Contents

1. Introduction ......................................................................................................................................... 3
   1.1. Purpose ....................................................................................................................................... 3
   1.2. Functional responsibility ............................................................................................................. 3
   1.3. Authority ...................................................................................................................................... 3
2. Area .................................................................................................................................................... 4
   2.1. Description .................................................................................................................................... 4
3. Scope ................................................................................................................................................ 4
   3.1. Application .................................................................................................................................... 4
      3.1.1. Lead Agency .......................................................................................................................... 4
4. Threat ................................................................................................................................................ 5
   4.1. Factors impacting .......................................................................................................................... 5
      4.1.1. Practices – Hazard Reduction Burn ....................................................................................... 5
5. Wildfire Alert Level (WAL) ................................................................................................................ 6
   5.1. Use of WAL ................................................................................................................................... 10
      5.1.1. Community Alert Warnings ............................................................................................... 14
6. Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) .................................................................................................. 15
   6.1. NSP in the Fraser Coast Regional Council Area: ..................................................................... 15
      6.1.1. NSP locations in FCRC ....................................................................................................... 15
7. Activation of the LDMG ....................................................................................................................... 16
   7.1. Activation Modes ......................................................................................................................... 16
8. Responsibilities ..................................................................................................................................... 17
   8.1. Council ........................................................................................................................................ 17
      8.1.1. Requests for Support .......................................................................................................... 17
      8.1.2. Plant, materials and other requirements ........................................................................... 17
9. Evacuation .......................................................................................................................................... 17
   9.1. Responsible Agencies ................................................................................................................ 17
10. Media ................................................................................................................................................ 18
   10.1. On Scene ..................................................................................................................................... 18
   10.2. At LDMG level ............................................................................................................................ 18
11. Briefings .......................................................................................................................................... 18
12. Debriefing ........................................................................................................................................ 18
1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of the Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Disaster Management Bushfire Management Plan is to outline the procedural activities of organisations involved in preparing for and that may be required to combat the effects of a major bushfire within the Fraser Coast Regional Council area. This plan should be read in conjunction with the Bushfire Management Strategy 2010 within the operational plans of the Local Disaster Management Plan.

1.2. Functional responsibility

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) in association with Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) is the lead agency.

1.3. Authority

This document forms a sub-plan to the Fraser Coast Local Disaster Management Plan and is developed under the authority of the Disaster Management Act 2003. This sub-plan will be managed in accordance with the administrative and governance processes outlined within the Fraser Coast Local Disaster Management Plan including approval, document control, distribution and review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Plan Updated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>Issue Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2386651</td>
<td>29/7/2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Area

2.1. Description

The area of operation is the entirety of the Fraser Coast Regional Council. A full profile of the various facets of the FCRC region are contained in the Bushfire Management Strategy 2010. (See document #1957633)

There is also a necessity to be aware that the surrounding council areas of Bundaberg, North Burnett, South Burnett and Gympie do also consist of heavily timbered and grassed rural areas in which combustion may occur and move rapidly into the FCRC domain.

Throughout the FCRC region there are a number of rural residential areas where acreage blocks of various sizes prevail. Preservation of the aesthetic appearance and purpose of the land in its natural state does pose a further potential for a high level of destructive bushfire.

3. Scope

3.1. Application

This sub-plan applies to any fire:

- That threatens or has the potential to threaten life or property
- That may occur in a declared Rural Fire Service area
- That challenges the effective control of the resources of the lead agency

3.1.1. Lead Agency

Unlike other natural disaster events local government is not the lead response agency for fire. As legislated by the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990 (amended) the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is the lead response agency and maintain that status throughout this sub-plan.
4. Threat

4.1. Factors impacting

Bushfires/wildfires can reasonably be viewed as a seasonal occurrence. The intensity of the fire will be dependent on a number of factors but not restricted to:

- Extensive summer wet season
- Continuation into the autumn season
- Cold dry winter producing dried and cured vegetation
- Build-up of combustible fuels in rural/semi-rural areas

4.1.1. Practices – Hazard Reduction Burn

The traditional land management practices in the form of hazard reduction burning through controlled burns with the view to minimise the accumulation of significant levels of combustible fuels where a threat may be indicated.

The primary and lead agency remains the QFRS (in conjunction with the RFSQ). Other agencies such as State Emergency Service, FCRC and any other agency considered necessary to affect the purpose.
5. Wildfire Alert Level (WAL)

1. PURPOSE

(a) To provide the requirements for establishing and activating a Wildfire Alert Level (WAL).

2. APPLICATION

(a) Applies to all QFRS personnel.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

(a) WAL is used by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) to notify changes in the level of preparedness required by regional and/or state personnel and resources required for a particular day, or period of time.

(b) The WAL allows Regions to apply local knowledge to local conditions and review appropriate resource levels to determine preparedness activities (see WAL Readiness Activities Table, section 4.4 of this Directive). Specific actions referred to in the activities table are located in Regional Operational Plans.

4. DIRECTIVE

4.1 WAL Determination

(a) The WAL within each region (and zone) is to be determined by Regional Manager Rural Operations (RMRO), Director of Regional Operations (DRO) and Assistant Commissioner (AC), and approved by AC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Danger Rating</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>WAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| QFRS will use Fire Danger Rating Graphic (FDRG) indices and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Weather Forecast and analyse the Fire Danger Index (FDI): | • Current fire activity  
 • Fuel condition and availability  
 • Fire history (in the local area)  
 • Seasonal developments  
 • Local weather effects  
 • Local knowledge  
 • Potential community risk | Level 4  
 Level 3  
 Level 2  
 Level 1 |
| • Temperature;  
 • Relative Humidity;  
 • Wind speed and direction;  
 • Forest fuel drought factor; and  
 • Grassland curing and loading data. | |

(b) The decision to elevate or decrease the WAL will be by the RMRO in consultation with the AC for a particular zone within the region, or for the whole region. Liaison with DRO should occur during this process.
4.2 WAL Communication

(a) When a WAL changes (i.e. within a region or zone), the change will be updated on the DES Portal via the Mapping Services page using the Alert Level Editor by RMRO.

(b) Request Firecom to send a Commissioners Notifiable Incident Report (CNIR) is to be sent from the Regional Fire Communication (Firecom) Centre advising the following details (in italicised brackets):

- Firecom: (name)
- Date: (date)
- Incident Type: (WAL #)
- Incident No: N/A
- GARS Level: N/A
- eAP Number: N/A
- Address: (Zone Name or whole Region if activated – from Alert Level Editor)
- Situation: (elevating from or decreasing to WAL #)
- Action: N/A
- Resources: N/A
- Incident Controller or QFRS Commander: (Superintendent, name)
- Update: N/A.

(c) Updating the WAL using the Alert Level Editor and supplying CNIR details to Firecom, are actions authorised by the Assistant Commissioner (AC), and are completed by the Regional Managers Rural Operations (Superintendents) or their delegate.

(d) Predictable seasonal fire weather conditions can be prepared for; however, close monitoring of daily weather patterns by all operational staff is essential in maintaining optimum operational preparedness and response.

(e) All Fire Communication and operational staff are to be informed of any WAL changes.

4.3 WAL Characteristics

(a) Level 1 - Normal operational business and conditions are such that it does not require any additional planning.

(b) Level 2 - There is a predicted heightened increase in fire danger that may have an impact on operations. Level 2 includes Level 1 normal response protocols with a heightened awareness of High to Very High fire danger predictions and the checking of regional equipment and resources to ensure operational readiness.

(c) Level 3 - There is a predicted Very High to Severe fire danger. This may coincide with a single fire weather event or be associated with days of worsening fire weather conditions, which may follow a long period of rainfall deficiency or fire activity. Level 3 will require consideration for an increase to initial response and may also require additional resources to be prepared for duty. All available additional resources should be verified.

(d) Level 4 - There is a predicted Severe to Extreme fire danger or when there is significant fire activity or risk following a long period of cyclic fire weather patterns. Additional resources will need to be prepared and brought up for duty to manage the potential risk. This may also trigger a request for additional resources from other regions.
4.4 WAL Readiness Activities

(a) The minimum readiness activities at each WAL is presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WAL</th>
<th>Staff and Agencies</th>
<th>Weight of Initial Attack*</th>
<th>Rural Region Reporting **</th>
<th>Resources Prepared</th>
<th>Community Warnings ***</th>
<th>Fire Permits+</th>
<th>ICC</th>
<th>ROC</th>
<th>SOC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Notify and activate relevant staff and agencies</td>
<td>Maximise initial response</td>
<td>RMRO Liaise with Regional AC</td>
<td>Optimum resources staged where appropriate</td>
<td>Issue Community Warnings</td>
<td>Implement Fire Ban</td>
<td>Activated (for known Risk Areas)</td>
<td>Activated</td>
<td>Alert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Notify relevant staff and agencies</td>
<td>Increase initial response</td>
<td>RMRO Liaise with Regional AC</td>
<td>Additional resources verified</td>
<td>Contact key stakeholders and consider issuing general Community Advice and Warnings</td>
<td>Consider Local Fire Permits Restrictions</td>
<td>Consider activation (for known Risk Areas)</td>
<td>Alert/Standby</td>
<td>Watching Brief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Notify relevant staff</td>
<td>Normal response</td>
<td>Liaise through RMRO</td>
<td>Additional resources identified</td>
<td>Provide general Community Safety information and advice</td>
<td>Ensure Adequate Fire Permit Conditions</td>
<td>Alert</td>
<td>Watching Brief</td>
<td>Watching Brief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NORMAL BUSINESS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Weight of initial attack: Regions should consider additional appliances and air attack based on the risk and available resources.

** Rural reporting to the Regional AC at WAL 3 and WAL 4 because Level 2 or 3 incident (s) are expected to occur, or have occurred.

*** Community Advice and Warnings: Community advice and warnings should escalate with increasing WAL as described in the Regional Wildfire Readiness Plan.

+ Permit Restrictions and Fire Bans: RMRO or designate to solely handle attaining Fire Ban approvals along with implementation of Fire Permit variations and instructions in a Region.
5. QFRS RELEVANCY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCDIR 3.3</th>
<th>URBAN OPERATIONS</th>
<th>RURAL OPERATIONS</th>
<th>RURAL FIRE BRIGADES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full time</td>
<td>Part time</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicable</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Apply *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This document may apply to some Rural brigades. Check with your Senior Officer for additional information.
5.1. Use of WAL

WAL is used by the QFRS to notify changes in the level of preparedness required by regional and/or state personnel and resources required for a particular day or period of time. The use of WAL is a determination by senior management within the QFRS North Coast Region of which the FCRC forms part.

The Local Disaster Coordinator must be alert to issues of bushfire threats so as to invoke the activation process should the WAL be escalated that may warrant the activation of the LDMG
1. PURPOSE

(a) To outline the procedures to request the dissemination of community warnings.

2. APPLICATION

(a) Applies to all fire officers, volunteers, fire communications officers and Department of Community Safety (DCS) Media officers.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

(a) There is an increased focus to ensure the public is continually informed of emergency incidents by providing relevant and timely information and/or warnings.

(b) Community warnings are an effective method available to personnel to deliver timely information, advice or warnings to the public; and are delivered through multi-channel media, such as radio, television, newspapers, and social media.

(c) There are three (3) types of community warnings:

- **Advice** - general information to advise the public that a fire or other emergency has started in the area however there is no immediate threat, and is used to keep the public up-to-date with developments.
- **Watch and Act** - more specific information informing the public that there is a heightened level of threat, to be aware of the situation and take action to be prepared and protect themselves and the family and neighbours.
- **Emergency Warning** - very specific information informing the public that they are in danger and the need to take immediate action recommended by the fire service.

(d) Community warnings are only one method of delivering information to the public, and are generally supported by on-the-ground strategies such as door knocking, community meetings and other local arrangements.

(e) Community warnings may also be delivered via telephones (landline and mobile) using Emergency Alert (refer to Incident Directive 21.3).

4. DIRECTIVE

(a) Community warnings must be considered as soon as practicable and throughout an incident to ensure the public (including the media) is being informed of the situation.

(b) Community warnings (primarily Advice) must also be considered during times of forecasted or predicted incidents, such as severe fire weather during the bushfire season.
(c) The role of Public Information Officer (refer Incident Management System 9.1) may be delegated by the Incident Controller to gather, assemble and disseminate timely accurate and relevant information and warnings to the public and other stakeholders, in association with DCS Media.

4.1 Requesting a Community Warning

(a) When the need for a community warning has been identified, DCS Media must be contacted either through Firecom or directly.

   24 hour on-call DCS Media Officer - Direct phone: 3635 3310

(b) DCS Media will require the following information to develop the community warning:

   - **Type** of incident.
   - **Location** of the incident.
   - **Community warning** type required (e.g. Advice, Watch and Act or Emergency Warning).
   - **Severity** of the incident (e.g. large, fast-moving).
   - **Direction of travel** (e.g. coming from, going to with compass point).
   - **Threat impact** of the incident (e.g. potential areas of threat, being specific as possible including suburb, street, houses or building).
   - **Time** when the threat impact is likely to occur.
   - **Frequency** of message (e.g. 15 minutes, 30 minutes or hourly).
   - **Community actions** required (e.g. advice only, action to take, move to a safer area).
   - **Contact details** of the Incident Controller.

(c) Incident Form 39 (Request for Community Information) is available to assist in the capture of this information.

4.2 Developing a Community Warning

(a) DCS Media will develop the requested community warning based on the information provided, and any further information required from the Incident Controller, Firecom, Public Information Officer (if appointed), and/or a Senior Officer.

4.3 Approving a Community Warning

(a) Advice community warnings do not require approval.

(b) Watch and Act community warnings require approval from the relevant rural or urban Inspector (or higher ranked Senior Officer).

(c) Emergency Warnings require approval from the relevant Director of Regional Operations or Assistant Commissioner; or the Regional Manager Rural Operations or Director of Rural Operations for wildfire incidents.

(d) DCS Media will seek the relevant approvals prior to the release of a community warning.

4.4 Disseminating a Community Warning

(a) DCS Media will release the community warning to the relevant media channels, including the radio, DCS website, QFRS Facebook and Twitter account, television, and newspaper (as required).
(b) DCS Media also forwards a copy of the community warning to the Minister's office, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and also the relevant Assistant Commissioner, Director of Regional Operations, Fire Communications Centre, and Regional Manager of Rural Operations (bushfire incidents only).

(c) Community warnings may also be disseminated using Emergency Alert. Refer to Incident Directive 21.3 for the additional requirements to request, approve and disseminate a community warning via Emergency Alert.

4.5 Updating and Closing Out a Community Warning

(a) DCS Media will work with the relevant regional contact to update the community warning throughout an incident, including a final message.

(b) If a Public Information Officer (or Information and Warnings Unit) has been appointed, DCS Media will be working closely with these officers.

5. QFRS RELEVANCY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCDIR 21.2</th>
<th>URBAN OPERATIONS</th>
<th>RURAL OPERATIONS</th>
<th>RURAL FIRE BRIGADES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full time</td>
<td>Part time</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicable</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Apply *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This document may apply to some Rural brigades. Check with your Senior Officer for additional information.

REFERENCES

The Australian Inter-service Incident Management System
Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990
QFRS Training Material
QFRS Operational Guides
5.1.1. Community Alert Warnings

QFRS acknowledge that community warnings are an effective method to deliver timely information, advice or warnings to the public; and are delivered through multi-channel media such as radio, television, newspapers and social media.

There are three (3) types of community warning:-

- **Advice** – general information to advise the public that a fire or other emergency has started in the area however there is no immediate threat and is used to keep the public up to date with developments
- **Watch and Act** – more specific information informing the public that there is a heightened level of threat, to be aware of the situation and take action to be prepared and protect themselves, family and neighbours
- **Emergency Warning** – very specific information informing the public that they are in danger and the need to take immediate action recommended by the QFRS
6. Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP)

6.1. NSP in the Fraser Coast Regional Council Area:

Neighbourhood Safer Places are specific locations identified by the QFRS where members of the community may be directed but they are a place of last resort and it must be remembered that:-

- Firefighters may not be present, in the event that they will be fighting the main fire front elsewhere.
- NSPs do not cater for animals or pets.
- NSPs do not provide meals or amenities.
- NSPs may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers.

6.1.1. NSP locations in FCRC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bauple Community Recreation Grounds</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>6 Forestry Road, Bauple Qld 4650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maaroom Sport/Recreational Reserve</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Esplanade, Maaroom Qld 4650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenwood Community Sports/Recreation Oval</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Clarke Rd, Glenwood Qld 4570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenwood State School - Oval</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>13 Glenwood School Road/Bruce Highway, Glenwood QLD 4570</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Activation of the LDMG

7.1. Activation Modes

The Local Disaster Management Group must be alert to issues of bushfire threats by working through a responsible relationship with the relevant members of the QFRS and QRFS and through attention to any warning messages that are received. Activation of the LDMG would be in accordance with the Activation Modes as contained in the Local Disaster Management Plan. QFRS could make a request to activate. (See below chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Activation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alert</strong></td>
<td>A heightened level of vigilance due to the possibility of an event in the area of responsibility. No action is required however the situation should be monitored by someone capable of assessing the potential of the threat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lean forward</strong></td>
<td>An operational state prior to ’stand up’ characterised by a heightened level of situational awareness of a disaster event (either current or impending) and a state of operational readiness. Disaster coordination centres are on stand by, prepared but not activated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stand up</strong></td>
<td>The operational state following ’lean forward’ whereby resources are mobilised, personnel are activated and operational activities commenced. Disaster coordination centres are activated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stand down</strong></td>
<td>Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or recovery operations. There is no longer a requirement to respond to the event and the threat is no longer present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Responsibilities

8.1. Council

Council will operate to the extent of its capability and core function to support QFRS in response and recovery activities.

Responsibilities with regard to a fire are:

- Respond if on Council owned land
- Assist the QFRS where requested
- Activate the LDCC if necessary
- Utilise the evacuation processes where necessary
- Attend to Requests for Assistance (RFA) to the DDC as necessary
- Make necessary formal requests for deployment of the SES as required
- Maintain liaison and communications with other agencies
- Maintain liaison with neighbouring local governments if fire path generates from their area or is moving towards their area
- Assist with any identified recovery process
- Maintain contact with the DDC
- Coordination of any Council response that may be required

8.1.1. Requests for Support

Should any request for support of Council emanate this will be directed to the LDCC (if activated) but in principle resources must be near depletion before requesting additional resources with the necessary request via an RFA to the DDC

8.1.2. Plant, materials and other requirements

Requests for additional plant, material and other requirements will be made through the LDCC and dealt with in accordance with the protocols outlined in the Local Disaster Management Plan. Any such requests that cannot be met will also be subject of the RFA protocols

9. Evacuation

9.1. Responsible Agencies

The QFRS and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in consultation are the agencies responsible for the decision to evacuate residents affected, or likely to be affected by, a fire. The FCRC will provide assistance to the QFRS and QPS within the terms of the FCRC Evacuation Plan
10. Media

10.1. On Scene

Control will remain with the responsible combatant agency namely the QFRS. The QPS should be apprised of all issues that may lead to requests for assistance with media management.

10.2. At LDMG level

All media will be through the chair (or delegated officer) of the LDMG in conjunction with the QFRS. QFRS should also arrange for a liaison officer to be appointed to arrange any media briefings. The FCRC Corporate Media Officer will undertake requisite actions as outlined in the Public Information and Warnings Sub-plan.

11. Briefings

The QFRS (as combatant agency) will be responsible for developing a process and timings for carrying out daily briefings of personnel who attend the fire scene. This may also apply to any support agencies who may over time attend the scene e.g. QRAA, wellbeing agencies

12. Debriefing

Debriefing will be carried out as soon as reasonably practical after the conclusion of the event by the combatant and other agencies with a later debriefing conducted by the LDMG as deemed fit.