

City of Cockburn Fire Mitigation Works

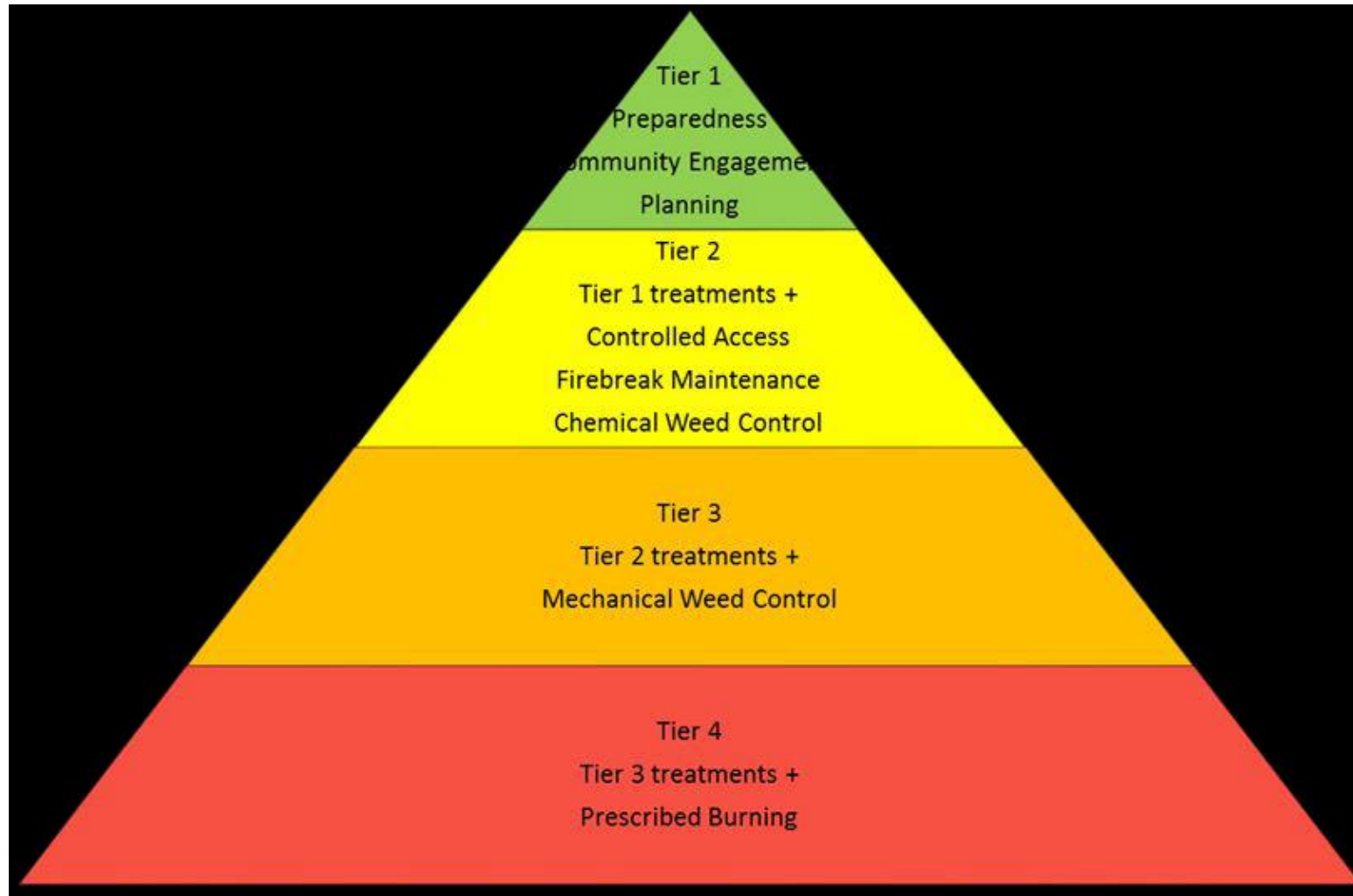
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Bushfire Risk Management Plan

- The City of Cockburn developed the states first BRMP
- BRMP gave access to grants for fire mitigation
- Identified areas were property/infrastructure interfaces with bushland.
- Assessed sites for level of fire risk to life, property and infrastructure
- Identify environmental values associated with the vegetation at each site
- Select activities needed to alleviate risk and the possible environmental impact associated with each activity
- Work with DFES/staff to determine acceptable treatment
- Quotations vs Budget
- Finalise plan and deliver works
- Review works and reassess sites for mitigation success



Bushfire Risk Management Plan



Stakeholders



- **Cockburn residents**
- **DFES**
- **Volunteer Fire Brigades**
- **Contractors**
- **Media and Communications**
- **State Government Departments**
- **Schools and Universities**
- **Kings Park**
- **Neighbouring Councils (South West Regional Working Group)**

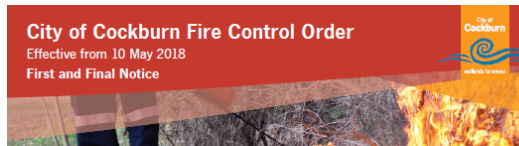
Mitigation Actions

- Educate and inform residents
- Fire break pruning (3.5 wide x 4m high) in November
- Fencing reserves
- Install limestone on fire breaks
- Slashing grasses
- Chemical weed control
- Woody weed removal
- Selective removal of small diameter fuel loads
- Separating ladders fuels
- Controlled burns with mandatory 2 year follow up on weed control



Educate and Inform

Reduces risk on private property

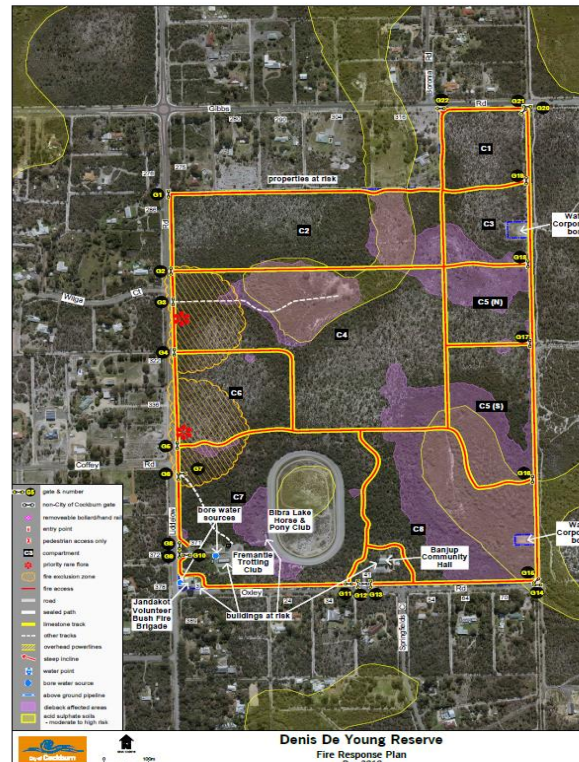


Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 owners or occupiers of land situated within the City of Cockburn are required by law to comply with the prescribed Fire Control Order here within.

Definitions	
Authorized Officer	A person appointed by the City of Cockburn Chief Executive Officer as an authorized person/officer to exercise the powers and duties set out in the Local Government Act 1995, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Local Laws.
Flammable Material	Any dead or dry grass, vegetation, substance, object, thing or material (except living trees including live and/or habitat standing trees) that may or is likely to catch fire and burn or any other thing deemed by an Authorized Officer to be capable of combustion.
Maintained Grass	Soil covered land, planted with grass or other durable plants, maintained green and less than 50mm in height.
Prohibited Burning Time	The time of each year where it is unlawful to set fire to the bush at any time. This time is normally from 1 December of each year until and including 31 March of the following year. This time may be amended, subject to prevailing seasonal conditions.
Restricted Burning Time	The time of each year where it is unlawful to set fire to the bush without a valid Permit to Set Fire To The Bush issued by an Authorized Officer. This period normally is from 1 April until and including 31 May and from 1 October until and including 30 November of any year. This time may be amended, subject to the prevailing seasonal conditions.
Unrestricted Burning Time	The time of each year where it is lawful to set fire to the bush at any time, in areas zoned rural under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. This time normally is from 1 June until and including 30 September. This time may be amended, subject to the prevailing seasonal conditions.
Firebreak Time	The time of each year where fire hazard reduction works must be maintained as specified in this Fire Control Order. This time is from 1 November of each year until and including 15 April of the following year.
Structure	A building, as defined in the Building Codes of Australia (BCA) may be made up of a number of classes if it has a mixed use.

- All property (vacant or developed) – less than 4,047m²**
To reduce the fire hazard on your land and to comply with the requirements of this Fire Control Order you are required to:
 - 1.1 Have all flammable materials such as dry grass and weeds slashed, mown or trimmed down by other means to a maximum height of 50mm across the entire property for the duration of this Firebreak Time; and
 - 1.2 Remove all dead vegetation.
- All property (vacant or developed) – 4,047m² or greater**
To reduce the fire hazard on your land and to comply with the requirements of this Fire Control Order you are required to:
 - 2.1 Construct a firebreak (as defined within section 3 of this order) immediately inside all external property boundaries, this includes those adjacent to roads, drains, rail reserves and any public open space reserves; and
 - 2.2 Remove all dead vegetation surrounding and over all habitable structures to a radius of 3 metres except living trees, shrubs, maintained grass and gardens under cultivation.

- Firebreak Specifications**
A firebreak is an area of land cleared of flammable material, installed to prevent the spread or extension of a fire and to provide suitable access for fire fighting vehicles. The standards of a compliant firebreak are as follows:
 - 3.1 A firebreak must be constructed of bare earth, stone, or sealed surface clear of all flammable materials to create a 3 metre wide trafficable s
 - 3.2 Maintained grass may occupy a firebreak;
 - 3.3 Overhanging branches must be pruned to provide a 4 metre vertical clearance above the full width of the 3 metre firebreak surface; and
 - 3.4 A firebreak must be a continuous trafficable surface for a fire fighting clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a cul-de-sac (dead end).
- Additional Works**
Regardless of land use and location, the City of Cockburn or its Authorised Officer may require you to undertake additional work(s) on your property to improve and/or undertake further works where, in the opinion of that Authorised Officer, these works would be conducive to preventing the outbreak and/or the extension of a fire.
- Fire Control Order Variations**
A variation will be considered where the owner and/or occupiers believe it impractical to meet the compliance requirements of this Fire Control Order. Approved structures occupying a firebreak will not require a variation application. However, a firebreak will be required to be installed as close as practical to approved structures.
If approved, variations will be valid in perpetuity, unless a new variation is approved or the property changes ownership.
The City of Cockburn reserves the right to review, amend or revoke an application in writing at any time. Should a request to vary the Fire Control Order requirements on your property not be approved in writing, this Fire Control Order must be complied with as applicable in its entirety.
- Burning**
During the declared Prohibited Burning Time, owners and/or occupiers must undertake any bush or garden refuse burning activities.
During the declared Restricted Burning Time only, owners and/or occupiers must:
 - 6.1 Apply for a permit to burn the bush for both fire risk mitigation purposes by following the conditions imposed on a permit to burn as issued by the Authorised Officer.
 - 6.2 In areas zoned rural by the Metropolitan Region Scheme, you may undertake burning of leaves, tree branches, and other dry vegetation in piles no less than 1m in situ, without a permit to burn, subject to the following:
 - 6.2.1 No flammable material (other than that being burned) is to be at the fire at any time while the fire is burning;
 - 6.2.2 The fire is to be between 50m and 1.0m and is completely extinguished before midnight on the same day;
 - 6.2.3 At least one person is present at the site of the fire at all times completely extinguished; and
 - 6.2.4 When the fire is no longer required, the person ensures that it is completely extinguished by the application of water or earth.



Fire Control Orders

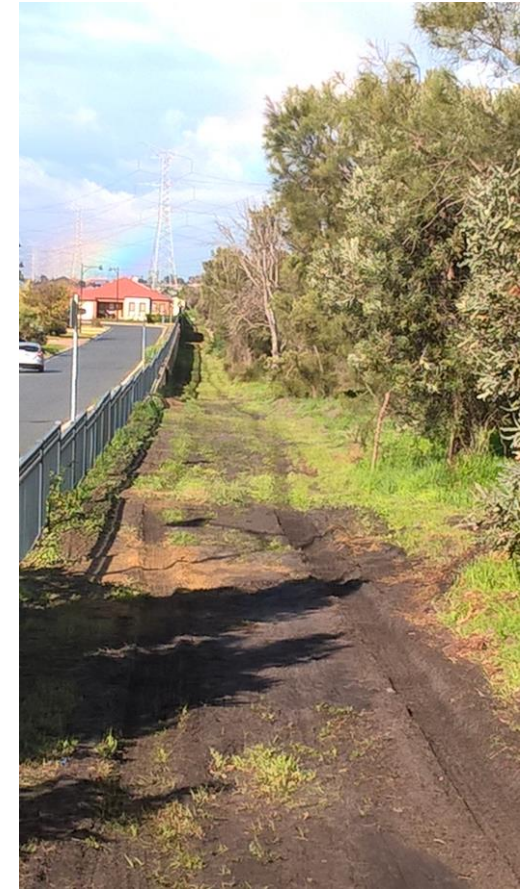
Fire Response Plans

DFES Information Kits

Info Videos

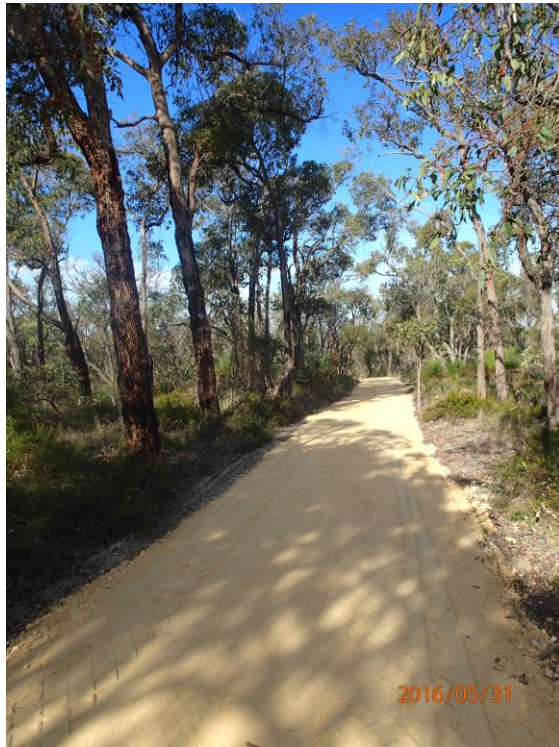
Compliant Firebreaks

- All reserves required firebreaks (3.5 wide x 4m high)
- Works to be completed by 1st November and maintained through to 31st April



Limestone Firebreaks

- All City managed conservation reserves have limestone firebreaks.
- Provides better access to firefighting vehicles (reduced risk)
- Less maintenance (added benefit reduces dieback spread)



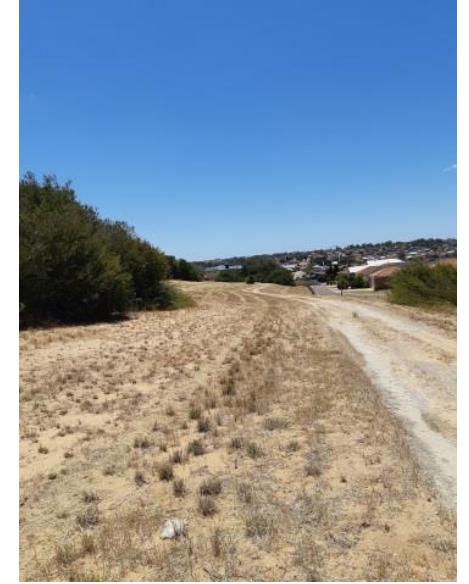
Fencing Reserves

- Prevents unauthorised vehicle access thus reducing fire risk



Slashing Grasses

- Reduces fuel load access and fire intensity



Chemical Weed Control

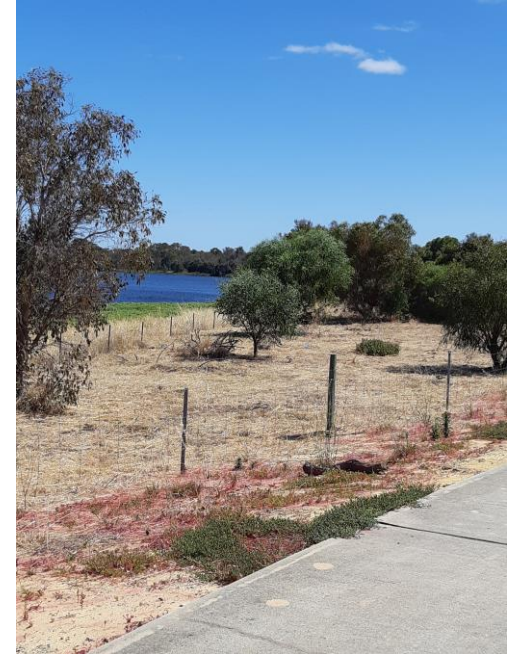
Reduces fuel load, removes weeds, improves visual amenity



Manning Park



Bibra Lake



Yangebup Lake

Woody Weed Removal

- Reduces fuel load, reduces weeds.



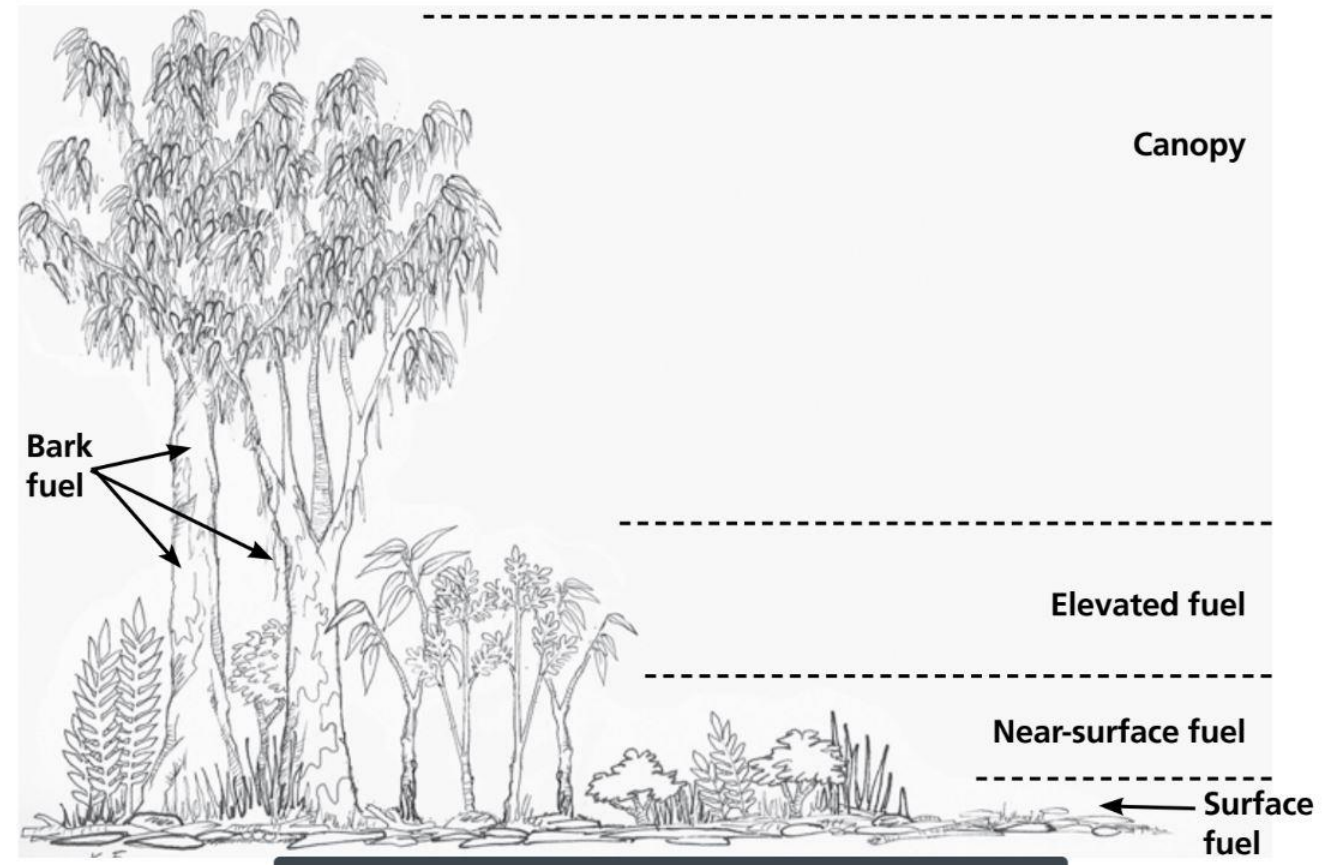
Selective Removal of Vegetation

Thinning, reduces fuel load



Separating Ladder Fuels

- Selective removal of middle or lower stories
- Prevent sufficient heat to sustain canopy fire



Controlled Burns

- Reduces fuel load, reduces weeds, improves vegetation condition
- Funding for 2 years weed control.



Initiatives

- Grass Tree fuel load reduction
- Compare & Contrast Burn and Prune
- Fire promoted flowering and seed germination
- Delayed flowering response from manual.



Initiatives

- Partnership with Kings Park
- Compare different weed events at burn sites
- 20 year trial



Yangebup Lake



Outcome/Conclusions

- **Make sure you have a current BRMP to fund and pre-plan works**
- **Collaboration between stakeholders essential**
- **Educating and informing community and contractors of environmental and social values for each site so no adverse impacts are experienced**
- **A integrated delivery of activities needed**
- **Regular monitoring of activities being delivered**
- **Be mindful of late seasonal events**
- **Be willing to try new initiatives**

Sometimes nothing helps



Thank you

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