

**Cherbourg
Area Fire Management Group**

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
Operation Sesbania


BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION PLAN

15th January 2022 to 14th January 2023

Version 1.2

ENDORSED

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Superintendent
Regional Manager RFS NCR
020332


9/6/2021

Version 1.2

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
Operation Sesbania

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Name: <u>Martin Taylor</u> Chair of AFMG – Cherbourg			Name: <u>ELVIE SANDOW</u> Chair of LDMG – Cherbourg		
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Cherbourg Area Fire Management Group Members:

Organisation	Position	Name of Representative
QFES – Rural Fire Service	Chair	Martin Taylor
QFES – Rural Fire Service	North Coast Region Mitigation Unit Inspector	Michael Koch
QFES – Rural Fire Service	Bushfire Safety Officer	Samuel Eitz
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	CEO	Chatur Zala
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	Economic & Community Development Officer	Sean Nicholson
QFES – Fire and Rescue	A/Area Commander - Kingaroy	Matt Phillips

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1. Purpose

In recent years, Queensland and other States have experienced bushfires with wide-ranging and severe impacts to communities, infrastructure and the environment. These concerns are reflected in the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements report, otherwise known as the 'Bushfires Royal Commission 2020'.

Because of these recent impacts and concerns and the potential for continuing challenging bushfire conditions into the future, proactive efforts to mitigate bushfire risks continues to be of high importance at all levels of government and throughout the Queensland community.

This BRMP will be used to support:

- The identification of Bushfire Hazards within a Local Government area.
- Support long term vegetation management and Community Engagement initiatives.
- Operational planning, long term (1-3 years) and decision making by AFMG members during the annual Operation Sesbania implementation period
- Forward planning for progressive future mitigation activities in subsequent years (AFMG partner three-year business plan if available)
- Support operational readiness planning of QFES, its partner organisations and landowners in preparation for bushfires.
- The integration of hazard - specific planning for bushfire mitigation into Queensland's Disaster management arrangements.
- Recognition of Local Disaster Management Plans (LDMPs) and associated activities of Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs)

The BRMP also establishes a collaborative standardised framework for the reporting of bushfire mitigation activities during the annual Operation Sesbania reporting cycle.

2. Role of the Area Fire Management Group

Rural Fire Service (RFS) leads the coordination of AFMGs to support a collaborative approach in the planning, implementation and reporting of bushfire mitigation activities.

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* identifies that preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from bushfires and other natural disasters is a shared responsibility involving government agencies, individual landholders, non-government, and private organisations.

AFMGs provide the primary mechanism for the coordinated identification of high-risk areas, the planning of bushfire mitigation activities, and the preparation of the BRMP for applicable Local Government Areas.

AFMGs also play a key role in supporting biodiversity in the landscape through, connecting communities, landholders, and partners with local level bushfire mitigation activities.

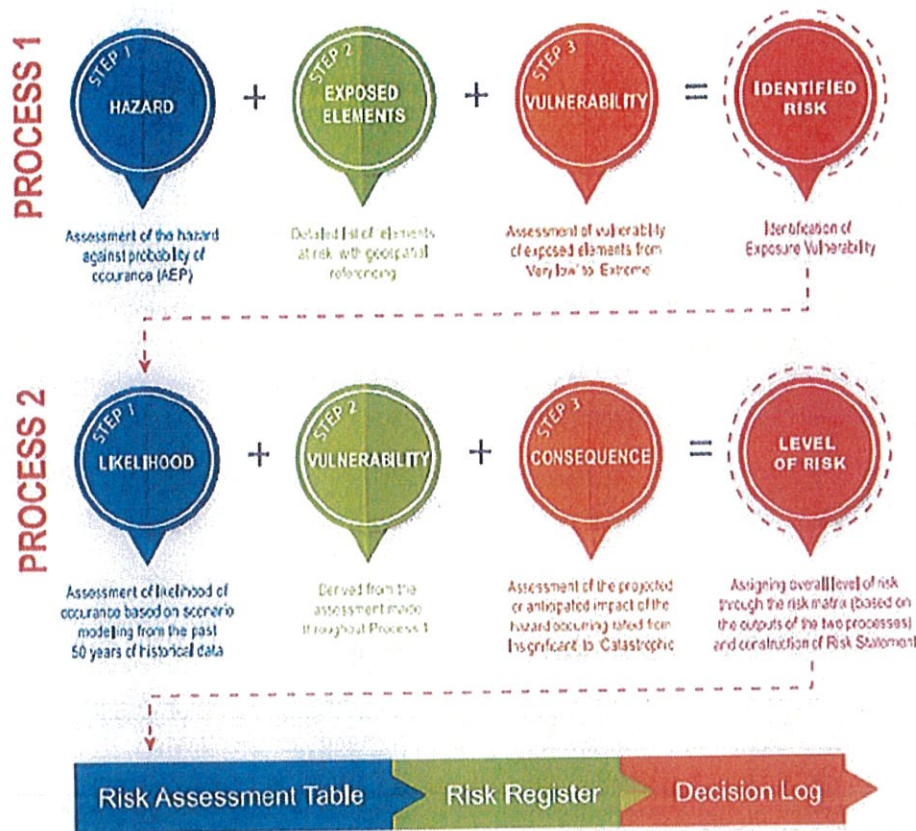
3. Method used to prepare this plan

3.1 Principles

The method used to prepare this plan is guided by the recommendation from the matters raised in the 2019 review of Queensland Bushfires by the Inspector General of Emergency Management. Reference, IGEM – Queensland Bushfires Review Report 2: 2019-2020

3.2 Risk Assessment Methodology

The methodology used to assess bushfire risk for Operation Sesbania, is based on the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF), as outlined in section 3.5 of Queensland’s Disaster Management Guideline.



The QERMF also upholds international best practice championed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

The risk assessment methodology adopted for Operation Sesbania applies the QERMF (process one) to integrate geospatial data (GIS Data) and local knowledge (process two) on four risk factors (bushfire hazard, vulnerability, exposed elements (buildings) and likelihood) to estimate bushfire risks at the locality scale, and to inform the identification of specific at-risk hotspots.

3.3 Risk Assessment Process (Figure 2)

3.3.1 Stage One

In preparing the BRMP, a structured and transparent approach is used to implement the following steps.

Process One	Assess and record the level of bushfire risk utilising integrated geospatial data (GIS data including, bushfire hazard, vulnerability, and exposed elements (buildings) at the start of the planning cycle for the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Area.
Process Two	Drawing on local knowledge of the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Area members regarding risk factors, specific to the bushfire hazard, likelihood, and consequence.
Outcome	Identify high-risk communities or infrastructure hotspots associated with these high-risk localities.
Risk Treatment	Identify planned activities to mitigate bushfire risks at these hotspots, specifically: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. hazard reduction activities (incl. planned burn, mechanical reduction, grazing management),2. firebreak or fire trail upgrades, maintenance, or construction,3. community education activities (incl targeted community activities),4. engaging and providing information to the community in preparing their property and family for the impact of bushfire.

3.3.2 Stage Two – Evaluating Outcomes

Annual residual risk will be documented and provided to the RBC and LDMG. Annual residual risk will also be included in the following years Operation Sesbania mitigation planning cycle. (Refer to Operation Sesbania annual planning template)

1. Operation Sesbania dashboard tools provide progress reports, including the completion of planned mitigation activities.
2. Operation Sesbania dashboard technologies assess and adjust the level of bushfire risk (high, medium, low) continuously as completed mitigation activities are uploaded via the applicable application technologies.

Information contained within this report will provide an input to pre-season bushfire readiness planning and regional assessment of residual risk by RFS and other response agencies (Regional Response Plan).

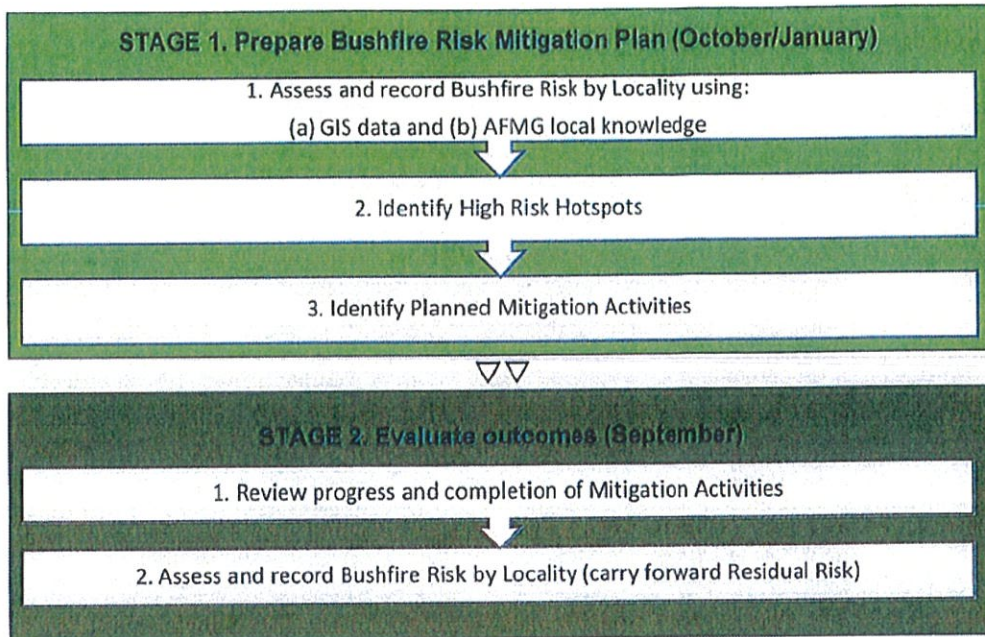


Figure 2. Staged approach for Assessing Bushfire Risk, identifying priority area, planning mitigation activities, reviewing progress and assessing residual risk for Regional Response Plans and preparation for the Yearly Mitigation Report to the SBC.

4. Area Fire Management Group Meeting – Objectives

A meeting to discuss fire management was held at the Cherbourg Shire Council Offices, Barambah Avenue, Cherbourg on 17 May 2022 where the level of bushfire risk in the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council area was reviewed by discussing local bushfire knowledge and previous mitigation activities.

The AFMG also identified high priority hotspots of buildings (assets) with a high risk from bushfires and identified several planned activities within the Operation Sesbania implementation cycle to mitigate these risks. (12-month implementation plan) (See table 5)

5. Cherbourg Area Fire Management Group priority localities & planned activities (Operation Sesbania Implementation Plan)

Planned Mitigation Activity	Local Government area	Locality Name	Locality Reference, Address or GPS Coordinate	Agency Reference	Activity Reference	Planned Mitigation Activity Type	Planned Mitigation Activity Subcategory	Planned Mitigation Activity Detailed-Category	Planned Mitigation Activity Support
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire	Cherbourg Township	Council Depot Sector	CASC	Fuel management	Hazard reduction	Planned burn	Asset protection	RFS & F&R
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire	Cherbourg Township	Cemetery Sector	CASC	Fuel management	Hazard reduction	Planned burn	Asset protection	RFS & F&R
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire	Cherbourg Township	Goanna Gully Sector	CASC	Fuel management	Hazard reduction	Planned burn	Asset protection	RFS & F&R
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire	Cherbourg Township	Snobs Hill Sector	CASC	Fuel management	Hazard reduction	Planned burn	Asset protection	RFS & F&R
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire	Cherbourg Township	Cherbourg School	F&R	Information management	Community Education	Face to face	School talk	RFS
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire	Cherbourg Township	Cherbourg Township	CASC	Access management	Maintenance	Bare earth	Asset protection/facilitate planned burns	

Acronyms

CASC – Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council

RFS – Rural Fire Service

F&R – Fire and Rescue

6. References

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Chen, K. and J. McAneney (2004). Quantifying bushfire penetration into urban areas in Australia. Geophys. Res. Lett. 31(12): L12212.

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7. Appendices (Maps or other attachments)

