



Request for Quote

Request for Quote:	POINT HENRY VEGETATION HAZARD MAPPING AND PROTECTION STRATEGY
Deadline:	2:00pm on Friday 11 th March 2016
Address for Lodgement:	<p style="text-align: center;">Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street, Jerramungup WA 6337 or alternatively by email: planning@jerramungup.wa.gov.au</p>

POINT HENRY VEGETATION HAZARD MAPPING AND PROTECTION STRATEGY

The Shire of Jerramungup is seeking quotes to undertake a reasonably broad study; it is acknowledged that this may require a multi-disciplinary team.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT IS TO:

- To reduce the fuel loads in Point Henry rural residential area and Reserve 511 in the long term whilst maintaining amenity and conservation values.
- Provide landowners with practical, easily understood guidance on how to reduce fuel loads on their property both in the Building Protection Zones and the balance of the Title.
- Provide information to inform the preparation of a Fire Management Plan for Reserve 511 and Reserve 51949 (Bremer Bay Town Centre).
- Test various mitigation methodologies over time against agreed criteria.

TASKS

1. Identify existing vegetation communities in Reserve 511, Reserve 51949 and Point Henry;
2. Identify any threatened or priority listed flora, vegetation communities and fauna, particularly along previously identified, proposed strategic breaks;
3. Describe vegetation community regeneration behaviours;
4. Outline bushfire hazard mitigation/biomass reduction and maintenance methodologies and differences;
5. Describe the vegetation community's response to various bushfire mitigation as hazard management/biomass reduction methods;
6. Recommend appropriate bushfire management response to the vegetation communities bearing in mind:
 - Protecting life and property is the number 1 priority
 - Resourcing and practicality;
 - Time taken to achieve this response;
 - The likely capabilities of the responsible party; and
 - Conservation of amenity, biodiversity and cover.
7. Prepare easily understood information for individual landowners on best practice mitigation process for the vegetation communities present including (but not limited to):
 - Plans and images to guide the establishment and maintenance of Building Protection Zones in the various vegetation communities;
 - A variety of 'prescriptions' for the individual landowners in the Point Henry Rural Residential area for caring for the balance of their Title outside of the Building Protection Zone.
 - Additional information on local weed species, erosion control, landscape protection and hygiene.

8. Information on best practice bushfire mitigation in an easily understood format for use by:
 - Agency land managers for crown land;
 - Shire of Jerramungup staff for use in managing crown reserves (particularly 511) and road reserves;
 - Local VES unit and the regional DFES office to inform bushfire mitigation programs in Unallocated Crown Land and in broader planning; and
 - All information prepared will inform the Shire-wide Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan (BRMP) to be developed over the next year.
9. Provide specific recommendations to inform a future fire management plan for reserves 511 and 51949 including information on hygiene when working in the various vegetation communities present.
10. Prepare a methodology and program for testing the ongoing effectiveness of the various mitigation methods in each vegetation community with the test criteria to be developed as part of this project.

BACKGROUND

Development in Point Henry

The Point Henry Rural Residential area was started around 1990 with the subdivision of land largely owned by Max Wellstead.

The Shire adopted the Point Henry Limited Rural Strategy to guide the development of this area. This was also endorsed by the WAPC at the time.

A single fire management plan for Point Henry was not drafted in the early 1990's and was left to be addressed as each part of Point Henry developed. However the original Point Henry Limited Rural Strategy did contain a number of fire management recommendations.

Following the adoption of the Limited Rural Strategy, Point Henry was progressively rezoned and subdivided throughout the 1990's and 2000. The Point Henry peninsula has been developed with approximately 150 lots, with 30 more approved and planned for in Rural Residential areas 4 & 5. There are approximately 70 existing houses and 5-6 current approvals to develop.

Point Henry Fire Management Strategy

In 2014 the Shire of Jerramungup prepared a Fire Management Strategy for Point Henry Rural Residential area with the aim of:

- a) To integrate fire management as a key element of development and subdivision design in balance with environmental, landscape, community and residential objectives;
- b) That all levels of the community work towards fostering a permanent culture of fire consciousness and preparedness;
- c) That the Strategy clarify what landowners, managers and occupiers must do; should do and can do; and
- d) *Manage fuel to reduce the rate of spread and intensity of bush fires, while minimising environmental/ecological impacts.*

The result included:

- Changes to Fire Break Notice to mandate compliant access, turnarounds for heavy firefighting vehicles, dedicated water source and a 20m Building Protection Zone;
- Amending Local Planning Scheme to improve fire management requirements;
- Identifying neighbourhood safer places at Blossoms and Short Beach for further development;
- That Council prepare a fire management plan for R511 which includes fire management zones and associated measures.
- That a portion of selected road reserves be judiciously slashed; and
- That Council will develop a policy to allow the building protection zone to include heath vegetation which has been trimmed to a nominated height and maintained with reduced fuel loads. This Policy shall encourage the planting of local native species so that this area becomes a “managed” landscape.

However, what is recognised is that whilst the measures introduced through this Strategy are likely to increase the measures protecting individual buildings and assets, there was no reduction to the hazard (fuel loads/biomass) in private property and in the Shire’s reserve network. Addressing this issue was seen as beyond the scope and resourcing at the time. However, Council did resolve to pursue this matter as an identified “future study” at a later date.

Balance of Title/Fuel Management

When Council considered the Point Henry Fire Management Strategy for final approval in October 2014 the officer report at the time stated:

Ideally, coordinated fuel reduction would take place across the whole of Point Henry to reduce fuel loads and therefore risk of more intense fires. However, Point Henry is now subdivided into private ownership and measures such as cool burning across property boundaries are likely to be extremely difficult to administer.

There is also the question of what fire management techniques are appropriate to use on Point Henry; cool burns may simply work to spread colonising plants like peppermint woodland throughout.

Therefore, the revised Strategy restricts slashing to within 30m around a house, outside of which a vegetation management plan is required.

It is also recommended that Council undertake a Vegetation Management Plan for Point Henry at some time in the future that identifies the vegetation types and the appropriate fire management measures for each, with the intention of retaining the ecological values and lower fuel levels that could then be recommended to landowners.

The relevant part of the Council resolution in October 2014 states:

“That the Shire consider preparing Vegetation Management Plan for Point Henry that maps the vegetation communities and provides recommendations on weed control and fire management measures for specific vegetation communities with a view to retaining their ecological values over time”.

Point Henry and Reserve 511 have high conservation values, high fuel loads and a large number strategic assets and rural residential properties. There is a clear need to improve fire management measures in this area whilst balancing this with amenity and conservation values.

Strategic Planning

The project aligns with the Shire's Community Strategic Plan and in particular aspirations 2 and 4 as follows:

- "2. A growing community that embraces well designed and sustainable development
4. An environmentally astute community where human needs are met while conserving our natural and built environment."

Additionally, the subject site is located within the Fitzgerald Biosphere, a UNESCO recognised place. This recognition and listing has the objectives:

1. Conservation - contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation
2. Development - foster economic and human development, which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable
3. Logistic support - support for demonstration projects, environmental education and training, research and monitoring related to local, regional, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development.

Finally it is an adopted recommendation of Council as an outcome of the recently completed Point Henry Fire Management Strategy which responded directly to feedback received during public consultation with the local community.

Grant Funding

The Shire has been successful in attracting a grant as part of the National Bushfire Mitigation Program; this grant requires achievement of agreed milestones and acknowledgment of funding in any material produced. The grant will be administered by the Shire of Jerramungup.

STUDY AREA:

Point Henry Peninsula, Reserve 511 and Reserve 51949; as shown in the attached plan.

PROCESS:

1. Provide a basic *Communications Strategy* that describes the public consultation methodology that includes as a minimum consultation with:
 - Relevant government agencies including DPaW, DFES, land managers, etc;
 - Landowners in Point Henry;
 - Key Shire of Jerramungup staff;
 - Local VES brigade
2. Undertaken project as described above. This project is subject to federal funding and a number of milestones need to be met. A summary of these are attached.

TIMEFRAMES:

Ideally the project is to be completed by the 30th September 2016.

RESOURCES PROVIDED:

1. Access to basic GIS mapping with:
 - 2014 aerial photography & historical photography as required;
 - Broad 2m contour information;
 - Beard Vegetation mapping data set (provided by DPaW)
 - Cadastral information such as property boundaries, reserves, road centreline and lot area.
2. Point Henry Limited Rural Strategy 1991
3. Point Henry Fire Management Strategy Local Planning Policy 2013
4. DPaW Fire Management Policy 19
5. Fire Sensitive Ecosystems and Species of the South Coast Management Region. Barrett et al 2009
6. Managing Bushfire in a Biodiversity Hotspot, N.D. Burrows and R. Armstrong

MINIMUM OUTCOMES:

1. Mapping of the subject area showing vegetation communities as a layer available to a GIS system (the Shire uses QGIS);
2. Documentation of the various studies requested including the nature of the vegetation communities present, presence of threatened or priority listed flora, regeneration behaviours, bushfire hazard mitigation/biomass reduction and maintenance methodologies and differences and the response to various bushfire mitigation methodologies.
3. Information on best practice bushfire mitigation in an easily understood format for use by:
 - Individual landowners in the Point Henry Rural Residential area (or more broadly in the Bremer Bay community);
 - Agency land managers for crown land;
 - Shire of Jerramungup staff for use in managing crown reserves (particularly 511) and road reserves;
 - Local VES unit and the regional DFES office to inform bushfire mitigation programs in Unallocated Crown land and in broader planning; and
 - ***Most importantly, any information is to inform the Shire-wide Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan (BRMP) to be developed over the next two years.***
4. Prepare an easily understood information package for individual landowners on best practice mitigation process for the vegetation communities present including (but not limited to):
 - Plans and images to guide the establishment and maintenance of Building Protection Zones in the various vegetation communities (particularly as it relates to *Kwongkan Shrubland*);
 - A variety of 'prescriptions' for the individual landowners in the Point Henry Rural Residential area for caring for the balance of their Title outside of the Building Protection Zone;

- Incorporates the requirements of the Shire's Fire Break Notice including the necessity to provide compliant access, turnaround, 20KL of water and Building Protection Zones; and
 - Additional information on local weed species, erosion control, landscape protection and hygiene.
5. Provide specific recommendations to inform a future fire management plan for reserves 511 and 51949 including information on hygiene when working in the various vegetation communities present and the presence of any declare rare or threatened flora or fauna on previously identified strategic breaks.
 6. Prepare a methodology and program for testing the ongoing effectiveness of the various mitigation methods in each vegetation community with the test criteria to be developed as part of this project.

EXTERNAL LIASION

Please liaise with DFES Bushfire Risk Management Officer, Albany DPAW and Shire staff including the land use planner and Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator.

COSTING

The fee proposal is to include all components associated with the project including travel, disbursements and report preparation. Council will require both hard copy and electronic copies of reports and plans.

Please provide a separate quote for any going costs involved in the monitoring and evaluation of mitigation methods over time.

Request for Quotation

A written quotation to undertake the above scope of works is requested by **Friday 11th March 2016**.

Please provide sufficient information to ensure the scope is appropriately addressed. You are invited to provide additional information or scope that you believe will allow for our objectives to be met.

Further Information

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,


Craig Pursey
Planning Officer

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Enc: *Plan of the Study Area*
Project Milestones