



North East Fire Management Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2020

Document Control

Document History

Version	Date	Author	Section
1.0	November 2019	L Dean	Draft Treatment Plan
2	February 2020	H Lloyd-Deely	Interim BRMP

Document Endorsements

Document Endorsement

Endorsed by North East Fire Management Area Committee



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Date: 20 December 2019

Accepted by State Fire Management Council



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Date: 7 May 2020

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Glossary

Asset	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.
Asset Zone (AZ)	The geographic location of asset(s) and values of importance requiring bushfire exclusion.
Asset Protection Zone (APZ)	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.
Bushfire	Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective.
Bushfire hazard	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.
Bushfire risk management	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.
Community Bushfire Protection Plan	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.
Community Bushfire Response Plan	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.
Consequence	Impact(s) of an event on the five key areas: environment, economy, people, social setting and public administration.
Control	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.
Fire management zoning	Classification system for the areas to be managed. The zoning system indicates the primary purposes for fire management for an area of land.
Fuel break	A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics which affects fire behaviour so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled.
Hazard management area	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.
Human Settlement Area	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.

Land Management Zone (LMZ)	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.
Likelihood	Chance of something happening. It is used as a general description of probability and may be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively.
Risk register	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.
Risk treatment	Process of selection and implementation of controls to modify risk. The term 'risk treatment' is sometimes used for the controls themselves.
Strategic Fire Management Zone (SFMZ)	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.
Treatable vegetation	Types of vegetation which are suitable for fuel reduction burning, for example, dry eucalypt forest, scrub, heathland and button grass.
Treatment plan	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

BRMP	Bushfire Risk Management Plan
CBIIA	Cape Barren Island Indigenous Association
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
FFDI	Forest Fire Danger Index
FMA	Fire Management Area
FMAC	Fire Management Area Committee
LGA	Local Government Area
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
SFMC	State Fire Management Council
STT	Sustainable Timber Tasmania
TFS	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 North East 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 North East FMAC will prepare a written report at least yearly for the State Fire Management Council (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 North East FMA covers a total area of 681,193 ha. This FMA encompasses the local government areas of Dorset and Break O'Day. The area is bounded by the north coast, extending in a south easterly direction from the mouth of Pipers Brook to just below the mouth of the Douglas River on the East Coast of Tasmania.

With an estimated residential population of 12, 884, the major community centres include Scottsdale, Bridport, St Helens, St Marys, Fingal and Scamander. This population increases due to visitation to attractions such as mountain bike trails, golf courses and national parks, as well as to coastal areas during summer.

Agriculture, forestry/plantations, and fishing are the predominant industries in this FMA. The vegetation consists of open sclerophyll woodlands in lowlands, heath complexes on coastal plains, wet and dry sclerophyll forest inland and some rain forest and alpine and sub alpine complexes on the upper slopes of the elevated terrain. High productivity button grass is also present.

Numerous bushfires have occurred in the North-East FMA, the largest being the Lohery's Road fire in 2006. Caused by an escaped campfire, this fire had a considerable impact on the local tourism industry and impacted the communities at Scamander, Four Mile Creek, and St Marys with 40 structures lost.

The North East FMA have identified areas at highest risk of bushfire. These priority areas include strategic areas such as Mt Stronach, Mallison's Creek, Mt Pearson and Avenue River Catchment, as well townships/communities such as Ansons Bay.

Mitigation activities that have been recommended by the North East FMAC for addressing bushfire risk include:

- Conducting fuel reduction burns around communities and in strategic areas;
- New or maintenance of existing fire infrastructure (fire trails, fuel breaks, firebreaks and strategic roads, waterholes);
- Developing community protection plans and response plans;
- Community engagement/education e.g. Bushfire ready neighbourhoods involvement;
- Developing mitigation plans; and
- Protection of water sewage and treatment plants.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

It is a requirement of Section 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* that the Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC) prepare a fire protection plan for its Fire Management Area (FMA). This Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) fulfils that requirement. The BRMP is submitted to and approved by the State Fire Management Council (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 North East 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-trothing' 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 North East Fire Management Area

The North East FMA covers a total area of 681,193 ha and encompasses the local government areas of Dorset and Break O’Day (Map 1). The FMA covers an area bounded by the north coast, and extends in a south easterly direction from the mouth of Pipers Brook to just below the mouth of the Douglas River on the East Coast of Tasmania.

Within the North East FMA there is a mixture of land tenures, as shown in Map 2. Land tenure is predominantly public land managed by DPIPWE, private freehold land and land managed by Sustainable Timbers Tasmania. Table 1 shows the composition of different land tenures by land manager/agency present within the North East FMA.

Land Manager/Agency	% of Land Managed within the FMA
DPIPWE (including Parks and Wildlife Service and Crown land Services)	37.9
Private freehold	34.4
Sustainable Timbers Tasmania	25.2
Local Government	2.4
TasWater	<0.1
Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania	<0.01
Commonwealth	<0.001

Table 1 Overview of land tenure within the North East FMA (Sourced from LIST Map).

2.2 Fire Environment

Interspersed with agriculture and forestry/plantation developments, vegetation within the North East FMA consists of open sclerophyll woodlands in lowlands, heath complexes on coastal plains, wet and dry sclerophyll forest inland and some rain forest and alpine and sub alpine complexes on the upper slopes of the elevated terrain. High productivity button grass is also present.

Categorised into broad groups (Kitchener & Harris, 2013), vegetation in the North East FMA is summarised in **map 6** and table 2.

Vegetation Group	Flammability (Pyrke and Marsden-Smedley 2005)	(%) in FMA
Agricultural, urban and exotic vegetation	Moderate	32.10
Dry eucalypt forest and woodland	Moderate-high	38.10
Wet eucalypt forest and woodland	Moderate	13.05
Scrub, heathland and coastal headlands	High-very high	5.85
Rainforest and related scrub	Low	4.65
Non eucalypt forest and woodland	Moderate	2.75
Other natural environments	Moderate	1.64
Moorland, sedgeland, rush lands and peat lands	Moderate-high	0.98
Native Grasslands	High	0.55
Saltmarsh and wetland	Low	0.29
Highland and treeless vegetation	High	0.04

Table 2 Vegetation groups present within the North East FMA (Sourced from LIST Map).

Vegetation can also be classified as treatable or untreatable which is important for program fuel reduction burning purposes (map 5). Of the North East FMA total land area, 45% is considered as treatable for program fuel reduction burning. Treatable fuels are typically dry eucalypt forest, scrub complexes, heath complexes and button grass. Agricultural lands while susceptible to the impact of bush fires are not consider treatable due to the nature of the land use. However this does not preclude agricultural land from being incorporated into burning operations.

Available records show that there are various causes of ignitions for bushfires in the North East FMA. Causes of ignitions have included:

- *Unattended, abandoned and escaped campfires;*
- *Wildfire re-ignitions;*
- *Dry lightning events;*
- *Escapes, spotting or re-ignition from planned burns; and*
- *Arson.*

There have been a number of major bushfires in the North East FMA in recent decades. The largest was that of the Lohery's Road fire in 2006, which was caused by an escaped campfire and impacted on the communities at Scamander, Four Mile Creek, and St Marys with 40 structures lost. In addition, there was considerable impact on the local tourism industry. Major bushfires are summarised in table 3. There has also been a number of planned burns undertaken in the North East FMA.

Fire Name	Year	Area
Killymoon - Valley Road (FT)	1981	642.37
Mt Punter 1 (FT)	1981	411.32
St Helens Point SRA	1993	481.82
Musselroe Bay	1994	446.41
Denison River	1994	391.71
Watersmeeting	1994	12350.61
Humbug SRA	1995	509.91
Bolch's Run (FT)	1995	345.27
White Rock Tier	1996	1649.87
Peacock Creek GL213B (FT)	1998	764.09
St Patricks Head	1998	363.26
Barlows Creek (FT)	1999	567.70
Pickets Plain	1999	442.41
Little Boobyalla River	2000	2718.75
North Scottsdale (FT)	2001	448.58
Mt William/Cameron	2001	829.91
Kennel Hill (FT)	2001	363.86
Mt Stronach (FT)	2003	1038.48
Eddystone Point	2003	3237.23
Tebrakunna (FT)	2003	2157.19
Oxberry Road (FT)	2003	1091.31
Jensens Road (FT)	2003	366.40
St Pauls Dome (FT)	2003	387.13
Rayners Rd (FT)	2004	923.14
Doctors Peak	2004	6333.34
Homestead Road	2005	1596.20
Holmes Hill (FT)	2005	458.18
Mount Cameron	2006	4395.29
Lohreys Road	2006	30925.66
Garibaldi Road (FT)	2006	317.73
Weise Rd (FT)	2007	555.07
Tasman Highway, St Helens	2007	399.38
Tyne Track (FT)	2007	394.75
Ericksons Road (FT)	2008	1116.77
Saltwood Road	2008	407.63
Bellingham Road (FT)	2008	2595.75
Garibaldi (FT)	2008	759.54
Rossarden Road (FT)	2009	2351.11
Cuckoo Creek Musselroe	2012	340.14
Valley Road Fingal	2013	2039.03
Banca Road	2013	1435.27
Banca Road	2016	2256.40
Argonaut Road	2017	7472.24
Brooks Road	2017	321.60
Golden Gate Road – Mathina	2019	1289.4
Mangana Road/Mount Malcom Fingal	2019	23146.7

Table 3: Major Bushfires within the North East FMA (Sourced from LIST Map).

While bushfires occur across the whole North East FMA, there has been spatial clusters of bushfires. The first cluster being the East coast, the second is the area associated with Mount Cameron, Banca Road and Old Port Road and the third being Scottsdale and surrounds. Coastal areas such as the north east tip are exposed to strong winds which influences fire behaviour.

A summary of the FMA values, concerns and priorities can be drawn from the focus on the protection of:

- Important natural, recreational and tourism values. This includes values associated with national parks or conservation areas (i.e. Mt William National Park, Granite Point Conservation Area, Bridport Wildflower Reserve, Douglas-Apsley National Park and Bay of Fires Conservation Area). Likewise, recreational and tourism values associated with the use of walking trails, mountain bike trails (i.e. the Blue Derby Mountain Bike Trails and St Helens Mountain Bike Trails), golf courses and other attraction/events such as the Bridestowe Lavender Estate and Targa Rally. The protection of other natural values such as the Ringarooma River and beaches is also important;
- Important historical and cultural values such as the Legerwood Memorial Carvings and museums (ei. Scottsdale RSL Military Museum, Derby Schoolhouse Museum, Dorset Museum);
- Health and educational facilities including supporting infrastructure such as hospitals (ei. North East Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, St Helens District Hospital), schools, residential care facilities, childcare facilities;
- Critical infrastructure such as the Musselroe Wind Farm, communications towers, TasNetworks powerlines, TasWater sewage and treatment plans, water reservoirs, and fire detection towers; and
- Economic, agricultural and forestry values, including dairying, cattle, vegetables/fruit growing enterprises, plantations, and irrigation infrastructure. Vineyards are also present.

2.3 Climate and Bushfire Season

The climate of the North East FMA can be classified as a cool temperate climate, with warm summer temperatures and cool winters. The area is associated with moist and dry sub humid conditions on the coastal plains systems together with humid cool/ cold elevated areas.

Rainfall occurs mainly on elevated mountain ranges, a lower rainfall amount is received on the narrow coastal strip. The driest part of the FMA is in the lower Fingal Ranges. There is variability in rainfall between years particularly in coastal areas. The coast is also exposed to strong winds.

Fire seasons and planned burning seasons vary geographically and temporally. The fire season is traditionally from November to March, however fires can and do occur outside this peak period. Fox- Hughes 2008 identified that in approximately one season in two, there is in existence, an increased fire danger period during spring on the east coast including the coastal north east.

The planned burning season runs usually in autumn or spring, however is contingent on suitable weather conditions, moderating soil dryness and meeting all the prescribed controls being in place to conduct the burn safely whilst mitigating impacts

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. This changing climate is also having an impact on available suitable planned burning days.

2.4 Population and Community

The North East FMA has an estimated residential population of approximately 12, 884 (ABS 2019). Approximately 63% of the human settlement areas are found inland, with human settlement areas associated with the agricultural lands near Scottsdale, the Fingal Valley, the Ringarooma River as well as the eastern and northern coastal strips. Major community centres include Scottsdale, Bridport, St Helens, St Marys, Fingal and Scamander.

Areas within the North East FMA experience an increase in population as a result of tourist visitation to attractions (mountain bike trails, golf courses, beaches, national parks, and other attractions), as well as to coastal areas during summer.

The principal industries and employers present within the North East FMA are agriculture, forestry/plantations, and fishing (including aquaculture). Agriculture includes dairying, grazing and cropping, vegetable and fruit growing, commercial poppy production and some viticulture. Tourism is another important industry, whilst other employers include retail, accommodation and food services and manufacturing.

2.5 Community Engagement

It is anticipated that there will be further community engagement by the TFS Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods program with the Ansons Bay community, including:

- Communication with Telstra to establish mobile communications;
- Engagement with the Marine Sea Rescue group to discuss community evacuation planning of people from Ansons Bay to Policeman's Point;
- Engagement with the local fire brigade who are increasing membership and rebuilding; and
- Engagement with private landholders, PWS, Break O'Day Council and TFS to maintain existing firebreak behind Ansons Bay community that runs through private property.

Other FMAC engagement opportunities may be required dealing with special interest groups e.g. mountain bikers.

Community engagement has previously been undertaken by the TFS Community Development Unit via the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods (BRN) program with the communities of Four Mile Creek, St Mary's, St Helens, Upper Scamander and Falmouth. Since 2018 BRN has been working with the communities of Anson Bay, Gladstone, Beechford and Derby.

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 planned burn on a bad fire weather day escapes to the west of Binalong Bay and moves quickly impacting the township, and results in the destruction of numerous houses and community buildings. It also causes significant disruption to tourism associated with the Bay of Fires.
- An arson fire starts in the vicinity of Mathinna spreads and destroys Tower Hill plantation assets.

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 Bans, 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

Summary of existing control measures for bushfire within FMA include but are not limited to:

- 23 volunteer brigades that intersect with the North East FMA, plus crew from PWS and STT;
- Parks and Wildlife Service walking track and reserve closures on bad fire days;
- Fuel reduction burns undertaken by the Fuel Reduction Program by TFS, PWS and STT;
- Community Preparedness Planning initiatives through the development of Bushfire Protection Plans and Bushfire Response Plans;
- TFS Bushfire mitigation plans;
- Community engagement programs, including Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods, community development opportunities, and support for bushfire recovery;
- Sustainable Timbers Tasmania fire plan and ongoing road maintenance program;
- Fire trails, Fuel breaks/Firebreaks for asset protection that are managed by relevant land agencies including STT, PWS and private forestry companies;
- Slashing of roadside verges by State Roads Authority e.g. Tasman Highway.
- Prepositioning of aircraft and firefighting resources into areas of elevated fire danger ratings; and
- Maintenance of easements and infrastructure of major power supply lines by TasNetworks.

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

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.

The North East FMAC has identified high priority areas/asset locations and treatment options. These priority areas include strategic areas such as Mt Stronach, Mallison's Creek, Mt Pearson and Avenue River Catchment, as well townships/communities such as Ansons Bay. Further details of the key risk areas and treatments identified can be sourced from [Appendix 1: Treatment Plan](#).

Mitigation activities that have been included in the treatment areas for addressing bushfire risk include:

- Conducting fuel reduction burns and other fuel reduction treatments around towns, suburbs and larger communities at high risk of impact from bushfires. This work will be undertaken by the fire agencies, in collaboration with landowners;
- Conducting fuel reduction burns in strategic areas to minimise the likelihood of a fire run impacting communities. This work will be undertaken by the fire agencies and land owners/managers, in collaboration with landowners;
- Developing bushfire mitigation plans by relevant agencies;
- Developing Community Protection Plans and Bushfire Response Plans to support communities when a bushfire is threatening their area. These plans will be developed by the TFS Bushfire Risk Unit in collaboration with local communities and stakeholders;
- Establishment or enhancement of Community Education initiatives, in order to enhance community preparedness and promote positive behaviour change. This work will be undertaken by the TFS Community Development Unit in collaboration with local communities and stakeholders;

Conducting ongoing preparedness maintenance activities such as checking and protecting radio towers, fire detection towers, waterholes and water and sewerage treatment plants; and Constructing or maintaining existing fire infrastructure (fire trails, fuel breaks, firebreaks and strategic roads, waterholes).

5.2 Implementing Treatments

This Bushfire Risk Management Plan (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.

The following barriers have been identified with implementing several treatment types:

Planned burns not being undertaken due to potential issues with:

- Short weather windows for prescribed burning, due to less predictable weather, earlier and longer fire season, shorter weather windows and potential smoke impacts;
- Landowner unwillingness to have their land burnt or are not contactable as they live interstate or overseas and have outdated cadastral records;
- Issues with replacement costs of fencing. Need for prior formal agreement with landholder on what recovery costs will be agreed to;
- Major tourism events and holiday periods in the middle of key burning windows delaying planned burns. ie Targa Tasmania, Mountain Biking events, Easter and School holidays increasing visitation to camping areas and visitation at major tourism sites;
- Ongoing challenges in obtaining sufficient smoke units to progress burning in some air catchments during stable weather conditions;
- A lack of a process for prioritisation of burn units across fire agencies to assist in targeting high priority burns when available fire resources are limited;
- Untreatable vegetation e.g. wet forest and community perceptions around what vegetation is or is not suitable for planned burning. This is the case in the North East highlands which has plantation and re-growth assets, however is largely unsuitable for fuel reduction burning due to vegetation type; and
- Environmental and/or cultural impacts.
- Effectiveness of planned burning in some areas is limited due to highly flammable nature and fast return period of vegetation;
- Limited TFS resources available for requested community engagement;
- Limited uptake and retention of community engagement programs, due to competing priorities/low interest levels of the community, and limited support from key community groups;
- Prioritisation and lack of funding for treatments (e.g. fire trails, fuel breaks, planned burns) and for ongoing maintenance (e.g. fire trails and fuel breaks); and
- Issues with implementing other treatments on private property such as fuel breaks (fuel managed buffer zones).

5.3 Strategic Fire Infrastructure

Strategic fire infrastructure includes access roads, fire trails, tracks and water sources. These fire trails provide important access routes for firefighting, through or along the perimeter of bushland areas, and are potential control lines for major bushfires. This strategic fire infrastructure can be viewed through [Listmap](#).

5.4 Fuel Reduction Burning

Individual burn units may not been specifically identified in this interim 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 2019); these vegetation communities are described as 'untreatable' and indicated on [Map 5](#). The broad vegetation communities within the FMA can be seen on [Map 6](#).

The [Fuel Reduction Program](#) that is funded, coordinated and implemented by 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 Bushfire Risk Unit (TFS) 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, including
- 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

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Treatment Plan

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	All Fire trails	High		Preparedness	As funding permits, Inspect and undertake maintenance as required to the required standard	PWS	Ongoing	Depends on funding and prioritisation
	All Fuel breaks and Firebreaks	High		Preparedness/Fuel Reduction	As funding permits, Inspect and undertake maintenance as required	PWS	Ongoing	Depends on funding and prioritisation
	Road Network	High		Preparedness	Road maintenance programs to be implemented	STT and other relevant agencies	Ongoing	
	All waterholes	High		Preparedness	Maintenance of waterholes and access points	STT	Ongoing	
	All sewerage and water treatment plants	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around the East and West sewage treatment plants	TasWater	Ongoing	Important for the protection of above ground sewer infrastructure
	Anson Bay sewage treatment plants	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around the East and West sewage treatment plants	TasWater	Ongoing	Important for the protection of above ground sewer infrastructure
	Ansons Bay	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	Autumn 2020	Important for the protection of Ansons Bay

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Ansons Bay	Very high		Behaviour Change Initiative	Bushfire Ready Neighbourhood Program	TFS - Community Development Unit	2020	Current community issues include lack of mobile reception, access/egress issues and restrictions to completing some types of treatments on private land.
	Ansons Bay	High		Fuel Reduction	Investigate maintenance of existing community firebreak that runs through private property	TFS - Community Development Unit with PWS, BRU, and Break O'Day council consultation	Ongoing	Fire break behind Ansons Bay community was put in years ago funded by the community and runs through private property
	Ansons Bay	High		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Mitigation Plan	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	2020	
	Avenue River Catchment	Very High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning/Asset Protection Burning	STT as lead agency with PWS	Autumn 2020	Between 5500ha and 9,000ha proposed to be burnt.
	Beaumaris	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel reduction burning. Multiple burn units proposed on the coastal strip north and south of Beaumaris	PWS	From Autumn 2020/21	Plans in development for burning in future years
	Beaumaris	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burn	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	Autumn 2020 *Subject to land owner approval	Landowner approval required
	Branxholm	Mod		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Protection Plan	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	2020	
	Branxholm	High		Preparedness/Fuel reduction	Firebreak. Maintain and clear as necessary	STT	Ongoing	Firebreaks are subject to 3 yearly management/maintenance

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
								cycle at which point they are disced. 60m wide break
	Bridport	High		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Protection Plan	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	2020	
	Bridport	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning. Various burns proposed including re-burning.	PWS	From Autumn 2020/21	
	Bridport sewerage treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around the sewage treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Bridport water treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around the water treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Cameron Regional Reserve	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning - North and South	PWS	2020/2021	Plans approved. Proposed for 2020/2021
	Chain of Lagoons	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning. Multiple burn units identified for Fuel Reduction Burning in the area	PWS	Autumn 2020/21	Plan approved for Wilkins Road burn
	Cox's Road	High		Preparedness/Fuel Reduction	Maintain and clear as necessary	STT	Ongoing	Firebreaks are subject to 3 yearly management/maintenance cycle at which point they are disced. 60m wide break
	Dazzler Range Tower	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	STT	2020/2021	
	Derby	High		Preparedness/Fuel Reduction	Firebreak. Maintain and clear as necessary	Managing authority	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Derby	Med		Behaviour Change Initiative	Bushfire Ready Neighbourhood Program	TFS - Community Development Unit	2020	
	Diana's Basin	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel reduction burning (Crocker's Arm creek & Basin Creek Road)	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	Autumn 2020	
	Fingal	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel reduction burning	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	2021 onwards	
	Fingal sewage treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around sewage treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Fingal water treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around water treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Four Mile Creek	High		Fuel Reduction	Review the Four Mile Creek Mitigation Plan	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	
	Gladstone	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	Autumn 2020	
	Gladstone	High		Behaviour Change Initiative	Bushfire Ready Neighbourhood Program	TFS - Community Development Unit	2020	

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Gladstone	High		Preparedness	Investigate the development of a Strategic Bushfire Mitigation Plan	FMAC to coordinate selection of plan developer	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	
	Golconda	Mod		Preparedness	Investigate the development of a Strategic Bushfire Mitigation Plan	FMAC to coordinate selection of plan developer	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	
	Hogan's Road	High		Fuel Reduction	Maintain and clear as necessary	STT	Ongoing	Put in for 2006 fire. Firebreaks are subject to 3 yearly management/maintenance cycle at which point they are disced. 60m wide break
	Jimmys Creek 2	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	STT	Spring 2020	To protect Timberlands pines and regrowth areas
	Kennel Road (formally known as fire road)	High		Preparedness	Investigate options to develop road to a standard for vehicular access to provide an escape route for Binalong Bay	Managing authority	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	
	Mallisons Creek	Very High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	PWS	2020/2021	Area now split into two burns. Block north east of Ansons Bay (Mallisons Creek Block 1) plan nearly complete for 2020. Block 2 proposed for 2021
	Mount William Field Centre	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	PWS	Pending funding	Plan Approved. Currently unfunded

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Mt Horror	High		Fuel Reduction	Maintain Asset Protection Zone around Fire Detection Tower	STT	Ongoing	
	Mt Horror	High		Preparedness/Fuel Reduction	Maintain radio network.	STT/PWS/TFS	Ongoing	Important to maintain radio network
	Mt Pearson	Very high		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning. Multiple burn units planned	PWS	Pending options analysis. Post 2020/21	Strategically important to provide protection to communities including Binalong Bay, Gardens, St Helens. PWS looking at options to block large burn unit into more manageable sizes. Smaller units recently been added for re-targeting (previously burnt <10 years ago)
	Mt Platts - Platt's Lookout	High		Fuel Reduction	Maintain Asset Protection Zone around Fire Detection Tower	STT	Ongoing	
	Mt Stronach	Very high		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	PWS	2020/2021	Plan approved. Significant boundary work to be undertaken including landowner agreements. Proposed for 2020/2021
	Mt William National Park Blocks 1 & 2	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	PWS	From 2021 onwards	Plans in development
	Musselroe Bay	Mod		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Mitigation Plan	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Newman's Road	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	PWS completed values assessment. BRU to complete operational burn plan and coordinate planned burn
	Petal Point	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning.	PWS	Pending funding	Plan approved. Non BRU funded burn so subject to available PWS funding
	Pioneer	High		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Protection Plan	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	2020	
	Pioneer	High		Preparedness	Investigate the development of a Strategic Bushfire Mitigation Plan	FMAC to coordinate selection of plan developer	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	
	Pioneer Racecourse Creek	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burn	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	Autumn 2021	In planning stages
	Platts Lookout	High		Preparedness	Maintain radio network	STT/PWS	Ongoing	Important to maintain radio network.
	Retreat firebreak network	High		Preparedness/Fuel Reduction	Firebreak. Maintain and clear as necessary - fuel break	STT	Ongoing	Firebreaks are subject to 3 yearly management/maintenance cycle at which point they are disced. 60m wide break
	Ringarooma	Mod		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Protection Plan	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	2020	

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Ringarooma water treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around water treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Scamander	High		Preparedness/Fuel Reduction	Firebreak. Maintain and clear as necessary - fuel break	STT	Ongoing	Firebreaks are subject to 3 yearly management/maintenance cycle at which point they are disced. 60m wide break. Parallel to coast, Diana's basin to township
	Scamander	High		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Mitigation Plan	TFS - Bushfire Risk Unit	2020	
	Scamander sewage treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around sewerage treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Scamander water treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around water treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Scottsdale sewage treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around sewerage treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Scottsdale water treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around water treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	South Sister Repeater	High		Preparedness	Maintain radio network	TFS	Ongoing	Important to maintain radio network
	Speers Road ("Tower Hill")	High		Fuel Reduction	Firebreak. Maintain and clear as necessary	STT	Ongoing	Firebreaks are subject to 3 yearly management/maintenance

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
								cycle at which point they are disced. 60m wide break
	St Helens sewage treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around water treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	St Helens water treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around sewerage treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	St Marys	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	Autumn 2020	
	St Marys sewage treatment plant	Mod		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around sewerage treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	St Marys water treatment plant	Mod		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around water treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure
	Stieglitz	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning. Multiple burns planned including re-targeting previous burn units	PWS	2020/2021/2022/2023	Several plans in development for coming years proposed from Autumn 2020
	Stieglitz sewage treatment plant	High		Fuel Reduction	Establish and maintain Asset Protection Zone around sewerage treatment plant	TasWater	Ongoing	Protect above ground sewer infrastructure

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	Stumpys Bay	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	PWS	Autumn 2020	50% burnt 2017
	The Gardens	Mod		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burn/Asset Protection Burn	PWS	From 2021	planning stage
	Tomahawk	High		Preparedness	Develop a Bushfire Mitigation Plan	TFS – Bushfire Risk Unit	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	
	Tonganah	Mod		Preparedness	Investigate the development of a Strategic Bushfire Mitigation Plan	FMAC to coordinate selection of plan developer	Revisit at FMAC meeting in 2020	
	Tower Hill Road	High		Fuel Reduction	Firebreak. Maintain and clear as necessary	STT	Ongoing	Firebreaks are subject to 3 yearly management/maintenance cycle at which point they are disced. 60m wide break
	Waterhouse Point	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning. Multiple burn units identified within the conservation area for Fuel Reduction Burning in future years	PWS	From Autumn 2020	Plan in preparation. Proposed Autumn 2020
	Weldborough Pass	High		Preparedness	Maintain radio network	TFS	Ongoing	Important to maintain radio network

Map Ref No.	Asset name & location	Priority	Treatment number	Treatment category	Treatment type & detail	Responsible organisation	Completion date proposed	Comment
	White Rock	High		Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction Burning	PWS	2020/2021	Strategically important to prevent spread from North into assets directly south Burn 50% completed in Spring 2016. Proposed for 2020/2021 with revised western boundary

Appendix 2: Current Implementation Plans

Plan owner	Plan title	Year
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Current Bushfire Mitigation Plans

TFS	Community Bushfire Mitigation Plan Bicheno area including Douglas River and Seymour	Nov 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Mitigation Plan Four Mile Creek	Aug 2014
TFS	Community Bushfire Mitigation Plan Beaumaris	Feb 2016
TFS	Community Bushfire Mitigation Plan Dianas Basin	Feb 2016
STT	Sustainable Timbers Tasmanian Northern Tactical Fire Plan	2017-2018
PWS	Northern Region Strategic Fire Management Plan	Nov 2009

Current Bushfire Response Plans

TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Tomahawk	Feb 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Gladstone	Dec 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Priory	Nov 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Musselroe Bay	Feb 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan St Helens	Dec 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Binalong Bay area	Oct 2018
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Stieglitz area	Nov 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Scamander area	Aug 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Falmouth	August 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Four Mile Creek	July 2014
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Bicheno Area including Douglas River and Seymour	Aug 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Anson Bay area	Nov 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Derby	May 2018
TFS	Community Bushfire Response Plan Fingal/Mangana	March 2018

Current Bushfire Protection Plans

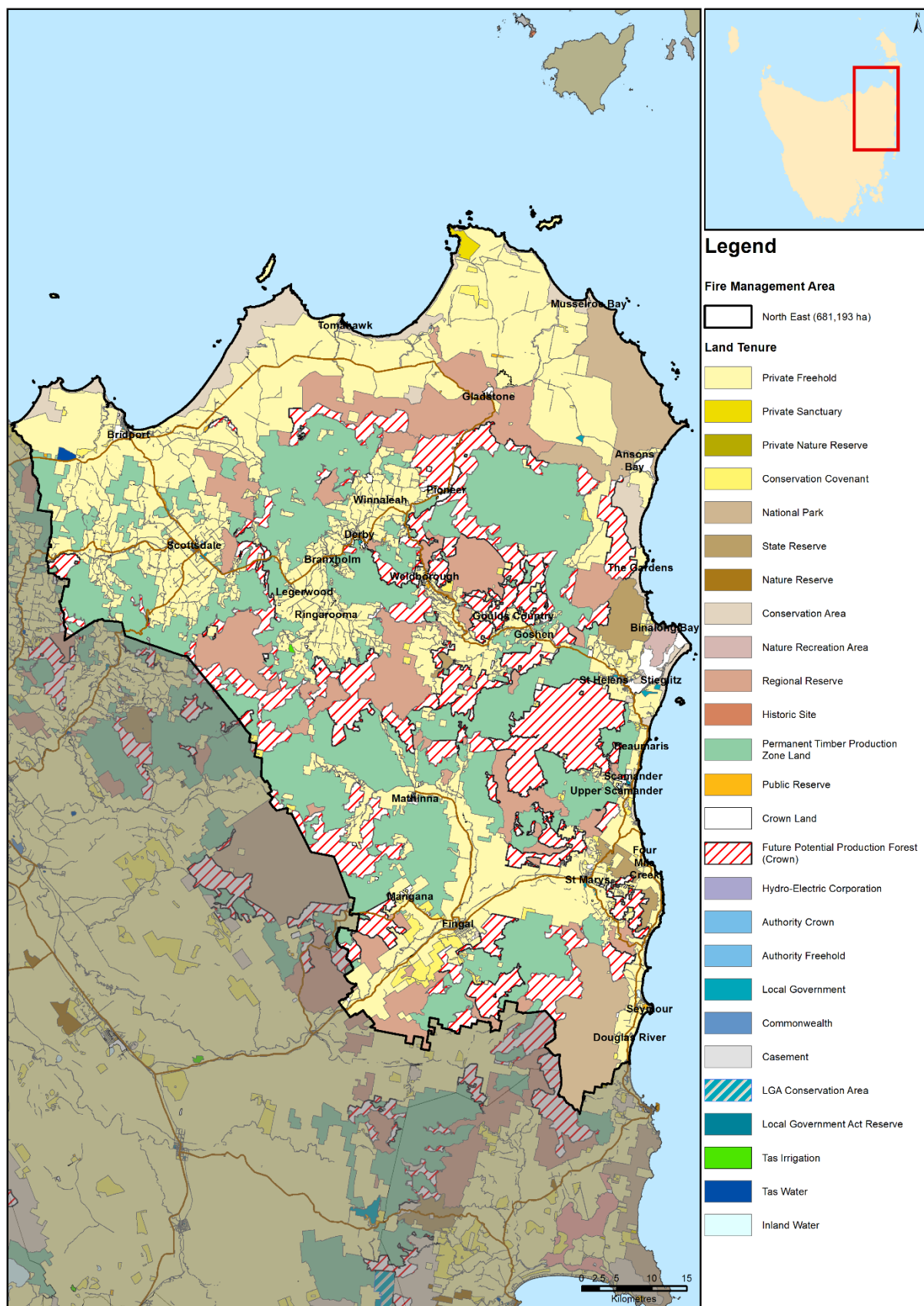
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Tomahawk	Feb 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Gladstone	Dec 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Priory	Nov 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Musselroe Bay	Oct 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan St Helens	Dec 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Binalong Bay	Oct 2018
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Stieglitz	Nov 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Scamander	Feb 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Falmouth	Feb 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Four Mile Creek	July 2014
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Bicheno Area including Douglas River & Seymour	Sept 2013
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Anson Bay	Nov 2012
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Derby area	May 2018
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Fingal	Nov 2017
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Mangana	April 2018
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Avoca area	Nov 2016
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Mathinna	Nov 2016
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Royal Gorge	Nov 2016
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Pyengana	Sept 2018
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Weldborough	Sept 2018
TFS	Community Bushfire Protection Plan Golconda	Oct 2018

Maps

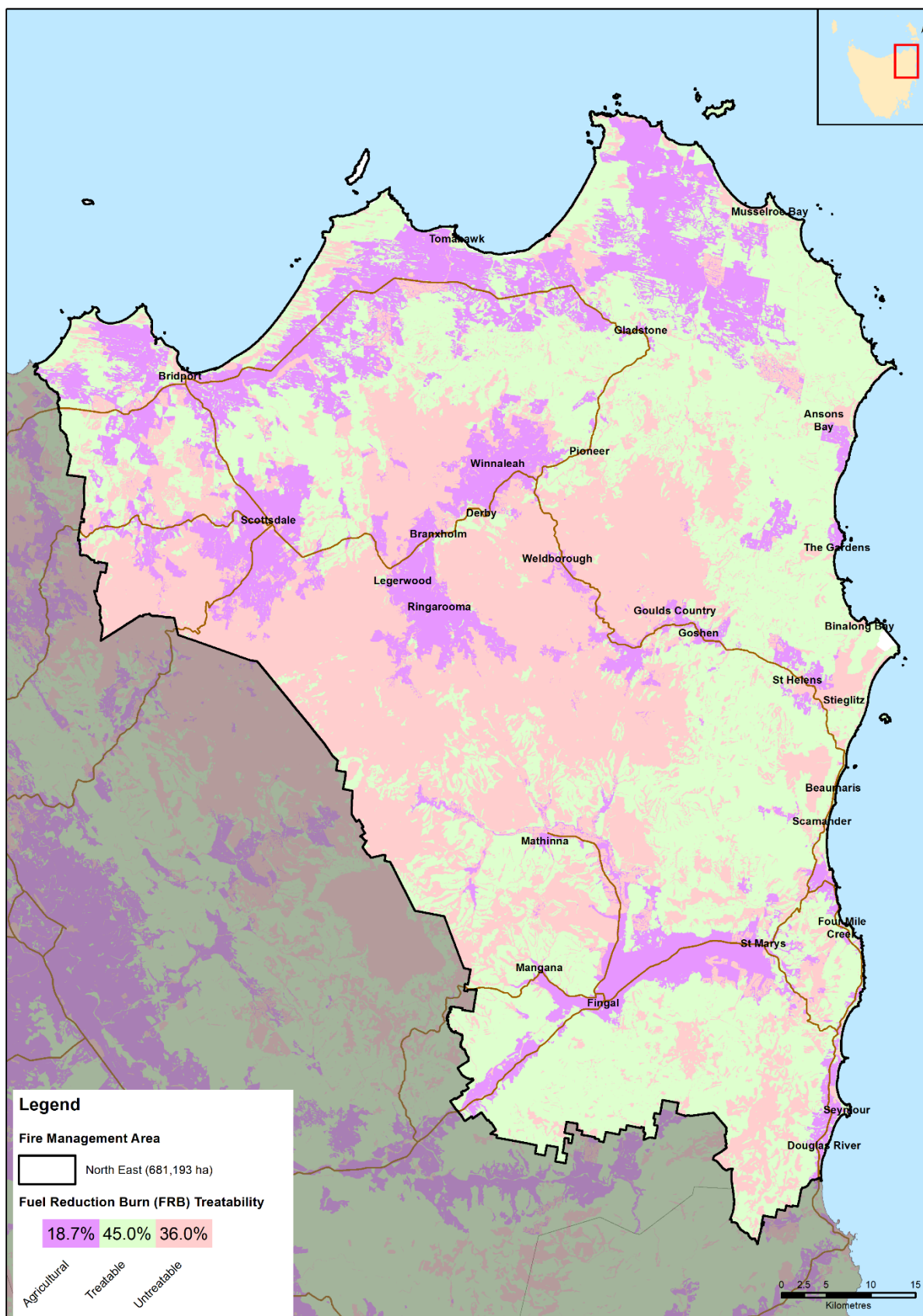
Map 1: North East Fire Management Area Location



Map 2: Tenure summary map for North East Fire Management Area



Map 5: Fuel treatability for North East Fire Management Area



Map 6: Vegetation for North East Fire Management Area

