

WALGA Webinar Series: Managing Bushfire Risk in a Changing Climate



Webinar 1:	Monday, 12 October 2020	1:00pm – 3:00pm
Webinar 2:	Monday, 26 October 2020	1:00pm – 3:00pm
Webinar 3:	Thursday, 29 October 2020	10:00am – 12:00pm

WEBINAR SERIES OVERVIEW

Please join us for this fantastic opportunity to hear about managing bushfire risk in a changing climate. The webinars aim to strengthen Local Governments' ability to prepare for, mitigate and recover from the impacts of bushfires by focusing on mechanisms to reduce risk.

WEBINAR 1 PREPAREDNESS – POLICY AND PLANNING

- 1:00pm** **Welcome and Introduction**
Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer, WALGA
- 1:05pm** **Managing bushfire risk in WA through policy and programs**
Tim McNaught, Director, Office of Bushfire Risk Management
- 1:35pm** **Application of local planning scheme measures to manage bushfire risk**
Angus Money, Manager Planning and Environment, Shire of Mundaring
- 2:05pm** **Empowering landholders to create fire resilient homes and gardens**
Melanie Haymont, Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator, Shire of Denmark, Shire of Plantagenet and City of Albany;
Charlotte Powis, Community Preparedness Advisor, DFES;
Chris Ferreira, Director, The Forever Project
- 2:35pm** **LGMap to support bushfire risk planning**
Renata Zelinova, Business Development Officer (LG Map), WALGA
- 2:50pm** **Close of webinar**

WEBINAR 2 MITIGATION – FUEL REDUCTION FOR SAFETY & BIODIVERSITY

- 1:00pm** **Welcome and Introduction**
Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer, WALGA
- 1:05pm** **Prescribed burns and environmental regulations**
Mathew Gannaway, Manager Native Vegetation Regulation, DWER;
Daniel Hunter, Compliance and Enforcement - Native Vegetation Regulation, DWER;
Ruth Harvey, Program Leader Species and Communities Program, DBCA

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- 1:35pm** **Reducing fuel loads and bushfire risk in Local Government conservation reserves**
Matthew Kennewell, Environmental Supervisor, City of Cockburn
- 2:05pm** **Traditional Fire Program**
Bec Pianta, Manager Knowledge and Engagement, Centre of Bushfire Excellence
- 2:35pm** **Close of webinar**

WEBINAR 3 RECOVERY – REBUILDING AND RESILIENCE

- 10:00am** **Welcome and Introduction**
Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer, WALGA
- 10:05am** **The Black Summer fires – responding through relief, recovery and renewal**
Leanne Barnes, General Manager, Bega Valley Shire Council (NSW)
- 10:35am** **How inter-agency and community coordination lead to better animal welfare outcomes during bushfire disaster response**
Louise Bonomi, Director of Development, Animals Australia
- 11:05am** **Summary of webinar series - learnings and next steps**
Garry Middle, A/Manager Environment Policy, WALGA
- 11:30am** **Close of webinar**

PRESENTATION OVERVIEWS

Tim McNaught, Director, Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM), will provide a presentation on the contemporary elements of Western Australia's approach to preparing for bushfire since the April 2018 rural fire reforms. Tim will highlight the new governance arrangements in place, policy mechanisms and key programs designed to enhance the management of bushfire related risk in a changing climate.

Angus Money, Manager Planning and Environment, Shire of Mundaring, will provide a review of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Shire's Local Planning Scheme 4 for managing bushfire risk and protecting biodiversity. Angus will provide examples of development applications both approved/not approved at all levels of the planning hierarchy (including rezoning, structure plans, subdivisions and individual lots), to illustrate the challenges faced with bushfire planning and positive outcomes achieved.

Melanie Haymont, Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator, Shire of Denmark, Shire of Plantagenet and City of Albany; Charlotte Powis, Community Preparedness Advisor, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES); Chris Ferreira, Director, The Forever Project, will discuss creating a sense of shared responsibility so that communities play an essential role in managing bushfire risk. The Shire of Denmark is currently participating in the state-wide Bushfire Risk Management Planning Program, which provides an avenue to assess bushfire risk using a consistent, scientific approach. Throughout this process it has been identified that a large portion of bushfire risk in the Shire exists on private property. Melanie, Charlotte and Chris will share insights on how to successfully engage and empower communities to take individual action on properties to address bushfire risk.



Renata Zelinova, Business Development Officer (LGmap), WALGA, will provide an overview of WALGA's LGmap tools and data that can be used to inform and monitor bushfire risk management across Local Government managed lands. LGmap, a sector specific mapping and reporting portal, facilitates efficient compliance with regulatory processes and consideration of local matters in the broader context.

Mathew Gannaway, Manager Native Vegetation Regulation, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER); Ruth Harvey, Program Leader Species and Communities Program, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) will discuss bushfire mitigation activities and regulatory requirements under WA's *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Ruth will also discuss management considerations for threatened species and ecological communities during fuel reduction activities, including optimal fire intervals, fire exclusion, and burn season and intensity.

Matthew Kennewell, Environmental Supervisor, City of Cockburn will outline the steps taken to reduce fuel loads and bushfire risk in and around the City's conservation areas. A number of innovative approaches have implemented to reduce fire risk while enhancing environmental values and outcomes.

Bec Pianta, Manager Knowledge and Engagement, Centre of Bushfire Excellence (DFES), will discuss the Department's Traditional Fire Program, and consideration of the cultural application of fire during the development of Bushfire Risk Management Plans for Local Government.

Leanne Barnes, General Manager, Bega Valley Shire Council, will discuss building community and organisational resilience, based on learnings from past disasters and the recent 2019/20 Black Summer fires. The Shire is constantly improving their approach to emergency management through action reviews, reflections and closing the loop on outcomes. However, the past 12 months have been unprecedented, with the compounding impacts of droughts, bushfires, floods and COVID. Leanne will discuss the joys and challenges of working with Government and not-for-profit stakeholders, and how to embed emergency management processes more formally into Local Government operations.

Louise Bonomi, Director of Development, Animals Australia, will discuss how the Black Summer fires of 2019/20 have given the animal protection community some sobering insights into the lack of welfare requirements extended to wildlife during times of disaster. Louise will discuss the impact of response actions such as aerial food drops, thermal imaging for inaccessible or vast areas, providing vets and wildlife carers with access to fire grounds, and community managed water and feed programs. Louise will highlight how better preparation, education, support from Local and State Governments, and simple project work can ensure that animal welfare is prioritised in the immediate aftermath and into the recovery period.