



Shire of Dardanup

APPENDICES

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12.5.1

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

To Be Held

Wednesday, 21st May 2025
Commencing at 5.00pm

At

Shire of Dardanup
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON
1 Council Drive - EATON

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SHIRE OF DARDANUP

MINUTES OF THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP LEMC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 7th MAY 2025, AT ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON, 1 COUNCIL DRIVE, EATON, COMMENCING AT 10.00AM.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 10.00am, welcomed those in attendance and referred to the Disclaimer, Acknowledgement of Country, Emergency Procedure and the Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility on behalf of Councillors and Officers:

Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Dardanup wishes to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people. In doing this, we recognise and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. The Shire of Dardanup also respects and celebrates all cultures of all our residents and visitors to our Shire.

Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility

Councillors and Officers of the Shire of Dardanup collectively declare that we will duly, faithfully, honestly and with integrity fulfil the duties of our respective office and positions for all the people in the district according to the best of our judgement and ability. We will observe the Shire's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders to ensure efficient, effective and orderly decision making within this forum.

Committee members acknowledge that only the Chief Executive Officer or a member of the Shire of Dardanup staff appointed by the Chief Executive Officer is to have contact with consultants and suppliers that are appointed under contract to undertake the development and implementation of projects.

The exception to this Policy is when there is a meeting of the committee or working group with the consultant and the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer's representative is present.

Members of committees acknowledge that a breach of this Policy may result in a request to Council to have them removed from the committee.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the Chairperson who will direct you to the safest exit route. Once outside, please proceed to the muster point located at the front of the building where we will meet (and complete a roll call).

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

2.1 Attendance

Cr T Gardiner	-	Shire President
Cr E Lilly	-	Deputy Shire President
Cr M Hutchinson	-	Elected Member
Mr Stephen Loiterton	-	Coordinator – Emergency & Ranger Services
Mr Bruce Hancock	-	Main Roads WA
Mr Steve Collins	-	Water Corporation
Mr Andrew Cove	-	Aqwest
Mr Stephen Reid	-	Aurizon
Mr. Tim Rainer	-	Capel Police
Ms Renee Flaxman	-	Department of Communities
Mr Brian Penman	-	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Observers

Mr André Schönfeldt	-	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Ashwin Nair	-	Director Sustainable Development
Mrs. Amy Bywaters	-	EA to the CEO and Shire President
Mrs. Ashlee Docking	-	Executive Support Officer – Development Services
Mrs Renée Thomson	-	PA to Director Sustainable Development
Mr Dallas Brennan	-	Emergency Management Officer/Ranger

2.2 Apologies

Mrs. Erin Hutchins	-	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mr. Tim Stevens	-	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Mr. Neil Nicholson	-	Shire of Dardanup – Principal Environmental Health Officer
Cr. A Jenour	-	Elected Member

3 PRESENTATIONS

None.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**4.1 Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held on the 12th February 2025.****OFFICER RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION**

LEMC 03-25 MOVED - Cr E Lilly

SECONDED –

Ms Renee Flaxman

THAT the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 12th February 2025, be confirmed as true and correct.

*CARRIED***5 ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED**

None.

6 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

7 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

“Members should fill in Disclosure of Interest forms for items in which they have a financial, proximity or impartiality interest and forward these to the Presiding Member before the meeting commences.”

Discussion:

Chairperson, Cr T.G Gardiner asked the Committee members if there were any Declarations of Interest to be made.

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

8 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

8.1 Title: Update Report from Shire of Dardanup

Reporting Department

Sustainable Development Directorate

Reporting Officer

Stephen Loiterton - Coordinator – Health, Emergency & Ranger Services

Legislation

Local Government Act 1995

Emergency Management Act 2005

8.1.1 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan

The Shire of Dardanup's Bushfire Risk Management Plan was developed in 2019 and is due for review by May 2025. Reinforcing the need to update the plan is that one of the key eligibility requirements of the Mitigation Activity Fund Grants Program is for the Shire to have a current Bushfire Risk Management Plan endorsed by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management.

The 2023 Guidelines for reviewing such plans were recently released and provide a clear process for the Shire to update our Plan. It is to be noted that the previous 5-year endorsement and review process has been changed to every 2 years to ensure information in the Plan remains current and accurate.

A review was conducted late 2024 and a draft plan put to the Office of Bushfire Risk Management. The plan was also put to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee and this Committee. Several comments were received.

With recent endorsement of the Office of Bush Fire Risk Management, the plan now requires endorsement by the Committee before being put to Council for acceptance.

OFFICER RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION TO LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

LEMC 04-25 MOVED - Cr E Lilly

SECONDED –

Cr M Hutchinson

THAT the Local Emergency Management Committee recommends that Council approves the Shire of Dardanup Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

CARRIED

8.1.2 Mitigation Activity Funding

The Shire of Dardanup has been granted \$242,350 to assist in undertaking 27 bushfire mitigation activities. Mitigation activities include mechanical treatments to reduce fuel levels, the creation of firebreaks and planned burns.

Table of Approved Treatments

25974 Mechanical works	Gavins Gully, West Dardanup	Completed
25975 Mechanical works	Maquire Place, Dardanup West	Completed
27010 Planned burn	Marri Reserve, Tulip Grove Eaton	In progress
27011 Chemical works	Marri Reserve, Millard St, Eaton	Not commenced
27012 Mechanical works	Reserve, Hale Street, Eaton	Completed

27013 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charterhouse Street, Eaton	Completed
27014 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charterhouse Street, Eaton	Completed
27027 Fire access way	Millar Creek Reserve, Hazelgrove Cr, Millbridge	In progress
27037 Mechanical Works	Millars Creek Reserve, Primrose Vista, Millbridge	Completed
27038 Mechanical works	Eaton Foreshore Reserve, Pratt Rd, Eaton	In progress
27039 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charolais Mews, Eaton	In progress
27040 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charolais Mews, Eaton	In progress
27041 Mechanical works	Reserve, Bailey Loop, West Dardanup	Completed
27042 Chemical works	Verges, Fire Access Way, The Dress Circle, Henty	Not commenced
27058 Fire access way	Reserve, Bailey Loop, West Dardanup	Completed
27059 Fire access way	Reserve, Bailey Loop, West Dardanup	Completed
27060 Fire access way	Reserve, Vera Place, West Dardanup	Completed
27061 Mechanical Works	Reserve, Dardanup Rd, West Dardanup	Completed
27062 Fire access way	Reserve, Dardanup Rd, West Dardanup	Completed
27063 Fire access way	Leicester Reserve, Collie River, Eaton	In progress
27069 Planned burn	Wellington Pine Plantation, King Tree Road	Completed
	Wellington Mills	
27070 Planned burn	Wellington Mills Road Wellington Mills	Completed
27071 Planned burn	Wellington Mills Road Wellington Mills	Completed
27085 Planned burn	Fire Access Way, Padbury Road West Dardanup	Completed
27340 Planned burn	Joshua Creek Rd Crooked Brook	In progress
27816 Access gate	Cormo Court, Eaton	In progress
37359 Planned burn	Gnomesville, Wellington Mill	Completed

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8.1.3 Local Government Grant Scheme

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has made an initial offer for the 2025/26 budget. The offer has been rejected and a counter proposal put that would better enable the Shire to manage the Brigade stations. The application was submitted on 28 March. The outcome of the assessment of the application is not expected before mid-June.

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8.2 Title: Agency Reports

Reporting Department	<i>Various Agencies – Listed Below</i>
Reporting Officer	<i>Refer to Individual Report</i>
Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1995 Emergency Management Act 2005</i>

(In the interest of time efficiency reports are to be accepted as presented, not read aloud at the meeting)

Background

Each agency is invited to provide the meeting with a report of their activities for the benefit of the committee.

8.2.1 WA Police – Snr Sgt Heath Soutar (Australind) & Sgt Chris Page (Capel)

advised there was nothing to report, it is business as usual for WAPOL.

8.2.2 Department of Fire & Emergency Services – District Emergency Management Advisor – Mrs Erin Hutchins

Mrs Erin Hutchins has provided the following report:

DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR**STATE NEWS**

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held on the 13 March 2025. SEMC Communiques can be found here.

2025 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 8 May 2025
- 7 August 2025
- 9 October 2025
- 4 December 2025

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**AMENDMENTS LIST MARCH 2025**

On 13 March 2025, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved amendments to State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity (resolution number 17/2025) following a comprehensive review undertaken by the Department of Health. A new version was published on 27 March 2025.

On 13 March 2025, the SEMC approved amendments to State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (resolution number 18/2025) following a comprehensive review undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. A new version was published on 24 March 2025.

The State Hazard Plan - Fire was also approved for a comprehensive review extension until August 2025 to allow for further consideration of consultation feedback (resolution number 11/2025). A minor version number update has been allocated to acknowledge the review extension; however, all content remains the same.

Amendments are summarised in the attached. Due to the comprehensive nature of both of these reviews and a large number of amendments, specific tracked changes are unable to be shown. Please email semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au to provide feedback or comment.

Comprehensive Review Schedule

The following State EM documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2025:

- WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline
- Local Recovery Guideline
- Impact Statement Guideline and Template
- State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)
- State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident
- State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain

You can view all current and past consultations on the Engage WA EM consultation homepage.

Radiation Escape from Nuclear Powered Warship – Change of Hazard Management Agency

Currently, the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for Radiation Escape from a Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW) is the Commissioner of Police. In response to the future AUKUS arrangements, the SEMC endorsed the transfer of HMA responsibility to the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner. A working group has been established with membership from across State government to plan for AUKUS and to ensure the State Hazard Plan is fit-for-purpose.

SEMC STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The SEMC Strategic Plan for 2025-28 features six measurable, strategic objectives and has been independently reviewed to ensure it reflects priorities identified by the SEMC and is consistent with similar jurisdictions.

Once approved by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Plan will be published on the SEMC website and shared with stakeholders. The SEMC Business Unit will then work with emergency management stakeholders, including the SEMC subcommittees, to implement the strategy.

This will inform DEMC and LEMC Business/Work Plans and capture how their outcomes and focus areas contribute to the overall strategic direction of emergency management in Western Australia.

LEMA IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

- The LEMA Improvement Program is a sector-led initiative responding to findings from the LEMA Review Project. Its goal is to develop streamlined processes and tools to improve LEMA preparation, making them more relevant for local governments.
- The LEMA Improvement Program Board, consisting of State government and WALGA representatives, oversees the program.
- The project team includes a WALGA Project Officer and staff from DFES (Director, Project Manager, and support).
- The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Guideline was updated to meet State digital accessibility standards, but this update is separate from the Program's work and will be revised later. Local governments are not required to take action based on the Guideline update.
- WALGA is piloting new LEMA tools and templates with selected local governments.

- A LEMA maturity assessment model is being developed to help local governments enhance emergency management capabilities.
- New resources are expected in the first half of 2026.
- Local governments should continue their scheduled LEMA reviews to comply with the Emergency Management Act 2005.
- WALGA thanks local governments for their feedback, which has helped shape the Program.
- A LEMA Working Group, with 10 local governments, is advising on new templates and resources. The Program is collaborating with the Working Group to design tools that make LEMA preparation more efficient for local governments.
- The new tools will be piloted sector-wide to inform the SEMC's updated LEMA model.
- Keep up to date by visiting the SEMC website or the WALGA website. For more details, contact Catherine Feeney at WALGA or via the DEMA.

DISTRICT NEWS

The next District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) will be held on Tuesday 21 October 2025.

REGIONAL NEWS – SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

DFES South West has continued to remain busy for the latter months within the high threat summer bushfire season. There has been exceptional response from all Fire Brigades to incidents, namely Dardanup Brigades as their area of operations has been an especially busy locality. I thank then all for their ongoing commitment.

Please see the below information.

- DFES has been appointed with a new Minister for Emergency Services. The Hon Paul Papalia MLA. Minister Papalia has strong ties to the SW Region and would envision sound interest in our operations and all the great things that DFES South West Region delivers.
- DFES has provided a letter of support for the Shires Disaster Ready Fund application. This project is a key mechanism for Response planning.
- DFES South West continues to support State Wide conversations with the DFES CESM Co-ordinator, providing merit to the Shire's intent of being included into the program.
- The South West will reduce some response arrangements post the Easter period, as the weather and environmental conditions allow.
- A range of deliberate and suspicious fire have been reported within the Shire, Recently, a high-level proactive media campaign was released with myself and the Superintendent from WA Police, to raise the Communities awareness of Arson (Bushfires) and we hope that further information from the community leads to current investigations.
- The planning for Storm Preparedness activities is well under way, and DFES is always looking for opportunities to improve the Communities preparedness actions in a range of forums.

OPERATIONAL NEWS – DISTRICT OFFICER UPDATE**Operations**

Area Officer Ricky Southgate will be acting in District Officer Brett Finlay's position until September. The replacement for Ricky is to be advised.

State Emergency Service Assistance (Call 132 500)

SES volunteers will:

- Undertake temporary repairs to make the area safe and help reduce the risk of further damage, if possible and safe to do so.
- Will assist if a large tree has fallen on a house or driveway.

SES volunteers will not:

- Fix storm damage. Owner/Occupiers will need to contact a qualified tradesperson and/or your insurance company.
- Fix fallen or damaged powerlines or power poles – contact Western Power on 13 13 51.
- Remove any green waste. Contact your Local Government.
- Fix damaged fences.

Weather Outlook - Autumn 2025 Long-Range Forecast

- Most of Western Australia is likely to have rainfall in the typical range for autumn.
- Average autumn rainfall in recent decades has been between 50 and 300 mm for most of the South West Land Division.
- Warmer than usual autumn temperatures are likely across the state.

Preparedness

- DFES Country South held a Pre-Season Storm Forum in March to discuss interregional preparedness and support arrangements for severe weather events.
- The DFES SW Region is conducting a Level 2 Incident Management Team flood exercise on Thursday 8 May.
- DFES held a community preparedness event for the anniversary of the Bunbury storms on the 5 April as reminder for people to be prepared for the coming season.
- Monthly topic email for Storm Preparedness sent to BGU's in April for them to send to their community in May. Also goes to LG's and other stakeholders who have registered to receive the emails.
- Pre-emptive information sharing to BGU's. When severe weather is forecast, tailored content is developed and provided to the relevant BGUs to share on their BGU Facebook pages and in local community groups. SMS messaging is also sent to key stakeholders advising of severe weather alerts.

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8.2.3 Department of Communities – Renee Flaxman

LEMC REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION 4TH Quarter 2024 – 2025

Regional Emergency Relief and Support contact

Activation of Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) services is via

Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator (EOC)

M: 0418 943 835 and Email: emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au

Regional Manager: Mark Schorer

Regional Coordinator: Renee Flaxman

Regional Officer: Joanne Spadaccini

ERS Preparedness

- As we transition between the high and lower threat season, ERS continues to monitor and prepare for event activation.
- In addition, ERS will utilise this period to improve preparedness including:
 - Collating and analysing the lessons learnt from recent activations and developing procedures to streamline our practises.
 - Identifying opportunities for locations of pre-positioning of ERS equipment trailers to support an efficient and timely deployment and response capability.
 - Continued mapping across the state for local support services and partners that can support the provision of the ERS functional domains
 - Provide ERS Evacuation Centre training with local government and Communities staff, across the regions.
 - Finalise the endorsement of the refined Local Emergency Response and Support Plan (LERSP) in each of the LEMCs. The LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs).
 - Developing exercising to test the LERSP across local government areas
 - Supporting local government LEMA exercising and providing feedback to LEMA reviews.
 - Continuing annual evacuation centre audits for each of the 380 evacuation centres in the state.

Response**Activations January 2025 – April 10, 2025**

- Carter Road Bushfire - Northam | January
- Green Range Bushfire - Albany | January
- Donnybrook Bushfire - Capel | January
- Myrup Bushfire - Esperance | January
- Karrakup Bushfire Complex - Serpentine Jarrahdale | January
- Marble Bar Storm | January
- Northam Bushfire - Northam and Bruce Rock | January
- Arthur River Bushfire Complex | January
- Dalyup Bushfire – Esperance | February
- Tropical Cyclone Zelia – Pilbara | February
- Dunsborough Bushfire – Busselton | February
- Bindoon Bushfire – Chittering | February
- Perth Hills Storm | February
- Chesapeake Bushfire – Manjimup | March
- Ledge Point Bushfire – Lancelin | March
- Nilgen Bushfire – Lancelin | March

In addition, ERS enacted alert phase preparedness and planning to support pre-positioning of staff and resources for:

- Tropical Cyclone Sean – Pilbara | January
- Shothole Canyon Bushfire – Exmouth | March
- TL 28U Kimberley | March
- Jurien Bay Bushfire | April

Recovery**Social Recovery Reference Group**

- The Emergency Relief and Support Directorate is a key member of the National Social Recovery Reference Group. This group has been established to guide and support the review process of the

National Principles for Disaster Recovery to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and responsive to contemporary challenges, emerging trends, and diverse community needs in disaster recovery contexts.

- These principles are designed to serve as a guide to best practices in recovery efforts across the nation, ensuring a consistent and scalable approach to disaster recovery.

Marble Bar Recovery Program

- Communities' remains focused on supporting impacted persons of both the Marble Bar Storm and Cyclone Zelia with financial assistance to replace lost household goods and personal wellbeing support.

Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

ERS continues to engage with stakeholders, impacted community members and local Aboriginal organisations and community leaders to address recovery concerns and provide support regarding the return to home journey process.

ERS continue to support impacted community members with practical supports to move home:

Supporting with replacement of essential household items under financial assistance measures, with over \$740k provided to date.

Referrals to wrap around personal, practical, psychosocial and wellbeing services.

Engaging across staff from Recovery Program agencies and Local Government to ensure consistent messaging for impacted community members and referral pathways for support services.

Communicating with impacted residents and chairpersons of communities.

Since the Return to Home Journey began in September 2024, ERS have facilitated and supported moving 37 families into their long-term homes and/or other residences, with a total of 26 Temporary Accommodation Units (TAUs) vacated to date.

Bunbury Storms Recovery Program

- The DFRAWA Recovery Support program for the 2024 Bunbury Storms will officially close on 30 June 2025. During this time, Communities' will continue to deliver financial assistance to support impacted persons with the replacement of essential household items damaged during the storms and with financial assistance for essential building repairs to impacted residential properties.
- Communities' will also continue to support ongoing referrals for personal and wellbeing support services including psychological support and Financial Counselling.
- A Bunbury Community Recovery and Resilience Connection Day was held on Saturday 5th April 2025 run by the Lions Club and supported by Communities, DFES, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Anglicare Financial Counselling Bunbury and various local and support groups.

Discussion:

Renee Flaxman Department of Communities, advised they had yet to receive feedback on the new plan submitted in April. DOC are seeking endorsement for the plan submitted in April and will present for endorsement at the upcoming LEMC meeting.

8.2.4 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Mr Tim Stevens**DPIRD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW**

Emergency Coordination Overview	
Reporting Period:	4 th Quarter
Emergency Activations and Declarations	
Emergency Declarations	Nil

Incident Coordination Overview				
Animal and Plant Based Biosecurity				
Incident Title		Location	Date	Incident Level
African Black Sugar Ant		Perth Metro	Since Jan 2020	Level 1
Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer		Perth Metro	Since Sep 2021	Level 2
Carpet Sea Squirt		Perth Metro	Since Jan 2023	Level 1
Red Dwarf Honeybee		Pilbara Region	Since Jul 2023	Level 2
Queensland Fruit Fly		Perth Metro	Since Nov 2024	Level 2
Starling		Great Southern	Since Nov 2024	Level 1
Support to Animal Welfare in Emergencies				
Incident Title	Region	Date	HMA	Details
Nil				
Support to Natural Hazards				
Incident Title	Region	Date	HMA	Details
TC Zelia	Pilbara	14-19 Feb 2025	DFES	DPIRD liaison to DFES during response and ongoing recovery, and facilitation of feed supply to impacted station although SSP was not activated.
Windy Harbor Fire	Southwest	18 Feb 2025	DFES	DPIRD liaison to DFES

- DPIRD Emergency Coordinator Comments and Outlook**

- DPIRD continues to manage three level 2 incidents. Support was also provided support to TC Zelia during February. The Browsing Ant incident that was being managed has now achieved eradication.
- As part of improved Emergency Coordination efforts in DPIRD, the role of Assistant Director – Response in the Emergency Response Directorate has commenced filling the role of Operational Area Manager to improve coordination across the three level 2 incidents and as part of that is organising the meeting of an Operational Area Support Group on 21 March 2025.
- DPIRD Biosecurity and Emergency Management is monitoring the developing situation in Victoria related to High Pathogen Avian Influenza Outbreaks

LEMC & DEMC report – 4th Quarter 2024 - 2025**Emergency Management Directorate****Learning & Development**

The Learning & Development section of Emergency Management delivered AIIMS 2017 Foundations and Biosecurity Response Fundamentals to staff in the Kimberley area. Further training to promote AIIMS and Biosecurity within DPIRD is planned for April, May, and July.

EAD Preparedness

DPIRD has held internal workshops over the last several months to build education, awareness, governance, response mechanisms, and how recovery will look in an emergency animal disease incident. This project is ongoing, ensuring DPIRD is well prepared if there is an outbreak.

National alerts and investigations

Avian Influenza

CURRENT STATUS in WA: Absent – no known detections

Responses to outbreaks of H7 high pathogenic avian influenza are currently underway in Victoria, New South Wales, and the ACT. Note that this is not the H5 strain currently causing concern globally. DPIRD is monitoring the situation and undertaking preparedness activities. Also, DPIRD is providing personnel and resources to support jurisdictions with confirmed outbreaks. Poultry producers and owners are encouraged to view our [avian influenza page](#) for information on preparedness and detection.

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus

CURRENT STATUS IN WA: Absent – no known detections

A highly contagious plant virus affecting tomatoes, capsicums, and chillies. It has been detected in South Australia in August 2024. It presents a significant risk to growers and the industry if established. No known detections in Western Australia currently. Industry and backyard growers are encouraged recognise and report signs and symptoms of the virus if found. Information is available on our [tomato brown rugose fruit virus page](#).

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

DPIRD is the executor of the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (AWiE). Please note the following important notices regarding AWiE for district and local representatives:

- Please refer to DPIRD's [animal welfare](#) section of our website for resources, support, and contacts. Local governments can reach out to our Incident and Emergency Management Branch if they require advice and support for the development of their PAWE (contact emergencymanagement@dpird.wa.gov.au).
- DPIRD's Incident and Emergency Management Branch is undertaking preparedness and response activities where activated under the [State Support Plan - Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#).
- DPIRD is working with the SEMC to finalise responses to feedback on the proposed improvements to the [State Support Plan - Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#). The review is scheduled to be finalised in late 2025.

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8.2.5 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – Mr Jewell Crossberg**DBCA, Parks and Wildlife Service, Wellington District Report****1. Prescribed Burning Planned Autumn 2025**

- The Wellington District's Autumn burn program is currently underway.
- There are a total of seven prescribed burn options falling within the Shire of Dardanup.
- The link below is a good source to identify potential prescribed burns currently in the DBCA Burn Options Program (BOP).
- When inquiring about a specific area, use the prescribed burn number listed in the website. For example, WTN_146.

[Burn Options Program | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#)

2. Bushfires

As at 22/04/2025, 114 bushfires recorded on DBCA managed tenure since the start of the season, 17 within the Shire of Dardanup.

Thank you to the Brigades for all your efforts with your local fires and the essential assistance with other DBCA and DFES fires.

3. Staff/ Staff Changes

District Fire Coordinator Collie – Jewell Crossberg. (0427 412 828).

Fire Operations Officer – Darren Harvey (0428 552 793).

Fire Operations Officer – Garth Grimsley (0460 621 431).

Fire Operations Officer – Afie Jazreen (0437 806 867).

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8.2.6 WA Country Health Service – Ms Leigh Hall

None.

8.2.7 Main Roads WA – Mr Bruce Hancock**1. General**

Main Roads South West region is committed to supporting the relevant agencies involved in Emergencies and Incidents.

It has recently reviewed and restructured its resources to be more responsive to the increasing number of Emergencies and Incidents.

We endeavour to have a Senior Officer in attendance at every LEMC/DEMC meeting and a minimum of 2 at any Exercise.

This ensures our sustainability, rapport and knowledge is spread through the team and does not become person dependent.

We have an Emergency Contact Centre which is resourced 24 hours a day. They can be contacted on 138 138.

This team will immediately notify the region of any Emergency/Incident by contacting our 24hr on Call Duty Manager.

The Duty Manager will dispatch resources as required/requested to the Emergency/Incident.

Should the situation warrant the Duty Manager will activate the On Call Incident Manager.

2. Resources

2.1 Incident Managers

Main Roads South West region has 7 Incident Managers (IM) that it can call upon to respond to, manage and support the IC.

Each Incident will generally require 2 x IM's to manage any 1 Incident.

2.2 On Scene Liaison Officers

Main Roads South West Region has 6 On Scene Liaison Officers (OSLO) to call upon. The OSLO's are generally dispatched to an Incident to make first point of contact with IC, assess the situation and report back to the MRWA IM.

The OSLO's can also assist initially by implementing a VCP' as required.

They will also support our Vehicle Control Point (VCP) personnel.

2.3 Rapid Response Crews

Main Roads South West Region has 4 Rapid Response Crews (RRC) to call upon. The RRC's are 2 person crew. They are designed to respond to Emergencies and Incidents and set up the initial VCP control with limited signage.

They will also support our Vehicle Control Point personnel as required.

2.4 Traffic Management Crews

These are contract resources, Main Roads South West Region generally has 3 of these crews engaged on a daily basis. Further to these crews Main Roads is able to call on additional crews from its Contract Traffic Control providers.

There are 3 companies Main Roads generally uses but can also call on resources outside our Region depending on the scale and location of the Incident.

These crews form the backbone of our VCP resources. Initially Main Roads will operate crews on 12 hour shifts and if the Incident is likely to extend beyond 3 days will reduce the shifts to 8hrs to manage fatigue.

Each VCP would require 4 resources for a 12 hour shift and 6 resources for an 8 Hr shift.

	Quick Glance Positions (may change month to month)	REGIONAL MANAGEMENT	INCIDENT MANAGER	OPERATIONS OFFICER	PLANNING /LOGISTICS OFFICER	LIAISON OFFICER	ROAD INSPECTION		ONSCENE LIAISON OFFICER	COMMUNICATION OFFICER	LOG KEEPER
Title											
DSWO	ROB BARNSELY	1									
MAMO	BRUCE WALKER	2									
MPM	BRUCE HANCOCK		1	1		1					
MM	ANTHONY WILLETS		2	2	4	2					
DMM	CHRIS HATHAWAY		3	3	5	3					
VMM	STEVE SHARP		4	4		4	1				
AMO	MICHAEL JORDAN		5	5		5					
AMM	CATHERINE MILLS		6	6		6					
MM	AARON MILNE		7	7		7					
MC	JOHN TRELA				1						
RRRCS	KERRIE MCNEVIN				2					5	
WS	JORDAN PILLAR				3						
VCO	BLAIR BLOOMEFIELD						2				
RMWM(S)	RON AITKEN							1			
RMWM(N)	BEN PAYNE							1			
NI(S)	BILL LISHMAN							2			
WS	STEWART BRAND							3			
NI	PAUL HILLIS							5			
MRWA	CIC OFFICER									1	4
MA	TRACEY TAME									2	1
AMO	KAREN HOGAN									3	2
CSM	EVETTE MCFARLANE									4	3

Discussion:

Mr Bruce Hancock, Main Roads WA reminded the committee to please call 138 138 to report any main roads assets that might be at risk. Timely advise is very helpful.

Cr Hutchinson asked what the average response time is and if there is an expectation in place of how long the average wait time should be.

WAPOL added they have experienced 40 minute wait times between the hours of 11pm and 2am when calling to report.

Mr Bruce Hancock advised the call center is not operated in the region however there is the ability to keep your place in the queue for a call back. Mr Bruce Hancock advised they have an extensive area of 16 LGA's to coordinate.

8.2.8 Department of Transport – Mr Peter Westgate

None.

8.2.9 Water Corporation – Mr Steve Collins**8.2.10 Western Power – Mr Scott Fitzgerald**

None.

8.2.11 Aqwest – Mr Caleb Maquire

None.

8.2.12 St John Ambulance WA – Mr Chris Smith

None.

8.2.13 Telstra – Ms Debra Leverington

None.

8.2.14 Atco Gas – Mr Mick Sheaf

None.

8.2.15 Moore Road Emergency Response Group – Mr Graeme Offer

None.

8.2.16 Harvey Water – Mr Cameron Norris

None.

9 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

None.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson advises that the next date of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting will be 13th August 2025.

There being no further business the Chairperson to declare the meeting closed at 10:15am.



(Appendix ORD: 12.5.1B)

BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2027

**Local Emergency Management
Arrangements**

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(Appendix ORD: 12.5.1B)

Shire of Dardanup Bushfire Risk Management Plan

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1. Administration

Endorsement Bushfire Risk Management Plan

The *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* has been developed in accordance with Section 41 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, and forms part of the *Local Emergency Management Arrangements* for the Shire of Dardanup and as such should not be read in isolation. The approval of the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* by Shire of Dardanup Council signifies support of the plan's implementation and commitment to working with risk owners to manage bushfire risk. Approval does not signify acceptance of responsibility for risk, treatments or outcomes on land that is not managed by the Shire of Dardanup.

The development, implementation and revision of this plan is the responsibility of the Shire of Dardanup in consultation with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, the Local Emergency Management Committee, and other key stakeholders in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

This Bushfire Risk Management Plan has been endorsed on **insert date when endorsement provided** by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management as consistent with the standards detailed in the *Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2023*.

This plan is supported by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, the Shire of Dardanup Local Emergency Management Committee, and endorsed by Council.

Shire President

Shire of Dardanup

Chair Local Emergency Management Committee

Date:

Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Dardanup

Date:

Disclaimer: This plan has been produced by the Shire of Dardanup in good faith and is derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the time of publication. Nevertheless, the reliability and accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed and the Shire of Dardanup expressly disclaims liability for any act or omission done or not done in reliance on the information and for any consequences, whether direct or indirect arising from such omission.

Document Availability

A copy of this plan is available for free at:

- Shire of Dardanup Administration Offices
(during normal business hours)
 - Council Drive, Eaton
 - Little Street, Dardanup
- Online
 - www.dardanup.wa.gov.au

Publication information

Wherever a third party holds copyright in material presented in this publication, the copyright remains with that party. Their permission may be required to use the material.

Amendment Record

Suggestions and comments from the community and stakeholders can help improve the plan.

Feedback can include:

- What you do and don't like about the plan
- Unclear or incorrect expression
- Out of date information or practices
- Inadequacies
- Errors, omissions or suggested improvements

To forward feedback copy the relevant section, mark the proposed changes and forward it to:

Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Dardanup
PO Box 7016
Eaton WA 6232

or email to:

records@dardanup.wa.gov.au

History of Amendments

No	Amendment date	Details	Amended by
1	July 2019	2019-2024 Final	Ben Anderson Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator
2	September 2024	Update to Office of Bush Fire Risk Management template	Melissa Howard Bushfire Risk Management Coordinator
3	November 2024	Review of content and alignment of template with Local Emergency Management Arrangements	Stephen Loiterton Coordinator Health, Emergency and Ranger Services

2. Introduction

Background

This Bushfire Risk Management Plan provides contextual information to inform a structured approach to identifying, assessing, prioritising, monitoring and treating bushfire risk. This plan has been prepared by Shire of Dardanup, encompasses all land within the local government area, and has been written on behalf of all stakeholders within that area. The plan is informed by consultation and communication with land and asset managers that has occurred throughout its history to ensure an informed and collaborative approach to managing bushfire risk.

This plan has been prepared with due consideration of the requirements stated in the *Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (the Guidelines) published by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management including the principles described in *ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management*.

The Bush Fire Risk planning program supports local governments to reduce the risk posed by bushfire. This plan will contribute to achieving the objective of the program by:

- Guiding and coordinating a cross-tenure, multi-stakeholder approach to bushfire risk management planning.
- Facilitating the effective use of the financial and physical resources available for bushfire risk management activities.
- Supporting integration between risk owners, strategic objectives and tactical outcomes.
- Documenting processes used to monitor and review the implementation of treatments to ensure risk is managed to an acceptable level.

Aim

The aim of this plan is to reduce the risk of bushfires in the Shire of Dardanup.

Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- Document the Shire of Dardanup bushfire risk management
- Identify sources of bushfire risk, and options for reducing the risk
- Provide basis for monitoring and reviewing implementation of treatments to ensure treatment plans are adaptable and risk is managed to an acceptable level
- Provide evidence in support of applications for Mitigation Activity Fund grants

Legislation, policy and standards

This plan was prepared in compliance with the following legislation, policy and standards.

Appendix A provides a more comprehensive list of other legislative, policy or standards documentation that may have provided guidance used in the development of this plan, or on implementing provisions of the plan.

Emergency Management Act 2005

An Act to provide for prompt and coordinated organisation of emergency management and the management of COVID-19 in the State, and for related purposes. Section 13 of the Act established the State Emergency Management Committee, and Section 18 of the act provides the State Emergency Management Committee authority to prepare State emergency management plans. Of relevance is the State Hazard Plan – Fire.

Section 41 of the Act requires local governments to ensure that arrangements for emergency management in the local government's district are prepared. This plan is one component of the Shire of Dardanup's *Local Emergency Management Arrangements*.

State Hazard Plan – Fire

The *State Hazard Plan – Fire* places an obligation on local governments to develop and maintain a *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* where the local government area is identified as having a high or extreme bushfire risk. The Shire of Dardanup is identified in the *State Hazard Plan – Fire* as requiring a *Bushfire Risk Management Plan*¹.

Bushfire Risk Management Planning Handbook

The handbook provides strategic advice on the management of bushfire risk. The handbook lists a range of legislation, policy and standards that are applicable in the development and implementation of this *Bush Fire Risk Management Plan*².

Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan

This *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* was prepared using the guidance provided in these Guidelines.

AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management: Principles and Guidelines

This standard provides guidance applied throughout this plan concerning the risk management approach used.

¹ Appendix G to SEMC. (2024). *State Hazard Plan – Fire*. [Online]
<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-hazard-plan-fire>

² Appendix 1 to Department of Fire and Emergency Services. (2024). *Bushfire Risk Management Planning Handbook*.

3. Risk Management Process

The bushfire risk management planning process is a cycle guiding the understanding of the context and assessing and treating risks (see Figure 1). Each of these steps is informed by communication and consultation and supported by monitoring and review. The three products produced during the process are the *Bush Fire Risk Management Plan*, *Asset Risk Register* and *Treatment Schedule*.

Further details on the guiding principles and process for the development of this plan can be found in Chapter 2 of the Guidelines.

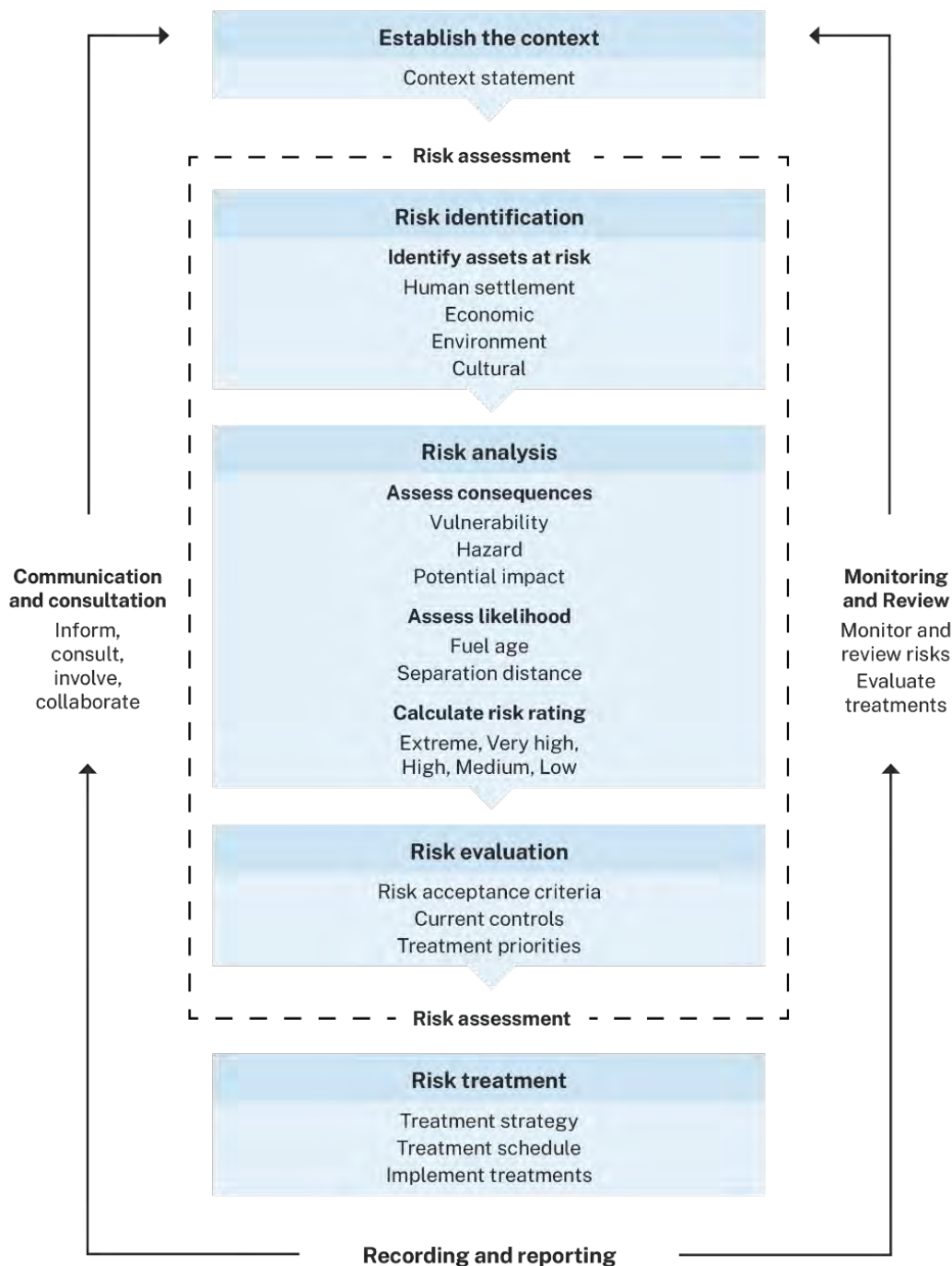


Figure 1: The Bushfire Risk Management planning process

Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders involved in the development of this plan are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 – Roles and responsibilities in the Bushfire Risk Management planning process

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Local Government	Custodian of the plan. Coordinate the development and ongoing review of the plan. Undertake bushfire risk assessment of local government area. Submit the draft plan to Office of Bushfire Risk Management for review and endorsement. Develop and implement a Treatment Schedule for local government managed land. Encourage risk owners to treat identified risks. Maintain and manage Bush Fire Brigades to assist in bushfire mitigation.
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Contribute to the development and implementation of the plan. Facilitate involvement of state and federal government agencies in the planning process. Undertake treatments on Unmanaged Reserves and Unallocated Crown Land within gazetted town sites. By agreement, implement treatment strategies for other land managers. Endorse Bushfire Risk Management Plans as consist with the Guidelines, Bushfire Risk Management Program and dynamic risk environment. Administer the Mitigation Activity Fund Grants Program.
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Contribute to the development of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan. Implement their treatment program on Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions managed land. Provide advice on environmental assets and appropriate treatment strategies for their protection.
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	Identify managed assets. Provide advice on management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
Other State and Commonwealth Government agencies and public utilities	Identify managed assets. Provide advice on current risk treatment programs. Contribute to the development of Bushfire Risk Management Plans. Undertake treatments on lands they manage

Bushfire Risk Management System

This *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* is supported by the *Bushfire Risk Management System*. The system is an online tool developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to support local governments and stakeholders to effectively manage and mitigate bushfire risks within their jurisdictions. The system provides a structured framework for identifying assets at risk, assessing the level of risk, and mitigation actions to reduce the risks.

The system will map assets that are vulnerable to bushfire. Such assets may range from residential and commercial properties to critical infrastructure, cultural heritage sites, and community resources. The mapping feature facilitates an understanding of asset proximity to bushfire-prone areas, enabling a more strategic approach to risk management. It allows the Shire to prioritise mitigations to protect assets based on the assessed risk level, community importance, and economic, social, or environmental value.

The system also tracks and records mitigation treatments implemented to reduce the risk and impact of bushfires on assets. These treatments are determined through application of this plan and ensure proactive measures are in place to mitigate identified risks.

Key bushfire mitigation treatments that are recorded in the *Bushfire Risk Management System* include:

- **Prescribed Burning**
The burning of vegetation in a controlled and scheduled manner in designated areas to lower fuel loads and minimise the spread of severe fires.
- **Mechanical Fuel Reduction**
The physical removal or thinning of vegetation using machinery, especially in areas where prescribed burning is not feasible.
- **Chemical Application**
The use of chemicals to suppress or eliminate flammable vegetation, particularly in firebreaks or around key infrastructure.
- **Firebreaks**
The establishment of vegetation-free strips to act as barriers that inhibit the spread of fire from one area into another.
- **Fire Access Tracks**
The establishment and maintenance of tracks through bushland to ensure emergency services can access reserves in an incident or for prescribed burning.
- **Gates and Fencing**
The installation of gates and fences to limit unauthorised access to bushfire-prone areas, such as bushland reserves.

Communication and consultation

Communication and consultation are fundamental to the development, implementation and review of the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan*. A *Communication Plan* describing communication with relevant stakeholders at each stage of the bushfire risk management planning process is at Appendix C.

4. Establishing the context

This section describes how the characteristics of the Shire of Dardanup that influence bushfire risk and its management. As such, information shown here only relates to the identification, assessment or treatment of bushfire risk. For a more detailed picture of the Shire's emergency management context refer to the *Local Emergency Management Arrangements*.

Strategic and corporate framework

The Shire of Dardanup's vision is to be a healthy, self-sufficient, and sustainable community—connected, inclusive, and proud of its culture and innovation. This vision is supported by the Shire's [Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030](#), which is built around five performance areas: Community, Environment, Amenity, Prosperity, and Leadership.

Bushfire risk management aligns strongly with these goals, particularly in ensuring a safe and resilient community and protecting environmental and economic values. The Bushfire Risk Management (BRM) Plan integrates into the Shire's broader emergency management and planning frameworks to help achieve these outcomes.

Integration with Emergency Management Structures

The BRM Plan is a support plan to the Shire's *Local Emergency Management Arrangements* and is overseen by the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and the Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC). These committees provide strategic oversight and community input, ensuring the plan is locally relevant and coordinated across agencies.

The Shire's Coordinator Health, Emergency and Ranger Services leads the development of the plan, while the Bushfire Risk Management Coordinator is responsible for implementing treatment strategies—particularly those funded under the Mitigation Activity Fund Grant Program (MAFGP).

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Overall responsibility for this Plan rests with the Chief Executive Officer, who ensures its ongoing sustainability and effectiveness. The Chief Executive Officer may delegate responsibility for elements of the plan to relevant officers. While the Shire does not hold responsibility for managing all bushfire risks across all land tenures, it plays a central role in facilitating coordinated risk management and supporting the broader community's safety.

Link to Land Use Planning

Bushfire risk management is also integrated into land use planning through the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme, which reflect State Planning Policy 3.7: Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and other relevant guidance. These frameworks require bushfire hazard level assessments, BAL assessments, and Bushfire Management Plans where applicable, supporting long-term risk reduction through development controls.

By embedding bushfire risk management into both emergency management structures and land use planning, the Shire of Dardanup is building a more resilient and safer community in line with its long-term vision.

Community demographics and values

There were 14,686 persons in the Shire of Dardanup during the 2021 census. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders account for only 3% of the population. The median age of Shire of Dardanup residents was 40. The sex ratio was 0.4% in favour of females.³

Australia was the most common country of birth for Shire residents, with England, New Zealand, South Africa, Philippines and India being the next most common birth countries. Other than English the most common spoken languages at home were Afrikaans, Mandarin, Tagalog, Malay and Italian.³

There are 4,080 families residing in the Shire, with an average of 1.9 children each. Single parent families accounted for 14% of the population. Couples without children represented 42% of residents.³

There were 6048 private dwellings, with an average of 2.6 persons per household. There were on average 2.1 vehicles per dwelling.³

Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, Dementia and Diabetes were the most common long-term health conditions afflicting Shire of Dardanup residents. With 6.8% having two long-term health conditions, and 3.1% having two or more.³ People with such common long-term health conditions are more likely to have less resilience to bushfires, or the flow on consequence, such as service disruptions.

The Shire of Dardanup community demonstrates a range of understanding and attitudes toward bushfire risk, largely influenced by residents' backgrounds and experiences. Long-term rural residents and farmers typically have a strong awareness of fire behaviour and preparedness, while newer residents, particularly in areas like West Dardanup and Ferguson Valley, where large farms have been subdivided into semi-rural properties, often have less familiarity with bushfire risks and responsibilities. Local Fire Control Officers often have to provide more advice and guidance to these residents to ensure they meet compliance with the [Shire of Dardanup Fire Prevention Order](#).

Community support for mitigation activities is generally positive, especially when communication is clear and early. However, planned burns can attract complaints due to concerns about smoke, safety, and perceived ecological impact. As a result, there is often a stronger preference for mechanical treatments such as slashing, mulching, and selective clearing, especially in residential or high-use areas.

Despite some reservations around certain methods, there is a growing awareness of the need for proactive mitigation. Local initiatives such as the Bushfire Ready Group in Wellington Mills are helping to foster greater community engagement, preparedness, and resilience. These community-led efforts, combined with ongoing education and transparent planning, are key to strengthening local support for bushfire risk management across the Shire.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). Dardanup: 2021 census all persons quickstats. [online] <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA52660>

Cultural heritage

The Shire of Dardanup is rich in both Aboriginal and European history. The name 'Dardanup' is derived from that used by the original Aboriginal inhabitants, meaning low lying ground by the water. The Noongar Nation is acknowledged as the traditional custodians of the land. In caring for the land the Noongar people burned country as they moved through to promote growth and attract game.

There are eight places listed in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register* that are within or adjacent to the Shire of Dardanup⁴. They are listed in Table 2. None of the sites are identified as being a restricted place or have identified cultural sensitivities.

Table 2: Aboriginal Heritage Register sites in Dardanup

Reference	Place
4875	A place with artifacts/scatter (intersection of Boyanup-Picton Rd and Bunbury Outer Ring Road)
4880	A place with artifacts/scatter (intersection of Boyanup-Picton Rd and Bunbury Outer Ring Road)
16713	Collie River Waugal. A place of creation/dreaming narrative and water source.
19795	Preston River. A place of creation/dreaming narrative.
19796	Ferguson River. A place of creation/dreaming narrative.
31463	A place with artifacts/scatter <i>Lot 302 Giumelli Rd (N of Paradise River)</i>
38797	Vindictive Drain. A place of creation/dreaming narrative. (watercourse from Taverner Rd to Hynes Rd). <i>Reserve R36868. Lot 5761.</i>
40579	At the end of Chaimberlain Grove. The site is simply referred to as "Testing1". <i>Reserve R47537 (lots 444 & 2001), Forrest Hwy verge, and a number of residents between Greenough Pl and Chamberlain Gr.</i>

The Shire of Dardanup has a working relationship with the cultural custodians, and elders in our area from both the Keipa Boodja Aboriginal Corporation⁵ and the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation⁶.

European settlement in Dardanup began with Thomas Little who farmed cattle and grew grain, eventually becoming a wine producer⁷. As a staunch Catholic, Thomas donated land for the construction of a church. Built in the 1850s, the Church of Immaculate Conception was the first Catholic Church built outside the metropolitan area. This has since been rededicated, becoming Thomas Little Hall.

⁴ <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS>

⁵ <https://www.keipaboodja.org.au/>

⁶ <https://gkb.org.au/>

⁷ See <https://dardanupheritagecollective.org.au/stories-of-people/thomas-little/>

There are 60 places that are identified by the Heritage Council of Western Australia⁸ of which four are listed on the *State Heritage Register*, namely:

- St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup
- Thomas little memorial Hall
- Former Dardanup State School (now Don Hewison Centre)
- Wellington Dam

Land use and tenure

The Shire of Dardanup is a medium-sized local government based in the South West of Western Australia, 185km south of Perth and covering 528 km².

The district is bordered by the Shire of Harvey to the north, Shire of Collie to the North East, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup to the South East, Shire of Capel to the South West, and with the City of Bunbury to the West (see Figure 2). The Shire, being located in the South West Region of Western Australia, is part of the Bunbury Wellington sub-region.

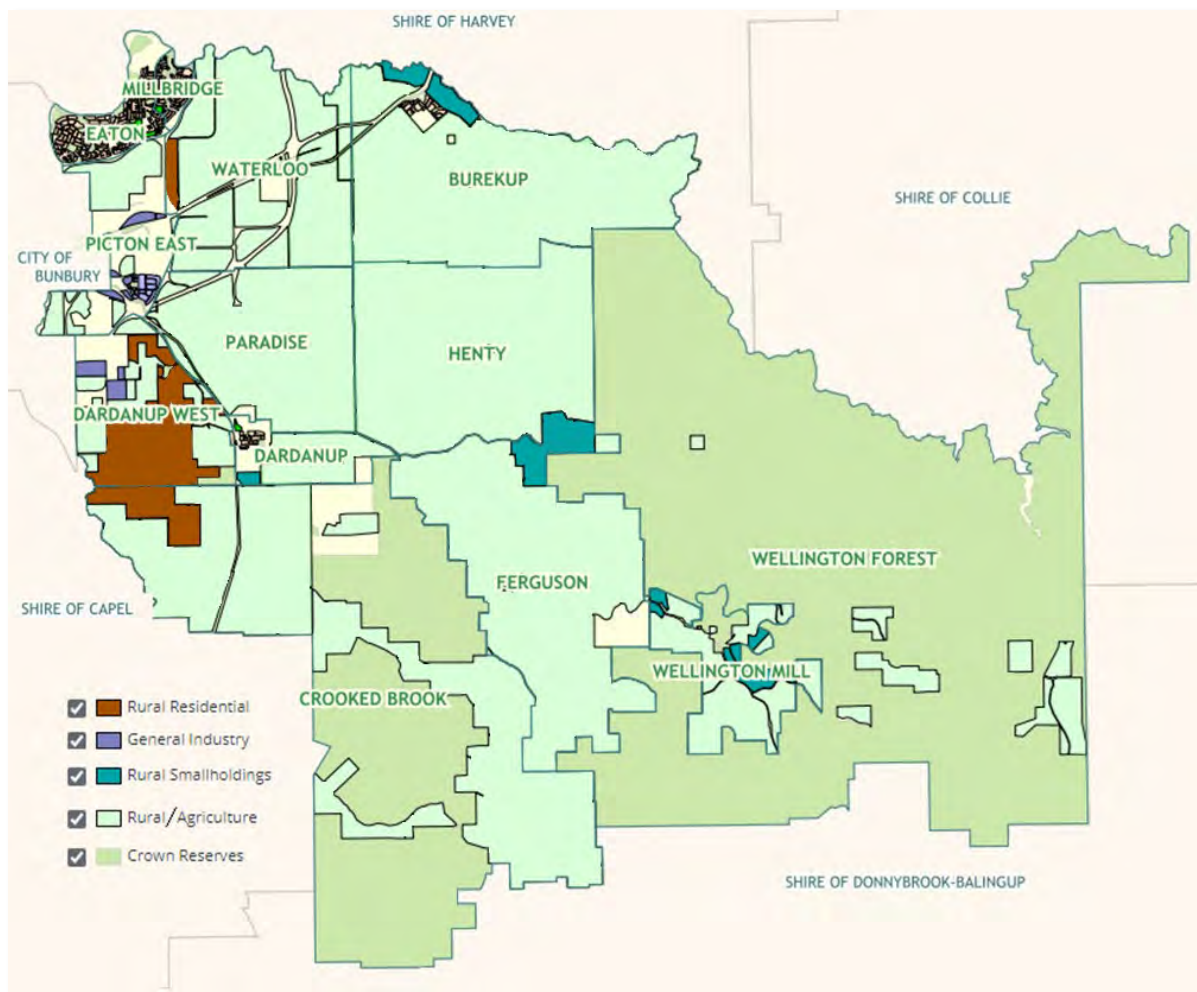


Figure 2: Map of the Shire of Dardanup

⁸ <https://inherit.dplh.wa.gov.au/Public/Search/Results?newSearch=True&lgaContains=Dardanup>

Within the Shire there are the four main townships of Eaton, Millbridge, Dardanup and Burekup. Rural residential locations of Crooked Brook, Dardanup West, Henty, Waterloo and Wellington Mill make up the remainder of the Shire.

Half of land in the Shire of Dardanup is privately owned, and is used for horticulture, grazing (primarily for beef cattle) and rural living. Crown reserved account for 45% of the Shire. The remainder is a complex mosaic of land tenures with crown land and private land occurring closely, this means that fires often impact on multiple tenures and move through various land uses. It is also noted that the Shire has limited powers and responsibility to enforce compliance on land not under its control, in particular State Government tenured land.

Table 3: Summary of land management within the Shire of Dardanup

Land Manager	Local Government Area (%)
Private	52.4
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	44.8
Local Government	0.7
Main Roads	0.4
Water Corporation	0.4
Forrest Product Commission	0.3
South West Development Commission	0.3
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	0.2
Other agencies	0.5
Total	100

Shared Responsibility

A significant portion of the Shire of Dardanup is designated as Bushfire Prone under [the Map of Bushfire Prone Areas](#), which highlights land across Western Australia that may be at risk of bushfire. In these areas, land use plays a critical role in shaping bushfire risk. For residential and commercial landholders, specific safety requirements apply, such as the need to complete a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment and prepare a Bushfire Management Plan. These requirements ensure buildings are designed and constructed to withstand bushfire conditions, thereby improving safety and resilience.

Various land uses within the Shire contribute differently to bushfire risk. Forestry and conservation areas, such as Wellington Forest and Crooked Brook Forest, contain large areas of native vegetation and plantations that can accumulate heavy fuel loads. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions addresses this through its [Fire Management Strategy](#), with prescribed burning being a key mitigation tool in these landscapes. The Departments current burn program is available [online](#).

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services also plays a vital role in bushfire mitigation, especially on unmanaged crown land (UCL) and unmanaged reserves (UMR), where it conducts treatments and maintains data on fuel age and fire history. Industrial land uses, including facilities

that store dangerous goods, carry elevated bushfire risks due to the potential for hazardous material incidents. DFES manages the Fire and Emergency Services Emergency Response Guide (FES-ERG), which supports safe emergency response to such sites. In the Shire of Dardanup, FES-ERG-registered sites include Wespine Industries, Wren Oil, Hexton, Preston Chipping, and Laminex.

Vulnerable Infrastructure

Key infrastructure in the Shire of Dardanup, including the Forrest Highway, South Western Highway, and Wandinman Highway, plays a crucial role in transportation, emergency access, and the regional economy. Due to their proximity to dense vegetation, these highways are highly vulnerable to bushfire risks. A bushfire-induced closure of these roads would disrupt the movement of goods and people, severely impacting industries such as forestry, agriculture, and manufacturing. Road closures would also lead to significant economic losses, limit access to essential services, and hinder tourism, underscoring the importance of effective bushfire risk management to protect these vital routes.

Several other critical sites in the Shire are also exposed to bushfire risks, which could have major impacts on the community. Bethanie Fields, a retirement village, and Eaton Community College both are situated near natural wetland reserves. The dense, flammable vegetation surrounding these areas heightens fire risk, and any disruption could affect the local community.

The Dardanup Pony Club, designated as the Shire's Animal Welfare Evacuation site, is particularly vulnerable to bushfire due to its location next to bushland. If key infrastructure such as stalls, the clubhouse, and the cross-country course were damaged or destroyed, it would significantly affect the local equestrian community and compromise the site's ability to support animal evacuation efforts during emergencies.

Additionally, the popular boardwalks along the Collie River are at risk. Damage to these recreational areas would disrupt community access and impact local tourism, leading to economic losses for businesses reliant on these attractions.

These risks emphasize the need for strong bushfire preparedness and mitigation strategies to safeguard both the safety of the community and the resilience of critical infrastructure.

Economic activities and industry

In 2023 the Bunbury Geopraphe Region, of which the Shire of Dardanup is a part, was estimated to have received 834,000 domestic and international visitors, staying for a total of 2,982,000 nights⁹. Visitors are at greater risk during bushfires given their unfamiliarity with the environs and local risk profile, and, in the case of international visitors, potential language difficulties in conveying risk during a bushfire emergency.

A number of events are held each year with the largest being the annual Bull and Barrel Festival and the Eaton Foreshore Festival. A wide range of other music, cultural and sporting events are held at other times of the year and all bring visitors into the area.

Data from the last census indicated that in the Shire of Dardanup 63% of the population was in the labour force, with 56% in full-time and 33% in part-time employment. Industries in which the community were employed include hospitals, primary education, supermarket/grocery stores, alumina production, iron ore mining.¹⁰

One of the largest integrated softwood milling and processing plants in Australia is located in the Shire of Dardanup, Wespine Industries, employing 238 staff and generating a total revenue of \$130.8 million. If impacted by fire, a disruption to Wespine's operations could have substantial economic consequences at a regional, and potentially even state-wide, level.

The Shire is also home to other major industrial facilities including Wren Oil and Hexion. Both industries play a role in the region's economy by supporting local jobs and contributing to the broader industrial and manufacturing sectors.

The Shire of Dardanup is home to a variety of plantations, primarily focused on timber and agricultural products. This industry plays a key role in the local economy by providing employment opportunities in areas such as forestry, processing, and management. It also supports a network of local businesses, including transport companies that facilitate the movement of raw materials and finished products via the Bunbury Port.

The Forest Industry Federation of WA and DFES have developed [Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection](#) to manage fire risk and maintain operational safety.

⁹ Tourism Western Australia. (2023). *The Bunbury Geopraphe Region: Overnight visitor factsheet 2023*. [online] <https://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/Publications%20Library/Markets%20and%20research/2023/RDC%20and%20sub-region%20factsheets/Sub%20Region%20Visitor%20Factsheet%202023%20-%20BunGeo.pdf>

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). Dardanup: 2021 census all persons quickstats. [online] <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA52660>

Topography and landscape features

The eastern portion of the Shire of Dardanup is shaped by the Darling Scarp, a prominent landform running north to south along the Darling Fault. Elevations range from 330m at Mount Lennard to 120m at Dardanup Conservation Park, then descend westward to about 60m where the Scarp merges with the Swan Coastal Plain. The Ferguson River is the Shire's main watercourse, flowing from south-east to north-west before joining the Preston River near Picton. Its undulating topography, with slopes of 10–30% in the eastern reaches, significantly limits vehicle access and poses challenges for bushfire suppression. Crooked Brook and Henty Brook also feature steep eastern slopes with similar limitations for emergency access and firefighting.

The underlying geology of the Shire is divided into two systems described by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (1996): the Lowden and Goodwood Valley Systems. The Lowden Valley features dissected terrain with valleys mostly 40–180m deep, exposing fresh rock, moderate to steep slopes, and a mix of loamy earths, gravels, and alluvial sands. In contrast, the Goodwood Valley has shallower valleys ranging from 20–50m deep, with side slopes of 3–25% gradients, covered in gravels and sands. These valleys also include alluvial river terraces, swampy depressions, and raised flats, much of which remain covered in forest or bushland.

This complex terrain contributes to bushfire risk by influencing fire behaviour particularly rate of spread and intensity and by limiting access for mitigation and suppression. Steep slopes create localised wind effects, making fires harder to predict and control. They also reduce opportunities for mechanical fuel reduction due to erosion risk. As such, topography is a critical consideration in bushfire planning and response strategies, particularly in areas adjacent to river systems and conservation reserves.

Climate and weather

Both weather and climate have a significant impact on bushfire risk, promoting the growth of fuel and then the drying of the fuel as well as the chances of fire ignition. Once a fire has started the weather will have significant influence over bushfire behaviour.

The Shire of Dardanup climate is described as Mediterranean, with distinct wet and dry seasons. Rainfall ranges between 800 and 1,250mm across the Shire, while the evaporation range is 300mm to 1,400mm. Winter rainfall comes predominately from rain-bearing, low-pressure systems moving in an easterly direction with an average annual rainfall of around 912mm (based on 83-year data records). Summers are very dry, with December to February receiving a monthly average of less than 16mm of rain.

Rainfall in the Shire has decreased by 10–14% compared to long-term averages, with the most significant drop seen over the past decade. While pastures may not be heavily impacted, the decline poses challenges for water harvesting and the plantation industry. Drier soils also contribute to increased fire intensity and spread, heightening bushfire risk.

The fire season runs from October to May (and peaks between December and March). The Southern WA fire season is typically from November through to April, with the Shire of Dardanup's gazetted Restricted Burning Periods and Prohibited Burning Periods being:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • 1st November to 13th December | Restricted Period (permits required) |
| • 14th December to 15th March | Prohibited Period |
| • 16th March to 15th May | Restricted Period (permits required) |
| • 16th May to 31st October | Unrestricted Period |

The above dates can be adjusted by the Shire of Dardanup to reflect the seasonal weather conditions.

Climate change is expected to result in higher average temperatures, reduced rainfall and general drying of the landscape. Interestingly climate change will not be uniform across the State and the Bunbury Geopraphe Growth Plan¹¹ suggests that the impact on the area will be less than the impact on Perth, promoting greater tourism and migration into the area. Both scenarios raise bushfire risk, together they represent a potential for significant risk elevation as climate change continues to impact.

Seasonal conditions have a predictable impact on bushfire hazard mitigation. Prescribed burns are limited to Autumn and Spring due to fire risk or higher precipitation. Excessive rainfall in winter can impact mechanical works if vehicular access is impacted. The Shire is focusing on 3-year planning cycle for mitigation, focusing on current risks. While climate change will impact long term risks it has limited impact on short term mitigation.

Vegetation and fuel

Different types of vegetation significantly influence the behavior of bushfires, which is closely related to the fire triangle consisting of fuel, heat, and oxygen. For example, dense, highly flammable vegetation such as dry grasslands can cause fires to spread rapidly across the ground, generating intense surface fires. In contrast, woodlands or forests with trees like jarrah or pine can contribute to more intense fires due to their high oil content, which can lead to fast-moving crown fires where flames move through the canopy, making them harder to control. On the other hand, low-lying shrubs or wetland vegetation may slow the spread of fire, though if they dry out, they can still contribute to fuel loads.

The arrangement of vegetation, such as whether it's densely packed or more scattered, also affects fire intensity; thicker vegetation tends to trap heat, increasing the likelihood of higher fire severity. Understanding how various types of vegetation affect the fire triangle is crucial in managing and mitigating bushfire risks.

¹¹ Bunbury Geopraphe Economic Alliance. (2016). *Bunbury Geopraphe: Regional Growth Plan, Part 1 – strategy* [online] https://bgea.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2020/06/Bunbury-Geopraphe-Growth-Plan_PART-1-STRATEGY_FINAL_20161103.pdf

Types

The Shire of Dardanup manages a range of green spaces, including street trees, parks, and bushland reserves. Key bushland areas like Wellington and Crooked Brook Forests are managed by DBCA, while local parks and open spaces serve recreational, environmental, and social purposes. Bushland reserves often protect remnant or ecologically significant vegetation and habitats, contributing to conservation and biodiversity within the Shire.

The major vegetation types within the Shire include Jarrah – Marri - Blackbutt forests, Jarrah, Eucalyptus, Marri woodland, and low woodlands of paper bark & tea tree. Areas of the Shire cleared of forest are predominantly agricultural grassland pastures for farming of cattle and milk production. Agricultural lands are predominantly grazed with minimal to no cropping.

Table 4: Major vegetation types

Vegetation Community	Area (ha)	% of Total Area
Cleared Land	26,479.9	50%
Bare areas, Freshwater Lakes	606.03	1%
Low Woodland or open low woodland (Acacia, Banksia, Melaleuca, Agonis species)	4,435.14	8%
Medium Woodland, Jarrah, Eucalyptis, Marri, Tuart, Banksia & Wandoo	7,417.43	14%
Forrest, Jarrah, Marri, Blackbutt	14,021.33	27%
Total	52,660	100%

*Figure 3: Cleared grass land, Ferguson Valley*

Cleared Land (50%) - Grassland fires spread rapidly, are highly wind-driven, and can threaten rural properties, infrastructure, and escape routes, especially in rural areas like Burekup, Henty and Ferguson Valley. Mitigation focuses on reducing fine fuel loads through slashing, grazing, plus firebreaks to help lower fire intensity and asset protection.



Figure 4: Paperbark / Tea tree, Watson Reserve, Eaton

Low Woodland (8%) – Low woodlands in the Shire of Dardanup, mainly consisting of paperbark and tea tree species, are prone to intense fires due to their dense understorey, high oil content, and accumulation of fine fuels like leaf litter. These vegetation types are commonly found in low-lying areas along the Collie River and in natural reserves in Eaton, Waterloo and West Dardanup. In summer, fires can ignite and spread quickly in these areas, with the potential to escalate rapidly under the right conditions. During winter, certain areas become waterlogged, hindering the ability to dry out and complicating planned burning. To reduce bushfire risk, mitigation strategies include selective thinning of the understory, fine fuel reduction, and creating hazard separation zones between woodlands and nearby assets for protection and emergency access.



Figure 5: Paperbarks, Hamilton Road, Eaton



Figure 5: Banksia Woodland, Hale St, Eaton

Medium Woodland (14%) – Banksia/ Jarrah woodlands can be found from Eaton to Waterloo due to the low laying topography of the land. can produce moderate to intense fires due to their flammable foliage, woody seed pods, and build-up of fine fuels. Fire can sustain at the surface and occasionally reach the canopy in severe conditions. Mitigation focuses on reducing understory fuels via prescribed burns and maintaining firebreaks while protecting the ecological value of these habitats.



Figure 6: Controlled burn in a Banksia Woodland - Hale St, Eaton



Figure 3: Jarrah in the Wellington Forest, Ferguson

Jarrah/ Marri Forests (27%) – Jarrah and Marri forests are a dominant vegetation type within the Shire and present a significant bushfire risk due to their structure and fuel characteristics. These forests typically support fast-moving surface fires that can become intense, especially during hot, dry, and windy conditions. The open canopy and dense understorey, along with a deep layer of leaf litter and bark fuels, allow fire to move quickly across the landscape.

Spotting is a common behaviour in Marri woodlands, where embers are carried ahead of the fire front, igniting new fires and increasing the difficulty of suppression. Under severe conditions, fire can transition into the canopy, resulting in crown fires that are harder to control and more damaging to the environment and nearby assets.

Mitigation in these forests includes the creation of strategic firebreaks, maintenance of low fuel buffers, and planned burns where conditions and ecological sensitivities allow. These measures aim to reduce fuel loads, limit fire spread, and protect surrounding infrastructure and communities.

The Shire of Dardanup's [Local Biodiversity Strategy Discussion Paper](#) provides detailed maps of native vegetation and wetlands and identifies biodiversity planning precincts for the purposes of conservation in the future.

Important species and communities

Many of the flora and fauna identified in bushfire-prone areas are highly vulnerable to fire, particularly species in Threatened Ecological Communities or those reliant on **understory** and riparian habitats. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions provides a [database](#) of threatened species and communities for Local and State Government agencies that can be used for informing mitigation strategies.

To reduce bushfire risk while protecting environmental values, mitigation works must be carefully planned and implemented using low-impact methods. These can include targeted removal of fine fuels, mechanical works that avoid habitat disturbance, and strategic prescribed burning. These treatments aim to reduce fire intensity and spread without compromising critical habitats, ensuring that both biodiversity and community safety are preserved. The Shire's Environmental Officer also plays a key role in providing expert advice and is consulted for mitigation activities, ensuring that both environmental and bushfire risks are effectively managed.

Historical bushfire occurrence

The past history of fires is a source of valuable information on bushfire risk and lessons for the future, however, factors such as climate change, population growth, changing land usage and other factors leads to an argument that past fires are not a reliable indicator of future risk/fires.

Over the past 5 years the cause of ignition for bushfires that have occurred within the Shire was investigated by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. A summary of this data is presented in table 7.

Table 7 – Causes of bushfire over previous 5 years

	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Total
Unreported	5	4	7	5	10	31
Suspicious/Deliberate	8	6	9	4	3	30
Burn off fires	11	5	4	3	1	24
Power lines (incl. electrical distribution)	9	0	0	4	5	18
Weather (incl. lightning, high winds, natural combustion)	2	0	4	7	3	16
Campfires/bonfires/outdoor cooking	5	2	0	2	0	9
Reignition of previous fire	5	2	0	1	0	8
Undetermined	2	2	0	3	0	7
Cigarette	0	3	1	1	1	6
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment)	2	0	1	0	2	5
Hot works (grinding, cutting, drilling)	0	1	1	1	1	4
Other cause	1	0	0	0	2	3
Total	50	25	27	31	28	161

Human error is responsible for the majority of fires. The accidental ignition or accidental spread of a fire account for 30% of all fires. Such causes include: escaping a planned burn, campfires that get out of hand, cigarette butts, vehicles and farm equipment, and hot works. The most common single cause of bushfires are those suspicious/deliberately lit (19% of all fires).

A particularly notable fire was the Wellington Mill fire of 1950. At the time it was the most significant fire to impact the Shire of Dardanup. Many properties were destroyed, roads cut, and livestock lost, drawing fire fighters from neighbouring areas.¹² As this fire occurred over 75 years ago and the original town and mill were destroyed, those who lived and worked in the area are no longer present. However, the memory of the fire does live on in the next generation and taken seriously with the Wellington Mills Volunteer Bushfire Brigade consisting of more than 50% of local population. The brigade actively support the Shire's prescribed burns and are well organised and enthusiastic.



Figure 7: Wellington Mill in operation before the fire in the early 1900's

¹² The West Australian. (15 April 1950). *Valley Devastated by Bushfire*. [Online]
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/47841614>

Current bushfire risk management controls

Local Government Wide Controls for reducing bushfire risk are listed in Appendix B.

Bush Fire Brigades

The Shire of Dardanup has eight Bush Fire Brigades with approximately 330 registered volunteers. Also located in the Shire is the Eaton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigade. Figure 6 shows the locations of the fire brigades within the Shire of Dardanup and their primary area of responsibility.

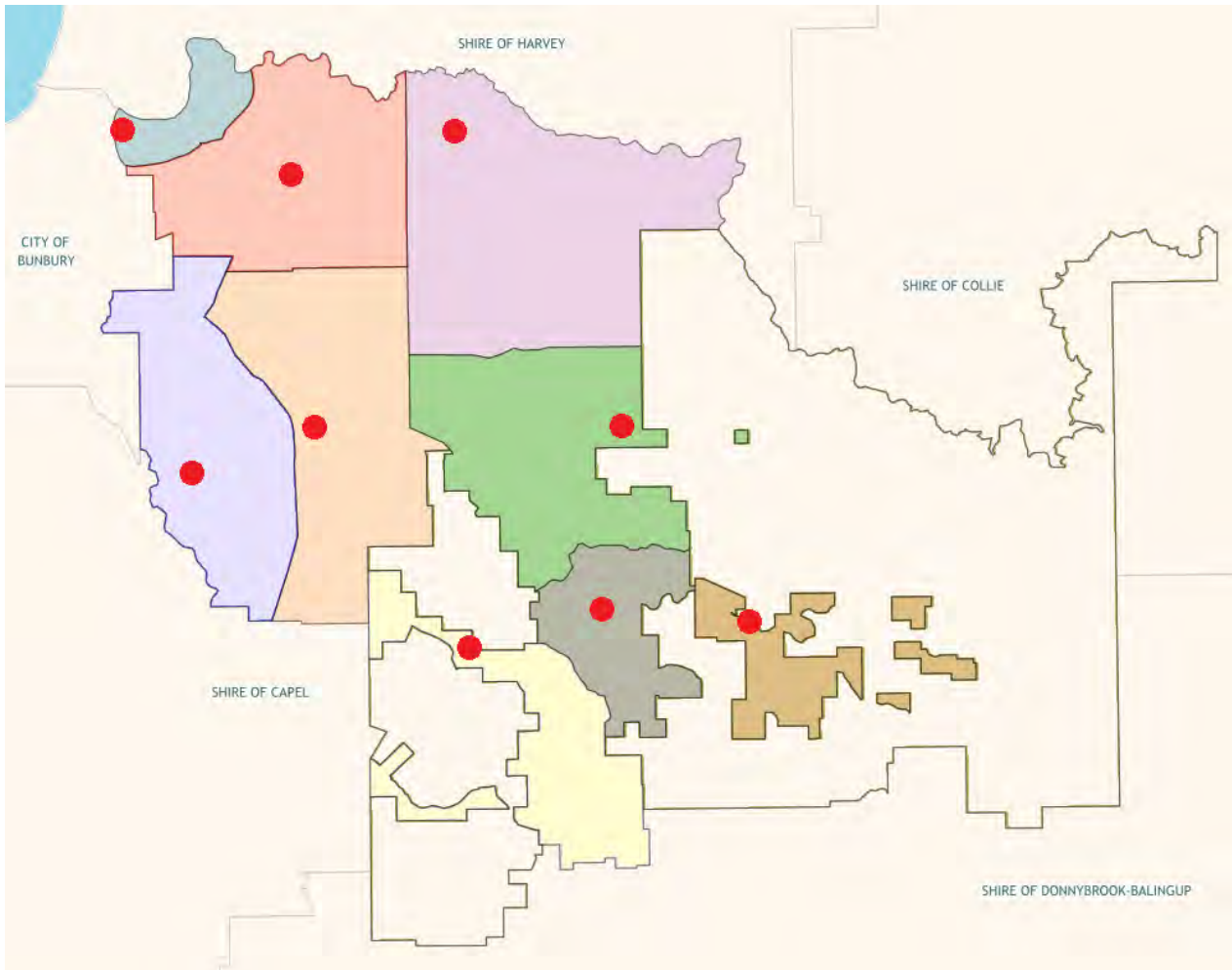


Figure 6: Location map of Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Stations

These brigades are supported by:

- 1 x 3,000 litre 4-wheel drive (3.4) Fire truck
- 2 x 2.4 Fire trucks
- 3 x 1.4 Fire trucks
- 3 x Light Tankers

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services, based on assessments of fire risk, may supplement the brigade vehicles with additional 'high-season' vehicles, hosted at Brigades during the fire season. The Shire has hosted 1 or 2 high-season vehicles over several fire seasons.

In addition, the Department of Fire and Emergency Service Volunteer Fire and Rescue has one country pump and one light tanker to the overall resources.

Fire Control Notice

Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act* 1954 states that local government may require the occupier of land to plough or clear a fire-break. Landowners must be provided written notice of this requirement through publication of the notice in the *Government Gazette* and a local newspaper. The Shire of Dardanup does required the clearing of fire breaks on properties that meet the criteria.

The notice is reviewed mid-year by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee and published in August.

A process is in place to exempt landowners who present suitable reasons why the construction of a fire break is not required in all, or part, of their property. Applications for exemption are assessed by the local Fire Control Officer and endorsed by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee for Council approval. Exemption may be for one or three years.

The Shire of Dardanup Rangers patrol rural properties to determine that fire breaks have been constructed, and to a suitable standard. Patrols are conducted throughout the period when fire breaks are required per the Fire Control Notice. Notices to improve the standard of fire break construction, or infringements, may be issued for sub-standard or absence of fire break respectively.

Mitigation Activity Fund

The Shire of Dardanup has sought and received funding over several years from the Department of Fire and Emergency Service's Mitigation Activity Fund. The funding is provided to enable local governments to undertake important bushfire mitigation on Crown Lands that they manage on behalf of the State.

The grant is managed by the Bushfire Risk Management Coordinator, a position shared with the Shires of Collie and Capel.

The bushfire mitigation works include:

- Planned fuel reduction burns
- Mechanical fuel reduction/alteration
- Chemical treatments
- Installation of fire access tracks to enable better access to high risk areas and/or better assist residents evacuate in the event of a fire

The history of treatments funded by the mitigation activity grants program include:

- 43 treatments in 2019/20 using grant of \$209,615
- 39 treatments in 2020/21 using grant of \$492,880
- 21 treatments in 2021/22 using grant of \$337,295
- 13 treatments in 2022/23 using grant of \$178,877
- 27 treatments in 2024/25 using grant of \$242,350

Roadside Verges

The Shire endeavours to undertake verge maintenance on its roads within the limitations of its available resources. Where possible, the Shire undertakes mitigation strategies targeting high risk areas in consultation with local brigades, including controlled burns, slashing and spraying to minimise hazards.

In accordance with the Shire of Dardanup *Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places* Local Law, a person shall not burn part of a thoroughfare without first obtaining a permit or unless acting under the authority of any other written law.

Map of Bushfire Prone Areas

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services assesses land based on numerous factors to determine bushfire prone areas¹³ and reviews the map periodically. The Shire of Dardanup is consulted on the assessment of the land within its boundaries when the map is reviewed. Much of the shire is designated to be Bushfire Prone.

Responsible Development

The WA Government's *Bushfire Prone Planning Policy* aims to implement effective risk based land use planning and development to preserve life and reduce the impact of bushfire on property and infrastructure.

The *State Planning Policy 3.7 – Planning for Bushfire Prone Areas* ensures bushfire risk is given due consideration in all future planning and development decisions. As the policy does not apply retrospectively, this plan focuses on identifying existing bushfire risk and establishing an effective treatment plan to manage unacceptable community risks.

The Shire issues Planning and Building approvals in accordance with standards as set out in *Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* and the Building Commission.

Community Consultation

The Shire has limited resources to conduct extensive bushfire focused community consultation. However, bushfire risk and impacts are raised at general community consultation sessions.

The Shire's Communications Team regularly issue social media updates regarding bushfire risk, fire bans, burn restrictions. Expanding on this messaging is an option to be explored in more detail.

When planning a treatment for an identified risk the local community are informed of the work and feedback encouraged.

The Dardanup Volunteer Bushfire Brigades play a vital role in raising community awareness about bushfire preparedness through station open days, school visits, and participation in community festivals and agricultural shows. Additionally, Wellington Mills has a highly active Bushfire Ready Group, a community-driven program supported by DFES and the Shire dedicated to enhancing local resilience to bushfire risk.

¹³ See <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/community-services/emergency-services/view-map-of-bush-fire-prone-areas>

Street Trees/Reserves

Mitigation strategies for street trees, parks and open spaces and bushland reserves are summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: Bushfire Controls

Streetscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain health of trees • Street sweeping (to remove leaves and other detritus) • Spacing between trees to ensure canopy separation • Use of native trees • Assessment of power lines near trees
Parks and Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed burning • Maintain health of trees • Land use planning • Trees planted in isolated pockets within parks • Mowing/slashing grassed areas in and around parks • Irrigation
Bushland reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed burning • Fire restrictions and prohibitions • Fire access tracks and fire breaks • Litter removal • Weed reduction (spraying or mechanical works) • Arson prevention strategies

Native trees have a reputation for being susceptible to fire, and may not be an obvious choice to reduce bushfire risk. Indeed, the eucalyptus oil in many gum trees is flammable and can exacerbate a fire. However, many native trees also have characteristic that increase resistance to fire, e.g. thicker barks. Native trees also have characteristics that enable them to recover quickly from bushfires that would kill non-native trees. Some native trees have leaves that can offer shielding from radiant heat or capture wind blown embers¹⁴.

Non-native trees may be susceptible to drought conditions that native trees can cope with and may die when stressed, contributing to fuel loads.

¹⁴ For example see <https://www.orterra.com.au/2024/05/29/planting-in-bushfire-areas/>

5. Asset identification and risk assessment

Assets at risk from bushfire in the Shire are recorded in the *Asset Risk Register* in the *Bushfire Risk Management System*. Assets are divided into four categories: human settlement, economic, climate, and cultural. Each asset has been assigned a bushfire risk rating between low and extreme based on the risk assessment methodology described in the Guidelines and Handbook.

Identifying and assessing systemic risk

Systemic risk refers to the potential impacts of a particular hazard (in this case bushfire) on interconnected systems and networks that sustain communities. It recognises that a single bushfire event can set off a chain reaction with impacts that extend beyond the fire's location. These may affect the social fabric, economy, and environment of the district and can persist long after the fire has been extinguished.

Systemic risks will be considered by the *Local Emergency Management Arrangements*, given that systemic risks span all-hazards, not just bushfire.

Local government asset risk profile

A summary of the risks assessed is shown in Table 8. This table shows the proportion of assets at risk from bushfire in each risk category at the time this plan was endorsed. This table was correct at the time of publication but may become outdated as risks are treated or additional risks are identified and assessed. A report may be generated from the *Bushfire Risk Management System* to provide the most current risk profile.

Table 9 – Local Government Asset Risk Summary

		Risk Rating				
		Low	Medium	High	V. High	Extreme
Asset Category	Human Settlement	6%	29%	9%	10%	25%
	Economic	1%	4%	4%	4%	2%
	Environment	0%	0%	1%	3%	0%
	Cultural	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

6. Risk evaluation

Risk acceptance criteria

The acceptable level of risk for each asset category is shown in Table 10. A risk that is assessed as exceeding these limits will be considered for treatment.

Table 10 – Risk acceptance criteria for bushfire risk

Acceptable risk level	Asset category			
	Human settlement	Economic	Environmental	Cultural
	Medium	Medium	High	High

Risks below the acceptable level do not require treatment during the life of this plan. They will be managed by routine Local Government wide controls and monitored to detect any increase in their risk rating.

Treatment priorities

The treatment priority for each asset is automatically assigned by the *Bushfire Risk Management System*, based on the asset's risk rating. Table 11 shows how consequence and likelihood combine to give the risk rating and subsequent treatment priority for an asset. The treatment priority assigned in system will help inform decision making for risk acceptability and development of the treatment strategy and schedule.

Table 11 – Treatment priorities

		Consequence			
		Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Likelihood	Almost certain	High (3D)	Very High (2C)	Extreme (1C)	Extreme (1A)
	Likely	Medium (4C)	High (3A)	Very High (2A)	Extreme (1B)
	Possible	Low (5A)	Medium (4A)	High (3B)	Very High (2B)
	Unlikely	Low (5C)	Low (5B)	Medium (4B)	High (3C)

7. Risk treatment

The purpose of risk treatment is to reduce the potential impact of bushfire on the community, economy and environment. This is achieved by implementing treatments that modify the characteristics of the hazard, the community or the environment to make bushfires less likely or less harmful.

Treatment Strategy

The *Treatment Strategy* describes the overall approach to managing bushfire risk in the medium to long term. The strategy is shaped by factors such as the distribution of risk in the landscape, the community's values and objectives, stakeholders' mitigation programs and constraints on treatment options. The *Treatment Strategy* helps guide the development of integrated annual treatment schedules.

Policy

- *Bush Fires Act 1954* Section 33 notices, including applicable fuel management requirements, firebreak standards and annual enforcement programs
- Declaration and management of Prohibited Burn Times, Restricted Burn Times and Total Fire Bans for the local government
- Public education campaigns and the use of Department of Biosecurity Conservation and Attractions and Department of Fire and Emergency Services state-wide programs, tailored to suit local needs
- State-wide arson prevention programs developed in conjunction with WA Police and Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- State planning framework and local planning schemes, implementation of appropriate land subdivision and building standards in line with Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Building Commission policies and standards
- Monitoring performance against the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* and reporting annually to the local government council and Office of Bushfire Risk Management
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is responsible for the management of fire prevention of unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves within gazetted town site boundaries under a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions annual mitigation works program (includes mechanical works and prescribed burns that may not directly influence level of risk to a specific asset or group of assets)
- Western Power annual vegetation management and asset inspection activities in Extreme and High Bushfire Risk areas completed by 30 November
- All Fire Management Plans including but not limited to, land developments and estates. Plans are available through the Planning Department at the Shire
- The Shire of Dardanup annual hazard reduction works program (includes, burning, spraying, slashing and pruning in and around established town sites and on strategic rural

reserves). Priority is given to populated town sites first (known works will be captured in the Bushfire Risk Management treatment schedule)

- Water Corporation Bushfire Risk Mitigation Program
- Community “Bushfire Ready” groups facilitated by local resident’s injunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services are being developed

Asset Specific

Asset-specific treatments are implemented to protect an individual asset or group of assets, identified and assessed in this plan as being at risk from bushfire. There are six asset specific treatment strategies:

- **Fuel management**
Treatment reduces or modifies the bushfire fuel through manual, chemical and prescribed burning methods.
- **Ignition management**
Treatment aims to reduce potential human and infrastructure sources of ignition in the landscape.
- **Preparedness**
Treatments aim to improve access and water supply arrangements to assist firefighting operations.
- **Planning**
Treatments focus on developing plans to improve the ability of firefighters and the community to respond to bushfire.
- **Community Engagement**
Treatments seek to build relationships, raise awareness and change the behaviour of people exposed to bushfire risk.
- **Other**
Local government-wide controls, such as community education campaigns and planning policies, will be used to manage the risk. Asset-specific treatment is not required or not possible in these circumstances.

Treatment Schedule

The *Treatment Schedule* is a list of bushfire risk treatments recorded in the *Bushfire Risk Management System*. It is developed with regard to the outcome of the risk assessment process and treatment strategy and in consultation with stakeholders.

The *Treatment Schedule* covering the Shire of Dardanup has been entered to *Bushfire Risk Management System*. The *Treatment Schedule* will be regularly updated throughout the life of this plan.

Land managers are responsible for implementing agreed treatments on their own land. This includes any costs associated with the treatment and obtaining the relevant approvals, permits or licences to undertake an activity. Where agreed, another agency may manage a treatment on behalf of a land manager.

Systemic risk treatment

The treatment strategies for systemic risks will be considered as a part of the *Local Emergency Management Arrangements*, given the multi-hazard complications presented by systemic risk.

8. Monitoring and review

Monitoring and review processes are in place to ensure that this plan remains current and considers the best available information.

Monitoring and review

The Shire of Dardanup will monitor the plan and *Bushfire Risk Management System* data to identify any need for change. The plan and data will be reviewed at least every two years to ensure they continue to reflect the local context, assets at risk, level of risk and treatment priorities.

Reporting

The outcomes of biennial reviews of this plan will be reported to the Office of Bushfire Risk Management. This is required to maintain endorsement of the plan.

Data and information about their Bushfire Risk Management Program will be collated to contribute to the annual Office of Bushfire Risk Management's *Fuel Management Activity Report*.

Appendix A: References

Glossary

Asset	Something of value that may be adversely impacted by bushfire. This may include residential houses, infrastructure, commercial, agriculture, industry, environmental, cultural and heritage sites.
Asset category	There are four categories that classify the type of asset – Human Settlement, Economic, Environmental and Cultural.
Asset risk register	A component within the Bushfire Risk Management System used to record the consequence, likelihood, risk rating and treatment priority for each asset identified in the <i>Bushfire Risk Management Plan</i> .
Bushfire	Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective.
Bushfire risk management	A systematic process to coordinate, direct and control activities relating to bushfire risk with the aim of limiting the adverse effects of bushfire on the community.
Bushfire risk	The chance of a bushfire igniting, spreading and causing damage to the community or the assets they value.
Consequence	The outcome or impact of a bushfire event.
Landowner	The owner of the land, as listed on the Certificate of Title; or leaser under a registered lease agreement; or other entity that has a vested responsibility to manage the land.
Likelihood	The chance of something occurring. In this instance, it is the potential of a bushfire igniting, spreading and impacting on an asset.
Risk acceptance	The informed decision to accept a risk, based on the knowledge gained during the risk assessment process.
Risk analysis	The application of consequence and likelihood to an event to determine the level of risk.
Risk assessment	The systematic process of identifying, analysing and evaluating risk.
Risk evaluation	The process of comparing the outcomes of risk analysis to the risk criteria in order to determine whether a risk is acceptable or tolerable.
Risk identification	The process of recognising, identifying and describing risks.
Risk treatment	A process to select and implement appropriate measures undertaken to modify risk.

(Appendix ORD: 12.5.1B)

Shire of Dardanup Bushfire Risk Management Plan

Systemic risk	The impacts of bushfire on the interconnected systems and networks that support community function. It is a product of the disruption caused by fire to the community and its effects may be felt far from the direct impacts of the fire in both time and space.
Treatment objective	The aim to be achieved by the treatment. Treatment objectives should be specific and measurable.
Treatment priority	The order, importance or urgency for allocation of funding, resources and opportunity to treatments associated with a particular asset. The treatment priority is based on an asset's risk rating.
Treatment Schedule	A report produced within the <i>Bushfire Risk Management System</i> that details the treatment priority of each asset identified in this plan and the treatments scheduled.
Treatment Strategy	The general approach that will be taken to managing bushfire risk, in consideration of the local government context and objectives.
Treatment type	The specific treatment activity that will be implemented to modify risk, for example a planned burn.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

This plan has been written so as to avoid the use of acronyms and abbreviations, however, other related documents or correspondence may not. Hence, below are a list of relevant acronyms and abbreviations that may be encountered.

AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council
BFAC	Bush Fire Advisory Committee
BRM	Bushfire Risk Management
BRM Branch	Bushfire Risk Management Branch (an organisational element of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services)
BRM Plan	Bushfire Risk Management Plan
BRMS	Bushfire Risk Management System
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
OBRM	Office of Bushfire Risk Management (an organisational element of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services)
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SoD	Shire of Dardanup
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
UCL	Unallocated Crown Land
UMR	Unmanaged Reserve
WA	Western Australia

Related Documents

Legislation:

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Building Act 2011
- Bush Fires Act 1954
- Conservation and Land Management Act 1984
- Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947
- Emergency Management Act 2005
- Environmental Protection Act 1986
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Fire Brigades Act 1942
- Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998
- Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990
- Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909
- Wildlife Conservation Act 1950

Regulations:

- Emergency Management Regulations 2006
- Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015

State Policies, Plans and Procedures:

- State Emergency Management Policy
- State Emergency Management Procedures
- State Hazard Plan for Fire
- State Planning Policy 3.7: Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas

Standards and Guidelines:

- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management – Principles and guidelines
- AS 3959-2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas
- Guidelines for preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan
- Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and Appendices
- National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG)
- Guidelines for the safe use of pesticides in non-agricultural workplaces
- A guide to the management of pesticides in LG pest control programs in WA
- A Guide to the Exemptions and Regulations for Clearing Native Vegetation
- A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation

- A Guide to Burning Under the Native Vegetation Clearing Provisions
- A Guide to Grazing of Native Vegetation
- Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection
- A Guide to Preventing and Suppressing Bushfires on Organic and Acid Sulfate Soils
- Managing Phytophthora Dieback in Bushland
- A Guide to Constructing and Maintaining Firebreaks
- Building Protection Zone Standards
- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience
- Public Service Circular No.88 Use of Herbicides in Water Catchment Areas
- Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia
- Western Australian Emergency Risk Management Guide

Appendix B: Local government wide controls

Control		Action or activity description	Lead agency	Other stakeholder(s)	Notes and comments
01	Shire of Dardanup, Local firebreak and hazard reduction laws (<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>)	Annual Fire Prevention Order	Local Government	Fire Control Officers, brigades and land owners	Firebreak Order reviewed annually and adopted by Council. Its purpose is to ensure land owners understand and comply to firebreak specifications as well as appropriately reducing fuel load and risk on their properties. Notice reviewed annually. Rangers inspect compliance to the notice and fines apply if non-compliant.
02	Shire of Dardanup Prohibited and Restricted burning times (<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>)	Annual Fire Prevention Order	Local Government	Chief Fire Control Officer, Rangers and the public.	Prohibited and Restricted burn times are designed to reduce the risk during very high to catastrophic fire danger rating days. Notice reviewed annually and dates can be subject to change as required by the Chief and Deputy Fire Control Officers.
03	Shire of Dardanup mitigation works	The Shire’s Operations / Works / Parks & Environment team has annual works programs to reduce fuel load and remove hazards.	Local Government	Public (reporting hazards and concern of risk) Shire Parks and Gardens staff Shire Rangers	Shire Operations / Works / Parks & Environment team targets work on strategic risk areas with particular attention paid to past fire incidents or as identified by this <i>Bushfire Risk Management Plan</i> . Work includes, slashing, spraying, mulching, pruning and other mechanical treatments.
04	Department of Fire and Emergency Services unallocated crown land/unmanaged reserve land management	Preparedness, mitigation work conducted on lands owned by Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and managed by Department of Fire and Emergency Services under a memorandum of understanding	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (Lower South West office)	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Local Government, Local brigades	Annual budgeting has been completed to include mitigating risk on unallocated crown land/unmanaged reserve land. Lowers South West Bushfire Risk Management Officers have these plans included in their scope of work.
05	Shire of Dardanup, <i>Draft Burn Program</i> (annual indicative plans)	Local Government is working on an annual burn plan for Shire owned or vested reserves.	Local Government	Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions, Local brigades, Public	The Shire’s Operations / Works / Parks & Environment team is tasked with Bushfire Mitigation on Shire reserves. Annual burn plans are being produced. The <i>Bushfire Risk Management Plan</i> will now prioritise the reserves for hazard reduction burns. The <i>Bushfire Risk Management System</i> will be recording information.
06	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions <i>Master Burn Plans</i>	The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions have a 6 season burn program that is published on their website. Yearly plans are available.	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Local brigades, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government	The plans can be accessed via their website, by sharing shape files (Geographic Information Systems) and are communicated at Local Bushfire Advisory Committee, Regional Operating Advisory Committee and other various meetings.
07	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions mitigation works	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions conduct mulching and other mechanical treatments to reduce fuel load or provide fire access.	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government	No formal plan exists however works are completed as required, upon request or when identified.
08	Water Corporation Bushfire Risk Management Program	Bushfire Risk Management Plan. A Bushfire Risk Management Project is under way for the Water Corp.	Water Corporation	Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government	A plan is currently being developed. High risk areas are identified and treatments planned then completed. Treatments and risk assessments are available through Water Corporation. Some high-risk areas have been identified in the Shire to date.

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Control		Action or activity description	Lead agency	Other stakeholder(s)	Notes and comments
09	Western Power annual asset inspection and vegetation management program	Western Power Bushfire Plan	Western Power	Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government	Annual vegetation management and asset inspections are completed to ensure risk is managed. Full asset inspections are completed every four years.
10	Land sub-division & building (WA Planning Commission)	Requirement for estate, sub-division, and other Fire Management Plans	Local Government	Local Brigades, contractors and Fire Control Officers	Land developers are required to implement a <i>Fire Management Plan</i> to ensure risk is managed and other controls implemented and monitored.
11	Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas	Planning in bushfire prone areas. E.g. State Planning Policy 3.7 and standards.	WA Planning Commission	Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government, land owners	Foundation for land use planning. Directs how land use should address bushfire risk management in WA. It aims to preserve life and reduce impact on property and infrastructure. The Shire aligns its policy and standards with SPP 3.7. Bushfire Attack Level assessments are required.
12	Pine Plantation Fire Management Plans	The Forest Product Commission has implemented fire management plans for plantation.	Forest Product Commission	Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government	Minimum requirements and controls have been committed to within the plan.
13	State-wide arson prevention programs	Education and awareness campaigns exist across the state for arson.	WA Police	Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government	Participation as required. The Shire participates in campaigns for arson prevention.
14	Bushfire Ready Groups and street meets	Public preparedness and education campaign	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Local Government, local brigades, Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Bushfire ready facilitators are within the Shire. Working together with Department of Fire and Emergency Services and local government community engagement teams to better prepare the community for bushfire events. Street meets and phone trees have been implemented as a result as well as safe winter burn demonstrations and workshops.

Appendix C: Communication Plan

This *Communication Plan* supports the development, implementation and review of the Shire of Dardanup *Bushfire Risk Management Plan*. It should document:

- the Communication objectives.
- Roles and responsibilities.
- Key stakeholders engaged in the development of the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* and *Treatment Schedule*.
- the implementation and review of the plan including: target audiences and key messages at each project stage; communication risks and strategies for their management; and communication monitoring and evaluation procedures.

Communication objectives

The communication objectives for the development, implementation and review of the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* are as follows:

- Key stakeholders understand the purpose of the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* and their role in the planning process.
- Stakeholders who are essential to the bushfire risk management planning process, or can supply required information, are identified and engaged in a timely and effective manner.
- Relevant stakeholders are involved in decisions regarding risk acceptability and treatment.

Roles and responsibilities

The Shire of Dardanup is responsible for the development, implementation and review of the *Communication Plan*. Key stakeholders support the local government by participating the *Communication Plan* as appropriate. An overview of communication roles and responsibilities follows:

- The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for requesting that the Office of Bushfire Risk Management endorse the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan*.
- Director Sustainable Development and Media Team are responsible for communication of the *Bushfire Risk Management Plan* to the community.
- Bushfire Risk Management Coordinator is responsible for communication between the local government and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Key Stakeholders for Communication

The following table identifies key stakeholders in bushfire risk management planning process, its implementation and review. These are stakeholders that are identified as having a significant role or interest in the planning process or are likely to be significantly impacted by the outcomes.

Stakeholder	Role or interest	Impact of outcomes	Engagement
Shire of Dardanup	Significant role in plan development, implementation and review. Significant interest as a land manager.	High	Inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower.
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Significant role in plan development, implementation and review. Support role In treatment Implementation.	High	Regular engagement & Consultation.
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Treatment plans, land management, asset identification	High	Regular engagement, Consultation and kept informed.
Local Community and Private Land Owners	Role in plan development, implementation and review. Significant interest as a land manager.	High	Inform, consult and involve
Utility Companies Water Corporation Telstra Western Power	Role in plan development, implementation and review. Significant interest as a land manager. Critical infrastructure interest.	Medium	Inform, consult, involve and collaborate
Leschenault Catchment Group	Role in plan development, implementation and review	Medium	Inform, consult and involve
Leschenault Biosecurity Group	Role in plan development, implementation and review	Medium	Inform, consult and involve
Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Role in plan development, implementation and review	Medium	Inform, consult and involve
Local Emergency Management Committee	Role in plan development, implementation and review	Medium	Inform, consult and involve
Office of Bushfire Risk Management	Significant role in plan development and review	Medium	Inform, consult and involve
Chief Bushfire Control Officer	Role in plan development, implementation and review	High	Inform, consult and involve

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Bushfire Brigades and Emergency Services Volunteers	Role in plan development, implementation and review	Medium	Inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower.
Traditional Owners	Role in plan development, implementation and review	Medium	Inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower.
Department of Planning Lands and Heritage	Treatment plans, land management, asset identification	High	Regular engagement, Consultation and kept informed.
Main Roads	Treatment plans, land management, asset identification	High	Regular engagement, Consultation and kept informed.
Department of Environment, Water and Regulation	Treatment plans, land management, asset identification	High	Regular engagement, Consultation and kept informed.