

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP – RESPONSE & RECOVERY

(Brief summary of Shire involvement in improving response to fire events)

Recent Actions and Improvements	Planned Activity
Gazetting of new dates for the restricted and prohibited burning periods within the Shire.	4 x 4 Broadacre Truck for Boxwood Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
Revoked the restriction for burning on Sundays during the restricted burning period to allow for absentee landowners to do controlled burns on a long weekend	Construction of the Jacup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Shed
After extensive consultation between the Shire, local brigades and landowners the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee resolved in April 2016 to incorporate the proposed new fire boundary Zone 5 – Point Henry Peninsula	Liaise with DFES Community Engagement Officer to ensure annual Bushfire Patrol Programs are run at the Bremer Bay, Gairdner and Jerramungup schools.
Completion of the Boxwood & Needilup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Sheds	Develop a Shire emergency management APP
Maintaining the Shire's SMS system to send out alerts and information	The Shire to budget for air con units to be installed in the Boxwood Sports Club, one of the challenges faced at the Northcliffe fire was the Heat and humidity in the Centre made it very uncomfortable for evacuees and staff in the Centre.
Annual inspections carried out on Residential and Rural Residential blocks within the townsites	
Staff regularly attend Recovery and Arrangement workshops/exercises coordinated by DFES	Develop an Emergency Management Preparedness Fund
Attendance and assistance with the 'Jerramungup Evacuation Centre exercise' held at the Jerramungup Entertainment Centre on the 4 th October.	Provide support to the Bushfire Ready Group
LEMC developed the 'Visitor Safety Aide Booklet' and during the New Year period in Bremer Bay the booklet is distributed to locals via a road block coming into to Bremer Bay and sent to local tourism businesses.	Signage for Doubtful Bay – Signage to contain the same information as the visitor safety aide memoire and LEMC also requested info on the signage to remain at the beach in the event of a fire/smoke. LEMC also would like to develop a register of tourists visiting the area (this has been ongoing issue for LEMC for quite sometime)
The Jacup emergency water supply dam construction	Street numbering within the townsites
Shire developed a 'Burn Prescription' for Plantations which applies 12 months of the year	Jerramungup VES have requested a larger water tank located at the Jerry airstrip
Increased the " Mobile fire fighting unit " minimum water carrying capacity	Planned improvements at the Bremer Bay airfield including development of a cross runway and dedicated water bomber facility.
In 2015, LEMC reviewed the Local Emergency Management Arrangements,	
A Point Henry workshop was held in Bremer Bay on the 8th September 2014. Key agencies from DPaW, DFES, VES, St John, local Primary Schools, Shire, Volunteer bushfire brigades members attended the workshop. A map identifying risks within Bremer Bay, Point Henry and along our coastline was formulated, key infrastructure was also identified. Outcomes that were found was the power and communications failure, one road in and out for Point Henry, absentee landowners, tourists camping in areas such as Doubtful and Dillon Bay.	Update the workforce plan to identify the need for multi-skilled staff to cover a number of roles in the case of an emergency this is also due to the absence of staff who will be fulfilling volunteer emergency roles in the event of an emergency.
A register is maintained and updated of the 'Special Needs Groups' within our Shire. The Special Needs Group will be first priority in an emergency	
In August 2014 Council resolved to amend the Shire's HR Policy to include Fire Training Minimum standards for volunteers in our community	

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP – MITIGATION – PUBLIC LAND

The aim of Mitigation works is to reduce the likelihood and severity of a bushfire .Reducing the potential impacts upon assets, people and property is a shared responsibility between government agencies and private landholders and other users. The approach to mitigation needs to be strategic and coordinated in nature, to effectively utilise the limited resources available to the shire of Jerramungup and the State.

The Shire of Jerramungup has been declared a bushfire prone area by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) as such we are now required under Wesplan fire to develop a Bushfire Risk Management Plan. (BRMP).

In late 2015 the Shire of Jerramungup was successful in obtaining funding to develop a BRMP, using a Department of Emergency Services (DFES) and Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) developed system and supporting software. This system is used to risk rate assets within the shire regardless of land tenure then develop a treatment program, prioritised to the associated risk of the asset.

This is a shared project with the Shire of Ravensthorpe. Both shires share similar risk profiles and percentages of reserve land. The project will facilitate, greater resource sharing between both Shires

Involved parties	Existing	Recently Achieved	Planned
Shire Brigades DFES DPAW Bushfire Ready Groups Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge spread across individuals and agencies • Some Strategic access in areas of extreme risk • low fuel areas/cool burns • DFES spending on UCL in townsites • DPaW works on UCL outside the townsites and in National parks • Interagency emergency planning and management through LEMC BFAC • Coordinated fire planning in the Fitzgerald National Park through the FRNPFWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad consultation • Review of Local government controls i.e. fire break notice • Input into the LEMC and BFAC • Stakeholder identification • Review of existing plans • Western Power review and contribution to townsite mitigation • Development of a draft BRMP • DPaW managed maintenance of strategic access • Community engagement in information regarding mitigation activities and responsibilities • Funding for strategic mitigation activities on Point Henry and Bremer bay • Identification of critical infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Year strategic mitigation plan • placement of future strategic access Coordinated and according to 5 year townsite mitigation plan • Planned cool burns, rotated according to fuel age • Greater interaction between brigades and vulnerable communities • Increased inter agency activities • Further exploration of funding options for mitigation planning and actions • Regular community awareness activities according to the needs of the community • Greater understanding of the concept of shared responsibility throughout all stakeholders

POINT HENRY FIRE MANAGEMENT	
DECEMBER 2012	Actions since 2012
<p>Major fire event north of Bremer Bay resulted in the Point Henry rural residential area labelled as “indefensible”.</p> <p>Subsequent internal review identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Issues with clarity and adequacy of planning controls; ii) Inconsistent application of AS3959; iii) Lack of consistency in land use planning controls over the Point and lack of overall Fire Management Plan as Point Henry had developed incrementally over time; iv) Many examples of non-compliant and unapproved structures; v) Local VES Unit uncertain about entering Point Henry because of unsafe perception of the area; vi) Minimal Shire intervention – except for the maintenance of strategic breaks (although some of these are inaccessible) and development of water tanks in central reserves. <p>Past Actions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The establishment of a strategic fire break network, the construction of standpipe facilities and required landowners to contribute annually to a special fund for the maintenance of stand pipe facilities and firefighting equipment. ii) In June 2008 the Shire engaged ‘Fire Plan’, one of the few recognised fire experts in the State at the time, to review fire protection measures in Point Henry. Recommendations actioned included formalising access rights to maintain strategic breaks on private property. iii) In 2011 Council endorsed “Planning for Bush Fire Protection” as the guideline for the preparation of Fire Management Planning for developments within the Shire 	<p><i>In October 2014, following considerable public consultation, Council adopted:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i) The Point Henry Fire Management Strategy (as an informing document to:</i> <i>ii) Local Planning Policy 18 – Point Hery Fire Management Strategy Policy Statement; and</i> <i>iii) A series of recommendations regarding the Fire Break Notice and actions to be implemented by the Shire’s as a reserve manager.</i> <p><i>These documents have guided and resulted in the following actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bushfire Ready Group started. 2. Fire Break Notice amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended restricted burning period in Point Henry to 9months of the year; • Extended variations to allow for permanent variations; • Compliant access, turnarounds for heavy firefighting vehicles, dedicated water source and a 20m Building Protection Zone phased in over five years. Process commenced. 3. Reflector system for fully compliant properties finalised, awaiting implementation. 4. Weather Station for Bremer Bay coordinated with Department for Food and Agriculture. Established and operational at Bremer Bay airfield in June 2016. 5. Rural street numbers placed at all existing houses. Process put in place to require all new houses to have a rural street number. 6. Shire gained management of Torreburrup Hill reserve (converted from Unallocated Crown Land). 7. Fire Management Plan for Reserve 511 prepared, funding sought for implementation, clearing permits for new strategic break obtained. 8. First phase of roadside slashing complete for roads to act more effectively as Emergency Strategic Access. More to be implemented each year. 9. Point Henry Road line marked. 10. Assessment process for planning applications in Point Henry altered to require building envelopes to be applied for as the first step in the development process. BAL Assessments prepared by an accredited person required to inform development proposals. 11. Release of an Information Pack for development in Point Henry. 12. Holiday Home policy drafted and fire implications recognised and included. 13. Consultant engaged to review Local Planning Scheme to align with recommendations of Point Henry Strategy. 14. Strategic Breaks reviewed and recommended changes brought forward.

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">15. Asset Plan for private property on Point Henry started. All properties inspected, data collected on bushfire protection measures including access, turnarounds, dedicated fire-fighting water and Building Protection Zones.16. Grant funding received and Shire money spent on a Vegetation Management Plan which seeks to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map all vegetation communities in Reserve 511 and Point Henry;• Provide best practice mitigation methodologies for each vegetation community with the aim of reducing fuel loads;• Produce fire management information specific to south coast vegetation communities (currently all state information is based around jarrah/karri forests);• Provide individual landowners with site specific advise on how to manage the fuel loads on the balance of their properties; and• Inform Shire fire planning for reserves under its management.17. BAL Contour Plans prepared for all townsites to assist landowners and inform townsite mitigations plans. First in the State to do so.18. Shire-wide Bushfire Risk Mitigation Planning substantially commenced with the assistance of DFES. Two officers employed to prepare this plan and provide considerable professional advice on Shire fire management issues.19. New water bombing facilities being developed at Bremer Bay Airfield with 110KI tank and support building established at a new aeroplane turnaround. Grant applications to establish aircraft turnaround and cross runway lodged.20. Staff attended and passed Bushfire Attack Level Assessor Course.21. Establishment of a dedicated page on the Shire's website22. State Government introduced substantial changes to the way in which fire management is addressed in relevant planning and building legislation in December 2015 including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of State Planning Policy 3.7 'Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas';• Adoption of 'Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas';• The FES Commissioner prepared bushfire prone mapping across the state and declared bushfire prone areas;• Amendments to the Planning and Building Regulations to standardise approval requirement across the state for development in bushfire prone areas; and• Release of multiple information packs by state government agencies. |
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