



**Central North Fire Management Area  
Bushfire Risk Management Plan  
2020**

# Document Control

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## Agency Endorsements

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## Document Endorsement

Endorsed by Central North Fire Management Area Committee



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Accepted by State Fire Management Council



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## Glossary

<b>Asset</b>	A term used to describe anything valued by the community that may be adversely impacted by bushfire. This may include houses, infrastructure, agriculture, production forests, industry, and environmental and heritage sites.
<b>Asset Zone (AZ)</b>	The geographic location of asset(s) and values of importance requiring bushfire exclusion.
<b>Asset Protection Zone (APZ)</b>	An area adjacent to or near Asset Zones, the primary management purpose of which is to protect human life, property and highly valued assets and values. Treatment can include intensive fuel reduction, manipulation of fuel moisture or response plans.
<b>Bushfire</b>	Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective.
<b>Bushfire Hazard</b>	The potential or expected behaviour of a bushfire burning under a particular set of conditions, i.e. the type, arrangement and quantity of fuel, the fuel moisture content, wind speed, topography, relative humidity, temperature and atmospheric stability.
<b>Bushfire Risk Management</b>	A systematic process to coordinate, direct and control activities relating to bushfire risk with the aim of limiting the adverse effects of bushfire on the community.
<b>Community Bushfire Protection Plan</b>	A bushfire plan for community members that provides local, community-specific information to assist with bushfire preparation and survival. The focus of the Bushfire Protection Plan is on bushfire safety options, and the intent of the plan is to support the development of personal Bushfire Survival Plans.
<b>Community Bushfire Response Plan</b>	An Emergency Management Plan for emergency managers and responders. The Bushfire Response Plan aims to better protect communities and their assets during bushfire emergencies, through the identification of protection priorities and operational information.
<b>Consequence</b>	Impact(s) of an event on the five key areas: environment, economy, people, social setting and public administration.
<b>Control</b>	A measure that modifies risk. This may be an existing process, policy, device, practice or other action that acts to minimise negative risk or enhance positive opportunities.
<b>Fire Management Zoning</b>	Classification system for the areas to be managed. The zoning system indicates the primary purposes for fire management for an area of land.
<b>Fuel Break</b>	A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics which affects fire behaviour so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled.
<b>Hazard Management Area</b>	The area between a building and the bushfire-prone vegetation that provides access to a fire front for firefighting, which is maintained in a minimal fuel condition and in which there are no other hazards present that will significantly contribute to the spread of a bushfire.
<b>Human Settlement Area</b>	Term given for the dataset used to define where people live and work. The dataset was developed for the purpose of risk modelling and was created using a combination of building locations, cadastral information and ABS data. Includes seasonally populated areas and industrial areas.
<b>Land Management Zone (LMZ)</b>	An area that is managed to meet the objectives of the relevant land manager such as: Traditional Owner practices, biodiversity conservation, production

	forestry, farming or recreation. Management can include planned burning, experimental treatments, fire exclusion or no planned action.
<b>Likelihood</b>	Chance of something happening. It is used as a general description of probability and may be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively.
<b>Risk Register</b>	A document usually presented in a tabular form which lists concisely the following information for each risk: the risk statement, source, hazard, impact area, prevention/preparedness controls, recovery/response controls, level of existing controls, likelihood level, risk level, confidence level and treatment strategy.
<b>Risk Treatment</b>	Process of selection and implementation of controls to modify risk. The term 'risk treatment' is sometimes used for the controls themselves.
<b>Strategic Fire Management Zone (SFMZ)</b>	An area located close to or some distance away from assets (e.g. the urban–rural interface), the primary management purpose of which is to provide a mosaic of areas of reduced fuel in strategic locations to reduce the speed and intensity of bushfires, potential for spot-fire development, and size of bushfires. Treatment is by fuel reduction burning and other bushfire protection measures such as fire trails, water points, detection measures and response plans.
<b>Treatable Vegetation</b>	Types of vegetation which are suitable for fuel reduction burning, for example, dry eucalypt forest, scrub, heathland and buttongrass.
<b>Treatment Plan</b>	A document related to the risk register presented in a tabular form which lists concisely the following information for each risk: the agreed strategies to manage the risk (i.e. treatments), the responsible organisations, proposed completion date and comments.

## Acronyms

<b>BRMP</b>	Bushfire Risk Management Plan
<b>BRU</b>	Bushfire Risk Unit
<b>DPIPWE</b>	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
<b>FFDI</b>	Forest Fire Danger Index
<b>FMA</b>	Fire Management Area
<b>FMAC</b>	Fire Management Area Committee
<b>HSA</b>	Human Settlement Areas
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>PWS</b>	Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>SFMC</b>	State Fire Management Council
<b>STT</b>	Sustainable Timber Tasmania
<b>TFS</b>	Tasmania Fire Service

Maps contained in this document may include data provided by DPIPWE (Land Tasmania), Parks and Wildlife Service (Fire Management Section) and Tasmania Fire Service. These map products have been produced by the Tasmania Fire Service. While all efforts have been taken to ensure their accuracy, there may be errors and/or omissions in the data presented. Users of these products are advised to independently verify data for accuracy and completeness before use.

## Executive Summary

This Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) identifies priorities for the treatment of bushfire risk in the Central North Fire Management Area (FMA). It was developed by the Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC) as required under sections 18 and 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*. This plan aims to coordinate and influence the treatment of bushfire risk in the FMA.

The plan is strategic level and does not include all details of bushfire risk treatments, but does identify which organisations or individuals are responsible for implementing them. The Central North FMAC will prepare a written report at least yearly for the SFMC on the progress of implementation.

The treatment plan ([Appendix 1](#)) lists the actions determined by the FMAC required to treat bushfire risk in the FMA.

The Central North FMA is located on the north coast of Tasmania. Encompassing an area of 540,464 ha, the area contains a mix of fertile agricultural land, wineries, dispersed rural communities and large areas of national park (including Mole Creek Karst caves and The Walls of Jerusalem National Park which is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area).

Approximately 82,000 persons reside within the FMA with several major population centres including Devonport, Ulverstone, Penguin, Deloraine and Sheffield. The area has high transient populations associated with the international recognised tourist destinations such as Cradle Mountain. Employment opportunities though out the area is diverse with manufacturing, retail, agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, fishing, food and beverages industry and tourism being the main employers.

Fire is an integral component of the Australian landscape and has the potential to impact all aspects and values of the FMA. Historical records have indicated that fire ignitions have been predominately human based though dry lighting events has ignited fires within the FMA. Changing climatic conditions are predicted to lead to more extreme fire weather events increasing the fire risk to the communities and assets within the FMA.

Understanding of the risk is essential to managing fire in the landscape. This interim document examines and identifies areas that are of a high priority for the treatment of fire risk.

The FMAC together with computer simulation modelling have identified areas that are considered to be high priority for treatment. These areas are:

- Don Reserve (west of Devonport);
- Cradle Valley (including Pencil Pine);
- Rubicon (Bakers Beach area);
- Heybridge;
- Lorinna (South of Mt Roland);
- Squeaking Point;
- Dooleys Hill (Latrobe).



Treatment options to reduce risk within the FMA may include:

- Development of appropriate fire management zoning including assets protection zoning;
- Development and the implementation of fuel reduction programs adjacent to the communities at risk including planned burning;
- Development of fire infrastructure including fuel breaks and access tracks adjacent to communities under risk;
- Community consultation and engagement including community education initiatives.

Implementation of the treatment plan may be constrained by:

- Resource availability to implement appropriate management activities such as fuel break construction;
- Appropriate windows in the weather may not exist to carry out planned burns;
- Less than a quarter of the FMA is considered to be suitable for fuel reduction burning;
- the management of fire risk on private land is a considerable challenge for the Central North FMA
- Agreement with all stakeholders as to the proposed works.

Future iterations of this document will be based on an expanded risk profile based around likelihood and consequences together with an understanding of the confidence in the data

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

It is a requirement of Section 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* that the FMAC prepare a fire protection plan for its FMA. This BRMP fulfils that requirement. The BRMP is submitted to and approved by the SFMC.

The *Fire Service Act 1979* requires that the fire protection plan is consistent with the State fire protection plan and the State vegetation fire management policy.

Under the terms of reference for the Central North FMAC, the purposes of the committee are:

- Provide a forum for communication and collaboration between key stakeholders in the FMA;
- Enable a holistic and consistent approach, incorporating local knowledge, to identify strategic priorities to reduce bushfire risk;
- Coordinate efforts and facilitate resource sharing to implement the strategic risk reduction priorities;
- Link the local community and the SFMC through 'ground-truthing' the bushfire risk assessment and mitigation strategies;
- Through their advisory function, provide input into decisions and outcomes beyond the FMA.

## 1.2 Purpose of this Plan

The management of bushfire-related risk is a collective responsibility of the whole community, with contributions made by numerous individuals, landowners and organisations.

An overriding aim of this BRMP is to document a coordinated approach to the identification and treatment of bushfire risk in the Central North FMA. Specific objectives include:

- Guide and coordinate bushfire risk management on all land within the FMA;
- Provide a reference point for the prioritisation and justification of bushfire treatment actions, as well as supporting evidence for funding requests;
- Facilitate the integration of bushfire risk management into the business processes of councils, organisations and land managers;
- Facilitate cooperation and the coordination of treatment actions between stakeholders;
- Clearly and concisely communicate bushfire risk to stakeholders and the community;
- Provide a basis for monitoring and reporting of implementation of bushfire risk treatments in the FMA.

This BRMP is a strategic-level document that does not provide detail on treatment actions. Individual organisations and landowners, or collaborative groups, may have developed plans and processes for implementation of bushfire risk treatment; these can be considered to be linked to the strategic priorities identified here. This is an interim version of the BRMP – future versions will be based on a more comprehensive risk assessment.

## 2. Establishing the Context

### 2.1 Description of the Central North FMA

The Central North FMA ([Map1](#)) is located the central north of Tasmania and covers an area of 550,464 ha. The FMA extends westwards along the north coast from Badger Head to Heybridge. The southern part of the FMA extends westward from Golden Valley to the middle of Walls of Jerusalem National Park, part of the Tasmanian wilderness world Heritage area (TWWHA).

The FMA encompasses the regional centres of Devonport and Ulverstone in the north and Sheffield and Deloraine to the south.

The Central North FMA contains a mix of fertile agricultural land, wineries, dispersed rural communities and large areas of national park (including Mole Creek Karst National Park and the Walls of Jerusalem National Park which is part of the TWWHA)

The land tenure within the Central North FMA is approximately 58% of land is public land, the remaining 42% is private/freehold land ([Map2](#)). The responsibility for public land management is carried out by several agencies including TasNetworks, Hydro Tasmania, Telstra, TasWater, TasGas in addition to the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and the Environment and Sustainable Timber Tasmania, the major land managers.

Land Manager/Agency	% of Land Managed within the FMA
Private Property	42.2 %
DPIPWE (including Parks and Wildlife Service and Crown Land Services)	41.1%
Sustainable Timber Tasmania	15.9%
Hydro	< 0.7%
Other (casements, commonwealth etc.)	< 0.1%

**Table 1: Overview of land tenure in FMAC**

There are five local government areas wholly or partially included in the Central North FMA including:

- Central Coast Council;
- Devonport City Council;
- Latrobe Council;
- Kentish Council;
- Meander Valley Council.

## 2.2 Fire Environment

The fire environment is defined as the surrounding conditions, influences and modifying forces that determine wildfire behaviour. This typically includes weather, topography, vegetation and ignition history. Fire behaviour is influenced by a variety of factors including wind speed, relative humidity, temperature, fuel moisture content, fuel arrangement and fuel load. These factors vary both temporally and spatially across the FMA.

Topographically the FMA ranges from coastal lowlands in the north rising to alpine and sub alpine environments in the south that are interspersed with major river systems including the Forth, Meander and the Mersey rivers

The vegetation in the Central North FMA is varied and can be categorised into groups that represent landscape or broad vegetation classifications ([Map 4](#)). A description of each of the vegetation classifications (Tas Veg 3) can be found in Harris and Kitchener, 2013 or at [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/tasveg](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/tasveg).

The vegetation within a large portion of the Central North FMA has been highly modified for agriculture resulting in the dominant vegetation type consisting of non-native agricultural, urban and exotic vegetation (which includes plantations). The second most common vegetation type within the FMA consists of highly flammable dry eucalypt forest and woodland.

Broad Vegetation Group (TasVeg 3, 2013)	(ha)	% in FMA	Veg Flammability
Agricultural, Urban and Exotic Vegetation	190152	34.6	Medium
Dry Eucalypt Forest and Woodland	129957	23.7	Medium -High
Wet Eucalypt Forest and Woodland	107994	19.7	Medium
Rainforest and Related Scrub	39323	7.2	Low
Highland and Treeless Vegetation	19708	3.6	High
Non Eucalypt Forest and Woodland	17596	3.2	High
Other Natural Environments	14288	2.6	N/A
Scrub, Heathland and Coastal Complexes	12641	2.3	High – very high
Moorland, Sedgeland, Rushland and Peatland	10715	2.0	Low – very high
Native Grassland	6472	1.2	High
Saltmarsh and Wetland	649	0.1	Low
Total	549496	100	

**Table 2: Broad vegetation Groups Central North FMA**

Vegetation can also be classified as treatable or untreatable which is an important consideration for fuel reduction burning purposes. Agricultural lands while susceptible to fire, are not included in the treatable vegetation group due to the land use priority allocated to this vegetation type. Treatable vegetation present in the FMA is highlighted in [Map 3](#) and detailed in Table 3:

Fuel Reduction Burning Treatability in Central North FMA Area		
	(ha)	(%)
Treatable	121005	22
Un-treatable	285240	51.8
Agricultural Land* (Untreatable by fire)	132687	24.1
Water	10325	1.9
<i>Not Mapped</i>	1206	0.2
		100.0

\* Classified in TASVEG3 as 'FAG' (agricultural landscapes where there are crops, pasture or orchards)

**Table 3: Treatable vegetation- Central North FMA**

Available records compiled by Tasmania Fire Service (TFS), Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) indicate that the vast majority (95%) of the FMA has been untouched by fire in recent years. Only a very small percentage (1.7%) of the FMA is noted as having been subject to fire at least once in recent years. Less than 0.5% of the FMA has been subject to more than 2 or 3 fires at the same location.

In the last 5 years, 102 wildfires have been recorded within the FMA. Of these, the majority of fires (45%) were considered to be deliberate ignitions, 7.8% were caused by escaped planned burns, 3.5% were accidental, 3.9% were caused by lightning and in 18.6% of cases a cause was undetermined. Analysis of these records indicate that deliberate ignitions (arson) is a problem within the FMA.

In 2016, major fires occurred in the Central Plateau with 26000 hectares being impacted. These fires were as a result of lightning strikes compounded by drier conditions as a result of a drier and milder preceding winter. This fire was a significant event with major impacts to the alpine environment including organic soils such as peat.

There have been a number of major fires in the FMA in recent decades highlighted in Table 4.

Fire Name	Year	Area Burnt (ha)
Lake Mackenzie Complex (including Lake Bill)	2016	26109
Dunnings Rvt	1989	1943
Briggs Regional Reserve	2009	1794
Mt Roland (Gog Range)	1991	626

**Table 4: Major Fire events in the Central North FMA**

In the last 5 years, planned burns in the FMA conducted by PWS, STT & TFS have totalled 36.

## 2.3 Climate and Bushfire Season

The climate of the Central North FMA can be classified as temperate and is characterised by warm summers and cold winters in the northern coastal parts of the FMA, together with mild summers and cold winters in the southern parts of the FMA.

Average maximum daily temperatures within the FMA range from 21.5° at Sheffield in February to 21.6° in February at Devonport Airport. Devonport has an average minimum temperature of 4.1° in July with Sheffield having an average minimum of 2.5° in July.

The FMA has a winter dominant seasonal rainfall pattern with wet winters and low summer rainfall. Average monthly rainfall within the FMA ranges from a low of 36mm in January in Devonport to a high of 158 mm average monthly rainfall in Sheffield in July.

<b>Mean Annual rainfall</b>	Ranges from 778mm at Devonport Airport in the northern part of the FMA to 1179mm in Sheffield in the central part of the FMA.
<b>Wettest months</b>	Winter. Devonport receives a July average of 95mm with Sheffield recording a July average of 157mm of rain.
<b>Driest Months</b>	Summer. Devonport receives a February average of 37mm of rain with Sheffield recording a January mean rainfall of 52mm.
<b>Windiest Months</b>	Summer
<b>Months of least wind</b>	June
<b>Cloudiest Month</b>	May. Devonport has a mean number of 14 cloudy days in May and Sheffield has a mean number of 13 cloudy days in May

**Table 5: Summary Climate Statistics – Central North FMA**

Bushfires in Tasmania generally occur within the warmer and drier months of the year, typically from November to March, though fires can occur outside this period if conditions conducive to fire exist. The bushfire threat for the Central North FMA increases in late December with December/January generally being the driest and hottest months when bushfires are more difficult to control.

Fire seasons and fuel reduction burning seasons can vary. Planned burning will be normally be carried out during the spring or autumn seasons but is not restricted to these periods. Planned burning should occur when the prescriptions that are applicable to the burn are met, not arbitrary dates.

Planned burning is limited by weather prescriptions, presence or otherwise of treatable fuels, appropriate boundaries and the availability of human resources to successfully conduct the ignition and suppression of the planned burn.

Climate is changing in Tasmania and it is evident from bushfire climate indicators (Fox-Hughes et al. 2015) that we can expect destructive bushfires to become more frequent. The Lake McKenzie (Central Plateau) fire in 2016 was attributed to a major dry lightning event leading to severe consequences to the natural environment.

## 2.4 Population and Community

The estimated residential population of the FMA as of 2016 is 82,000 people (ABS 2016).

The FMA encompasses the regional centres of Devonport and Ulverstone in the north, Sheffield and Deloraine in the southern part of the FMA. Devonport and the immediate surrounding area, with a population of 24,600 is the major centre within the FMA. Other significant population centres within the FMA are Ulverstone (population 12,032), Penguin (population 3,849) and Deloraine (population 2,848). Latrobe and Devonport have been identified as areas that are experiencing significant growth.

Outside the major centres, the population is based around rural and agricultural activities. Within the FMA, significant growth areas include the communities of Port Sorell, Hawley and Shearwater within the Latrobe municipality.

The economy of the FMA is based around the key industries in the area including manufacturing, retail, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, fishing, food and beverages industry and Tourism.

Agricultural values are of particular significance to the Central North FMA. The coastal area from Sassafras through to Penguin is one of Tasmania's most productive farming areas. The Mersey/Forth valley area (in the central north of the FMA, surrounding the banks of the Mersey River) produces 40% of Tasmania's vegetable crop with large areas of land covered by fields of vegetables including onions, potatoes, peas, carrots and beans and orchard fruits. Other important crops are poppies (grown for the pharmaceutical industry) and pyrethrum (a botanical insecticide).

Tourism and recreation are important developing industries with the FMAC. Cradle Mountain Village and accommodation facilities (including lodges, hotels, cottages, cabins and a caravan park) is an international recognised tourism destination which generates a significant source of income for the region and for Tasmania. Other national parks such as the walls of Jerusalem National Park and Mole Creek Karst National Park are also important destinations for locals and tourists.

Tourist development areas are also experiencing growth. The tourist destinations experience a large influx of transient visitors leading to local increases of populations during the normal periods of tourist travel. Proposed developments over the next few years at Cradle Mountain will increase the transient visitation which will have significant implications for emergency management.

Recreation activities are increasing within the FMA. Emergent industries such as mountain biking are leading to an increase of transient visitor, often not familiar with the locations that they are recreating in, this has implications for emergency management.

Within the FMA there exists critical infrastructure of importance to both the FMA as well as the state including but not limited to:

- Communications Towers (Telstra) e.g. Kelcey Tier, Mt Claude and Dazzler Range, Dial Range;
- Hydro – Mersey Forth power scheme located on the Mersey and Forth rivers systems (7 power stations);
- TasNetworks transmission lines:
  - Sheffield to Burnie;
  - Sheffield to Devonport;
  - Sheffield to George Town;
  - Sheffield to Palmerston;
  - Sheffield to Fisher;
  - Lemonthyme spur;
  - Wesley vale spur;
  - Ulverstone spur;
- Orica storage facilities at Heybridge and Dulverton;
- Timber Bridges;
- Origin Energy's LPG Operation at Devonport;
- Alinta Gas pipeline into Tasmania at Westbury;
- Devonport Airport;

In addition to the values and infrastructure present within the FMA, assets of particular importance to the community include:

- Community facilities present within the communities;
- Historic heritage including mountain huts in the Western Tiers and Central Plateau.

## 2.5 Community Engagement

The FMAC identifies the importance of ongoing community liaison and engagement with DPIPWE, STT, associated specialists, specialist groups along with key stakeholders within the community, as being an integral component of bush fire management.

Community engagement has and will continue to be centred on individual landowner engagement and immediate neighbours as part of the planned burn development coordinated by the BRU, PWS and STT.

Recent engagement activities coordinated by BRU engagement officers and TFS community development officers have included:

- Bushfire Ready Information sessions - providing context around previous and upcoming bushfire seasons,
- How TFS responds;
- Situational awareness (FDR and Alerts and Warnings);
- Community Protection Planning;
- Bushfire survival planning;
- Preparing individual landowner properties; and
- Introducing communities to the Disaster Reliance Education Tasmania resources in mid-December 2019.

Communities that have been subject to engagement are:

- Meander Valley;
- Kimberley;
- Sheffield;
- Port Sorell;
- Deloraine;
- Squeaking Point;
- Railton;
- Westbury.

The Bushfire Ready Neighbourhood Program has been conducted at:

- Wegeena;
- Golden Valley;
- Jackey's Marsh;
- Squeaking Point/Port Sorell.

Future consultation including Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhood Program is programmed for:

- Reedy Marsh Property Assessment Field Day - December 2019;
- Liffey – BRN round 3 (2018-2020) community Information Session - October 2018 BRN group established - Setting up a phone tree;
- Meander Valley (Deloraine) – December 2019 – Bushfire-ready Info session;
- Loongana – October 2019 – Bushfire-ready Info.



## 3. Identifying the Risks

### 3.1 Bushfire and Impact Scenarios

To set the scene for this plan, the bushfire scenarios under consideration are very large events, typically 10,000 to 20,000 hectares, occurring when fuel dryness and weather conditions combine to create one or more days of very significant fire weather. Some important examples for the Central North FMA include:

- A camp fire on a day of FFDI 44 escapes and ignites a bushfire that spreads and impacts the community of Acacia hills resulting in destruction of numerous houses.
- A lightning strike on Mt Beecroft ignites a wildfire and rapidly spreads on a day of very high fire danger (FDDI 48) impacting the community of Cradle Mountain leading to loss of structures, tourist facilities and infrastructure and the trapping of transient visitors.
- A stolen car ignited on a day of very high fire danger (FDDI 40) spreads and impacts the industrial hub of Westbury leading infrastructure loss and community impact.

### 3.2 State-wide Controls

The following controls are currently in place across Tasmania to help manage bushfire-related risk:

- Legislative controls – including *Fire Service Act 1979* (e.g. Fire permit period, Total Fire Ban days, campfires), *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* (e.g. fires and campfires), abatement notices
- TFS public education (e.g. Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods, media campaigns)
- TFS planning – community protection planning (e.g. Community Response Plans)
- Inter-agency Fuel Reduction Program – funding and coordination of fuel reduction burning
- SFMC programs (e.g. Red-Hot Tips training program for fuel reduction burning on private land)
- FMAC – performance monitoring and reporting on this BRMP
- Tasmania Police and TFS – state-wide arson prevention programs
- Land subdivision and building standards (Bushfire-Prone Areas Code, Building Code of Australia)
- Suppression response preparedness – e.g. TFS local volunteer brigades, STT and PWS crews, aircraft, pre-positioning of firefighting resources
- Weather forecasting (Bureau of Meteorology) and fire behaviour prediction (TFS, STT, PWS).

### 3.3 Fire Management Area Controls

Existing control measures for bushfire within FMA include but are not limited to:

- 36 TFS Brigades;
- PWS response crews - Cradle Mt Field Centre, Leven field centre, Narawantapu, Deloraine Field centre and Mole Creek Field centre;
- STT crews;
- Disaster reliance education program;
- BRU, STT and PWS planned Burning programs.
- Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods (BRN) program;

## 4. Analysing and Evaluating Bushfire Risk

### 4.1 Analysing Bushfire Risks

The analysis of bushfire risk for this plan considers the following:

- Consequences – what values and assets are at risk given the bushfire scenario under consideration
- Existing controls – how effective the existing controls are at reducing the risk and how much they are used
- Likelihood – how the likelihood of the consequence occurring is quantified, based on weather, topography, fuels and ignition potential
- Confidence level – how certain we are about the evidence and data used

A state-wide assessment of consequences, likelihood and confidence is currently being undertaken by the BRU with an updated risk register due to be developed by June 2020.

### 4.2 Evaluating Bushfire Risks

In the absence of a dedicated risk register, assessment of the bushfire risk within the FMA was carried out by the FMAC. A workshop was held in 2014 for FMAC members to discuss and analyse the results of the preliminary risk assessment (BRAM). Agreed 'at risk' communities were then prioritised by members of the Central North FMAC. This was reviewed in 2019 through discussion in the FMAC with the results of this assessment displayed in table 6.

Human Settlement Area	BRAM Risk rating	FMAC priority rating	Comments
Don Reserve (west of Devonport)	Extreme	High	High fuel loads, planned burning program underway
Cradle Valley (including Pencil Pine)	Extreme	High	High value assets, Tourism infrastructure, transient visitation, limited response capability
Rubicon (Bakers Beach area)	High	High	Isolated communities, Dead end roads, High Fuel loads
Heybridge	High - Extreme	Med-high	High fuel loads, planned burning program underway
Lorinna (South of Mt Roland)	High -Extreme	Med	Isolated Community
Squeaking Point	High	Med	Dispersed community in heavy fuels
Dooleys Hill (Latrobe)	High	Low	High Fuel loads, potentially untreatable fuels
Acacia Hills	High	High	Dispersed community in heavy fuels
Penguin	High - Extreme	Low	Dial Range fuels, Construction in bushfire prone areas

**Table 6: Results of Strategic Assessment**

## 5. Bushfire Risk Treatment

### 5.1 Treatment Plan

The FMAC considered the costs, benefits, practicalities and environmental impacts of various control options for the highest priority risks. The risk treatments that were determined from these deliberations are recorded in the treatment plan ([Appendix 1](#)).

Individual landowners and organisations are usually responsible for implementing the treatments; these are indicated in the treatment plan. One exception is fuel reduction burning that is planned and conducted by the Inter-agency Fuel Reduction Program with the agreement of landowners.

### 5.2 Implementing Treatments

This BRMP does not guarantee a source of funding for treatment actions, nor does it provide a process for seeking funding. The organisations and individuals that are responsible for delivering the bushfire risk controls are responsible for developing further plans for implementation, as well as arranging resources and funding.

The BRMP is, however, intended to provide evidence and justification for where funding and resources are most appropriate to be committed by stakeholders to mitigate bushfire risk.

Many treatments identified in this plan will require environmental and cultural impact assessment. These assessments are the responsibility of the individual organisations and are not covered by this BRMP.

Resourcing constraint existing within the land management agencies precluding works on identified treatments. Identified works have not been budgeted for within existing programs and while the FMAC may have listed a program as a high priority, it may not be in organisations overall priority.

The FMAC consider that the management of fire risk on private land is a considerable challenge for the Central North FMA.

### 5.3 Strategic Fire Infrastructure

The identification of strategic infrastructure including roads, fuel breaks and fire trails within the Central North FMA has not yet been undertaken but has been identified as a priority by the FMAC in future BRMPs.

### 5.4 Fuel Reduction Burning

Individual burn units are not identified in this BRMP but will need to be identified by further planning from the organisations responsible for carrying out the fuel reduction burning.

There are many kinds of vegetation for which it is not appropriate or practical to conduct fuel reduction burning (SFMC 2014). Vegetation Communities that can be treated are highlight in [Map 3](#). The broad vegetation communities within the FMA can be seen on [Map 4](#).

The [Fuel Reduction Program](#) that is funded, coordinated and implemented by the TFS, PWS and STT is undertaken on behalf of and with the agreement of individual landowners or organisations (e.g.

councils). The priorities of the Fuel Reduction Program are guided by the priorities identified in the treatment plans across all FMAs.

## 6. Monitoring and Review

### 6.1 Review

This BRMP, including appendices and maps, will be subject to a comprehensive review in 2020. The revised BRMP will be based on a new risk assessment that may include revised input methods. The review process will include examination of:

- Changes to the FMA, organisational responsibilities or legislation;
- Changes to the bushfire risk in the area;
- Major bushfire events;
- Shortcomings in data that can be improved;
- Change of usage of the area;
- New or changed asset values within the FMA.

Additional and changed data and values (both community and natural) identified by the review process will be supplied to the BRU for inclusion in ongoing risk modelling being carried out at the state level.

### 6.2 Monitoring and Reporting

Progress towards completion of the treatments proposed will be monitored and reviewed at least every 12 months by the FMAC; this will be documented in the Implementation Status Report which should address as a minimum:

- Progress on implementation of treatments listed in the treatment plan;
- Planning outcomes including mitigation plans, community protection plans, community response plans;
- Implementation progress of community programs;
- Completed fuel reduction burns
- Development and maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZ);
- Development and maintenance of strategic fire infrastructure.

At a state-wide level, the SFMC will examine the impacts of the strategic burning program on risk management as part of the strategic fuel management program.

## References

Fox-Hughes, P., Harris, R.M.B., Lee, G., Jabour, J., Grose, M.R., Remenyi, T.A. and Bindoff, N.L. (2015). *Climate Futures for Tasmania future fire danger: the summary and the technical report*, Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, Hobart, Tasmania. Retrieved from [http://acecrc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Report\\_CFT\\_Future-Fire-Technical-Report\\_2015\\_web.pdf](http://acecrc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Report_CFT_Future-Fire-Technical-Report_2015_web.pdf).

Harris, S and Kitchener, A (2013). *From Forest to Fjaeldmark: Descriptions of Tasmania's Vegetation*. (Edition 2) Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Printing Authority of Tasmania. Hobart.

SFMC (2014). *Bushfire in Tasmania: A New Approach to Reducing Our Statewide Relative Risk*. Department of Police and Emergency Management, Hobart.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Treatment Plan

Map	Asset name and Location	Priority	Treatment No	Treatment Category	Treatment Type and detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Cradle Mt. (including Cradle Valley, Pencil Pine)	High	1	Fuel Reduction	development of localised mitigation strategy for Cradle Valley	PWS	TBA	Cradle Valley is a major tourist destination with a mixture of transient and permanent residents. Extensive tourist infrastructure is present within the valley and surrounds
	Cradle Mt. (including Cradle Valley, Pencil Pine)	High	2	Fuel Reduction	Continue Fuel reduction program: Quails hill; Bonds Plains	PWS	2020	Future planned burning linked to mitigation strategy
	Cradle Mt. (including Cradle Valley, Pencil Pine)	High	3	Community Safety	Implement existing Cradle Mountain plans (emergency, mitigation.)	Kentish Council & PWS	Ongoing *Needs to be revisited (2020)	Cradle Mt emergency Plan; Cradle Mt Emergency response plan - PWS; Communication issues with Tourists
	Cradle Mt. (including Cradle Valley, Pencil Pine)	High	4	Preparedness	Review Bush fire response plan 2013	TFS	2020	Note limited response capability by TFS. There has been changes since 2013; stakeholder interest in TFS response plan being reviewed and updated.
	Cradle Mt. (including Cradle Valley, Pencil Pine)	Med	5	Preparedness	Public visitor information - multiple languages	PWS	2021	Not currently programmed with PWS
	Claude road (Mt Roland)	High	6	Fuel Reduction	FRB program	PWS, TFS	Ongoing [revisit in 2020]	

Map	Asset name and Location	Priority	Treatment No	Treatment Category	Treatment Type and detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Claude road (Mt Roland)	High	7	Behavioural Change Initiatives	Review community protection plan 2013	TFS	2020	Talk with Hydro - Hydro (Gowrie) - stores, administration etc.
	Claude road (Mt Roland)	High	8	Preparedness	Review bushfire response plans 2013	TFS	2020	
	Claude road (Mt Roland)	High	9	Preparedness	revisit co-operative arrangements for the use of Vale airstrip	TFS air operations	2020	Future major reconstruction of land used for airstrip by TFS air operations
	Claude road (Mt Roland)	High	10	Behavioural Change Initiatives	Investigate - BRN community engagement	TFS	2020	
	Devonport - Don Reserve	High	11	Fuel Reduction	Fuel reduction program as per the don reserve fire management plan	TFS/ Devonport City Council	Ongoing [revisit in 2020]	
	Devonport - Don Reserve	High	12	Fuel Reduction	Maintenance and construction of fuel breaks as per the don reserve fire management plan.	Devonport City Council	TBA	
	Devonport - Kelcey Tier	High	13	Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction burns as per Kelcey Tier FMP	Council/ TFS	Ongoing [revisit in 2020]	
	Devonport - Kelcey Tier	Med	14	Preparedness	Emergency response (evacuation) plans for recreational activities - i.e. Mountain Bikes	Devonport City Council & TFS	TBA	
	Devonport - Kelcey Tier	Med	15	Preparedness	Community engagement - Public Awareness	TFS	TBA	
	Devonport - Kelcey Tier	High	16	Fuel Reduction	Maintenance and construction of Fire break between Kelcey Tier	Devonport City Council	TBA	



Map	Asset name and Location	Priority	Treatment No	Treatment Category	Treatment Type and detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Westbury _ Reedy Marsh	High	17	Fuel Reduction	fuel reduction program to the north west of Westbury	PWS/ TFS	Ongoing [to be revisited 2020]	
	Port Sorell & Squeaking Point	High	18	Behavioural change initiatives	Develop Community Protection Plan	TFS	Revisit in 2020	Retirees, large blocks....
	Port Sorell & Squeaking Point	high	19	Preparedness	Development of Bushfire Response Plan	TFS	2020?	
	Port Sorell - Pitcan Bushland reserve	low	20	Fuel Reduction	Implementation of fuel reduction burn as per BMP	Latrobe Council/ TFS/BRU	Revisit in 2020	
	Squeaking point	High	21	Fuel Reduction	Continuation of Fuel reduction program - Squeaking Point Nature Reserve	PWS		
	Marana Drive and Eagle Point area - Bakers Beach (east of Rubicon Estuary)	high	22	Fuel Reduction	development of mitigation strategy for the area leading to future planned burns	TFS	2020	High fuel loads, vulnerable isolated community  Private and reserved land.  FRB has its difficulties. Was burn conducted north of Marana Drive (Dec 2016)
	Marana Drive and Eagle Point area - Bakers Beach (east of Rubicon Estuary)	High	23	Behavioural Change Initiatives	Bush fire ready neighbourhood.; community engagement	TFS		

Map	Asset name and Location	Priority	Treatment No	Treatment Category	Treatment Type and detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Heybridge	Med - high	24	FR	Investigate fuel reduction burning program	PWS & TFS	To be revisited in 2020	PWS Burn April 2018.  Issues outside of the FMA. West Coast FMA - Sea Eagle Estate - Limitations for fuel reduction burning, looking at mechanical fuel breaks (Investigating treatment actions within this wider area).
	Heybridge	High	25	Change Behaviour	Investigate community engagement - bushfire ready neighbours	TFS/BRU	2020	
	Jackeys Marsh	high	26	Preparedness	Development of local mitigation strategy for the area	TFS/ PWS		One-way road and heavy fuels in and around the community.  Mixed values within the community makes engagement difficult.
	Jackeys Marsh	High	27	Fuel Reduction	Investigate FRB  Potential priority - warner sugar loaf	TFS/ PWS	Revisit in 2020	Linked to development of mitigation Strategy
	Lorinna	Medium	28	Fuel Reduction	Investigate the protection of Hydro assets.	Hydro and PWS		
	Lorinna	Medium	29	Fuel Reduction	Planned Burning Program - Cethana Cockatoo road; Oliver's road (north east and east of Lorinna)	PWS	2020	
	Lorinna	Medium	30	Behaviour Change Initiatives	Investigate - BRN community engagement	TFS	2020	Lorinna has a CPP and CRP November (2018).  Action item - check nearby safer place for Lorinna

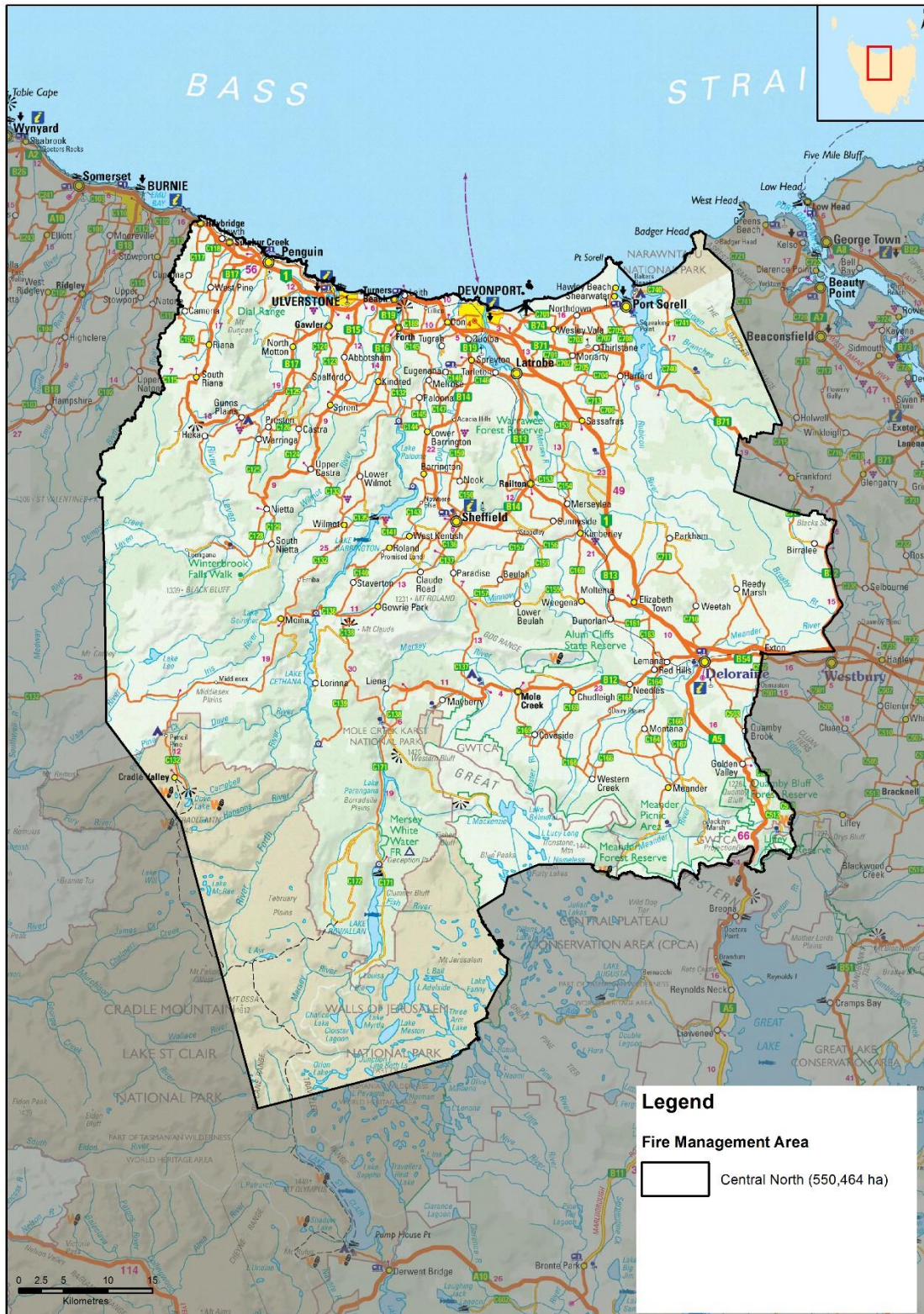
Map	Asset name and Location	Priority	Treatment No	Treatment Category	Treatment Type and detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Latrobe (Dooleys Hill)	High	31	Fuel Reduction	Continue Fuel Reduction burning program	TFS	Ongoing*Revisit in 2020	FRB - burn plan signed off. Intent to burn split between autumn and spring due to natural values.
	Latrobe	TBA	32	Preparedness	Community mitigation strategy	TFS	Revisit in 2020	
	Latrobe	Medium	33	Fuel Reduction	Investigate Fuel Reduction burning program	TFS	Ongoing*Revisit in 2020	
	Latrobe (Warrawee)	medium - high	34	Preparedness	Develop response (evacuation) plan - Mountain Bike	Latrobe Council & PWS		PWS input
	Penguin	Medium	35	Fuel Reduction	Investigate FRB in the dial range	PWS and TFS	Revisit in 2020	Some untreatable vegetation.
	Acacia Hills (also Lower Barrington, Lower Kentish)	Low	36	Preparedness/Behaviour Change	Investigate engagement options - BRN  Community education about the risks (access, water supply, power)	TFS	2020	2.5-5.0-acre properties; human settlement area; approx. 80 properties; Previous engagement by local brigade has success; Only has tank water; Prone to power outages;
	Between Railton & Sheffield (Badgers Ranges)	Med	37	Preparedness	Response (Evac) planning - Mountain Bikes	Council/ TFS	2021	
	Railton - Sykes Sanctuary	Low	38	Fuel Reduction	complete planned Burn as per the Sykes Sanctuary BMP	TFS	Revisit in 2020	Partial completion (65%).
	Dulverton	Low	39	preparedness/ignition Management	Development of emergency management plan	TFS/ Dulverton waste management facility	Revisit in 2020	Revisit with stakeholders
	Ulverstone	Low	40	Fuel Reduction	complete planned burns	TFS	2020	Planned Burns: Ulverstone Golf Club; Knights road; Manning jetty road

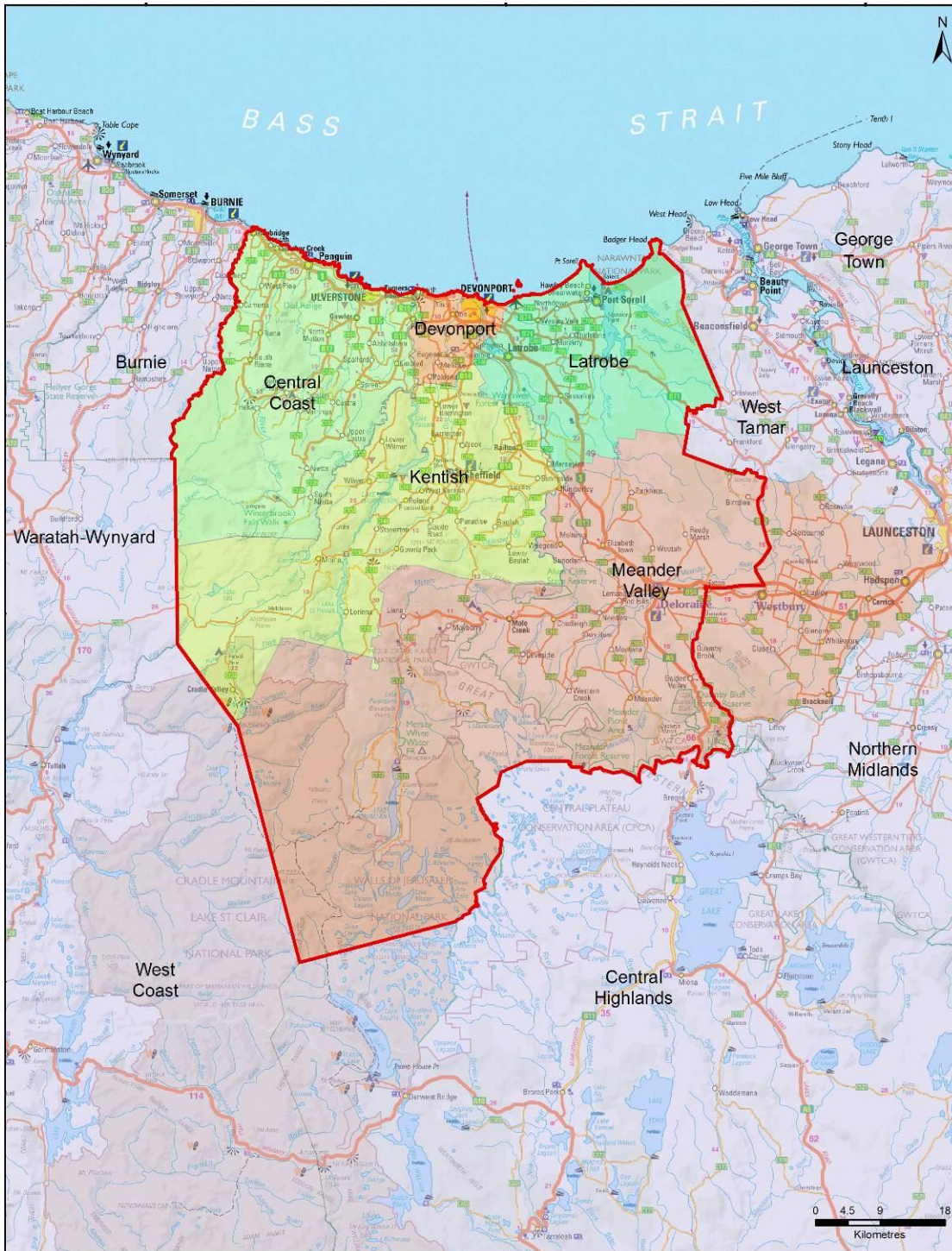
## Appendix 2: Current Implementation Plans

Plan Owner	Plan Title	Year	Treatment numbers
TFS	Bushfire response plan Claude Road	2013	
TFS	Community protection plan Claude Road	2103	
TFS	Bushfire response plan Cradle valley	2013	
TFS	Community protection plan Cradle Mt	2013	
TFS	Bushfire response plan Lorinna	2018	
TFS	Community protection plan Lorinna	2018	
TFS	Bushfire response plan Jackeys marsh	2014	
TFS	Community protection plan Jackeys marsh	2014	
TFS	Bushfire response plan Meander	2014	
TFS	Community protection plan Meander	2014	
TFS	Bushfire response plan Golden valley	2016	
TFS	Community protection plan Golden valley	2016	
Devonport Council	Kelcey Tier Fire management plan	2017	13, 14, 15
Devonport Council	Don Reserve fire management plan	2017	11,12
Latrobe Council	Sykes Sanctuary FMP	2019	38
Latrobe Council	Dooleys Hill MP ??	2019	33
STT	Northern Region Fire Action Plan 2019-2020	2019	
PWS	PWS Fire Action Plan 2019 2020	2019	
PWS	Cradle Valley fire prevention plan	2008	1, 3,
PWS	Cradle Mt Emergency Response plan 2019	2019	3,5
PWS	PWS Tasmania Northern Region Strategic Fire Management Plan	2009	
PWS	Northern West Region Strategic Fire Management Plan (2012).	2012	
Councils(collective)	Mersey Leven Emergency Management plan v3	2017	

# Maps

## Map 1: Central North Fire Management Area Location



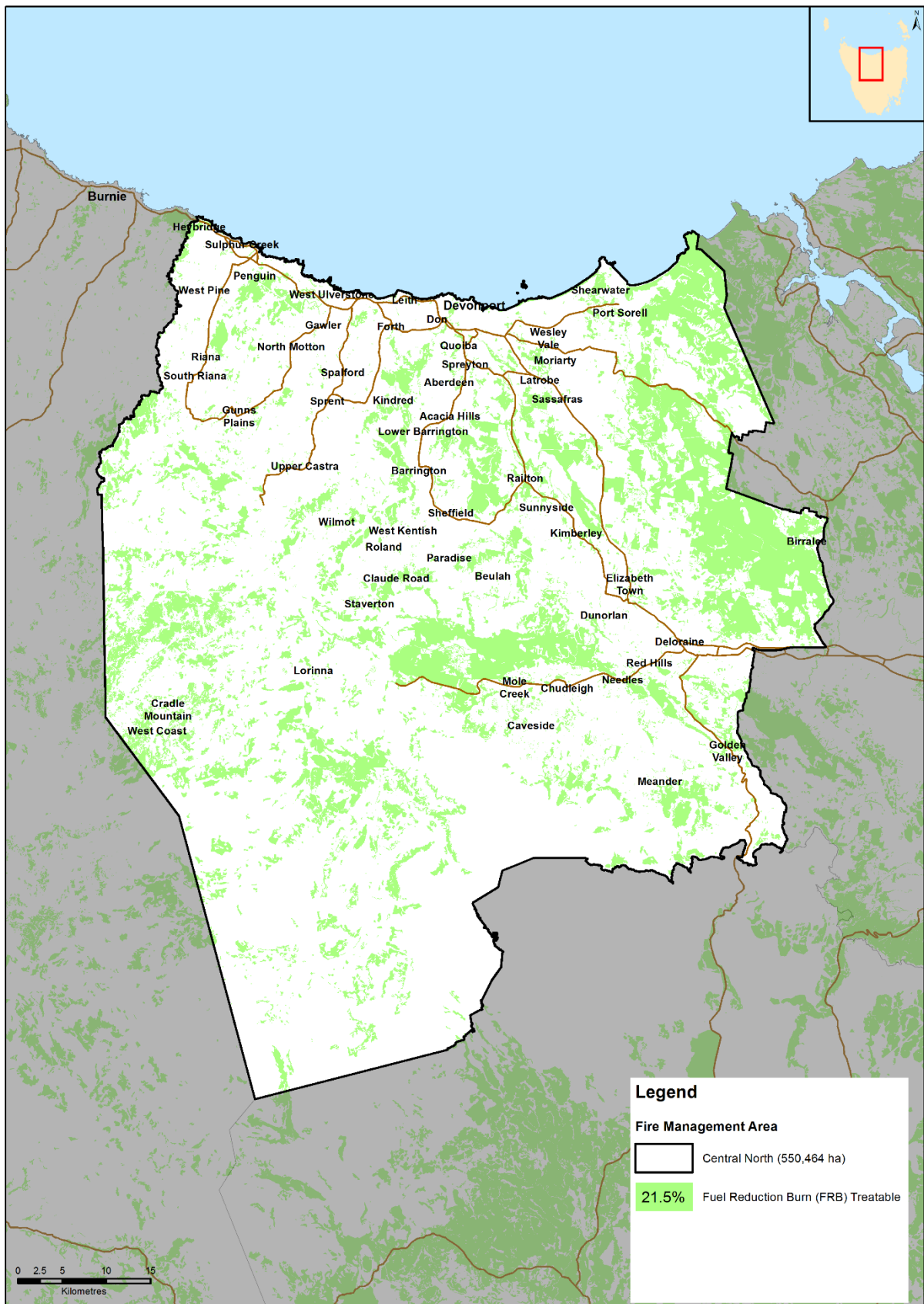


Local government areas – Central North FMAC

## Map 2: Tenure Summary Map for Central North Fire Management Area



### Map 3: Fuel Treatability for Central North Fire Management Area





### Map 4: Vegetation for Central North Fire Management Area

