



Executive Summary

Tamar Fire Management Area Fire Protection Plan

This report summarises the findings contained in the Fire Protection Plan for the Tamar Fire Management Area 2019 review.

The purpose of Fire Protection Plans is to identify and prioritise bushfire risks in the landscape and strategically identify work that can be done to mitigate that risk.

Fire Protection Plans have been prepared for each of the ten fire management areas in Tasmania in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Service Act 1979. These plans were developed for the first time in 2014 in a collaborative effort by members of Fire Management Area Committees made up of local stakeholders.

The objective of the Fire Protection Plan is to effectively manage bushfire related risk within the Tamar Fire Management Area in order to protect people, assets and other things valuable to the community.

In preparing the Fire Protection Plan, a tenure blind approach to strategic fuel management was taken. The identification of areas and communities at risk from bushfire together with the identification of areas of potential strategic value for undertaking risk mitigation activities was undertaken by Fire Management Area Committee members without regard to land tenure/ownership.

In taking this approach, Fire Management Area Committees have recognised that strategic fuel management needs to occur across public and private property boundaries in order to be effective.

The management of bushfire related risk is not the sole responsibility of any one land manager or agency. It is a shared responsibility of the whole community.

The tenure blind approach to bushfire risk mitigation planning as undertaken by Fire Management Area Committees creates opportunities for collaboration between public and private land managers and owners and promotes the development of a centrally coordinated bushfire risk mitigation program.

Tamar Fire Management Area Background

- The Tamar Fire Management Area is located in the north of Tasmania and encompasses Launceston City and the Tamar River estuary. The Tamar Fire Management Area plan covers a total area of 859,086 ha with an estimated population of 128,000.
- The Tamar Fire Management Area is dominated by agricultural and pastoral activities, particularly meat production, apples, berries and viticulture, with the Tamar Valley being one of Tasmania's leading wine producing areas.

Key findings for the Tamar Fire Management Area

- Within the Tamar Fire Management Area approximately 28% of land is public land and 72% is private/freehold land. It is evident from the large percentage of private or freehold land within the fire management area that focusing mitigation efforts on public land alone will not be effective in addressing the risk of bushfires within the Tamar Fire Management Area.
- A total of 7.3% of the fire management area was identified as being at extreme risk from fire under current fuel loads.
- The majority (97%) of the vegetation community types found in the Tamar Fire Management Area are considered to have a medium to high flammability rating.
- Within the Tamar Fire Management Area a total of 428,356 ha (or 50% of the total area) has been categorised as Treatable (by fuel reduction burning). The remaining 49% of the fire planning area (423,195 ha) has been classified as untreatable (through the use of fuel reduction burning) however field inspections will be required to properly determine whether areas are suitable for fuel reduction burning.
- The topographical effect of the Tamar Valley can result in a significant wood smoke problem (from wood heaters) in the Tamar Valley air shed. Additional contributions of smoke from burning off and from bushfires has the potential to have a significant impact on air quality in the area. The issue of smoke pollution is of particular concern to public health advocates, Launceston Airport and grape growers in the area.
- Agricultural assets are of particular significance to the Tamar Fire Management Area due to their economic value and are considered to be high risk assets due to the time and investment required to establish orchards and vineyards etc. Smoke from both fuel reduction burning operations and bushfires is of particular concern within the Tamar Fire Management Area as smoke taint can seriously de-value wine and can render it unsaleable.

Bushfire threat in the Tamar Fire Management Area

- The bushfire threat for the Tamar Fire Management Area increases in November, with a peak in January although extreme fire danger days often prevail in the latter part of summer.
- The cause of the majority of fires in the Tamar Fire Management Area is unknown (42%). The next leading causes for fire ignition are escaped burns (23%), planned burning (18%) and arson (16%).
- The vast majority (81%) of the fire management area has been untouched by fire since fire frequency records started being kept.

Bushfire risk analysis for the Tamar Fire Management Area

Computer modelling was used to conduct an initial broad scale assessment across the Tamar Fire Management Area to identify communities vulnerable to bushfire. A more detailed assessment using more locally specific processes was then conducted by members of the Fire Management Area Committee.

Tools that were used by the Fire Management Area Committee to identify communities vulnerable to bushfire include:

- Consultation of Local Government and Emergency Services risk registers
- Local knowledge from Tas Fire Service District Officers and brigades
- Consultation with Tasmania Fire Service Community Protection Planners and Community Development Officers
- Expert opinion of fire practitioners
- Identification and consideration of existing and past fire management actions, plans and incidents

High risk areas for bushfire

Computer modelling results indicate that areas of highest bushfire risk identified for the Tamar Fire Management Area are located in the central northern part of the area (the populated suburbs of Launceston) and in the north eastern part of the area (north and north east of Burns Creek and north of Lebrina), with scattered patches of high risk throughout the Tamar Fire Management Area.

High risk ignition point locations

Computer modelling indicates that within the Tamar Fire Management Area bushfire ignition points of potential concern under current fuel loads are located:

- In the vicinity of Hagley and Quamby Bend (north east of Westbury)
- North west of Lilydale
- North west of Launceston - west of the Tamar River
- Along the Midlands Highway from Launceston to Campbelltown
- North west of Lake Leake and Rawlinna
- North west of Tunbridge

Community Risk Assessment

Following group analysis and discussion of the preliminary risk assessment results (detailed above), together with input gathered from local knowledge, 'at risk' communities were then prioritised by members of the Tamar Fire Management Committee in terms of requiring mitigation actions.

Mitigation activities may include:

- Fuel reduction burning
- Fire trail and fire break construction/maintenance
- Mechanical fuel reduction through slashing, trittering and mulching
- Community education
- Other prescribed activities specific to community needs

Some of these activities can be implemented in a relatively short time frame whilst others will need careful planning and consultation with the relevant stakeholders which will need to be done over a longer time frame.

Community Risk Assessment results

The following communities were identified during the strategic assessment process as being at high risk and as having priority for mitigation actions:

- Nunamara
- Lake Leake
- Rossarden
- Greens Beach
- Beaconsfield
- Travellers Rest

Areas of strategic importance within the Tamar Fire Management Area

In addition to the above communities, areas of potential strategic importance for bushfire risk mitigation within the Tamar Fire Management Area were identified through a process that utilised and combined local knowledge with computer modelling. Fire Management Area Committee members with specific fire expertise and knowledge across the area contributed to the identification of both the communities at risk and the broader strategic areas for potential mitigation actions.

The following areas were identified during a desktop exercise as having potential strategic importance for bushfire risk mitigation treatment within the Tamar Fire Management Area:

- Tippogoree range (range on the eastern side of the Tamar River)
- Underwood, Nunamara & Boomer Hills
- Newnham Creek area
- Cabbage Tree Hill (west Beaconsfield)
- Bridgenorth Area
- West of Riverside
- Storys Creek/South of Ben Lomond National Park
- Reedy Marsh (located in Central North Fire Management Area but will impact on Tamar Fire Management Area)
- Lake Leake

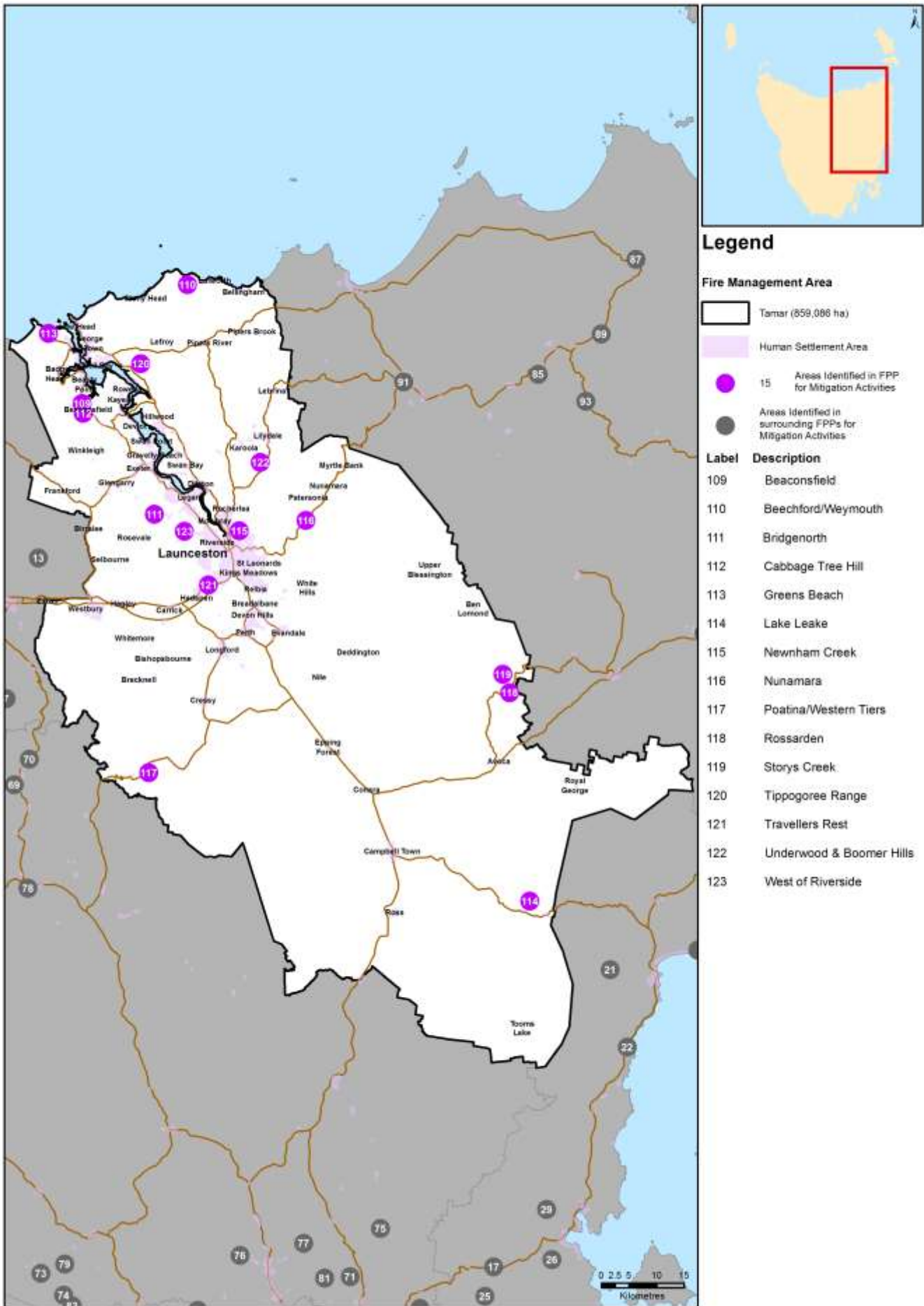
These potential strategic areas will require further detailed investigation and ground truthing in the field to more accurately determine their potential for use as treatment areas with strategic value.

Maps showing the location of communities at high risk from bushfires, together with a map showing areas of potential strategic importance within the Tamar Fire Management Area are shown below.

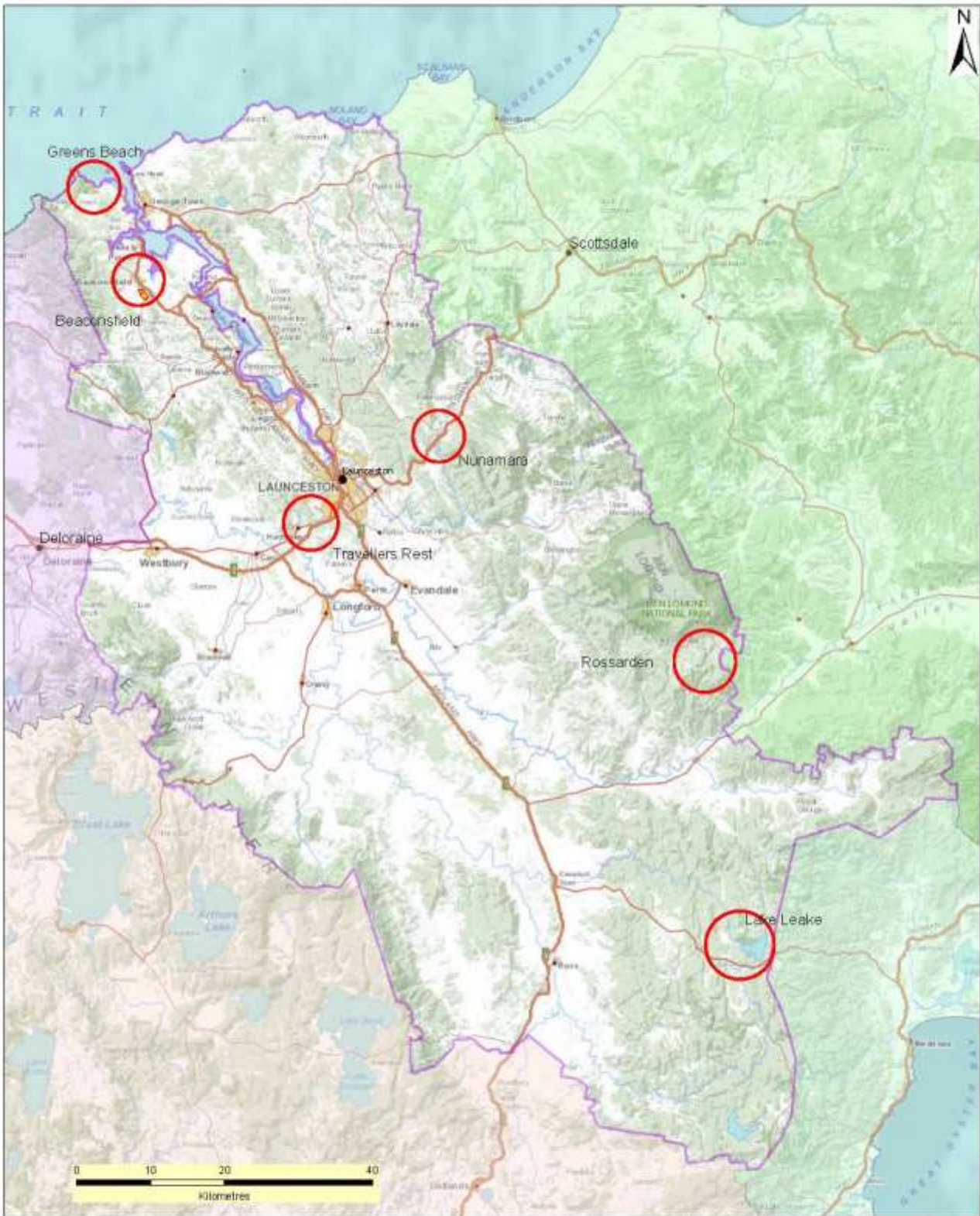
- Map 1 - Areas identified in the Tamar Fire Protection Plan for mitigation activities
- Map 2 - Community Risk Assessment results
- Map 3 - Areas of potential strategic value for bushfire risk reduction

For further information please contact
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or post: GPO Box 1526, Hobart 7001. www.sfmc.tas.gov.au

Map 1 - Areas identified in the Tamar Fire Protection Plan for mitigation activities



Map 2 - Community Risk Assessment results

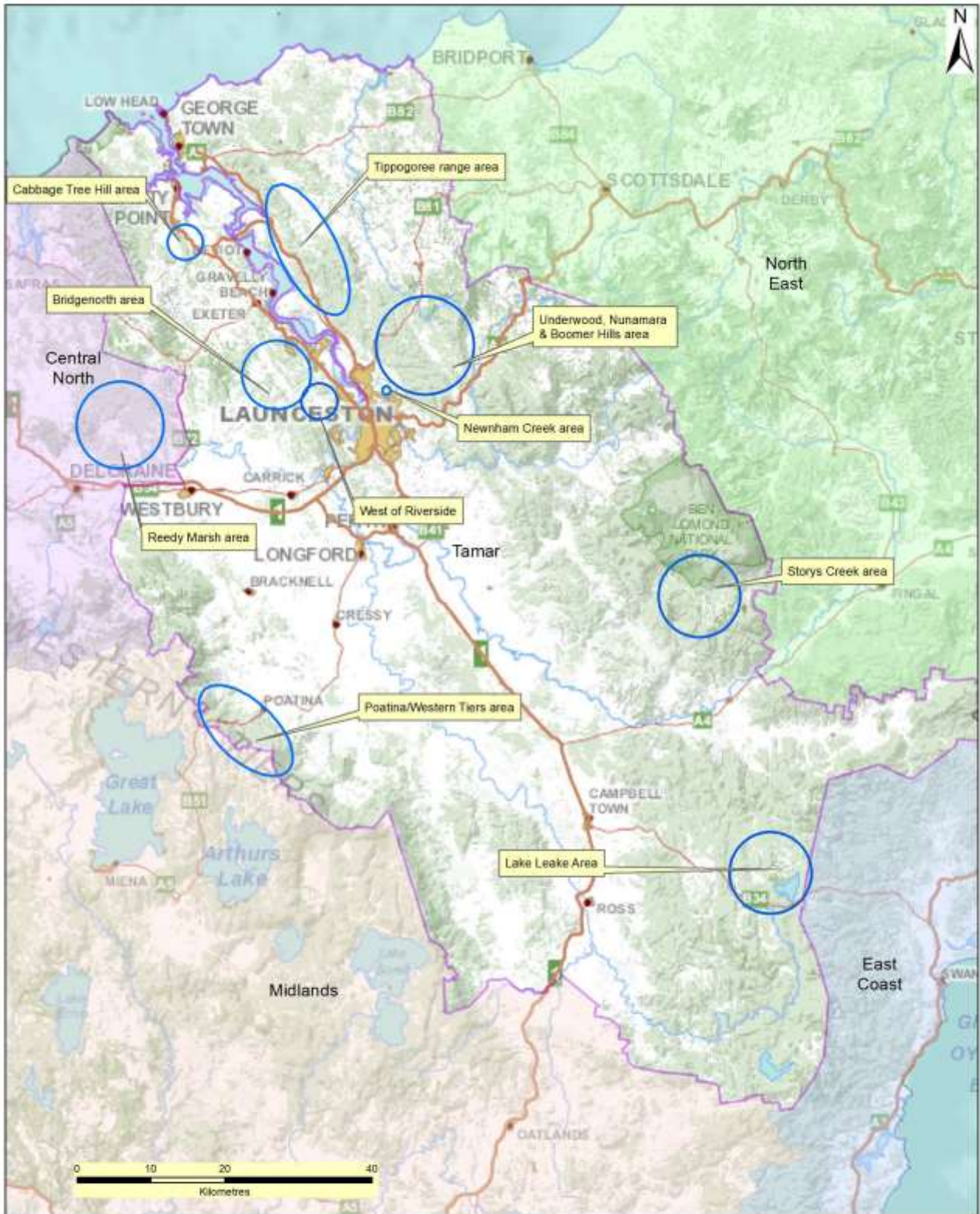


Source: SFRP

Communities identified in strategic assessment process
Tamar FMAC

Map Title: TMRP-LTPS	Scale: 1:250,000
Author: SFRP	Project: TMRP-LTPS
Prepared: 2019/03/20	Client: TMRP-LTPS
Prepared: 2019/03/20	Client: TMRP-LTPS
Scale: 1:250,000	1 centimetre = 2.5 kilometres (2:3)
<p>State of Tasmania - LHM Department of Natural Resources and Environment State Fire Management Council</p>	

Map 3 - Areas of potential strategic value for bushfire risk reduction



General locality of areas of potential strategic value for mitigation actions Tamar FMAC

State Fire Management Council	
Map Title: TEMPLATE	Edition: 001 1999
Author: 4999	Project: Strategic Risk Mitigation
Print Date: 20/08/2014	Coordinate System: GDA 1984 MGA Zone 55
Map Type: 88.2.1.05	
Scale: 1:175,000	1 centimetre = 1.75 kilometres (1:175,000)
<small> This map was prepared using the following software: ArcGIS 10.4.1 Adobe Photoshop CS6 Microsoft Office Word 2010 </small>	<small> This map was prepared using the following data: Tasmanian State Government Department of Environment, Planning and Infrastructure Department of Natural Resources and Environment Department of Transport, Infrastructure and Services Department of Water and Energy </small>