

FLINDERS MID-NORTH YORKE



BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN



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Front page image: Beetaloo Reservoir and Valley looking south

Document Control

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Endorsements

This document requires the following endorsements by the FMNY BMC:

Version	Date Endorsed	Name	Title	Signature
1	16 March 2017	N. Stanley	Chair, FMNY BMC	

Approvals

This document requires the following approvals by the SBCC:

Version	Date Approved	Name	Title	Signature
1.0	19 May 2017	Greg Nettleton (CFS Chief Officer)	Chair, State Bushfire Coordination Committee (on behalf of the SBCC)	

Distribution

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1 INTRODUCTION

Bushfire cannot be eliminated from the landscape, and there are circumstances when fire cannot be controlled, however planning and preparedness activities can reduce the frequency, spread and impact of bushfire events. The Flinders Mid-North Yorke (FMNY) is a bushfire prone environment with significant numbers of people, assets and areas of environmental sensitivity. The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (FES Act 2005)*, outlines the responsibilities of key Government organisations, the community and the public to prepare for, prevent or inhibit the spread of any bushfire.

The FMNY Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP) comprises of three parts:

- This written component outlining the planning process, content and other relevant information.
- An interactive spatial web-based map that identifies assets and their risk levels, and includes pop up tables of information for each asset.
- A spreadsheet containing a list of all FMNY BMAP assets, their risk rating and risk mitigation treatment strategies.

Prevention and preparedness are vital components in reducing injuries and deaths, loss of assets, financial costs and aiding community recovery. The FMNY BMAP is aimed at prevention and preparedness planning, processes and actions. The Plan outlines information, strategies and actions to prevent or mitigate (reduce) bushfire impact on assets and in the landscape, rather than focusing on business continuity, emergency response or asset replacement costs.

The FMNY BMAP utilises a web-based (electronic) style and methodology that enables it to be updated on a regular and ongoing basis following its initial approval and publication. The FMNY Bushfire Management Committee ensures the Plan is regularly reviewed and updated and that public consultation processes are undertaken where required. [*\(Refer to Section 3: Roles and Responsibilities\)*](#).

This BMAP has been prepared under specifications as determined by the current State Bushfire Management Plan 2010, the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC), Bushfire Management Committees, and the CFS Bushfire Management Planning Unit. The State Bushfire Management Plan is a strategic level document designed to provide policy and direction for fire, emergency and land management agencies and Bushfire Management Committees in South Australia. The State Bushfire Management Plan is a requirement under *Section 73 of the FES Act 2005*, and sets the standards for preparation and implementation of the BMAPs. At time of publication of this FMNY BMAP, 19 May 2017, the approved State Bushfire Management Plan is being reviewed and updated with an expected completion date in 2017. Any updates to the State plan that require changes to be made to existing BMAPs will be incorporated in the regular BMAP update processes undertaken by the BMCs.

1.1 Purpose and Scope

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (FES Act 2005)* requires each of the nine South Australian Bushfire Management Committees (BMC's) to prepare and maintain a BMAP. Each BMC will adopt a BMAP that will:

- a. Identify existing or potential risks to assets from bushfire within the BMA
- b. Outline coordinated and collaborative bushfire prevention and mitigation strategies to achieve appropriate hazard reduction associated with bushfire management within its area
- c. Identify asset or land custodians responsible for the implementation of bushfire risk mitigation treatments
- d. Use or establish principles and standards to guide or measure the success of the bushfire management strategies and initiatives.

The purpose of the FMNY BMAP is to provide strategic direction for bushfire management planning in the FMNY Bushfire Management Area (BMA) (*refer to [location map on page 7](#)*), through the identification of strategies for bushfire risk modification to selected assets and areas and across the landscape regardless of tenure. The Plan will be used by State and Local Government land management organisations to guide the development of bushfire management works plans for areas of land under their responsibility. Works plans will guide the establishment/development of bushfire mitigation works across the BMA. The Plan also provides essential inputs into State and Local Government planning, the application of building codes, fire fuel management, planning for emergency management response, and prioritising of resources for sound mitigation decisions.

Following an assessment of bushfire risks and the adequacy of current control measures within the FMNY, additional risk treatment strategies have been determined that aim to improve the resilience of the wider community and the assets identified in the plan. (*[Refer to Section 4: Risk Assessment](#) and [Section 5: Risk Treatment Strategies](#)*).

The scope of the FMNY BMAP encompasses a range of asset categories and landscape wide areas of potential bushfire risk. Asset categories include areas of human settlement; industrial and business areas; and assets of cultural significance to local communities or the State. (*[Refer to Section 4.1: Assets at Risk from Bushfire](#)*). Environmental assets are to be incorporated in to the BMAP at a later stage. (*[Refer to Section: 4.2.4 Environment](#)*). Selected areas of bushfire concern that relate to multiple assets or the movement of bushfire through the broader landscape require further assessment and consultation with stakeholders to determine the most effective, acceptable and achievable risk treatment strategies to directly reduce the intensity and movement of fire through the landscape and the impact of bushfire on a cluster of assets.

Bushfire safety requires a partnership approach and is a shared responsibility between government agencies, the private sector, non-government organisations, individuals and the wider community. The planning process ensures consultation strategies provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to contribute to fire management planning and thus undertake appropriate action to address the risk of bushfire.

1.2 Objective

The protection of people, property and the environment is the fundamental objective of this plan, as a shared responsibility between government and the community. Community members and organisations are required to contribute to mitigating bushfire risk as outlined in the Fire and Emergency Services Act. The risk assessment process focuses predominantly on what can be measured (vegetation, fire intensity, separation distances, weather, topography, building resilience, access routes etc.) and what can be managed by applying risk treatment strategies.

The objective of this plan is to:

- a. Document the outcome of the FMNY BMC identification and assessment of the bushfire risk to assets within the FMNY BMA;
- b. Capture the current and future risk treatment strategies;
- c. Identify those asset or land custodians responsible for implementing risk treatment strategies to manage the risks and reduce the community's vulnerability to bushfire by improving preparedness utilising local knowledge, experience and expertise
- d. Support and inform planning at a local level; and
- e. Inform stakeholders of the potential bushfire risk within the FMNY BMA.

Assessment of the strategies to protect other assets within the FMNY BMA will need to be reviewed as the strategies are implemented.

1.2.1 Constraints, Assumptions and Exclusions

The BMAPs are developed specifically for bushfire planning and preparedness. Issues relating to operational bushfire response or recovery are not addressed in this plan but are covered in plans, policies and procedures of government and non-government emergency and community service agencies.

The BMAPs do not include details for the implementation of risk management treatments. These details will be determined and prioritised by the BMC and stakeholder organisations during the development of strategies and timeframes for undertaking risk treatment works.

Although the BMAPs outline some general principles in relation to monitoring, reviewing and reporting of treatment works, specific details and documentation of monitoring, reviewing and reporting requirements will be determined by the State Bushfire Management Plan, SBCC, BMCs and stakeholder organisations.

It is not currently feasible to risk assess every individual building or parcel of land for inclusion into the FMNY online map. Although some individual privately owned residences, farms, small business etc., are not specifically identified in the Plan's online map by a point, polygon or line, they will still have a level of risk from bushfire. Every landholder has a responsibility to undertake bushfire prevention and preparedness activities relevant to their location and situation.

A formal process for the risk assessment of environmental assets is being developed for application in BMAPs. The CFS and DEWNR are prioritising this work. Data on environmental assets is held in the Biological Databases of South Australia (BDBSA). It is planned to have the completed environmental asset information and related management strategies incorporated in future iterations of the BMAP. ([Refer to Section 4.2.4: Environment](#)).

The BMAP process recognises the rights, interests and obligations of the traditional owners to speak and care for their traditional lands in accordance with their customary laws, beliefs and traditions. However, on the advice of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet – Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD), to prevent damage, disturbance or interference with any Aboriginal site or object, assets of Aboriginal cultural and spiritual significance will not be specifically identified in this iteration of the plan. Further consultation with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken on the methodology for the potential inclusion of assets of Aboriginal significance in the Plan.

Weather conditions play a significant role in the likelihood of a bushfire occurring and its behaviour and intensity should it establish and spread. Information derived from Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather data from October to April for the last 5-7 years for the fire ban districts in each bushfire management area throughout the state has been used with other inputs in determining risk assessment outcomes.

Formulas and data used during risk assessment workshops and in the development of this plan have been based on the best available information at the time of development, and may be subject to change over time as more accurate data and information becomes available.

The FES Act 2005 Section 127 protects stakeholders from liability in relation to the development and implementation of a BMAP. ([Refer to Section 1.3.1: Fire and Emergency Services Act](#) for more information.

1.2.2 Considerations in developing the Bushfire Management Area Plan

The following considerations have been applied in the development of the BMAP:

- Protection and preservation of life
- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets that support community resilience
- Protection of residential property as a place of primary residence
- Protection of assets supporting livelihoods, economic production and community financial sustainability
- Protection of cultural assets
- The development of a formal process for the risk assessment and inclusion of identified environmental and conservation assets into forthcoming updates of the BMAP
- Compliance with relevant Acts and Regulations
- Alignment to Standards and Codes of Practice relevant to bushfires and bushfire planning. Please refer to the section on *Related Documents* at the end of this BMAP for more information.

1.3 Legislation

1.3.1 Fire and Emergency Services Act

A BMAP is a requirement under the *FES Act 2005 Section 73A- Bushfire Management Area Plans*. In particular *Section 73A(1)* requires the BMC to prepare and maintain a BMAP for its area. *Section 73A(3)* outlines that the BMAP must:

- a. *identify existing or potential risks to people and communities within its area from bushfire; and*
- b. *outline strategies to achieve appropriate hazard reduction associated with bushfire management within its area, especially through a coordinated and cooperative approach to bushfire prevention and mitigation; and*
- c. *identify action that should be taken by people, agencies and authorities to achieve appropriate standards of bushfire management within its area; and*
- d. *without limiting points (b) and (c), establish or adopt principles and standards to guide or measure the successful implementation of bushfire management strategies and initiatives; and*
- e. *include or address other matters prescribed by the regulations or specified by the SBCC.*

Sections 73A(4) and 73A(5) direct that the BMAP must be consistent with the State Bushfire Management Plan, and such other plans, policies and strategies as may be prescribed by the regulations.

FES Act 2005 Section 127-Protection from liability provides protection to key stakeholders for information or actions undertaken in relation to BMAPs. In particular, *Section 127(4)* states:

(4) Without limiting subsection (1), no liability attaches to SACFS, the State Bushfire Coordination Committee, a bushfire management committee or a council (or the members of any of them) by virtue of the fact that a bushfire prevention plan—

- (a) has not been prepared under this Act in relation to a particular part of this State; or*
- (b) has been so prepared but has not been implemented, or fully implemented.*

Some examples may include the non-inclusion of an asset into a BMAP that is subsequently lost or damaged in a bushfire, or the inability of asset owners to undertake treatments assigned to assets.

1.3.2 Local Government Act

Section 7 of the Local Government Act 1999 specifies the principle functions of a Council. The functions that are specific to this plan include:

- *Section 7(d): to take measures to protect its area from natural and other hazards and to mitigate the effect of such; and*
- *Section 7(f): to provide infrastructure for its community and for development within its area (including infrastructure that helps to protect any part of the local or broader community from any hazard or other event, or that assists in the management of any area).*

Additionally *Section 8(d) of the Local Government Act 1999* outlines the way in which councils are required to undertake their roles and functions. It specifies the need for consistency of all plans, policies and strategies with Regional, State and National objectives and strategies concerning the economic, social, physical and environmental development and management of the community.

1.3.3 State Emergency Management Act

Section 3 of the Emergency Management Act 2004 (South Australia) specifies that an “emergency means an event (whether occurring in the State, outside the State or in and outside the State) that causes, or threatens to cause:

- a. The death of, or injury or other damage to the health of, any person; or
- b. the destruction of, or damage to, any property; or
- c. a disruption to essential services or to services usually enjoyed by the community; or
- d. harm to the environment, or to flora or fauna

This is not limited to naturally occurring events (such as earthquakes, floods or storms) but would, for example, include fires, explosions, accidents, epidemics, sieges, riots, acts of terrorism or other hostilities directed by an enemy against Australia.”

At a regional level, this plan will provide valuable input into the Zone Emergency Management Plan (ZEMP) in relation to rural fire.

1.3.4 Acts, Codes and Regulations Influencing Bushfire Management Planning

The following are some of the Acts, Codes and Regulations to be considered in developing and undertaking bushfire management planning and practices:

- [Native Vegetation Act 1991 \(SA\) Sections 27 to 29](#)
- [Native Vegetation Regulations 2003 \(SA\) Section 5A-1 and 5\(1\)\(zi\)](#)
- [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 \(Commonwealth\) Section 14, 18 and 269AA](#)
- [Code of Practice for fire management on Public Land in South Australia 2012-2016](#)
- [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 \(SA\)](#)
- [Wilderness Protection Act 1992 \(SA\)](#)
- [Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988](#)
- [Crown Land Management Act 2009 \(SA\)](#)
- [Development Act 1993* and Development Regulations 2008](#)
 - [\(This Act will be repealed by Sch 6 cl 2 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016\).](#)

The implementation of identified risk treatment strategies within this BMAP must comply with the requirements as directed by the above legislation. For example, *Sections 27 to 29 of the Native Vegetation Act 1991* outlines the approvals and circumstances required for the clearance of native vegetation. The *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 section 18* outlines regulation of actions likely to impact nationally-listed species and ecological communities. Therefore any risk treatment actions in this BMAP that may require the clearing of native vegetation or impacts nationally-listed species are still required to comply with these Acts.

2 FLINDERS MID-NORTH YORKE BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

2.1 Location

The FMNY BMAP has been developed for the FMNY BMA region of South Australia. The boundary incorporates the whole of the following council areas: (see map below).

- Adelaide Plains Council
- District Council of Barunga West
- Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
- District Council of the Copper Coast
- The Flinders Ranges Council
- Regional Council of Goyder
- Light Regional Council
- District Council of Mount Remarkable
- Northern Areas Council
- District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
- District Council of Peterborough
- City of Port Augusta
- Port Pirie Regional Council
- Wakefield Regional Council
- District Council of Yorke Peninsula

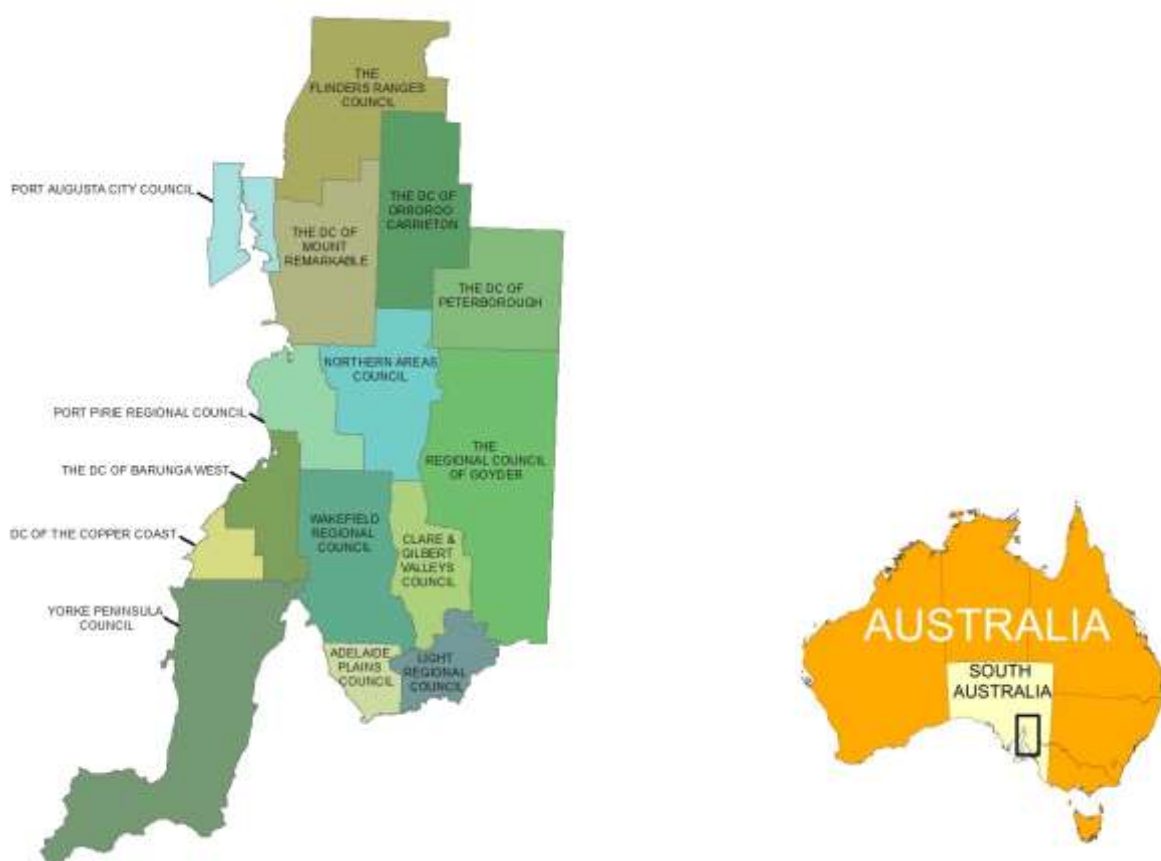


Figure 1: Flinders Mid-North Yorke Bushfire Management Area

2.2 Fire History

The following list contains examples of the years, locations and data of some fires relevant to the FMNY BMA. It is not a definitive list of all fire occurrences within the BMA but provides a guide on the frequency of fires.

Fire history has been considered as part of the risk assessment process.

1960	Yorke Fire – 6,000ha
1960	Flinders Ranges Fire (Wirrabara) – 8,000ha
1965	Clare Fire – 30,000ha
1978	Wilmington Fire – 1,200ha
1983	Clare Valley (Ash Wednesday) – 6,000ha
1987	Maitland Fire – 4,000ha
1988	Wilpena Pound – 11,500ha
1991	Hamley Bridge Fire – 250ha
1994	Marion Bay Fire – 300ha
1995	Stoneleigh Park Fire – 2,300ha
1996	Tarlee Fire – 3,500ha
1998	Marion Bay Fire – 440ha
2001	Arthurton Fire – 210ha
2001	Freeling Fire – 400ha
2002	Yorke Valley Fire– 800ha
2002	Spalding Fire– 400ha
2003	Price Fire – 1,100ha
2004	Curramulka Fire– 500ha
2004	Moonta Fire – 400ha
2004	Curramulka Fire – 150ha
2005	Clare Fire – 200ha
2006	Auburn - 116ha
2006	Robertstown – 600ha
2007	Warooka – 868ha
2007	Edithburgh – 350ha
2007	Foul Bay – 217ha
2014	Bangor Fire – 24 injuries, 35,000ha, 700 sheep, 5 houses, sheds, fencing
2015	Pinery Fire – 2 fatalities, 82,500ha, livestock, 91 houses

2.3 Topography

The topographical features of the FMNY BMA are extremely varied. The following section provides descriptions of these features based on Council areas.

The Flinders Ranges Council area contains open flat plains in some places to undulating hills to rugged mountainous regions.

The Mount Remarkable district exhibits wide extremes of landform with flat plains in the east and west rising abruptly to the rugged Southern Flinders Ranges with deeply dissected terrain.

The Port Augusta district comprises gently undulating land arising from the coastal area to high lands on either side of the Spencer Gulf. The area extends in an easterly direction to the foothills of the Flinders Ranges and in the west, Whyalla and Lincoln Gap.

The Port Pirie Regional Council area is bound by the Spencer Gulf in the west and the Southern Flinders Ranges to the east. It is dissected by National Highway One and the Pirie to Pt Broughton Highway, which both run in a north – south direction. There are four rivers running in an east – west direction and the railway line Adelaide – Darwin runs parallel to the National Highway One.

The Orroroo Carrieton area has large open plains running through the centre with low to steep very rough hilly areas over the rest of the district.

The Peterborough district is characterised by flat and undulating agricultural and natural plains.

The Northern Areas Council comprises the Southern Flinders Ranges and the Northern Mt Lofty Ranges in the mid north of the state. The Narien Range to the central north east, Browns Hill and Camels Hump Range, running north south on the eastern boundary, determines the eastern boundary of the area. The centre of the Council area is divided by the Yackamoorundie, Bundaleer Hills and Campbell Hill Ranges.

The Barunga West area is generally flat and undulating countryside bordered on the eastern side by the Hummock Ranges with steep hills and parts inaccessible. Areas close to townships are flat.

The District Council of the Copper Coast is situated at the upper part of the Yorke Peninsula. The landform is generally flat to gently undulating. The western coastal area displays a considerable variety of land forms, ranging from mangrove fringed saline flats to low cliffs with small sandy bays. There is a complete absence of watercourses in this area.

The majority of the District Council of Yorke Peninsula is undulating with the highest area of the district traversing north and south through the centre. There is a reasonably small area of very steep slopes known as the Hummocks. The western coastlines are naturally very sandy with steep sand hills and the eastern coastline differs with only small areas of sand dunes. The coast at the bottom of the Peninsula consists of steep cliffs in some areas interspersed with sandy beaches.

The land in the Regional Council of Goyder area varies from very hilly and undulating country in the west to flat open plains in the east. It is in the northern Mt Lofty Ranges with numerous watercourses present.

The Clare and Gilbert Valley Council area is situated in the Northern Mount Lofty Ranges. A series of generally longitudinal steep ranges are located within the district with slightly undulating valleys in between. Four main rivers traverse the district, all of which have flooded at various times.

The topography of the Wakefield Regional Council area is essentially flat to undulating. The western boundary includes coastal land adjacent to the head of St Vincent Gulf running north to the south Hummocks

Range and the Barunga Range. The eastern boundary has the Light and Gilbert Rivers merging and circling Hamley Bridge and runs north along the Northern Mt Lofty Ranges near Clare. A series of salt lakes and bushland run north to south through the area adjacent to a low range of sandy hills.

The topography in the Light Regional Council area varies widely. Extending into the northern portion of the district are the Light Range (commonly known as the Bethal Ranges) and the Nain Range with a narrow valley between. There are slightly undulating plains covering the rest of the area.

The Adelaide Plains Council is situated within an area of the northern Adelaide plains and the western boundary terminates at the coastline of the Gulf of St Vincent. The land is mainly open and flat becoming slightly undulating towards the eastern boundary with areas of native vegetation scattered throughout. There are two main watercourses, the Gawler and Light Rivers and a smaller creek, Salt Creek, which traverses the Gawler River flood plain.

2.4 Water Catchments

Together with a number of smaller facilities and underground storages, SA Water manages three reservoir reserves in the Flinders-Mid North region- Bundaleer, Beetaloo and Baroota. All of these reservoirs are currently offline and do not supply potable water but are retained as contingency supply.

Baroota

The Baroota Reservoir is located on a creek of the same name. Its catchment area is approximately 130 km². This sub-catchment is known simply as the Baroota Reservoir sub-catchment and is part of the wider Mambray Coast catchment. The reservoir is also able to receive water from the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline (River Murray). Most of the Baroota Reservoir sub-catchment is outside and to the east of the reservoir reserve boundary.

Beetaloo

The Beetaloo Reservoir is located on the Crystal Brook. Its catchment area is approximately 47.5 km² which is entirely within the bounds of the reservoir reserve. This sub-catchment is known as the Beetaloo Reservoir sub-catchment of the wider Broughton River catchment. Most of this sub-catchment is under remnant native vegetation in good to excellent condition.

Bundaleer

The Bundaleer Reservoir is located on a tributary of the Bundaleer Creek. It receives water from the main Bundaleer Creek via a diversion channel. This is part of a wider network of concrete lined channels known as the Spalding Channels which divert water from three sub-catchments of the Broughton River catchment. Those sub-catchments are the Bundaleer, Never Never and Baderloo Creeks sub-catchment, Freshwater creek sub-catchment and the Booborowie and Gum Creeks sub-catchment. Together with a small local sub-catchment contained entirely within the reservoir reserve, the total area of catchment for the reservoir is 1663 km².

2.5 Land Tenure

- Private ownership – residential and industrial/commercial and conservation including *Vegetation Heritage Agreements under the Native Vegetation Act 1991*.
- Council managed areas
- SA Water
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR)
- Commonwealth and State Crown lands
- Aboriginal managed lands
- Pastoral Leases
- Mining Licenses

2.6 Land Use

The following list outlines some of the main types of land uses in the FMNY BMA:

- Agriculture
- Viticulture
- Pastoralism
- Mining
- Conservation
- Tourism
- Industrial
- Residential
- Wind Farms
- Water courses, storage and catchments

The type of land use may influence a range of bushfire issues such as chances of ignitions, ability of bushfire to establish and spread, opportunities for suppression and the risk treatments applied to reduce bushfire risk and impact. Although there are multiple land uses and land owners across FMNY, broader bushfire issues and risk treatments will be assessed and applied using a tenure blind approach to bushfire management planning.

2.7 Climate

2.7.1 Temperature

The hottest months are December, January and February with temperatures averaging around 30°C, however, temperatures over 35°C and exceeding 40°C are common. Generally, the further north and inland areas experience the hottest temperatures compared to more southerly coastal areas. The hottest parts of the day are generally just before noon to late afternoon with temperatures cooling during the night. Sea breezes can however start reducing temperatures considerably in coastal areas by early afternoon.

2.7.2 Wind and Weather Patterns

Winds across South Australia are generally from the North – North East during the summer months and it is not uncommon for a late afternoon wind change from the South West. Well defined sea breezes can occur in coastal areas and may have some influence further inland. Winds are influenced by topography causing the strength and direction to be localised in some circumstances.

A frequent summer weather pattern of great concern to firefighters and the community is during the strong northerly winds carrying hot dry air combined with a frontal change causing winds to swing around to come from the west and/or become much stronger, unstable and gusty from several directions. When fires start and become established under such conditions they may rapidly increase in size and may be difficult to control. In certain conditions fires become uncontrollable, meaning that protection of life and asset protection becomes the priority until conditions abate.

Another concern to firefighters and the community are dry summer thunderstorms. Although thunderstorms are more prevalent in spring, the type of season under climate variability will mean they can be dry, with strong variable winds and dry lightning causing ignitions that establish and spread into significant bushfires.

2.7.3 Rainfall

Rainfall varies throughout the BMA with the lower rainfall generally being recorded in the more northerly areas with an average of 230mm and the higher rainfall in the Mount Lofty Ranges with an annual average of 450mm. Most of the rainfall occurs in the winter months of May to mid-August. Late spring and early summer rains may occur some seasons promoting a late growth of fine fuels and therefore potentially increasing fire fuel loads.

2.7.4 The Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change is having direct environmental impacts on water resources, primary production, infrastructure, flora, fauna and the health of our landscapes. Climate change factors are also contributing to increases in bushfire frequency and intensity resulting from;

- Longer fire seasons
- Less opportunities for hazard reduction burns
- Record hot and dry conditions
- More extreme and catastrophic fire danger days
- Severe weather events (dry lightning thunderstorms, sudden wind shifts)
- Reduced soil moisture
- Increase evaporation
- More demand for decreasing stocks of water

Additional information on climate change impacts can be found in the following websites:

[Bureau of Meteorology: Climate Change and Variability](#)

[Climate Change in Australia](#)

2.8 Fire Ban District and Bushfire Season

The FMNY BMA encompasses the Flinders, Mid-North and Yorke Peninsula Fire Ban Districts (FBD). Fire Danger Season (FDS) dates are set annually by the CFS Chief Officer based on a range of information and following consultation with the FMNY BMC.

2.9 Population

The major regional centres are Port Augusta and Port Pirie followed by Kadina. There are numerous coastal townships and settlements that have small populations, which fluctuate seasonally. During the summer months of the year the populations in these settlements increase significantly. The Yorke Peninsula has 48% of ratepayers with non-local postal addresses and 52% local postal addresses which indicates that only half of the population is permanent residence, with a huge influx of people around holiday periods mostly in the warmer months. There is a transient population of tourists that visit the Clare wine growing region throughout the year regardless of the weather. There are bush walking and tourism attractions also in the North Mount Lofty Ranges and Southern Flinders Ranges area. Due to the agricultural and horticultural practices within the BMA there are small settlements that exist out from the major centres with the agricultural population spread throughout on farm land.

3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 State Bushfire Coordinating Committee

The *FES Act 2005 Section 71A* outlines the functions of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC). Some of these functions include:

- a. promoting the State-wide coordination and integration of policies, practices and strategies relating to bushfire management activities;
- b. providing guidance, direction and advice to bushfire management committees;
- c. preparing and reviewing the State Bushfire Management Plan and to keep under review the extent to which Bushfire Management Area Plans and strategies adopted or applied by bushfire management committees are consistent with the State Bushfire Management Plan;
- d. approving and auditing Bushfire Management Area Plans prepared and endorsed by Bushfire Management Committees.

3.2 Flinders Mid-North Yorke Bushfire Management Committee

The FMNY BMC has been established by the SBCC under the *FES Act 2005*, and under *Section 73A(1)* of this Act must prepare and maintain a BMAP for its BMA. This plan takes an unbiased landscape view of the strategic bushfire management needs of the BMA and is, therefore, boundary and tenure blind.

The key function of the FMNY BMC is to coordinate all relevant stakeholders with a responsibility for bushfire management within the BMA, to undertake a risk assessment process, and oversee the implementation of risk mitigation strategies. The purpose of this process is to reduce the risk of fire negatively impacting on life, property, and the environment in accordance with the *FES Act 2005*. The role and responsibility of FMNY BMC will include:

- a. Promoting the coordination of policies, practices and strategies relating to bushfire management activities within its area;
- b. Preparing and keeping under review a BMAP for its area and ensuring that the BMAP is consistent with the State Bushfire Management Plan;
- c. Overseeing implementation of its BMAP and reporting to the SBCC;
- d. Initiating or preparing the development of plans, policies, practices or strategies to promote effective bushfire management within its area;
- e. Convening with local or regional forums to discuss issues associated with bushfire management within its area, including working with local communities to promote and improve effective bushfire management;
- f. In the exercising and performance of their powers and functions:
 - i. Having due regard to the impact of their actions on the environment; and
 - ii. Seeking to achieve a proper balance between bushfire prevention and proper land management in the country; and
- g. Performing any other functions assigned by the Minister or the SBCC.

3.3 Bushfire Management Committee Member Organisations

BMC member organisations are responsible for:

- a. Contributing to the decision-making of the Committee
- b. Preparing and implementing action or work plans to address relevant risk treatments or issues identified in the plan
- c. Ensuring input into the planning process by their BMC representatives
- d. Providing information and make decisions on bushfire management planning issues within the area
- e. Reviewing the Bushfire Management Area Plan information and drafts and make amendments if required
- f. Determining methodologies for community and public consultation on key components of the BMAP
- g. Assessing and endorsing BMAP updates or changes.

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for a list of the FMNY BMC member organisations.

3.4 Community

Bushfire prevention and preparedness is a shared responsibility of the State government, local councils and fire agencies, individuals, landholders and building managers (public and private), and the broader community. All persons in the FMNY BMA are responsible for the mitigation of the bushfire risk for themselves, their neighbours and their community, and therefore need to understand and partake in bushfire prevention and preparedness. This is especially relevant to the protection of life and the property and environmental assets not specifically identified, mapped or risk rated within this BMAP.

In particular, legislation (*FES Act 2005*) states that owners of land must take reasonable steps:

- a) to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on the land; and
- b) to prevent or inhibit the spread of fire through the land; and
- c) to protect property on the land from fire; and
- d) to minimise the threat to human life from a fire on the land

To ensure that the community is observing these bushfire prevention and management activities, Local Government Fire Prevention Officers within the FMNY BMA are required by the *FES Act 2005* to assess the extent of bushfire hazards within the council area, and provide advice to land holders and work with communities on bushfire prevention and preparedness. Where necessary, Fire Prevention Officers can enforce the provisions of the *FES Act 2005* on private land.

People camping, hiking or utilising wilderness areas, nature reserves, conservation and recreation parks (environmental assets) must recognise they are at risk from bushfire in many of these areas because of factors that may include heavy fuel vegetation loads and limited access and egress. Risk treatment measures may be in place in some areas with the aim of reducing the risk to life, such as signage and park closure policies on Total Fire Ban days. Many of these environmental assets will be included in future versions of this BMAP ([Refer to Section 4.2.4: Environment](#)).

Information relevant to all members of the community on bushfire prevention and preparedness can be found on the following link: http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/resources/fact_sheets.jsp

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is undertaken as assets are identified for inclusion into the online mapping and Risk Register. The risk assessment process can be applied to cover the risks to structures, property and life within built assets. A process for determining risk outcomes for environmental assets is being developed and will be used to include environmental assets in subsequent updates of the FMNY BMAP.

The risk rating outcomes for assets currently identified in this Plan are determined using a number of inputs (risk drivers). Some of these include:

- Susceptibility of assets and people
- Vegetation type and its distance from the asset
- Predominant slope of the vegetation in relation to the asset
- Access and/or egress to and from the asset
- Frequency of ignitions in the general area of the asset

Risk drivers for each asset are contained in the extended version of the asset spreadsheet which is available from the CFS Bushfire Management Planning Unit.

4.1 Assets at Risk from Bushfire

The range of assets identified and assessed for their risk from bushfire in this BMAP has been sourced from local councils, infrastructure agencies, business groups, SA Government agencies, FMNY BMC working groups, CFS, community groups and web based geospatial resources.

The life and property assets are geographically identified and presented with a coloured risk rating as either, a point, line or polygon in the [online bushfire risk map](#) that forms part of this plan. This plan also includes a table listing all relevant information relating to the risks, as well as existing and proposed risk treatment strategies associated with each asset. The planning process allows for a single repository for all current and future assessments to be managed and maintained within the FMNY BMA.

The assets considered within this current plan are divided into four classes: Human Settlement, Economic, Cultural Heritage and Environmental. Environmental assets will be added to the plan at a later date ([Refer to Section 1.2.1: Constraints, Assumptions and Exclusions](#)). Each of these asset classes are further broken down into asset categories as shown in **Table 1**.

Asset Class	Asset Category
Human Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential • Special Fire Protection • Other
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Commercial or Industrial
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Historic • Other
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora • Fauna • Ecological communities (Refer to Section 4.2.4: Environment)

Table 1: Asset Classes and Categories included in the Bushfire Management Area Plan

4.1.1 Human Settlement

Human Settlement assets are those assets which are likely to be occupied by people and may be at risk from bushfire. Therefore, there is the potential for the loss of human life.

4.1.2 Economic

Economic assets considered within this plan are those of significance to the economy at all scales, and are at risk from the impact of bushfire. They include commercial and industrial sites, and infrastructure providing utilities such as energy, water, transport and telecommunications.

4.1.3 Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage assets identified in this plan include those of significant cultural value, post 1836, when non-Aboriginal people moved in to the Region. This category will also include assets that are of local community value including halls, churches, institutes and recreational facilities. [Refer to Section 1.2.1: Constraints, Assumptions and Exclusions](#) regarding assets of Aboriginal cultural and spiritual significance.

4.1.4 Environmental

The development of a risk assessment process and related management strategies specific to environmental assets is still being undertaken by major stakeholders. [\(Refer to Section 1.2.1: Constraints, Assumptions and Exclusions, and Section 4.2.4: Environment\)](#). No risk mitigation treatment should be undertaken in native vegetation until these environmental assets have been identified through an environmental assessment process.

4.1.5 Assets and Areas not risk rated

Land, assets, communities or people who are not specifically identified or mapped within this BMAP may still have a level of bushfire risk. This is particularly relevant to the more sparsely populated areas outside of rural townships. Landholders in the FMNY BMA, including people and asset owners not risk rated, have a responsibility to undertake bushfire prevention and preparedness activities relevant to their location and situation.

4.1.6 Bushfire Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges

The terminology and separate categories previously referred to as the Bushfire Safer Settlement and Bushfire Safer Precincts have now been consolidated to a single category of Bushfire Safer Places. The terminology and category of Last Resort Refuge has remained unchanged.

The BMAP process may identify changes to Bushfire Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges such as an expansion of a township. This may result in the BMC requesting a reassessment based on these changes.

4.2 Bushfire Risk Assessment

The risk assessment framework utilised in the development of a BMAP analyses a range of inputs to determine the potential likelihood of a bushfire igniting, establishing and spreading to assets, and the potential consequence (impact) to those assets. Combining the likelihood with the consequence provides the overall risk rating for an asset or area. [Refer to Section 4.2.5: Risk Ratings.](#)



Figure 2: Bushfire Risk Diagram

4.2.1 Weather Context

When the bushfire risk assessment was undertaken for this plan, the weather conditions taken into consideration were BOM weather data over the fire danger season period for the last 5-7 years for each Fire Ban District.

The required weather input for the risk assessment process includes:

- Air temperature (°C)
- Relative humidity (%)
- Wind speed (Km/h) at a height of 10 metres
- Drought factor (BOM)
- Soil Dryness Index (SDI)

The weather context assumes a fire danger rating (FDR) of Extreme, typically characterised by fully cured fuels, high temperatures, low relative humidity, high winds and a total fire ban day.

4.2.2 Likelihood

In determining the likelihood of a bushfire igniting and spreading and impacting an asset the following inputs are considered:

- Australian Incident Reporting System (AIRS) data from SACFS for known ignitions to gain an understanding of fires that have occurred.
- Current land use data across the State to assist in determining vegetation layers and activities associated with land use that could be potential ignition sources.
- Historical evidence of past bushfires and scarring across the landscape.
- The type of vegetation within the landscape.

Inputs include Bureau of Meteorology data relating to local weather conditions within the FMNY BMA, vegetation classification and fuel structures to undertake basic fire behaviour modelling.

4.2.3 Consequence

The term “Consequence” for the purpose of this plan applies only to the asset itself. It means “what will happen to the asset if it is impacted by a bushfire?” For example will it burn down, will it cease to function, will people be injured etc.? It does not refer to the wider level social, financial or business continuity consequences of losing the asset. These wider level consequences are to be considered following direction from the State Bushfire Management Planning process which is reviewing major risks to the state using the *National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG)*. Related actions and treatments will be considered in the implementation phase of the Bushfire Management Area Plans.

The elements that contribute to the consequence of a bushfire on an asset are the *Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)* (measuring the radiant heat) and either the *susceptibility of occupants in human settlement assets* or *susceptibility of built structures*.

Bushfire Attack Level (Radiant Heat)

Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) is a measure of the radiant heat a building or structure is expected to be subjected to in the event of a bushfire on a day of Extreme FDR. This process is used by the AS3959 *Australian Standard* for the construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas in that buildings are rated to certain BALs.

The BAL is determined by classifying the type of vegetation around the building, the distance of the vegetation from the building, the slope of the land around the vicinity of the building. The higher the BAL, the higher the radiant heat will be at that site during a bushfire. The aim should be to maintain assets below a BAL of 12.5 Kw/m² thereby eliminating the ignition of the structure from radiant heat. It should be noted that this Standard does not take into account the potential impact of spark and ember on structures.

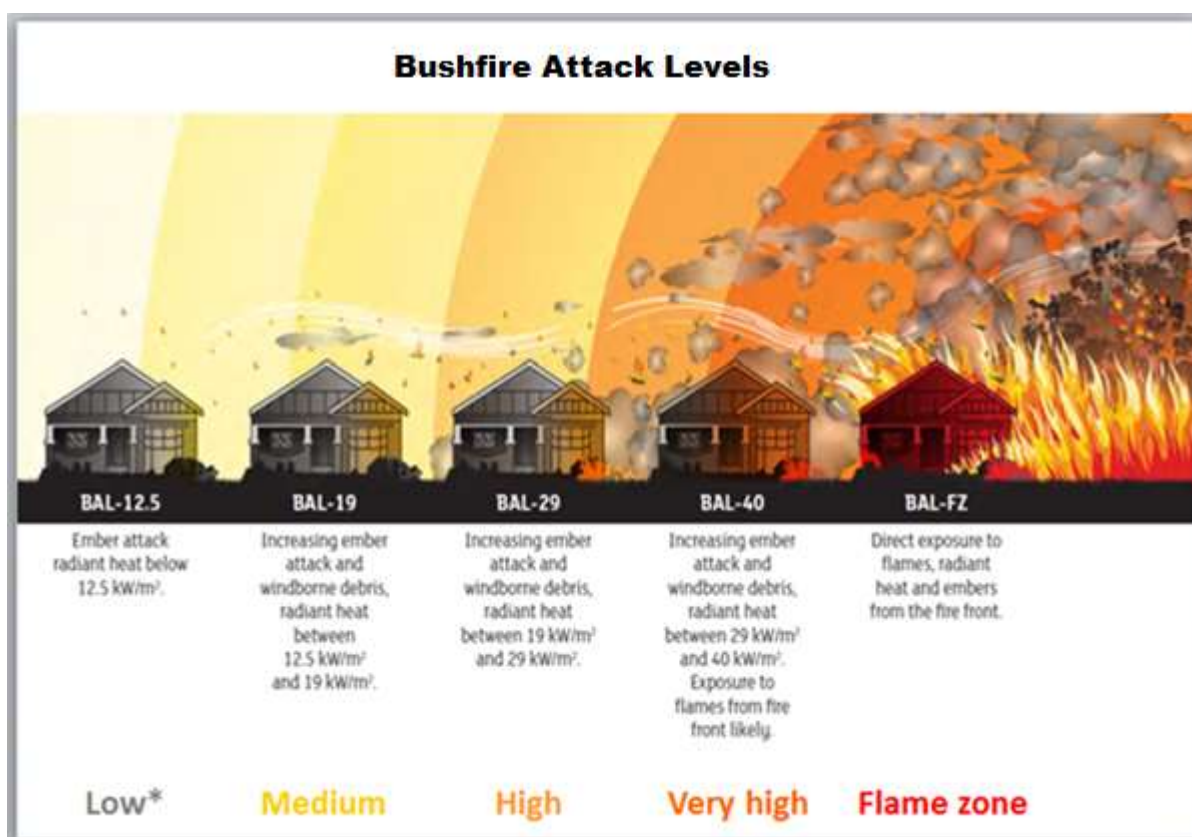


Figure 3: Bushfire Attack Levels

Susceptibility of Human Settlement Assets

This assessment refers to the susceptibility of the building occupants to bushfire and therefore, the potential for the loss of human life. It is not the assessment of the structures or the built environment.

This assessment is based on the combination of three elements: the people who live in the area, the preparedness level of the assets and environmental factors. For example, a rural community with a very active Community Fire Safe Group, well prepared properties and a well maintained bushfire buffer zone will have a reduced susceptibility.

Susceptibility of Built Structures (Economic and Cultural Heritage Assets)

The susceptibility of a built structure being adversely impacted by bushfire is dependent on the type of construction and material used as well as its general condition. For example, concrete water tanks or steel towers have a very low susceptibility, whereas a heritage timber barn would have a very high susceptibility.

4.2.4 Environment

The FMNY BMC and the SBCC acknowledge the importance of including environmental assets in bushfire risk management. However, a formal process for the risk assessment of identified environmental assets vulnerable to bushfire is not complete at the time of this plan's initial release. The assessment process and inclusion of environmental assets will occur in subsequent updates of this BMAP. Any identification and assessment of risk levels and risk treatment strategies for environmental assets must include a determination of potential impacts on significant species and ecological communities. Prior to the addition of these assets and related information into the BMAP, a six week period of public consultation will be undertaken to enable input and comment from interested organisations, groups and individuals. [\(Refer to Section 1.2.1: Constraints, Assumptions and Inclusions\)](#). The process will include a review of property asset risk treatments that may have environmental impacts in order to minimise these impacts without compromising community safety.

Environmental assets are located throughout the BMA, and are not limited to formal protected areas. While DEWNR Fire Management Plans provide strategic fire management direction for DEWNR-managed lands and certain privately owned Vegetation Heritage Agreements, they do not consider all tenure types, as required for BMAPs. DEWNR is currently developing a risk assessment process which will include environmental assets on both public and private land.

Environmental assets that may be considered in a subsequent risk assessment include:

- Large areas of native vegetation – these areas are important for biodiversity conservation (e.g. providing habitat), and may be made up of formally protected reserves, Crown lands, other lands managed by government agencies, roadside vegetation, private protected areas (Vegetation Heritage Agreements under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*), and other private lands.
- Native species and ecological communities of conservation significance. 'Of conservation significance' is used to describe rated populations or species of flora and fauna as well as vegetation communities. These may be:
 - Nationally rated, that is, listed as Threatened (with a rating of Extinct, Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable) under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
 - South Australian rated, listed as Threatened (with a rating of Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare) under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, Schedules 7, 8 and 9*.
 - Provisionally listed as Threatened (with a rating of Endangered or Vulnerable) in South Australia, that is, included on the unpublished *DEWNR Provisional List of Threatened Ecosystems of South Australia* (Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) 2005b).
- Significant habitat elements (e.g. tree hollows)

Secondary risks to the environment (e.g. the environmental impacts caused by risk mitigation activities) will also be considered, including:

- Fire frequencies outside of Ecological Fire Management Guidelines
- Introduction of threats or conditions favourable to abundant or pest species (e.g. weeds, phytophthora, herbivores).

Further information for the management of natural resources in South Australia can be found on the DEWNR website. The following links to Managing Natural Resources and to Fire Management provide a range of information on stakeholders, responsibilities, strategies and actions in protecting and managing natural resources and managing fire:

- <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources>
- <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/firemanagement/Home>

4.2.5 Risk Ratings

Table 2 below shows a standard risk rating matrix. It combines the likelihood and consequence scales previously described to assign a level to each risk in terms of Low, Medium, High, Very High or Extreme. For example, the likelihood of bushfire igniting and establishing in saltbush and sparse grassland is *Unlikely*, and if it did manage to spread to a concrete water tank, the consequence to the water tank would be *Minor*. This would result in a risk rating of *Low* (*Refer to Table 2: Overall Risk Rating Matrix*). However a bushfire igniting and spreading in woodland is *Likely* and if it spread to an adjacent caravan park the consequence to the caravans and the people would be *Catastrophic*. This would result in a risk rating of *Extreme*. These risk ratings can be used as a guide in determining the level of priority for allocating and implementing risk treatment strategies. Although this method is very common, it is limited by only representing two dimensions of the risk; the likelihood and consequence. Considerations also need to be given to the type of asset being impacted by a bushfire, the level of risk that may be considered acceptable and whether a desired risk level can be maintained or is achievable through current or proposed mitigation strategies. For example, a nursing home rated high may be a much higher priority for risk treatments than a communication tower rated as extreme.

		Consequence			
		Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Likelihood	Almost Certain				
	Likely				
	Possible				
	Unlikely				
	<div></div> Low	<div></div> Medium	<div></div> High	<div></div> Very High	<div></div> Extreme

Assets at almost no risk from bushfire may be marked as:  N/A

Table 2: Overall Risk Rating Matrix

Risk Rating Explanations

When interpreting the overall risk rating for each asset it is important to understand that these results provide a scale only by which one risk can be compared to another. They are derived through assessing specific risk criteria to determine the likelihood of a bushfire threatening an asset and the level of impact or consequence to an asset from the hazardous vegetation should it be ignited by bushfire. The definition for each overall risk rating is as follows:

N/A

Properties and assets are constructed of materials that are unlikely to be impacted by bushfire and/or vegetation is at a significant distance away or virtually absent from the surrounding landscape.

Low

Properties and assets are well prepared or defensible from the potential impacts from a bushfire should a bushfire approach. Surrounding vegetation is either likely to be a significant distance away or of low levels.

Medium

Properties and assets are likely to be defensible with little preparation, although surrounding vegetation or topography still poses some risk.

High

Properties and assets that are not prepared for a bushfire or don't have adequate firefighting amenities and separation distance are susceptible to the impacts of bushfire which is likely to reach assets with surrounding vegetation and topography fuelling fire intensity and behaviour.

Very High

Properties and assets require special consideration to the impacts of bushfire. Bushfires are likely to be able to reach assets with high intensity with only low expectations of being able to defend assets.

Extreme

Assets and properties are highly susceptible with heavy ember attack and likely flame contact from nearby flammable materials. There are limited options for safe egress or areas for the ability to be able to defend a property from the effects of a bushfire due to continuous or dense vegetation or challenging topography.

5 RISK TREATMENT STRATEGIES

Bushfires cannot be eliminated from the landscape; however a combination of risk treatment strategies can be applied to reduce either the likelihood and/or impact of bushfire and to increase community resilience, enhance the ability of firefighting agencies to access and suppress bushfires, limit the spread of bushfire, and protect people, assets and the environment.

Risk treatments are activities used to modify the characteristics of a hazard to reduce either the likelihood and/or consequence of bushfire on an asset. The FMNY BMC will allocate mitigating risk treatment strategies to reduce the risk to assets within the FMNY BMA. To facilitate this, the SBCC has endorsed risk treatment strategies that include both asset specific and BMA wide risk treatments.

For a full list of all risk treatments strategies please refer to [Section 5.3 Risk Treatment Strategies Suite](#).

5.1 Asset Specific Risk Treatment Strategies

Asset specific risk treatment strategies are allocated to mitigate individual risks within the BMAP Risk Treatment Register and are designed to mitigate specific elements of the risk i.e. the radiant heat, susceptibility of the asset to sparks and embers, the intensity of the bushfire and/or the potential of a bushfire starting and establishing. Asset specific risk treatment strategies are allocated to asset owners and/or land managers that are responsible and will assist in documenting in their work plans, details of actions and timeframes.

Some examples of asset specific risk treatments include:

- Property preparedness by ember proofing and clearing debris around a building
- Asset Protection Zone (APZ) of modified vegetation in and around an electrical substation
- Bushfire Buffer Zone (BBZ) of modified vegetation in a nature park immediately adjacent to a nursing home
- Bushfire Prevention Activities such as collaboration between landholders, council fire prevention officers and other agencies regarding property preparedness.

For a copy of the list of specific risk treatments allocated to individual assets, please contact the CFS BMPU.

A new Standard is under development regarding the guideline for creating and maintaining APZs, BBZs and Conservation Zones.

For further information on APZs, BBZs and Conservation Zones please refer to page 20 of the following web-based document:

[*Managing Native Vegetation - Reduce the Impact of Bushfire Sept 2009*](#)

5.2 Bushfire Management Area Wide Risk Treatment Strategies

BMA wide risk treatments are the overarching bushfire prevention and preparedness activities that are applied to mitigate the occurrence, spread and consequence of bushfire to a number of assets, across selected areas, or throughout the whole BMA.

They broadly address the bushfire risk to assets and, thereby, reduce the overall level of bushfire risk in the BMA. Each of the risk treatment strategies will reduce either the likelihood and/or the consequence of bushfire depending on the targeted outcome of the programme.

BMA wide risk treatments may include legislative requirements, policies and programs of firefighting agencies, fuel hazard reduction, fire management planning, development and building regulations in fire prone areas, arson prevention programmes, and community engagement and education about bushfires.

Some examples include:

- National and State Legislation, Policies, Guidelines and Codes such as the *South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations 2005*, that includes applicable fuel management requirements, firebreak standards and annual enforcement programmes
- State and local planning frameworks such as the State Bushfire Management Plan, Flinders Mid North Yorke Bushfire Management Area Plan, local Council roadside vegetation management strategies
- DEWNR, SA Water and Forestry SA fire management policies and plans which sets out a range of mitigation strategies to minimise the impact of bushfire on built and environmental assets
- CFS state-wide preparedness campaigns, partnerships and community engagement programmes, and management of Fire Danger Seasons, Fire Danger Ratings, Permits and Total Fire Bans
- Department of Education and Childhood Development policies and procedures for schools at risk from bushfires
- Building Code of Australia and State based Minister's Specifications
- SA Police Operation Nomad

A significant and effective component of BMA wide risk treatments is the management of vegetation (often referred to as "landscape risk treatments"). The BMAP promotes a risk based approach in identifying areas where risk treatments to manage vegetation will reduce bushfire consequences to life, property and the environment. Landscape risk treatments to manage vegetation may involve the use of fuel reduction strategies such as prescribed burning, mechanical removal of vegetation or weed spraying depending on operational practicality, environmental factors and ecological impacts.

Landscape risk treatments can form broader strategic breaks, such as bushfire buffer zones, with the aim of managing and/or reducing the overall fuel hazard across strategic areas to enhance suppression capability and therefore reduce the risk of fire moving between large or distinct areas of high fuel. Landscape risk treatments also aim to reduce the risk of a bushfire impacting asset clusters such as townships or human

settlement areas rather than individual residences. Examples of landscape risk treatments in the FNMY BMA are the prescribed burns program on Government managed land in Southern Flinders Ranges (including land managed by SA Water and Forestry SA), and on reserves of lower Yorke Peninsula and Mid-North. An example of a prescribed burn risk treatment are the burns in Innes National Park that complement and link areas of existing low fuel across Marion Lake, Snow Lake, Spider Lake and Chain of Lakes to mitigate the spread of bushfire into or out of Innes National Park, and reduce the bushfire risk to the Marion Bay settlement.

Landscape risk treatment works are developed and implemented with consideration to all environmental and ecological issues and in accordance with required approvals such as the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

5.2.1 Water Catchment Area Risk Treatments

Risk treatment strategies for water catchments are outlined in SA Water's Fire Management Plans. They focus on reservoir reserve areas and include slashing, mechanical thinning/clearing and prescribed burning. Any burning within the catchment is carefully planned and monitored to ensure no impact on water quality. Strategies engaged include avoidance of burning within creek lines, avoiding high intensity burns and, if required, installing erosion control structures immediately following a prescribed burn. Treatments for these areas may be considered BMA wide and/or landscape treatments.

5.3 Risk Treatment Strategies Suite

5.3.1 Property Preparedness

Property preparedness relates to action taken by landholders to reduce the risk of bushfire impacting on a house or other buildings. The primary focus of property preparedness should be the reduction of fuel hazards around the property and the elimination of ignition sources in areas surrounding or on structures, by:

- reducing or removing hazardous and fine vegetation fuels (long grass, dried leaves, shrubs etc.)
- removing other flammable materials and liquids
- reducing the risk of impact from windblown burning embers, flame contact and intense heat radiated from bushfires.

If the occupants plan to stay and defend their home during a bushfire, having a well prepared property is essential.

The following CFS webpage includes information and fact sheets on property preparedness and asset protection zones:

- http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/resources/fact_sheets.jsp

5.3.2 Asset Protection Zones

An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is a fuel reduced area surrounding a built asset or structure, which is managed to minimize fuel loads, inhibit fire travel and reduce the effects of heat, flame, ember and smoke attack on the asset. Radiant heat is the most common cause of death during bushfires and affects people (health and decision making), animals and structures, whilst ember attack on properties is the leading cause of house loss during a bushfire. Introducing an APZ will provide separation between a bushfire hazard and the asset, minimising direct flame contact, reducing the effects of radiant heat and reducing ember attack. This may apply to a group of similar residential properties or along a boundary where the hazard exists, commercial or industrial asset or infrastructure. It may also be used within the boundary of a property to form part of a property's preparedness activities. The required separation distance between vegetation and asset for an APZ is specified in the SBCC APZ Standard which is based on the process defined in the *Australian Standard AS 3959* for building in bushfire prone areas. Under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, property owners can generally reduce, modify or remove native vegetation within 20m of a building (including overhanging limbs). Significant trees may be protected in some council areas under the *Development Act 1993*.

5.3.3 Bushfire Buffer Zones

An area of managed or reduced bushfire fuel that acts as a Bushfire Buffer Zone (BBZ) aims to provide a buffer to reduce the spread, intensity, ember attack and potential spotting from a bushfire. The works associated with the establishment of a BBZ are focussed on selectively reducing the amount of fine fuel vegetation by means of mechanical removal or prescribed burning. These zones minimise continuous fuel structures between surface, near surface, elevated and canopy fuels.

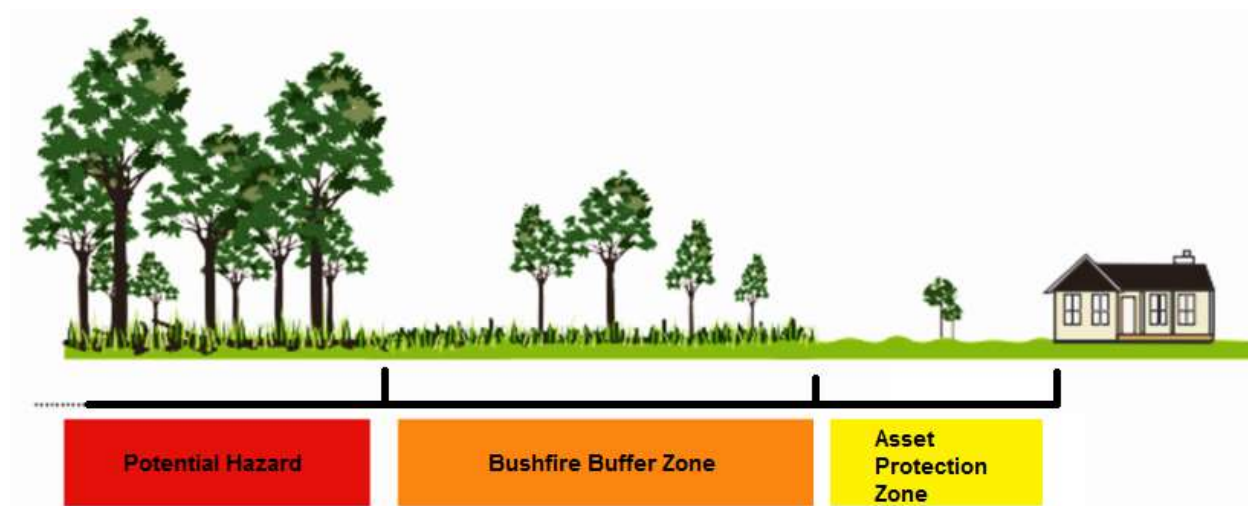


Figure 4: Asset and Bushfire Buffer Zones

5.3.4 Bushfire Prevention Activities Conducted by a Council Fire Prevention Officer

Councils and Fire Prevention Officers undertake fire prevention activities as outlined in the *South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations 2005*. Bushfire prevention activities undertaken by Fire Prevention Officer include:

- assessing the extent of bushfire hazards within the relevant council area;
- assisting the council in providing advice and information to any bushfire management committee whose area incorporates any part of the relevant council area in connection with the preparation or review of the committee's Bushfire Management Area Plan;
- providing advice to owners of property in respect of bushfire prevention and management;
- carrying out any other functions assigned to the Fire Prevention Officer by the regulations.

5.3.5 Community Engagement

Community education and engagement activities can extend from simple information provision to extended training and empowerment programmes. These activities can be, and are, undertaken by many different groups (CFS, MFS, local councils, SAPOL, Primary Producers SA, Red Cross, etc.). The type of programme or information that needs to be provided is dependent on the audience and their level or risk. Research has shown that information provision on its own, whilst important, does not lead to a sufficient level of planning and preparation for bushfires. Community engagement programmes have the potential to achieve positive outcomes at both the individual (resident, household, etc.) and community levels, provided they are planned, well implemented and resourced appropriately.

5.3.6 Firebreaks and Fire Access Tracks

Firebreaks and fire access tracks are strategic fire management works which may be implemented as measures to assist with bushfire mitigation or suppression. The standard for firebreaks and tracks has been defined in the *South Australian Firebreaks, Fire Access Tracks and Sign Standards Guidelines (2015 Government Agencies Fire Management Working Group GAFMWG)* and was endorsed by the SBCC.

A firebreak is an area or strip of land where vegetation has been removed or modified to reduce the intensity and rate of spread of fire that may occur. A fire access track is designed, constructed and maintained for the safe passage of firefighting vehicles undertaking fire suppression activities. Whilst firebreaks and fire tracks may be constructed or designed for a specific purpose, it does not necessarily exclude a fire track to also act as a fire break, or vice versa, in some instances. See the [GAFMWG](#) Standard document for further information on firebreaks, fire access tracks and sign standards.

5.3.7 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning is the controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity, and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives. Prescribed burning is a tool used to achieve fuel hazard reduction management for bushfire risk mitigation and to achieve environmental, land management and research objectives.

The State Government public land agencies of DEWNR, SA Water and ForestrySA share agency resources to undertake fuel hazard reduction prescribed burning at a landscape scale across public lands to reduce the risk of bushfire impacts entering or emanating from a reserve.

Within the BMAP area and more broadly across the state only a handful of prescribed burns are undertaken annually on private lands. The lack of prescribed burning on private lands is considered a significant gap in bushfire mitigation management as high bushfire risk areas occur on privately owned land and are not confined to public land. In an attempt to address this gap, DEWNR and SACFS are to identify issues associated with prescribed burning on private land and will present recommendations for consideration by Government to enhance prescribed burning mitigation risk treatment on a “tenure- blind” landscape scale.

Information on prescribed burns can be found on the following link: [DEWNR Prescribed Burns](#)

5.3.8 Council Planning and Development Policy and Standards

Key objectives outlined within planning strategy documents and Development Plans across Government and in local area Development Plans (as required under *Section 22 of the Development Act 1993*), should give consideration to the protection of life, property and assets including infrastructure, the region’s cultural heritage (indigenous and non-indigenous) and environmental assets from hazards such as bushfire.

Ministers and or Local Government may amend such policies and strategies in order to accurately address key objectives relative to the risk identified in their local area.

Current planning policies relating to bushfire risk, contained in relevant Development Plans, may be reviewed in this context as part of future Development Plan amendments. Notably, the State Government has embarked on the implementation of key planning reforms over the next 1-5 years, as part of a new planning system and the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, 2016*. Pending the timing and sequencing of the introduction of new planning rules and governance systems, there is potential to also review future policy approaches relating to bushfire risk and asset protection through this process.

5.3.9 Policy, Standards and Codes of Practice

The policies, standards and codes of practice refer to current overarching bushfire management practices, performance measures and desired outcomes of the fire management activities on private and public lands. They provide a framework for the safe and effective management of potential ignition sources and fire on private and public land in South Australia. Examples include codes on Pile Burning, Harvesting and Use of Wood Ovens, and policies requiring permits for fire activities.

This strategy may also include emergency management policies that individual organisations have or require to manage the risk of bushfire impacting upon their site such as closing on catastrophic fire danger forecasts. This may involve agencies such as schools, health and community services and utilities which require planning and preparation to become bushfire ready.

5.4 Risk Treatment Implementation Plan

Once the FMNY BMAP has been approved by the SBCC, risk treatment implementation plans will be developed in conjunction with the BMC, Councils, asset and land manager/owners in order to document and report how the chosen risk treatment strategies and their associated activities will be implemented. These plans may include information such as:

- a. Risk and risk treatment identifiers
- b. Existing and proposed risk treatments
- c. Responsibility for risk treatment implementation
- d. Prioritisations of risk treatments
- e. Actions required to undertake risk treatments
- f. Timeframes for the completion of risk treatments
- g. Performance and success measures
- h. Reporting and monitoring procedures

The risk treatment implementation plan will enable Councils and land managers to develop or inform local works plans and will provide a mechanism for the FMNY BMC to monitor timeframes and progress of risk treatments.

6 REVIEWING, MONITORING AND REPORTING

6.1 Monitoring

The SBCC approves new or amended BMAPs and provides guidance, direction and advice to bushfire management committees.

The FMNY BMC is required to monitor all aspects of the BMAP contents, risk assessments and risk treatments on an ongoing basis including:

- Changes to accepted risk levels
- Changes in circumstances or assessment criteria
- Additional information (should it become/when it becomes available)
- Changes in social, political or legislative/regulative environments
- Changes to the BMC area or organisational responsibilities
- Progress toward the completion of the risk treatment works listed in the BMAP
- The timeliness of the risk treatment works in the BMAP
- Compliance of risk treatment works with relevant Acts, Codes and Regulations. [Please refer to Section 1.3: Legislation](#)

6.2 Reviewing

As stipulated in the *FES Act 2005* this BMAP must be formally reviewed at least once in every four year period from the approval date of the original plan.

However, as a live Plan, the FMNY BMC will ensure that the BMAP is reviewed, in part or wholly, whenever an amendment, context or risk issue is identified or brought to the attention of the BMC, or to assess the progress of risk treatment works against stated timeframes. A summary of actions and amendments will be reported by BMCs to the SBCC on at least an annual basis.

6.3 Reporting

FMNY BMC is required to report to the SBCC on its progress implementing the bushfire risk management strategies identified in the plan. BMC member organisations will need to report to the FMNY BMC on the progress of risk treatment works outlined in the BMAP. The BMPU will submit BMAP amendments, additions and deletions to the BMC for assessment and endorsement. The implementation of BMAP actions and reporting processes for the BMC is currently being developed.

7 REGISTERS

7.1 Overview of Risk and Risk Treatment Registers

The Risk Register and Risk Treatment Register are integral components of this BMAP, along with the online map and this context document. They are current as of the date this document was approved. Due to the dynamic nature of risk, the BMC will monitor and update the status of risks and risk treatments once the risk treatment works have been completed, or where there is a change in the factors that determine the level of risk. The information pertaining to each risk is to be monitored by the BMC and updated and maintained by the CFS Bushfire Management Planning Unit on the secure Bushfire Risk Information Management System (BRIMS).

7.2 Risk Register

The Risk Register lists the description and location of all assets identified within the FMNY BMC and the overall resulting risk rating that has been determined for each asset. The level of risk for each asset in the risk register does not necessarily indicate its level of priority for mitigation works. For example, a nursing home rated high may be a much higher priority for risk treatments than a communication tower rated as extreme. The BMC and member organisations will identify, monitor and report on priorities for mitigation works.

7.3 Asset Specific Risk Treatment Strategies Register

The Risk Treatment Register details the risk treatment strategies that have been allocated to each asset. The register also includes planned timelines for when the risk treatment strategies are to be implemented and who is responsible. A copy of the *Risk Treatment Strategies Register* is available by contacting the Bushfire Management Planning Unit: cfs.bushfiremanagementplanning@sa.gov.au

Related Documents

Name of Document
A Template for a Local Council Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, Native Vegetation Council (2012)
AS 3959-2009/Amendment 3-2011; Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas (2009)
AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines (2009)
CFS – Code of practice – Vegetation and rubbish pile burning – (April 2015)
Crown Land Management Act 2009 (SA)
Department of the Premier and Cabinet South Australia's Strategic Plan - Creating Opportunity. Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Government of South Australia (2004)
Development Act 1993 Development Regulations (2008)
Emergency Management Act (South Australia) (2004)
Emergency Management in Australia Concepts and Principles Manual 1 (2004)
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Commonwealth) Section 18 and 269AA (1999)
Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations (2005)
Flinders Mid-North Yorke – Bushfire Management Committee, Interim Bushfire Management Area Plan, (September 2012)
Guidelines for Plantation Forestry in South Australia 2009
Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Vegetation, Native Vegetation Council (2012)
Minister's Specification SA 76, Maintenance and testing of essential safety provisions, (2015 edition)
Minister's Specification SA 76A, Fire Safety Requirements in Caravan Parks and Residential Parks, (December 2007)
Minister's Specification SA 76C, Protection of buildings exposed to brush fences, November (2007)
Minister's Specification SA H3.2, Concessions for farm buildings, (2015 edition)
National Bushfire Management, Policy Statement for Forests and Rangelands (2014)
National Construction Code (Formerly the Building Code of Australia, BCA) (2016)
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (SA)
Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA) Section 29 (1991)
Native Vegetation Act 1991 and Regulations (2003)
Native Vegetation Regulations 2003 (SA) Section 5A-1 and 5(1)(zi) (2003)
SA CFS - Rural Fire Hazard Plan (2014/15)
South Australian Firebreaks, Fire Access Tracks and Sign Standards Guidelines (2015)
State Bushfire Management Plan (2010)
Wilderness Protection Act 1992 (SA)

Definitions and Acronyms

Name	Description
Agencies	Refers to any State or Federal Government Department that is the manager or owner of the land or asset.
AIRS	Australian Incident Reporting System
APZ	Asset Protection Zone is a fuel reduced area surrounding a built asset or structure.
AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009	AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines. The agreed international standard that dictates the fundamental principles behind risk management.
Asset	A term used to describe anything of value within communities that may be impacted by bushfire. This may include residential areas, infrastructure, commercial, environmental, heritage and community valued sites.
Asset Owner	The owner occupier or custodian responsible for the care or management of an asset. The responsibility may be defined by ownership, lease or contract. Also refer to the <i>Fire and Emergency Service Act 2005</i> for more information.
Asset Risk Treatment Strategies	Strategies allocated to modify the bushfire risk to specific assets that have been assessed.
BAL	Bushfire Attack Level is the level of radiant heat that is likely to impact on an asset
BBZ	Bushfire Buffer Zone consists of strategic firebreaks of sufficient width and continuity to provide a substantial barrier to the spread of bushfire.
BMA	Bushfire Management Area
BMAP	Bushfire Management Area Plan as defined under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 S73A</i> .
BMC	Bushfire Management Committee as defined under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 S72A</i> .
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BRIMS	Bushfire Risk Information Management System - A systematic process that identifies assets at risk from bushfire, assesses the level of risk, captures current and proposed risk treatments, risk treatment owners and time frames for implementation and provides a framework for continuous review and monitoring of the risks and their risk treatments.
Bushfire Hazard	The vegetation that poses a level of threat to human life, economic and cultural assets or environmental assets. The potential severity of a bushfire threat is determined by fuel load, fuel arrangement and topography under a given climatic condition.
Bushfire Risk	The concept of bushfire risk has three elements: a) the likelihood of a bushfire igniting and spreading to the hazard adjacent to and threatening an asset; b) the observable event of the hazardous vegetation igniting and c) the impact to the asset from a bushfire event.
Consequence	The term "Consequence" for the purpose of this plan, means "what will happen to the asset if it is impacted by a bushfire?" For example will it burn down, will it cease to function, will people be injured etc.? The elements that contribute to the consequence of a bushfire are the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) (measuring the radiant heat) and either the susceptibility of occupants in human settlement assets or susceptibility of built structures.
DEWNR	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Name	Description
FBD	Fire Ban District
FDI	Fire Danger Index
FDR	Fire Danger Rating
FDS	Fire Danger Season
FES Act	Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005
FMNY	Flinders Mid-North Yorke
FPO	Fire Prevention Officer
Fuel Hazard Guide	The Fuel Hazard Guide aims to assist with defining and identifying the different components of Fuel Hazard through the assessment of Fuel Hazard levels for Surface, Near-Surface, Elevated and Bark Fuel
GAFMWG	Government Agencies Fire Management Working Group
Impact	The loss, or damage, to an asset from a bushfire.
Land Manager	The person, organisation or agency responsible for the care or management of an asset or land. The responsibility may be defined by ownership, lease or contract. Also refer to the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 Section 3</i> for additional clarification.
Landscape Treatment Investigation Areas.	Landscape Treatment Investigation Areas have been proposed as areas of bushfire concern requiring further assessment and consultation with stakeholders to determine the most effective, acceptable and achievable vegetation management strategies to directly reduce the intensity and movement of fire through the landscape and the impact of bushfire on a cluster of assets.
Likelihood	The chance of a bushfire igniting and spreading to the hazard adjacent to and threatening an asset.
Prescribed Burning	Prescribed burning is the planned application of fire under prescribed environmental conditions and within defined boundaries to achieve fuel hazard reduction management for bushfire risk mitigation and to achieve ecological, land management and research objectives.
Property Preparedness Zone	An area surrounding structures where the removal of hazardous vegetation and the elimination of ignition sources can reduce the impact of wind-blown burning embers, flame contact and intense heat generated by bushfires.
SACFS (or CFS)	South Australian Country Fire Service
SAPOL	South Australian Police
SBCC	State Bushfire Coordination Committee
ZEMP	Zone Emergency Management Plan

APPENDIX 1:

Flinders Mid-North Yorke Bushfire Management Committee Member Organisations

Listed below are the Member Organisations of the Flinders Mid-North Yorke Bushfire Management Committee. It should be noted that although not members of the FMNY BMC, many other Government and non-Government organisations are consulted on, and contribute to the FMNY BMAP.

For further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Bushfire Management Committee and Member Organisations, please refer to:

- [Section 3.2: Flinders Mid-North Yorke Bushfire Management Committee](#), and
- [Section 3.3: Bushfire Management Committee Member Organisations](#)

FMNY BMC Member Organisations:

- District Council of Barunga West
- Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
- District Council of the Copper Coast
- The Flinders Ranges Council
- Regional Council of Goyder
- Light Regional Council
- Adelaide Plains Council
- District Council of Mount Remarkable
- SA Country Fire Service
- SA Metropolitan Fire Service
- SA Country Fire Service Volunteer Association
- Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
- Forestry SA
- Northern Areas Council
- District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
- District Council of Peterborough
- City of Port Augusta
- Port Pirie Regional Council
- Wakefield Regional Council
- District Council of Yorke Peninsula
- Conservation Council of SA
- SA Police
- Primary Producers SA
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- SA Water

