

# Outback

## Frequently Asked Questions

A Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP) comprises three parts:

- A spatial on-line map
- An explanatory text document
- The risk and treatment registers

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

Please note that BMAPs are directed at Prevention and Preparedness. They do 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.

Below are some commonly asked questions and answers for your reference:

### **Why is my home/property not identified/assessed?**

It is not practical to individually assess every Human Settlement property in a BMA, however significant numbers of settlement areas, townships and rural living zones have been assessed and are displayed spatially. Where properties have not been individually identified and assessed on the spatial map the written plan outlines the responsibilities of all property owners.

### **What do the different shapes and colours on the map represent?**

The colours on the online map represent the risk to an asset and the shape (circle, diamond, square etc.) indicates the category of asset. The written plans and spatial maps provide further explanation, in particular refer to the legend on the online map.

### **What am I responsible for?**

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 and spread of bushfire. These actions could include:

- Mowing and slashing around homes and sheds
- Cleaning gutters and enclosing underfloor space
- Maintain fuel reduced areas to relocate livestock
- Prepare 5m fuel break along fence lines

For more information on property preparedness go to [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

### **There has never been a fire near my property. Why is it marked as having a Very High bushfire risk?**

In a BMAP, 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.

### **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?**

An authorised Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) can inspect any private property to assess for potential bushfire risks. If the inspection determines a risk exists and that it needs addressing, the FPO can direct that works be undertaken to reduce the risk from bushfire. In unincorporated areas this role falls to the CFS Regional Prevention Officer or for Roxby Downs Council or District Council of Coorabiddy then it is the council's Fire Prevention Officer.

### **Are there things I can do around my home to protect my family from a Bushfire?**

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](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/fire_safety/preparing_your_home.jsp)

Community Engagement Unit Phone: (08) 8212 9858

Email: [CFS.CommunityEngagementSupport@sa.gov.au](mailto:CFS.CommunityEngagementSupport@sa.gov.au)

### **Why is my risk Very High when the only vegetation near me is grassy paddocks?**

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 attack level standard. All these factors contribute to the risk rating.

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

BMAPs are directed at prevention and preparedness activities across an entire Bushfire Management Area and involve multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders. 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](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents/about_cfs_warnings_and_incidents.jsp)

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

There are legislative requirements in the Fire and Emergency Services Act (FES 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](#)

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

A polygon has generally been used to identify a 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,

substation, caravan park or communication tower. Further explanation can be found in the written document part of the BMAP.

### **How can an asset point have a different risk rating to a polygon that surrounds it?**

The bushfire risk for each asset is calculated using multiple factors such as fire history, topography, weather, vegetation, access, building susceptibility and community understanding of bushfire risks. A polygon indicating a community 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.

### **How long does the plan last before it is replaced with a new plan?**

It is a legislative requirement that a formal review is conducted every four years. All BMCs ensure their Plan is regularly reviewed and that public consultation processes are undertaken where required for any amendments.

### **Who created and contributed to the plan?**

The development of the Outback BMAP has been facilitated by the CFS Bushfire Management Planning Unit under the auspice of the Outback BMC. Significant contributions to the BMAP have been made by communities, local councils, progress associations, CFS staff and Volunteers, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) as well as 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.

### **What level of authority does this plan have?**

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 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.

### **Why are the maps displaying environmental assets in a separate map to the Life & Property assets?**

A methodology for identifying and assessing bushfire risk to environmental assets is different to that used to assess the bushfire risk to Life and Property assets. It was also considered easier to display this information separately due to the large amount of data.

**How did you determine the consequence level for environmental assets?**

The environmental risk assessment considered the negative impacts from bushfire to the species population, ecological community, or their habitats within the Bushfire Management Area, rather than local sites or individuals within a population.

Consequence levels were influenced by who widely distributed the environmental asset is within the bushfire management area, its' response to fire and its' conservation status.

**Where can I learn more?**

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:

Email: [CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au](mailto:CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au) or Phone: (08) 8115 3370

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

To make a submission:

Email: [CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au](mailto:CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au) or

Phone: (08) 8115 3370

**Who is on a Bushfire Management Committee?**

The organisations usually represented on a Bushfire Management Committee comprise of:

- District Council of Coober Pedy
- Roxby Downs Council
- Outback Communities Authority
- Traditional Custodians from APY Lands
- Maralinga Tjarutja
- SA Country Fire Service
- SA Country Fire Service Volunteer Association
- Department for Environment and Water (DEW)
- Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board
- SA Arid Lands NRM Board
- APY Land Management
- SA Police
- Pastoral Board
- Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI)
- Conservation Council of SA
- Primary Producers

There may be some variation in membership depending on local regional issues and availability of representative.