



UPPER EYRE PENINSULA BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Upper Eyre Peninsula *Draft* Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP)

Frequently Asked Questions

The Plan is comprised of a number of major components including;

- A spatial map
- The written plan
- The risk and treatment register

These components contain all the information required to interpret and understand the plan and planning process.

Please take the time to read the written part of the plan as it contains all the background and context of the planning process.

The following list contains some of the most commonly asked questions and answers for your reference. Please remember that this plan is directed at Prevention and Preparedness. It does not include bushfire incident or disaster management, response or recovery issues such as what to do during a bushfire or where to get help after a bushfire. These issues are covered in other plans, policies and procedures of government and non-government emergency and community service agencies.

Q Why is my home/property not identified/assessed?

A The plan covers every property and person in the Upper Eyre Peninsula (UEP) Bushfire Management Area (BMA), regardless of whether the property has been identified and assessed on the spatial map. The written plan outlines the responsibilities of all property owners. It was not practical or possible to include and assess every Human Settlement property in the UEP BMA, however significant numbers of settlement areas, townships, suburbs and rural living zones have been identified and assessed.

Q What do the different shapes and colours on the map represent?

A The written plan and spatial map provide explanations of the different shapes and colours. The spatial map contains a legend that outlines the level of risk represented by each colour, and the category of asset represented by the various shapes used in the map.

Q What am I responsible for?

A The Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005 requires owners of private lands to prevent or inhibit the outbreak and spread of fire on the land, and minimise the threat to human life and property. This means understanding your bushfire risk, complying with regulations and undertaking appropriate actions on your property to minimise the impact of bushfire.

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Q There has never been a fire near my property. Why is it marked as having a very high bushfire risk?

A In this plan, bushfire risk is calculated using multiple factors, with fire history being only one of those factors. Others include topography, weather, vegetation, access, building susceptibility etc. It is a combination of all these factors that determines the overall risk rating

Q The neighbouring property looks like it could be a fire hazard to my home during a bushfire, so what can I do to get this issue addressed?

A The local Council's Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) is authorised to inspect any private properties within the council area to assess for potential bushfire risks. If the inspection determines a risk exists that needs addressing, the FPO can direct that works be undertaken to reduce the risk from bushfire. Please contact your local council for this type of issue.

Q Is there things I can do around my home to protect my family from a Bushfire?

A The CFS website contains significant amounts of information and references on all aspects of preparing your home, including a Fact Sheet on Preparing Your Property. The CFS Community Engagement Unit can also assist individuals and community groups with information.

CFS website: http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/fire_safety/preparing_your_home.jsp

Community Engagement Unit Phone: (08) 8212 9858 Email: community.ed@cfs.sa.gov.au

Q Why is my risk very high when the only vegetation near me is grassy paddocks?

A A bushfire in the right weather conditions can be devastating even through grassland. There may be a combination of factors that are contributing to your risk rating. You may be located at the top of a slope with only one way in or out, and your house may not be built to the required bushfire standard. All these factors contribute to the risk rating.

Q Why doesn't this plan tell me what to do during and after a bushfire?

A This plan is directed at prevention and preparedness activities across the whole UEP BMA and involves multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders. Planning and implementing strategies to reduce the impact of bushfires assists greatly with operational response activities during bushfire incidents. There are numerous plans and resources related to bushfire incidents. CFS website provides comprehensive information on what to do during and after bushfires and outlines links and references to other relevant resources and organisations;

http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents/about_cfs_warnings_and_incidents.jsp

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Q Why do I need to do anything around my own property? Isn't it my choice what I do on my land?

A There are legislative requirements in the Fire and Emergency Services Act that require all members of the community to reduce the establishment, spread and impact of bushfire. Everyone in the community must undertake reasonable actions to maintain and/or increase the bushfire safety of yourself, others and assets within the community.

[Link to FES Act](#)

Q Why are some things in the online map a dot and others a polygon?

A These are explained in written document of the BMAP. A polygon has generally been used to identify a suburb, township, settlement or area with distinct boundaries and/or assets with similar characteristics. A point has generally been used to identify a single distinct asset such as a school, hospital, church, stadium, substation, caravan park or communication tower.

Q Why are there dots in a polygon with a different colour (risk rating)?

A The bushfire risk for each polygon or point is calculated separately using multiple factors such as fire history, topography, weather, vegetation, access, building susceptibility and community understanding of bushfire risks. A polygon indicating a township located on the top of a hill with multiple old tin or wooden buildings may result in a risk rating of extreme. However a point in the middle of the township indicating a concrete water tank may result in a low risk rating as a concrete tank is far more resilient to bushfire than old tin or wooden buildings.

Q Why are there large and small diamond shapes on the map and what do they represent?

A All diamond shapes represent Human Settlement areas or assets (places where people congregate or reside) The small diamond shape represents a building or facility whereas the larger diamond shape represents a "wider area" than just the location immediately under the diamond. A settlement that is widely dispersed in a generalised "rural living" area is marked with a large diamond shape. This may be an area around a central township or a dispersed rural living area. It was not practical to individually mark and risk assess every single building in a dispersed area, and a polygon is difficult to use where there are no distinct boundaries. When you click on the large diamond in the online map, the name will generally contain the word "locality" or "wider area".

Q How long does the plan last before it is replaced with a new plan

A The UEP 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 UEP Bushfire Management Committee ensures the Plan is regularly reviewed and updated and that public consultation processes are undertaken where required.

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Q Who created and contributed to the plan?

A The UEP Bushfire Management Committee are responsible for the BMAP and the State Bushfire Coordination Committee have authority to approve the BMAP. The creation of the initial BMAP was facilitated by the Country Fire Service Bushfire Management Planning Unit under the auspice of the UEP BMC. There were significant contributions to the plan by all the Councils in the Bushfire Management Area as well as by CFS staff and volunteers, DEWNR and Government and private infrastructure agencies. The six week public consultation period also provides the opportunity for community groups and the public to provide input and feedback into the plan.

Q What level of authority does this plan have?

A The State Bushfire Coordination Committee is responsible for maintaining the State Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP). Sitting immediately underneath the SBMP are the nine Bushfire Management Area Plans. The UEP BMAP is one of those nine plans. The SBMP along with the nine BMAPs have the highest level of authority in the State with regard to bushfire. All other local or regional bushfire plans must be in line with the relevant BMAP.

Q Why are there no environmental assets in the BMAP?

A Although environmental assets have been identified, the risk assessment process and methodology for environmental assets vulnerable to bushfire is not complete at the time of this plan's initial release. The risk assessment process that determines the level of risk and potential risk treatments for these assets needs to consider a range of factors that are very distinct from those used to determine risk and treatments for built assets. DEWNR is currently developing the risk assessment process and methodology which will include environmental assets on both public and private land including;

- Large areas of native vegetation
- Native species and ecological communities of conservation significance
- Water catchment areas
- Revegetation projects
- Significant habitat elements

Negotiations for inclusion of the bushfire risk to environmental assets into BMAPs will be undertaken by the BMC whilst being supported by DEWNR and with key stakeholders including the Ecological Technical Reference Group, CFS and conservation groups. Prior to the addition of these assets and related information into an updated BMAP, a six week period of public consultation will be undertaken to enable input and comment from interested organisations, groups and individuals.

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Q Where can I learn more?

A The CFS website contains significant amounts of information and references on all aspects of bushfire planning and preparedness. You can also contact the CFS Bushfire Management Planning Unit on; CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au or call (08) 8463 4151.

Q How do I comment, suggest changes or additions to the UEP BMAP?

A To make a submission go to www.cfs.sa.gov.au and complete the online web form or download the submission template and email to CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au or call (08) 8463 4151.

Q Who is on the UEP Bushfire Management Committee?

A The organisations represented on the UEP Bushfire Management Committee comprise of;

- Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI)
- District Council of Ceduna
- District Council of Kimba
- District Council of Cleve
- Wudinna District Council
- District Council of Elliston
- The City of Whyalla
- District Council of Franklin Harbour
- District Council of Streaky Bay
- Conservation Council SA (currently vacant)
- Primary Producers SA
- SA Country Fire Service
- SA Water
- SA Police
- SA Country Fire Service Volunteer Association
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR)
- SA Metropolitan Fire Service