fire (both planned and wild). Emphasis should be placed on the general principles of mosaic burning, and diversity of fire types. Progressive burning may be a useful tool in some circumstances. |
| CQC | 8.12.12 | Eucalyptus tereticornis and/or Corymbia spp. and/or E. platyphylla and/or Lophostemon suaveolens woodland to open forest on hill slopes on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | SEASON: 8.12.12a: Vary; winter, late winter and storm burns. 8.12.12b: Any time providing sufficient soil moisture is present (active growing season). INTENSITY: 8.12.12a and b: Low to moderate. INTERVAL: 8.12.12a and d: 3 - 5 years. 8.12.12b: 4 - 8 years. STRATEGY: 8.12.12a, b and d: Aim to retain about 25 % unburnt. ISSUES: 8.12.12a and d: Emphasis should be placed on the general principles of mosaic burning, and diversity of fire types. Care should be taken to maintain tree hollows and also to maintain ground litter and fallen timber habitats. 8.12.12b: Care should be taken to maintain tree hollows and also to maintain ground litter and fallen timber habitats. |
| CQC | 8.12.19 | Semi-deciduous complex notophyll feather palm vine forest, of sheltered gullies and slopes, of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | ISSUES: Fire sensitive. |

2.5.2. Other regional fire management guidelines

The Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group together with the Clarke Connors Range Bush Fire Consortium developed fire management guidelines for the Central Queensland coast region (Reef Catchments, 2009). The fire guidelines have been developed for 12 landscape types. For each of the 12 landscape types recommendations are made for fire frequency, fire intensity, season and whether mosaic burns are required.

The purpose of the guidelines is to reduce unplanned burns (wild fires). The landscape types and the recommended guidelines are shown in table 6.

Table 6. Clarke - Connors range fire management guidelines.

| Landscape type | Fire frequency | Fire intensity | Preferred season for hazard reduction | Mosaic burning |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mangroves and estuaries | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Beaches and foreshores | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Hind dunes | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Riverine and wetlands | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Alluvial flat country | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Grassy woodlands and open forests | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Tall wet eucalypt forests | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Eucalypt forest and woodlands on hills | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 25% |
| Rainforest and vine thickets | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Island and rocky headlands | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |

The Queensland State government have developed Planned Burn Guidelines for Central Queensland Coast Bioregion of Queensland (DNPRSR, 2012). The planned burn guidelines are used to plan and implement prescribed burns in National Parks and State land. The State government guidelines are also applicable to Council owned and managed bushland lots.

2.6. Whitsunday bushfire management planning framework

The bushfire management and planning structure and workflow between organisations is reflected in figure 5. The Whitsunday Regional Council has a Bushfire Management Policy and a Bushfire Management Plan to guide the management of bushfire hazard and risk on Council managed lots.

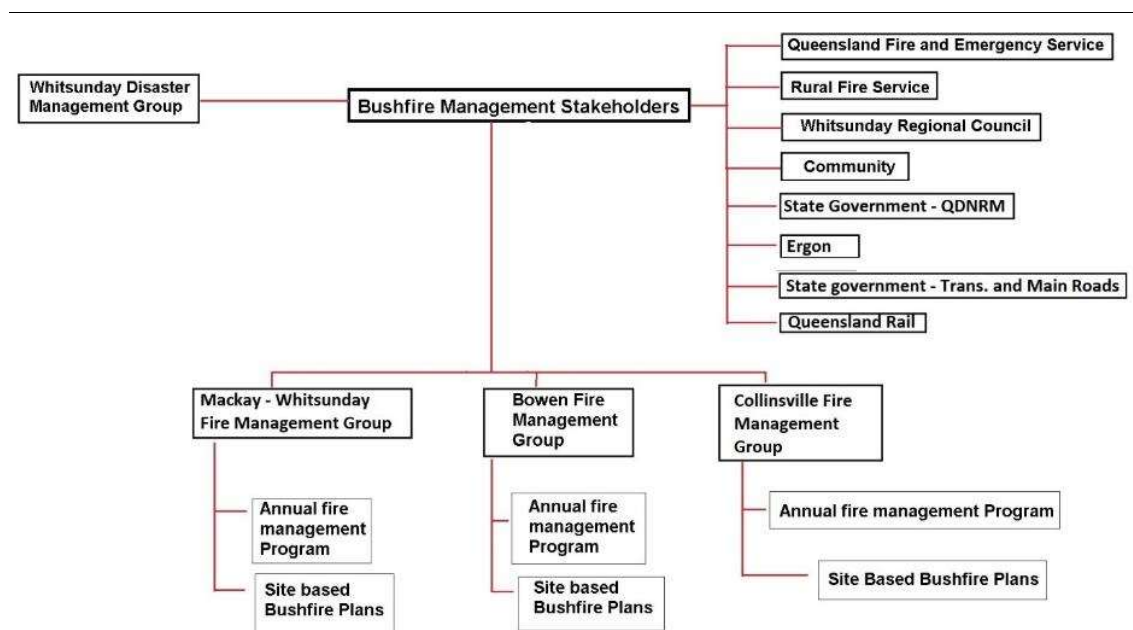


Figure 5. The bushfire management and planning framework.

2.7. Bushfire mitigation and management strategies

There are a number of strategies that can be undertaken to reduce bushfire hazard and risk. Table 7 lists the bushfire risk factors and some of the mitigation measures that can be used to reduce the occurrence of bushfires.

Table 7. Common bushfire mitigation strategies.

| Bushfire Factor | Mitigation strategy or measure |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Litter build up from Eucalypt vegetation communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a permit to light fire from the local fire warden to reduce fuel loads. Liaise with a local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake a fuel reduction burn. Subsequent burns may need to be conducted every 3 years. Clear juvenile gum tree samplings from areas near the house and property. Gum trees (such as Iron barks and Blue gums) should be removed from within 30 m of the house and properties. This may require an application to Council for permission. If in doubt contact the Council for advice. |
| Grass build up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass species such as Guinea grass (<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>) respond well to fire. This species needs to be chemically controlled, kept short through mowing or slashing, or grazed. Revegetate areas with rainforest species to shade out grass and therefore reduce fuel loads. Grass should be kept to a minimal height around houses and property using mowing, brush cutting or use of approved herbicides depending on site conditions. Establish separation zones between buildings and grassy fuel by installing hard areas e.g. paving and gravel etc. |
| Aspect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northerly aspects are worse for fires. The siting or positioning of houses on a property should consider aspect. The head of gullies should also be avoided East to south facing slopes generally have a low hazard rating. |
| Slope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updraughts assist fire movement upslope. There should be a sufficient distance down slope of houses and properties that are free of fire prone vegetation. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slopes above 30% have a higher hazard score opposed to flat to undulating land. Installation of hard areas of gravel and paving may be necessary. To reduce erosion on steep slopes, these areas could be revegetated using rainforest shrubs or low growing grasses that are easily controlled and are less flammable. |
| Climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot dry climates assist fire. Beware of climatic conditions that increase fire risk severity such as the dry season in the Whitsunday's, especially between the months of July and December. |
| Proximity to land uses that use fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce spread of fire, provide access for fire fighters, a secure line from which to burn from or back burn from. Sugarcane land has a moderate to high bushfire risk |
| Vegetation communities that have a high fire risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce the spread of fire. The SPP recommends that perimeter roads be constructed that are cleared for 20 m AND comply with local government standards. Fire maintenance trails should only be accepted if it is not practicable to provide firebreaks in the form of a road due to topographic conditions or vegetation constraints. The construction of the fire breaks should consider plants protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act (1992)</i> or communities protected under the Vegetation Management legislation. Site the house in the lowest risk area on the property. For lots greater than 2500m², buildings and structures should be set back from hazardous vegetation by at least 1.5 times the height of the canopy vegetation (particularly if they are Eucalypt) or a minimum of 10 m. Retention of rainforest in drainage lines and creeks will assist in reducing bushfire risk. Design subdivisions without cul-de-sacs and provide access for a conventional drive vehicle (e.g. fire engine). |

2.8. Previous bushfire management

This Bushfire Plan is the first formal Bushfire Plan for the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area. The QFES and local rural fire brigade report planned and unplanned bushfires in the area over the last 20 years. In other areas of the region, QFES, State government, rural fire brigades and Council conduct planned burns on public land when the conditions have been suitable.

The following is a brief summary of previous planned and un-planned burns in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area:

- Pauls Pocket to Dittmer bushfire – approximately 2012 (planned).

2.9. Community consultation

The Whitsunday Regional Council placed the Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan out for community comment from the 14th of September to the 15th of November 2020. There was one on-line community meeting which was held on the 8th of October. A public meeting was held on Sunday the 15th of November at a property in Paul's Pocket. The main discussion points from the on-line meeting were:

- Five people attended the meeting, two community members.
- One Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff attended.
- discussed the frequency of burns in that area. It was noted that in her eleven years in the area, QPWS have only burnt twice. They are quite often notified of upcoming burns (could be twice a year) but then they never happen. General discussion around the windy conditions, making it hard to burn.

- QFES spoke about the planned burn which was conducted earlier in the year, in February 2020, which involved over 1000 individual incendiary burns. There were aerial drops with support from groundcrews.
- Residents said August-September is generally a good time of year to burn in the area.
- Suggested including a section in the Plan regarding vegetation clearing and the current regulations
- A social meeting will be arranged for a few weeks' time, with a sausage sizzle and drinks and talk through the proposed plan with the neighbours. Resident said their community at Paul's Pocket is very connected and an informal setting would suit more people.

The main points from the public community shed meeting were:

- Some areas in the Pauls Pocket area had not been burnt for more than 30 years.
- There is minimal planned burns. If there are fires, the community is quick to respond.
- More information on the Vegetation Management guidelines and legislation would be useful.
- Landholders would like to do planned burns but it can be difficult to coordinate with the rural fire brigade and neighbours.
- More training would be useful in bushfire management and planning.
- Not many landholders are members of the rural fire brigade.
- There are many landholders with an interest in doing planned burns and learning more skills.
- It was suggested to introduce cattle to the State land to control grass and fuel loads.
- Need to develop community annual routines for fire management. It was suggested to have another community meeting to develop planned burns around March, Easter or Anzac Day. An annual fire management meeting would be useful.
- Need to coordinate machinery better to do community wide strategic fire breaks. Landholders are willing to spend their own money, but need to coordinate machinery float and coordinate fire break construction and maintenance across properties.

3. Management Plan

3.1. Bushfire Plan goals

The goals of this Bushfire Management Plan are:

- To protect life and property as a priority then ensure the bushfire management practises maximise biodiversity values.
- To ensure all stakeholders support a common bushfire management direction.
- To pro-actively manage the bushfire hazard within and surrounding Pauls Pocket-Dittmer.
- To develop and maintain good relationships between the stakeholders and landholders and encourage cooperative approaches to manage bushfire hazard in the area.

3.2. Stakeholder general roles and responsibilities

The general roles and responsibilities for bushfire management, planning and mitigation are summarised in table 8.

Table 8. The main tasks for each stakeholder.

| Task | Council | Rural Fire | QFES | QPWS and QDNRM | Landholder |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|------------|------|----------------|------------|
| Legal control of the fire | | | | √ | √ |
| Conduct hazard reduction burns | | √ | | | √ |
| Applying for permits | | | | | √ |
| Supervising the hazard reduction burn | | √ | | | √ |
| Informing the community | | √ | | √ | √ |
| Monitoring fuel loads | | | | √ | √ |
| Maintaining the fire breaks | | | | √ | √ |
| Developing and updating the bushfire plan | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Reporting hazard reduction burns | | √ | | √ | √ |
| Regulating and control of illegal dumping | √ | | | | √ |
| Manage accumulation of green waste | | | | | √ |

3.3. Bushfire management areas and mitigation measures

The landscape of the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area needs to be prioritised in terms of bushfire management and planning. Areas close to residential areas need a higher level of monitoring and fuel management than areas further away. The Victorian state government has developed a system of prioritising bushfire management activities (DSE, 2012). The Victorian government have developed fire management zones as a means of prioritising land areas for bushfire management:

- APZ – Asset Protection zone - Areas close to residential areas – high priority for management.
- BMZ – Bushfire Moderation zone – aim to achieve asset protection and achieve some ecological outcomes.
- LMZ - Landscape management zone – planned burns are primarily undertaken for fuel reduction to maintain ecological processes.
- PBEZ - Planned burning exclusion zone – no fire permitted.

There are 9 fire management areas identified for the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Fires Area. The majority of the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area has been mapped as “Bushfire Moderation zone” (BMZ) (figure 6 and 7). The BMZ areas are land units where planned burns may be necessary to reduce fuel loads and maintain ecological processes. The area around the township of Dittmer has been classed as “Planned burning exclusion zone (PBEZ). The fire management areas can be further summarised as:

- Red = APZ (high hazard and high priority),
- Orange = BMZ (medium hazard and medium priority)
- Yellow = LMZ (medium hazard and low - medium priority)
- Green = PBEZ (low-medium hazard and lower priority).

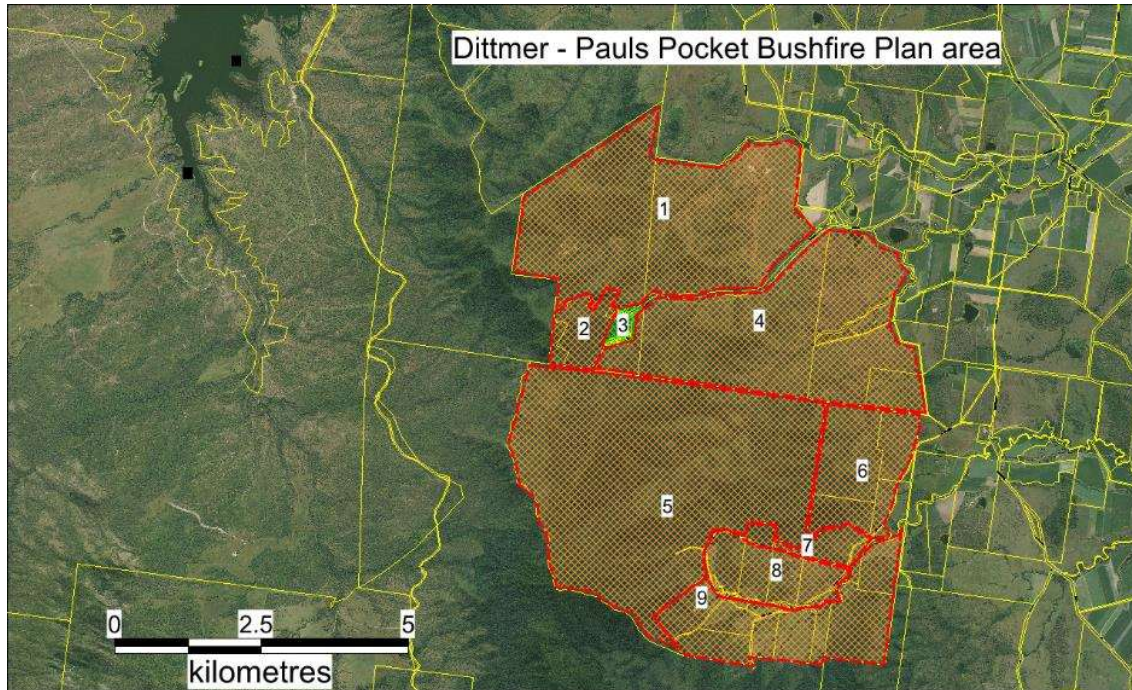


Figure 6. The Dittmer – Pauls Pocket fire management areas.

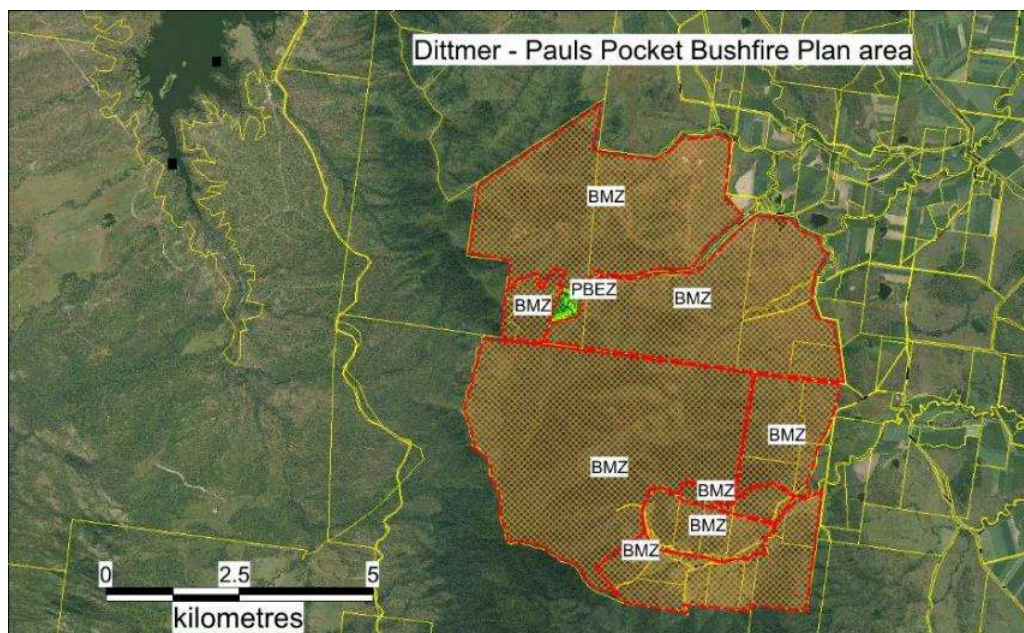


Figure 7. The fire management areas and fire management class.

The BMZ management units have the potential for wildfires to threaten residential properties. Fire management areas 1 and 5 occur in the Clarke Range State Forest managed by the Queensland State government. consequently, planned burns in this area need to be initiated and coordinated by the QPWS. The bushfire hazard, risk to property and possible bushfire mitigation measures are suggested in table 9.

Table 9. The bushfire hazard and mitigation measures for fire management units in the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area.

| Fire area | Hazard | Mitigation options |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the township of Dittmer and the forest areas. |
| 2 | Dittmer mining site. Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the township of Dittmer and the forest areas. |
| 3 | Dittmer township. Low bushfire hazard. Risk of backyard fires escaping. | Ensure community know limits on backyard burning. |
| 4 | Upland forest area Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the township of Dittmer and the forest areas. |
| 5 | Upland forest area Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the township of Dittmer and the forest areas. |
| 6 | Upland forest area Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the township of Dittmer and the forest areas. Create and maintain fire breaks between properties where the topography is suitable. |
| 7 | Pauls Pocket rural residential area. Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between properties where the topography is suitable. |
| 8 | Pauls Pocket rural residential area. Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between properties where the topography is suitable. |
| 9 | Pauls Pocket rural residential area. Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting in the upland areas. | Create and maintain fire breaks between properties where the topography is suitable. |

3.4. Hazard reduction burning frequencies and methods

The prescribed burn program for Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area will be programmed around the site vegetation, seasonal fuel load and timed for optimum climatic conditions. The timing of prescribed burns will be based on recommendations as given at the time of annual hazard assessments. The frequency of prescribed burns will be guided by the recommendations set out in "Fire Management Guidelines" by Reef Catchments 2009, recommendations from the Queensland government and from site specific annual fuel load assessments. Ultimately, it will be up to individual landholders to decide whether they are willing and prepared to undertake planned burns.

The fire management areas will also be used to determine hazard reduction burn frequencies. The proposed planned burn frequencies for each vegetation type is shown in table 10. The frequency of hazard reduction burns for the Pauls Pocket-Dittmer orange areas (BMZ) will be generally every 2 to 7 years.

Table 10. Vegetation communities and hazard reduction burn frequencies.

| Vegetation community | RE | Hazard reduction burn frequency | Fire management areas | Fire Zones |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Evergreen to semi-evergreen, notophyll to microphyll, vine forest to vine thicket, of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | 8.12.3 | No burning. | 5 (sections) | BEZ |
| Eucalyptus drepanophylla +/- E. platyphylla +/- Corymbia clarksoniana woodland on low to medium hills, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | 8.12.6 | 3-7 years | 1 (sections) | BEZ |
| Eucalyptus tereticornis and/or Corymbia spp. and/or E. platyphylla and/or Lophostemon suaveolens woodland to open forest on hill slopes on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | 8.12.12. | 3-7 years | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 | BEZ |
| Semi-deciduous complex notophyll feather palm vine forest, of sheltered gullies and slopes, of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | 8.12.19 | No burning | Waterways | BEZ |
| Eucalyptus drepanophylla and/or E. platyphylla +/- Corymbia spp. +/- E. crebra woodland on low gently undulating landscapes on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | 8.12.20 | 3-7 years | 5 (sections) | BMZ |

3.5. Schedule of bushfire management and mitigation tasks

The schedule of bushfire management and maintenance tasks is summarised in table 11.

Table 11. Schedule of bushfire management actions.

| No | Task | Who is responsible | Timing |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Assess fuel loads | Landholders and Rural Fire Brigade | May |
| 2 | Develop an annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade and residents | June |
| 3 | Approve the annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade | June |
| 4 | Slash fire lines/fire breaks | Landholders | May and October |
| 5 | Inspect condition of fire lines | Landholders | May |
| 5 | Earthworks for fire lines/breaks | Landholders | As required |
| 6 | Coordinate planned burns | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | As per approved plan |
| 7 | Community awareness | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | Use of media in May |
| 8 | Seeking fire permit | Landholders | AS required |

The draft schedule of planned burns for the various fire management areas are shown in table 12.

Table 12. The proposed timing of future planned burns for Pauls Pocket-Dittmer management areas.

| Fire Management area | Description | Zone | Planned burn frequency | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|----------------------|--------------|------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | State Forest | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | State Forest | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Dittmer | PBEZ | No fire | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Lease area | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | State Forest | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Lease area | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Pauls Pocket | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Pauls Pocket | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Pauls Pocket | BEZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | |

The development of fire breaks and fire control lines are a landholder's responsibility. Ideally the breaks should be created along property boundaries, or along contours, or between different forest types (e.g. rainforest- Eucalypt forest). Fire breaks or control line tracks located on steep slopes will be subject to erosion and will cost more to maintain. The existing and proposed fire control lines and fire breaks are located in the appendix of this report.

3.6. Fire fighting – response and resources

The responsibility of responding to fires in the Pauls Pocket – Dittmer area is the primary role of the Kelsey Creek rural fire brigade. The Kelsey Creek rural fire brigade has a 51-truck unit.

The water for fighting unplanned fires is sourced from:

- Rural fire brigade – rural 51 truck.
- Small rural dams in the Pauls Pocket – Dittmer area (see appendix).
- Rural residential water tanks and swimming pools.

4. Conclusion

The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer Community Bushfire Management Plan has been developed to document stakeholder responsibilities, guide mitigation measures and communicate the main bushfire priorities for this area. The Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area is divided up into 9 fire management areas based on land within similar land use and bushfire hazard. Each fire management unit has a set of recommendations to reduce the bushfire hazard and risk to property.

The Whitsunday Regional Council conducted a community consultation in the development of this Plan. The main issues raised by the community were:

- An interest in being trained in bushfire management.
- Coordinating the use of machinery through the locality for the construction of bushfire breaks and control lines.
- Having an annual community meeting to develop planned burns for hazard reduction, possibly in April each year.
- Better communication on planned burns through the community and coordination of burns.

The intension of this Bushfire Plan is to enable bushfire management mitigation to occur under agreed conditions and to maximise community safety whilst recognising the importance of the areas ecological values.

5. References

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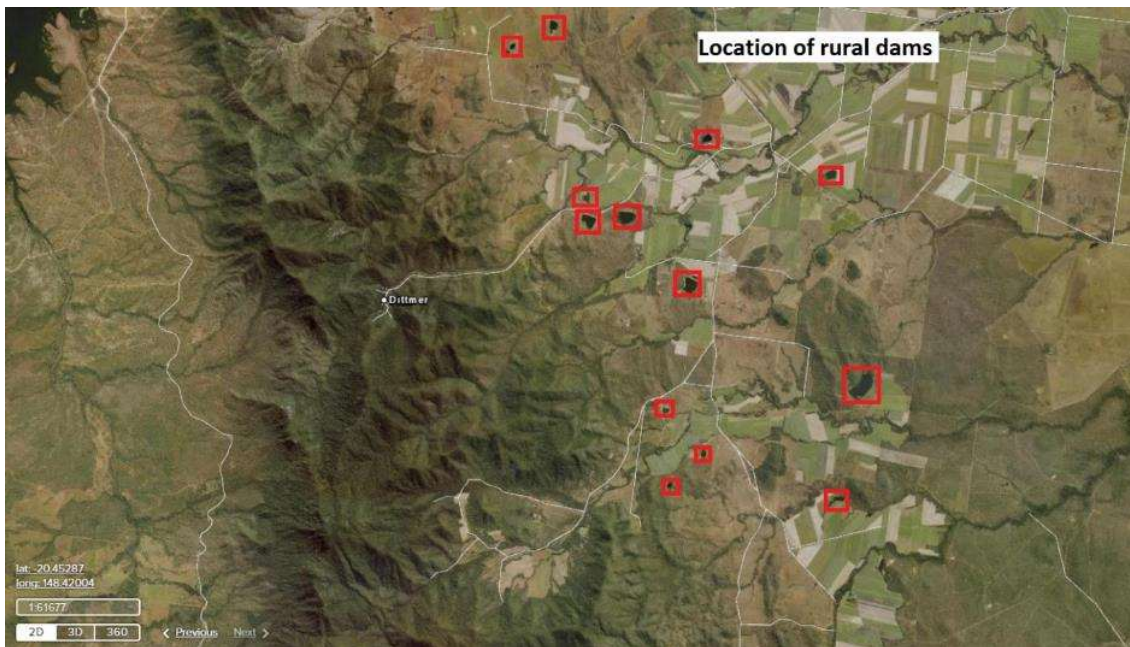
Tran, C & Peacock, C (2002) Fire Management Strategic Manual; Guidelines for planning and implementing a council or shire wide fire management strategy. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Queensland Australia.

6. Appendix

6.1. Hydrant and water resources map

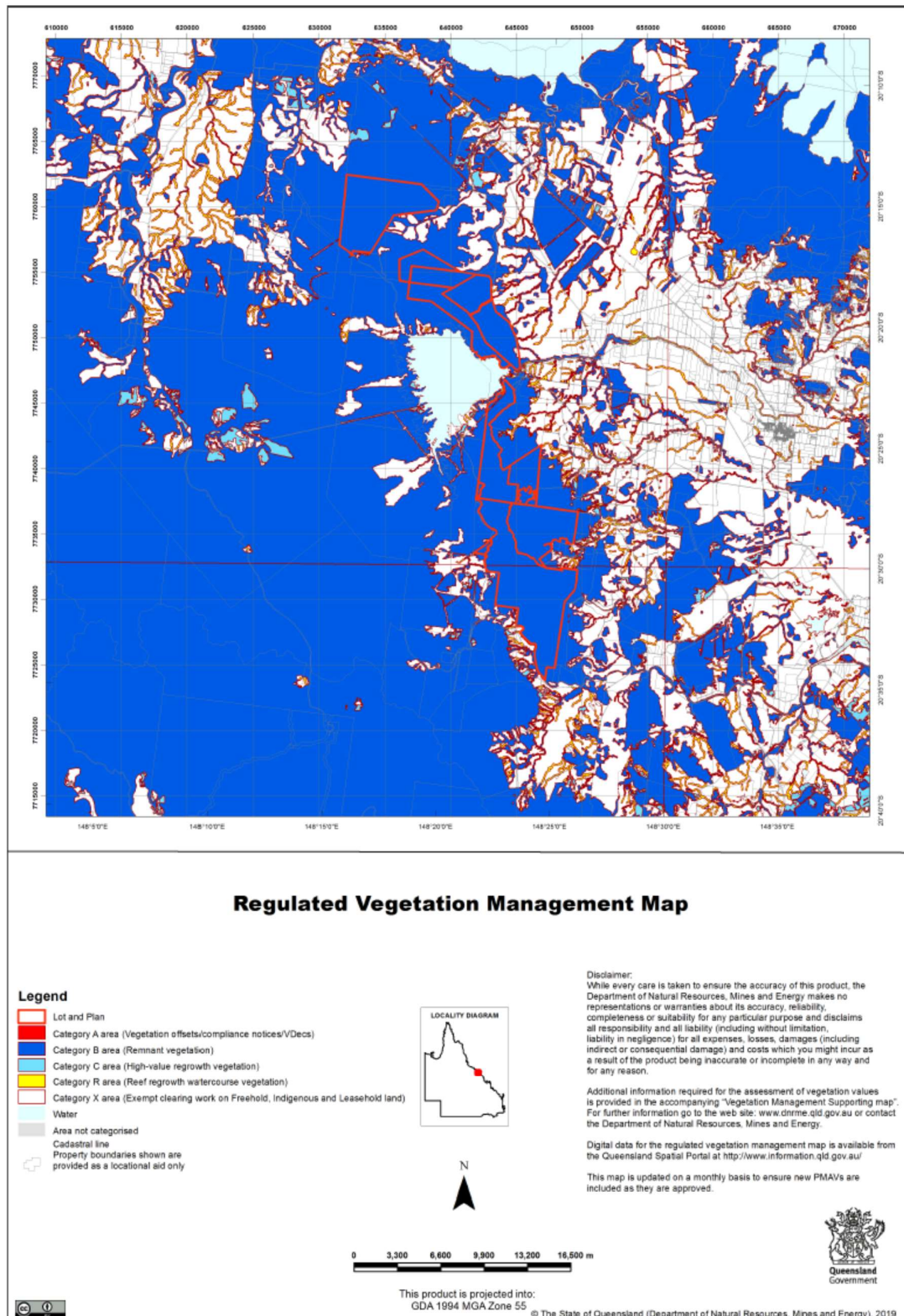
Hydrant - No map

(Note – most of Pauls Pocket-Dittmer does not have town water, hence no water hydrants)

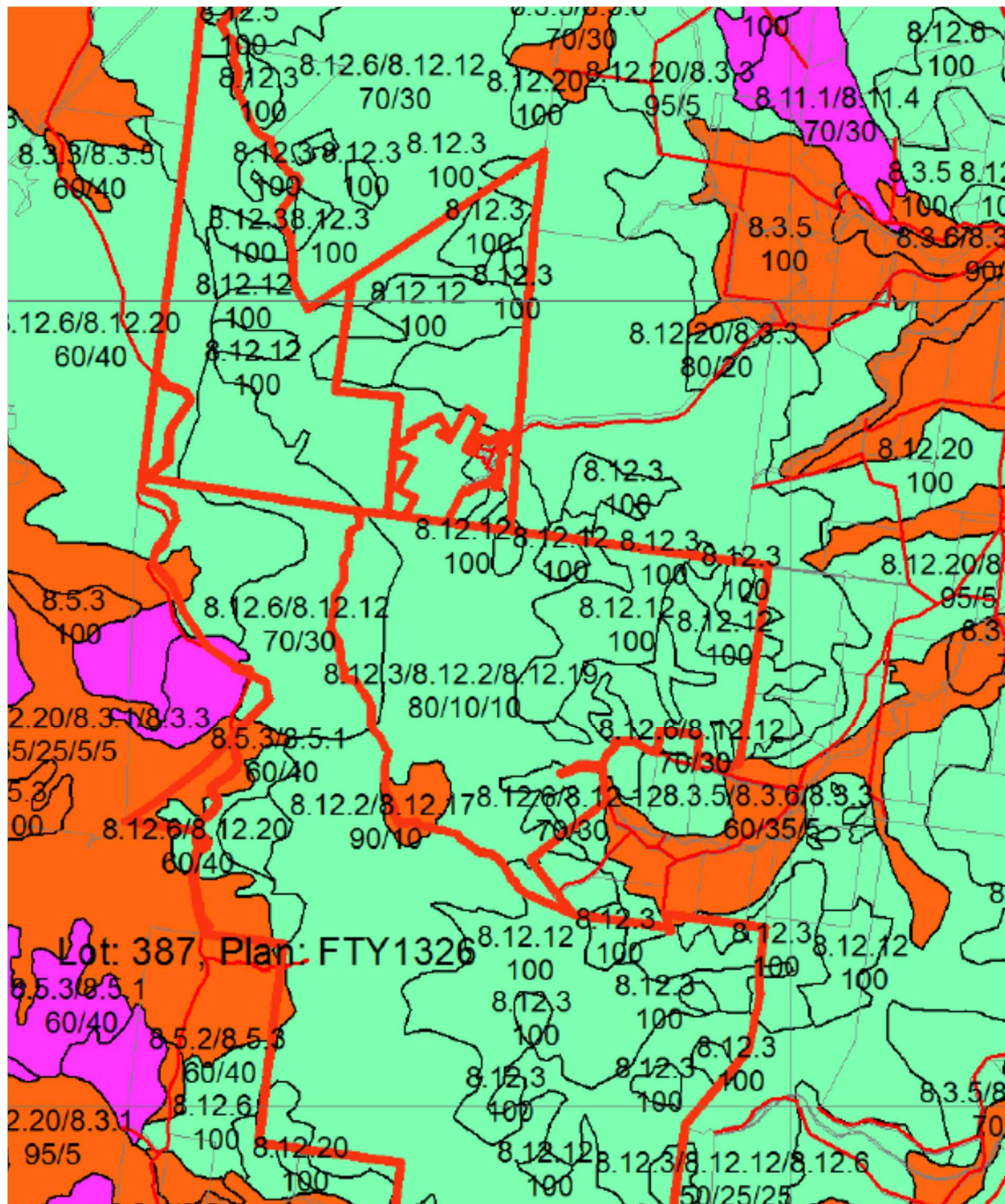


Map 1. Location of rural dams

6.2. Regional Ecosystem map



Map 2. Regional ecosystem map - regulated map.



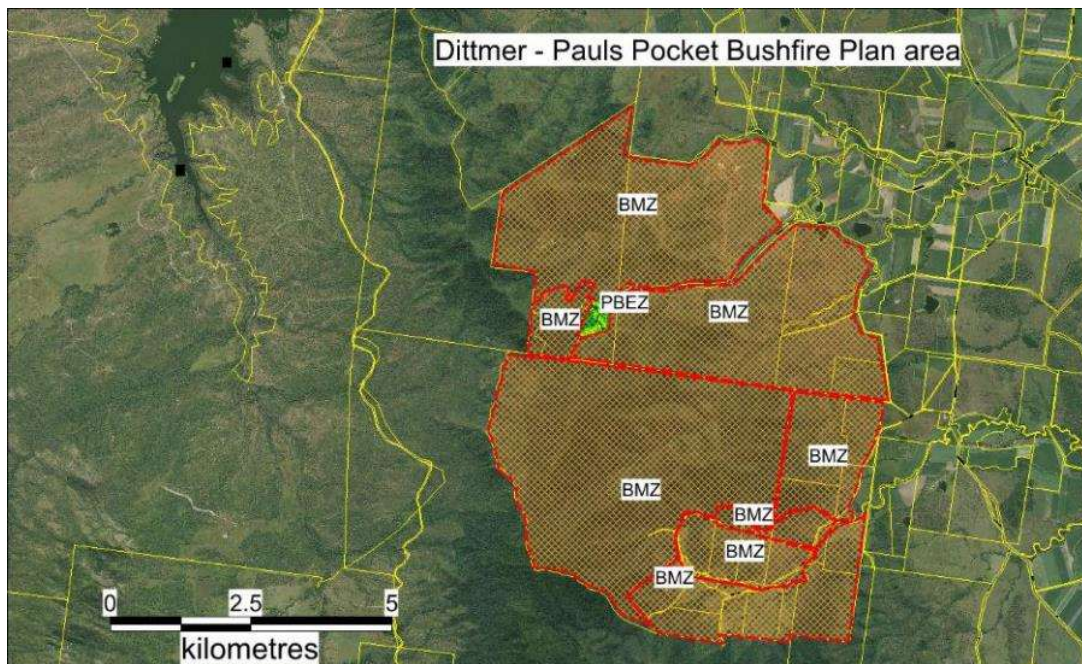
Map 3. Extract of the regional ecosystem map.

6.3. Bushfire management control lines and fire breaks

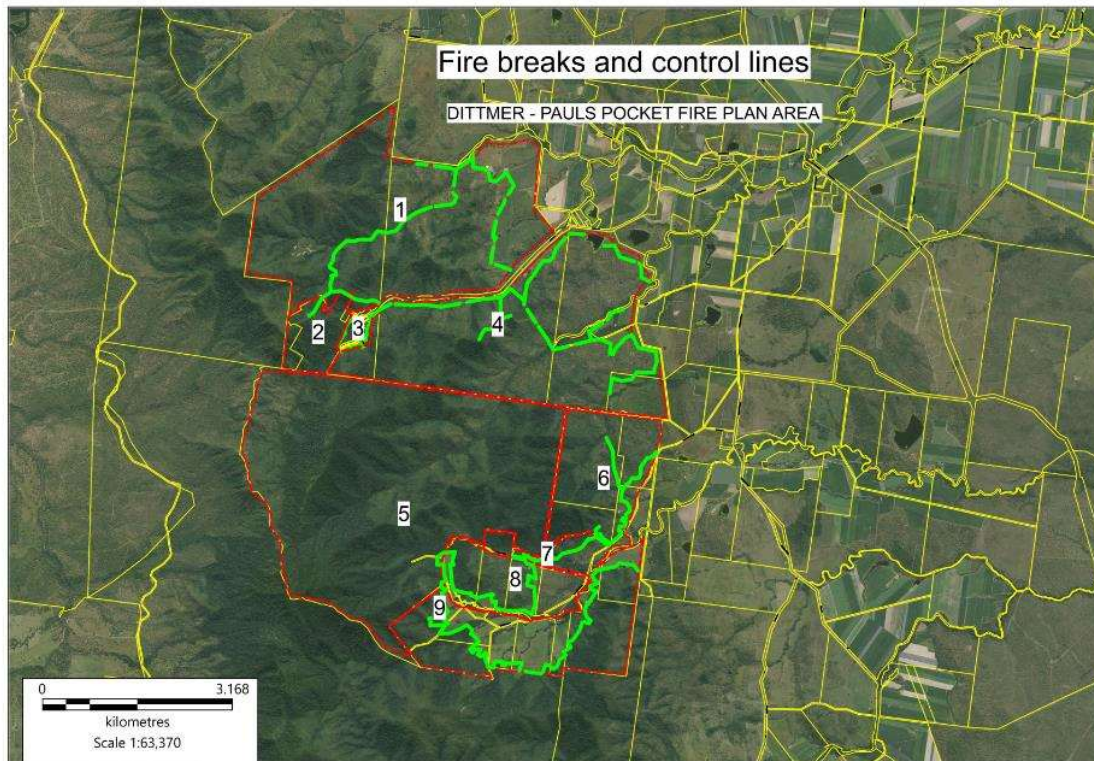
Bushfire Control lines and access tracks should be located along property boundaries and/or along the contour.



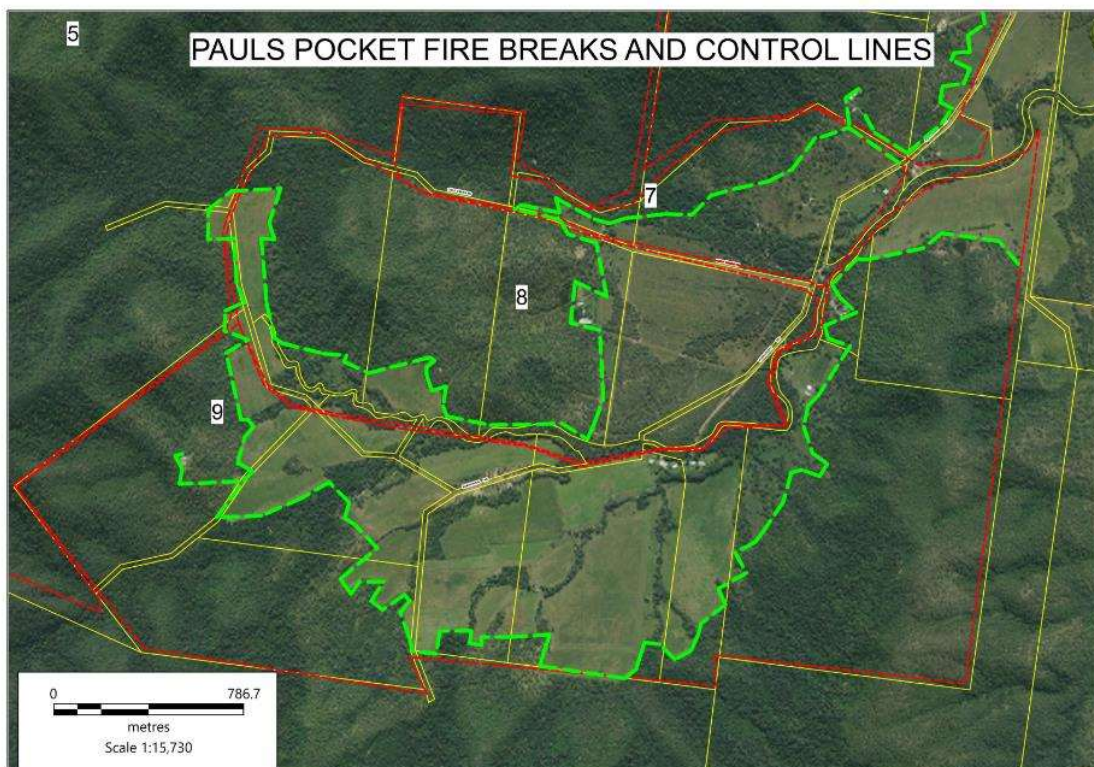
Map 4. Pauls Pocket-Dittmer area contours



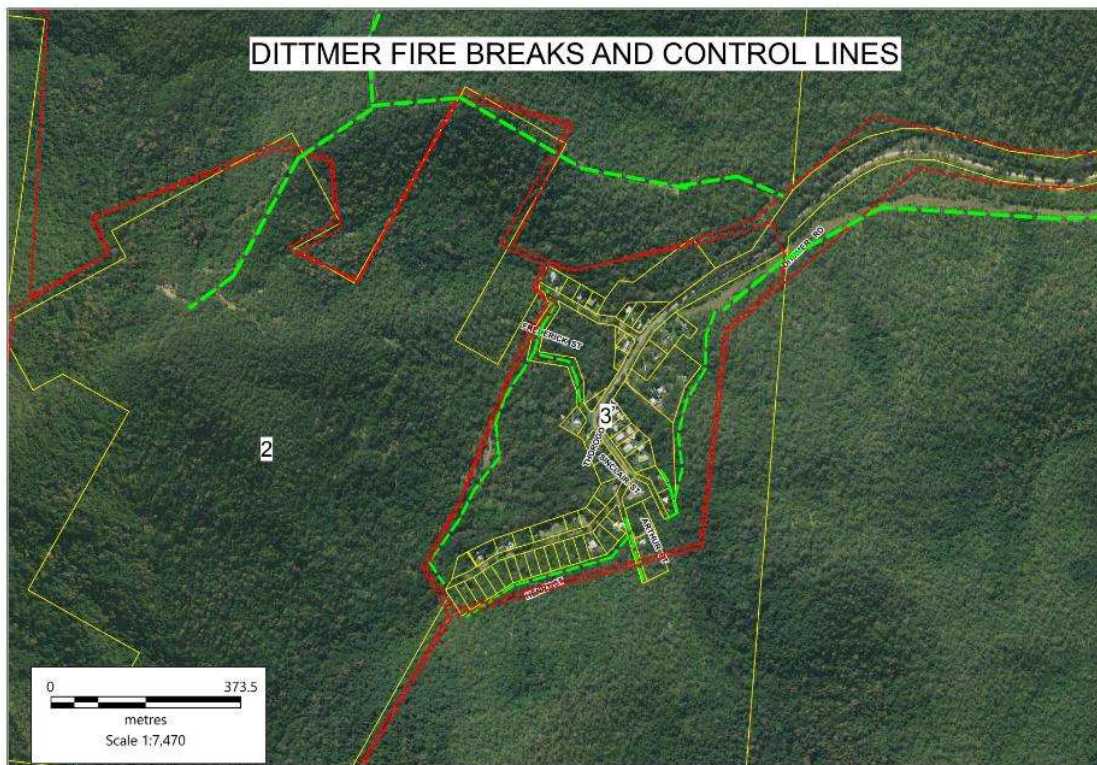
Map 6. Showing Fire management areas



Map 7. Dittmer-Pauls Pocket fire breaks and control lines (existing and future) (Green lines).



Map 8. Pauls Pocket current and future fire breaks and control lines (Green lines).



Map 9. Dittmer current and future fire breaks and control lines (green lines).

6.4. Objectives for bushfire hazard reduction burning

Source: NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

A successful low intensity hazard reduction burn will reduce fuel load so that it creates a safe defensible area around an asset. It should also minimise the impact from the burn on the environment.

In carrying out a burn, you need to consider:

- 1) The fuel load and structure
- 2) The effects on the environment and the community
- 3) The specific zone objectives
- 4) If there are adequate fire breaks and control lines
- 5) The season and weather conditions
- 6) The topography and fire behaviour
- 7) What lighting patterns to use
- 8) Conducting a test burn
- 9) What safety measures may be needed
- 10) Mopping up afterwards
- 11) If you need to report the results

6.5. Check list for hazard reduction burns

The following is a checklist of tasks and activities that should be followed prior to hazard reduction burns:

| No. | Task | √ |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Fuel load assessment conducted | |
| 2 | Bushfire fire hazard sufficient to warrant a hazard reduction burn | |
| 3 | Fire breaks and control lines are in good condition | |
| 4 | Burn plan developed – identifying where the burn will occur, timing and personnel availability | |
| 5 | Ensure adequate trained personnel are on hand for planned burn | |
| 6 | Fire permit gained for proposed burn plan | |
| 7 | Proposed hazard reduction burn is approved by Conway / Pauls Pocket-Dittmer fire brigade | |
| 8 | Community awareness plan is developed and activated prior to burn | |
| 9 | Bushfire stakeholders advised of hazard reduction burn timing | |
| 10 | Machinery and trucks are in good working order. Water available. | |
| 11 | Contingency plan developed in case fire escapes the target area | |
| 12 | Hazard reduction burn is undertaken in accordance with QFES guidelines | |
| 13 | Fire control personnel ensure fire is out before leaving fire control area. | |
| 14 | A brief account of the hazard reduction burn submitted to QFES and Council. | |

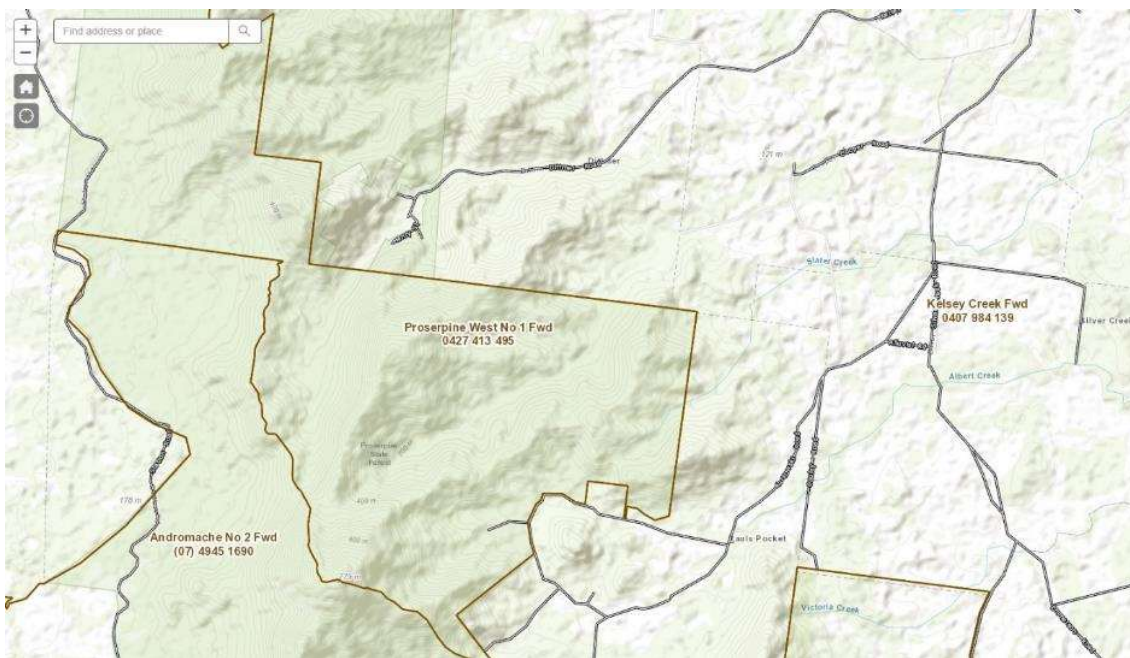
6.6. Stakeholder contacts

- Whitsunday Regional Council – Scott Hardy – 0428722236 / 49450245.
- QDNRM - Dan Burndred – 0472 847 894, Tim Koch - 0418 970 097
- QPWS – Ross Perry - 4962 5206
- Fire Warden – Proserpine West – 0427413495
- Fire Warden – Kelsey Creek - 0407984139

For more information regarding the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade:

https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw_finder.aspx

6.7. Map of rural fire areas



Map 7. Showing the rural fire areas and warden contact numbers.

6.8. Landholder bushfire planning checklist

The following checklist can be used by residential landholders to plan and manage their bushfire hazard:

| Task | Checked |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Structure | |
| Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters. | |
| Purchase and test the effectiveness of gutter plugs. | |
| Enclose open areas under decks and floors. | |
| Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes | |
| Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house. | |
| Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems. | |
| Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding. | |
| | |
| Access | |
| Display a prominent house or lot number, in case it is required in an emergency. | |
| Ensure there is adequate access to your property for fire trucks - 4 metres wide by 4 metres high, with a turn-around area. | |
| | |
| Vegetation | |
| Reduce vegetation loads along the access path. | |
| Mow your grass regularly. | |
| Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches). | |
| Trim low-lying branches two metres from the ground surrounding your home. | |
| Consider removing flammable trees near residential buildings (e.g. removal of eucalypt trees) and replace with non-flammable rainforest species. | |
| | |
| Personal | |
| Check that you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment. | |
| Relocate flammable items away from your home, including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture. | |
| Check the first aid kit is fully stocked. | |
| Make sure you have appropriate insurance for your home and vehicles. | |
| Find out if there is a nearby Neighbourhood Safer Place . | |
| Review and update your household Bushfire Survival Plan . | |
| | |
| Other | |
| Consider the location of water points and possible direction of bushfire threats. In rural residential areas ensure water tanks are more than half full in bushfire season. | |
| Keep swimming pool full of water. | |

Source: https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety/Pages/Prepare-for-bushfire-season.aspx

6.9. Vegetation clearing rules

Exemptions apply to some clearing activities permitted under other legislation, including the *Forestry Act 1959*, *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, *Electricity Act 1994*, *Electricity Regulation 2006* and *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Visit the [Department of Environment and Science website](#) for more information.

Exempt clearing work for fire management sourced from the Queensland government websites:

- You can undertake certain clearing activities to protect your property from bushfires without getting approval or notifying the Queensland government. These exemptions are summarised in the Table below.
- If you need to clear a wider area, you might be able to [clear using a vegetation clearing code](#) or [apply for a development approval](#).
- Firebreaks** are low-fuel areas located immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure (including a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose) that are cleared and maintained to slow or stop the progress of a fire, or to perform back-burning.
- Fire management lines** are roads, fence line clearings or tracks (including existing property tracks) used to access water for firefighting or divide the property for fuel reduction burning or back-burning.

| Purpose for clearing | Vegetation category | Clearing allowances |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fences roads and tracks | Least concern regional ecosystems | Clearing to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track to a maximum width of 10m |
| Fire management line | All | Clearing for a necessary for management line to a maximum width of 10m |
| Firebreaks | All | For a fire necessary to protect buildings and other structures (other than a fence line); to a width of up to 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation or 20m (which ever is the widest) |
| Hazardous fuel load reduction | All | Fuel reduction burns can be done under a permit issued by the local fire warden |
| Maintain existing infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to maintain existing buildings and other structures, fences, roads and watering points. |
| Risk to people and infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to remove or reduce imminent risk the vegetation poses to people or buildings and other structures. |

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/vegetation/disasters/fire/code>

https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/847800/vegetation-clearing-exemptions.pdf

Community Bushfire Management Plan: Mango Tree Estate (2020-2030)

Scott Hardy
Coordinator Natural Resource Management

Date: 22nd of January 2021



(Mango Tree Estate)



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Proserpine, 4800

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Mango Tree Estate Community Bushfire Management Plan is to document bushfire hazard and describe how this hazard will be managed for the next 10 years (2020-2030). This Bushfire Plan is specifically written for the Mango Tree Estate residents and stakeholders. The Mango Tree Estate fire plan area covers the land between Greta Creek to the north to ten-mile Creek to the south and the western boundary as the railway line and the eastern boundary is the Bruce Highway. This Plan covers 1210 ha with the Council owning or managing 0 ha. This Community Bushfire Plan covers approximately 26 rural residential properties and lots. The main land owner are private lot owners which hold lifestyle lots between 30 and 40ha.

The reason why this Bushfire Management Plan has been developed is the large number of residential and rural-residential dwellings occurring in and adjacent to high bushfire hazard areas in the localities of Mango Tree Estate. Fire management agencies are concerned that wild fires in the Mango Tree Estate area could threaten numerous residential properties.

The Mango Tree Estate Bushfire Plan seeks the following outcomes:

- Describe the extent of bushfire hazard.
- Describe the location of existing and potential fire control lines and fire breaks.
- List the roles and responsibilities for bushfire management.
- List the proposed schedule of bushfire mitigation tasks.

While this proposed Community Bushfire Management Plan provides guidelines on how the Mango Tree Estate bushfire hazard could be managed. Each landholder is responsible under legislation to manage their own bushfire hazard. The Council encourages landholders to discuss their bushfire planning and management with their neighbours.

The Council has developed this Community Bushfire Management Plan in consultation with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Reef Catchment, and representatives of the local Rural Fire Brigade. The information contained in this Bushfire Plan is based on data collected from stakeholders over recent years and information available on the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade website.

Acknowledgements

The Whitsunday Regional Council would like to thank the following stakeholders who have contributed to the Mango Tree Estate Community Bushfire Management Plan;

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
- Up River Rural Fire Brigade
- Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group

Document control

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Title | Mango Tree Estate Community Bushfire Management Plan |
| Council work unit | Natural Resource Management |
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| Version- 3 | 22 nd of January 2021 |

1. Introduction

The Mango Tree Estate area has been identified as having a high bushfire hazard due to the vegetation type, slope and aspect. The rural residential lots between Greta Creek and Ten-mile Creek is commonly referred to as Mango Tree Estate. The locality of Mango Tree Estate has a history of bushfire threatening properties. The rural locality has a moderate to high risk for loss of life and/or property if the bushfire hazard is not managed appropriately. There are numerous residential dwellings located in and adjacent to flammable vegetation. Fire Management agencies are concerned that wildfires in the Mango Tree Estate area could cause damage to a number of properties which are surrounded by unmanaged Eucalypt and tea-tree (*Melaleuca*) woodland.

The Council, together with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have defined an area in the Mango Tree Estate locality which has vegetation and topographic conditions which warrant more detailed community bushfire planning. The Mango Tree Estate Fire Plan area covers 26 rural residential lots and covers over 1210ha. The Whitsunday Regional Council owns or manages 0ha of land in this area. The Queensland government owns 0ha. The Mango Tree Estate Fire Plan area has been defined based on the likelihood of bushfires occurring and the residential lots which could be affected.

The purpose of this Community Bushfire Management Plan is to identify the actions required to reduce bushfire hazard in the Mango Tree Estate township and surrounding area for the next 10 years (2020-2030) (Figure 1). The objectives of this Plan include;

- Identify where fire lines are required to protect life and property from fire,
- Maintain an ecologically appropriate controlled burn program,
- Improve community awareness,
- Maintain coordination and communication between landowners,
- Description of a maintenance program to manage bushfire hazard and risk.

It is envisaged that this Community Bushfire Management Plan will be used as a communication tool to inform stakeholders and the community of the bushfire hazard within Mango Tree Estate and how it could be managed. Ultimately, each landholder will be responsible for managing bushfire hazard on their own land. The Council encourages a coordinated and cooperative approach to community bushfire hazard management.



Figure 1. The application area for the Mango Tree Estate Community Bushfire Management Plan.

2. Background

2.1. Land tenure and ownership

The Mango Tree Estate Community Bushfire planning area covers approximately 1210ha with 0ha being owned or managed by the Whitsunday Regional Council and 0 ha owned by the Queensland State government. There are 26 lifestyle lots which cover between 30 and 40ha.

2.2. Site description

2.2.1. Geology, landform and soils

The geology of the Mango Tree Estate area was mapped by the Queensland government in 1972. An extract of the Proserpine geology map is shown in figure 2. The undulating rises of the Mango Tree Estate area are predominantly formed on Tertiary sandstone sediments (To). The geology influences the fertility of the soils and also the type of vegetation which occurs.

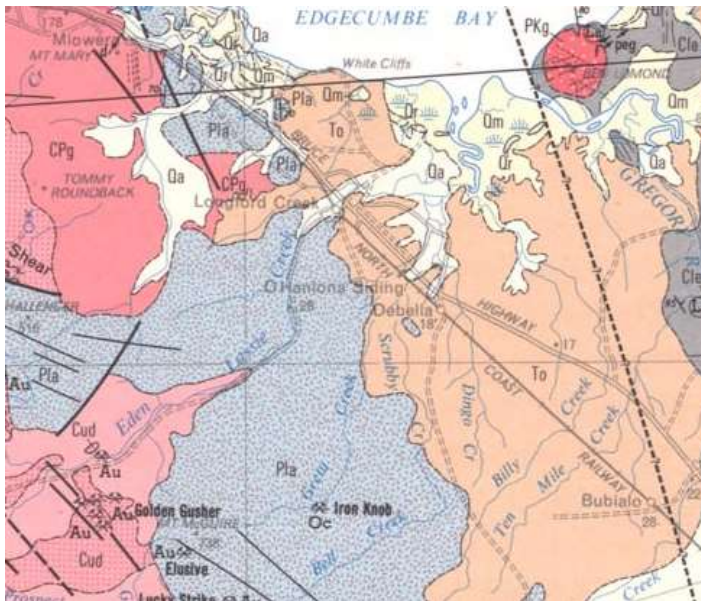


Figure 2. The geology map covering the Mango Tree Estate area (*Paine and Cameron, 1972*).

The soils of the Mango Tree estate area was mapped by Hardy (2003). The main soils in the Mango Tree estate area are sandy, dispersive duplex soils with low fertility.

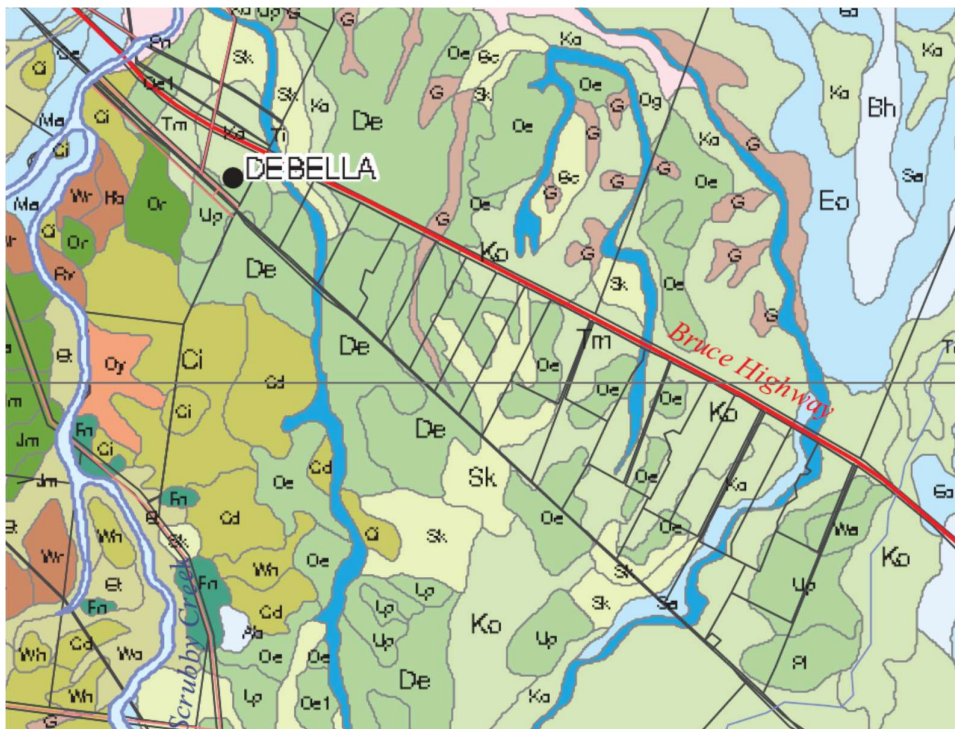


Figure 3. The soils of the Mango Tree estate area.

2.2.2. Vegetation

The vegetation of the Mango Tree Estate area has been mapped by the State government. The regional ecosystem map for the Mango Tree Estate area can be found in the appendix of this report. The geology, fertility of the soils and rainfall patterns influence the vegetation of the Mango Tree Estate area. The dominant vegetation surrounding the Mango Tree Estate area is open eucalypt forest and woodland. The dominant regional ecosystems are:

- Regional ecosystem 8.3.5. *Eucalyptus platyphylla* and/or *Lophostemon suaveolens* and/or *Corymbia clarksoniana* woodland on alluvial plains
- Regional ecosystem 8.5.1. *Corymbia clarksoniana* and/or *C. intermedia* open forest on Tertiary sand plains and rises including small areas of shale (mainly subregion 6)
- Regional ecosystem RE 8.3.3.. *Melaleuca leucadendra* and/or *M. fluviatilis* and/or *Casuarina cunninghamiana* +/- *Syncarpia glomulifera* open forest, on creek banks.
- Regional ecosystem Re 8.5.6. *Melaleuca viridiflora* +/- *Allocasuarina littoralis* woodland on Tertiary sand plains.

The regional ecosystem map for the Mango Tree Estate area can be found in the appendix.

2.3. Bushfire legislation and policy

2.3.1. Australia and Queensland

All levels of government have a responsibility and role in bushfire management. In 2014, the Council of Australian Governments approved the National Bushfire Management Policy Statement (National Forest Fire Management Group, 2014). The National Policy identifies Local government and other landholders having an important role in bushfire management and planning. The National Bushfire Policy identifies four main strategic objectives and 14 bushfire management goals. The four strategic National bushfire management objectives are:

- Effectively managing the land with fire
- Involved and capable communities
- Strong land, fire and emergency partnerships and capability
- Actively and adaptively managing risk

There is a legislative requirement under Common Law and the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* for Local Government and residents as owners and occupiers of land to prevent fires escaping from their land and damaging property (Tran and Peacock, 2002). Councils and other landholders have an obligation to manage their land responsibly to prevent the loss of life or property and reduce the 'human' impacts of bushfires. Landholders are also required however to achieve this and still maintain their obligations under other legislation. Obligations under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for example require local authorities to protect and conserve rare or threatened species, biodiversity and ecological processes.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* is the principle legislation that deals with lighting fires in the open in Queensland. The Act makes it illegal to light a fire without a 'Permit to Light Fire' issued by a fire warden.

The *Queensland Vegetation Management Act (1999)* regulates vegetation clearing. However, there are exemptions available to clear vegetation to develop and maintain fire breaks and fire control lines. The exemptions are found in the appendix of this report.

2.3.2. Whitsunday Regional Council

The Whitsunday Regional Council developed a Bushfire Management Policy and Bushfire Management Plan in 2018. The purpose of the Policy is to define Council's intention in bushfire management, planning and on-ground actions. The purpose of the Council's Bushfire Plan is to identify high risk Council lots for bushfire risk and outline a program of works to better manage bushfire risk on Council managed lots. The Council Bushfire Management Plan lists community education and awareness concerning bushfire hazard as an important action and outcome.

The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed a local law which includes the regulation of fires.

2.4. Bushfire hazard and risk

2.4.1. Bushfire hazard

Bushfire hazard refers to the conditions which could support the presence of a fire. There are a number of methods that can be used to assess bushfire hazard. One of the most commonly used bushfire hazard assessment tool is documented in the Queensland State Planning Policy 1/03. According to Risk Frontiers (2011) the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have used the SPP 1/03 bushfire hazard methodology and the Interface Zone (I Zone) methodology to identify bushfire hazard areas. The I-Zone is where the urban-rural residential land use meet flammable vegetation (Risk Frontiers, 2011).

More recently the CSIRO have developed a slightly different approach to determining and mapping bushfire hazard (Leonard, 2014). The methods developed by Leonard *et al.*, (2014) have been used to develop the current Queensland bushfire hazard mapping. The CSIRO method uses vegetation type, slope and estimated fuel load to allocate land to 20 Vegetation Hazard Classes.

The Queensland State Planning Policy bushfire hazard process involves the assessment of vegetation, slope and aspect. Scores are allocated to vegetation, slope and aspect. The bushfire attribute scores are then added to determine the total hazard score. The vegetation communities hazard assessment is shown in table 1, the slope assessment is shown in table 2 and the aspect assessment is shown in table 3. The classification of bushfire hazard is shown in table 4.

Table 1. Vegetation communities assessment table used to determine vegetation hazard score.

| Vegetation Communities | Fire behaviour | Hazard score |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wet sclerophyll forest, tall eucalypts (>30m), with grass and mixed shrub understorey | Infrequent fires under severe conditions, flame lengths may exceed 40m, floating embers attack structures for 1 hour, radiant heat and direct flame are destructive for 30 minutes. | 10 |
| Paperbark heath and swamps, eucalypt forest with dry-shrub ladder fuels. | Fire intensity depends on fuel accumulation, but can be severe, with flame lengths to 20m, spot fires frequent across firebreaks, radiant heat and direct flame for 15 minutes. | 8 |
| Grassy eucalypt and acacia forest, exotic pine plantations, cypress pine forests, wallum heath | Fire intensity may be severe with flame lengths to 20m, but less attack from embers | 6 |
| Native grasslands (ungrazed), open woodlands, canefields | Fast moving fires, available to fire annually to 4 years. Usually no ember attack, radiant heat for >10m, duration < 2minutes. | 5 |
| Intact acacia forests, with light grass to leaf litter, disturbed rainforests. | Fires infrequent, usually burn only under severe conditions, relatively slow fires, usually little ember attack. | 4 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Orchards, farmlands, kikuyu pastures | Fires very infrequent, slow moving, may be difficult to extinguish, frequent fire breaks. | 2 |
| Grazed grassland, slashed grass | Grazing reduces intensity and rate of spread of fire, duration < 2 minutes. | 2 |
| Desert lands (sparse fuels), mowed grass | Gaps in fuel, usually slow fire spread. | 1 |
| Intact rainforest, mangrove forest, intact riverine rainforest | Virtually fire proof. | 0 |

Table 2. The slope assessment table used to determine the slope hazard score.

| Slope | Hazard score |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Gorges and mountains (>30%) | 5 |
| Steep hills (20% - 30%) | 4 |
| Rolling Hills (10% to 20%) | 3 |
| Undulating (5% to 10%) | 2 |
| Plain (0% to 5%) | 1 |

Table 3. The aspect assessment table used to determine the aspect hazard score.

| Aspect | Hazard score |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| North to North-west | 3.5 |
| North – West to West | 3 |
| West to South | 2 |
| North to East | 1 |
| East to South and all land under 5% slope | 0 |

Table 4. The determination of bushfire hazard using the Queensland SPP 1/03 system.

| Total hazard score | Severity of bushfire hazard |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 13 or greater | High |
| 6 to 12.5 | Medium |
| 1 to 5.5 | Low |

Fuel load is a main contributor to bushfire hazard (Middelmann, 2007). There are a number of methods used to estimate, measure and assess fuel loads. Hines *et al.* (2010) have developed a system of measuring forest fuel loads in Victoria. The method developed by Hines *et al.*, (2010) for estimating fuel loads is based on separating the forest into fuel layers and then estimating or measuring the potential fuel within each of these layers. The amount of fuel contained in these layers is measured in terms of tonnes per hectare.

The Queensland Fire Emergency Service (QFES) have produced bushfire hazard rating maps for Queensland. Bushfire hazard is rated as either low, medium or high based on vegetation type, aspect, topography and climate. The QFES bushfire hazard rating maps are usually produced at a scale of 1:250,000 or 1:100,000. Bushfire hazard areas rated as low on the QFES maps mostly relate to rainforest areas, while high risk areas relate to Eucalypt and wattle areas. The bushfire hazard maps can be a useful guide to bushfire hazard and the likely risk of bushfire occurring in a locality. However, these bushfire hazard maps may not be accurate on properties less than 20ha. Land with a high or medium bushfire hazard rating should have some bushfire management plan or process in place.

2.4.2. Bushfire risk

Bushfire risk refers to the likely occurrence or frequency of a bushfire. Middlemann (2007) states that “the likelihood of bushfire hazard can be summarised in terms of the probability of a fire arriving at a point in the landscape and the intensity of the fire at that point”.

Risk can be increased due to a number of factors including a high bushfire hazard and proximity to ignition sources such as roadsides and populated areas. Bushfire planning and mitigation measures can reduce bushfire hazard and risk.

Local governments are involved in bushfire risk reduction measures such as the development of local laws regulating fires, development planning, development of disaster management plans and implementation of bushfire mitigation measures (Middlemann, 2010).

There are a number of methods used to measure risk. The NSW Rural Fire Service (2008) have developed a matrix to describe bushfire risk (Figure 4). The NSW Rural Fire Service risk matrix requires the determination of the likelihood of a bushfire occurring and the likely consequences.

| Consequence \ Likelihood | Minor | Moderate | Major | Catastrophic |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Almost certain | High | Very High | Extreme | Extreme |
| Likely | Medium | High | Very High | Extreme |
| Possible | Low | Medium | High | Very High |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | High |

Figure 4. The determination of bushfire risk (NSW Rural Fire Service 2008).

The likelihood of a bushfire occurring will depend largely on the bushfire hazard. The consequence of a bushfire occurring at a given location will depend on the environmental values and development present (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2008).

2.4.3. Mango Tree Estate bushfire hazard

The Queensland State government have mapped the bushfire hazard in the Mango Tree Estate area (Figure 5). The lifestyle blocks of the Mango Tree Estate have been mapped as having no bushfire hazard which does not reflect the fire history of the area. The majority of the regional ecosystem in this area is recognised by fire authorities and the Queensland herbarium as having a medium fire hazard.

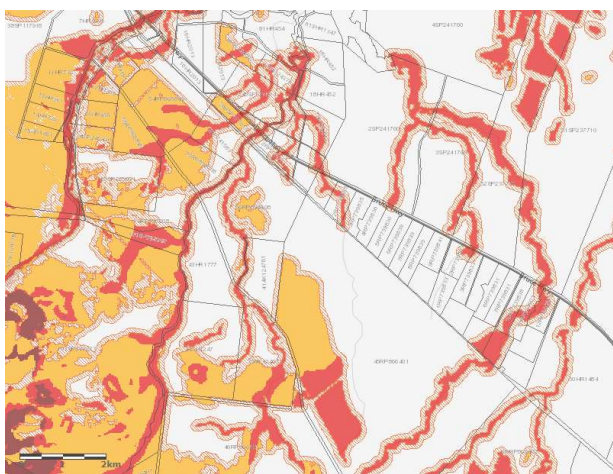


Figure 5. Showing the bushfire hazard in the Mango Tree Estate area (Red = High hazard, Orange = Medium hazard).

2.5. Bushfire management guidelines

2.5.1. Bushfire guidelines for regional ecosystems

The regional ecosystem characteristics can provide information which can guide bushfire management and planning. The Whitsunday Regional Council is partially included in the Central Queensland Coast and Northern Brigalow Belt bioregions. There are 83 individual regional ecosystems in the Central Queensland Coast bioregion and 172 regional ecosystems found in the Northern Brigalow Belt bioregion.

The type of vegetation community, its fire requirements and hazard can be used for bushfire planning. Bushfire management advice for a selected number of regional ecosystems are listed in table 5. The bushfire management advice provided by the Queensland State government for each regional ecosystem is found at:

<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/redd/resource/c77196df-7af9-4c09-ac88-256867c39806>

Table 5. Showing the bushfire management advice for selected regional ecosystems in the Pauls Pocket – Mango Tree Estate area.

| Bioregion | Regional ecosystem | Description | Bushfire advice |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CQC | 8.5.1 | Corymbia clarksoniana and/or C. intermedia open forest on Tertiary sand plains and rises including small areas of shale (mainly subregion 6) | SEASON: Late wet to early dry season, with occasional storm burns (Nov-Dec). Winter burns may be acceptable if conditions have not been appropriate for burning until winter. INTENSITY: Mainly low, but with some moderate and high. INTERVAL: 3-7 years. STRATEGY: Apply mosaic burns across the landscape at a range of intervals. At a fine scale attempt to create a spatial mosaic with multiple burn patches 20 ha or less; aim for a 30-50% burnt area. At the bioregion scale do not burn more than 20% within the same year. ISSUES: Lack of fire promotes overabundant pioneer rainforest species. Too frequent fire or inappropriately timed fire promotes weeds, including high-biomass grasses that lead to inappropriate fires. At least 7 years between burns is required to permit obligate seeding shrubs to reproduce. |

| | | | |
|-----|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CQC | 8.5.3 | Eucalyptus drepanophylla +/- Corymbia clarksoniana, +/- E. platyphylla +/- C. dallachiana +/- Melaleuca viridiflora woodland on broad low rises and gently sloping Tertiary sand plains | ISSUES: Generally, drier climate and low fertility precludes large fuel accumulations. Any fire applied should be considered experimental. |
| CQC | 8.5.6. | Melaleuca viridiflora +/- Allocasuarina littoralis woodland on Tertiary sand plains | SEASON: Late wet to early dry season, with occasional storm burns. INTENSITY: Low to moderate with most burns moderate. INTERVAL: 6-10 years. STRATEGY: Apply mosaic burns across the target area; aim for 40-60% of area burnt. No more than 20% of Melaleuca communities should be burnt within the bioregion in any one year. ISSUES: Presence of high biomass grasses, lantana and rubbervine can increase fire severity and/or shade ground layer plants making burning difficult. Peat layers can be vulnerable in drier months; burn when peat layer water logged. |

2.5.2. Other regional fire management guidelines

The Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group together with the Clarke Connors Range Bush Fire Consortium developed fire management guidelines for the Central Queensland coast region (Reef Catchments, 2009). The fire guidelines have been developed for 12 landscape types. For each of the 12 landscape types recommendations are made for fire frequency, fire intensity, season and whether mosaic burns are required.

The purpose of the guidelines is to reduce unplanned burns (wild fires). The landscape types and the recommended guidelines are shown in table 6.

Table 6. Clarke - Connors range fire management guidelines.

| Landscape type | Fire frequency | Fire intensity | Preferred season for hazard reduction | Mosaic burning |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mangroves and estuaries | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Beaches and foreshores | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Hind dunes | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Riverine and wetlands | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Alluvial flat country | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Grassy woodlands and open forests | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Tall wet eucalypt forests | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Eucalypt forest and woodlands on hills | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 25% |
| Rainforest and vine thickets | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Island and rocky headlands | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |

The Queensland State government have developed Planned Burn Guidelines for Central Queensland Coast Bioregion of Queensland (DNPRSR, 2012). The planned burn guidelines are used to plan and implement prescribed burns in National Parks and State land. The State government guidelines are also applicable to Council owned and managed bushland lots.

2.6. Whitsunday bushfire management planning framework

The bushfire management and planning structure and workflow between organisations is reflected in figure 6. The Whitsunday Regional Council has a Bushfire Management Policy and a Bushfire Management Plan to guide the management of bushfire hazard and risk on Council managed lots.

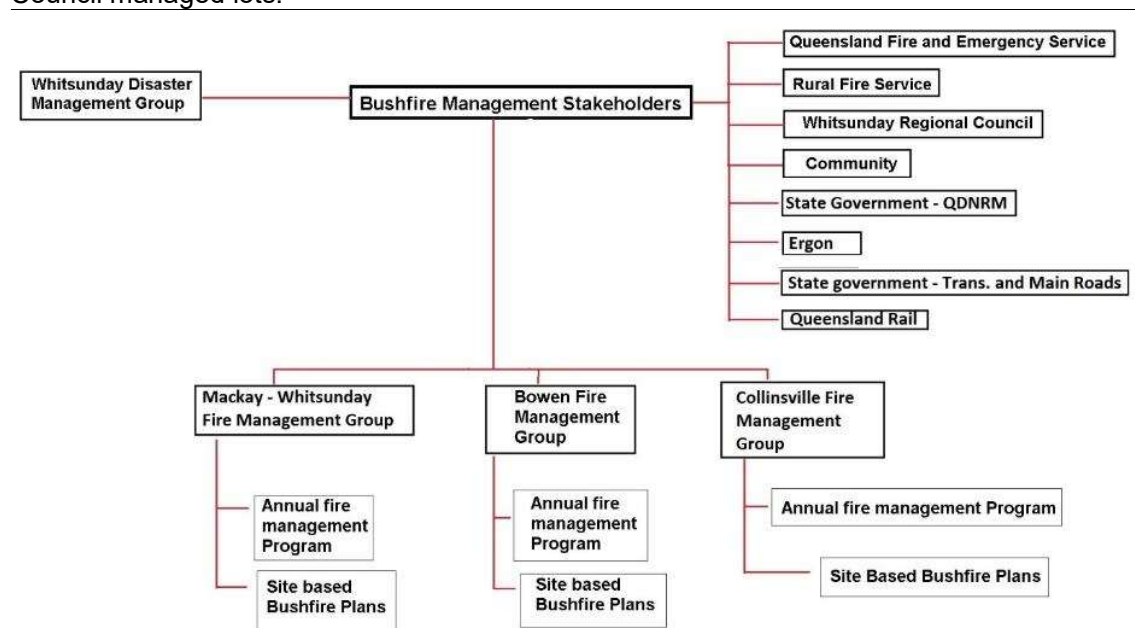


Figure 6. The bushfire management and planning framework.

2.7. Bushfire mitigation and management strategies

There are a number of strategies that can be undertaken to reduce bushfire hazard and risk. Table 7 lists the bushfire risk factors and some of the mitigation measures that can be used to reduce the occurrence of bushfires.

Table 7. Common bushfire mitigation strategies.

| Bushfire Factor | Mitigation strategy or measure |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Litter build up from Eucalypt vegetation communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a permit to light fire from the local fire warden to reduce fuel loads. Liaise with a local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake a fuel reduction burn. Subsequent burns may need to be conducted every 3 years. Clear juvenile gum tree samplings from areas near the house and property. Gum trees (such as Iron barks and Blue gums) should be removed from within 30 m of the house and properties. This may require an application to Council for permission. If in doubt contact the Council for advice. |
| Grass build up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass species such as Guinea grass (<i>Megathyrus maximus</i>) respond well to fire. This species needs to be chemically controlled, kept short through mowing or slashing, or grazed. Revegetate areas with rainforest species to shade out grass and therefore reduce fuel loads. Grass should be kept to a minimal height around houses and property using mowing, brush cutting or use of approved herbicides depending on site conditions. Establish separation zones between buildings and grassy fuel by installing hard areas e.g. paving and gravel etc. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aspect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northerly aspects are worse for fires. The siting or positioning of houses on a property should consider aspect. The head of gullies should also be avoided East to south facing slopes generally have a low hazard rating. |
| Slope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updraughts assist fire movement upslope. There should be a sufficient distance down slope of houses and properties that are free of fire prone vegetation. Slopes above 30% have a higher hazard score opposed to flat to undulating land. Installation of hard areas of gravel and paving may be necessary. To reduce erosion on steep slopes, these areas could be revegetated using rainforest shrubs or low growing grasses that are easily controlled and are less flammable. |
| Climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot dry climates assist fire. Beware of climatic conditions that increase fire risk severity such as the dry season in the Whitsunday's, especially between the months of July and December. |
| Proximity to land uses that use fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce spread of fire, provide access for fire fighters, a secure line from which to burn from or back burn from. Sugarcane land has a moderate to high bushfire risk |
| Vegetation communities that have a high fire risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce the spread of fire. The SPP recommends that perimeter roads be constructed that are cleared for 20 m AND comply with local government standards. Fire maintenance trails should only be accepted if it is not practicable to provide firebreaks in the form of a road due to topographic conditions or vegetation constraints. The construction of the fire breaks should consider plants protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act (1992)</i> or communities protected under the Vegetation Management legislation. Site the house in the lowest risk area on the property. For lots greater than 2500m², buildings and structures should be set back from hazardous vegetation by at least 1.5 times the height of the canopy vegetation (particularly if they are Eucalypt) or a minimum of 10 m. Retention of rainforest in drainage lines and creeks will assist in reducing bushfire risk. Design subdivisions without cul-de-sacs and provide access for a conventional drive vehicle (e.g. fire engine). |

2.8. Previous bushfire management

This Bushfire Plan is the first formal Bushfire Plan for the Mango Tree Estate area. The QFES and local rural fire brigade report planned and unplanned bushfires in the area over the last 20 years.

The following is a brief summary of previous planned and un-planned burns in the Mango Tree Estate area:

- Mango Tree Estate – Greta Creek northern section – October 2019 (unplanned) - 274ha (see appendix).
- Mango Tree Estate – Greta Creek northern section – approximately 2014 (unplanned).

2.9. Community consultation

The Whitsunday Regional Council placed the Mango Tree estate Community Bushfire Management Plan out for community comment from the 14th of September to the 15th of November 2020. There was one on-line community meeting which was held on the 6th of October. The main discussion points from the meeting were:

- Four people attended the meeting.
- One Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff attended.
- One property owner attended the on-line meeting.

- The road to Billy's Creek acting as a firebreak, but the nearby paddocks are not stocked or grazed and so there is a fire hazard.
- Concern after the 2019 fire is the area along the Bruce Highway road verge, between the Prawn farm and Billy's Creek, which is high vegetation and fuel load.
- Possible removal of trees in the Bruce highway road reserve.
- Developing strategies for landowners on private property.
- The strategy outlines planned burns in the Mango Creek area every 5 -10 years,
- The creek vegetation is flammable. Creeks can be a fire 'corridor'.
- Storm burns were discussed.
- More training for property owners would be appreciated in hazard management including how to safely do planned burns.
- The ultimate aim being for all property owners to have their own bushfire plan.
- There was a general discussion around the nearby prawn farm and confirmed they have significant fire breaks around their infrastructure.

3. Management Plan

3.1. Bushfire Plan goals

The goals of this Bushfire Management Plan are:

- To protect life and property as a priority then ensure the bushfire management practises maximise biodiversity values.
- To ensure all stakeholders support a common bushfire management direction.
- To pro-actively manage the bushfire hazard within and surrounding Mango Tree Estate.
- To develop and maintain good relationships between the stakeholders and landholders and encourage cooperative approaches to manage bushfire hazard in the area.

3.2. Stakeholder general roles and responsibilities

The general roles and responsibilities for bushfire management, planning and mitigation are summarised in table 8.

Table 8. The main tasks for each stakeholder.

| Task | Council | Rural Fire | QFES | QPWS and QDNRM | Landholder |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|------------|------|----------------|------------|
| Legal control of the fire | | | | | √ |
| Conduct hazard reduction burns | | √ | | | √ |
| Applying for permits | | | | | √ |
| Supervising the hazard reduction burn | | √ | | | √ |
| Informing the community | | √ | | | √ |
| Monitoring fuel loads | | | | | √ |
| Maintaining the fire breaks | | | | | √ |
| Developing and updating the bushfire plan | √ | √ | √ | | √ |
| Reporting hazard reduction burns | | √ | | | √ |
| Regulating and control of illegal dumping | √ | | | | √ |
| Manage accumulation of green waste | | | | | √ |

3.3. Bushfire management areas and mitigation measures

The landscape of the Mango Tree Estate area needs to be prioritised in terms of bushfire management and planning. Areas close to residential areas need a higher level of monitoring and fuel management than areas further away. The Victorian state government has developed a system of prioritising bushfire management activities (DSE, 2012). The Victorian government have developed fire management zones as a means of prioritising land areas for bushfire management:

- APZ – Asset Protection zone - Areas close to residential areas – high priority for management.
- BMZ – Bushfire Moderation zone – aim to achieve asset protection and achieve some ecological outcomes.
- LMZ - Landscape management zone – planned burns are primarily undertaken for fuel reduction to maintain ecological processes.
- PBEZ - Planned burning exclusion zone – no fire permitted.

In theory, each of the 26 landholders should have a bushfire management plan for their block of land. However, due to the landscape, vegetation types and landform, fire may be better managed across a number of properties. If boundary fences are ignored, and creek areas and well defined roads used as fire breaks, then a different number of fire management areas can be defined. One issue is whether the creek line vegetation are highly flammable or whether they act as “green breaks”.

There are 12 fire management areas identified for the Mango Tree Estate Fires Area. The bushfire management areas have been classified for bushfire hazard (Figure 8). Most of the woodland area have a bushfire hazard rating of “Medium”.

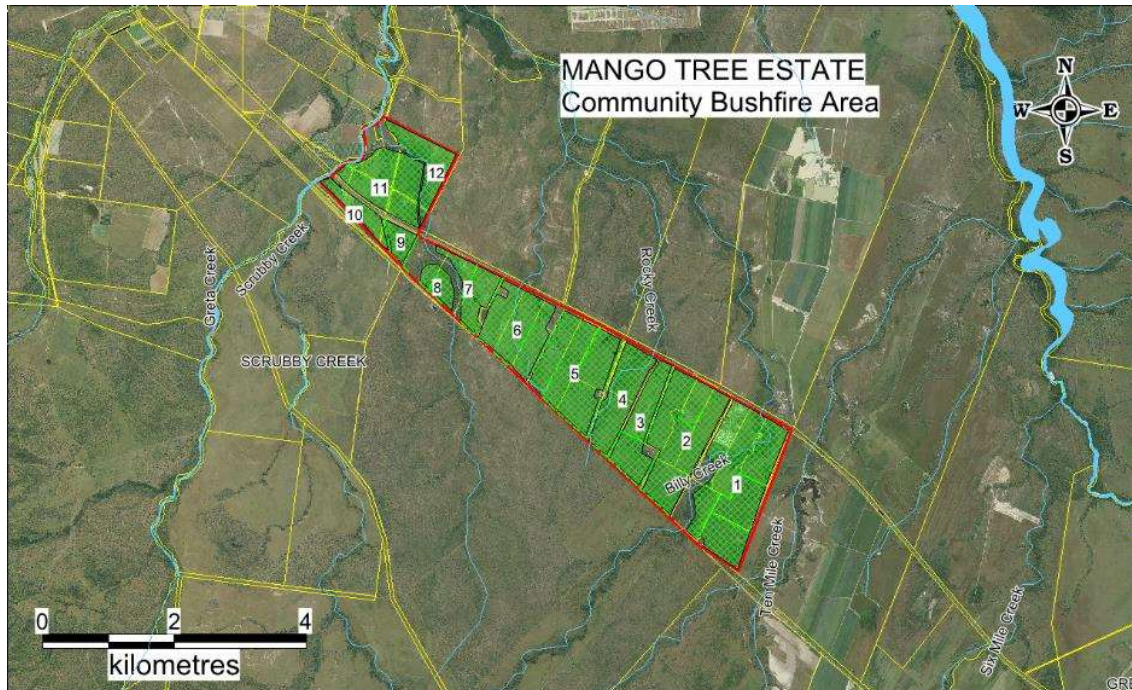


Figure 7. The Mango Tree Estate fire management areas.

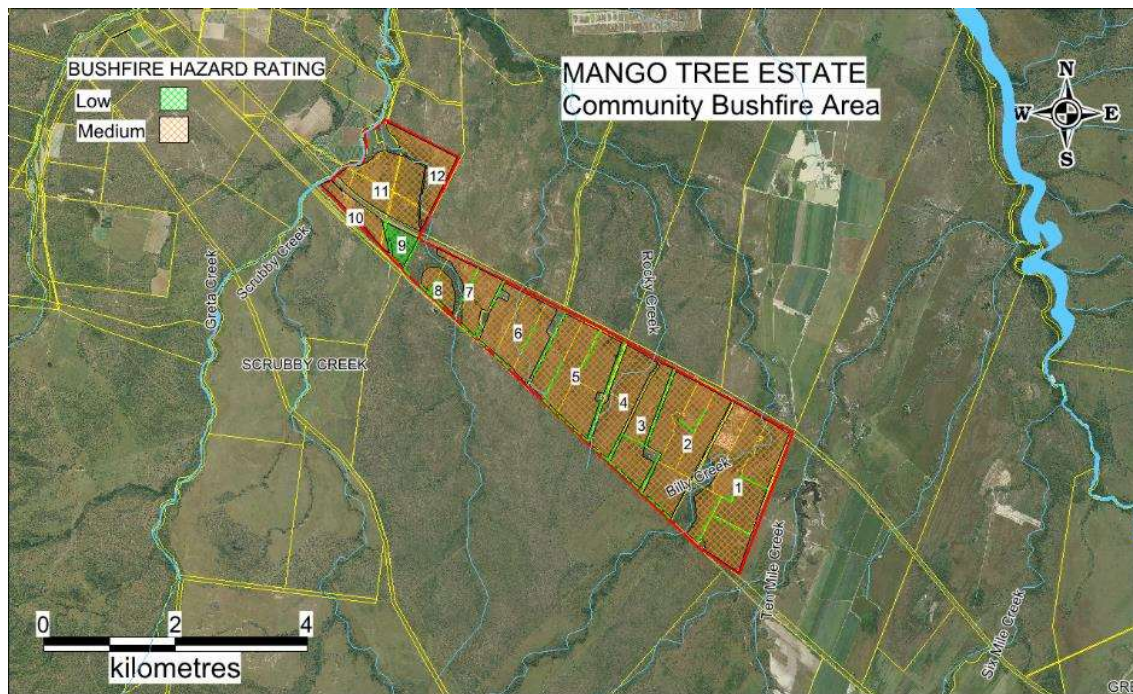


Figure 8. Revised Bushfire hazard rating

The priority for bushfire management activities have been reviewed to reflect the bushfire hazard rating. It is noted that there are individual residential properties on most of the 26 lots. In many cases there is cleared around the residential houses. It is also noted that the dominant wind direction is from the south-east, consequently, if a wild-fire did occur it is unlikely to affect all lots. The majority of the Mango Tree Estate area has been mapped as “Landscape Management Zone” (LMZ) (figure 9). The LMZ areas are land units where planned burns may be necessary to reduce fuel loads and maintain ecological processes. The fire management areas can be further summarised as:

- Red = APZ (high hazard and high priority),
- Orange = BMZ (medium hazard and medium priority)
- Yellow = LMZ (medium hazard and low - medium priority)
- Green = PBEZ (low-medium hazard and lower priority).

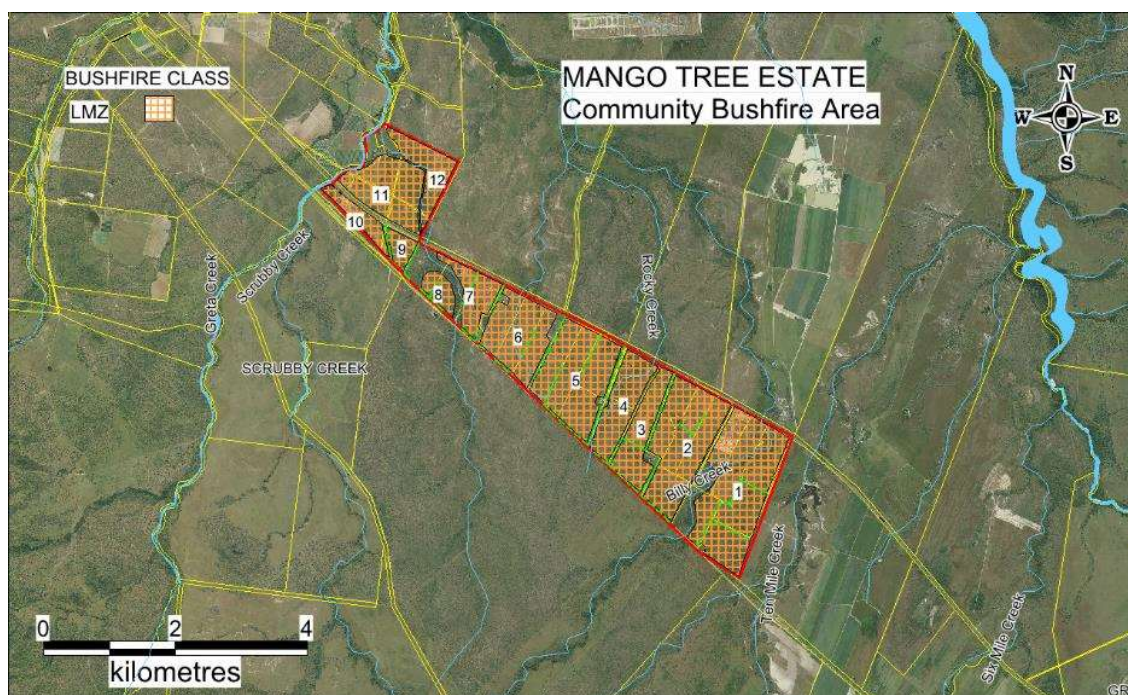


Figure 9. The fire management areas and fire management class.

The LMZ management units have the potential for wildfires to threaten residential properties. The bushfire hazard, risk to property and possible bushfire mitigation measures are suggested in table 9.

Table 9. The bushfire hazard and mitigation measures for fire management units in the Mango Tree Estate area.

| Fire area | Hazard | Mitigation options |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 2 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 3 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 4 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 5 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 6 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 7 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 8 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 | Low bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 10 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |
| 11 | Medium bushfire hazard. Risk of wildfire starting near the railway line or near residential house. | Create and maintain fire breaks between the lots and at strategic locations so that planned burns can be managed. |

3.4. Hazard reduction burning frequencies and methods

The prescribed burn program for Mango Tree Estate area will be programmed around the site vegetation, seasonal fuel load and timed for optimum climatic conditions. The timing of prescribed burns will be based on recommendations as given at the time of annual hazard assessments. The frequency of prescribed burns will be guided by the recommendations set out in "Fire Management Guidelines" by Reef Catchments 2009, recommendations from the Queensland government and from site specific annual fuel load assessments. Ultimately, it will be up to individual landholders to decide whether they are willing and prepared to undertake planned burns.

The fire management areas will also be used to determine hazard reduction burn frequencies. The proposed planned burn frequencies for each vegetation type is shown in table 10. The frequency of hazard reduction burns for the Mango Tree Estate orange areas (LMZ) will be generally every 4 to 7 years.

Table 10. Vegetation communities and hazard reduction burn frequencies.

| Vegetation community | RE | Hazard reduction burn frequency | Fire management areas | Fire Zones |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Corymbia clarksoniana and/or C. intermedia open forest on Tertiary sand plains and rises including small areas of shale (mainly subregion 6) | 8.5.1 | 3-7 years | 1,2, | LMZ |
| Eucalyptus drepanophylla +/- Corymbia clarksoniana, +/- E. platyphylla +/- C. dallachiana +/- Melaleuca viridiflora woodland on broad low rises and gently sloping Tertiary sand plains | 8.5.3 | 5-10 years | 7,8,9, | LMZ |
| Melaleuca viridiflora +/- Allocasuarina littoralis woodland on Tertiary sand plains | 8.5.6 | 5-10 years | 3,4,5,6, | LMZ |

3.5. Schedule of bushfire management and mitigation tasks

The schedule of bushfire management and maintenance tasks is summarised in table 11.

Table 11. Schedule of bushfire management actions.

| No | Task | Who is responsible | Timing |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Assess fuel loads | Landholders and Rural Fire Brigade | May |
| 2 | Develop an annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade and residents | June |
| 3 | Approve the annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade | June |
| 4 | Slash fire lines/fire breaks | Landholders | May and October |
| 5 | Inspect condition of fire lines | Landholders | May |
| 5 | Earthworks for fire lines/breaks | Landholders | As required |
| 6 | Coordinate planned burns | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | As per approved plan |
| 7 | Community awareness | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | Use of media in May |
| 8 | Seeking fire permit | Landholders | AS required |

The draft schedule of planned burns for the various fire management areas are shown in table 12.

Table 12. The proposed timing of future planned burns for Mango Tree Estate management areas.

| Fire Management area | Description | Zone | Planned burn frequency | 2019 (unplanned burn areas) | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | Mango Tree Estate – Ten-mile | LMZ | 3-7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Mango Tree Estate – Ten-mile | LMZ | 3-7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Mango Tree Estate – Ten-mile | LMZ | 5-10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Mango Tree Estate – central | LMZ | 5-10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Mango Tree Estate – central | LMZ | 5-10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Mango Tree Estate – central | LMZ | 5-10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Mango Tree Estate – central | LMZ | 5-10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Mango Tree Estate | LMZ | 5-10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Mango Tree Estate – Greta Ck | LMZ | 5-10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Mango Tree Estate – Greta Ck | LMZ | 3-7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Mango Tree Estate – Greta Ck | LMZ | 3-7 | | | | | | | | | |

The development of fire breaks and fire control lines are a landholder's responsibility. Ideally the breaks should be created along property boundaries, or along contours, or between different forest types (e.g. rainforest- Eucalypt forest). Fire breaks or control line tracks located on steep slopes will be subject to erosion and will cost more to maintain. The existing and proposed fire control lines and fire breaks are located in the appendix of this report.

3.6. Fire fighting – response and resources

The responsibility of responding to fires in the Mango Tree Estate area is the primary role of the Proserpine West and Dryander rural fire brigade. The Proserpine West and Dryander rural fire brigade both have slip-on units for 4wd vehicles.

The water for fighting unplanned fires is sourced from:

- Rural fire brigade –slip-on units for 4wd.
- Small rural dams in the Mango Tree Estate area (see appendix).
- Rural residential water tanks and swimming pools.

4. Conclusion

The Mango Tree Estate Community Bushfire Management Plan has been developed to document stakeholder responsibilities, guide mitigation measures and communicate the main bushfire priorities for this area. The Mango Tree Estate area is divided up into 11 fire management areas based on land within similar land use and bushfire hazard. Each fire management unit has a set of recommendations to reduce the bushfire hazard and risk to property.

This Plan was placed on public notice from September to November 2020. During the public consultation period the following were the main points noted:

- More training is required for land managers on bushfire hazard management.
- How to assist landholders to fund the machinery needed to put in fire breaks and control lines and maintain them.
- The need for property bushfire plans.
- There is a need for property bushfire plans which are shared between neighbours.
- Some landholders are not sure how to coordinate planned burns – who and how to contact people to assist.
- This area would benefit from an annual community meeting to develop agreed planned burn areas and get neighbours assisting with planned burns to reduce fuel loads and hazard.

The intension of this Bushfire Plan is to enable bushfire management mitigation to occur under agreed conditions and to maximise community safety whilst recognising the importance of the areas ecological values.

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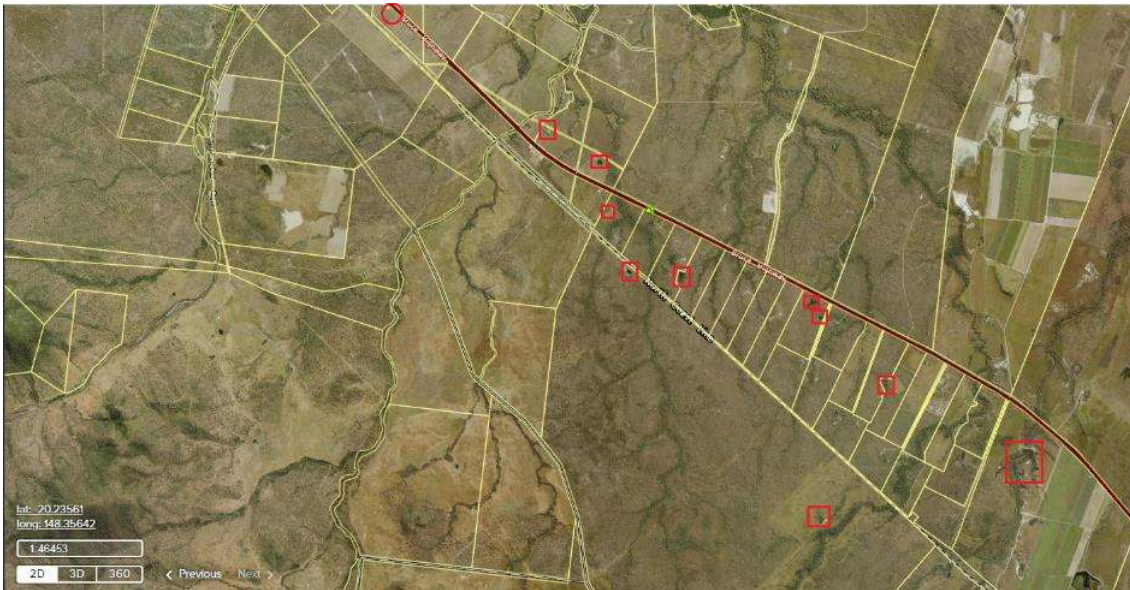
Tran, C & Peacock, C (2002) Fire Management Strategic Manual; Guidelines for planning and implementing a council or shire wide fire management strategy. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Queensland Australia.

6. Appendix

6.1. Hydrant and water resources map

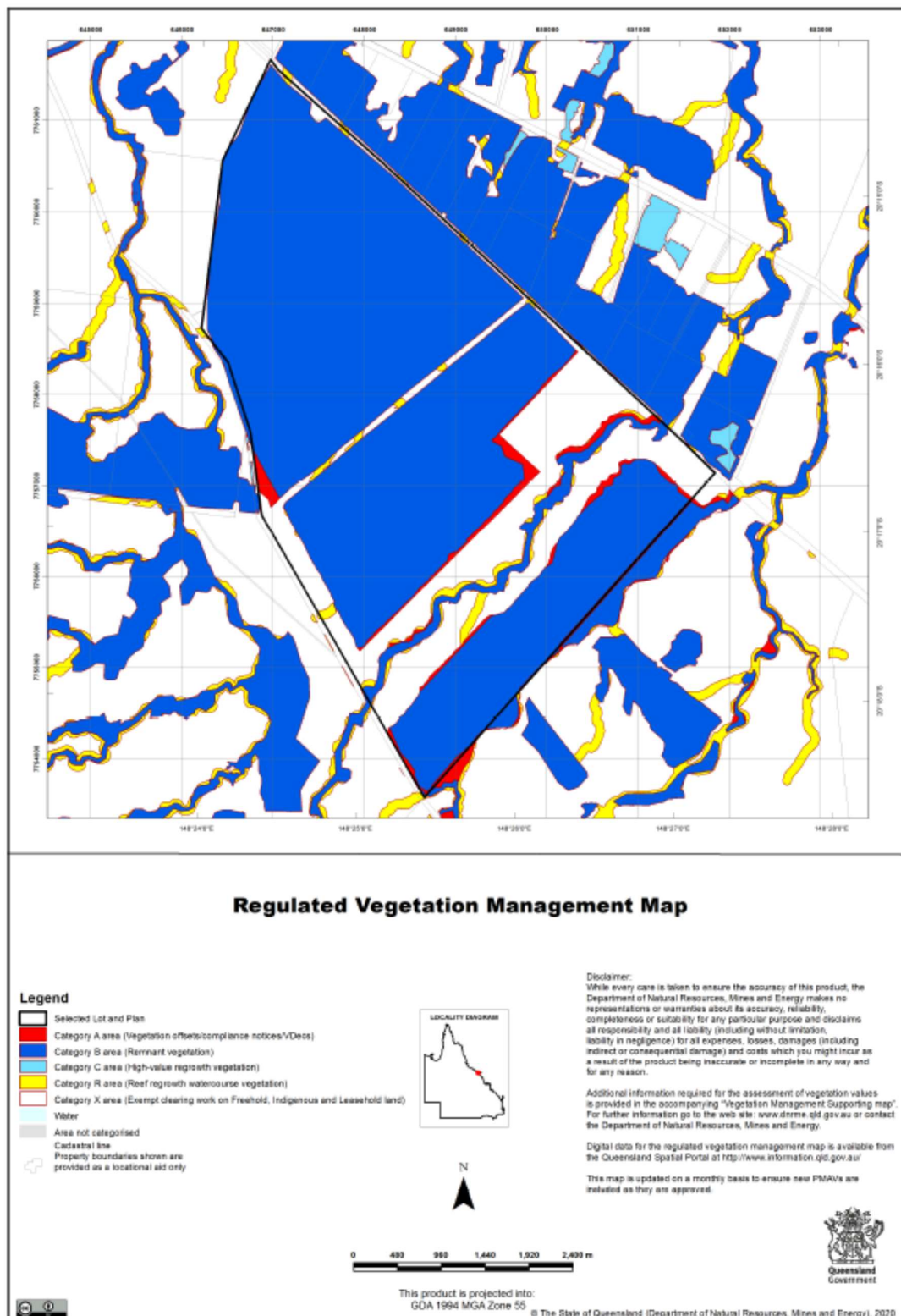
Hydrant - No map

*(Note – most of Mango Tree Estate does not have town water, hence no water hydrants)
A hydrant could be developed at the Eden Lassie Creek petrol station, approximately 1km north of the fire management area.*

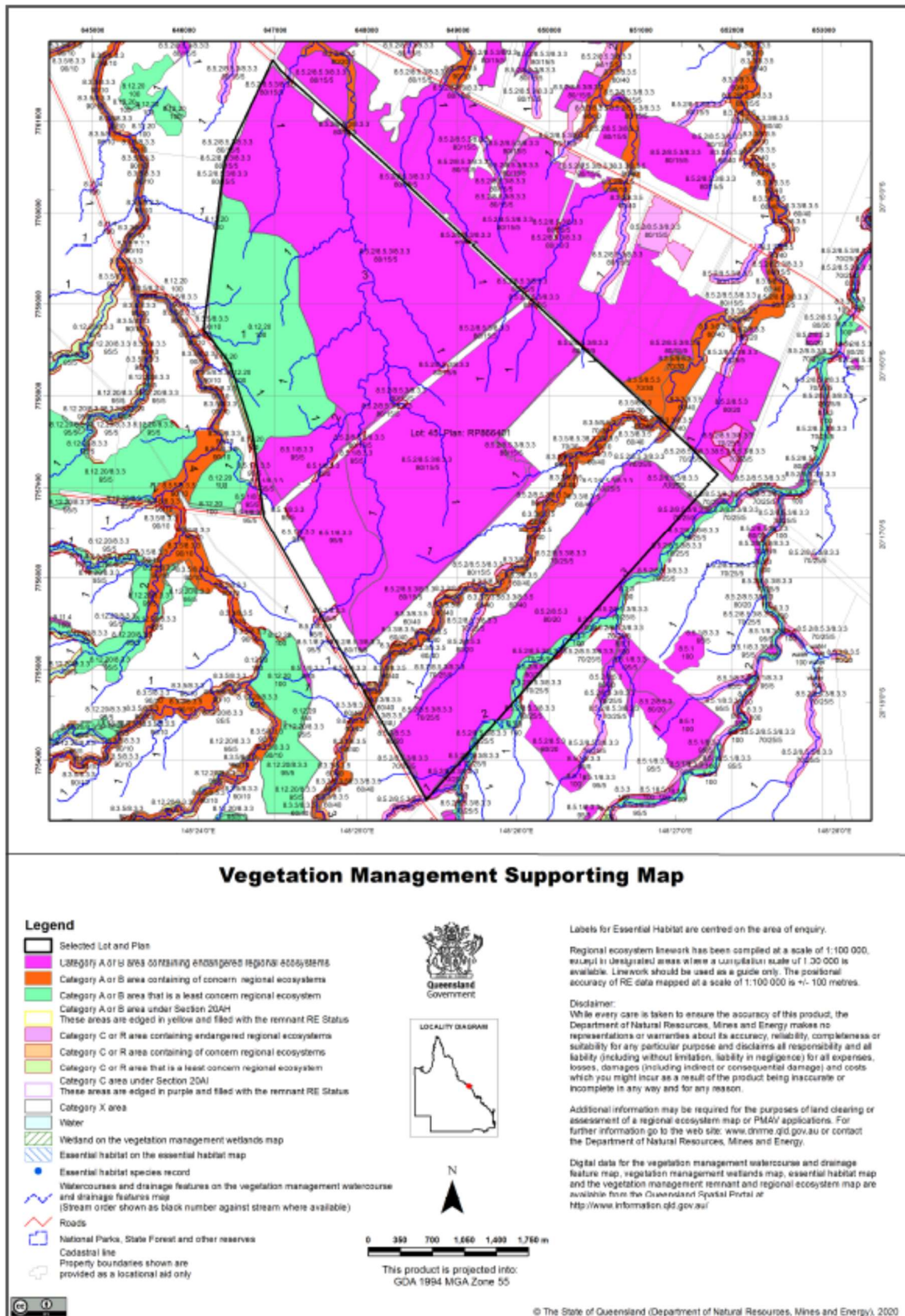


Map 1. Location of rural dams

6.2. Regional Ecosystem map



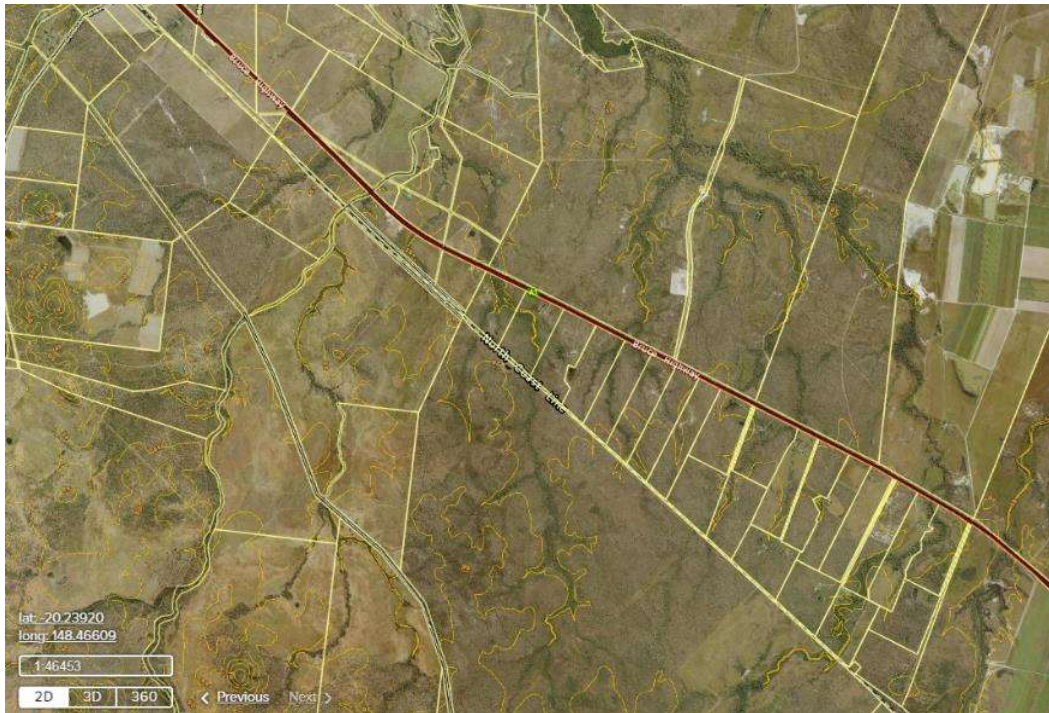
Map 2. Regional ecosystem map - regulated map.



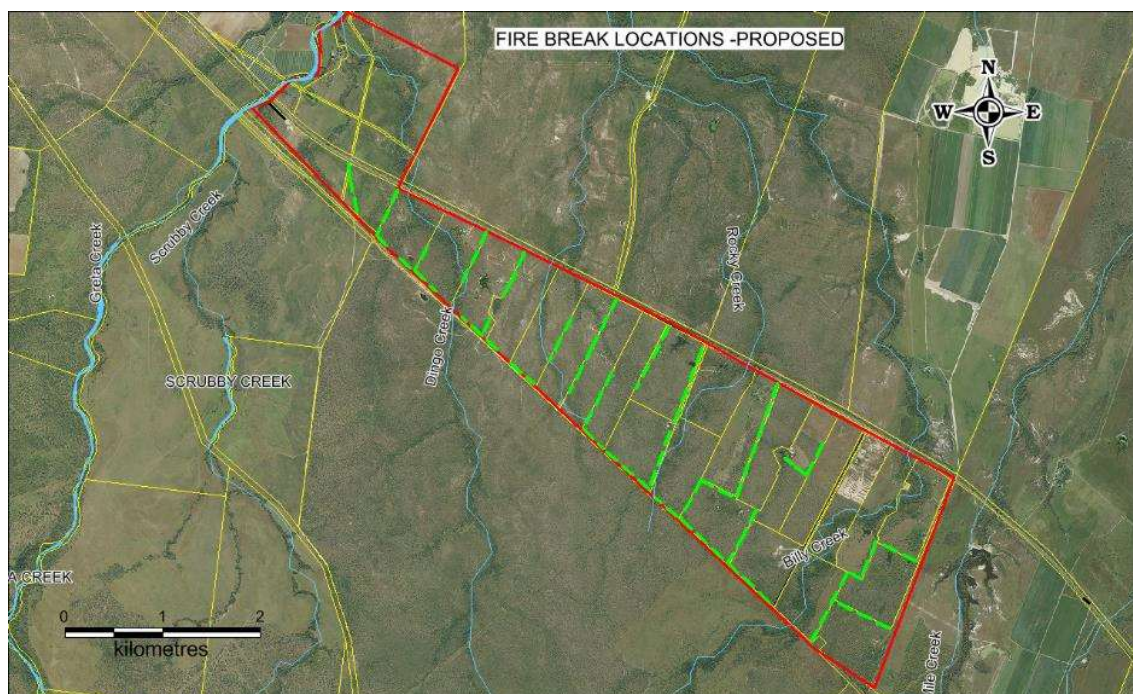
Map 3. Extract of the regional ecosystem map.

6.3. Bushfire management control lines and fire breaks

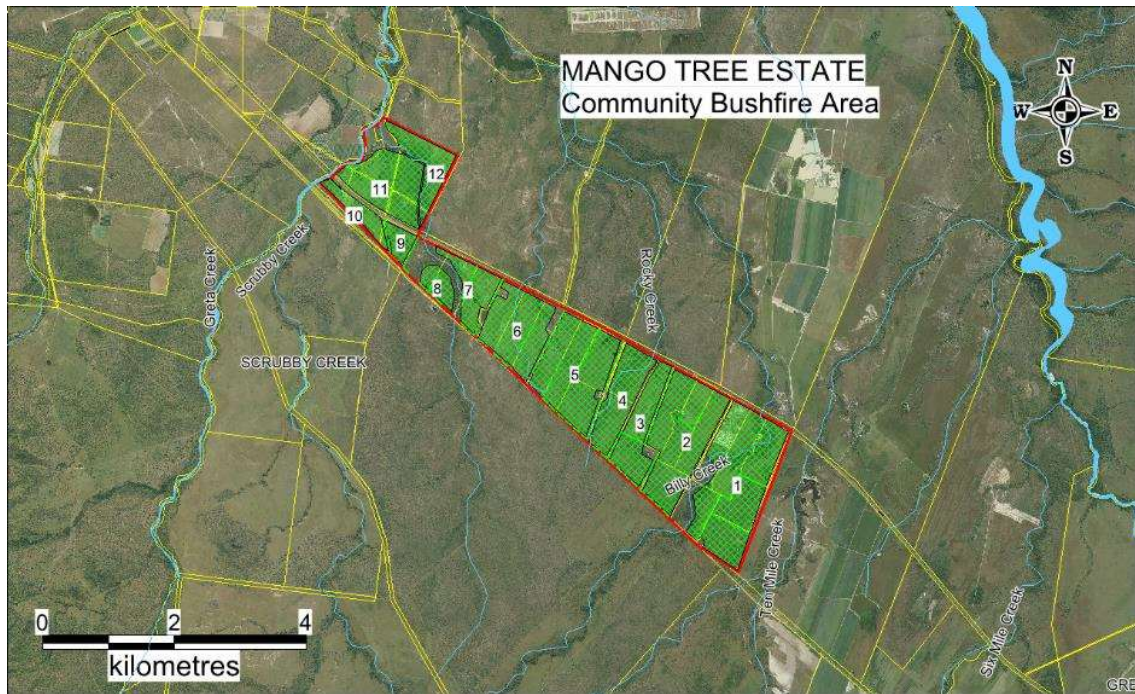
Bushfire Control lines and access tracks should be located along property boundaries and/or along the contour.



Map 4. Mango Tree Estate area contours



Map 5. Mango Tree Estate fire breaks



Map 6. Showing Fire management areas

6.4. Objectives for bushfire hazard reduction burning

Source: NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

A successful low intensity hazard reduction burn will reduce fuel load so that it creates a safe defensible area around an asset. It should also minimise the impact from the burn on the environment.

In carrying out a burn, you need to consider:

- 1) The fuel load and structure
- 2) The effects on the environment and the community
- 3) The specific zone objectives
- 4) If there are adequate fire breaks and control lines
- 5) The season and weather conditions
- 6) The topography and fire behaviour
- 7) What lighting patterns to use
- 8) Conducting a test burn
- 9) What safety measures may be needed
- 10) Mopping up afterwards
- 11) If you need to report the results

6.5. Check list for hazard reduction burns

The following is a checklist of tasks and activities that should be followed prior to hazard reduction burns:

| No. | Task | √ |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Fuel load assessment conducted | |
| 2 | Bushfire fire hazard sufficient to warrant a hazard reduction burn | |
| 3 | Fire breaks and control lines are in good condition | |
| 4 | Burn plan developed – identifying where the burn will occur, timing and personnel availability | |
| 5 | Ensure adequate trained personnel are on hand for planned burn | |
| 6 | Fire permit gained for proposed burn plan | |
| 7 | Proposed hazard reduction burn is approved by Conway / Mango Tree Estate fire brigade | |
| 8 | Community awareness plan is developed and activated prior to burn | |
| 9 | Bushfire stakeholders advised of hazard reduction burn timing | |
| 10 | Machinery and trucks are in good working order. Water available. | |
| 11 | Contingency plan developed in case fire escapes the target area | |
| 12 | Hazard reduction burn is undertaken in accordance with QFES guidelines | |
| 13 | Fire control personnel ensure fire is out before leaving fire control area. | |
| 14 | A brief account of the hazard reduction burn submitted to QFES and Council. | |

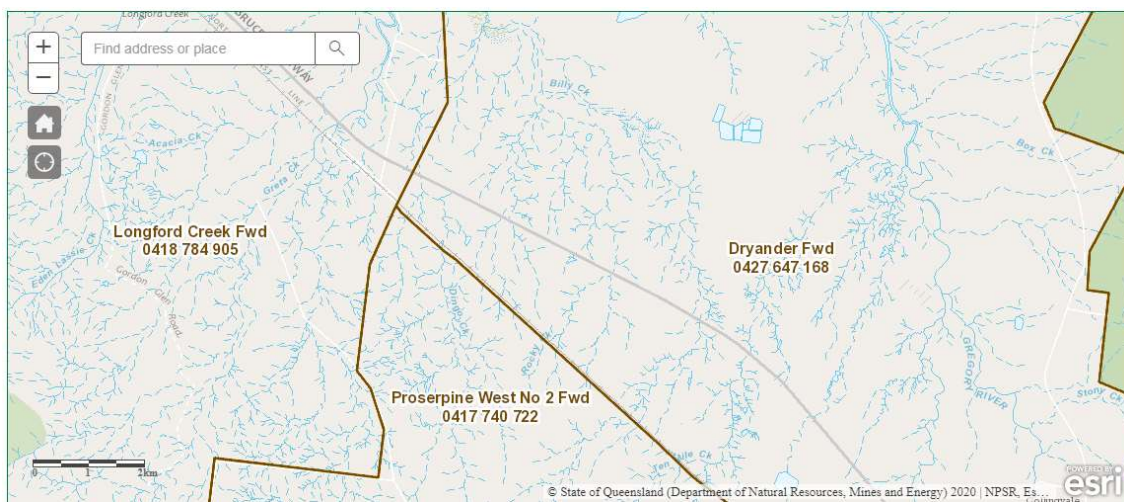
6.6. Stakeholder contacts

- Whitsunday Regional Council – Scott Hardy – 0428722236 / 49450245.
- QDNRM - Dan Burndred – 0472 847 894, Tim Koch - 0418 970 097
- QPWS – Ross Perry - 4962 5206
- Fire Warden – Proserpine West – 0427413495
- Fire Warden – Kelsey Creek - 0407984139

For more information regarding the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade:

https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw_finder.aspx

6.7. Map of rural fire areas



Map 7. Showing the rural fire areas and warden contact numbers.

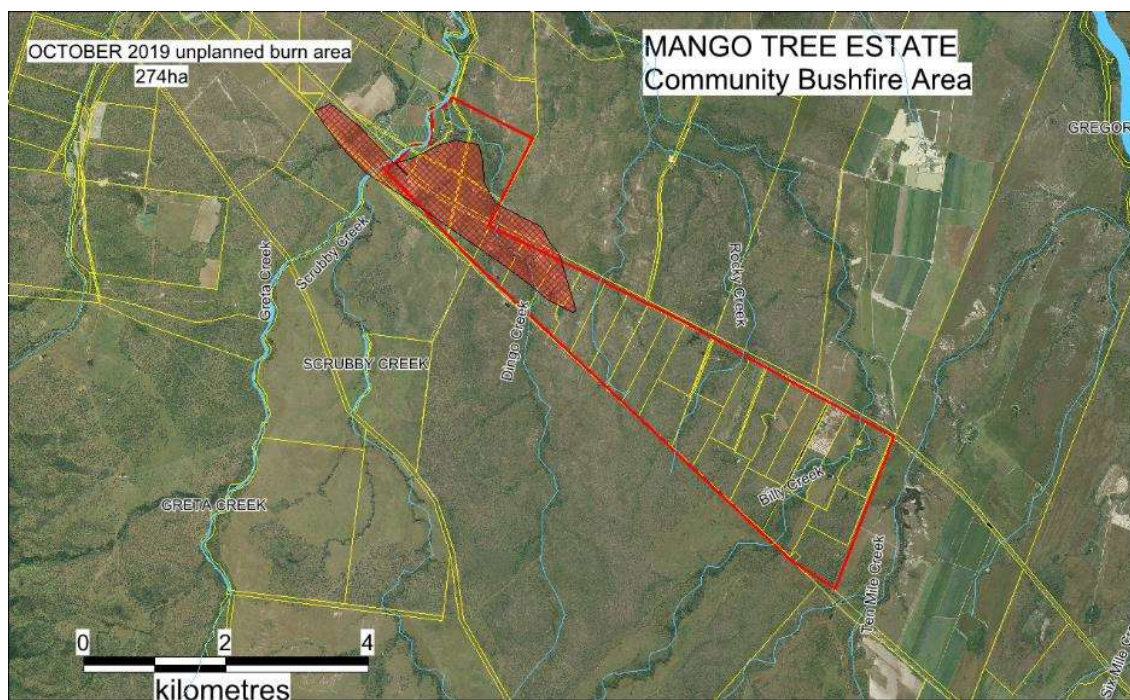
6.8. Landholder bushfire planning checklist

The following checklist can be used by residential landholders to plan and manage their bushfire hazard:

| Task | Checked |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Structure | |
| Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters. | |
| Purchase and test the effectiveness of gutter plugs. | |
| Enclose open areas under decks and floors. | |
| Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes | |
| Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house. | |
| Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems. | |
| Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding. | |
| | |
| Access | |
| Display a prominent house or lot number, in case it is required in an emergency. | |
| Ensure there is adequate access to your property for fire trucks - 4 metres wide by 4 metres high, with a turn-around area. | |
| | |
| Vegetation | |
| Reduce vegetation loads along the access path. | |
| Mow your grass regularly. | |
| Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches). | |
| Trim low-lying branches two metres from the ground surrounding your home. | |
| Consider removing flammable trees near residential buildings (e.g. removal of eucalypt trees) and replace with non-flammable rainforest species. | |
| | |
| Personal | |
| Check that you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment. | |
| Relocate flammable items away from your home, including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture. | |
| Check the first aid kit is fully stocked. | |
| Make sure you have appropriate insurance for your home and vehicles. | |
| Find out if there is a nearby Neighbourhood Safer Place . | |
| Review and update your household Bushfire Survival Plan . | |
| | |
| Other | |
| Consider the location of water points and possible direction of bushfire threats. In rural residential areas ensure water tanks are more than half full in bushfire season. | |
| Keep swimming pool full of water. | |

Source: https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety/Pages/Prepare-for-bushfire-season.aspx

6.9. Mango tree estate 2019 unplanned burn area map



Map 8. The October 2019 un-planned burn area.

6.10. Vegetation clearing rules

Exemptions apply to some clearing activities permitted under other legislation, including the *Forestry Act 1959*, *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, *Electricity Act 1994*, *Electricity Regulation 2006* and *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Visit the [Department of Environment and Science website](#) for more information.

Exempt clearing work for fire management sourced from the Queensland government websites:

- You can undertake certain clearing activities to protect your property from bushfires without getting approval or notifying the Queensland government. These exemptions are summarised in the Table below.
- If you need to clear a wider area, you might be able to [clear using a vegetation clearing code](#) or [apply for a development approval](#).
- Firebreaks** are low-fuel areas located immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure (including a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose) that are cleared and maintained to slow or stop the progress of a fire, or to perform back-burning.
- Fire management lines** are roads, fence line clearings or tracks (including existing property tracks) used to access water for firefighting or divide the property for fuel reduction burning or back-burning.

| Purpose for clearing | Vegetation category | Clearing allowances |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fences roads and tracks | Least concern regional ecosystems | Clearing to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track to a maximum width of 10m |
| Fire management line | All | Clearing for a necessary for management line to a maximum width of 10m |
| Firebreaks | All | For a fire necessary to protect buildings and other structures (other than a fence line); to a width of up to 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation or 20m (which ever is the widest) |
| Hazardous fuel load reduction | All | Fuel reduction burns can be done under a permit issued by the local fire warden |
| Maintain existing infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to maintain existing buildings and other structures, fences, roads and watering points. |
| Risk to people and infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to remove or reduce imminent risk the vegetation poses to people or buildings and other structures. |

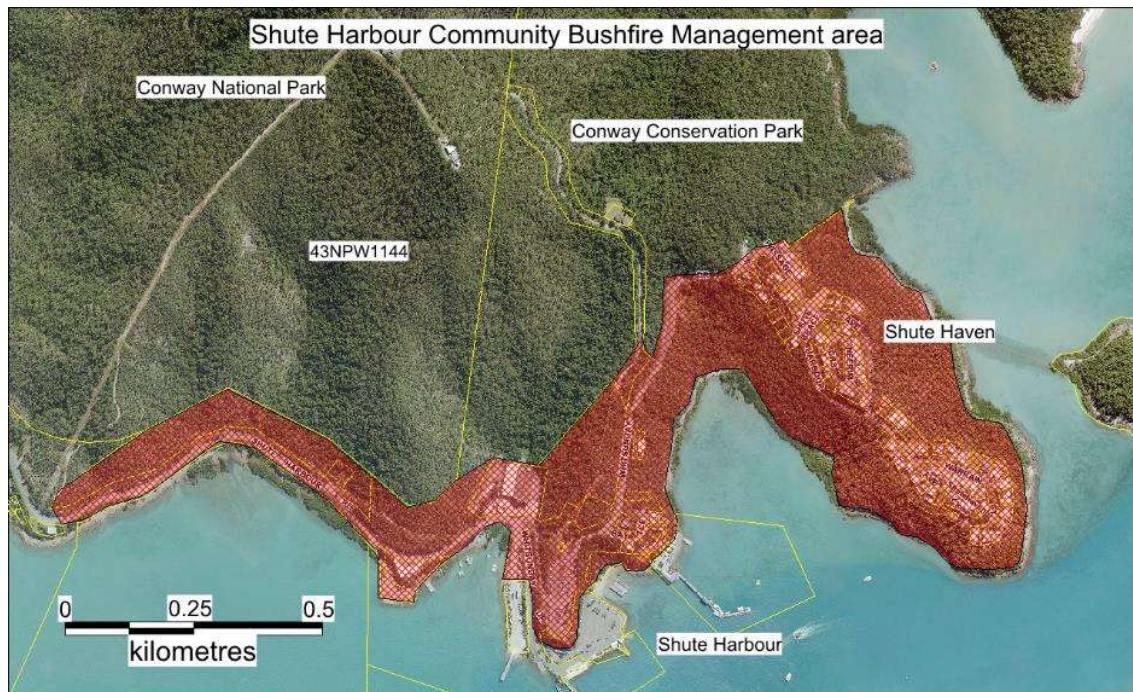
<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/vegetation/disasters/fire/code>

https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/847800/vegetation-clearing-exemptions.pdf

Community Bushfire Management Plan: Shute Harbour (2020-2030)

Scott Hardy
Coordinator Natural Resource Management

Date: 22nd of January 2021



(Shute Harbour fire plan area)



Po Box 104
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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Shute Harbour Community Bushfire Management Plan is to document bushfire hazard and describe how this hazard will be managed for the next 10 years (2020-2030). This Bushfire Plan is specifically written for the Shute Harbour residents and stakeholders. The Shute Harbour Fire Plan area covers the land between Conway National Park (Mount Rooper) and Shute Haven and covers 47 ha.

The Shute Harbour Community Bushfire Plan includes 86 residential properties. The Shute Haven residential area covers 8.4ha with another 1.9ha of residential lots. The Council owns 2.9ha and manages approximately 3ha of road reserve. Hamilton Island owns the Shute logistics facility which covers 1.2ha. The Queensland government owns and manages 29.6ha

The reason why this Bushfire Management Plan has been developed is the large number of residential and rural-residential dwellings occurring in and adjacent to medium to high bushfire hazard areas in the Shute Harbour area. Fire management agencies are concerned that wild fires in the Shute Harbour area could threaten numerous residential properties.

The Shute Harbour Bushfire Plan seeks the following outcomes:

- Describe the extent of bushfire hazard.
- Describe the location of existing and potential fire control lines and fire breaks.
- List the roles and responsibilities for bushfire management.
- List the proposed schedule of bushfire mitigation tasks.

While this proposed Community Bushfire Management Plan provides guidelines on how the Shute Harbour bushfire hazard could be managed. Each landholder is responsible under legislation to manage their own bushfire hazard. The Council encourages landholders to discuss their bushfire planning and management with their neighbours.

The Council has developed this Community Bushfire Management Plan in consultation with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Reef Catchment, and representatives of the local Rural Fire Brigade. The information contained in this Bushfire Plan is based on data collected from stakeholders over recent years and information available on the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade website.

Acknowledgements

The Whitsunday Regional Council would like to thank the following stakeholders who have contributed to the Shute Harbour Community Bushfire Management Plan;

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
- Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group
- Airlie Beach fire service

Document control

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Title | Shute Harbour Community Bushfire Management Plan |
| Council work unit | Natural Resource Management |
| Contact officer | Scott Hardy |
| email | info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au |
| Version- 3 | 22 nd of January 2021 |

1. Introduction

The Shute Harbour area has been identified as having a medium to high bushfire hazard due to the vegetation type, slope and aspect. The Shute Harbour area includes the small residential area locality of Shute Haven.

The locality of Shute Harbour has a history of planned bushfire in the Eucalypt woodlands of Conway National Park (Mount Rooper). The Shute Harbour- Shute Haven locality has a risk for loss of life and/or property if the bushfire hazard is not managed appropriately. There are numerous residential dwellings located in and adjacent to flammable vegetation. Fire Management agencies are concerned that wildfires in the Shute Harbour area could cause damage to a number of properties which are surrounded by unmanaged Eucalypt and Acacia woodland.

The Council, together with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have defined an area in the Shute Harbour area which has vegetation and topographic conditions which warrant more detailed community bushfire planning. The Shute Harbour Fire Plan area covers 47ha and includes 86 residential lots. The Whitsunday Regional Council owns or manages 6ha of land in this area. The Queensland government owns and manages 30ha and residential and commercial areas cover 11ha. The Shute Harbour Fire Plan area has been defined based on the likelihood of bushfires occurring and the residential lots which could be affected, but also the boundary of Conway National Park and Conway Conservation Park.

The purpose of this Community Bushfire Management Plan is to identify the actions required to reduce bushfire hazard in the Shute Harbour and surrounding area for the next 10 years (2020-2030) (Figure 1). This Plan is designed for the area between Conway National Park (Mount Rooper and Shute Haven locality). The objectives of this Plan include;

- Identify where fire lines are required to protect life and property from fire,
- Maintain an ecologically appropriate controlled burn program,
- Improve community awareness,
- Maintain coordination and communication between landowners,
- Description of a maintenance program to manage bushfire hazard and risk.

It is envisaged that this Community Bushfire Management Plan will be used as a communication tool to inform stakeholders and the community of the bushfire hazard within Shute Harbour and how it could be managed. Ultimately, each landholder will be responsible for managing bushfire hazard on their own land. The Council encourages a coordinated and cooperative approach to community bushfire hazard management.

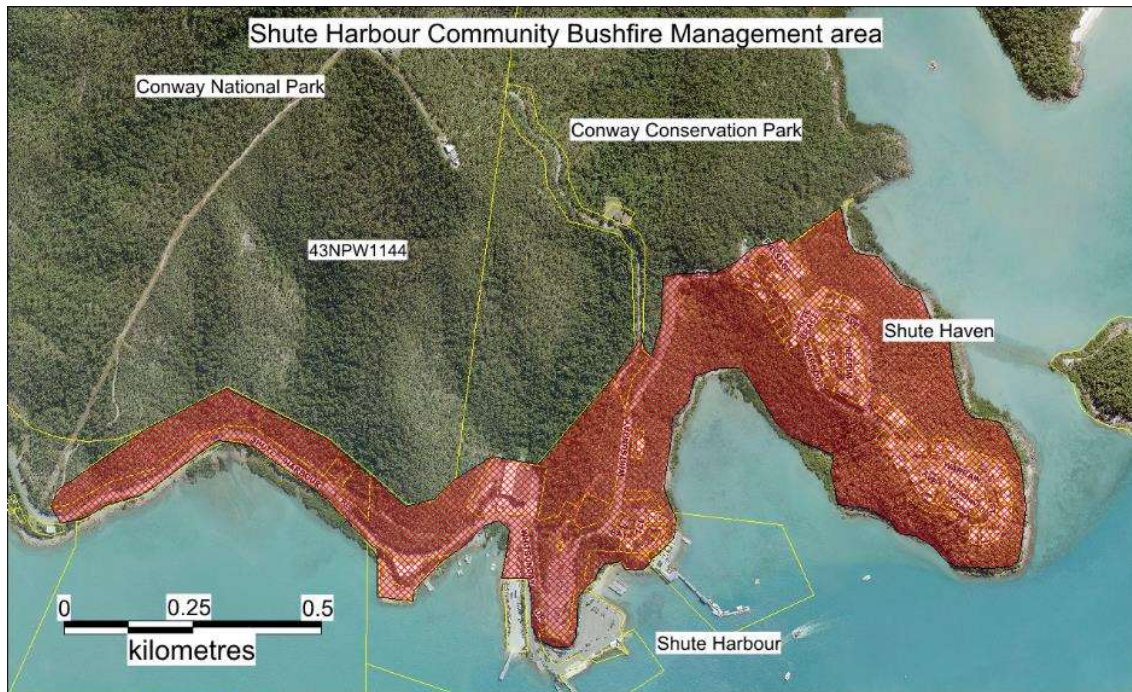


Figure 1. The application area for the Shute Harbour Community Bushfire Management Plan.

2. Background

2.1. Land tenure and ownership

The Shute Harbour Community Bushfire planning area covers approximately 47ha with 6ha being owned or managed by the Whitsunday Regional Council and 30 ha owned by the Queensland State government. There are 86 residential lots which cover 10.5ha and commercial lots covering 1.2ha.



Figure 2. Location of Conway National Park and Conway Conservation Park (Source QGlobe).

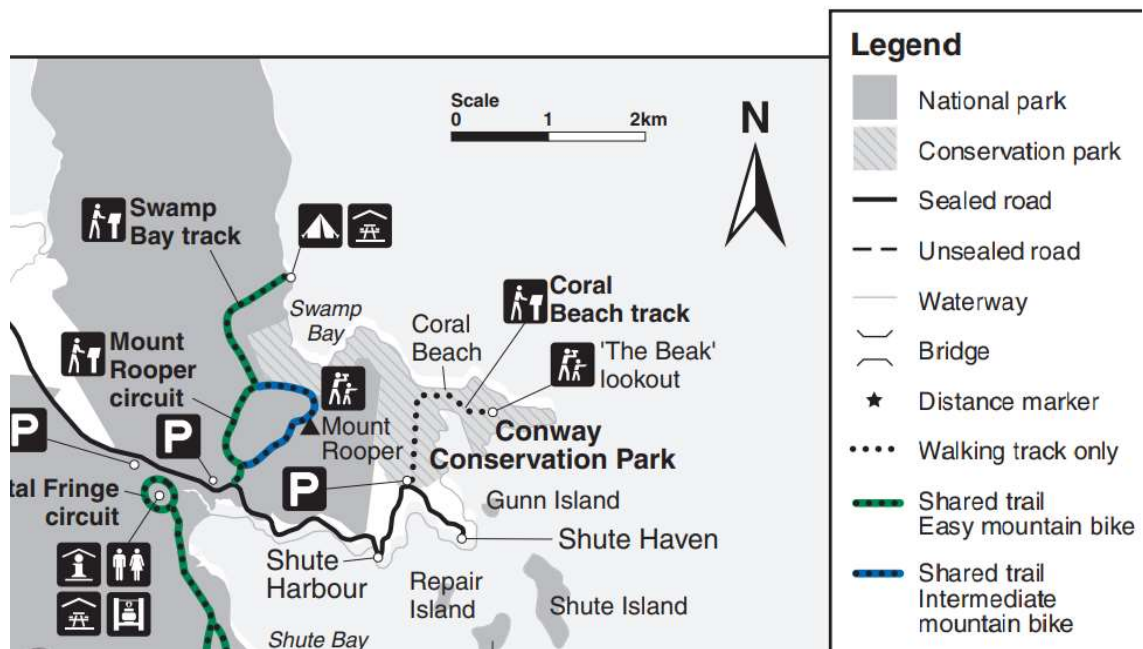


Figure 3. Location of walking tracks at Shute Harbour (Source – QPWS website).

2.2. Site description

2.2.1. Geology, landform and soils

The geology of the Shute Harbour area was mapped by the Queensland government in 1972. An extract of the Proserpine geology map is shown in figure 4. The hills are formed on Airlie volcanics (PII) which are Lower Permian in age and dominated by acid to intermediate volcanic and pyroclastic flows. The geology influences the fertility of the soils and also the type of vegetation which occurs.

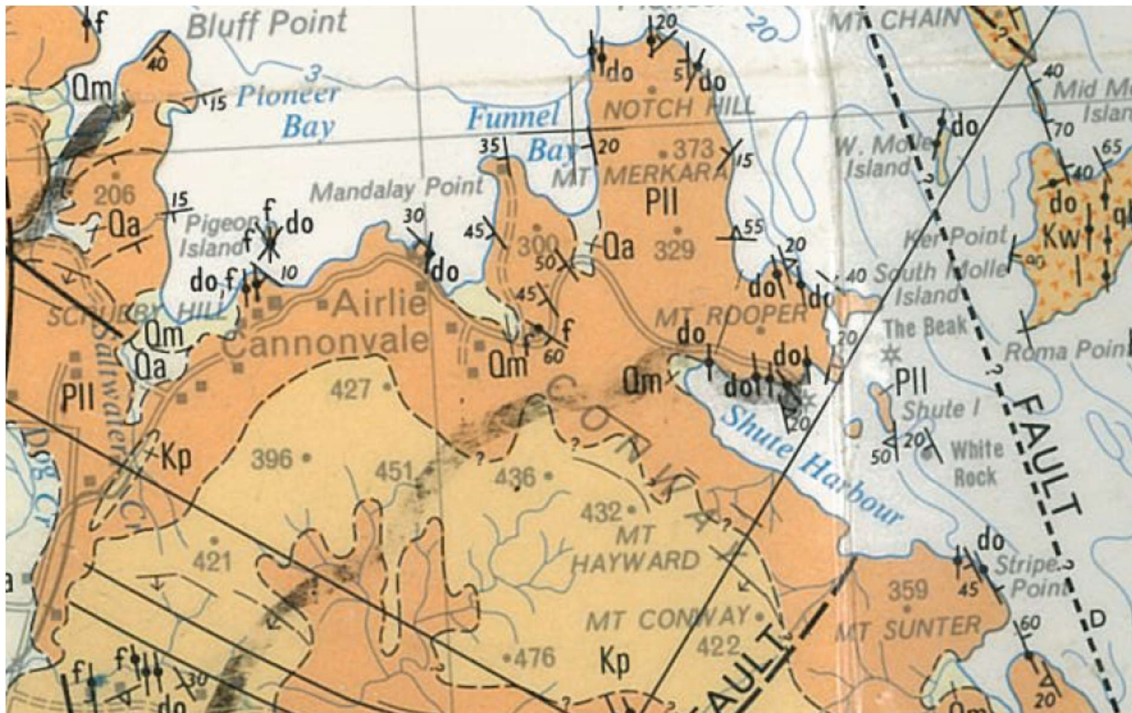


Figure 4. The geology map covering the Shute Harbour area (*Paine and Cameron, 1972*).

The soils of the Shute Harbour area was mapped by Hardy (2003). The main soils in the Shute Harbour area are shallow sandy, dispersive duplex soils with low fertility (Dittmer and Whiptail soil profile classes) (Figure 5).

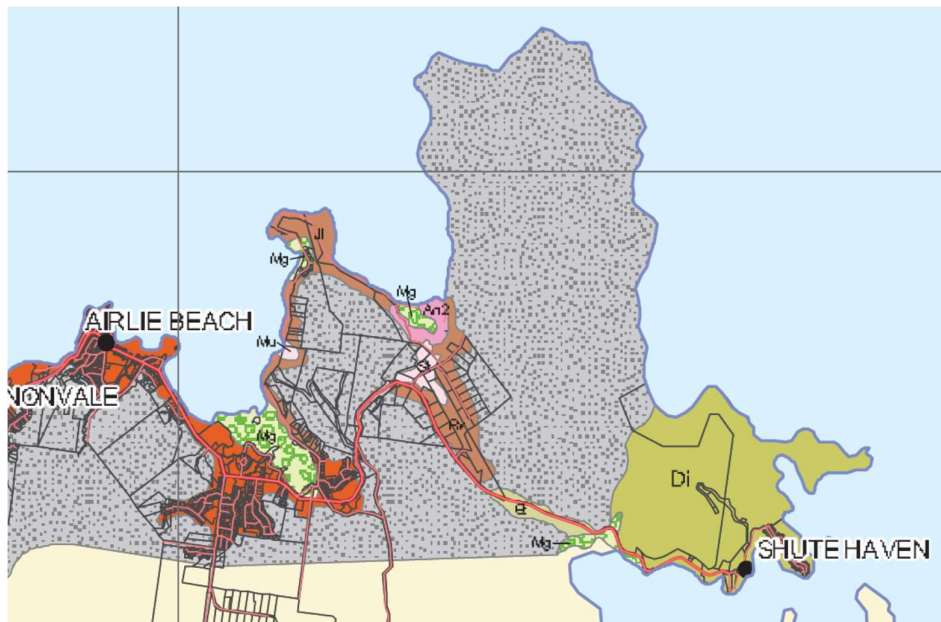


Figure 5. The soils of the Shute Harbour area.

2.2.2. Vegetation

The vegetation of the Shute Harbour area has been mapped by the State government. The regional ecosystem map for the Shute Harbour area can be found in the appendix of this report. The geology, fertility of the soils and rainfall patterns influence the vegetation of the Shute Harbour area. The dominant vegetation surrounding the Shute Harbour area is eucalypt forest and Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket. The dominant regional ecosystems are:

- RE 8.12.11: Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii*, on islands and coastal headlands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks and Tertiary volcanics
- Re 8.12.5: *Eucalyptus portuensis* and/or *Lophostemon confertus* and/or *E. exserta* and/or *Corymbia trachyphloia* and/or *E. fibrosa* open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks
- RE 8.12.14: *Eucalyptus drepanophylla* and/or *E. crebra* and/or *E. exserta* and/or *Acacia spirorbis* subsp. *solandri* and/or *Lophostemon confertus* low woodland on islands and headlands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, and Tertiary acid to intermediate volcanics

The regional ecosystem map for the Shute Harbour area can be found in the appendix.

2.3. Bushfire legislation and policy

2.3.1. Australia and Queensland

All levels of government have a responsibility and role in bushfire management. In 2014, the Council of Australian Governments approved the National Bushfire Management Policy Statement (National Forest Fire Management Group, 2014). The National Policy identifies Local government and other landholders having an important role in bushfire management and planning. The National Bushfire Policy identifies four main strategic objectives and 14 bushfire management goals.

The four strategic National bushfire management objectives are:

- Effectively managing the land with fire
- Involved and capable communities
- Strong land, fire and emergency partnerships and capability
- Actively and adaptively managing risk

There is a legislative requirement under Common Law and the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* for Local Government and residents as owners and occupiers of land to prevent fires escaping from their land and damaging property (Tran and Peacock, 2002). Councils and other landholders have an obligation to manage their land responsibly to prevent the loss of life or property and reduce the 'human' impacts of bushfires. Landholders are also required however to achieve this and still maintain their obligations under other legislation. Obligations under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for example require local authorities to protect and conserve rare or threatened species, biodiversity and ecological processes.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* is the principle legislation that deals with lighting fires in the open in Queensland. The Act makes it illegal to light a fire without a 'Permit to Light Fire' issued by a fire warden.

The *Queensland Vegetation Management Act (1999)* regulates vegetation clearing. However, there are exemptions available to clear vegetation to develop and maintain fire breaks and fire control lines. The exemptions are found in the appendix of this report.

2.3.2. Whitsunday Regional Council

The Whitsunday Regional Council developed a Bushfire Management Policy and Bushfire Management Plan in 2018. The purpose of the Policy is to define Council's intention in bushfire management, planning and on-ground actions. The purpose of the Council's Bushfire Plan is to identify high risk Council lots for bushfire risk and outline a program of works to better manage bushfire risk on Council managed lots. The Council Bushfire Management Plan lists community education and awareness concerning bushfire hazard as an important action and outcome.

The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed a local law which includes the regulation of fires.

2.4. Bushfire hazard and risk

2.4.1. Bushfire hazard

Bushfire hazard refers to the conditions which could support the presence of a fire. There are a number of methods that can be used to assess bushfire hazard. One of the most commonly used bushfire hazard assessment tool is documented in the Queensland State Planning Policy 1/03. According to Risk Frontiers (2011) the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have used the SPP 1/03 bushfire hazard methodology and the Interface Zone (I Zone) methodology to identify bushfire hazard areas. The I-Zone is where the urban-rural residential land use meet flammable vegetation (Risk Frontiers, 2011).

More recently the CSIRO have developed a slightly different approach to determining and mapping bushfire hazard (Leonard, 2014). The methods developed by Leonard *et al.*, (2014) have been used to develop the current Queensland bushfire hazard mapping.

The CSIRO method uses vegetation type, slope and estimated fuel load to allocate land to 20 Vegetation Hazard Classes.

The Queensland State Planning Policy bushfire hazard process involves the assessment of vegetation, slope and aspect. Scores are allocated to vegetation, slope and aspect. The bushfire attribute scores are then added to determine the total hazard score.

The vegetation communities hazard assessment is shown in table 1, the slope assessment is shown in table 2 and the aspect assessment is shown in table 3. The classification of bushfire hazard is shown in table 4.

Table 1. Vegetation communities assessment table used to determine vegetation hazard score.

| Vegetation Communities | Fire behaviour | Hazard score |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wet sclerophyll forest, tall eucalypts (>30m), with grass and mixed shrub understorey | Infrequent fires under severe conditions, flame lengths may exceed 40m, floating embers attack structures for 1 hour, radiant heat and direct flame are destructive for 30 minutes. | 10 |
| Paperbark heath and swamps, eucalypt forest with dry-shrub ladder fuels. | Fire intensity depends on fuel accumulation, but can be severe, with flame lengths to 20m, spot fires frequent across firebreaks, radiant heat and direct flame for 15 minutes. | 8 |
| Grassy eucalypt and acacia forest, exotic pine plantations, cypress pine forests, wallum heath | Fire intensity may be severe with flame lengths to 20m, but less attack from embers | 6 |
| Native grasslands (ungrazed), open woodlands, canefields | Fast moving fires, available to fire annually to 4 years. Usually no ember attack, radiant heat for >10m, duration < 2minutes. | 5 |
| Intact acacia forests, with light grass to leaf litter, disturbed rainforests. | Fires infrequent, usually burn only under severe conditions, relatively slow fires, usually little ember attack. | 4 |
| Orchards, farmlands, kikuyu pastures | Fires very infrequent, slow moving, may be difficult to extinguish, frequent fire breaks. | 2 |
| Grazed grassland, slashed grass | Grazing reduces intensity and rate of spread of fire, duration < 2 minutes. | 2 |
| Desert lands (sparse fuels), mowed grass | Gaps in fuel, usually slow fire spread. | 1 |
| Intact rainforest, mangrove forest, intact riverine rainforest | Virtually fire proof. | 0 |

Table 2. The slope assessment table used to determine the slope hazard score.

| Slope | Hazard score |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Gorges and mountains (>30%) | 5 |
| Steep hills (20% - 30%) | 4 |
| Rolling Hills (10% to 20%) | 3 |
| Undulating (5% to 10%) | 2 |
| Plain (0% to 5%) | 1 |

Table 3. The aspect assessment table used to determine the aspect hazard score.

| Aspect | Hazard score |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| North to North-west | 3.5 |
| North – West to West | 3 |
| West to South | 2 |
| North to East | 1 |
| East to South and all land under 5% slope | 0 |

Table 4. The determination of bushfire hazard using the Queensland SPP 1/03 system.

| Total hazard score | Severity of bushfire hazard |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 13 or greater | High |
| 6 to 12.5 | Medium |
| 1 to 5.5 | Low |

Fuel load is a main contributor to bushfire hazard (Middelmann, 2007). There are a number of methods used to estimate, measure and assess fuel loads. Hines *et al.* (2010) have developed a system of measuring forest fuel loads in Victoria. The method developed by Hines *et al.*, (2010) for estimating fuel loads is based on separating the forest into fuel layers and then estimating or measuring the potential fuel within each of these layers. The amount of fuel contained in these layers is measured in terms of tonnes per hectare.

The Queensland Fire Emergency Service (QFES) have produced bushfire hazard rating maps for Queensland. Bushfire hazard is rated as either low, medium or high based on vegetation type, aspect, topography and climate. The QFES bushfire hazard rating maps are usually produced at a scale of 1:250,000 or 1:100,000. Bushfire hazard areas rated as low on the QFES maps mostly relate to rainforest areas, while high risk areas relate to Eucalypt and wattle areas. The bushfire hazard maps can be a useful guide to bushfire hazard and the likely risk of bushfire occurring in a locality. However, these bushfire hazard maps may not be accurate on properties less than 20ha. Land with a high or medium bushfire hazard rating should have some bushfire management plan or process in place.

2.4.2. Bushfire risk

Bushfire risk refers to the likely occurrence or frequency of a bushfire. Middlemann (2007) states that “the likelihood of bushfire hazard can be summarised in terms of the probability of a fire arriving at a point in the landscape and the intensity of the fire at that point “. Risk can be increased due to a number of factors including a high bushfire hazard and proximity to ignition sources such as roadsides and populated areas. Bushfire planning and mitigation measures can reduce bushfire hazard and risk.

Local governments are involved in bushfire risk reduction measures such as the development of local laws regulating fires, development planning, development of disaster management plans and implementation of bushfire mitigation measures (Middlemann, 2010).

There are a number of methods used to measure risk. The NSW Rural Fire Service (2008) have developed a matrix to describe bushfire risk (Figure 6). The NSW Rural Fire Service risk matrix requires the determination of the likelihood of a bushfire occurring and the likely consequences.

| Consequence \ Likelihood | Minor | Moderate | Major | Catastrophic |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Almost certain | High | Very High | Extreme | Extreme |
| Likely | Medium | High | Very High | Extreme |
| Possible | Low | Medium | High | Very High |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | High |

Figure 6. The determination of bushfire risk (NSW Rural Fire Service 2008).

The likelihood of a bushfire occurring will depend largely on the bushfire hazard. The consequence of a bushfire occurring at a given location will depend on the environmental values and development present (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2008).

2.4.3. Shute Harbour bushfire hazard

The Queensland State government have mapped the bushfire hazard in the Shute Harbour area (Figure 7). The bushland adjacent to Shute Haven has been mapped as having a very high to medium bushfire hazard. The Unallocated State land adjacent to the Shute Haven residential lots is a combination of Eucalypt dominated woodland and semi-evergreen microphyll rainforest.

The Mount Rooper section of Conway National park is periodically burnt by Queensland national Parks and Wildlife service every 3 to 9 years depending on fuel loads. The Unallocated land adjacent to the Shute Haven residential areas have not been burnt in the last 10 years.

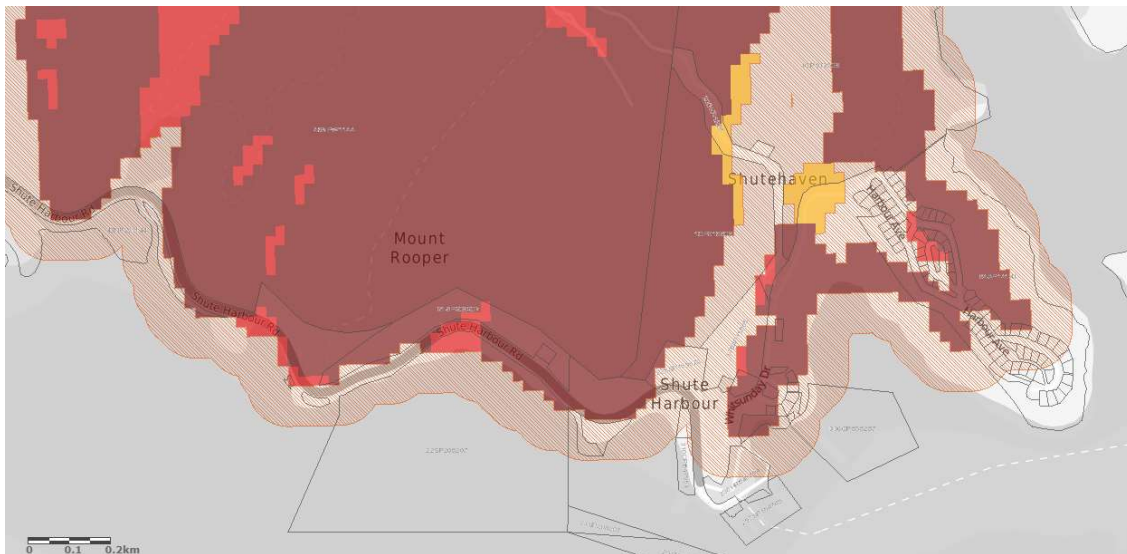


Figure 7. Showing the bushfire hazard in the Shute Harbour area (Red = High hazard, Orange = Medium hazard)

(Source: <https://spp.dsdip.esriaustraliaonline.com.au/geoviewer/map/planmaking>) .

2.5. Bushfire management guidelines

2.5.1. Bushfire guidelines for regional ecosystems

The regional ecosystem characteristics can provide information which can guide bushfire management and planning. The Whitsunday Regional Council is partially included in the Central Queensland Coast and Northern Brigalow Belt bioregions. There are 83 individual regional ecosystems in the Central Queensland Coast bioregion and 172 regional ecosystems found in the Northern Brigalow Belt bioregion.

The type of vegetation community, its fire requirements and hazard can be used for bushfire planning. Bushfire management advice for a selected number of regional ecosystems are listed in table 5. The bushfire management advice provided by the Queensland State government for each regional ecosystem is found at:

<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/redd/resource/c77196df-7af9-4c09-ac88-256867c39806>

Table 5. Showing the bushfire management advice for selected regional ecosystems in the Shute Harbour area.

| Bioregion | Regional ecosystem | Description | Bushfire advice |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CQC | RE 8.12.5 | Eucalyptus portuensis and/or Lophostemon confertus and/or E. exserta and/or Corymbia trachyphloia and/or E. fibrosa open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | SEASON: 8.12.5a and c: Early winter. 8.12.5b: Any time when sufficient soil moisture is present (during growing season). INTENSITY: 8.12.5a: Moderate. 8.12.5b: Low to moderate. INTERVAL: 8.12.5a and c: 4 - 7 years. 8.12.5b: Minimum 4 - 7 years. STRATEGY: Attempt to retain at least 20% unburnt at any given time. ISSUES: 8.12.5a and b: Important to maintain layering within the forest structure. High fuel accumulations are possible and as such it is important to adopt fire regimes which will maintain fallen litter and timber habitats on the forest floor. 8.12.5c: In the Whitsunday sub-region prone to development of dense vine thicket understorey which will eventually preclude burning. High fuel accumulations are possible and as such it is important to adopt fire regimes which will maintain fallen litter and timber habitats on the forest floor. |
| CQC | RE 8.12.11 | Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket +/- Araucaria cunninghamii, on islands and coastal headlands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks and Tertiary volcanics | ISSUES: This ecosystem readily encroaches into adjacent woodlands and grasslands, and periodic high intensity fire along its margins may be required. |
| CQC | Re 8.12.14 | Eucalyptus drepanophylla and/or E. crebra and/or E. exserta and/or Acacia spirorbis subsp. solandri and/or Lophostemon confertus low woodland on islands and headlands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, and Tertiary acid to intermediate volcanics | ISSUES: 8.12.14a-c: A geographically restricted ecosystem which with few exceptions is largely restricted to islands. Emphasis should be placed on the general principles of mosaic burning, and diversity of fire types. 8.12.14d, x2b: Emphasis should be placed on the general principles of mosaic burning, and diversity of fire types. |

2.5.2. Other regional fire management guidelines

The Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group together with the Clarke Connors Range Bush Fire Consortium developed fire management guidelines for the Central Queensland coast region (Reef Catchments, 2009). The fire guidelines have been developed for 12 landscape types. For each of the 12 landscape types recommendations are made for fire frequency, fire intensity, season and whether mosaic burns are required.

The purpose of the guidelines is to reduce unplanned burns (wild fires). The landscape types and the recommended guidelines are shown in table 6.

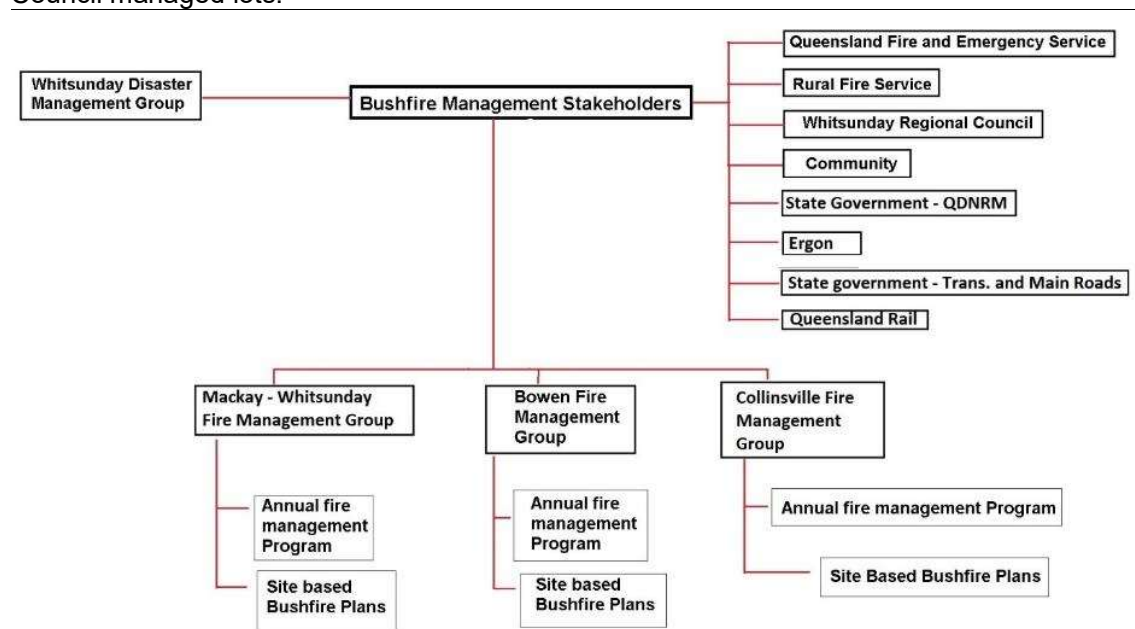
Table 6. Clarke - Connors range fire management guidelines.

| Landscape type | Fire frequency | Fire intensity | Preferred season for hazard reduction | Mosaic burning |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mangroves and estuaries | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Beaches and foreshores | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Hind dunes | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Riverine and wetlands | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Alluvial flat country | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Grassy woodlands and open forests | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Tall wet eucalypt forests | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Eucalypt forest and woodlands on hills | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 25% |
| Rainforest and vine thickets | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Island and rocky headlands | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |

The Queensland State government have developed Planned Burn Guidelines for Central Queensland Coast Bioregion of Queensland (DNPRSR, 2012). The planned burn guidelines are used to plan and implement prescribed burns in National Parks and State land. The State government guidelines are also applicable to Council owned and managed bushland lots.

2.6. Whitsunday bushfire management planning framework

The bushfire management and planning structure and workflow between organisations is reflected in figure 8. The Whitsunday Regional Council has a Bushfire Management Policy and a Bushfire Management Plan to guide the management of bushfire hazard and risk on Council managed lots.

**Figure 8.** The bushfire management and planning framework.

2.7. Bushfire mitigation and management strategies

There are a number of strategies that can be undertaken to reduce bushfire hazard and risk. Table 7 lists the bushfire risk factors and some of the mitigation measures that can be used to reduce the occurrence of bushfires.

Table 7. Common bushfire mitigation strategies.

| Bushfire Factor | Mitigation strategy or measure |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Litter build up from Eucalypt vegetation communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a permit to light fire from the local fire warden to reduce fuel loads. Liaise with a local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake a fuel reduction burn. Subsequent burns may need to be conducted every 3 years. Clear juvenile gum tree samplings from areas near the house and property. Gum trees (such as Iron barks and Blue gums) should be removed from within 30 m of the house and properties. This may require an application to Council for permission. If in doubt contact the Council for advice. |
| Grass build up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass species such as Guinea grass (<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>) respond well to fire. This species needs to be chemically controlled, kept short through mowing or slashing, or grazed. Revegetate areas with rainforest species to shade out grass and therefore reduce fuel loads. Grass should be kept to a minimal height around houses and property using mowing, brush cutting or use of approved herbicides depending on site conditions. Establish separation zones between buildings and grassy fuel by installing hard areas e.g. paving and gravel etc. |
| Aspect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northerly aspects are worse for fires. The siting or positioning of houses on a property should consider aspect. The head of gullies should also be avoided East to south facing slopes generally have a low hazard rating. |
| Slope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updraughts assist fire movement upslope. There should be a sufficient distance down slope of houses and properties that are free of fire prone vegetation. Slopes above 30% have a higher hazard score opposed to flat to undulating land. Installation of hard areas of gravel and paving may be necessary. To reduce erosion on steep slopes, these areas could be revegetated using rainforest shrubs or low growing grasses that are easily controlled and are less flammable. |
| Climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot dry climates assist fire. Beware of climatic conditions that increase fire risk severity such as the dry season in the Whitsunday's, especially between the months of July and December. |
| Proximity to land uses that use fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce spread of fire, provide access for fire fighters, a secure line from which to burn from or back burn from. Sugarcane land has a moderate to high bushfire risk |
| Vegetation communities that have a high fire risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce the spread of fire. The SPP recommends that perimeter roads be constructed that are cleared for 20 m AND comply with local government standards. Fire maintenance trails should only be accepted if it is not practicable to provide firebreaks in the form of a road due to topographic conditions or vegetation constraints. The construction of the fire breaks should consider plants protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act (1992)</i> or communities protected under the Vegetation Management legislation. Site the house in the lowest risk area on the property. For lots greater than 2500m², buildings and structures should be set back from hazardous vegetation by at least 1.5 times the height of the canopy vegetation (particularly if they are Eucalypt) or a minimum of 10 m. Retention of rainforest in drainage lines and creeks will assist in reducing bushfire risk. Design subdivisions without cul-de-sacs and provide access for a conventional drive vehicle (e.g. fire engine). |

2.8. Previous bushfire management

This Bushfire Plan is the first formal Bushfire Plan for the Shute Harbour area. The QPWS has a fire management plan for Conway National Park and the Mount Rooper area.

The following is a brief summary of previous planned and un-planned burns in the Shute Harbour area:

- Mount Rooper section of Conway national Park – April 2020
- Mount Rooper section of Conway National Park – 2016?

2.9. Community consultation

The Whitsunday Regional Council placed the Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan out for community comment from the 14th of September to the 15th of November 2020. There was one on-line community meeting which was held on the 24th of September. The main discussion points from the meeting were:

- There were three people who attended the meeting.
- It was noted there were no registrations from the community or rural fire brigade members or volunteers.
- QFES mentioned there is annual planning for prescribed burns, which will see annual burns in the area. A recent burn occurred at Mt Rooper as part of this new strategy. WRC might need to update this section of the draft Plan and there may be evolution over time as the program rolls out. Having a coordinated plan such as this Community Plan will be helpful when engaging with stakeholders such as telecommunications and landowners, to demonstrate there is a structured plan in place.
- Some concerns about the eastern side of Shute Haven, where there is a slope below residential properties which he thinks may be a fire risk, particularly if kids are lighting fires in the area. QFES suggested the rate of ignition may be low here and difficult for fire to take hold in this area. Not many people in the area. It was suggested creating a green buffer (rainforest vegetation) on the slope to protect this area, but it would probably require resources and irrigation and residents may not support it if it blocks their view. There was discussion around modelling this area as a practice exercise for the Rural Fire Brigade volunteers.
- Need to ensure that the Shute harbour area Community Fire Plan is consistent with the Conway National Park Fire Plan.

3. Management Plan

3.1. Bushfire Plan goals

The goals of this Bushfire Management Plan are:

- To protect life and property as a priority then ensure the bushfire management practises maximise biodiversity values.
- To ensure all stakeholders support a common bushfire management direction.
- To pro-actively manage the bushfire hazard within and surrounding Shute Harbour.
- To develop and maintain good relationships between the stakeholders and landholders and encourage cooperative approaches to manage bushfire hazard in the area.

3.2. Stakeholder general roles and responsibilities

The general roles and responsibilities for bushfire management, planning and mitigation are summarised in table 8.

Table 8. The main tasks for each stakeholder.

| Task | Council | Rural Fire | QFES | QDNRM | QPWS | Landholder |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|------------|------|-------|------|------------|
| Legal control of the fire | | | | √ | | √ |
| Conduct hazard reduction burns | | | | √ | | |
| Applying for permits | | | | | | √ |
| Supervising the hazard reduction burn | | | | √ | √ | |
| Informing the community | | | | √ | | |
| Monitoring fuel loads | | | | √ | | |
| Maintaining the fire breaks | | | | √ | | |
| Developing and updating the bushfire plan | √ | | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Reporting hazard reduction burns | | | | √ | | |
| Regulating and control of illegal dumping | √ | | | | | |
| Manage accumulation of green waste | √ | | | | | |

3.3. Bushfire management areas and mitigation measures

The landscape of the Shute Harbour area needs to be prioritised in terms of bushfire management and planning. Areas close to residential areas need a higher level of monitoring and fuel management than areas further away. The Victorian state government has developed a system of prioritising bushfire management activities (DSE, 2012). The Victorian government have developed fire management zones as a means of prioritising land areas for bushfire management:

- APZ – Asset Protection zone - Areas close to residential areas – high priority for management.
- BMZ – Bushfire Moderation zone – aim to achieve asset protection and achieve some ecological outcomes.
- LMZ - Landscape management zone – planned burns are primarily undertaken for fuel reduction to maintain ecological processes.
- PBEZ - Planned burning exclusion zone – no fire permitted.

Each resident should be aware of the bushfire hazards on their property and adjacent to their property. The bushfire hazard on the Unallocated State land will be managed and monitored by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

There are 11 fire management areas identified for the Shute Harbour Fires Area (Figure 9). The bushfire management areas have been classified for bushfire hazard (Figure 10).

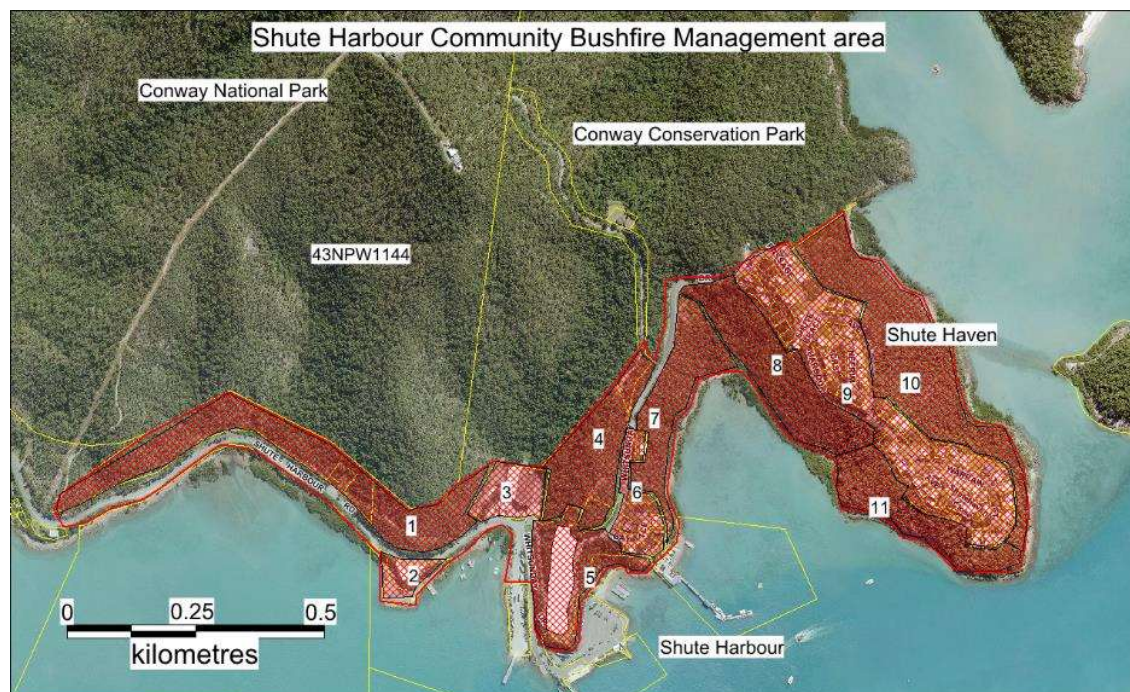


Figure 9. The Shute Harbour fire management areas.



Figure 10. Revised Bushfire hazard rating.

The priority for bushfire management activities have been reviewed to reflect the bushfire hazard rating. It is noted that there are individual residential properties on most of the 26 lots. In many cases there is cleared around the residential houses. It is also noted that the dominant wind direction is from the south-east, consequently, if a wild-fire did occur it is unlikely to affect all lots. The majority of the Shute Harbour area has been mapped as “Landscape Management Zone” (LMZ) (figure 11). The LMZ areas are land units where planned burns may be necessary to reduce fuel loads and maintain ecological processes. The fire management areas can be further summarised as:

- Red = APZ (high hazard and high priority),
- Orange = BMZ (medium hazard and medium priority)
- Yellow = LMZ (medium hazard and low - medium priority)
- Green = PBEZ (low-medium hazard and lower priority).



Figure 11. The fire management areas and fire management class.

The BEZ management units have the potential for wildfires to threaten residential properties. The bushfire hazard, risk to property and possible bushfire mitigation measures are suggested in table 9.

Table 9. The bushfire hazard and mitigation measures for fire management units in the Shute Harbour area.

| Fire area | Hazard | Mitigation options |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | High | Incorporate this area with the Mount Rooper planned burn regime |
| 2 | Low - Nil | Commercial area |
| 3 | Low - Nil | Commercial area |
| 4 | High | Incorporate this area with the Mount Rooper planned burn regime |
| 5 | Low - Nil | Shute car park |
| 6 | Low - Nil | Residential area |
| 7 | Medium | Planned burn on edge of residential area. Strategy to encourage rainforest to colonise over-time. |
| 8 | Low | Rainforest – no planned burning |

| | | |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 | Low - Nil | Residential area. One small 1000m ² lot of bushland in Neerim Crescent has a medium bushfire hazard rating – encourage rainforest to colonise over-time and manage long grass. |
| 10 | Medium | No planned burns. Strategy to encourage rainforest to colonise over-time. Encourage adjacent residents to clear a small fire break of 5m downslope of their back fence. |
| 11 | Medium | No planned burns. Strategy to encourage rainforest to colonise over-time. Encourage adjacent residents to clear a small fire break of 5m downslope of their back fence. |

3.4. Hazard reduction burning frequencies and methods

The prescribed burn program for Shute Harbour area will be programmed around the site vegetation, seasonal fuel load and timed for optimum climatic conditions. The timing of prescribed burns will be based on recommendations as given at the time of annual hazard assessments. The frequency of prescribed burns will be guided by the recommendations set out in “Fire Management Guidelines” by Reef Catchments 2009, recommendations from the Queensland government and from site specific annual fuel load assessments.

The fire management areas will also be used to determine hazard reduction burn frequencies. The proposed planned burn frequencies for each vegetation type is shown in table 10.

Table 10. Vegetation communities and hazard reduction burn frequencies.

| Vegetation community | RE | Hazard reduction burn frequency | Fire management areas | Fire Zones |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Eucalyptus portuensis and/or Lophostemon confertus | 8.12.5 | 3-9 years if present | | Nil / LMZ |
| Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket | 8.12.11 | Not burnt | 8 | PBEZ |
| Eucalyptus drepanophylla and/or E. crebra | 8.12.14 | 5-10 years | 1, 4, 7,10,11 | BEZ |

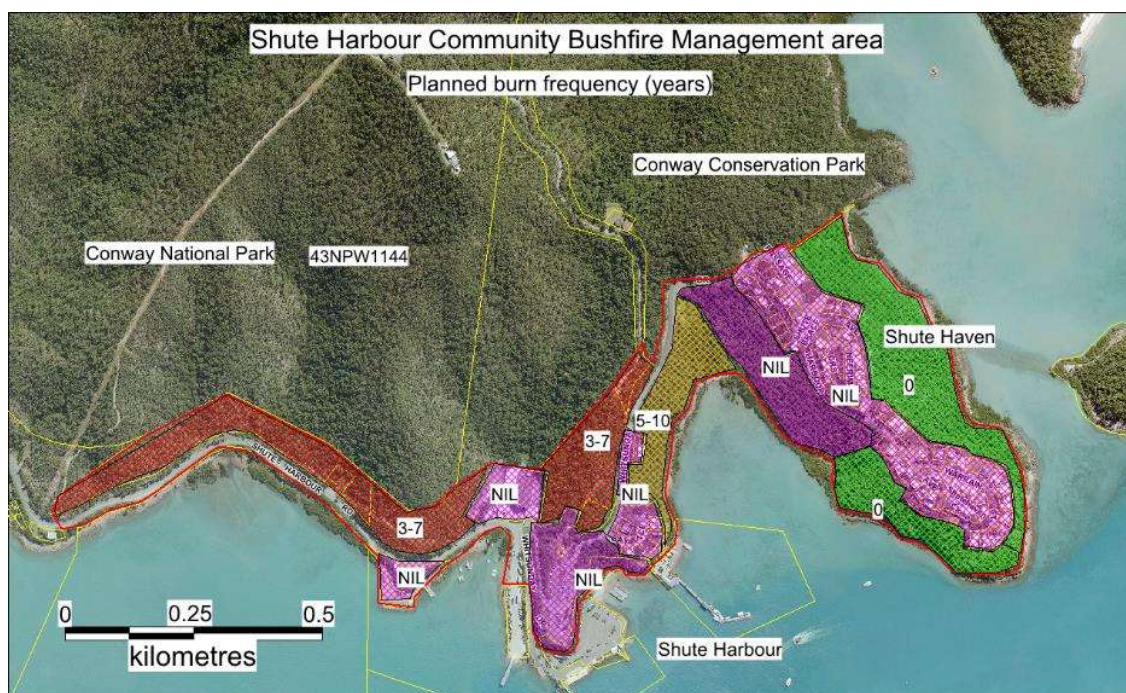


Figure 12. Proposed planned burn frequencies.

3.5. Schedule of bushfire management and mitigation tasks

The schedule of bushfire management and maintenance tasks is summarised in table 11.

Table 11. Schedule of bushfire management actions.

| No | Task | Who is responsible | Timing |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Assess fuel loads | Landholders and Rural Fire Brigade | May |
| 2 | Develop an annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade and residents | June |
| 3 | Approve the annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade | June |
| 4 | Slash fire lines/fire breaks | Landholders | May and October |
| 5 | Inspect condition of fire lines | Landholders | May |
| 5 | Earthworks for fire lines/breaks | Landholders | As required |
| 6 | Coordinate planned burns | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | As per approved plan |
| 7 | Community awareness | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | Use of media in May |
| 8 | Seeking fire permit | Landholders | AS required |

The draft schedule of planned burns for the various fire management areas are shown in table 12.

Table 12. The proposed timing of future planned burns for Shute Harbour management areas.

| Fire Management area | Description | Zone | Planned burn frequency | 2019 (unplanned burn areas) | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | Mt Rooper | LMZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Commercial | Nil | No burning | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Commercial | Nil | No burning | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | State Land | LMZ | 3-7 years | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Shute car Park | Nil | No burning | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Bay Terrace – residential area | Nil | No burning | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Whitsunday Drive – Eucalypt | PBEZ | 5-10 years (selected near residential areas) | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Whitsunday Drive rainforest | PBEZ | No burning | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Shute Haven – residential area | Nil | No burning | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Shute Haven – State land- Eucalypt – east facing | BEZ | No burning | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Shute Haven – State land- Eucalypt – south facing | BEZ | No burning | | | | | | | | | |

The development of fire breaks and fire control lines are a landholder's responsibility. Ideally the breaks should be created along property boundaries, or along contours, or between different forest types (e.g. rainforest- Eucalypt forest). Fire breaks or control line tracks located on steep slopes will be subject to erosion and will cost more to maintain. The more fire prone areas do not lend themselves to the creation of new fire breaks. There are no new fire breaks recommended for the Shute Harbour Fire Plan area.

One of the key conflict areas is the boundary between the Shute Haven residential areas and the Unallocated State Land (areas 10 and 11). It is recommended between the downslope residential property boundary and the Unallocated bushland:

- Residents should reduce the eucalypt and acacia trees on their properties.
- The eucalypt and acacia trees within 5m of the downslope boundary could be removed.
- The formation of a "green" buffer between the downslope residential property boundary and the State Land bushland. The green buffer will be composed of planned or regenerating rainforest plants.

3.6. Fire fighting – response and resources

The responsibility of responding to fires in the Shute Harbour area is the primary role of the Airlie Beach fire brigade.

The water for fighting unplanned fires is sourced from:

- Water hydrants
- Airlie Beach fire brigade
- QPWS fire fighting units.
- Residential water tanks and swimming pools.

4. Conclusion

The Shute Harbour Community Bushfire Management Plan has been developed to document stakeholder responsibilities, guide mitigation measures and communicate the main bushfire priorities for this area. The Shute Harbour area covers 47ha and is divided up into 11 fire management areas based on land within similar land use and bushfire hazard. Each fire management unit has a set of recommendations to reduce the bushfire hazard and risk to property.

This Plan was placed on public notice from September to November 2020. During the public consultation period the following were the main points noted:

- There is a perceived bushfire hazard on the eastern side of Shute Haven.
- There is a need to ensure that the Shute Harbour Community Bushfire Plan is consistent with the Conway National Park Bushfire Plan.

The intension of this Bushfire Plan is to enable bushfire management mitigation to occur under agreed conditions and to maximise community safety whilst recognising the importance of the areas ecological values.

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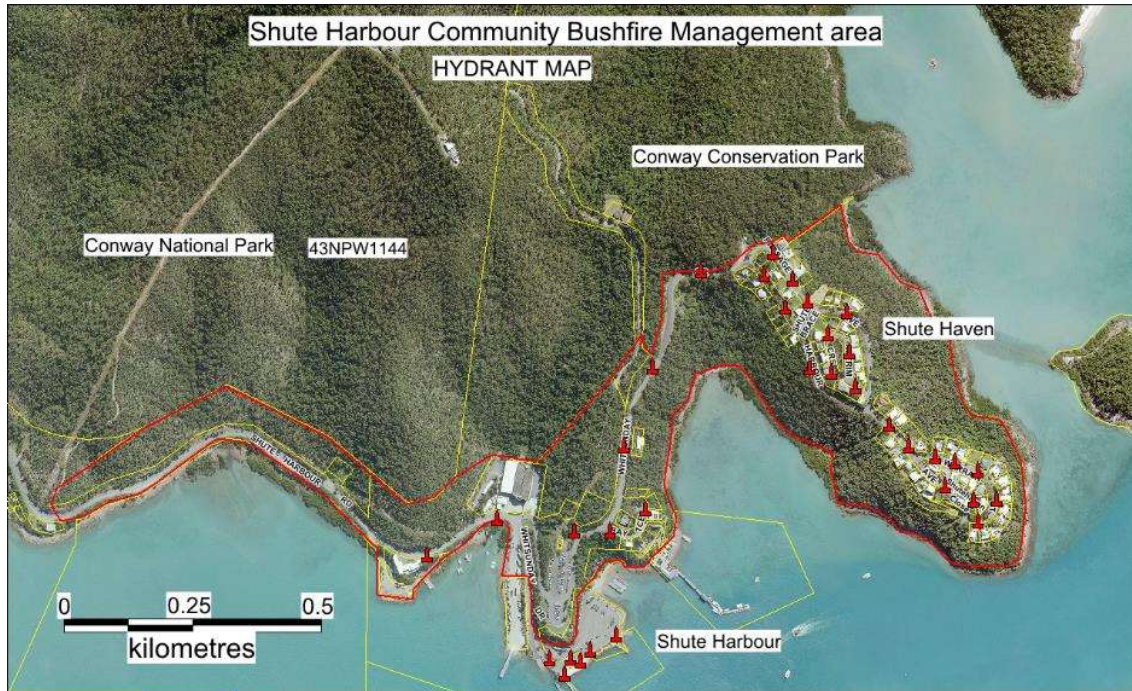
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Tran, C & Peacock, C (2002) Fire Management Strategic Manual; Guidelines for planning and implementing a council or shire wide fire management strategy. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Queensland Australia.

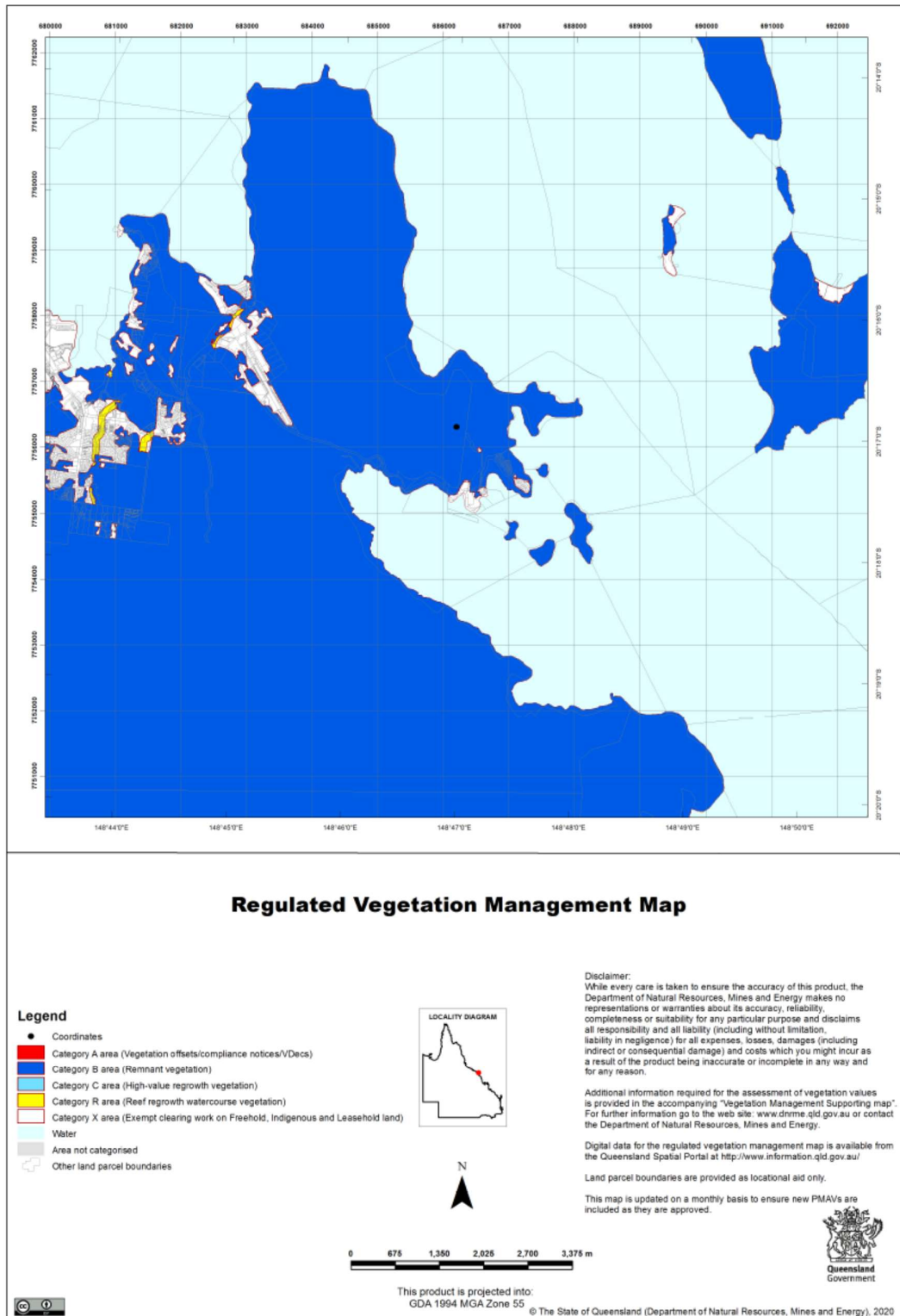
6. Appendix

6.1. Hydrant and water resources map

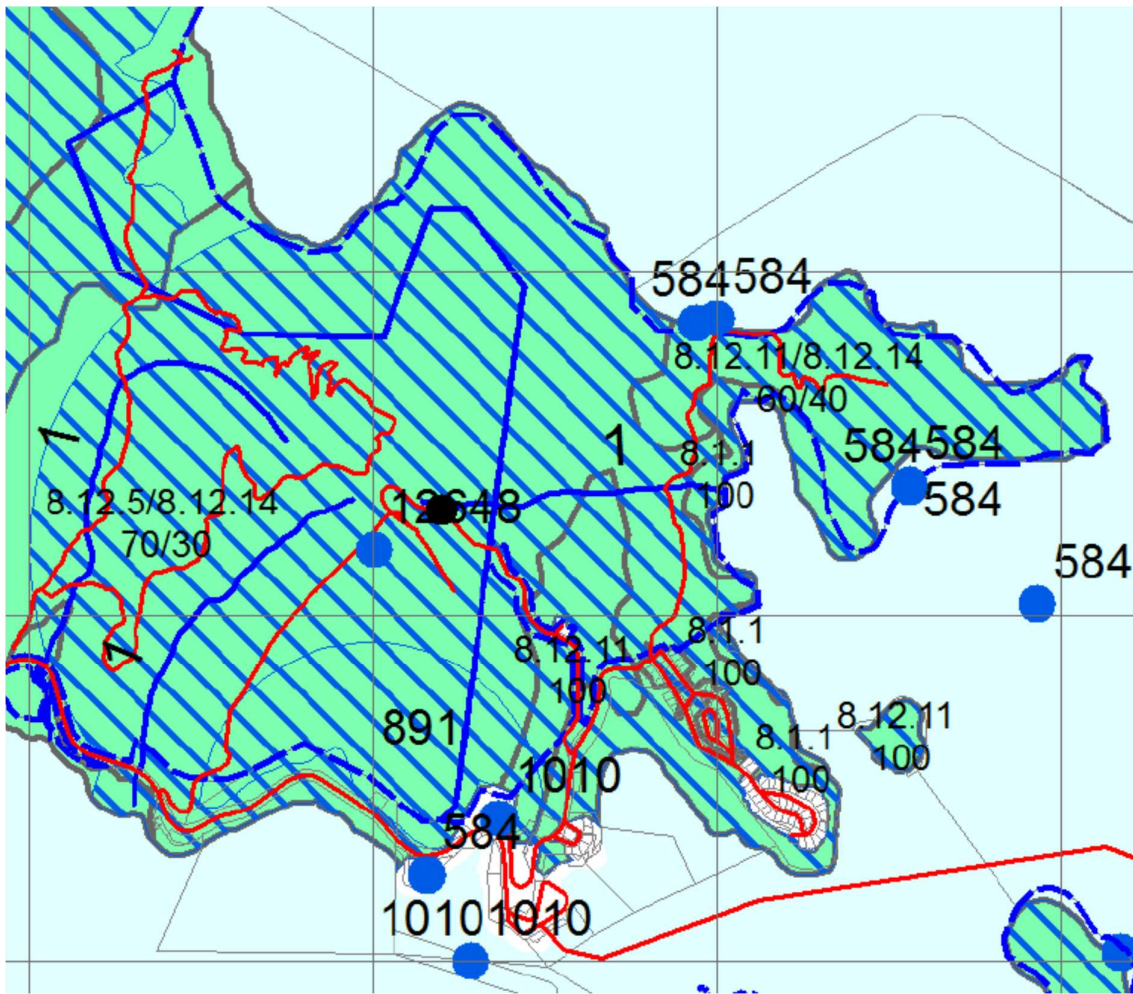


Map 1. Hydrant map

6.2. Regional Ecosystem map



Map 2. Regional ecosystem map - regulated map.



Map 3. Extract of the regional ecosystem map.

6.3. Contours and fire breaks

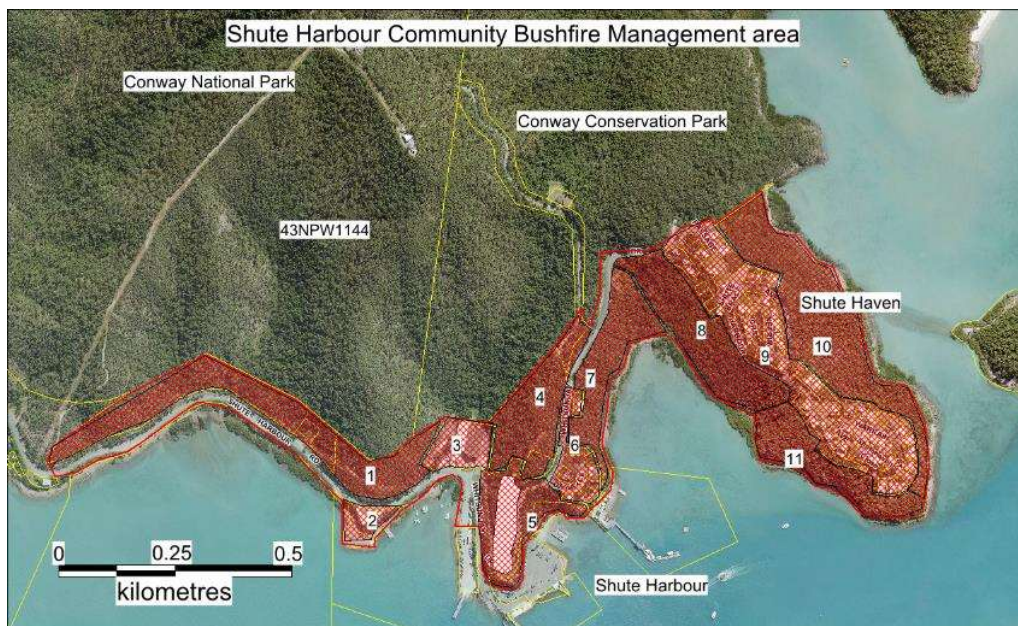
Bushfire Control lines and access tracks should be located along property boundaries and/or along the contour.



Map 4. Shute Harbour area contours

No fire break map

Map 5. Shute Harbour fire breaks



Map 6. Showing Fire management areas

6.4. Objectives for bushfire hazard reduction burning

Source: NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

A successful low intensity hazard reduction burn will reduce fuel load so that it creates a safe defensible area around an asset. It should also minimise the impact from the burn on the environment.

In carrying out a burn, you need to consider:

- 1) The fuel load and structure
- 2) The effects on the environment and the community
- 3) The specific zone objectives
- 4) If there are adequate fire breaks and control lines
- 5) The season and weather conditions
- 6) The topography and fire behaviour
- 7) What lighting patterns to use
- 8) Conducting a test burn
- 9) What safety measures may be needed
- 10) Mopping up afterwards
- 11) If you need to report the results

6.5. Check list for hazard reduction burns

The following is a checklist of tasks and activities that should be followed prior to hazard reduction burns:

| No. | Task | √ |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Fuel load assessment conducted | |
| 2 | Bushfire fire hazard sufficient to warrant a hazard reduction burn | |
| 3 | Fire breaks and control lines are in good condition | |
| 4 | Burn plan developed – identifying where the burn will occur, timing and personnel availability | |
| 5 | Ensure adequate trained personnel are on hand for planned burn | |
| 6 | Fire permit gained for proposed burn plan | |
| 7 | Proposed hazard reduction burn is approved by Conway / Shute Harbour fire brigade | |
| 8 | Community awareness plan is developed and activated prior to burn | |
| 9 | Bushfire stakeholders advised of hazard reduction burn timing | |
| 10 | Machinery and trucks are in good working order. Water available. | |
| 11 | Contingency plan developed in case fire escapes the target area | |
| 12 | Hazard reduction burn is undertaken in accordance with QFES guidelines | |
| 13 | Fire control personnel ensure fire is out before leaving fire control area. | |
| 14 | A brief account of the hazard reduction burn submitted to QFES and Council. | |

6.6. Stakeholder contacts

- Whitsunday Regional Council – Scott Hardy – 0428722236 / 49450245.
- QDNRM - Dan Burndred – 0472 847 894, Tim Koch - 0418 970 097
- QPWS – Ross Perry - 4962 5206
- Airlie Beach fire service – 000. Airlie beach forward – 49625205 and 49466442

For more information regarding the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade:

https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw_finder.aspx

6.7. Map of rural fire areas and warden contacts



Map 7. Showing the rural fire areas and warden contact numbers.

6.8. Landholder bushfire planning checklist

The following checklist can be used by residential landholders to plan and manage their bushfire hazard:

| Task | Checked |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Structure | |
| Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters. | |
| Purchase and test the effectiveness of gutter plugs. | |
| Enclose open areas under decks and floors. | |
| Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes | |
| Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house. | |
| Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems. | |
| Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding. | |
| | |
| Access | |
| Display a prominent house or lot number, in case it is required in an emergency. | |
| Ensure there is adequate access to your property for fire trucks - 4 metres wide by 4 metres high, with a turn-around area. | |
| | |
| Vegetation | |
| Reduce vegetation loads along the access path. | |
| Mow your grass regularly. | |
| Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches). | |
| Trim low-lying branches two metres from the ground surrounding your home. | |
| Consider removing flammable trees near residential buildings (e.g. removal of eucalypt trees) and replace with non-flammable rainforest species. | |
| | |
| Personal | |
| Check that you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment. | |
| Relocate flammable items away from your home, including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture. | |
| Check the first aid kit is fully stocked. | |
| Make sure you have appropriate insurance for your home and vehicles. | |
| Find out if there is a nearby Neighbourhood Safer Place . | |
| Review and update your household Bushfire Survival Plan . | |
| | |
| Other | |
| Consider the location of water points and possible direction of bushfire threats. In rural residential areas ensure water tanks are more than half full in bushfire season. | |
| Keep swimming pool full of water. | |

Source: https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety/Pages/Prepare-for-bushfire-season.aspx

6.9. Vegetation clearing rules

Exemptions apply to some clearing activities permitted under other legislation, including the *Forestry Act 1959*, *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, *Electricity Act 1994*, *Electricity Regulation 2006* and *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Visit the [Department of Environment and Science website](#) for more information.

Exempt clearing work for fire management sourced from the Queensland government websites:

- You can undertake certain clearing activities to protect your property from bushfires without getting approval or notifying the Queensland government. These exemptions are summarised in the Table below.
- If you need to clear a wider area, you might be able to [clear using a vegetation clearing code](#) or [apply for a development approval](#).
- **Firebreaks** are low-fuel areas located immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure (including a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose) that are cleared and maintained to slow or stop the progress of a fire, or to perform back-burning.
- **Fire management lines** are roads, fence line clearings or tracks (including existing property tracks) used to access water for firefighting or divide the property for fuel reduction burning or back-burning.

| Purpose for clearing | Vegetation category | Clearing allowances |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fences roads and tracks | Least concern regional ecosystems | Clearing to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track to a maximum width of 10m |
| Fire management line | All | Clearing for a necessary for management line to a maximum width of 10m |
| Firebreaks | All | For a fire necessary to protect buildings and other structures (other than a fence line); to a width of up to 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation or 20m (which ever is the widest) |
| Hazardous fuel load reduction | All | Fuel reduction burns can be done under a permit issued by the local fire warden |
| Maintain existing infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to maintain existing buildings and other structures, fences, roads and watering points. |
| Risk to people and infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to remove or reduce imminent risk the vegetation poses to people or buildings and other structures. |

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/vegetation/disasters/fire/code>

https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/847800/vegetation-clearing-exemptions.pdf

Community Bushfire Management Plan: Woodwark, Airlie Beach (2020-2030)

Scott Hardy
Coordinator Natural Resource Management

Date: 22nd of January 2021



Po Box 104
Proserpine, 4800

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Woodward Community Bushfire Management Plan is to document bushfire hazard and describe how this hazard will be managed for the next 10 years (2020-2030). This Bushfire Plan is specifically written for the Woodward residents and stakeholders. The reason why this Bushfire Management Plan has been developed is the large number of residential dwellings occurring in and adjacent to high bushfire hazard areas in the suburb of Woodward near Airlie Beach. Fire management agencies are concerned that wild fires in the Woodward area could threaten numerous residential properties.

This Community Bushfire Plan covers approximately 184 residential properties and lots. This Plan covers 455ha with the Council owning or managing 16ha.

The Woodward Bushfire Plan seeks the following outcomes:

- Describe the extent of bushfire hazard.
- Describe the location of existing and potential fire control lines and fire breaks.
- List the roles and responsibilities for bushfire management.
- List the proposed schedule of bushfire mitigation tasks.

While this proposed Community Bushfire Management Plan provides guidelines on how the Woodward bushfire hazard could be managed, each landholder is responsible under legislation to manage their own bushfire hazard. The Council encourages landholders to discuss their bushfire planning and management with their neighbours.

The Council has developed this Community Bushfire Management Plan in consultation with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), representatives of the Cannon Valley Rural Fire Brigade and the Airlie Beach urban fire service. The information contained in this Bushfire Plan is based on data collected from stakeholders over recent years and information available on the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade website.

Acknowledgements

The Whitsunday Regional Council would like to thank the following stakeholders who have contributed to the Woodward Community Bushfire Management Plan;

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
- Cannon Valley Rural Fire Brigade
- Airlie Beach QFES

Document control

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Title | Woodward Community Bushfire Management Plan |
| Council work unit | Natural Resource Management |
| Contact officer | Scott Hardy |
| email | info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au |
| Version- 5 | 22 nd of January 2021 |

1. Introduction

The Woodward area has been identified as having a high bushfire hazard due to the vegetation type, slope and aspect. The Woodward area along Paluma Road has a history of bushfire threatening properties. The rural township and the surrounding land has a moderate to high risk for loss of life and/or property if the bushfire hazard is not managed appropriately. There are numerous residential dwellings located in and adjacent to flammable vegetation. Fire Management agencies are concerned that wildfires in the Woodward area could cause damage to a number of properties which are surrounded by unmanaged Eucalypt woodland.

The Council, together with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have defined an area in the Woodward suburb which has vegetation and topographic conditions which warrant more detailed community bushfire planning. The Woodward Fire Plan area covers 184 residential lots over a 455ha area. The Whitsunday Regional Council owns or manages 16ha of land in this area. The Woodward Fire Plan area has been defined based on the likelihood of bushfires occurring and the lots which could be affected.

The purpose of this Community Bushfire Management Plan is to identify the actions required to reduce bushfire hazard in the Woodward township and surrounding area for the next 10 years (2020-2030) (Figure 1). The objectives of this Plan include;

- Identify where fire lines are required to protect life and property from fire,
- Maintain an ecologically appropriate controlled burn program,
- Improve community awareness,
- Maintain coordination and communication between landowners,
- Description of a maintenance program to manage bushfire hazard and risk.

It is envisaged that this Community Bushfire Management Plan will be used as a communication tool to inform stakeholders and the community of the bushfire hazard within Woodward and how it could be managed. Ultimately, each landholder will be responsible for managing bushfire hazard on their own land. The Council encourages a coordinated and cooperative approach to community bushfire hazard management.



Figure 1. The application area for the Woodward Community Bushfire Management Plan.

2. Background

2.1. Land tenure and ownership

The Woodward Community Bushfire planning area covers approximately 455ha with 16ha being owned or managed by the Whitsunday Regional Council. The bushfire planning area is bounded on the western side by Dryander National Park (24AP193460 which covers 10,100ha) (Figure 2).



Figure 2. The Woodward community with Dryander National Park in the background.

2.2. Site description

2.2.1. Geology, landform and soils

The geology of the Woodward area was mapped by the Queensland government in 1972. An extract of the Proserpine geology map is shown in figure 2. The hills of the Woodward area are predominantly formed by the Whitsunday Volcanics (Kp) and Airlie Volcanics (PII). The Airlie Volcanics are mostly comprised of Permian acid volcanic rocks such as rhyolite which produce gravelly, shallow duplex soils which are relatively low in soil fertility. The low fertility of the soils have an influence over the vegetation which is found on the hills.

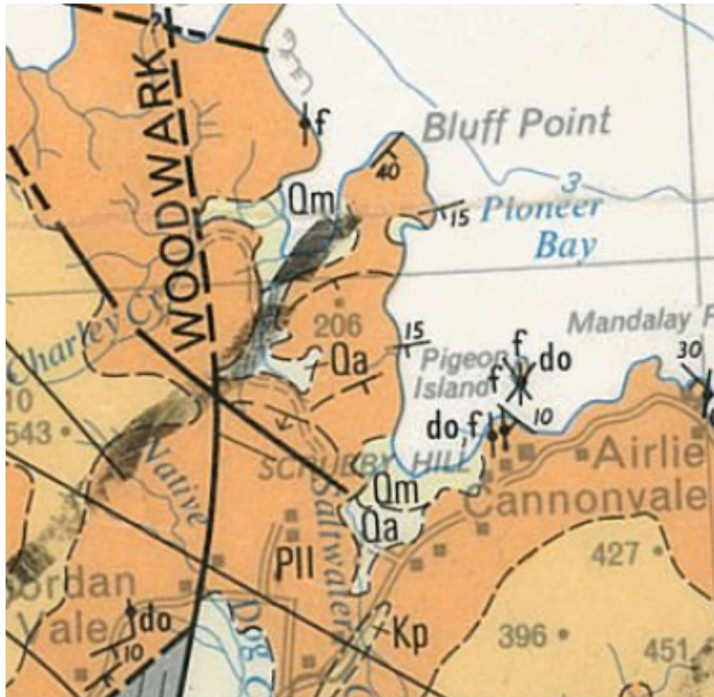


Figure 3. The geology map covering the Woodward area (*Paine and Cameron, 1972*).

2.2.2. Vegetation

The vegetation of the Woodward area has been mapped by the State government. The regional ecosystem map for the Woodward area can be found in the appendix of this report. The geology, fertility of the soils and rainfall patterns influence the vegetation of the Woodward area. The dominant vegetation surrounding the Woodward area is open eucalypt forest and woodland and notophyll sub-tropical rainforest.

The dominant regional ecosystems are:

- 8.12.18 - Semi-evergreen notophyll/microphyll to complex notophyll *Argyrodendron* spp. Vine forest +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii*, of foothills and uplands on near-coastal ranges and islands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.
- 8.12.26. *Corymbia tessellaris* and/or *Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest on hill slopes of islands and near coastal areas, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, and Tertiary acid to intermediate volcanics.

The regional ecosystem map for the Woodward area can be found in the appendix.

The Eucalypt woodland on the footslopes and mid-slope areas have a medium to high bushfire hazard.



Figure 4. Showing Eucalypt woodland (RE 8.12.26) on the footslope on the southern side of Paluma Road.

2.3. Bushfire legislation and policy

2.3.1. Australia and Queensland

All levels of government have a responsibility and role in bushfire management. In 2014, the Council of Australian Governments approved the National Bushfire Management Policy Statement (National Forest Fire Management Group, 2014). The National Policy identifies Local government and other landholders having an important role in bushfire management and planning. The National Bushfire Policy identifies four main strategic objectives and 14 bushfire management goals. The four strategic National bushfire management objectives are:

- Effectively managing the land with fire
- Involved and capable communities
- Strong land, fire and emergency partnerships and capability
- Actively and adaptively managing risk

There is a legislative requirement under Common Law and the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* for Local Government and residents as owners and occupiers of land to prevent fires escaping from their land and damaging property (Tran and Peacock, 2002). Councils and other landholders have an obligation to manage their land responsibly to prevent the loss of life or property and reduce the 'human' impacts of bushfires. Landholders are also required however to achieve this and still maintain their obligations under other legislation. Obligations under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for example require local authorities to protect and conserve rare or threatened species, biodiversity and ecological processes.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* is the principle legislation that deals with lighting fires in the open in Queensland. The Act makes it illegal to light a fire without a 'Permit to Light Fire' issued by a fire warden.

The *Queensland Vegetation Management Act (1999)* regulates vegetation clearing. However, there are exemptions available to clear vegetation to develop and maintain fire breaks and fire control lines. The exemptions are found in the appendix of this report.

2.3.2. Whitsunday Regional Council

The Whitsunday Regional Council developed a Bushfire Management Policy and Bushfire Management Plan in 2018. The purpose of the Policy is to define Council's intention in bushfire management, planning and on-ground actions. The purpose of the Council's Bushfire Plan is to identify high risk Council lots for bushfire risk and outline a program of works to better manage bushfire risk on Council managed lots. The Council Bushfire Management Plan lists community education and awareness concerning bushfire hazard as an important action and outcome.

The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed a local law which includes the regulation of fires.

2.4. Bushfire hazard and risk

2.4.1. Bushfire hazard

Bushfire hazard refers to the conditions which could support the presence of a fire. There are a number of methods that can be used to assess bushfire hazard. One of the most commonly used bushfire hazard assessment tool is documented in the Queensland State Planning Policy 1/03. According to Risk Frontiers (2011) the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have used the SPP 1/03 bushfire hazard methodology and the Interface Zone (I Zone) methodology to identify bushfire hazard areas. The I-Zone is where the urban-rural residential land use meet flammable vegetation (Risk Frontiers, 2011).

More recently the CSIRO have developed a slightly different approach to determining and mapping bushfire hazard (Leonard, 2014). The methods developed by Leonard *et al.*, (2014) have been used to develop the current Queensland bushfire hazard mapping. The CSIRO method uses vegetation type, slope and estimated fuel load to allocate land to 20 Vegetation Hazard Classes.

The Queensland State Planning Policy bushfire hazard process involves the assessment of vegetation, slope and aspect. Scores are allocated to vegetation, slope and aspect. The bushfire attribute scores are then added to determine the total hazard score. The vegetation communities hazard assessment is shown in table 1, slope assessment is shown in table 2 and aspect assessment table 3. The classification of bushfire hazard is shown in table 4.

Table 1. Vegetation communities assessment table to determine vegetation hazard score.

| Vegetation Communities | Fire behaviour | Hazard score |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wet sclerophyll forest, tall eucalypts (>30m), with grass and mixed shrub understorey | Infrequent fires under severe conditions, flame lengths may exceed 40m, floating embers attack structures for 1 hour, radiant heat and direct flame are destructive for 30 minutes. | 10 |
| Paperbark heath and swamps, eucalypt forest with dry-shrub ladder fuels. | Fire intensity depends on fuel accumulation, but can be severe, with flame lengths to 20m, spot fires frequent across firebreaks, radiant heat and direct flame for 15 minutes. | 8 |
| Grassy eucalypt and acacia forest, exotic pine plantations, cypress pine forests, wallum heath | Fire intensity may be severe with flame lengths to 20m, but less attack from embers | 6 |
| Native grasslands (ungrazed), open woodlands, canefields | Fast moving fires, available to fire annually to 4 years. Usually no ember attack, radiant heat for >10m, duration < 2minutes. | 5 |
| Intact acacia forests, with light grass to leaf litter, disturbed rainforests. | Fires infrequent, usually burn only under severe conditions, relatively slow fires, usually little ember attack. | 4 |
| Orchards, farmlands, kikuyu pastures | Fires very infrequent, slow moving, may be difficult to extinguish, frequent fire breaks. | 2 |
| Grazed grassland, slashed grass | Grazing reduces intensity and rate of spread of fire, duration < 2 minutes. | 2 |
| Desert lands (sparse fuels), mowed grass | Gaps in fuel, usually slow fire spread. | 1 |
| Intact rainforest, mangrove forest, intact riverine rainforest | Virtually fire proof. | 0 |

Table 2. The slope assessment table used to determine the slope hazard score.

| Slope | Hazard score |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Gorges and mountains (>30%) | 5 |
| Steep hills (20% - 30%) | 4 |
| Rolling Hills (10% to 20%) | 3 |
| Undulating (5% to 10%) | 2 |
| Plain (0% to 5%) | 1 |

Table 3. The aspect assessment table used to determine the aspect hazard score.

| Aspect | Hazard score |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| North to North-west | 3.5 |
| North – West to West | 3 |
| West to South | 2 |
| North to East | 1 |
| East to South and all land under 5% slope | 0 |

Table 4. The determination of bushfire hazard using the Queensland SPP 1/03 system.

| Total hazard score | Severity of bushfire hazard |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 13 or greater | High |
| 6 to 12.5 | Medium |
| 1 to 5.5 | Low |

Fuel load is a main contributor to bushfire hazard (Middelmann, 2007). There are a number of methods used to estimate, measure and assess fuel loads. Hines *et al.* (2010) have developed a system of measuring forest fuel loads in Victoria. The method developed by Hines *et al.*, (2010) for estimating fuel loads is based on separating the forest into fuel layers and then estimating or measuring the potential fuel within each of these layers. The amount of fuel contained in these layers is measured in terms of tonnes per hectare.

The Queensland Fire Emergency Service (QFES) have produced bushfire hazard rating maps for Queensland. Bushfire hazard is rated as either low, medium or high based on vegetation type, aspect, topography and climate. The QFES bushfire hazard rating maps are usually produced at a scale of 1:250,000 or 1:100,000. Bushfire hazard areas rated as low on the QFES maps mostly relate to rainforest areas, while high risk areas relate to Eucalypt and wattle areas. The bushfire hazard maps can be a useful guide to bushfire hazard and the likely risk of bushfire occurring in a locality. However, these bushfire hazard maps may not be accurate on properties less than 20ha. Land with a high or medium bushfire hazard rating should have some bushfire management plan or process in place.

2.4.2. Bushfire risk

Bushfire risk refers to the likely occurrence or frequency of a bushfire. Middlemann (2007) states that “the likelihood of bushfire hazard can be summarised in terms of the probability of a fire arriving at a point in the landscape and the intensity of the fire at that point “. Risk can be increased due to a number of factors including a high bushfire hazard and proximity to ignition sources such as roadsides and populated areas. Bushfire planning and mitigation measures can reduce bushfire hazard and risk.

Local governments are involved in bushfire risk reduction measures such as the development of local laws regulating fires, development planning, development of disaster management plans and implementation of bushfire mitigation measures (Middlemann, 2010).

There are a number of methods used to measure risk. The NSW Rural Fire Service (2008) have developed a matrix to describe bushfire risk (Figure 5). The NSW Rural Fire Service risk matrix requires the determination of the likelihood of a bushfire occurring and the likely consequences.

| Consequence \ Likelihood | Minor | Moderate | Major | Catastrophic |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Almost certain | High | Very High | Extreme | Extreme |
| Likely | Medium | High | Very High | Extreme |
| Possible | Low | Medium | High | Very High |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | High |

Figure 5. The determination of bushfire risk (NSW Rural Fire Service 2008).

The likelihood of a bushfire occurring will depend largely on the bushfire hazard. The consequence of a bushfire occurring at a given location will depend on the environmental values and development present (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2008).

2.4.3. Woodwark bushfire hazard

The Queensland State government have mapped the bushfire hazard in the Woodwark area (Figure 6). The upland areas north of Woodwark have been mapped as having high bushfire hazard. The land with eucalypt woodland and open forest has a medium to high bushfire hazard. The close proximity of the eucalypt woodland to residential properties presents a high risk to residential dwellings and infrastructure.

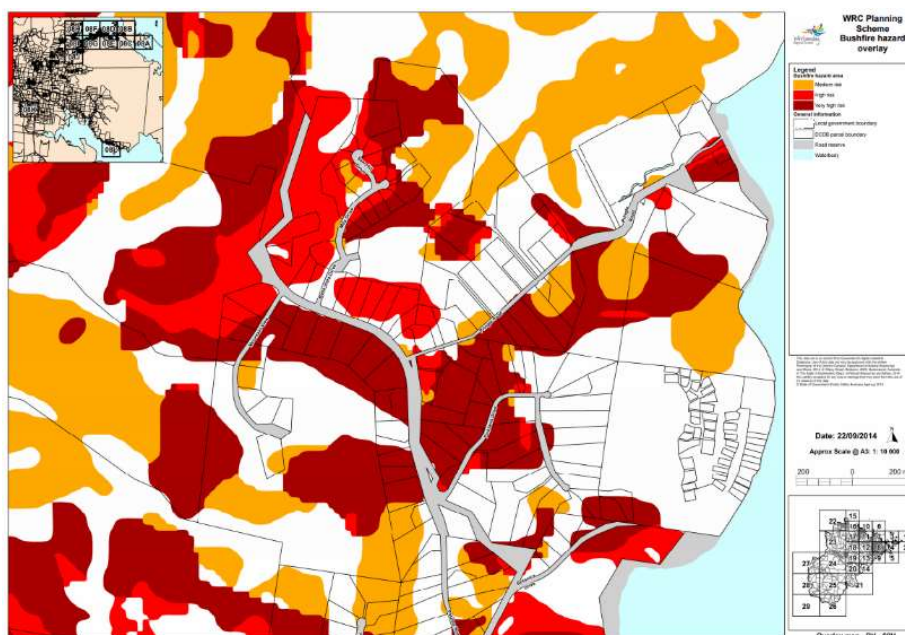


Figure 6. Showing the bushfire hazard in the Woodward area (Red = High hazard, Orange = Medium hazard).

2.5. Bushfire management guidelines

2.5.1. Bushfire guidelines for regional ecosystems

The regional ecosystem characteristics can provide information which can guide bushfire management and planning. The Whitsunday Regional Council is partially included in the Central Queensland Coast and Northern Brigalow Belt bioregions. There are 83 individual regional ecosystems in the Central Queensland Coast bioregion and 172 regional ecosystems found in the Northern Brigalow Belt bioregion.

The type of vegetation community, its fire requirements and hazard can be used for bushfire planning. Bushfire management advice for a selected number of regional ecosystems are listed in table 5. The bushfire management advice provided by the Queensland State government for each regional ecosystem is found at:

<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/redd/resource/c77196df-7af9-4c09-ac88-256867c39806>

Table 5. Showing the bushfire management advice for selected regional ecosystems.

| Bioregion | Regional ecosystem | Vegetation description | Bushfire advice |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CQC | 8.12.26 | Corymbia tessellaris and/or Eucalyptus tereticornis open forest on hill slopes of islands and near coastal areas, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, and Tertiary acid to intermediate volcanics | SEASON: Late winter burns are indicated although storm burning could be trialed providing results were carefully monitored. INTENSITY: Moderate to high. INTERVAL: 3 - 5 years. ISSUES: In many areas, vine forest understorey's have developed to the point where it is unlikely the open forest structure can be regained and ultimately the area will develop into vine forest. There is evidence to suggest that low to moderate fire will enhance vine forest emergence. |

| | | | |
|-----|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CQC | 8.12.18 | Semi-evergreen notophyll/microphyll to complex notophyll <i>Argyrodendron</i> spp. vine forest +/- <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> , of foothills and uplands on near-coastal ranges and islands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | ISSUES: Fire sensitive. |
|-----|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|

2.5.2. Other regional fire management guidelines

The Reef Catchments Natural Resource Management Group together with the Clarke Connors Range Bush Fire Consortium developed fire management guidelines for the Central Queensland coast region (Reef Catchments, 2009). The fire guidelines have been developed for 12 landscape types. For each of the 12 landscape types recommendations are made for fire frequency, fire intensity, season and whether mosaic burns are required.

The purpose of the guidelines is to reduce unplanned burns (wild fires). The landscape types and the recommended guidelines are shown in table 6.

Table 6. Clarke - Connors range fire management guidelines.

| Landscape type | Fire frequency | Fire intensity | Preferred season for hazard reduction | Mosaic burning |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mangroves and estuaries | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Beaches and foreshores | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Hind dunes | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Riverine and wetlands | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Alluvial flat country | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Grassy woodlands and open forests | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Tall wet eucalypt forests | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |
| Eucalypt forest and woodlands on hills | Every 5 years | Medium | Winter | 25% |
| Rainforest and vine thickets | Not burnt | Nil | Nil | No |
| Island and rocky headlands | Every 3-5 years | Medium | Winter | 50% |

The Queensland State government have developed Planned Burn Guidelines for Central Queensland Coast Bioregion of Queensland (DNPRSR, 2012). The planned burn guidelines are used to plan and implement prescribed burns in National Parks and State land. The State government guidelines are also applicable to Council owned and managed bushland lots.

2.6. Whitsunday bushfire management planning framework

The bushfire management and planning structure and workflow between organisations is reflected in figure 5. The Whitsunday Regional Council has a Bushfire Management Policy and a Bushfire Management Plan to guide the management of bushfire hazard and risk on Council managed lots.

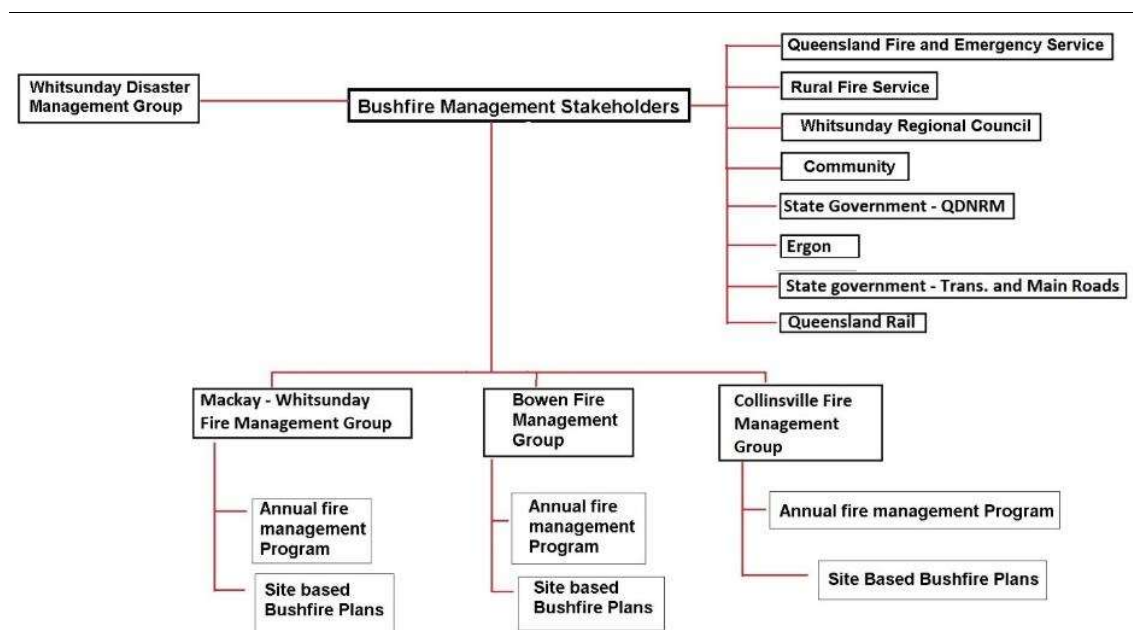


Figure 7. The bushfire management and planning framework.

2.7. Bushfire mitigation and management strategies

There are a number of strategies that can be undertaken to reduce bushfire hazard and risk. Table 7 lists the bushfire risk factors and some of the mitigation measures that can be used to reduce the occurrence of bushfires.

Table 7. Common bushfire mitigation strategies.

| Bushfire Factor | Mitigation strategy or measure |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Litter build up from Eucalypt vegetation communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a permit to light fire from the local fire warden to reduce fuel loads. Liaise with a local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake a fuel reduction burn. Subsequent burns may need to be conducted every 3 years. Clear juvenile gum tree samplings from areas near the house and property. Gum trees (such as Iron barks and Blue gums) should be removed from within 30 m of the house and properties. This may require an application to Council for permission. If in doubt contact the Council for advice. |
| Grass build up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass species such as Guinea grass (<i>Megathyrus maximus</i>) respond well to fire. This species needs to be chemically controlled, kept short through mowing or slashing, or grazed. Revegetate areas with rainforest species to shade out grass and therefore reduce fuel loads. Grass should be kept to a minimal height around houses and property using mowing, brush cutting or use of approved herbicides depending on site conditions. Establish separation zones between buildings and grassy fuel by installing hard areas eg paving and gravel etc. |
| Aspect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northerly aspects are worse for fires. The siting or positioning of houses on a property should consider aspect. The head of gullies should also be avoided East to south facing slopes generally have a low hazard rating. |
| Slope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updraughts assist fire movement upslope. There should be a sufficient distance down slope of movement upslope. There should be a sufficient distance down slope of houses and properties that are free of fire prone vegetation. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slopes above 30% have a higher hazard score opposed to flat to undulating land. Installation of hard areas of gravel and paving may be necessary. To reduce erosion on steep slopes, these areas could be revegetated using rainforest shrubs or low growing grasses that are easily controlled and are less flammable. |
| Climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot dry climates assist fire. Beware of climatic conditions that increase fire risk severity such as the dry season in the Whitsunday's, especially between the months of July and December. |
| Proximity to land uses that use fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce spread of fire, provide access for fire fighters, a secure line from which to burn from or back burn from. Sugarcane land has a moderate to high bushfire risk |
| Vegetation communities that have a high fire risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire breaks could be used to reduce the spread of fire. The SPP recommends that perimeter roads be constructed that are cleared for 20 m AND comply with local government standards. Fire maintenance trails should only be accepted if it is not practicable to provide firebreaks in the form of a road due to topographic conditions or vegetation constraints. The construction of the fire breaks should consider plants protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act (1992)</i> or communities protected under the Vegetation Management legislation. Site the house in the lowest risk area on the property. For lots greater than 2500m², buildings and structures should be set back from hazardous vegetation by at least 1.5 times the height of the canopy vegetation (particularly if they are Eucalypt) or a minimum of 10 m. Retention of rainforest in drainage lines and creeks will assist in reducing bushfire risk. Design subdivisions without cul-de-sacs and provide access for a conventional drive vehicle (eg fire engine). |

2.8. Previous bushfire management

This Bushfire Plan is the first formal Bushfire Plan for the Woodward area. The QFES and local rural fire brigade report unplanned bushfires in the area over the last 20 years. In other areas of the region, QFES, State government, rural fire brigades and Council conduct planned burns on public land when the conditions have been suitable.

The following is a brief summary of previous planned and un-planned burns in the Woodward area:

- Paluma Road rural residential areas -2013 small wildfire (unplanned)



Figure 8. Area burnt in 2013 (approximate).

2.9. Community consultation

The Whitsunday Regional Council placed the Conway Community Bushfire Management Plan out for community comment from the 14th of September to the 15th of November 2020. There was one on-line community meeting which was held on the 22nd of September. The main discussion points from the meeting were:

- Four people attended the meeting, no community members.
- Two Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff attended.
- Discussion around lack of community interest and low registrations for the online meeting – no community members / residents registered to attend the meeting.
- Is the community complacent around bushfire? QFES said this has been observed in previous community engagement exercises, and that until someone is directly impacted they don't care.
- Suggested the community bushfire plans could be linked to the QFES website too for extra reach – would need approval.
- After further discussion it was agreed that WRC will draft and post out a joint letter direct to affected residents from the Area Fire Management group, with support and approval from QFES and the Rural Fire Brigades.
- It was noted that there are possibly 20 residential dwellings which would be difficult to defend in a wildfire situation.
- It was suggested that an individual approach to vulnerable residential dwellings was required to inform them of the bushfire hazard and the challenges faced in defending their home in the event of wildfires.
- A good future goal is the development of individual bushfire plans for vulnerable residential blocks.
- Community training on bushfire preparedness could be offered.

3. Management Plan

3.1. Bushfire Plan goals

The goals of this Bushfire Management Plan are:

- To protect life and property as a priority then ensure the bushfire management practises maximise biodiversity values.
- To ensure all stakeholders support a common bushfire management direction.
- To pro-actively manage the bushfire hazard within and surrounding Woodwark.
- To develop and maintain good relationships between the stakeholders and landholders and encourage cooperative approaches to manage bushfire hazard in the area.

3.2. Stakeholder general roles and responsibilities

The general roles and responsibilities for bushfire management, planning and mitigation are summarised in table 8.

Table 8. The main tasks for each stakeholder.

| Task | Council | Rural Fire | QFES | QPWS | Landholder |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|------------|------|------|------------|
| Legal control of the fire | | | | | √ |
| Conduct hazard reduction burns | | √ | | | √ |
| Applying for permits | | | | | √ |
| Supervising the hazard reduction burn | | √ | | | √ |
| Informing the community | | √ | | | √ |
| Monitoring fuel loads | | | | | √ |
| Maintaining the fire breaks | | | | | √ |
| Developing and updating the bushfire plan | √ | √ | √ | | √ |
| Reporting hazard reduction burns | | √ | | | √ |
| Regulating and control of illegal dumping | | | | | √ |
| Manage accumulation of green waste | | | | | √ |

3.3. Bushfire management areas and mitigation measures

The landscape of the Woodwark area needs to be prioritised in terms of bushfire management and planning. Areas close to residential areas need a higher level of monitoring and fuel management than areas further away. The Victorian state government has developed a system of prioritising bushfire management activities (DSE, 2012). The Victorian government have developed fire management zones as a means of prioritising land areas for bushfire management:

- APZ – Asset Protection zone - Areas close to residential areas – high priority for management.
- BMZ – Bushfire Moderation zone – aim to achieve asset protection and achieve some ecological outcomes.
- LMZ - Landscape management zone – planned burns are primarily undertaken for fuel reduction to maintain ecological processes.
- PBEZ - Planned burning exclusion zone – no fire permitted.

There are 13 fire management areas identified for the Woodwark Fires Area. The majority of the Woodwark area has been mapped as “Planned Burn exclusion zone” due to the proximity of residential areas (PBEZ) (figure 7).

One small area on the southern edge of the fire area has been identified as an area for hazard reduction (BMZ – red). Four management units have been classified as BMZ (Bushfire moderation zone) where planned burns may be necessary to reduce fuel loads and maintain ecological processes. The fire management areas can be further summarised as:

- Red = APZ (high hazard and high priority),
- Orange = BMZ (medium hazard and medium priority)
- Yellow = LMZ (medium hazard and low - medium priority)
- Green = PBEZ (low-medium hazard and lower priority).



Figure 9. The fire management areas and fire management class.

The four BMZ management units; 4, 7, 12 and 13 have the potential for wildfires to threaten residential properties. The balance of the area is mapped as LMZ or Landscape management zone (Yellow) with in-frequent cool burns for litter reduction where the vegetation and hazard requires this to manage the bushfire hazard. Fire management areas 5 and 6 adjoins Dryander National Park, consequently planned burns in this area need the cooperation of the QPWS, but may not be practical. Planned burns in area 7 will require the cooperation of landholders north of the Woodward Fire Management Area. The bushfire hazard, risk to property and possible bushfire mitigation measures are suggested in table 9.

Table 9. The bushfire hazard and mitigation measures for fire management units in the Woodward area.

| Fire area | Hazard | Mitigation options |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Low Bushfire hazard within management unit. Risk of fire starting in Fire Area 3 and impacting. | Establish a fire control line between Fire area 1 and 3. |
| 2 | Low Bushfire hazard within management unit. Risk of small backyard fires escaping via long grass on rural residential lots. | Ensure residents keep long grass levels low. Residents plant non-flammable vegetation such as rainforest shrubs and trees. Landholders may consider removing Eucalypt trees in areas within 20 m of residential houses. |
| 3 | Medium bushfire hazard. This block is undeveloped but may be developed for urban development in the near future. | Small controlled hazard reduction burns may need to be considered in this area. |
| 4 | High bushfire hazard. This block is undeveloped but may be developed for urban development in the near future. | Small controlled hazard reduction burns may need to be considered in this area. |
| 5 | Medium bushfire hazard. This area has a mix of rainforest and eucalypt forest which backs onto the Dryander National Park. | Hazard reduction burns may not be appropriate for this location due to the terrain. It may be best to allow rainforest to increase colonisation of this area to reduce the bushfire hazard over time. Landholders would be encouraged to ensure there is no flammable vegetation within their property and at the back of their property. |
| 6 | Medium bushfire hazard. This area has a mix of rainforest and eucalypt forest. | Hazard reduction burns may not be appropriate for this location due to the terrain. It may be best to allow rainforest to increase colonisation of this area to reduce the bushfire hazard over time. Landholders would be encouraged to ensure there is no flammable vegetation within their property and at the back of their property. Fire control line to be installed at the back of the residential properties where possible. |
| 7 | High bushfire hazard. This block is undeveloped but may be developed for urban development in the near future. | Small controlled hazard reduction burns may need to be considered in this area. Planned burns in this area will require the cooperation of QPWS. However there is no clear boundary north to terminate any planned burns at this point. |
| 8 | Low – medium bushfire risk This area has a mix of rainforest and eucalypt forest which backs onto the Dryander National Park. | Hazard reduction burns may not be appropriate for this location due to the terrain. It may be best to allow rainforest to increase colonisation of this area to reduce the bushfire hazard over time. Landholders would be encouraged to ensure there is no flammable vegetation within their property and at the back of their property. |
| 9 | Low – medium bushfire risk This area has a mix of rainforest and eucalypt forest which backs onto the Dryander National Park. | Hazard reduction burns may not be appropriate for this location due to the terrain. It may be best to allow rainforest to increase colonisation of this area to reduce the bushfire hazard over time. Landholders would be encouraged to ensure there is no flammable vegetation within their property and at the back of their property. |
| 10 | Low – medium bushfire risk This area is dominated by rainforest. | Hazard reduction burns may not be appropriate for this location due to the terrain. It may be best to allow rainforest to increase colonisation of this area to reduce the bushfire hazard over time. |

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Landholders would be encouraged to ensure there is no flammable vegetation within their property and at the back of their property. |
| 11 | Low – medium bushfire risk This area has a mix of rainforest and eucalypt forest. | Hazard reduction burns may not be appropriate for this location due to the terrain. It may be best to allow rainforest to increase colonisation of this area to reduce the bushfire hazard over time. Landholders would be encouraged to ensure there is no flammable vegetation within their property and at the back of their property. |
| 12 | Medium to High bushfire risk This area has a mix of rainforest and eucalypt forest with residential land use. | Hazard reduction burns may not be appropriate for this location due to the terrain and residential properties. Landholders are encouraged to ensure there is no flammable vegetation within their property and at the back of their property. Landholders are encouraged to plant non-flammable rainforest plants. |
| 13 | Low Bushfire hazard within management unit. Risk of small backyard fires escaping via long grass on rural residential lots. | Ensure residents keep long grass levels low. Residents plant non-flammable vegetation such as rainforest shrubs and trees. Landholders may consider removing Eucalypt trees in areas within 20 m of residential houses. |

3.4. Hazard reduction burning frequencies and methods

The prescribed burn program for Woodward area will be programmed around the site vegetation, seasonal fuel load and timed for optimum climatic conditions. The timing of prescribed burns will be based on recommendations as given at the time of annual hazard assessments. The frequency of prescribed burns will be guided by the recommendations set out in “Fire Management Guidelines” by Reef Catchments 2009, recommendations from the Queensland government and from site specific annual fuel load assessments. Ultimately, it will be up to individual landholders to decide whether they are willing and prepared to undertake planned burns.

The fire management areas will also be used to determine hazard reduction burn frequencies. The proposed planned burn frequencies for each vegetation type is shown in table 10. The frequency of hazard reduction burns for the Woodward red and orange areas (APZ and BMZ) will be generally every 2 to 7 years.

Table 10. Vegetation communities and hazard reduction burn frequencies.

| Vegetation community | RE | Hazard reduction burn frequency | Fire management areas | Fire Zone |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Corymbia tessellaris and/or Eucalyptus tereticornis open forest on hill slopes of islands and near coastal areas, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, and Tertiary acid to intermediate volcanics | 8.12.26 | 3-7 years | 3, 4 and 12 | APZ and BMZ |
| Semi-evergreen notophyll/microphyll to complex notophyll Argirodendron spp. vine forest +/- Araucaria cunninghamii, of foothills and uplands on near-coastal ranges and islands, on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | 8.12.18 | No burning. Where small areas of 8.12.26 occur – decisions will be on a cases-by-case basis and may be every 7 years | 5,6,7, and 9 | LMZ |

3.5. Schedule of bushfire management and mitigation tasks

The schedule of bushfire management and maintenance tasks is summarised in table 11.

Table 11. Schedule of bushfire management actions.

| No | Task | Who is responsible | Timing |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Assess fuel loads | Landholders and Rural Fire Brigade | May |
| 2 | Develop an annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade and residents | June |
| 3 | Approve the annual fire plan | Rural fire brigade | June |
| 4 | Slash fire lines/fire breaks | Landholders | May and October |
| 5 | Inspect condition of fire lines | Landholders | May |
| 5 | Earthworks for fire lines/breaks | Landholders | As required |
| 6 | Coordinate planned burns | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | As per approved plan |
| 7 | Community awareness | Rural fire brigade/QFES and residents | Use of media in May |
| 8 | Seeking fire permit | Landholders | AS required |

The draft schedule of planned burns for the various fire management areas are shown in table 12.

Table 12. The proposed timing of future planned burns for Woodward management areas.

| Fire Management area | Zone | Planned frequency burn | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|----------------------|------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | PBEZ | No fire | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | PBEZ | No fire | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | BMZ | Once every 3 years | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | APZ | Once every 3 years | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | LMZ | Once every 7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | LMZ | Once every 7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | LMZ | Once every 7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | PBEZ | No fire | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | LMZ | Once every 7 years | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | PBEZ | No fire | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | PBEZ | No fire | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | APZ | Not recommended | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | BMZ | Not recommended | | | | | | | | |

The development of fire breaks and fire control lines are a landholder's responsibility. Ideally the breaks should be created along property boundaries, or along contours, or between different forest types (eg rainforest- Eucalypt forest). Fire breaks or control line tracks located on steep slopes will be subject to erosion and will cost more to maintain. The existing and proposed fire control lines and fire breaks are located in the appendix of this report.

3.6. Fire fighting – response and resources

The responsibility of responding to fires in the Woodward area is the primary role of the QFES Airlie Beach service. The nearest rural fire brigade is Cannon Valley. The Airlie Beach fire service is a manned facility with permanent and auxiliary staff. The Airlie beach facility has two Scania heavy pumper trucks, plus a 4wd support vehicle. The Cannon Valley rural fire brigade has a 51-truck unit.

The water for fighting unplanned fires is sourced from:

- QFES – pumper truck.
- Council water stand pipe at Council works depot at Carlo Drive, Cannonvale (see appendix).
- Rural residential water tanks and swimming pools.
- Small rural dams in the Cannon Valley (see appendix).

4. Conclusion

The Woodward Community Bushfire Management Plan has been developed to document stakeholder responsibilities, guide mitigation measures and communicate the main bushfire priorities for this area. The Woodward area is divided up into 13 fire management areas based on land within similar land use and bushfire hazard. Each fire management unit has a set of recommendations to reduce the bushfire hazard and risk to property.

This Plan was placed on public notice from September to November 2020. During the public consultation period the following were the main points noted:

- There were possibly 20 residential properties which would be difficult to defend in the event of a wildfire. A personal approach to each of these residential blocks was needed to inform them of the risk they may face. In addition it was noted that there is no public water hydrant points for this community.
- It was suggested that a review of building approvals is needed for buildings potentially situated in high bushfire prone areas.
- It was suggested a letter is sent to the residents informing them of the development of this Plan and to review bushfire hazards on their property.
- There are a number of areas in the community which require fire breaks or control lines developed on private property. There needs to be a review on how to fund the construction of the fire breaks on private property which may have community benefit.

The intension of this Bushfire Plan is to enable bushfire management mitigation to occur under agreed conditions and to maximise community safety whilst recognising the importance of the areas ecological values.

5. References

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Risk Frontiers, 2011. State-wide Natural Hazard Risk Assessment: Report 3: Current exposure of property addresses to natural hazards. Project report for the Queensland Department of Community Safety, Brisbane.

Tran, C & Peacock, C (2002) Fire Management Strategic Manual; Guidelines for planning and implementing a council or shire wide fire management strategy. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Queensland Australia.

6. Appendix

6.1. Hydrant map

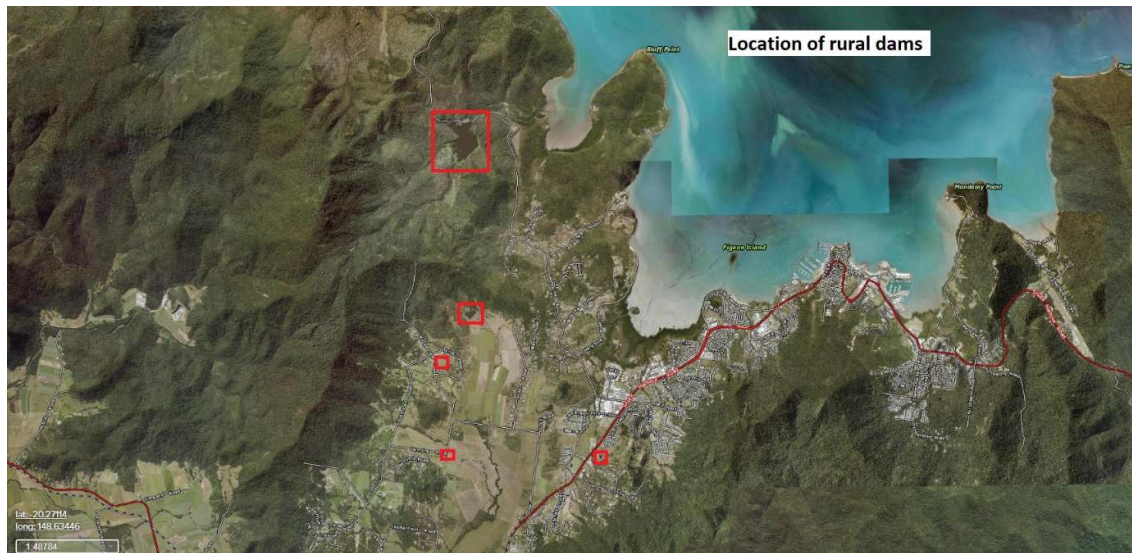


Map 1. Showing the location of water hydrants.

(Note – most of Woodwark does not have town water, hence no water hydrants)

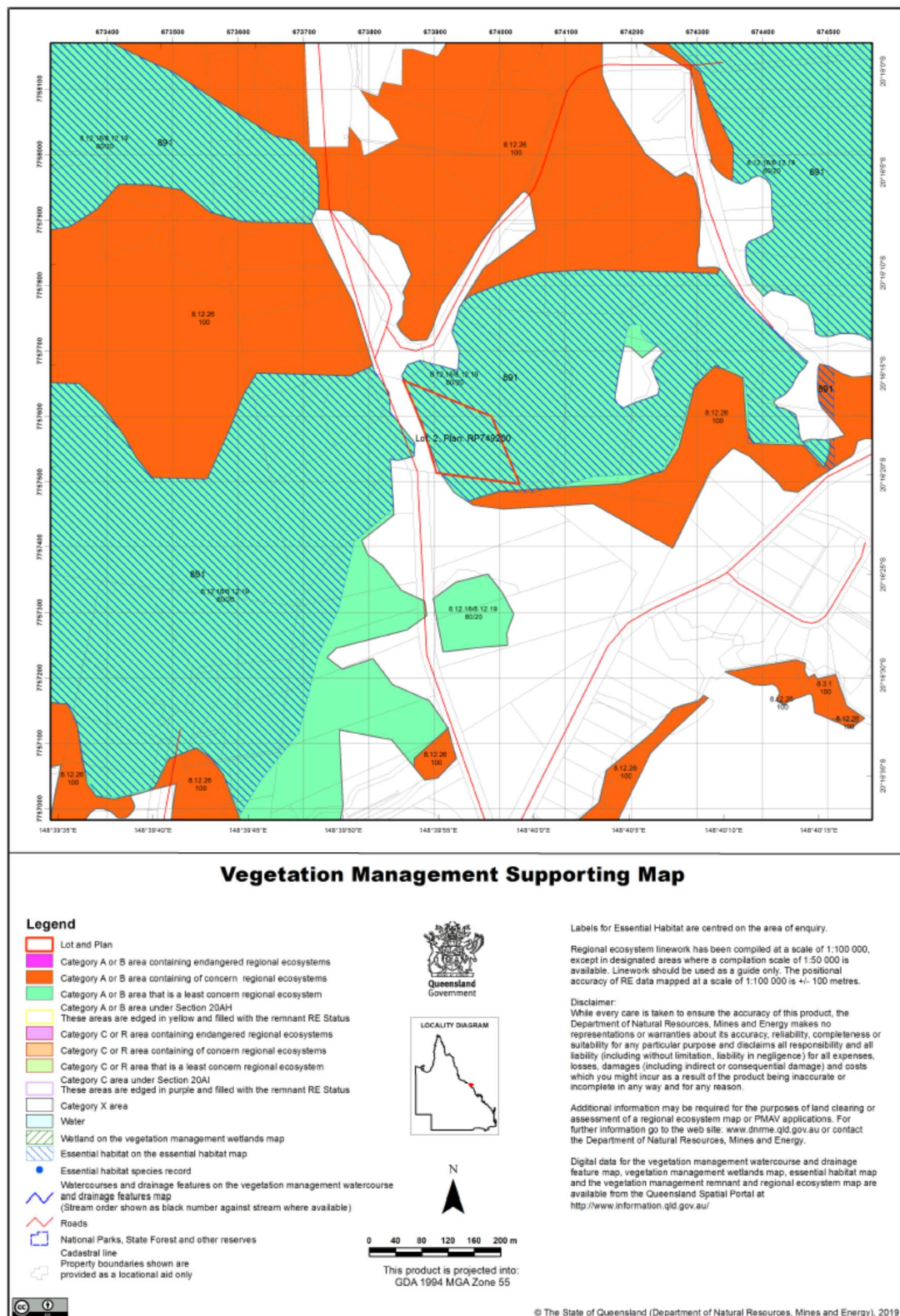


Map 2. Location of Council Works Depot on Carlo Drive, Cannonvale



Map 3. Location of rural dams in the Woodward area.

6.2. Regional Ecosystem map



Map 4. Regional ecosystem map.

6.3. Bushfire management control lines and fire breaks

Bushfire Control lines and access tracks should be located along property boundaries and/or along the contour.



Map 5. Woodward area contours



Map 6. Woodward fire breaks



Map 7. Showing Fire management areas, fire hazard areas and fire break locations

6.4. Objectives for bushfire hazard reduction burning

Source: NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

A successful low intensity hazard reduction burn will reduce fuel load so that it creates a safe defensible area around an asset. It should also minimise the impact from the burn on the environment.

In carrying out a burn, you need to consider:

- 1) The fuel load and structure
- 2) The effects on the environment and the community
- 3) The specific zone objectives
- 4) If there are adequate fire breaks and control lines
- 5) The season and weather conditions
- 6) The topography and fire behaviour
- 7) What lighting patterns to use
- 8) Conducting a test burn
- 9) What safety measures may be needed
- 10) Mopping up afterwards
- 11) If you need to report the results

6.5. Check list for hazard reduction burns

The following is a checklist of tasks and activities that should be followed prior to hazard reduction burns:

| No. | Task | √ |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Fuel load assessment conducted | |
| 2 | Bushfire fire hazard sufficient to warrant a hazard reduction burn | |
| 3 | Fire breaks and control lines are in good condition | |
| 4 | Burn plan developed – identifying where the burn will occur, timing and personnel availability | |
| 5 | Ensure adequate trained personnel are on hand for planned burn | |
| 6 | Fire permit gained for proposed burn plan | |
| 7 | Proposed hazard reduction burn is approved by Conway / Woodward fire brigade | |
| 8 | Community awareness plan is developed and activated prior to burn | |
| 9 | Bushfire stakeholders advised of hazard reduction burn timing | |
| 10 | Machinery and trucks are in good working order. Water available. | |
| 11 | Contingency plan developed in case fire escapes the target area | |
| 12 | Hazard reduction burn is undertaken in accordance with QFES guidelines | |
| 13 | Fire control personnel ensure fire is out before leaving fire control area. | |
| 14 | A brief account of the hazard reduction burn submitted to QFES and Council. | |

6.6. Stakeholder contacts

- Whitsunday Regional Council – Scott Hardy – 0428722236 / 49450245.
- QDNRM - Dan Burndred – 0472 847 894, Tim Koch - 0418 970 097
- QPWS – Ross Perry - 4962 5206
- Fire Warden – Cannon Valley – 0407582500
- Airlie Fire Service - 49466442

For more information regarding the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade:

https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw_finder.aspx

6.7. Map of rural fire areas



Map 8. Showing the rural fire areas and warden contact numbers.

6.8. Landholder bushfire planning checklist

The following checklist can be used by residential landholders to plan and manage their bushfire hazard:

| Task | Checked |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Structure | |
| Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters. | |
| Purchase and test the effectiveness of gutter plugs. | |
| Enclose open areas under decks and floors. | |
| Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes | |
| Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house. | |
| Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems. | |
| Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding. | |
| | |
| Access | |
| Display a prominent house or lot number, in case it is required in an emergency. | |
| Ensure there is adequate access to your property for fire trucks - 4 metres wide by 4 metres high, with a turn-around area. | |
| | |
| Vegetation | |
| Reduce vegetation loads along the access path. | |
| Mow your grass regularly. | |
| Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches). | |
| Trim low-lying branches two metres from the ground surrounding your home. | |
| Consider removing flammable trees near residential buildings (eg removal of eucalypt trees) and replace with non-flammable rainforest species. | |
| | |
| Personal | |
| Check that you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment. | |
| Relocate flammable items away from your home, including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture. | |
| Check the first aid kit is fully stocked. | |
| Make sure you have appropriate insurance for your home and vehicles. | |
| Find out if there is a nearby Neighbourhood Safer Place . | |
| Review and update your household Bushfire Survival Plan . | |
| | |
| Other | |
| Consider the location of water points and possible direction of bushfire threats. In rural residential areas ensure water tanks are more than half full in bushfire season. | |
| Keep swimming pool full of water. | |

Source: https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety/Pages/Prepare-for-bushfire-season.aspx

6.9. Vegetation clearing rules

Exemptions apply to some clearing activities permitted under other legislation, including the *Forestry Act 1959*, *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, *Electricity Act 1994*, *Electricity Regulation 2006* and *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Visit the [Department of Environment and Science website](#) for more information.

Exempt clearing work for fire management sourced from the Queensland government websites:

- You can undertake certain clearing activities to protect your property from bushfires without getting approval or notifying the Queensland government. These exemptions are summarised in the Table below.
- If you need to clear a wider area, you might be able to [clear using a vegetation clearing code](#) or [apply for a development approval](#).
- Firebreaks** are low-fuel areas located immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure (including a building, or other structure, built or used for any purpose) that are cleared and maintained to slow or stop the progress of a fire, or to perform back-burning.
- Fire management lines** are roads, fence line clearings or tracks (including existing property tracks) used to access water for firefighting or divide the property for fuel reduction burning or back-burning.

| Purpose for clearing | Vegetation category | Clearing allowances |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fences roads and tracks | Least concern regional ecosystems | Clearing to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track to a maximum width of 10m |
| Fire management line | All | Clearing for a necessary for management line to a maximum width of 10m |
| Firebreaks | All | For a fire necessary to protect buildings and other structures (other than a fence line); to a width of up to 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation or 20m (which ever is the widest) |
| Hazardous fuel load reduction | All | Fuel reduction burns can be done under a permit issued by the local fire warden |
| Maintain existing infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to maintain existing buildings and other structures, fences, roads and watering points. |
| Risk to people and infrastructure | All | Clearing necessary to remove or reduce imminent risk the vegetation poses to people or buildings and other structures. |

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/vegetation/disasters/fire/code>

https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/847800/vegetation-clearing-exemptions.pdf

15.9 WEED WASHDOWN STRATEGY AND PEST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

That Council:

- a) **Receive the Community Consultation Report for the feedback on the Weed Washdown Strategy and Pest Surveillance programs, and**
- b) **Endorse the revised versions of the Whitsunday Weed Washdown Strategy and the Pest Surveillance Program.**

SUMMARY

PURPOSE

BACKGROUND

13.2 *2017/05/17.20 WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL*
PEST *MANAGEMENT PLAN - BIOSECURITY*
PLAN

Moved by: J CLIFFORD
Seconded by: P RAMAGE

Council resolves to:
a) adopt the proposed *Whitsunday Biodiversity Plan*, and

b) receive the Whitsunday Regional Council Feral Animal Review Report.

MEETING DETAILS:

The motion was Carried 5/1

CARRIED

At an Ordinary Meeting held 26 August 2020, Council resolved the following:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13.3 & PROGRAM – | 2020/08/26.22 | DRAFT WEED WASHDOWN STRATEGY DRAFT PEST SURVEILLANCE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Moved by: CR M BRUNKER

Seconded by: CR M WRIGHT

That Council:

- a) ***approve the Community Consultation for a duration of 30 days, for the following reports:***
 - ***Draft Weed Washdown Strategy,***
 - ***Draft Pest Surveillance Program, and***
- b) ***request the results of the Community Consultation to be reported back to Council before implementation.***

MEETING DETAILS:

The motion was Carried 7/0

CARRIED

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Council is required under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act (2014)* to develop a Biosecurity Plan. There is no requirement under the *Biosecurity Act* for Council to develop a Weed Washdown Strategy, but Council and landholders have a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) to control and reduce the spread of declared pests. The implementation of a Weed Washdown Strategy and Pest Surveillance Program will be useful tools when implemented to reduce weed and pest spread.

ANALYSIS

Weeds have economic, environmental and social impacts. The Queensland State government state “Invasive plants cost Queensland more than \$600 million annually in lost production, land degradation and control costs. The spread of invasive plants threatens our agricultural industries, environment and social amenity.”

If a weed is permitted to spread to their full potential, most weed species can impact extensive areas of land, affecting multiple local, state and territory jurisdictions, often multiple agricultural industries and a variety of significant environmental assets. For example, prickly acacia poses a serious threat to 20 to 30 million hectares of grazing land in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia (Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027).

One of the vectors in the spread of invasive weeds is through poor vehicle and machinery cleanliness and maintenance. Vehicles or machinery operating or moving through weed infestations can become contaminated with invasive plant material. This material can travel long distances on the vehicle or machinery to new locations.

There is a high risk that this plant material, soil or mud containing seeds, will fall from contaminated or dirty machinery or vehicles in agricultural production or environmentally sensitive areas where an invasive plant infestation may become a long-term and costly problem for the land manager to remediate.

The purpose of the Weed Washdown Strategy is to develop a consistent approach across Council to the placement of washdown bays and cleaning of vehicles and machinery. It is acknowledged that Council has washdown facilities at its own work depots which are not available to the public. The intent of this Weed Washdown Strategy is to establish a Washdown Framework and Strategy for the general public.

Council developed the draft Weed Washdown Strategy in mid-2020. From the 29 September to 30 October 2020, Council sought feedback on the draft Weed Washdown Strategy, the proposed Pest Surveillance Program and also feedback on its Weed Management Program and Feral Animal Control Program. The results of the public consultation process have been compiled into a Community Consultation Report. The main results of the public consultation process were:

- Feedback gained from Biosecurity Queensland
- A total of 17 responses were received during the consultation period, including 16 online surveys and 1 written submission on the online Guestbook.
- Overall, 44% of respondents have indicated they are 'happy' or 'very happy' with the feral animal control activities.
- 25% of respondents indicated they are 'happy' with the weed control program.
- 75% of respondents indicated they support the Weed Washdown Strategy.
- The comments from the community covered a range of topics and suggestions, with the most mentions around WRC needing more resources, more washdown facilities needed across the region, more active management of wild dogs required and major impacts to vegetation and agricultural pasture on properties around the region.

The changes to the draft Weed Washdown Strategy due to feedback received from the public include:

- The inclusion of a possible weed washdown facility site along Strathmore Road, near the entrance to the solar farm.
- Project plans will be developed for the proposed weed washdown sites.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Social:

- The weed management reports if/when implemented will assist in the reduction of weeds across the region.

Economic & Financial:

- The endorsement of the Weed Washdown Strategy will not require any additional funding. The endorsement of the Pest Surveillance Program can be incorporated into Council operations and will not require additional funding.
- The implementation of the weed washdown facilities will require additional funding. It is estimated that each facility site will require approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 to implement. It is envisaged that the implementation of the washdown bays could be funded using external grants.

Environment:

- The implementation of the plans presented will lead to improved environmental outcomes by reducing weed spread. The reduction in weed spread will have positive outcomes for Whitsunday biodiversity and agricultural enterprises.

Political:

- Council and other landholders have an obligation under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* to control restricted and prohibited pests.

Corporate Plan:

The development of the Weed Washdown Strategy and Pest Surveillance Program meets the following outcome of the Council Corporate Plan:

- 3.2.4. *Partner with landholders to mitigate the effects of pests on the Whitsunday region's natural environment.*

CONSULTATION

Julie Wright – Director Community Services

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

That Council:

- a) receive the Community Consultation Report for the feedback on the Weed Washdown Strategy and Pest Surveillance programs, and
- b) Endorse the revised versions of the Whitsunday Weed Washdown Strategy and the Pest Surveillance Program.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Community Consultation Report - Weed and Pest Management

Attachment 2 – Consultation Summary - Weeds and Feral Animal Survey

Attachment 3 – Weed Washdown Strategy

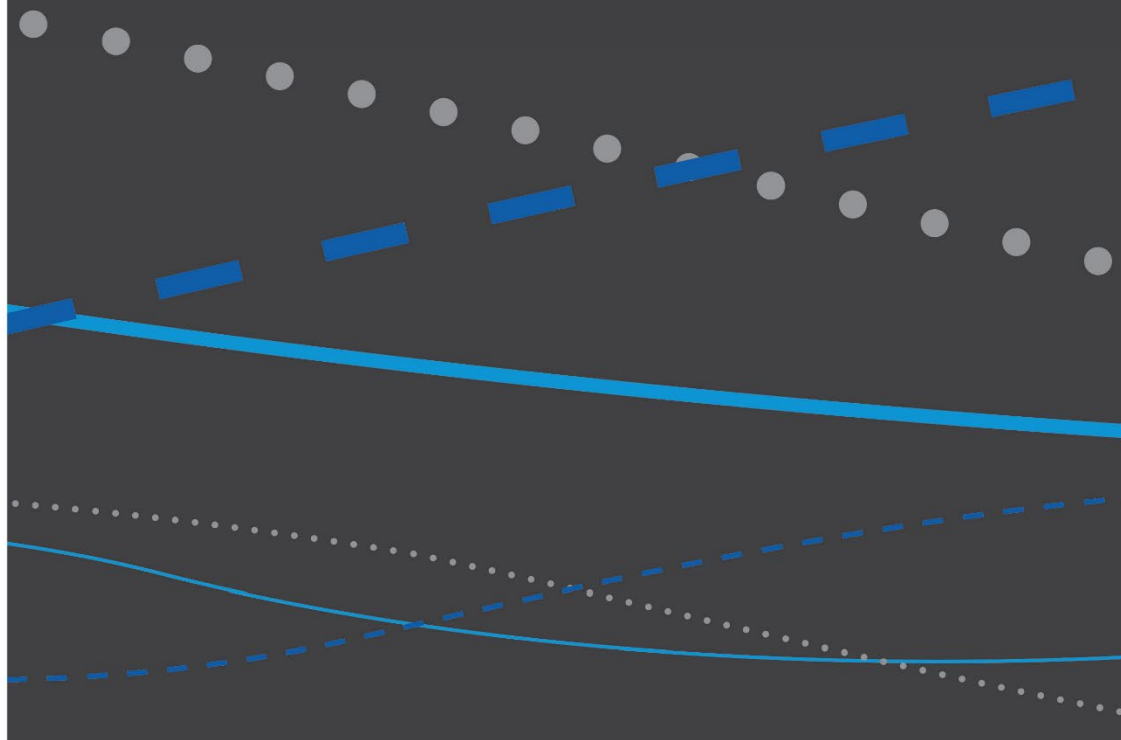
Attachment 4 – Pest Surveillance Program



Weed and Pest Management

Consultation Report

Date: 13 November 2020



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Attachment A: All Survey Responses

Attachment B: Feedback Analysis

Document History

| Title | Version No. | Date | Author | Reviewer | Approved by |
|--------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Report | 1.0 | 13 Nov 2020 | Joanne Vlismas | Scott Hardy; Greg Martin | Greg Martin |

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1. Executive Summary

Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) recently consulted with residents across the region regarding weed control, feral animal control activities and the impacts of these pests on both public and private property. WRC is reviewing its Rural Animal Control strategy and Weed Washdown Bay strategy, and sought community input to determine a benchmark of the level of knowledge and satisfaction with WRC's services.

An online survey was launched on WRC's engagement platform, Your Say Whitsunday, and was open for approximately four weeks from 29 September to 30 October. Landowners with large properties were contacted directly by letter and the wider community were notified via public notice, Facebook post and website updates.

A total of 17 responses were received during the consultation period, including 16 online surveys and 1 written submission on the online Guestbook.

The results from the survey responses show a mixed range of responses, with both positive and negative feedback received. Overall, 44% of respondents have indicated they are 'happy' or 'very happy' with the feral animal control activities, and 25% of respondents indicated they are 'happy' with the weed control program. 75% of respondents indicated they support the Weed Washdown Strategy.

The comments from the community covered a range of topics and suggestions, with the most mentions around WRC needing more resources, more washdown facilities needed across the region, more active management of wild dogs required and major impacts to vegetation and agricultural pasture on properties around the region.

It is important to build awareness of these issues and continue gaining community input in future reviews of pest management strategies, and to demonstrate that feedback has been taken into consideration where possible.

2. Background

Whitsunday Regional Council adopted the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan in May 2017, which lists several tasks to reduce and control the spread of pests, including weeds and feral animal control.

Weed Management Plans were recently developed to further implement the actions from the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan.

The Natural Resource Management work unit is also seeking landholder feedback on the Council's feral animal control program, to gauge the level of landholder knowledge of feral animal control and feral animal impacts. The results of the survey will be used to create a benchmark of landholder knowledge on feral animal control methods and determine the level of landholder satisfaction of Council feral animal control services.

The impetus for this survey is the Queensland Feral Animal Initiative round 3 project – Whitsunday feral animal control aerial shooting project. This survey is one of the action items for this project.

3. Overview of the Consultation

The consultation process occurred over a 4 week period, from Tuesday 29 September through to 5pm, Friday 30 October 2020.

Page 3 of 8



3.1 Purpose of the consultation

To consult with affected residents and key stakeholders regarding weed control and feral animal control on their properties.

Under the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum, WRC was seeking to inform and consult the affected communities.

3.2 Who was consulted

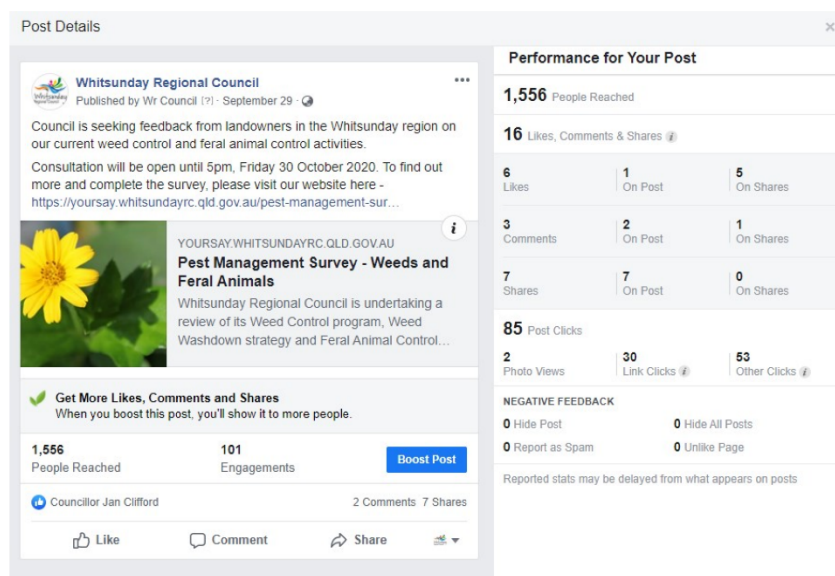
All Whitsunday Region residents were able to participate online during the consultation process, and larger landowners in the region were targeted with a direct letter to ensure they were aware of the consultation process.

3.3 Advertising and promotional activities

WRC promoted the consultation process via social media, with a Facebook post on the first day of the consultation period. This post had a reach of 1556 people, with 16 reactions, comments and shares, and 30 link clicks through to Your Say Whitsunday.

The process was advertised over two weeks in the public notices of the online newspaper Whitsunday Times and the hardcopy paper Whitsunday News.

A direct letter was sent to all larger landowners in the region, who are most affected by these strategies, advising them of the consultation process and how to submit feedback.



Post Details

Whitsunday Regional Council
Published by Wrc Council (?) · September 29 ·

Council is seeking feedback from landowners in the Whitsunday region on our current weed control and feral animal control activities.

Consultation will be open until 5pm, Friday 30 October 2020. To find out more and complete the survey, please visit our website here - <https://yoursay.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/pest-management-sur...>

YOUR SAY WHITSUNDAYRC.QLD.GOV.AU
Pest Management Survey - Weeds and Feral Animals
Whitsunday Regional Council is undertaking a review of its Weed Control program, Weed Washdown strategy and Feral Animal Control...

Get More Likes, Comments and Shares
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

1,556 People Reached
101 Engagements

Boost Post

Performance for Your Post

1,556 People Reached

16 Likes, Comments & Shares

| 6 | 1 | 5 |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| Likes | On Post | On Shares |

| 3 | 2 | 1 |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| Comments | On Post | On Shares |

| 7 | 7 | 0 |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Shares | On Post | On Shares |

85 Post Clicks

| 2 | 30 | 53 |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Photo Views | Link Clicks | Other Clicks |

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

| 0 | 0 |
|-----------|----------------|
| Hide Post | Hide All Posts |

| 0 | 0 |
|----------------|-------------|
| Report as Spam | Unlike Page |

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Facebook post 29 September

4. Overview of the Responses

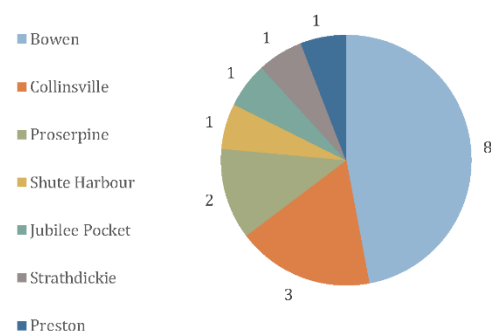
Overall, there were 17 responses received online during the consultation period, with 16 surveys submitted online and 1 response in the Feedback Guestbook tool.

All responses are detailed in full in **Attachment A: All Survey Responses**.

4.1 Demographics

Participants from across the region submitted surveys in the consultation, with most participants from Bowen and Collinsville.

Figure 1: Where do you live?



4.2 Analysis of responses

The following graphs outline some of the key results from the surveys and comments.

Figure 2: How large is your property?

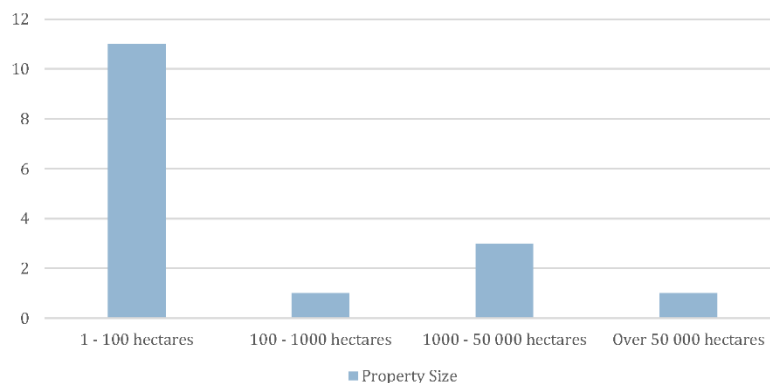


Figure 3: Do you undertake any of the following feral animal control activities?

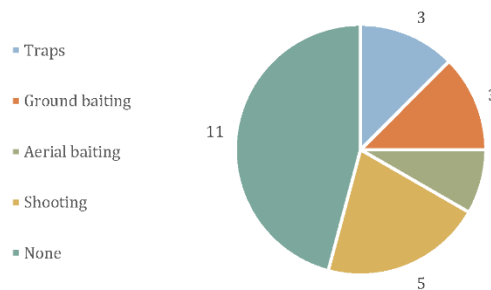


Figure 4: Please indicate your level of satisfaction with Council's feral animal control activities by selecting an option below.

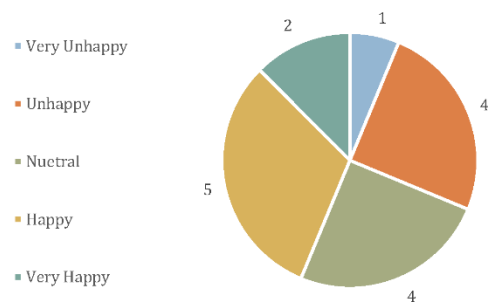


Figure 5: Do you support the Weed Washdown Strategy?

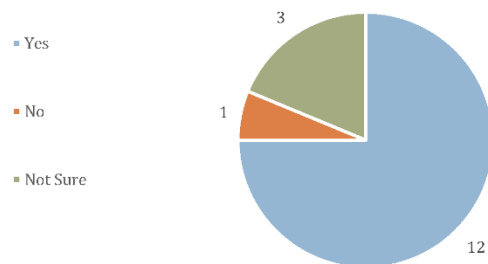


Figure 6: Please indicate your level of satisfaction with Council's weed control program on council land and reserves, by selecting an option below.

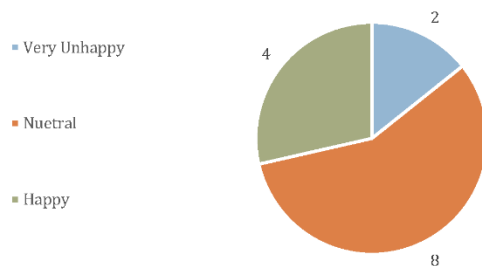
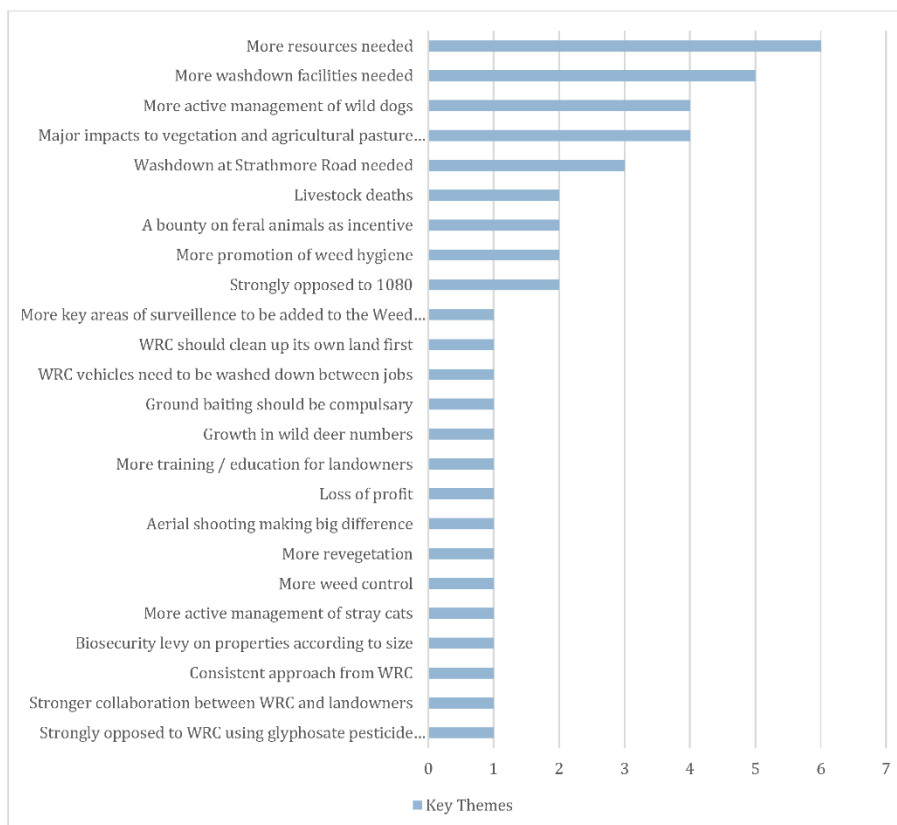


Figure 7: Key Themes, determined from mentions received in the survey comments



5. Recommendations

The mixed response received from residents indicates that further education, outreach and review is required of WRC's weed and feral animal control programs.

To build trust and collaboration with landowners, WRC needs to demonstrate it has taken into account the feedback received during the consultation period. It is recommended the results in this Report are considered during the review of the Feral Animal Control program, the Weed Control program and the Weed Washdown Strategy.

It is also recommended that an awareness and education campaign be rolled out on a regular basis across social media and at future WRC events, to further develop our region's understanding of the importance of pest management. Closer engagement with affected landowners should also be part of future community engagement strategies.

6. Next Steps

This report will be considered by the relevant department during the review of the Feral Animal Control program, the Weed Control program and the Weed Washdown Strategy.

It is important to close the loop with residents and show how their input has affected the outcome. A Consultation Summary infographic document will be prepared which will be released to the public and distributed via the website and social media. The Summary will show some of the key statistics and outcomes of the consultation process.

It is important that ongoing activities to build awareness of the impacts of pests on both public and private land continues, and that educating residents on the importance of these issues takes place.

Attachment 2 – Consultation Summary - Weeds and Feral Animal Survey



Consultation Summary

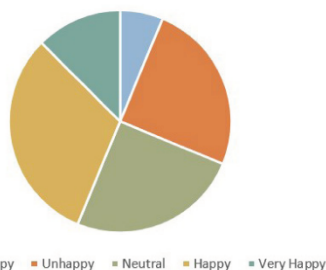
WEEDS AND FERAL ANIMAL SURVEY



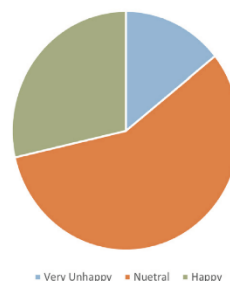
KEY RESULTS

Overall, 44% of respondents have indicated they are 'happy' or 'very happy' with the feral animal control activities, and 25% of respondents indicated they are 'happy' with the weed control program. 75% of respondents indicated they support the Weed Washdown Strategy.

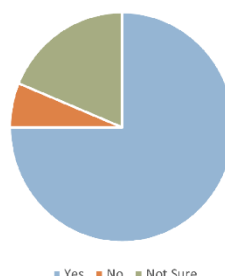
Q - Please indicate your level of satisfaction with Council's feral animal control activities:



Q - Please indicate your level of satisfaction with Council's weed control program on council land and reserves:



Q - Do you support the Weed Washdown Strategy?



APPROACH

Whitsunday Regional Council asked the community for feedback on our pest management across the region, with a focus on the review of our Feral Animal Control program, Weed Control and Weed Washdown Strategy.

An online survey was launched on our engagement platform, Your Say Whitsunday, and was open for approximately four weeks from 29 September to 30 October.

Landowners with large properties were contacted directly by letter and the wider community were notified via public notice, Facebook post and website updates.

NEXT STEPS

The Consultation Report has been prepared and will be considered during the review of the Feral Animal Control program, Weed Control and Weed Washdown Strategy.

WHO GAVE FEEDBACK?

16 online surveys

1 Guestbook response

Whitsunday Regional Council Washdown Strategy – to reduce weed spread



Po Box 104
Proserpine, 4800

Author: Melissa Hayes
Date: 29th of January 2021

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1. Introduction

Weeds have economic, environmental and social impacts. The Queensland State government state *“Invasive plants cost Queensland more than \$600 million annually in lost production, land degradation and control costs. The spread of invasive plants threaten our agricultural industries, environment and social amenity.”*¹

An invasive plant is a plant species that has or is likely to have an adverse impact on a biosecurity consideration because of the introduction, spread or increase in population size of the species within an area.

If a weed is permitted to spread to their full potential, most weed species can impact extensive areas of land, affecting multiple local, state and territory jurisdictions, often multiple agricultural industries and a variety of significant environmental assets. For example, prickly acacia poses a serious threat to 20 to 30 million hectares of grazing land in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia (Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027).

One of the vectors in the spread of invasive weeds is through poor vehicle and machinery cleanliness and maintenance. Vehicles or machinery operating or moving through weed infestations can become contaminated with invasive plant material. This material can travel long distances on the vehicle or machinery to new locations.

There is a high risk that this plant material, soil or mud containing seeds, will fall from contaminated or dirty machinery or vehicles in agricultural production or environmentally sensitive areas where an invasive plant infestation may become a long-term and costly problem for the land manager to remediate.

To reduce the risk of weed spread of not only invasive weeds, but also soil borne pests and diseases, the wash down of a vehicle and machinery using washdown bays/areas are to be encouraged.

The purpose of this Washdown Strategy is to develop a consistent approach across Whitsunday Regional Council to the placement of washdown bays and cleaning of vehicles and machinery. It is acknowledged that the Council has washdown facilities at its own work depots which are not available to the public. The intent of this Washdown Strategy is to establish a Washdown Framework and Strategy for the general public. The objectives of this Strategy are to:

- outline washdown bay site selection process,
- describe the various types of washdown bay designs,
- outline the general washdown procedures, and,
- possible washdown bay sites across the Whitsunday Regional Council area.

¹ https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/58178/cleandown-procedures.pdf, 24/04/2020

2.0 Background

2.1. General Biosecurity Obligation

The Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* is the primary legislation that deals with the spread of biosecurity matter in Queensland. This legislation defines all persons have an obligation to take reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risks associated with their activities or dealings with the carriers of invasive plants. A carrier is anything capable of moving reproductive material of biosecurity matter, such as invasive plant seeds, vegetative parts attached to, or contained in the thing from one place to another. All types of vehicle and machinery are capable of being carriers of invasive plants.

2.2. Land Access Code

The *Land Access Code 2016* is specifically relevant to the mineral resources and petroleum and gas sectors and includes mandatory conditions for these sectors to manage the spread of weeds when accessing private lands other than their own. The land access laws extend to most resource authorities granted under Queensland's resource Acts, including:

- *Mineral Resources Act 1989* – exploration permits and mineral development licenses¹
- *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* – all authorities
- *Petroleum Act 1923* – all authorities
- *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009* – all authorities
- *Geothermal Energy Act 2010* – all authorities.

Under the Land Access Code, a resource authority must (if asked) provide a landholder with a copy of the washdown record. There is no set format for a clean down record. In providing that record, a person may refer to this document to describe the measures taken to perform the clean down. A copy of the Land Access Code can be located at www.deedi.qld.gov.au.

3.0 Pathways (vectors) for weed spread

A pathway can be described as any means or mechanism by which weed plants or seeds may be dispersed (Baker 2006). In the case of human directed activities, spread may be because of contaminated products, clothing, machinery or equipment. Below, in Table 1, dictates several different pathways for weed spread and surveillance sites for each vector. Vehicles and machinery driven or operated in certain areas of Queensland have a higher risk of becoming contaminated with the reproductive material of invasive plants. To view distribution maps of Queensland invasive plants, visit daf.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Pathways for the spread of weeds and surveillance areas.

| Pathways for the spread of weeds within Australia | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Deliberate Spread by Humans | | Areas of surveillance |
| 1. Ornamental plant trade | Through nursery sales and escape of garden landscaping plants. | Escapee of garden in adjacent properties, Nurseries |
| 2. Aquarium plant trade | Through sales at nurseries, pet shops and escape into waterways. | Escapee into waterways, Nurseries, pet shops |
| 3. Medicinal plant trade | Plants propagated and sold in nurseries and among alternative medicine enthusiasts. | Nurseries |
| 4. Food plant trade | Plants grown and promoted for food for humans. | |
| 5. Fodder trade | Sales and planting of fodder plants for livestock grazing. | Feedlots, farm biosecurity paddocks and stockyards. |
| 6. Revegetation and forestry | Planting for soil conservation and to produce timber. | Timber plantations, and re-vegetative plantings |
| Accidental Spread by Humans | | |
| 7. Human apparel and equipment | Attachment of seeds to clothes and footwear. | Attachment of seed to clothes, footwear, camping equipment, push bikes and saddle blankets |
| 8. Machinery and vehicles | Attachment of seeds to passenger vehicles, slashers, farm equipment, boats, and earth moving equipment. | Inspection of washdown sites, parking bays, roadsides, camping grounds, etc. |
| 9. Construction and landscaping materials | Contamination of gravel, soil, sand, mulch and turf. | Bulk material storage sites, piles of timber, steel, bricks, tiles and guttering. |
| 10. Agricultural produce | Contamination of hay, grain and pasture seed. | Cleaning sites, silos, grain receival points |
| 11. Research sites | Escape from research sites | Beyond the edges of research sites |
| 12. Livestock movement | Through faeces or attached to livestock such as sheep, cattle, horses and goats. | Holding pens, stockyards, markets, loading/unloading facilities, feedlots, saleyards and transport vehicles. Waterpoints (on property). |
| 13. Waste disposal | Unsafe dumping of garden refuse and aquarium plants. | Landfill sites |
| Natural Spread | | |
| 14. Birds & flying foxes | Through consumption and excretion of seeds and fruits. | Roosting sites. |
| 15. Other animals | Through consumption and excretion of seeds and fruits, and external attachment to native and introduced wildlife. | |
| 16. Wind | Distribution of wind-blown seeds. | Look 15-20m downwind from a known infestation |
| 17. Water | Distribution of seeds or plant parts via waterways. | Waterways, where water pools (depressions and sweeping bends), flood plains. |

3.1. Weeds spread through machinery and vehicles

Research by Clifford (1959), conducted in Africa, confirmed the ability of motor vehicles to transport seeds. The first Australian study of this kind was conducted by Wace (1977). It revealed that cars can transport large numbers of seed from a diverse range of species. Barwick (1999) identifies several ways in which traffic contributes to weed spread. Speeding vehicles pick up seeds and other material that is carried temporarily in the air suction currents they generate. Seeds are also collected in mud on tyres, radiator grills and elsewhere. When seed-containing mud later falls off or is removed, it creates a seed reservoir from which further infestations can develop. Work vehicles engaged in maintenance of pavements, drains and vegetation were also identified as agents of weed spread and need to be regularly cleaned before moving from one area to another.

Good (1987) highlights the importance of vehicles and other machinery in spreading weeds within National Parks and conservation areas. According to Good (1987), weeds in National Parks are concentrated along access systems (roads, tracks), areas of high use. Park infrastructure sites are often used by utility companies, such as water and electricity. Unfortunately, many of these utility sites are areas of disturbed vegetation (e.g. power line easements) with generally higher weed presence, and traffic through these areas can spread the weeds to other parts.

Agricultural machinery is often implicated in the spread of weeds within and between agricultural districts. Evidence of weed spread by farm machinery is documented by Blanco-Moreno (*et al.* 2004), who showed that the dispersal of annual ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum*) was strongly affected by combine harvesters. The authors point out that this mechanism could potentially spread the species over great distances.

Parthenium Weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is commonly observed along roads and tracks, has been attributed to the movement of harvesting machinery, cattle, hay, grain and vehicles (Parsons and Cuthbertson 2001). The spread of parthenium weed was mapped in Queensland for the years 1975, 1979 and 1981 (see Figure 1). The association between infestations and roads strongly suggests that vehicles have played a role in dispersing the seeds. Parthenium covers a much greater area now.

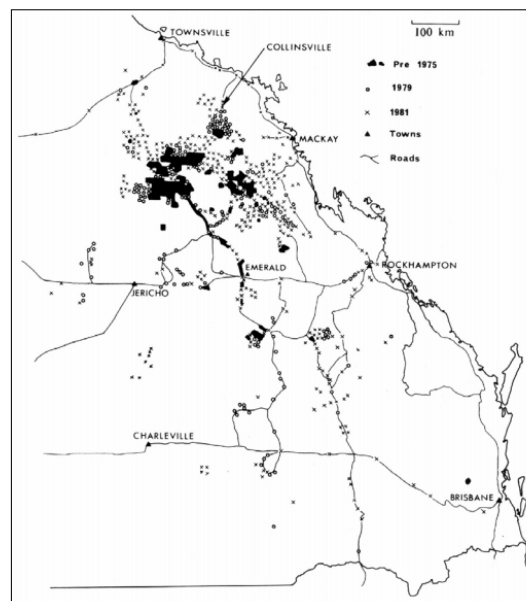


Figure 1. Spread of Parthenium weed in Queensland (Auld *et al.* 1982).

4.0 Prevention of Weeds

Prevention is the most effective method of dealing with weeds. Once a weed has entered an area and has become established, eradication is far more expensive, and it is likely that greater resources will be required to control its further spread and reduce its impact. The importance of weed spread prevention has grown with the recognition that the spread of most weeds occurs through similar pathways, such as the movement of goods, animals and vehicles contaminated with weed seeds.

4.1. Washdown bays

The wash down of mechanical equipment is widely practised for aesthetic reasons, but also for operational efficiency, safe mechanical servicing, and preventing the spread of weeds and fungal diseases. A washdown facility is an area where farmers/contractors and the public can clean all vehicles and machinery entering or leaving a property/area.

According to DAF (2013) features of an effective washdown facility include:

- **Signposts** – should be clearly visible with simple instructions so that visitors to the property understand the biosecurity practices that are in place.
- **Positioning** – the facility should be in an open area, preferably close to entry/exist points of the property. Keep it as far away as possible from any production areas. Keep drainage from clean-down facility confined and away from access to drainage lines.
- **Size** - the size and the design of the facility should be determined by purpose and likelihood of usage, e.g. tourist vehicles, livestock trucks, caravans, etc.
- **Power and High-pressure water/compressed air cleaners** – should be accessible, as this will clean down quicker, easier and more effective. If power is not available, a petrol-powered pressure cleaner could be used instead.
- **Surface** – should be sealed with concrete or bitumen. Compacted gravel can be used but is harder to rinse down. If the surface is grassed, it will require extra vigilance and regular treatment of germinating weeds.
- **Sump or waste collection** – an area is recommended for water, dirt and any contaminants to drain into. It is important that this, and the surrounding area, is checked regularly and treated for weeds when necessary.

The size of the washdown facility should match the expected use and size of targeted vehicles. If 4wd vehicles are targeted for washdown, then there is no need for a large elaborate facility. Equally, if large vehicles and cattle trains are targeted for washdown, then the facility will need to be sized to cater for the length of the vehicle and volumes of water that will be used.

5.0 Washdown facilities site selection

The selection of an appropriate site for a wash down bay facility needs to take several physical, regulatory, economic, constructional, and operational aspects into consideration. These are discussed below. A site selection assessment process and form has been created to assist in the selection of suitable sites for washdown bays (Appendix 1). The size of the washdown bay should meet the needs of the proposed vehicle size.

5.1. Water

The volume and quality of water required for the wash down facilities will vary depending on the vehicle and machinery size, the configuration of the machinery to be cleaned down, levels of cleanliness required and water dispensing equipment, and the wash pad area.

5.2 . Land

Land constraints must be taken into consideration when selecting the location for the wash down pad. Selection of an appropriate site may greatly decrease both construction and operational costs.

5.3. Local Area

The proposed facility location should be located close to the highway/major road to facilitate accessibility of all vehicles.

5.4. Access

The access considerations for site selection may include:

- Wash down facilities that are conveniently located close to major roads are more likely to be used by industry;
- Will require all weather access;
- Due to the all-weather access requirement, a wash down facility located on an existing gravel road will likely require a road upgrade;
- Access roads should be located to minimise erosion and the alteration of drainage lines;
- Access roads to the facility should be designed and constructed to minimise costs while providing easy access for the expected traffic under various conditions affecting the site.

5.5. Land availability

The current and future land zoning of the subject property and surrounding land with the local government authority should be investigated. Property size is an important consideration. Ideally the subject property should be large enough to contain the washing facility and all other associated infrastructure including vehicle parking, waste treatment and any waste utilisation areas. Land buffers around facility complex prevent encroachment by other developments on nearby land and the land should be adequately sized to ensure that are for land buffers area available.

5.6. Siting and construction

Consideration of the local landforms surrounding the facility:

- The type of wastewater disposal method that can be utilised;
- The suitability of the site for construction of service facilities;
- Surface water management and contamination risk;
- Flood risk; and soil erosion risk.

5.7. Soils

The range and distribution of soil types on a subject site should be confirmed during the site selection process. The surrounding soil types will influence the requirement for earthworks or gravel to establish foundations for the concrete pads, water tanks and access roads into the facility. Furthermore, the soil profile should be assessed to determine suitability for construction of wash pads and drainage works, as well as excavation of storage ponds if required.

5.8. Topography

A flat to slight (2.0-4.0%) fall across the site is ideal for the development of the facility. This minimises the requirement for pumping as water can be gravity fed through the site to a collection point.

5.9. Electricity

The type of equipment to be installed will determine the electricity requirements at the site. Wash down facilities may require single or three phase power to operate equipment such as water pumps, lighting, and air compressors. The use of mains power is the recommended option. Extension to power lines to a facility is cost prohibitive and therefore, the facility should be located as close as possible to existing power infrastructure. Where electricity is not available, petrol powered water pumps for the wash down may be a good option.

5.10. Community amenity issues

Design and siting of effective and efficient and effective truck wash facilities will occur in consultation with the community. Community amenity issues may arise from:

- Excessive noise – activities including equipment use and vehicle movement inherently generate noise. Careful route selection and suitable driving may assist to reduce traffic noise nuisance.
- Excessive dust generation – most dust is generated from traffic movements along unsealed roads or off gravelled wash down pads. Traffic dust can be reduced through road watering, using sealed routes and driving at suitable speeds.
- Attraction of flies and vermin – proper management of solid waste collection and disposal will avoid any potential problems with flies and vermin. Liquid waste disposal ponds with steep banks, flat bases and absence of vegetative growth do not provide suitable habitats.
- Odour nuisance – odour from mud scraped from sediment traps and treatment of wastewater may present problems for nearby receptors. This may be exacerbated in facilities with a heavy usage of cattle transport trucks as the manure that they can remove contains a high level of organic solids. The breakdown of organic solids can result in the release of offensive odours.

5.11 Flora and fauna

Environmental impacts to flora and fauna, areas of remnant vegetation, wildlife movement corridors/habitats and natural wetlands should be avoided when selecting a site and waste disposal area. This also minimises the impact on the environment of unintentional escape of weed seeds.

5.12. Choosing a mobile or field clean down site

Cleaning vehicles and machinery before moving them to a new area, including other parts of the same property or adjoining land and along roadsides, helps prevent the spread of invasive plants. However, you should choose a washdown site that will give the best possible results and should consult the landholder about its location.

- Consider primary weed targets for the area, likely vehicle and machinery spread vectors and their influence on washdown design requirements.
- Consider the site's run off. Ensure the site is away from watercourses and drains.
- Choose a relatively flat site to help prevent run-off and to ensure safety.
- Choose a site that is large enough for the vehicle size that will be used, ie. Cattle-trains or 4wds.
- Ensure the site can be easily identified as it will need to be monitored for outbreaks and notify landholders of its location.
- If possible, conduct small washdowns at the landholder's property (with permission) before leaving the property.

6. Whitsunday washdown facilities

6.1 Current facilities

Throughout Queensland, washdown facilities are available for public or industry use. They are provided for cleaning vehicles and machinery to prevent spread of invasive plants and should be used whenever possible, as they are designed with environmental protection in mind. The Whitsunday Regional currently provides three public wash down facilities, two being at the Peter Faust Dam at Proserpine and the other at Darby Munro Park Collinsville.

Peter Faust Dam is the site of a *Mimosa pigra* infestation. While the infestation is under effective management and on track for eradication, the provision of washdown facilities further reduces risks of seed spread for this weed. Additionally, the facilities will reduce risk of weed spread associated with increased recreational use of the dam facilitated by new camping facilities.

The washdown facility at Collinsville is strategically located to reduce risks associated with parthenium weed and Weedy Sporobolus Grasses, particularly through movement of contractor equipment, machinery and vehicles linked to mining activity. The Collinsville washdown facility is a basic, demonstration module with a petrol driven water pump.



Photo 1 & 2. Collinsville Manual Washdown Facility



Photo 3 & 4. Peter Faust Dam (Proserpine) automated Washdown Facility.

6.2. Washdown facility strategy

The main vehicles which are at risk of transporting weed seed and weed plant material are small 4wd vehicles and cattle trains. The transport of cattle can spread weeds. The transport of cattle can spread weeds during transport along the roads and at the destination stock yards. The facilities needed to accommodate the larger cattle train trucks are large facilities which can cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million to build. Where large wash down facilities have been established, a substantial site maintenance program is needed to keep the sites clean and make sure weeds are managed. The large washdown facility maintenance costs can become a significant cost to local councils. The construction of large washdown facilities for cattle trains don't stop the gradual spread of weed seeds from the truck during transport. It is important however that the cattle train trucks are sufficiently washed down at their destination to reduce weed seed spread.

The washdown facilities for 4wd and smaller trucks can be smaller than those needed for cattle trains. There are a range of small vehicle wash down facility designs. There are now small vehicle washdown bays constructed as automatic package plants which cost less than \$30,000 to purchase and install depending on the proposed location. The installation of a number of small vehicle washdown bays throughout the catchment may assist in reducing weed seed spread. The general strategy which the council will pursue is to develop a number of small vehicle washdown facilities through the region at strategic locations rather than constructing one large facility.

6.3. Investigation Sites

With higher demand and better appreciation of the risks within biosecurity, Whitsunday Regional Council has conducted an analysis of the region to identify potential washdown sites. The areas that have been identified as possible washdown locations are listed in table 2. The maps showing the location of the possible small vehicle washdown bay sites are located in the appendix of this report.

Table 2. Showing the possible washdown locations.

| Site | Area – Location | Target Species/Purpose | Targeted Users |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Mt Coolon | Parthenium - Weedy Sporobolus Grasses | Contractors Landholders Travellers |
| 2 | Collinsville – Mount Coolon Road -Emu Plains Rd | Parthenium - Weedy Sporobolus Grasses | Contractors Landholders Travellers |
| 3 | Collinsville – Mount Coolon Road – Byerwen Rd. | Parthenium - Weedy Sporobolus Grasses | Contractors Landholders Travellers |
| 4 | Guthalunga – Day rest site | Exclusion of weeds into the region including Siam Weed | Contractors Travellers |
| 5 | Merinda – Rural Fire Brigade Lot | Prickly Acacia, Chinee Apple, Rubber Vine | Contractors Landholders Travellers |
| 6 | Bowen – Col Leather Sports Ground Park | Prickly Acacia, Chinee Apple, Rubber Vine | Landholders |
| 7 | Bowen – Mullers Lagoon | Prickly Acacia, Chinee Apple, Rubber Vine | Contractors Landholders |
| 8 | Proserpine – next to dog pound | Sicklepod | Contractors Landholders Travellers |
| 9 | Collinsville – Strathmore road. Located 5.6km along Strathmore Road. | Parthenium - Weedy Sporobolus Grasses | Contractors Landholders Travellers |

6.4. Washdown certification

It is the landholders responsibly to ensure weed are not transported or moved. Landholders can ask contractors or visitors for evidence that they have washed down their vehicle before entering their property to reduce the risk of spreading weed. In the past “weed hygiene” declaration forms were sometimes used to demonstrate and declare that the vehicle did not have weed seeds. The presence of the weed hygiene declaration form did not however fully guarantee a 100% clean vehicle and relied on the vehicle owner to make this judgement.

To further reduce the incidence of weed spread, people could complete a “Weed Hygiene and Washdown Declaration Course” and become washdown certifiers or inspectors. People which had completed sufficient training could certify on weed hygiene declaration form that a washdown had complied with best practise. This process relies on sufficient people in the region with the skills to undertake the inspections and supervise the washdowns. The cost of this supervised and certified process can be costly and relies on the vehicle owner and the certifier being available at a mutually beneficial time.

The Whitsunday Regional Council encourages all vehicle owners to be responsible for the cleanliness of their own vehicles and to washdown their vehicles in accordance to best practise. The Council is not in a position to offer a supervised or certified washdown service. The council encourages landholders and contractors to keep photographs of washdown activities which are date stamped as evidence of washdown. It is considered best practise for contractors to keep a record of their washdown activities with appropriate data captured and checklists used. The Council has included useful washdown tips in this report.

7.0. General washdown procedures

7.1 Training

It is recommended that people responsible for cleaning down vehicles or machinery should undertake competency-based training and receive a satisfactory assessment. Competency-based training is provided by registered training organisations (RTO) through units such as AHC BIO201A-Inspect and clean machinery of plant, animal and soil material. General washdown procedures can be viewed in Appendix 9.3.

7.2 Safety

Ensure all safety precautions are taken. Please refer to the operating manual of the vehicle or machinery for specific safety instructions before cleaning.

- Place the vehicle or machinery in a safe position. It should be stable and immobile.
- Stop engine, apply the park brake, chock the wheels and lower all implements or secure/chock them if they need to be up for cleaning (eg. Slasher).
- Ensure the area is free of obstructions and objects that may cause injury (eg. Logs, power lines).
- Have a qualified operator present if parts of the vehicle or machinery need to be moved during cleaning.
- Move the vehicle or machinery with caution.

7.3 General washdown guidelines

The following points are general guidelines only:

- Examine the vehicle/machinery/equipment to determine areas that may require compressed air rather than water – do this first. Use compressed air to blow debris out of any area that could potentially include weeds such as the cabin, tool boxes, battery box, radiator and oil cooler cores. Some of these may be difficult to locate and access. Remove the necessary guards or belly plates to access these areas for cleaning.
- If the vehicle or equipment is heavily contaminated with soil/mud, remove this using a suitable shovel or bar.
- Where possible clean from the top down.
- Remove visible green material by hand and place in a bag for suitable for disposal according to relevant guidelines.
- Use a high pressure/volume cleaner on the remainder of the vehicle/mobile plant, working from the top down, soaking works best on the under carriage.
- Check all the areas have been cleaned. Clean again if required.
- Replace any guards or belly plates removed for the cleaning process.
- Before moving the vehicle, clean off the wash pad where the vehicle is to drive. Clean off boots prior to entering the vehicle.
- Move the vehicle directly off the wash bay, avoiding recontamination.
- Record the details of the cleaning on the appropriate forms or in the vehicle or machinery logbook.
- Present the vehicle or machinery to an inspector if required.

Remember that no washdown guidelines can detail all parts to check. This is because there are:

- Numerous different models and new models.
- Different attachments (eg. different types of blades on dozers)
- Different modifications, either in the factory or by previous owners
- Varying conditions of the machinery (eg. rusted parts allowing entry of contaminants into sections that are usually sealed).

Examine the item you are cleaning very carefully for any areas that could be contaminated, even if these are not listed in the guidelines, and clean them thoroughly.

8.0. Review and evaluation

The Whitsunday Weed Washdown Strategy will be reviewed in conjunction with the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan. In the absence of a Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan or Strategy the Washdown Strategy will be reviewed every four years by the Council in consultation with land management stakeholders.

9.0. Conclusion

It is far more cost effective to prevent weed incursions from occurring than it is to control and attempt to eradicate them. One of the dominant vectors for spreading weeds is through the movement of vehicles, machinery or equipment. The use of weed washdown facilities can be a useful tool to reduce the spread of weeds through a catchment. The placement of the washdown facility is important. A washdown facility in the right location can be a useful piece of infrastructure which can reduce environmental and economic impacts associated with weeds.

Further implementation of these facilities within the region would allow public and contractors to travel less distances and would result in the reduction of weed spread within the region. The Council will develop project plans for each washdown facility location.

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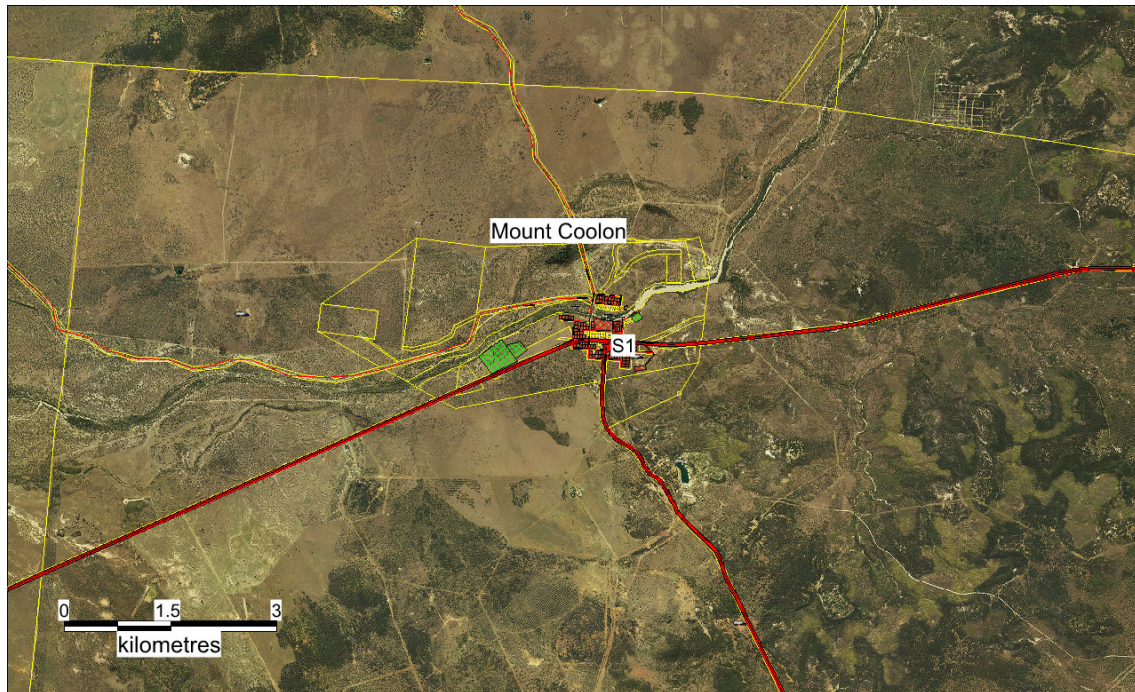
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11.0. Appendix

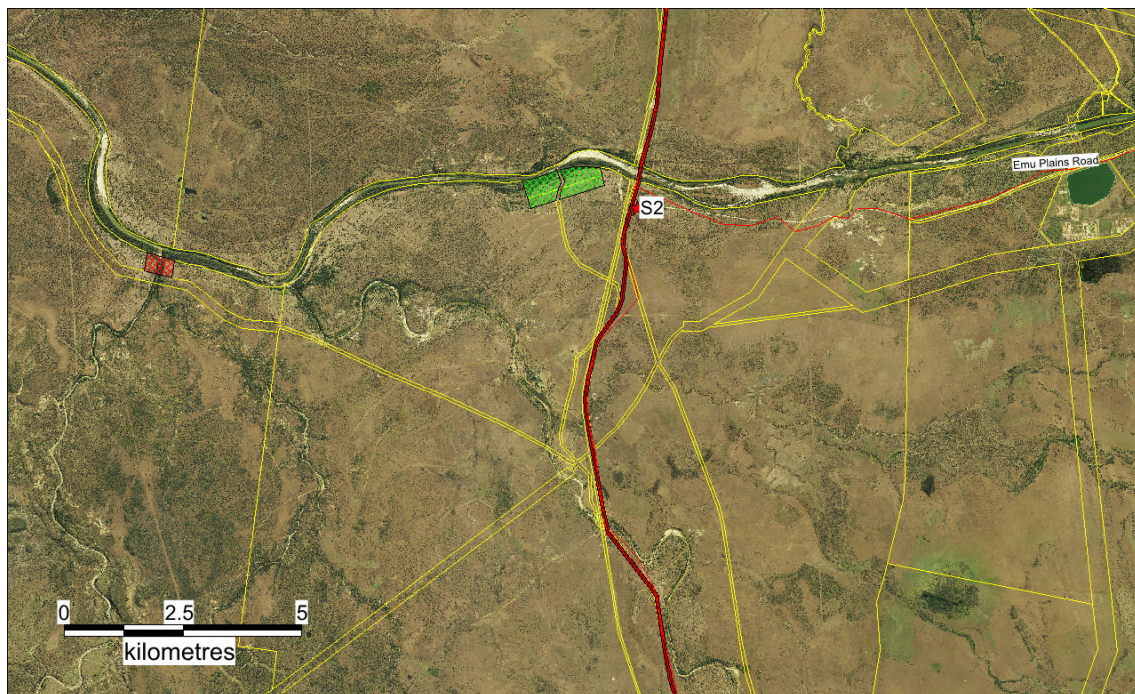
11.1 – Site Selection Assessment

| SITE SELECTION ASSESSMENT | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Area - | Address - | Priority Weed Targets - |
| Section | Criteria | Outcome |
| Strategic Location (Regional) | Facility is located in an area that will meet the demands of a large catchment | |
| Strategic Location (Local) | Facility is located close to a major road | |
| Land Availability | There is sufficient land for the wash down bay and associated infrastructure | |
| Access- Location | Location will be used by target user group | |
| Access – All weather access | All weather access to location | |
| Access – Road Size | Access road can manage the appropriate size vehicles and machinery | |
| Access – Road line of site | Ample straight flat road in both directions | |
| Topography | Site is flat with slopes of <3.0% | |
| Soils | Soil profile for proposed washdown design. | |
| Water source | Source of water available | |
| Waste management | No ability to direct connect into the sewer, but there is ample irrigation area | |
| Power supply | Mains power is located adjacent to the property, or availability of pump to be installed. | |
| Flora & Fauna | Limited vegetation on-site | |
| Community Amenity | Dependent on purpose, located well away from town | |
| | OUTCOME – Acceptable, Not Acceptable or Information Required. | |

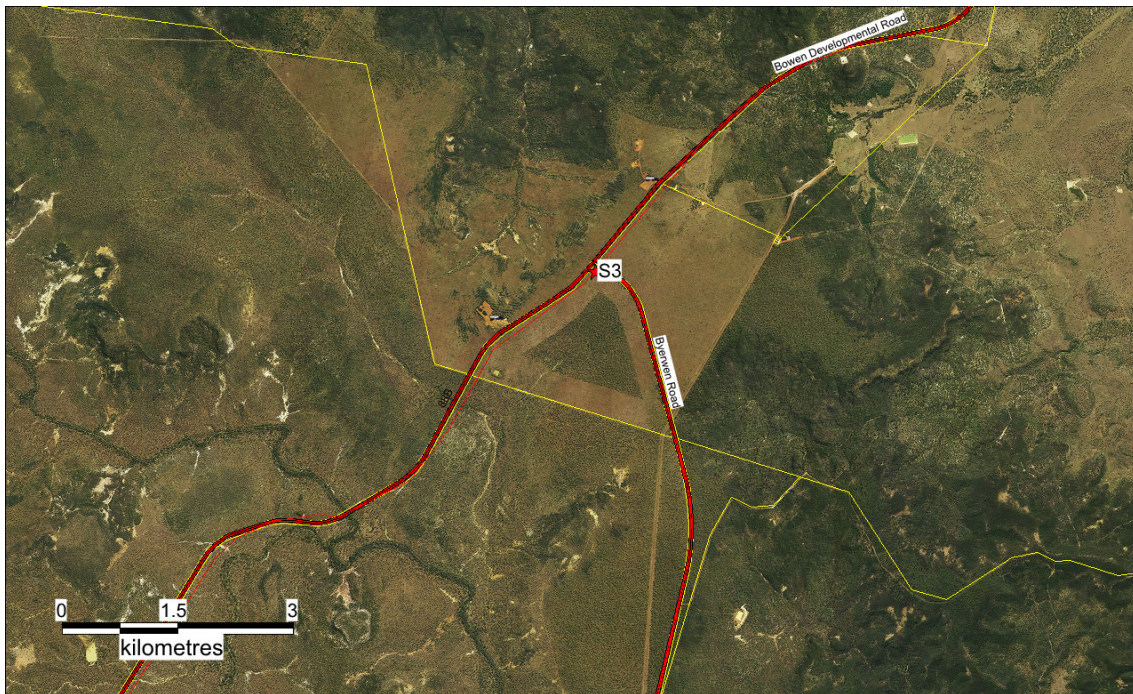
11.2 – Areas of interest for Washdown facilities



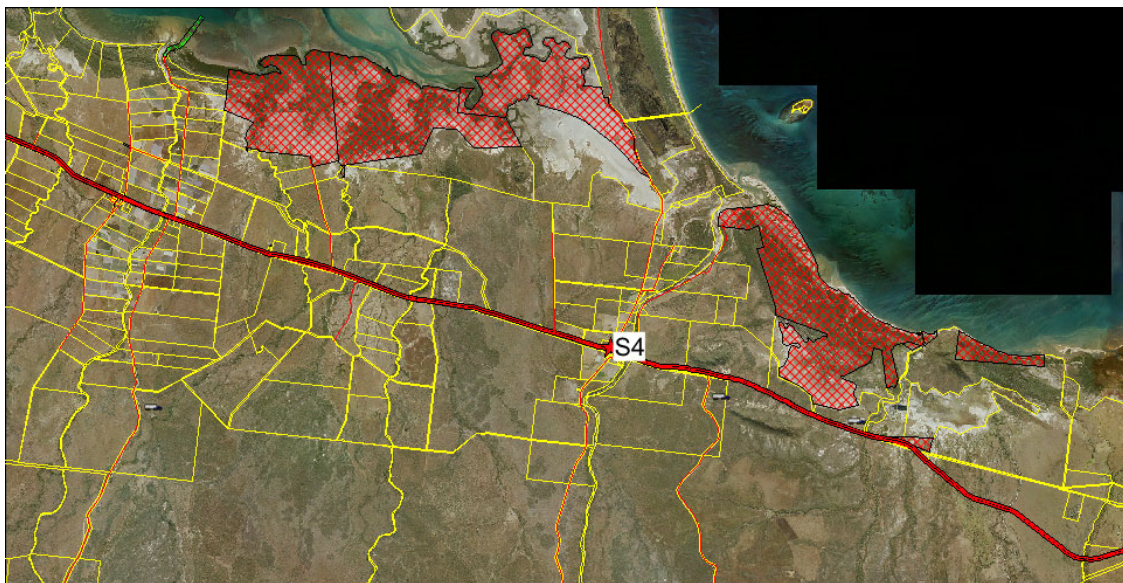
Map 1. Proposed Mt Coolon Washdown Facilities.



Map 2. Proposed Collinsville – Emu Plains weed washdown facility site (Red areas = State land and Green = Council land).



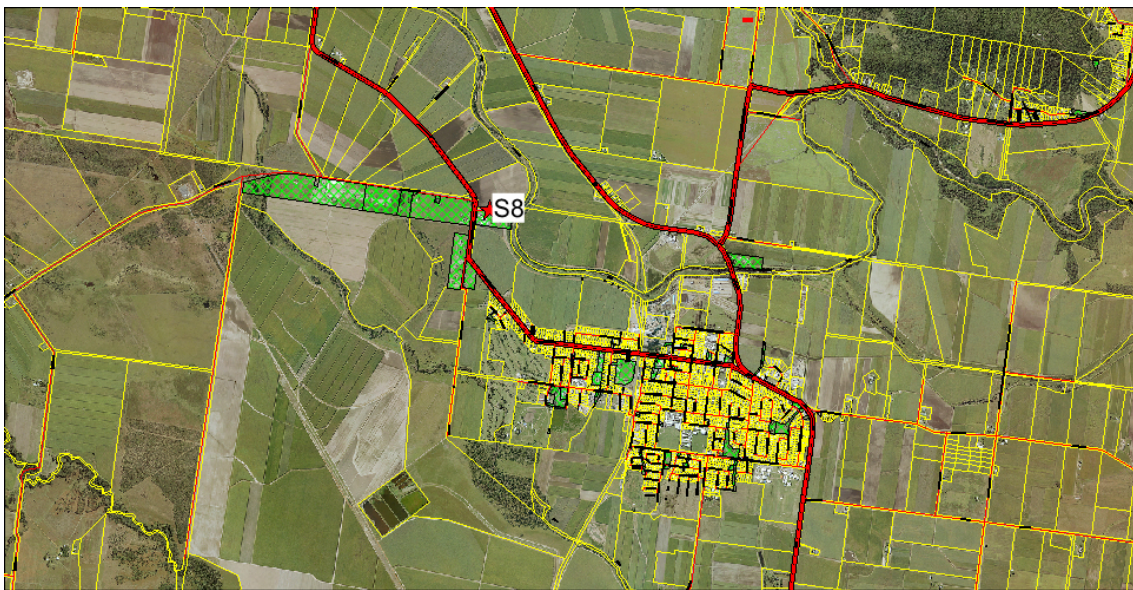
Map 3. Proposed Collinsville –Byerwen weed washdown facility site.



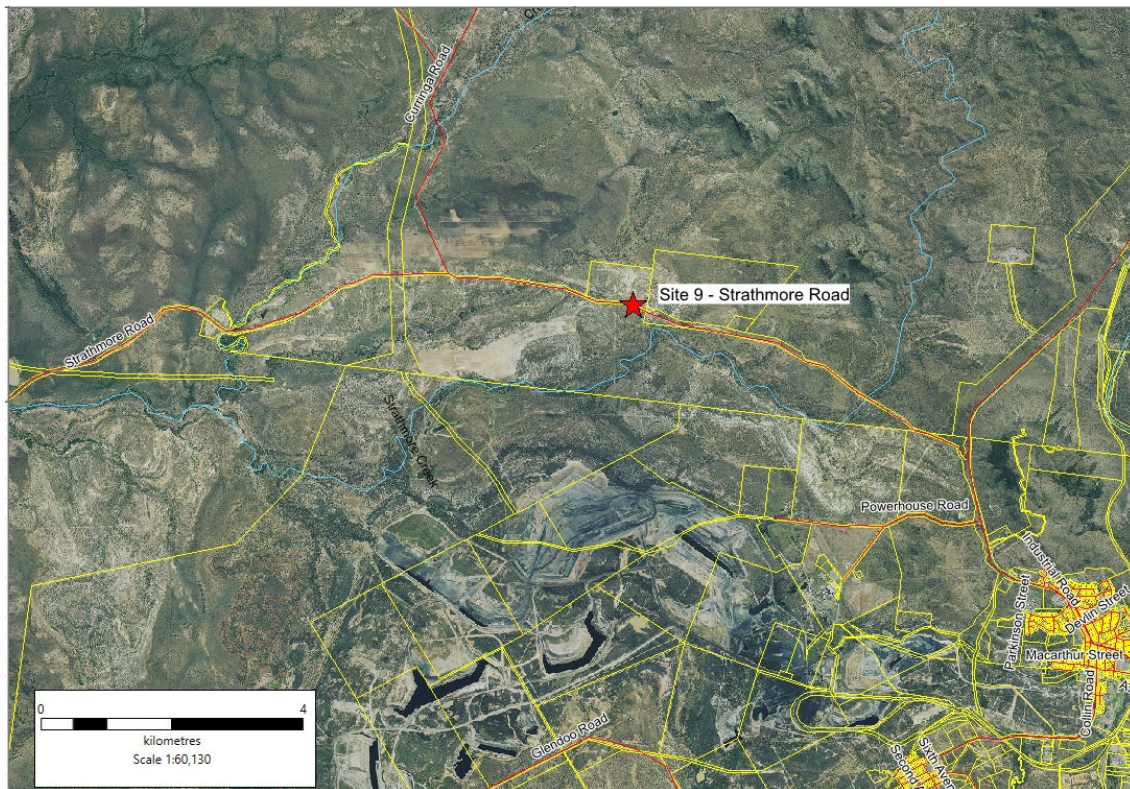
Map 4. Proposed Guthalungra weed washdown facility site (Red areas = State land and Green = Council land).



Map 5. Bowen Region Proposed Washdown Facilities (Red areas = State land and Green = Council land).



Map 6. Proserpine Region Proposed Washdown Facilities (Red areas = State land and Green = Council land).



Map 7. Strathmore road proposed washdown site.

11.3 – Basic cleaning for all vehicle types

CAUTION: DO NOT use high-pressure water jets in compartments that house electronic components.

The basic cleaning requirements for all vehicles are given in Table 2. It is best to start cleaning at the top of the vehicle and work down to the ground.

Table 2. Basic cleaning requirements for vehicles - Adapted from *Australian Defence Force military equipment & personnel: guidelines for offshore inspection*.

| Area | Actions |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Air tanks | Clean these as for fuel tanks. |
| Air vents | Unscrew the air vents and blow them with compressed air. If filters are fitted, removed and clean them. |
| Battery | Remove the battery and clean underneath it. |
| Battery box | Clean the battery box. |
| Bodywork | Check all damaged bodywork. Remove any floor or body strips or mouldings that form lips where soil or plant material may become trapped, particularly on vehicle floor compartments. |
| Bumper and brush guard. | Clean all hollow sections and attachment points. |
| Canopy | Remove the canopy and brush it, then clean it with compressed air or high-pressure water. |
| Canopy bows | Disassemble the canopy bows, then wipe or scrub them with brushes and water. Pay attention to locking catches, joints and hollow cross members. |
| Chassis | Clean the chassis with high pressure water using equipment with a flexible nozzle. Pay particular attention to small apertures, which may act as reservoirs for soil and plant material. |
| Dashboard | Used compressed air and dry paintbrushes to clean the dashboard. |
| Dual wheels | Take extra care cleaning vehicles fitted with dual bogie wheels. If contamination is detected, an inspector may ask for the outer wheel to be removed, cleaned and re-inspected. |
| Fender wells | Clean the access areas for tail-light wiring and other fender apertures that may collect soil and plant material. |
| Floor drain plugs | Remove all floor drain plugs to facilitate cleaning. Clean all drain plugs and apertures, paying particular attention to threaded areas. |
| Floor mats | Remove all floor mats or carpets and clean them. |
| Fuel tanks | If fuel tanks are strapped to the vehicle, clean them to remove contamination between the tank and the vehicle. |
| Insulation tape | Check all taped areas for contamination and replace the tape with new when necessary. |
| Interior | Remove all contamination with vacuum or compressed air equipment. |
| Interior panels, access panels | Where possible, remove all internal panels to allow cleaning of inner components. |
| Lights and reflectors | Remove all damaged lights (internal and external) and any lights where seals have not maintained their integrity, so that you can clean the light fittings. |
| Metal racks | Clean all box and tubular steel racks (which have openings) with high-pressure water. |
| Mirrors | Clean all mirror holders |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Radiator (all types) | Clean the radiator with compressed air and follow this with a low-pressure high-volume water wash. You may need to use brushes or to pick seed material from between the veins on the radiator. |
| Ropes, straps and Velcro | Check and clean all ropes and straps and items containing Velcro. Extend ropes and straps to their full length when cleaning and check all attachment points, fixtures and tension devices |
| Rubber seals | Windscreens, doors, tailgate and other areas and clean or replace them as necessary. |
| Seatbelts | Clean and check all seatbelts, especially the catches where the seatbelts fasten. You may need to remove any sheaths or covers to adequately clean seatbelts. |
| Seat cushions | Clean the cushion covers. |
| Storage and tool compartments | Empty and clean all storage and tool compartments. |
| Support and cross members | Check and clean the transmission support members and other cross members. |
| Tools and equipment | Remove all items for cleaning. This may include jacks, wheel braces, etc. Wipe tool s clean. |
| Toolboxes | Empty and clean all toolboxes. If they are bolted to the floor tray, unfasten and remove them to check there is no debris trapped between the floor and the toolboxes. |
| Tyres | Clean the tyres, paying attention to the tread and any cuts or gashes. |
| Winch cable drum | Unwind the winch cable and clean the drum, cable and any attachments of any soil and plant material that is embedded in the components or grease. |

Remember: the key to successful cleaning is more than just ticking off a checklist. You should be thorough, systematic and consistent. CHECK, CLEAN, RECHECK.

SURVEILLANCE PLAN FOR INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS – WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Date: 29th of January, 2021



(Euri Creek stockroute, north of Bowen)



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1.0. Introduction

Pest plants and animals can impact on our environment, economy and social values. Biosecurity Queensland state that the “aim of surveillance is to detect pests before they become established in Australia and threaten our agriculture and our environment”. According to Biosecurity Queensland, “many plant pests have the potential to cause serious economic and social problems for Queensland's communities”, and Biosecurity Queensland minimises the risk through surveillance, early detection, eradication and containment programs for serious pests.

The FAO state that a well-managed, coordinated and resourced pest surveillance system increases the likelihood of an organisation finding pests earlier after introduction, and to take appropriate action. The Australian government equally draws attention to the need for surveillance programs stating that if “left untreated, exotic plants and pests have the potential to cause major human, environmental and economic impacts”.

The Queensland Biosecurity Strategy (Biosecurity Queensland 2016), mentions that there are 1400 species of ‘weed’ in Queensland, with new species being established each year. The Whitsunday Biosecurity Strategy lists some 75 priority weeds and 12 priority animals. The Whitsunday Regional Council is aware of a number of invasive plants which occur outside of the regional council area but are not currently found in the Whitsunday’s. Invasive plants such as Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) are found in the North Queensland, but have not yet been found in the Whitsunday region. Equally, invasive animals such as the red ear slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) have not been detected in the Whitsunday region at this point in time.

The Whitsunday Council has limited resources and needs to allocate human and financial resources prudently to maximise outcomes. The development of a pro-active plant and animal Surveillance Program to detect new pest plant and animal incursions is an additional, unfunded action. The Whitsunday Council recognises the importance of having an early detection pest management system, but with limited funds the Surveillance Program will need to be conducted at a small scale and be highly targeted at selected assets and for selected target pests.

The purpose of this Plan is to outline the proposed Whitsunday Regional Council Pest Surveillance Program. The objectives of this Plan are to:

- Describe the important economic and environmental assets in the region which need to be protected from declared invasive plants and animals (pests).
- Identify, analyse and prioritise the pathways of declared biosecurity matters into the region (Describe the pathways methods of pest transfer into the region).
- List the proposed pests which will form part of the Pest Surveillance Program.

This Surveillance Program will apply to the Whitsunday Regional Council area (Figure 1). This Surveillance Program will only focus on declared pest plant and animals under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* and local laws of Whitsunday Regional Council not plant pathogens and disease.



Figure 1. Whitsunday Regional Council area.

2.0. Background

2.1. What is a pest surveillance program?

Pest surveillance programs are designed to detect the early stages of pest incursions into an area. Pest surveillance activities may include conducting surveys of targeted areas, collecting samples and interviewing people and businesses. The surveillance activities are often targeted with specific objectives to protect specific vulnerable assets.

2.2. Legislation and Policy

The main legislation which guides pest management in the Whitsunday region is the *Queensland Biosecurity Act (2014)*, and the Whitsunday Regional Council Local law 3 (Community and Environment). The Queensland government has introduced the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* to guide the management of invasive plants and animals.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* introduces the concept of the general biosecurity obligation (GBO), which is an overarching obligation that requires all persons who deal with biosecurity matter to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk posed by the biosecurity matter. The GBO encourages all relevant parties to take a proactive role in preventing, managing and addressing biosecurity risks that relate to them.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* also introduces prohibited and restricted biosecurity matter. Prohibited matter is not currently present in Queensland and is prohibited because there are reasonable grounds to believe it could have significant adverse effects if introduced to the state. Restricted matter is found in Queensland and may have an adverse effect if restrictions are not imposed. Restricted matter is assigned category numbers from 1-7 based on its characteristics and the risk it poses. Pest plants and animals can be attributed to more than one pest category.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) provides for the establishment of biosecurity programs. Surveillance programs are directed at any of the following—

- a) monitoring compliance with the Act in relation to a particular matter to which the Act applies;
- b) confirming the presence, or finding out the extent of the presence, in the State or the parts of the State to which the program applies, of the biosecurity matter to which the program relates;
- c) confirming the absence, in the State or the parts of the State to which the program applies, of the biosecurity matter to which the program relates;
- d) monitoring the effects of measures taken in response to a biosecurity risk;
- e) monitoring compliance with requirements about prohibited matter or restricted matter;
- f) monitoring levels of biosecurity matter or levels of biosecurity matter in a carrier.

The Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy (DAFF, 2016) identified a number of desired outcomes. The desired outcomes listed in the Strategy need to be reflected in the local government Biosecurity Plans. The desired outcomes are:

- Desired outcome 1: Prevention and early intervention
- Desired outcome 2: Monitoring and assessment
- Desired outcome 3: Awareness and education
- Desired outcome 4: Effective management systems
- Desired outcome 5: Strategic management framework and management
- Desired outcome 6: Commitment, roles and responsibilities

2.3. Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan

In 2016, the Whitsunday Regional Council developed the Whitsunday Biosecurity Strategy. One of the desired outcomes in the Biosecurity Strategy is prevention and early detection. The objectives for the prevention and early detection were:

- 1) Surveillance plan and management actions are in place to prevent pest species introduction into Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) LGA.
- 2) Pest surveillance programs are developed and implemented to identify and record pest species which are categorised as “under surveillance, eradication and containment.
- 3) The community have good knowledge on invasive plants and animals (pest species knowledge).
- 4) WRC is involved in regional eradication programs.

The actions listed to implement the Prevention and early detection outcomes are listed in table 1.

Table 1. The prevention and early detection actions.

| Action No. | Action description |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1A | A strong relationship is developed between WRC and government Departments to develop pest prevention protocols |
| 1.1B | Pest species prevention protocols are promoted with key Stakeholders |
| 1.1C | A regular Surveillance Program of major transport corridors is developed for pest species |
| 1.1D | Regularly communication with neighbouring LG's regarding new pest incursions |
| 1.1E | Nurseries are regularly monitored to prevent landholders selling, supplying or keeping declared plants |
| 1.1F | All locations that keep pests under a permit are monitored |
| 1.1G | Funding groups are lobbied for the construction of public wash down facilities |
| 1.1H | WRC investigates equipment modification to improve weed hygiene practices (i.e. slasher blowers, covers, etc.) |
| 1.1I | Sugarcane harvesters are washed down or blown down between farming entities |
| 1.1J | Horticultural machinery is washed down before moving into other horticultural districts. |
| 1.2A | Regular surveillance programs are undertaken across the region that target <i>Under Surveillance Pest Species</i> (identified in the Strategic Program (Pest Species)) |
| 1.2B | Processes are in place to consistently and accurately report new <i>Under Surveillance Pest Species</i> infestations |
| 1.2C | A <i>New Pest Species Rapid Response Procedure</i> is developed for new pest incursions which outlines Stakeholders roles and responsibilities |
| 1.3A | WRC incorporates <i>Under Surveillance Pest Species</i> into the <i>Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program</i> |
| 1.3.B | Horticultural growers have access to relevant pest information |
| 1.3.C | Urban and rural residential land owners receive information on small crop and tree crop pests. |
| 1.3.D | Landholders outside of agricultural industries have access to pest management information. |

2.3. Whitsunday Pests

The Whitsunday Regional Council has included a list of priority (important) pest plants and animals in the Whitsunday Biosecurity Strategy. The top 10 priority weeds are listed in table 2. The pest plant species which are listed as important but are not currently found in the Whitsunday region are listed in table 3. The pest animal species which are listed as important but are not currently found in the Whitsunday region are listed in table 4.

Table 2. The top 10 priority weeds.

| Common name | Scientific name | Present in Whitsunday region | Priority |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| <u>Siam weed</u> | <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> | No | 1 |
| <u>Mimosa pigra</u> | <i>Mimosa pigra</i> | Yes | 2 |
| <u>Leucaena</u> | <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> | Yes | 3 |
| <u>Lantana</u> | <i>Lantana camara</i> | Yes | 4 |
| Itch grass | <i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i> | Yes | 5 |
| <u>Prickly acacia</u> | <i>Acacia nilotica (Vachellia nilotica)</i> | Yes | 6 |
| <u>Navua sedge</u> | <i>Cyperus aromaticus</i> | No | 7 |
| <u>Chinee apple</u> | <i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> | Yes | 8 |
| <u>Rubber vine</u> | <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> | Yes | 9 |
| <u>Hymenachne</u> | <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> | Yes | 10 |

Table 3. Plants for surveillance

| No. | Common name | Scientific name | Present in Whitsunday region | Priority |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | <u>Siam weed</u> | <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> | No | 1 |
| 2 | <u>Navua sedge</u> | <i>Cyperus aromaticus</i> | No | 7 |
| 3 | <u>Miconia</u> | <i>Miconia sp</i> | No | 16 |
| 4 | <u>Cabomba</u> | <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> | No | 29 |
| 5 | Kyasuma grass | <i>Cenchrus pedicellatus</i> | No | 45 |
| 6 | <u>Grey Willow</u> | <i>Salix spp. other than S. babylonica S. x calodendron, S. x reichardtii and S. chilensis syn. S. humboldtiana</i> | No | 69 |
| 7 | Mimosa | Mimosa pigra | Yes | 2 |

Table 4. Animals for surveillance.

| No | Common name | Scientific name | Present in Whitsunday area | Priority |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Feral Deer (Rusa) | <i>Cervus timorensis</i> | Yes – low numbers | 8 |
| 2 | <u>European Carp</u> | <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> | No | 4 |
| 3 | Yellow Crazy Ants | <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i> | Yes | N/A |

(Note: Yellow Crazy Ants were initially found at Shute Harbour in May 2019, hence no priority listed in Biosecurity Plan)

2.4. Pathways (vectors) for pest movement

Weeds can be found almost everywhere in Queensland (Figure 2). The greatest number will generally be found where there is a high level of disturbance created by human activity, or along weed carrying pathways. The more common methods for pest plants and animals to be transported between places are:

- Water
- Wind
- Earth moving
- Vehicles
- Other animals – e.g. birds, feral pigs
- Humans (ex: cha-om- a plant used for food which is traded or bought and sold)
- Livestock movement

Pest plant can be introduced to an area through the following locations and businesses:

- Commercial and wholesale nurseries
- Farmer's markets/other community markets
- On-line sales eg. Gumtree, Facebook
- Earthmoving businesses
- Quarries
- Landfills
- Stockyards
- Wash down facilities
- Recreational fishing spots
- Camping sites
- Tracks and trails

Pest animals can be introduced to an area through the following vectors:

- Earthmoving equipment – pest ants
- Quarries – pest ants
- From urban areas – pest dumping in rural areas.
- Movement of ornamental plants carrying invasive ants eg. new residents to region from elsewhere

A list of locations which should be inspected as part of this Surveillance Program are listed in the appendix.

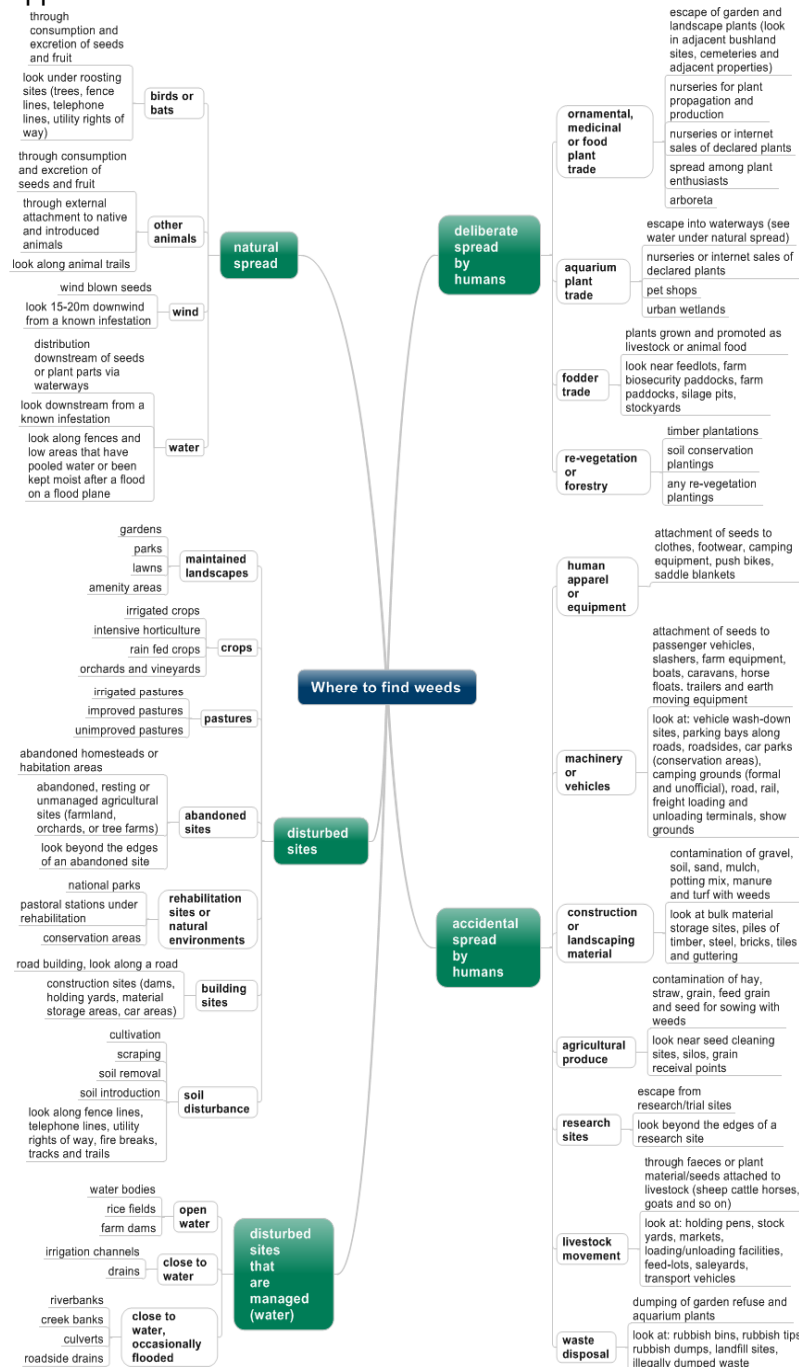


Figure 2: Where to find weeds in QLD (Coleman *et al.*, 2008).

2.5. Important Whitsunday assets

Pest plants and animals can impact on the productivity of land and how humans interact with land and water assets. Pest ants can reduce the areas which people can use for tourism and recreation. Pest animals can impact on farm produce reducing farm income.

The Whitsunday Region assets which are at risk of being impacted by pest plants and animals include:

- Economic
 - Agriculture
 - Horticulture
 - Cropping – sugarcane
 - Grazing
 - Tourism
- Environment
 - Remnant vegetation
 - Endangered ecosystems
 - Wetlands
 - Riverine areas
 - Great Barrier Reef islands?
 - Protected areas including national parks
- Social
 - Recreational opportunities

3.0. Pest Surveillance Plan

3.1. Goals and objectives

The goals and objectives for the Whitsunday Regional Council Pest Surveillance Program are listed in table 5.

Table 5. The goals and objectives of the Whitsunday Pest Surveillance Program.

| No. | Theme | Goal | Objective |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Prevention | To prevent new pest plant and animals establishing in the Whitsunday Region | Management actions are in place to prevent pest species introduction into WRC LGA |
| 2 | Prevention | To develop pest surveillance programs | Pest surveillance programs are developed and implemented to identify and record pest species which are categorised as “under surveillance, eradication and containment. |
| 3 | Education and awareness | To improve the community’s knowledge of pests | The community have good pest species knowledge |
| 4 | Treatment | To treat new pest incursions | WRC is involved in regional eradication programs |
| 5 | Reporting | To report pest surveillance results | To develop an annual report for the pest surveillance program |

3.2. Pest Surveillance Program

The Whitsunday Pest Surveillance Program will include target pests and target locations. The targeted Surveillance Program will target priority locations which may be the source of pest plants and animals and locations which are recognised as environmentally significant assets.

The list of surveillance locations are listed in the appendix. The list of actions to implement this Plan are shown in table 6.

It is proposed that the sites are inspected twice a year. The target inspection timing will be March/April at the end of the wet season and in November/December at the start of the wet season.

Table 6. List of actions.

| No. | Theme | Action |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Prevention | Review pest plants and animals to target as part of the surveillance program |
| 2 | Prevention | Identify important assets to protect as part of the surveillance program |
| 3 | Prevention | Develop a pest surveillance inspection schedule |
| 4 | Education and awareness | Develop a fact sheet to deliver to surveillance inspection businesses alerting them to the inspection program and target pest plants and animals. |
| 5 | Education and awareness | Develop a program/project where residents can use social media and apps to assist with the identification of pests. |

3.3. Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Whitsunday Region Pest Surveillance Program are listed in Table 7.

Table 7. The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

| No. | Task | Whitsunday Regional Council Staff | Biosecurity Queensland | Community / residents |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Identify target pest plants and animals in the field | √ | √ | √ |
| 2 | Identify and endorse target surveillance locations | √ | √ | |
| 3 | Review Pest Surveillance Program | √ | √ | |
| 4 | Conduct pro-active inspections | √ | | |
| 5 | Develop annual surveillance report | √ | | |

3.4. Review and evaluation

The Whitsunday Region Pest Surveillance Program will be reviewed as part of the Whitsunday Biosecurity Strategy every four years. New pest plants and animals can be added to the Surveillance Program as needed.

4.0. Conclusion

The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed a pro-active Pest Surveillance Program. The purpose of the Surveillance Program is to detect early incursions of restricted and prohibited pests in the region. The Surveillance Program will be targeted to the inspection of sites which have a higher likelihood of weed and pest animal introductions. The Pest Surveillance Program will have 25 inspection sites.

5.0. Reference

Biosecurity Queensland, 2015. Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023. Biosecurity Queensland, Brisbane.

Coleman. M.J., Sindel, B.M, van der Meulen, A.W. and Reeve, I.J., 2008. The Risks Associated with Weed Spread in Australia and Implications for Natural Areas. *Natural Areas Journal*, 31(4):368-376

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 2014. *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Queensland government, Brisbane.

FAO, 2015. Plant Pest Surveillance. International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy.

6.0. Appendix.

6.1. List of environmentally sensitive assets

| No. | Theme | Location | Risks |
|-----|------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | Ecosystems | Proserpine wetland | Weeds and Animals |
| | | Caley wetland | Weeds and Animals |
| | | Conway National Park | Weeds and Animals |
| | | Dryander National Park | Weeds and Animals |
| | | | |

6.2. List of surveillance locations

| No. | Theme | Location | Inspection Address | Risks | Easting | Northing |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| | Nurseries | Plants Whitsunday | Shute Harbour Rd, Cannonvale | Weeds | 673040 | 7752930 |
| | | Carbon nursery | Shute Harbour Rd, Cannonvale | Weeds | 674430 | 7754837 |
| | | Whitpro nursery | Paluma Rd, Cannonvale | Weeds | 674410 | 7756320 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Quarry | WRC Foxdale Quarry | Foxdale Quarry Road, Proserpine | Weeds and ants | 663400 | 7747400 |
| | | Whitsunday Quarry | Shute Harbour Rd, Cannonvale | Weeds and ants | 669350 | 7748840 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Earth moving | Warrens Transport depot | Proserpine | Weeds | 666140 | 7743100 |
| | | Berry Excavation depot | Myrtle Creek | Weeds | 665840 | 7746630 |
| | | Paddells earth moving | Collinsville | Weeds | 587840 | 7725960 |
| | | Bowen Earth moving | Bowen – Richmond Road | Weeds | 628220 | 7788080 |
| | | Bowen Council depot | Bowen – Richmond Road | Weeds | 628060 | 7788020 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Sensitive environmental areas | Proserpine wetland | The Landing Road, Glen Isla | Weeds | 671970 | 7740990 |
| | | Conway National Park | End of Brandy Creek Road, Cannon Valley | Weeds | 676439 | 7750136 |
| | | Proserpine river | Spruces crossing | | 655930 | 7749970 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Landfill Facilities | Kelsey Creek Landfill | 139 Kelsey Creek Road, Proserpine | Weeds and ants | 662000 | 7744800 |
| | | Cannonvale Transfer Station | Carlo Drive, Cannonvale | Weeds and ants | 674780 | 7756280 |
| | | Bowen Landfill | 908 Bowen Developmental Road, Mt Coolon | Weeds and ants | 620200 | 7779700 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Wash down facilities | Collinsville | Darby Munro Park | Weeds | 588620 | 7726900 |
| | | Proserpine Dam x 2 | Lake Proserpine | Weeds | 643760 | 7746580 |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| | Recreational Fishing Areas | Proserpine Dam | Lake Proserpine | Weeds | 643760 | 7746580 |
| | | Don River | Yasso Point | Weeds | 628244 | 7791567 |
| | | Mullers lagoon | | | 630580 | 7787990 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Camping Sites | Proserpine Dam | Lake Proserpine | Weeds | 643750 | 7746000 |
| | | Collinsville Showgrounds | Collinsville | Weeds | 588360 | 7726840 |
| | | Bowen showgrounds | | Weeds | 628540 | 7788650 |
| | | Proserpine showgrounds | | Weeds | 663620 | 7742600 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Tracks and Trails | The Great Whitsunday Walk | Cannonvale | Weeds | 678752 | 7757596 |
| | | Mt Rooper Circuit and Swamp Bay track | Airlie Beach – Shute Harbour | Weeds | 684960 | 7755890 |
| | | Cedar Creek Falls | Proserpine – Conway | Weeds | 678360 | 7742350 |
| | | Kingfisher Circuit | Brandy Creek | Weeds | 676439 | 7750136 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Roads | Guthalungra truck stop | Guthalungra | Weeds | 588160 | 7796810 |
| | | Lethebrook truck stop | Lethebrook - Proserpine | | 669060 | 7731580 |

6.3. Surveillance Program schedule

(extract)

Season = annual

Title: WRC pest inspection schedule

Version: 1-04-20

* The purpose of this schedule is to describe the pest surveillance location and timing

| | Location | Suburb | Time Required (Hr) | Priority | Jan - Feb - March (First Quarter) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Apr - May- June (2nd Quarter) | | | | | | | | | | | | July - Aug - Sept (3rd Quarter) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | Jan | | | | Feb | | | | March | | | | April | | | | May | | | | June | | | | July | | | | August | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| Nurseries | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Plants Whitsunday | Cannonvale | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Carbon Nursery | Cannonvale | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Quarries | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Concil foxdale quarry | Proserpine | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Whitsunday quarry | Cannon Valley | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The schedule is a separate operational document which will implemented on an annual basis.

6.4. Inspection checklist

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Location | |
| Date | |
| Inspection Officer | |
| Target pests | |
| | |

Results:

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Pest plants | Yes / No |
| Pest animals | Yes / No |
| Comments | |

6.5. Annual report template

The Whitsunday Region pest surveillance report:

| Item | Number |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Number of inspections of nurseries | |
| Number of quarry inspections conducted | |
| Number of earth moving inspections conducted | |
| Number of new pest plants discovered | |
| Number of new pest animals discovered | |
| | |

15. Community Services

15.10 COMMUNITY SERVICES - MONTHLY REPORT - JANUARY 2021

AUTHOR: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Julie Wright – Director Community Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Community Services Monthly Report for January 2021.

The following report has been submitted for inclusion into Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

To provide an overview of the Community Services Directorate for the month of January 2021.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to set out an account of statistics pertaining to the functions of each branch within Community Services.

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Directorate has a departmental vision of a prosperous, liveable, and sustainable Whitsundays. The directorate's purpose is to lead the delivery of economic, social, environmental, and recreational outcomes for the Whitsundays through services in partnership with stakeholders.

The directorate's vision is delivered by bringing together the functions of Community Development & Libraries, Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks, Environmental Health & Local Laws, Natural Resource Management & Climate, Customer Service and Cultural Heritage.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

N/A

ANALYSIS

This report provides an overview of Whitsunday Regional Council's Community Services Directorate for the 2020/2021 financial year with particular focus on the month of January 2021.

Option 1 – Receive the Community Services Monthly Report.

Option 2 – Decline the Community Services Monthly Report.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Corporate Plan

Outcome 1.1 – Our leadership engages with the community and provides open, accountable, and transparent local government.

Strategy 1.1.1 – Provide sound, competent leadership as to maximise the organisation's operational performance, productivity, and efficiency.

Operational Plan – N/A

Financial Implications – N/A

Risk Management Implications – Regular reporting on the Directorate's progress and achievements ensures accountability and fosters a positive culture.

CONSULTATION

Rod Cousins – Manager Community Development & Libraries
Shane Douglas – Manager Customer Service
Scott Hardy – Coordinator Natural Resource Management & Climate
Milton Morsch – Coordinator Environmental Health & Local Laws
Monique Stevens – Administration Coordinator Community Services

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council receive the Community Services Monthly Report for January 2021.

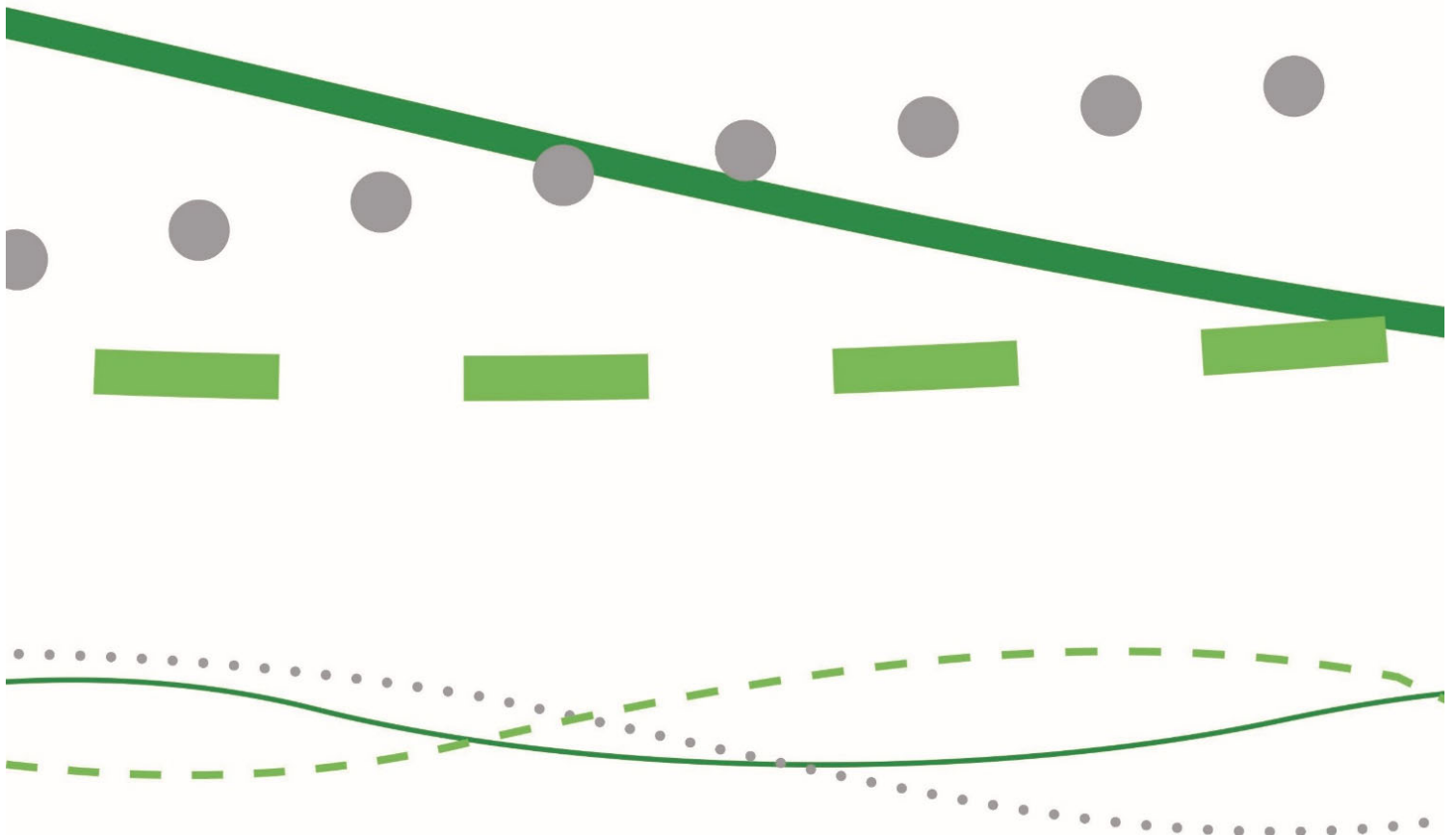
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Community Services Monthly Report - January 2021

Community Services

Community Development & Libraries
Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks
Environmental Health & Local Laws
Natural Resource Management & Climate
Customer Service
Cultural Heritage

Monthly Report | January 2021



Director's Report

January 2021 saw the Community Services team undertake several events, activities and projects.

Citizenship Ceremonies were held in Collinsville, Bowen and Airlie Beach on Tuesday, 26 January 2021, welcoming 37 new Australians – a small increase from the 32 new Australians from January 2020.

Australia Day Awards were also held in Collinsville, Bowen and Airlie Beach with great attendance at all events across the region, totalling 337.



Photo 1: Mayor Willcox with New Australian Citizens - Bowen

The following are the average monthly occupancy rates at each of Council's Caravan Parks:

- Proserpine Tourist Park – 39.2%
 - a 12.18% increase from January 2020.
- Wangaratta Caravan Park – 14.9%
 - a 5.31% decrease from January 2020.

Customer Service Counter Receipts increased by 11.7% from December 2020 to 513 for the month with the breakdown from each location listed below:

- Proserpine: 158 receipts a 11.2% increase from December 2020
- Cannonvale: 124 receipts a 0% increase from December 2020
- Collinsville: 35 receipts a 52% increase from December 2020
- Bowen: 196 receipts a 15.2% increase from December 2020

The Community Administration Officers' statistics for January 2021 include the following:

- Correspondence Generated – 281 items
- Civica, ECM & CRM Registrations – 1,099
- 1,071 Telephone Calls (internal & external)

The Region's Libraries monthly attendance and borrowings have decreased from January 2020.

- Attendance 14,350 – 45% decrease
- Borrowings 14,820 – 27.6% decrease
- E-Borrowings – 5,304

The libraries partnered with the Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) to provide a program of touring exhibitions *Kids on Tour*.

The annual program sees QAGOMA set the theme and provide resource materials for libraries to run a variety of children's activities. Due to COVID-19, the libraries ran both the 2020 and 2021 program during the school holidays with the themes being *Island Fashions* – activities that help children to engage with contemporary cultures and experience different ways that artists approach their work and *Now is the Time* – a range of hands-on activities that invite children to speak up about climate change and the environment. 20 sessions were held across Proserpine, Bowen and Collinsville with 114 in attendance.



Photo 2: Now is the Time Activity – Bowen Library

January 2021 saw the first full month of the implementation of the Parking and Infringement Integrated Management System. Council's Off-Street Carparks generated \$77,381.76 for the month with 11,624 transactions, for January 2021. Transaction breakdown included: -

- Credit Card Payments – 55.4%
- Pay by Phone (App) – 26.9%
- Cash – 17.1%

Aquatic Facilities totalled 23,238 attendance for January 2021 an overall total decrease from December 2020 of 18.22% across the region.

- Airlie Lagoon decrease by 33.2% to 12,710
- Bowen Pool decreased by 20.5% to 5,528
- Collinsville Pool decreased by 29.9% to 1,905
- Proserpine Pool decreased by 68.2% to 3,095

The Bowen Work Camp team contributed a total of 610 hours for mowing, landscaping and both Community and Council assistance.

The Community Team received 311 CRM's for January with the Environmental Health and Local Law units receiving 284 complaints/requests for the month.

NRM conducted 27 property visits to discuss Property Pest Management Plans (PPMPs) and/or feral animals with landholders.

The NRM have a number of projects completed including:

- Weed Washdown Strategy
- Pest Surveillance Program
- 5 x Community Bushfire Plans

The team are also currently developing a Bushfire Management Plan for the Mount Whitsunday-Airlie Beach area.

Council's Feral Pig Program was noted in the National Feral Pig Action Plan 2021-2031 (Dry Tropics – North Queensland Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Section) – *Whitsunday Regional Council are considered one of the leaders of feral pig management in the Burdekin Dry Tropics region, where landholder syndicates continue to support management intervention and data gathering (infrastructure damage, yield loss, disease impacts).*

The Climate Hub's Facebook following is slowly increasing:

- Facebook Post Reach – 257
- Facebook Followers – 164

The Hub also has 11 projects underway with another 13 in development.

Julie Wright
Director Community Services

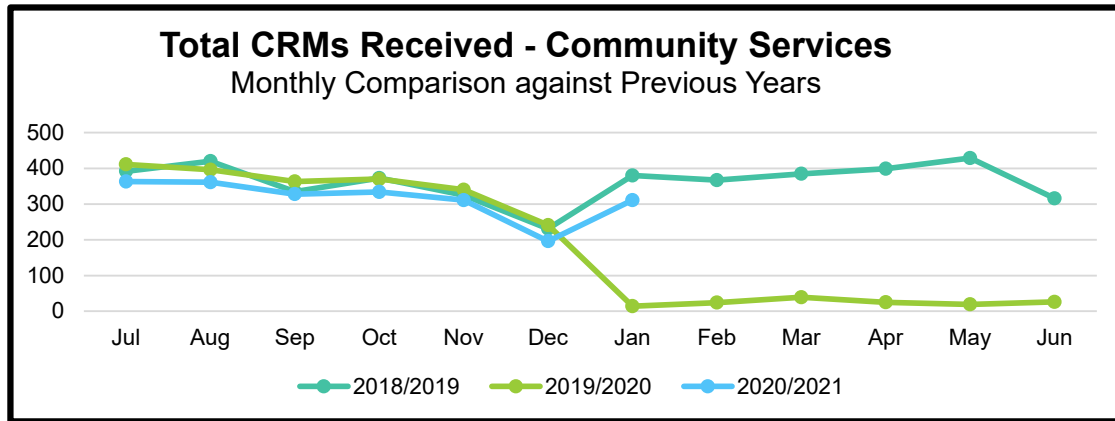
General

The Community Services Directorate has a departmental vision of a prosperous, liveable, and sustainable Whitsundays. The directorate's purpose is to lead the delivery of economic, social, environmental, and recreational outcomes for the Whitsundays through services in partnership with stakeholders.

The directorate's vision is delivered by bringing together the functions of Community Development & Libraries, Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks, Environmental Health & Local Laws, Natural Resource Management & Climate, Customer Service, Cultural Heritage & Collinsville Independent Living Facility.

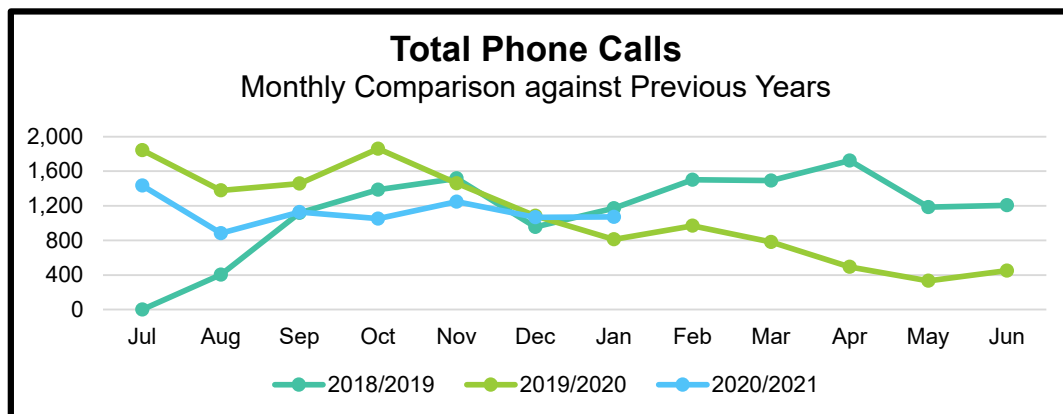
Customer Request Management (CRM)

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Community Development | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 55 | 10 | 6 | 5 | ↓ |
| CRM Completed | 43 | 8 | 5 | 3 | ↓ |
| Library Services | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| CRM Completed | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Aquatic Facilities | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 22 | 3 | 4 | 3 | ↓ |
| CRM Completed | 12 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ↑ |
| Caravan Parks | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| CRM Completed | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Environmental Health & Local Laws | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 1,905 | 269 | 178 | 284 | ↑ |
| CRM Completed | 1,568 | 209 | 148 | 234 | ↑ |
| Parking | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 22 | 2 | 2 | 5 | ↑ |
| CRM Completed | 17 | 2 | 2 | 5 | ↑ |
| NRM & Climate | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 100 | 11 | 4 | 9 | ↑ |
| CRM Completed | 41 | 3 | 2 | 5 | ↑ |
| Customer Service / E-Services | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 93 | 16 | 2 | 5 | ↑ |
| CRM Completed | 84 | 16 | 2 | 5 | ↑ |
| Total CRMs for Community Services | | | | | |
| CRM Received | 2,204 | 311 | 196 | 311 | ↑ |
| CRM Completed | 1,770 | 240 | 160 | 254 | ↑ |



Administration Officers

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Correspondence Generated | 4,964 | 714 | 355 | 281 | ↓ |
| ECM Task List | 4,843 | 851 | 388 | 451 | ↑ |
| | | | | | |
| Civica Registers | 7,215 | 1,038 | 725 | 541 | ↓ |
| Data Input | 3,368 | 634 | 290 | 333 | ↑ |
| | | | | | |
| CRMs Generated | 477 | 71 | 68 | 107 | ↑ |
| CRMs Closed | 387 | 58 | 50 | 76 | ↑ |
| | | | | | |
| Phone Calls - Internal | 5,430 | 844 | 745 | 647 | ↓ |
| Phone Calls - External | 2,451 | 403 | 322 | 424 | ↑ |
| Phone Calls - Total | 7,881 | 1,247 | 1,067 | 1,071 | ↑ |
| | | | | | |
| ECM Registering | 4,404 | 930 | 476 | 356 | ↓ |
| | | | | | |
| Purchase Orders | 311 | 61 | 59 | 36 | ↓ |
| Receipt Invoices | 408 | 67 | 66 | 45 | ↓ |
| | | | | | |
| Reports | 303 | 45 | 35 | 35 | — |



Community Development

The Community Development branch is responsible for assessing and acquitting community grants, developing and maintaining various community development related policies and registers, developing, and implementing various community programs such as cultural and recreational programs as well as maintaining various community facilities.

Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Grant Applications | | | | | |
| Facility Management - Approved | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | ↓ |
| Facility Management - Approved (\$) | 40,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 0 | ↓ |
| Junior Elite Athlete - Approved | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | ↓ |
| Junior Elite Athlete - Approved (\$) | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | ↓ |
| RADF - Received | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | ↑ |
| RADF - Approved | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | ↓ |
| RADF - Approved (\$) | 2,465 | 0 | 2,465 | 0 | ↓ |
| RADF - Acquittals | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Special Projects - Received | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Special Projects - Approved | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Special Projects - Approved (\$) | 47,196 | 47,196 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Special Projects - Acquittals | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | – |
| Sport & Rec Club - Received | 33 | 5 | 1 | 3 | ↓ |
| Sport & Rec Club - Approved | 35 | 7 | 5 | 3 | ↓ |
| Sport & Rec Club - Approved (\$) | 89,000 | 13,500 | 10,000 | 7,500 | ↓ |
| Donation & Sponsorship Requests | | | | | |
| Donation Requests - Received | 20 | 1 | 2 | 4 | ↑ |
| Donation Requests - Approved | 14 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ↑ |
| Donation Requests - Approved (\$) | 58,130 | 100 | 2,000 | 12,000 | ↑ |
| Fee Waivers - Approved | 12 | 7 | 1 | 0 | ↓ |
| Fee Waivers - Approved (\$) | 11,112 | 9,314 | 200 | 0 | ↓ |
| Sponsorships - Received | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | ↑ |
| Sponsorships - Approved | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | ↑ |
| Sponsorships - Approved (\$) | 7,502 | 0 | 0 | 2 | ↑ |
| Sponsorships - Approved (in kind) | 10,001 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ↑ |
| Sponsorships - Acquittals | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ↑ |
| Events | | | | | |
| Council Events - External - Completed | 8 | 0 | 0 | 3 | ↑ |
| Council Events - External - Participants | 453 | 0 | 0 | 337 | ↑ |
| Council Events - Internal - Completed | 9 | 2 | 5 | 0 | ↓ |
| Council Events - Internal - Participants | 356 | 57 | 240 | 0 | ↓ |

Competition Results for Junior Elite Athlete Recipients:

- No competitions held this month.

Events:

External:

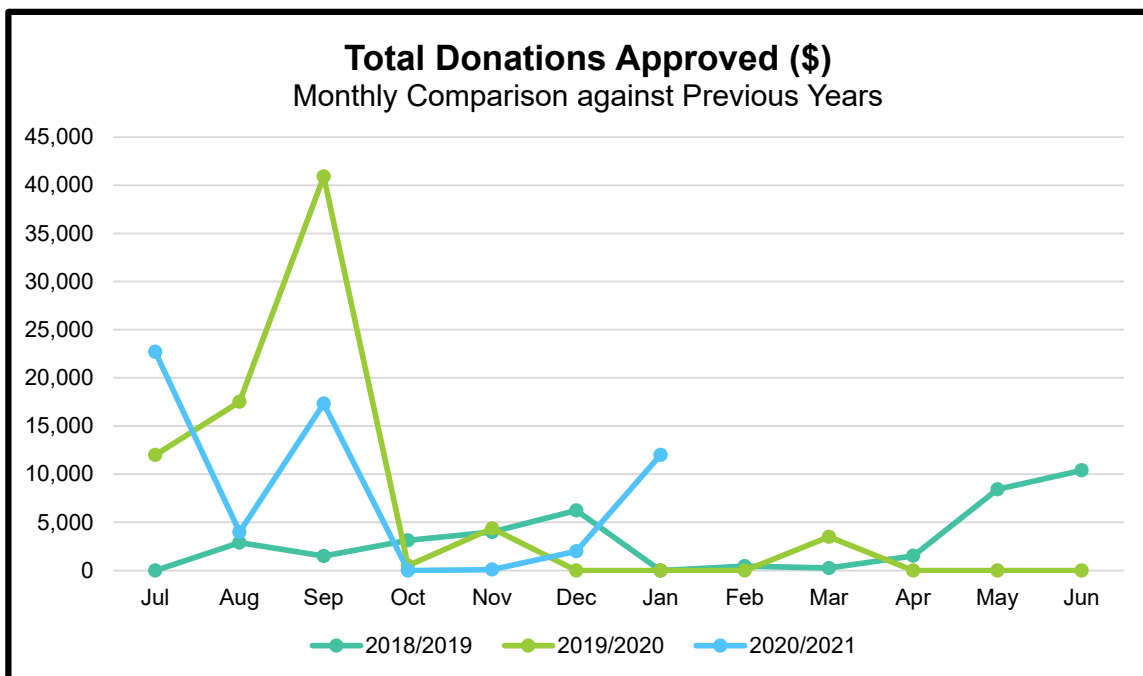
- 2021 Australia Day Awards were held in Collinsville, Bowen, and Airlie Beach with a total of 337 attendees.
- Bowen and Airlie Beach events also included Citizenship Ceremonies with 37 new Australian Citizens.

Internal:

- Nil.

Special Project Grants Successful Recipients:

- Round 1 closed 16 October 2020 – 5 applications received and approved.

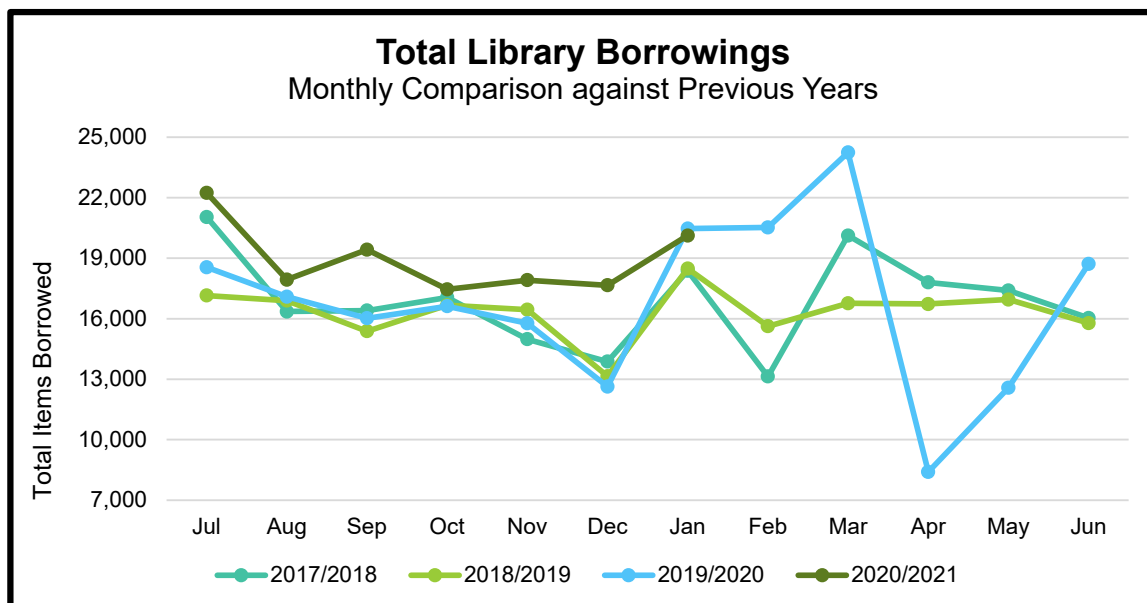


Library Services

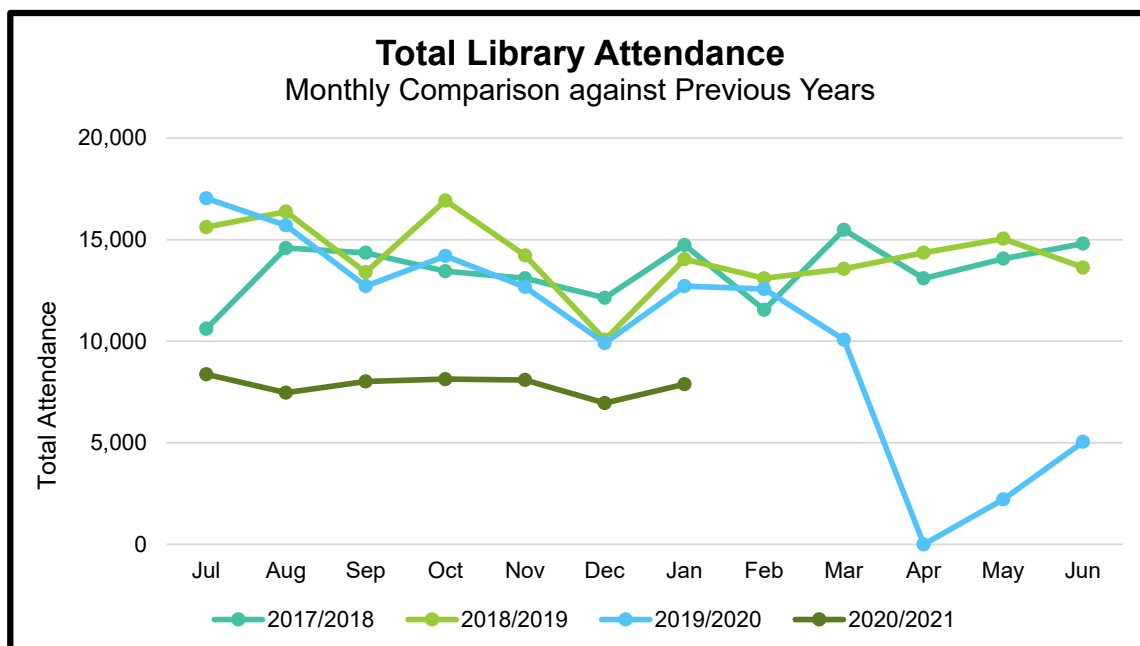
The Library Services branch is responsible for the provision of customer-centric services and resources to meet the information, recreation, cultural and lifelong learning needs of individuals and groups within the Whitsundays. The branch responsibilities include the design and delivery of library programs, promotion and marketing, collection development and maintenance, information/digital literacy opportunities, outreach, and service extension.

Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Library Resources Acquired | | | | | |
| Bowen & Collinsville Libraries | 1,691 | 358 | 226 | 185 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library | 2,922 | 457 | 331 | 340 | ↑ |
| Proserpine Library | 1,549 | 297 | 231 | 148 | ↓ |
| e-Library | 271 | 56 | 8 | 29 | ↑ |
| Library Resources Borrowed | | | | | |
| Bowen Library | 23,347 | 3,248 | 3,027 | 3,627 | ↑ |
| Cannonvale Library | 44,007 | 5,835 | 5,691 | 6,816 | ↑ |
| Collinsville Library | 2,698 | 473 | 416 | 364 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library | 26,869 | 3,291 | 3,198 | 4,013 | ↑ |
| e-Library | 35,832 | 5,065 | 5,324 | 5,304 | ↓ |
| Mobile Library | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↑ |
| Library Attendance | | | | | |
| Bowen Library | 15,364 | 2,353 | 1,917 | 2,327 | ↑ |
| Cannonvale Library | 22,687 | 3,198 | 2,798 | 3,347 | ↑ |
| Collinsville Library | 4,175 | 654 | 327 | 316 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library | 12,700 | 1,886 | 1,913 | 1,898 | ↓ |



| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| First 5 Forever (F5F) | | | | | |
| Resources - Acquired | 358 | 0 | 0 | 31 | ↑ |
| Resources - Borrowed by Branches | 173 | 59 | 27 | 23 | ↓ |
| Community Partnership Interactions | 158 | 23 | 21 | 2 | ↓ |
| Toolkits Distributed | 49 | 16 | 2 | 5 | ↑ |
| F5F In Library - Activities Held | | | | | |
| Bowen Library | 45 | 8 | 6 | 1 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library | 61 | 12 | 6 | 2 | ↓ |
| Collinsville Library | 26 | 6 | 3 | 1 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library | 44 | 12 | 8 | 2 | ↓ |
| F5F In Library - Activities Attendance | | | | | |
| Bowen Library | 290 | 68 | 77 | 10 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library | 791 | 160 | 110 | 17 | ↓ |
| Collinsville Library | 139 | 24 | 26 | 0 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library | 375 | 87 | 111 | 20 | ↓ |
| F5F Community Outreach - Events Held | | | | | |
| Bowen Library | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library | 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ↓ |
| Collinsville Library | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library | 20 | 5 | 2 | 0 | ↓ |
| F5F Community Outreach - Events Attendance | | | | | |
| Bowen Library | 127 | 21 | 19 | 0 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library | 304 | 99 | 48 | 25 | ↓ |
| Collinsville Library | 23 | 0 | 23 | 0 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library | 248 | 62 | 19 | 0 | ↓ |



| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| In Library Programs - Events Held | | | | | |
| Bowen Library - Adults | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Bowen Library - Children | 16 | 0 | 6 | 10 | ↑ |
| Cannonvale Library - Adults | 14 | 2 | 2 | 2 | – |
| Cannonvale Library - Children | 17 | 0 | 4 | 13 | ↑ |
| Collinsville Library - Adults | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Collinsville Library - Children | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | ↑ |
| Proserpine Library - Adults | 25 | 5 | 2 | 4 | ↑ |
| Proserpine Library - Children | 19 | 1 | 4 | 10 | ↑ |
| In Library Programs - Events Attendance | | | | | |
| Bowen Library - Adults | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Bowen Library - Children | 170 | 0 | 129 | 41 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library - Adults | 85 | 14 | 13 | 12 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library - Children | 230 | 0 | 107 | 123 | ↑ |
| Collinsville Library - Adults | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Collinsville Library - Children | 8 | 0 | 5 | 3 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library - Adults | 105 | 29 | 9 | 15 | ↑ |
| Proserpine Library - Children | 198 | 22 | 10 | 79 | ↑ |
| Community Outreach - Events Held | | | | | |
| Bowen Library - Adults | 27 | 4 | 4 | 3 | ↓ |
| Bowen Library - Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Cannonvale Library - Adults | 28 | 4 | 3 | 4 | ↑ |
| Cannonvale Library - Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Collinsville Library - Adults | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Collinsville Library - Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Proserpine Library - Adults | 30 | 4 | 4 | 4 | – |
| Proserpine Library - Children | 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Community Outreach - Events Attendance | | | | | |
| Bowen Library - Adults | 160 | 24 | 24 | 24 | – |
| Bowen Library - Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Cannonvale Library - Adults | 184 | 27 | 16 | 26 | ↑ |
| Cannonvale Library - Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Collinsville Library - Adults | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Collinsville Library - Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Proserpine Library - Adults | 350 | 43 | 46 | 45 | ↓ |
| Proserpine Library - Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Public Computer Usage | | | | | |
| Bowen Library | 2,895 | 514 | 347 | 342 | ↓ |
| Cannonvale Library | 4,093 | 623 | 479 | 619 | ↑ |
| Collinsville Library | 68 | 11 | 7 | 8 | ↑ |
| Proserpine Library | 1,929 | 256 | 234 | 226 | ↓ |

Bowen Work Camp

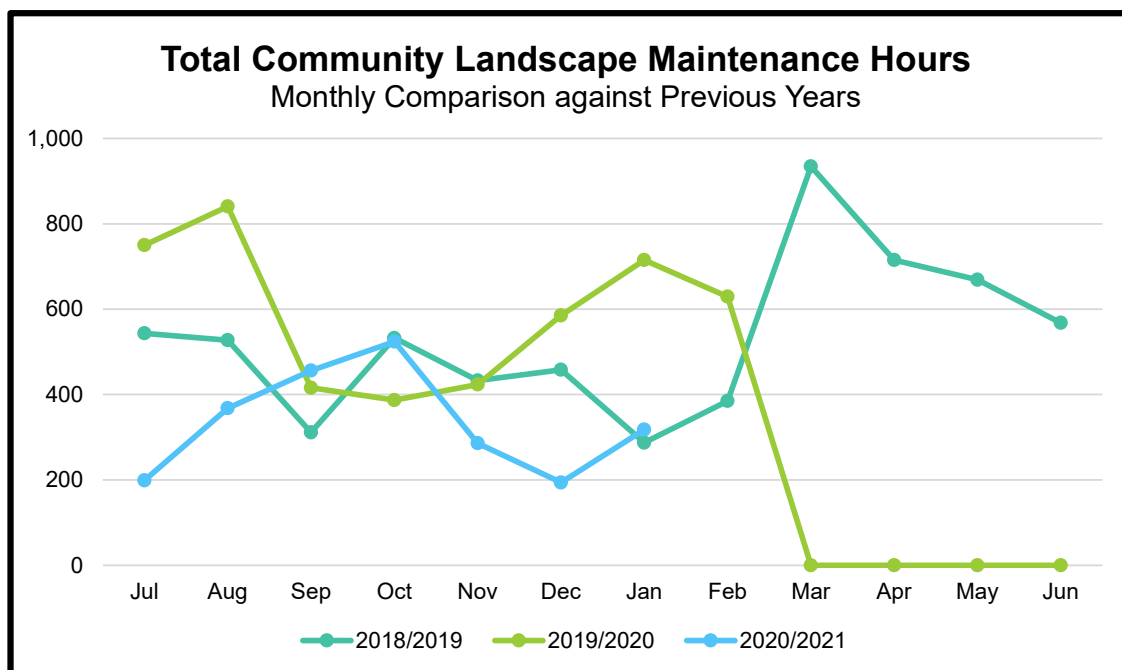
Council partners with Queensland Corrective Services to provide beneficial works projects for the community and rehabilitate offenders with their return to society. They perform a multitude of tasks including maintenance of fences, cemeteries, sportsgrounds and showgrounds, propagation of plants and they also participate in many restoration and general maintenance projects.

Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Community Landscape Maintenance Hours | 2,345 | 286 | 194 | 318 | ↑ |
| Community Indoor Tasks Hours | 505 | 107 | 70 | 82 | ↑ |
| New Project Assessment Hours | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| WRC Landscape Maintenance Hours | 428 | 64 | 67 | 106 | ↑ |
| WRC Nursery Maintenance/Propagation Hours | 189 | 33 | 18 | 0 | ↓ |
| WRC Indoor Tasks Hours | 83 | 12 | 19 | 0 | ↓ |
| QCS Compound Duties Hours | 920 | 95 | 103 | 104 | ↑ |

Projects

| Project | Status | % Complete | Budget |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Bowen River Rodeo – Site Maintenance | Scheduled | 50% | ✓ |



Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks

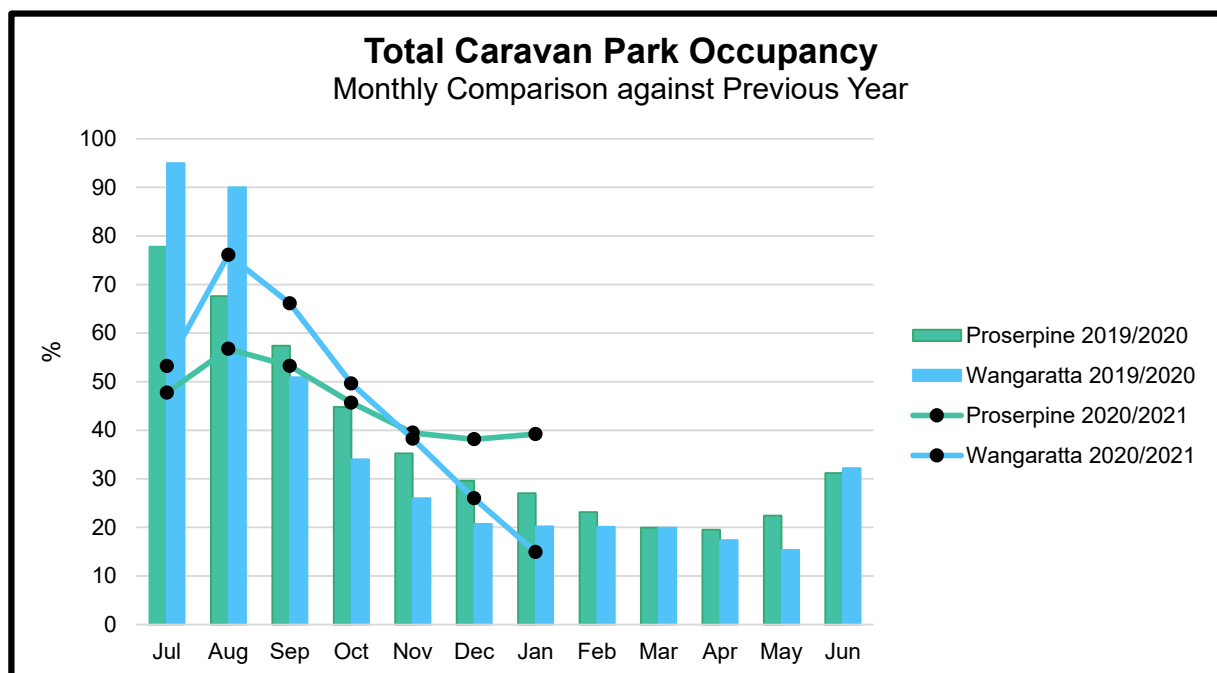
The Recreation Services branch is responsible for delivering recreation and youth programs that activate our public and open spaces, supporting recreation groups to secure funding for projects, maintaining Council's caravan parks and aquatic facilities, and master planning for future sport and recreation assets.

Aquatic Facilities – Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Airlie Beach Lagoon – Total Users | 80,315 | 10,573 | 19,030 | 12,710 | ↓ |
| Airlie Beach Lagoon – Total Offences | 4,721 | 1,072 | 537 | 382 | ↓ |
| Pool Attendance – Bowen | 34,722 | 10,600 | 6,955 | 5,528 | ↓ |
| Pool Attendance – Collinsville | 12,456 | 3,638 | 2,721 | 1,905 | ↓ |
| Pool Attendance – Proserpine | 33,467 | 7,910 | 9,742 | 3,095 | ↓ |

Caravan Parks – Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Proserpine Tourist Park | | | | | |
| Occupancy (%) | 45.7 | 39.4 | 38.1 | 39.2 | ↑ |
| Revenue (\$) | 194,162 | 23,190 | 24,917 | 20,746 | ↓ |
| Accumulated Revenue - Laundry Service (\$) | 2,631 | 282 | 381 | 291 | ↓ |
| Wangaratta Caravan Park | | | | | |
| Occupancy (%) | 46.3 | 38.2 | 26.0 | 14.9 | ↓ |
| Revenue (\$) | 304,194 | 27,434 | 23,427 | 11,756 | ↓ |
| Accumulated Revenue - Laundry Service (\$) | 4,120 | 800 | 476 | 190 | ↓ |

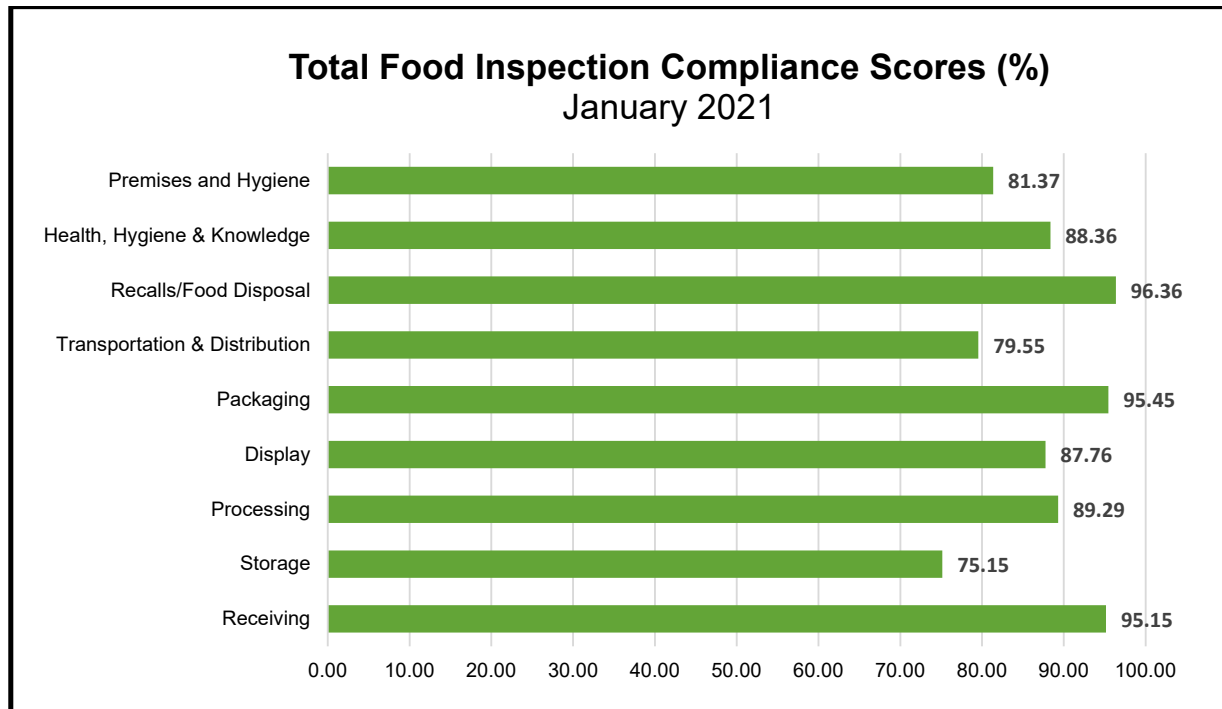


Environmental Health & Local Laws

The Environmental Health & Local Laws branch is responsible for assessing food and local law applications, developing and maintaining various related policies and registers, including the Local Laws, reviewing referrals for liquor licences, and regulating various activities with compliance action and approvals. The branch is also responsible for maintaining the animal impoundment facility, on/off-street car parking compliance and commercial parking operations.

Environmental Health – Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Environmental Health | | | | | |
| Environmental Health – Plan Approval Applications Received | 26 | 8 | 4 | 2 | ↓ |
| Environmental Health Applications Received | 36 | 14 | 9 | 1 | ↓ |
| Food Safety Programs Received | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Liquor Licence Referrals Received | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | – |
| Food Business - Inspections | 217 | 35 | 34 | 55 | ↑ |
| Food Business - Re-Inspections | 44 | 3 | 4 | 11 | ↑ |
| Food Safety Programs Audit Reports Reviewed | 13 | 4 | 3 | 2 | ↓ |
| Personal Appearance Services - Inspections | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | ↓ |
| ERAs - Inspections | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | ↓ |
| Development Applications Referrals Received | 10 | 5 | 0 | 2 | ↑ |
| Accommodation - Inspections | 36 | 0 | 4 | 2 | ↓ |
| Accommodation - Re-inspections | 24 | 1 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Erosion Sediment Control - Inspections | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | ↑ |
| Complaints Received - Asbestos | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | ↑ |
| Complaints Received - Litter & Dumping | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | ↑ |
| Complaints Received - EH General | 83 | 10 | 9 | 17 | ↑ |
| Event Application Assessment | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | ↓ |
| Food Inspection Compliance Categories | | | | | |
| Receiving (%) | 93.94 | 93.94 | 88.90 | 95.15 | ↑ |
| Storage (%) | 79.00 | 77.1 | 80.17 | 75.15 | ↓ |
| Processing (%) | 89.31 | 90.93 | 82.67 | 89.29 | ↑ |
| Display (%) | 80.92 | 83.76 | 61.61 | 87.76 | ↑ |
| Packaging (%) | 92.57 | 93.94 | 86.84 | 95.45 | ↑ |
| Transportation & Distribution (%) | 84.26 | 73.87 | 75.58 | 79.55 | ↑ |
| Recalls/Food Disposal (%) | 93.34 | 95.45 | 87.18 | 96.36 | ↑ |
| Health, Hygiene & Knowledge (%) | 86.59 | 85.84 | 79.49 | 88.36 | ↑ |
| Premises and Hygiene (%) | 79.82 | 81.91 | 73.90 | 81.37 | ↑ |



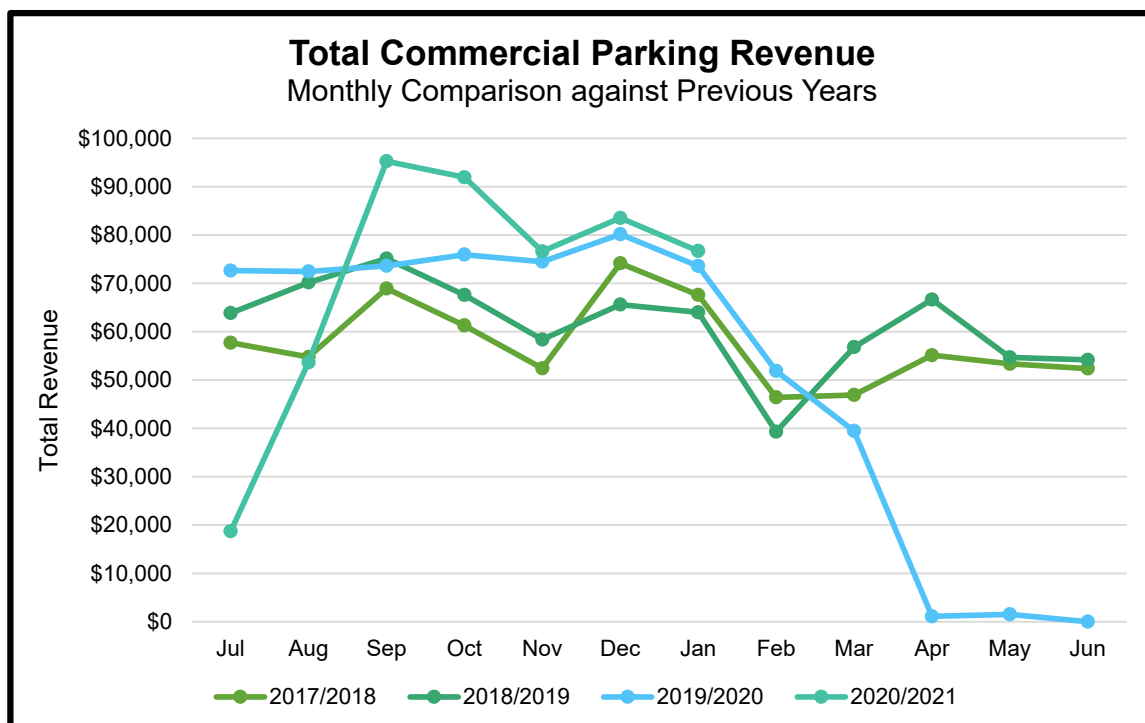
Local Laws – Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| Local Laws | | | | | |
| Local Law Applications Received | 37 | 8 | 9 | 2 | ↓ |
| Complaints Received - Animal Management | 686 | 95 | 65 | 103 | ↑ |
| Complaints Received - Other Local Law | 815 | 109 | 73 | 132 | ↑ |
| Compliance Notices Issued | 159 | 27 | 14 | 37 | ↑ |
| Renewal/Reminder/Final Notices | 428 | 90 | 14 | 34 | ↑ |
| Infringement Responses | 920 | 43 | 76 | 72 | ↓ |
| Dog Registrations | 4,441 | 106 | 34 | 27 | ↓ |
| Cat Registrations | 542 | 6 | 2 | 5 | ↑ |
| Parking Infringements - Issued | 1,678 | 244 | 173 | 354 | ↑ |
| Parking Infringements - Waived | 253 | 92 | 20 | 9 | ↓ |
| Other Infringements - Issued | 634 | 51 | 40 | 65 | ↑ |
| Other Infringements - Waived | 58 | 0 | 3 | 8 | ↑ |
| Infringement Reminder Notices Sent | 555 | 0 | 0 | 230 | ↑ |
| COVID-19 Inspections | 7,122 | 1,009 | 768 | 866 | ↑ |
| Lake Proserpine & RV Park Inspections | 8,436 | 1,151 | 574 | 621 | ↑ |

Commercial Parking – Operations

| Car Parks | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Heart of the Reef Transit Facility | | | | | |
| Occupancy (no.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Revenue (\$) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Port of Airlie | | | | | |
| Average Spend (\$) | 12.51 | 12.95 | 13.25 | 12.26 | ↓ |
| Tariff (most selected) | 24hr (\$10) | 24hr (\$10) | 24hr (\$10) | 24hr (\$10) | – |
| No. of tickets purchased | 16,922 | 2,597 | 2,505 | 2,662 | ↑ |
| Revenue (\$) | 217,637 | 33,635 | 33,213 | 32,624 | ↓ |
| Airlie Lagoon Precinct | | | | | |
| Average Spend (\$) | 3.59 | 4.23 | 4.42 | 4.12 | ↓ |
| Tariff (most selected) | 0-2hr (\$3) | 0-2hr (\$3) | 0-2hr (\$3) | 0-2hr (\$3) | – |
| No. of tickets purchased | 36,786 | 5,841 | 7,032 | 7,479 | ↑ |
| Revenue (\$) | 155,507 | 24,731 | 31,096 | 30,820 | ↓ |
| Abell Point Marina | | | | | |
| Average Spend (\$) | 9.61 | 10.05 | 10.91 | 8.94 | ↓ |
| Tariff (most selected) | 0-2hr (\$3) | 0-2hr (\$3) | 0-2hr (\$3) | 0-2hr (\$3) | – |
| No. of tickets purchased | 12,705 | 1,816 | 1,761 | 1,483 | ↓ |
| Revenue (\$) | 123,250 | 18,249 | 19,222 | 13,255 | ↓ |

| Parking Machines | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Parking Machine Availability (%) | 77.8% | 75% | 75% | – | – |



Natural Resource Management & Climate

The Natural Resource Management & Climate branch is responsible for developing and implementing various environmental and community health and safety programs such as pest, weed and water quality programs as well as maintaining stock routes and implementing the Biosecurity Plan.

Natural Resource Management – Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|-------|---------------|
| Complaints Received - Pest & Weed | 69 | 11 | 4 | 8 | ↑ |
| Complaints Received - Environmental | 45 | 10 | 2 | 2 | – |
| Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP) Implemented/Reviewed | 21 | 2 | 1 | 4 | ↑ |
| PPMP Annual Reviews Completed | 24 | 1 | 3 | 1 | ↓ |
| Notices Issued - Biosecurity | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Notices Issued - Penalty Infringement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Landholder Access - Herbicide Rebate | 36 | 2 | 8 | 9 | ↑ |
| Landholder Access - Mechanical Rebate | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Letters/Emails to Landholders - Weeds | 240 | 24 | 21 | 24 | ↑ |
| Property Visit/Inspections - Weeds | 349 | 47 | 17 | 27 | ↑ |
| Property Visit/Inspections - Feral Animals | 11 | 6 | 1 | 1 | – |
| Feral Animals - Traps Set | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Feral Animals - Trapped | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Aerial Shooting - Flights | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Aerial Shooting - Feral Animals Shot | 1,919 | 750 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Properties Baited | 23 | 3 | 3 | 0 | ↓ |
| Baits Laid (kg) | 3,601 | 415 | 270 | 0 | ↓ |
| Length of Road Reserve Sprayed (km) | 314.0 | 184.3 | 0 | 0 | – |
| No. of Council Lots Sprayed/Inspected | 114 | 0 | 0 | 27 | ↑ |
| Mixed Chemicals Used (L) | 6,350 | 1,200 | 0 | 1,390 | ↑ |
| Pest Workshops | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Field Days Run/Involved | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Landholder Contacts | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Project Reports - not to Council | 37 | 0 | 0 | 7 | ↑ |
| Briefing / Council Reports | 14 | 6 | 0 | 2 | ↑ |
| Bushfire Hazard Reduction Burns | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | – |
| Environmental Planning Projects Completed | 7 | 0 | - | - | – |
| DA's Assessed (including RFI & Conditions & Advice) Completed | 73 | 11 | 10 | 6 | ↓ |

Projects

| Project | Status | % Complete | Budget | Time |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------|------|
| Bushfire Management Program | In Progress | 50% | ✓ | ✓ |
| Reef Guardian Council Action Plan | Complete | 100% | ✓ | ✓ |

Climate Hub – Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Media Releases | 6 | 3 | 0 | 1 | ↑ |
| Facebook Post Reach | 1,779 | - | - | 257 | ↑ |
| Facebook Followers | 331 | 154 | - | 164 | ↑ |
| Website Unique Visitors | 153 | - | - | 85 | ↑ |
| Projects Underway | 58 | 13 | 10 | 11 | ↑ |
| Projects in Developments | 65 | 10 | 13 | 13 | – |

Update

Pest Management Projects:

- Finalised Weed Washdown Strategy
- Finalised Pest Surveillance Program
- Started Review of Biosecurity Plan
- Contract for Yellow Crazy Ant Grant (QFAI Round 4) finalised and will start in February 2021
- Progress Report for QFAI Round 3 Aerial Shooting Project submitted.

Other Natural Resource Management Projects:

- 5 Community Bushfire Plans Completed – Woodward, Shute Harbour, Conway, Mango Tree Estate and Dittmer/Pauls Pocket
- Started planning on Mount Whitsunday Bushfire Management Plan

Environment Projects:

- Twin Creek Revegetation Stage 2
- Review of Carbon Credit Systems
- Developing Urban Catchment Stormwater Plans
- Started Future Whitsunday Lakes Management Plan
- Continue to monitor Molongle Creek Dredging

Climate Hub Projects:

- Whitsunday Healthy Heart Project (GBRF)
- Webinars – Planning next one for February
- Whitsunday Industry Resilience Project
- Funding and Financing Adaptation – A Case Study
- Proserpine Heat Reduction Plan (Stage 3 underway)
- Enabling mitigation to reduce losses from diasaters
- Whitsunday Water treatment and pumping optimisation (Uni student found)
- Tassal Project – Optimising Algae in Agriculture Treatment Ponds (possible masters project)
- Development of program for touch screen – climate communication, education and engagement
- Regional biodiversity assessment for prioritised conservation investment under climate change – PhD student writing this into study
- Hub Business Plan update
- Completed Phase 2 of the Heat Study

CCAT Projects:

- Nature-based Solutions Literature Review
- Planning for Coast to Coast Conference
- Completed Stage 1 of the NbS Documentation

Customer Service

The Customer Service branch is responsible for providing excellence to Council's customers and stakeholders in their interactions with Council.

Call Centre – Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Business Hours Call Centre | | | | | |
| Calls Received – Total | 30,354 | 3,419 | 2,674 | 3,271 | ↑ |
| Calls Received – 1300 WRC QLD | 21,247 | 2,581 | 1,957 | 2,532 | ↑ |
| Calls Answered | 19,250 | 2,390 | 1,799 | 2,324 | ↑ |
| Calls Overflowed | 1,252 | 159 | 114 | 148 | ↑ |
| Calls Abandoned | 463 | 22 | 31 | 48 | ↑ |
| Calls Abandoned (%) | 2.18% | 0.85% | 1.59% | 1.90% | ↑ |
| Untracked Calls | 282 | 10 | 13 | 12 | ↓ |
| *ASL - Average Service Level (%) | 82.5% | 89.9% | 86.3% | 86.0% | ↓ |
| *ASA - Average Speed of Answer | 20 | 14 | 16 | 18 | ↑ |
| *AHT - Average Handle Time/Secs | 186 | 196 | 194 | 197 | ↑ |
| After Hours Call Centre | | | | | |
| Calls Received– Total | 2,380 | 272 | 534 | 390 | ↓ |
| Calls Answered– (Charged) | 2,103(1,056) | 248(110) | 459(223) | 350(210) | ↓ |
| Calls Abandoned (%) | 11.34% | 8.82% | 14.04% | 10.26% | ↓ |
| *ASL - Average Service Level (%) | 82.14% | 87.5% | 79.4% | 79.7% | ↑ |
| *ASA - Average Speed of Answer | - | 14 | 24 | 28 | ↑ |
| *AHT - Average Handle Time/Secs | - | 105 | 147 | 127 | ↓ |

Customer Transactions

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Receipts | 81,656 | 7,806 | 7,010 | 7,195 | ↑ |
| eServices Receipts | 1,668 | 81 | 16 | 99 | ↑ |
| eServices Receipts (%) | 2.04% | 1.04% | 0.23% | 1.38% | ↑ |
| CRMs | 6,731(6325) | 895 | 680 | 1,124 | ↑ |
| eServices CRMs | 60 | 15 | 2 | 3 | ↑ |
| eServices CRMs (%) | 0.89% | 1.68% | 0.30% | 0.27% | ↓ |

Payments:

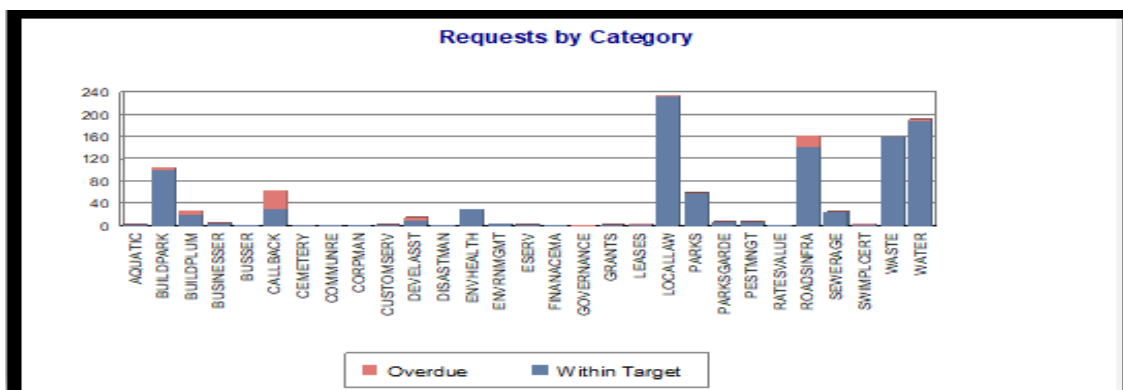
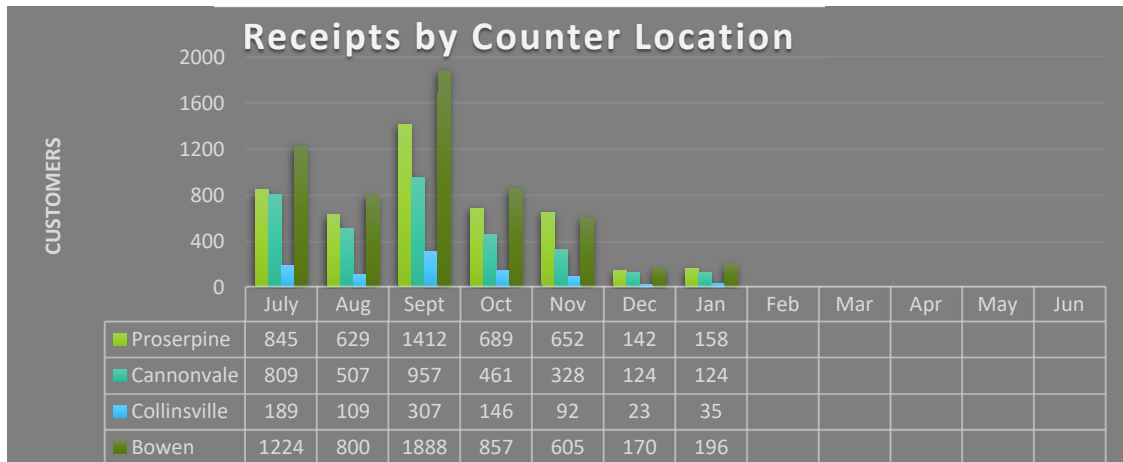
- Total BPay, Austpost, Direct Deposits & EServices payments at **50.09%** of total payments.

Incoming Calls & Requests:

- CRM completion was **95.5%** (**92.7%** including call backs).
- Total of **1,329** visitors through the service centres.
- WRC Call Statistics at **86.0%** of calls answered in 25 seconds.
- First Point of Contact (FPOC) resolution was at **72.30%** for **January**.

Top Issues

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Counter Receipts | | | | | |
| Rates Search | 885 | 147 | 101 | 128 | ↑ |
| Rates Receipt | 3,097 | 142 | 103 | 108 | ↑ |
| Infringements | 778 | 107 | 91 | 107 | ↑ |
| Special Water Read | 288 | 51 | 43 | 43 | – |
| New Animal Registrations | 646 | 85 | 36 | 32 | ↓ |
| Telephone (First Point of Contact) | | | | | |
| Rates/Water Billing | 1,904 | 205 | 123 | 205 | ↑ |
| Local Laws/Compliance and Environment | 1,248 | 209 | 100 | 196 | ↑ |
| General Information | 1,263 | 189 | 164 | 188 | ↑ |
| Waste (bins/recycling/refuse centres) | 491 | 70 | 47 | 87 | ↑ |
| Payments | 695 | 90 | 57 | 74 | ↑ |
| After Hours | | | | | |
| Water Supply Issue | 204 | 23 | 77 | 38 | ↓ |
| Flooding / Road Closures | 37 | 4 | 7 | 26 | ↑ |
| Dirty Water | 22 | 0 | 0 | 15 | ↑ |
| Wandering Animals | 60 | 5 | 10 | 11 | ↑ |
| Security | 40 | 7 | 3 | 6 | ↑ |



Cultural Heritage

Our Cultural Heritage includes all the elements of our cultural way of life which have gone before us, and which exist now. Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions, and values.

Cultural Heritage includes the Reconciliation Act Plan (RAP) for increased recognition of the Indigenous People in the Whitsunday Region and the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) sets out activities and communications with all Traditional Owners in the region. The ILUA will ensure Council is compliant and provide the community with knowledge on the Traditional Owners within our region.

Operations

| Service | YTD | Nov | Dec | Jan | Monthly Trend |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Meetings with Traditional Owners | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – |

Projects

| Project | Status | % Complete | Budget | Time |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------|------|
| Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) | In Progress | 85% | ✓ | ✓ |
| Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) | In Progress | 80% | ✓ | ✓ |

16. Infrastructure Services

No agenda items for this section.

17. Matters of Importance

No agenda items for this section.