

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

September 2010

The Strategy

Council adopted the Bushfire Management Strategy on 8 September 2010 as the principal guiding resource to inform fire management planning for Fraser Coast Regional Council controlled lands.

The Strategy brings together best practice information resources that will be used to inform fire management decisions and allow Council to identify and meet fire management obligations under legislation.



Urraween



Tinnanbar

The Strategy is made up of two parts:

- Part One contains background information about the Fraser Coast Region, its geography, vegetation and land tenure arrangements. This includes a detailed description of all vegetation types found in the region and their bushfire hazard score and desirable ecological fire frequencies. It also includes relevant extracts from State legislation and policies which relate to fire management.
- Part Two contains a set of land management practices and guidelines for a range of activities such as firebreak and fire trail construction and maintenance and fuel load monitoring. This includes detailed guidelines for planning and conducting prescribed burns of bushland areas.

Bushfire Ecology

Fire is an integral part of most regional ecosystems. While some communities such as rainforest and mangroves do not benefit from being burnt, many others require fire to maintain the diversity and vigour of the organisms and processes within them.

Councils Responsibilities

Council is responsible for managing numerous parks, reserves and freehold lots which host native vegetation and bushland areas. Prescribed burning is an important tool for ecological land management in these areas. Land managers are also required to take all reasonable steps to extinguish any un-permitted fire on their land. Because Council currently has no fire fighting capacity it relies on the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service to assist with prescribed burning and response to wildfires.

Current Activities

- Working with rural bushfire brigades and agencies such as the Department of Environment and Resource Management to undertake prescribed burns on bushland reserves for fuel reduction and ecological management purposes.
- Commencing the production of Land Management Plans incorporating fire management on key parcels of Council managed land.
- Constructing and maintaining fire breaks and fire control lines on Council managed land where required to protect adjacent property.
- Assessing new development and building applications and including conditions in approvals that ensure compliance with bushfire safety codes for breaks, buffers and emergency access.
- Seeks input from all interested parties regarding fire management.

Future Action

Along with the Bushfire Management Strategy a Bushfire Management Strategic Action Plan has also been developed. It includes a large number of strategic actions for consideration by Council in the areas of resources and training, planning scheme amendments, bushfire management planning, biodiversity management and research and inter-agency coordination. Action Plan recommendations not already in place will be considered as part of future budget and operational plan development.

Bushfire Emergency

The Bushfire Management Strategy does not deal with general bushfire emergency response issues. The lead agency responsible for dealing with threats from urban fire and rural bushfire is the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service. Council may be called on to assist in a support role. See the Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan for more details.

Links

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

<http://www.fire.qld.gov.au/>

Rural Fire Service

<http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/>

Southeast Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/southeast-queensland-fire-biodiversity-consortium/resources/educational-materials>