Brighton Council

Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2025-2035

Version 1.2

March 2025

FIRE RISK Consultants

Brighton Council

Cover photo – Fuel reduction burn within Hobart Fire Management Area, TAS (Fire Risk Consultants)

Version control

Version:	Date:	Description:	Prepared By:
1.0	14/01/2025	First draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy developed for bushfire-prone areas owned and/or managed by Brighton Council.	Fire Risk Consultants Pty Ltd
1.1	7/02/2025	Finalisation of strategy post Brighton Council consultation.	Fire Risk Consultants Pty Ltd
1.2	13/03/2025	Final strategy post Hobart FMAC feedback and Brighton Council Elected Member Workshop.	Milly Burgess

Acknowledgement and endorsement

Bushfire Mitigation Strategy noted by Hobart Fire Management Area Committee (HFMAC):	**12 March 2025**
Bushfire Mitigation Strategy adopted by Brighton Council:	**18 March 2025**

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners who once walked this country: the Mumirimina people.

The Mumirimina belonged to the Oyster Bay tribe. This was the largest tribe in Tasmania and covered 8000 square kilometres. Kutalayna levee in Brighton was a significant meeting place where hundreds of generations of Aboriginal families hunted, gathered, corroboreed, camped and traded.

In the course of colonisation, dispossession of the Mumirimina was early, rapid and extensive.

We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community today as the continuing custodians of this land, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. Through our words and actions we strive to build a community that reflects and respects the history and hopes for all the people of Brighton. We also acknowledge their skill and care in managing the land through the use of fire for many thousands of years.

Disclaimer and information statement

The information in this Bushfire Mitigation Strategy (the strategy) is current as at the date of publication. The information and/or the recommendations contained in the strategy have been compiled and based on the information, records, data, and any other sources of information available at time of publication. Accordingly, the accuracy of the information and/or recommendations in the strategy relies entirely upon the information and material available at time of publication. Whilst Brighton Council have exercised all due care and skill in compiling this strategy, readers should confirm the accuracy and reliability of the information and material Brighton Council has relied upon in producing the strategy. This strategy may also contain information, systems or data which is the property of Brighton Council. In these circumstances, the property referred to will remain the property of Brighton Council and Brighton Council has in no way waived or altered in any way its ownership right, or provided consent for use, unless expressly provided in the strategy.

Executive Summary

This is the first Bushfire Mitigation Strategy (the strategy) for bushfire-prone areas owned and/or managed by Brighton Council within the Brighton Local Government Area (LGA). This strategy provides a high-level framework and principles for Council to support addressing bushfire risk levels at time of authoring. This strategy will support Brighton Council meet its statutory responsibilities as a landowner in relation to bushfire risk.

Approximately 90% of land within the Brighton LGA can be defined as bushfire-prone because it is subject to a Bushfire-prone Areas Overlay on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Brighton Local Provisions Schedule. Only 3% of this land is owned and/or managed by Council. Land that is bushfire-prone means that is more susceptible to being impacted by bushfire.

This strategy was developed in line with the Tasmanian State Government's bushfire risk assessment framework and bushfire risk registers. A standard risk assessment process was used to determine bushfire risk levels and priorities to reduce bushfire risk to the bushfire-prone areas owned and/or managed by Brighton Council, in turn reducing bushfire risk to adjacent human settlement areas.

The risk assessment process followed decision support principals from the Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG) available at www.ses.tas.gov.au, the Tasmanian State Government's Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines, and the Hobart Fire Management Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan available at www.sfmc.tas.gov.au.

Human settlement areas within the Brighton LGA identified at increased levels of bushfire risk this strategy specifically targets include:

- Dromedary, Mount Dromedary, Clark Stewart Road, Upper Dromedary.

The vegetation within the Brighton LGA is a combination of both treatable and untreatable for fuel reduction burning. Most of the vegetation within and adjacent to the Dromedary locality can be classified as untreatable for fuel reduction burning due to the difficulty in undertaking planned burns safely due to terrain, fuel types and asset distribution.

Six high-level principles, detailed in Section 5.3, guide Council's efforts to reduce bushfire risk within the Brighton LGA and promote a consistent approach to bushfire risk management throughout the Hobart Fire Management Area and Tasmania.

Additionally, 12 high-level actions to reduce bushfire risk have been summarised into an Implementation Plan enclosed as Appendix A. This includes Brighton Council:

- Developing and implementing a strategic bushfire engagement plan for the Dromedary locality;
- Undertaking individual bushfire risk assessments of critical Council managed assets; and
- Sourcing the delivery of nationally recognised training in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) for Council staff and Councillors involved in the Municipal Emergency Management Committee.

This strategy will function for a ten-year period, with the first review to be undertaken at three years post adoption with following reviews at three-year intervals. The strategy will enter a review phase if any of the following occurs:

- Significant bushfire event impacts the Brighton LGA (or adjacent); or
- Significant changes to relevant state or federal bushfire related legislation/policy; or

- Significant change to the Tasmanian State Government's bushfire risk assessment framework or risk register relevant to the Brighton LGA.

The implementation and ownership of this strategy is the responsibility of Brighton Council's Hobart Fire Management Area Committee Representative, or their delegate.

Contents

List of Figures and Tables

Glossary

To promote the use of common terminology, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC) Bushfire Glossary, and Director's Determination - Bushfire Hazard Areas version 1.2 will be used as reference in this strategy.

AS 3959	Means Australian Standard AS 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas;
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.
Bushfire	An unplanned fire burning vegetation.
Bushfire Attack level (BAL)	Means the bushfire attack level for a building site determined by TFS or a bushfire hazard practitioner in accordance with AS 3959.
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-prone area	Land is a bushfire-prone area if: a) the land is within the boundary of a bushfire-prone area on a planning scheme overlay map; or b) where the relevant planning scheme overlay map for the land does not show any land within the relevant municipal area as being within the boundary of a bushfire-prone area, the land is within 100 metres of an area of bushfire-prone vegetation that is equal to or greater than one hectare.
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.
Consequence	Impact(s) of an event on the five key areas: environment, economy, people, social setting, and public administration.
Cultural fire	Fire deliberately put into the landscape authorized and led by Traditional Owners of that Country, for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to: ceremony, protection of cultural and natural assets, fuel reduction, regeneration and management of food, fibre and medicines, flora regeneration, fauna habitat protection and healing Country's spirit.
Cultural heritage	Encompassing both Aboriginal and historic heritage values both statutory and non-statutory.
Ecological burning	A form of prescribed burning. Treatment with fire of vegetation in nominated areas to achieve specified ecological objectives.
Fuel	Any material such as grass, leaf litter and live vegetation which can be ignited and sustains a fire. Fuel is usually measured using the Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment Guide 4th ed. 2010 DSE.
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.
Fuel management	Modification of fuels by prescribed burning or other means.

Fuel reduction burning	The planned application of fire to reduce hazardous fuel quantities; undertaken in prescribed environmental conditions within prescribed boundaries.
Hazard Management Area	The area between a habitable building or building area and bushfire-prone vegetation, which 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 which 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 Australian Bureau of Statistics data. Includes seasonally populated areas and industrial areas.
Likelihood	Chance of something happening. It is used as a general description of probability and may be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively.
Risk treatment	Process of selection and implementation of controls to modify risk. The term 'risk treatment' is sometimes used for the controls themselves.
Traditional fire	The application of fire knowledge and practice prior to European settlement.

Acronyms

AFDRS	Australian Fire Danger Rating System
BMP	Bushfire Mitigation Plan
BMS	Bushfire Mitigation Strategy
BRMP	Bushfire Risk Management Plan
FDR	Fire Danger Rating
FMA	Fire Management Area
HFMAC	Hobart Fire Management Area Committee
LGA	Local Government Area
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
PWS	Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service
SFMC	State Fire Management Council
TASVEG	Comprehensive digital map of Tasmania's vegetation
TERAG	Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service

1 Introduction

This Bushfire Mitigation Strategy has been prepared by Fire Risk Consultants for Brighton Council. Fire Risk Consultants are industry leaders within the specialist area of bushfire risk analysis and bushfire impact and mitigation planning.

Bushfire has been a constant and natural phenomenon in Australia for many thousands of years. South-eastern Australia, including Tasmania, is particularly prone to fire and is regarded as one of the most bushfire-affected regions in the world. Fire is an important and natural component in the management and renewal of biodiversity and habitat. If uncontrolled, however, its effects can be catastrophic (Tasmanian State Bushfire Safety Policy, 2014).

Approximately 98% of Tasmania's land area is designated as bushfire-prone including approximately 90% of the Brighton LGA; meaning the likelihood is high for Brighton LGA to be impacted by bushfires and that management of risk is fundamental to bushfire safety. However, bushfire risk can never be completely removed and there is an increased need for enhanced community safety and resilience from bushfires.

1.1 Strategy purpose

Management of bushfire risk is a shared responsibility through a coordinated approach. This strategy is intended to provide a high-level framework for Brighton Council to support addressing bushfire risk levels for Brighton Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas. Bushfire-prone areas not owned and/or managed by Brighton Council are outside of this strategy's scope. Areas outside scope with increased bushfire risk levels are generally coordinated by the State Government and addressed within the Hobart Fire Management Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) available at www.sfmc.tas.gov.au.

This strategy is also intended to:

- Give guidance to Brighton Council to address Council's duties as an occupier of land under the *Fire Service Act 1979*; and
- Provide a means to ensure that the agreed principles and strategies of the State Government, including those of the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee (HFMAC), are being addressed collaboratively by Brighton Council.

1.2 Strategy objectives

The objective of this strategy is to clearly and concisely communicate bushfire risk and principles Council can use to reduce bushfire risk to tolerable levels.

In align with the Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy 2017, the two primary objectives of this strategy are:

1. To minimise the impact of bushfires on human life, communities, essential and community infrastructure, industries, the economy, cultural values, and the environment. Human life will be afforded priority over all other considerations, and
2. To maintain or improve the resilience of natural ecosystems and their ability to deliver services such as biodiversity, water, carbon storage.

1.3 Alignment to Tasmanian State Government bushfire risk management framework

The Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG) were created to provide a consistent and reliable risk assessment process for emergency management. TERAG allows users to treat priority risks using risk management processes in alignment with *ISO 31000 Risk Management – Guidelines*. This strategy uses the five main phases of the TERAG risk management process; establish the context, identify risks, analyse risks, evaluate risks, and treat risks.

The Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy 2017 is managed by the State Fire Management Council. The purpose of the policy is to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities on public and private land across Tasmania. This strategy is aligned with the Principles and Strategies of the policy.

A fundamental aim of this strategy is to create linkages between the Hobart Fire Management Area BRMP to avoid duplication. The Hobart Fire Management Area BRMP is overseen by the HFMAC and established under the *Fire Service Act 1979.*The Hobart Fire Management Area BRMP is designed to provide a coordinated approach to the identification and treatment of bushfire risk within the Hobart Fire Management Area.

Brighton Council is required under the *Fire Service Act 1979* to have a representative sit on the HFMAC.

This Strategy has been reviewed and noted by the HFMAC prior to Brighton Council adoption.

1.3.1 Linkages to Council's emergency management framework

This strategy is not a response plan, it is intended to support Council address bushfire risk levels for Brighton Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas.

In accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, Council is required to develop a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) that details the municipality's approach to dealing with emergencies.

The *Brighton Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Issue 10, May 2021* is available at www.brighton.tas.gov.au and notes that bushfire is considered the greatest natural hazard threat to the municipality. The MEMP includes a Risk Assessment Report which includes a register of risks and treatment strategies. Each identified risk within the risk register is allocated a unique Risk ID.

This strategy links directly to the MEMP's risk register (Appendix 2 of the MEMP) through addressing Risk ID's BM02.01, BM02.02, BM02.03, BM02.04, BM02.08 & BM02.09 by implementing a *Municipal Fire Strategy* that has been noted by the HFMAC, and formally adopted by Brighton Council.

1.3.2 Linkages to Brighton Council Strategy 2023-2033

The Brighton Council Strategy 2023-2033 is a separate strategic level planning document, managed by Brighton Council available at https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au. It outlines Council's values, goals, and strategies to achieve Council's overall purpose - to create a thriving place with opportunities for all. This Bushfire Mitigation Strategy supports Councils implementation of the Brighton Council Strategy through its linkages identified within Table 1 of this strategy.

Table 1: Brighton Council Strategy 2023-2033 linkages to Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

Brighton Council Strategy 2023-2033 Strategy ID:	Strategy Description:
1.2	Build resilience and opportunity.
2.1	Acknowledge and respond to the climate change and biodiversity emergency.
2.4	Ensure strategic planning and management of assets has a long-term sustainability and evidence-based approach.
3.3	Community facilities are safe, accessible and meet contemporary needs.
4.1	Be big picture, long-term and evidence-based in our thinking.
4.4	Ensure financial and risk sustainability.

1.4 Statutory responsibilities

As an occupier of land Brighton Council has duties under the *Fire Service Act 1979* to take diligent steps to prevent any fire lit on its property during a fire permit period from spreading.

As well as the duties that apply to occupiers of land, Council has several specific powers and obligations under the *Fire Service Act 1979*. These include, but not limited to:

- to nominate a representative to sit on the HFMAC (Section 18);
- to cause the formation in its municipal area of such fire breaks as it considers necessary or desirable to arrest the spread, or to facilitate the suppression of fires (Section 56); and
- to contribute towards the operating costs of fire brigades (Sections 77A to 95).

Council also has specific responsibilities under various Acts of Parliament for bushfire mitigation, bushfire hazard abatement, and the conservation and management of native flora and fauna. These Acts include, but not limited to:

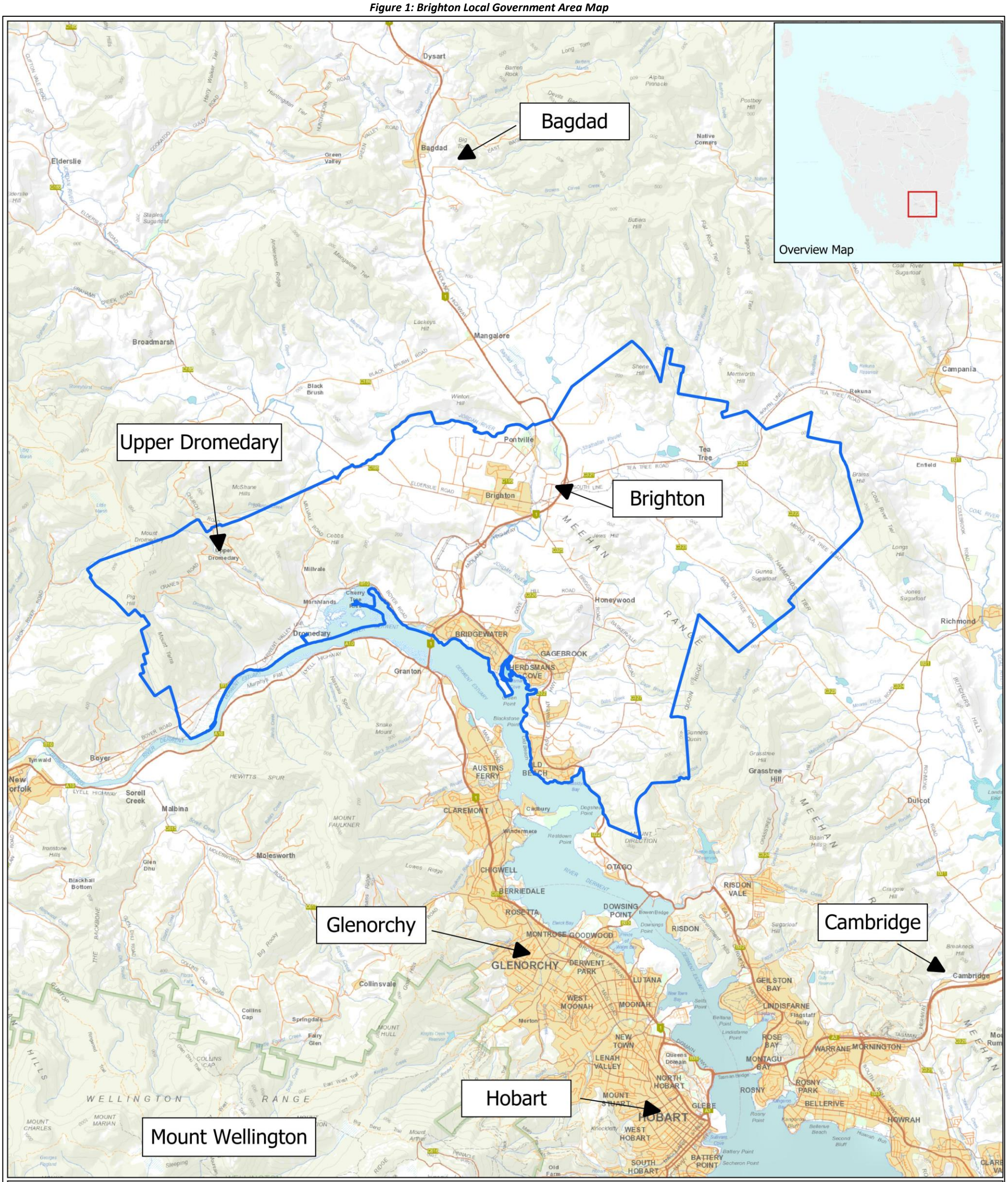
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*
- *Biosecurity Act 2019*
- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*
- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Smoke) Regulations 2019*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*
- *Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004*
- *Forest Practices Act 1985*
- *Forest Practices Regulations 2007*
- *Historical Cultural Heritage Act 1995*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*
- *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997*
- *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*
- *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022.*

1.5 Strategy implementation and ownership

Implementation and ownership of this strategy is the responsibility of Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate.

An Implementation Plan to implement this strategy is enclosed as Appendix A and discussed in Section 7.

Figure 1: Brighton Local Government Area Map



Brighton Council Local Government Area Map

Map creation: August 2024

Legend:

Brighton Council Local Government Area Boundary

N

0 2.5 5 km

Scale 1:80000 @A3

GPS Projection: GDA94/MGA zone 55 EPSG:28355

Brighton Council

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Disclaimer:
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2 Establishing the context

2.1 Description of the Brighton Local Government Area

Brighton is located approximately 20 kilometres north-east of Hobart on the eastern side of the Derwent River and forms part of the urban-rural interface of Greater Hobart. The municipal area is approximately 17,000^{ha} and bordered by Derwent Valley, Southern Midlands and Clarence Councils and is traversed by the Midland Highway, East Derwent Highway, the main north-south railway line and the Jordan River.

Elevation within the Brighton LGA ranges from sea level up to 990m above sea level at the summit of Mount Dromedary.

The main activity centre is in Bridgewater at Green Point / Cove Hill which provides two supermarkets and other key commercial, community and office services. The Brighton township has historically acted as a rural hub and with its rapid growth is becoming a more significant provider of commercial and community services.

Industrial land use is a key feature of the municipality and its future growth. It is centred upon the Transport Hub, which is the major transport interchange for Southern Tasmania. A number of associated industrial areas providing for warehousing and freight-related commercial development and clustering industries are expected to continue to develop and, together, will constitute one of the region's three major industrial conglomerations, with the most potential to expand further (About Us – Brighton Council, 2024).

Land tenure within the Brighton LGA is predominantly private freehold. Brighton Council manages approx. 1700ha, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service manage approx. 870ha within the Mount Dromedary and Mount Terra locality, in addition to further parcels of land throughout the LGA.

2.2 Population dispersion

The municipality is Tasmania's fastest growing community with a municipal population exceeding 20,000, and an annual growth rate is approx. 500 people per year. Brighton has a relatively young population with a median age of 35.

The municipality consists of nine suburbs. Dromedary, Honeywood and Tea Tree are predominantly rural. Bridgewater, Brighton, Gagebrook, Herdsmans Cove and Old Beach are predominantly urban and house the vast bulk of the population. Pontville is a significant colonial era village (About Us – Brighton Council, 2024).

The urban-rural interface is where structures and other human developments including homes adjoin or overlap with undeveloped bushland. These areas are where properties and people are most likely to be exposed to smoke, embers, radiant heat and direct flame. Consequently, risk to life and property is greatest in this zone, and losses most pronounced (Tasmania Fire Service, 2016). The Tasmania Fire Service classifies the urban-rural interface into two distinct classes:

a) Classic Interface (Type 1); or
b) Mixed Interface, (Type 2).

Some of the urban human settlement areas within the Brighton LGA have distinguished urban/rural interfaces (Type 1) (Figure 2), however much of the LGA has no distinct urban/rural interfaces. These areas are where structures are scattered within bushland or grassland fuels. The built and natural environments in these areas are typically blended, and dwellings are spaced further apart (Type 2) (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Classic Interface (Type 1) (Source: Tasmania Fire Service)

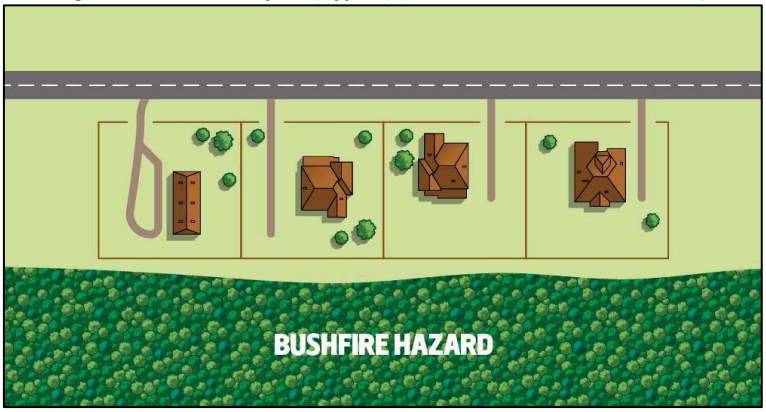
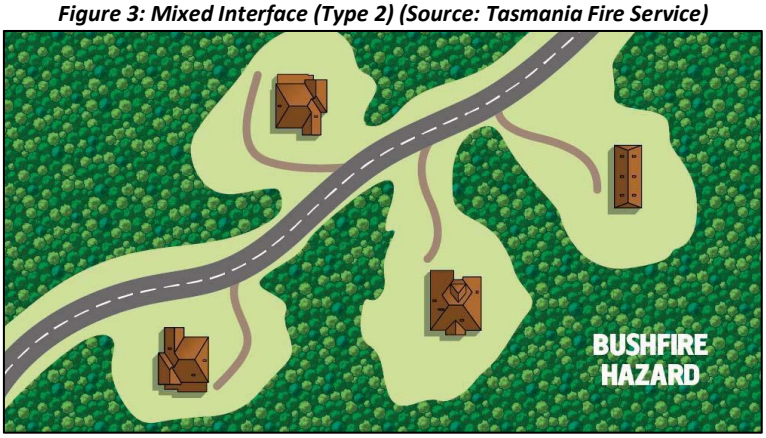


Figure 3: Mixed Interface (Type 2) (Source: Tasmania Fire Service)



2.3 Vegetation

The predominant vegetation community group within the Brighton LGA is modified land which presents as agricultural land and urban development, followed by dry eucalypt forest and woodland, and native grassland. There are some areas of saltmarsh and wetland adjacent to the Derwent River. Small aggregates of wet eucalypt forest woodland are confined to gullies within the Dromedary locality.

Much of the vegetation within the Brighton LGA can readily burn during the fire danger period. Weather, topography, quantity of fuels, time since previous fire, and structure of fuels will influence bushfire severity.

Much of the dry eucalypt forests within the LGA are generally highly fire-adapted, a single fire should generally not affect biodiversity although high intensity fires or repeated short intervals i.e. < 10 years may cause long-term changes (Pyrke & Marsden-Smedley, 2005).

The vegetation within the Brighton LGA is a combination of both treatable and untreatable for fuel reduction burning. Most of the vegetation within and adjacent to the Dromedary locality can be classified as untreatable for fuel reduction burning. This has the potential to pose increased levels of bushfire risk to the Dromedary locality and surrounds (Section 3.4).

2.4 Climate and bushfire season

Climate change refers to long-term shift in temperatures and weather patterns. The most direct link between bushfire and climate change comes from the long-term trend towards a hotter climate. Climate change makes hot days hotter, heatwaves longer and more frequent, resulting in increased bushfire weather. Combining this with less rain over southern Australia during cooler months, days suitable to undertake fuel reduction burning decreases significantly.

2.4.1 Potential climate change considerations

Tasmania is separated into 10 Fire Management Areas (FMA). The Brighton LGA sits within the Hobart FMA. High risk fire weather can be expected in the Hobart FMA when dry winters and springs are followed by summers, resulting in very dry fuels.

The strong north-westerly winds that often precede cold fronts in summer contain dry air from the interior of the Australian mainland, which results in very low humidity as this air stream descends from the Central Highlands. This combination of strong winds and low humidity creates the ideal weather conditions for major bushfires in south-east Tasmania and particularly the Hobart FMA.

Fires that start under these conditions can be expected to move quickly downwind, and then move more or less at right angles on a broad front when the subsequent south-westerly sea breeze wind change arrives. These fires can reach a very high intensity in a short time, even in areas with relatively low fuel loads, and are very difficult to control until the weather conditions abate. These were the conditions that produced the 1967, 1998, 2006 and 2013 bushfires around Hobart.

The Derwent Valley and southeast of Tasmania can experience Extreme to Catastrophic fire danger ratings. The Hobart FMA is also one of the driest parts of Tasmania (State Fire Management Council, 2023).

Under a changing climate, Tasmania is expected to experience increased storm events and changes in rainfall patterns, which are likely to result in increased temperatures and longer fire seasons, with more frequent and intense bushfire events (Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan, 2023-25 2023). Noting this, the likelihood and frequency of bushfire continuing to impact the Brighton LGA is expected to increase.

2.5 Documented bushfire history relative to Brighton LGA

Bushfire has been a natural feature of the Tasmanian landscape with a history of significant bushfires events since European settlement. Significant bushfire events include the Derwent and Huon Valleys bushfires (1933-34), Black Tuesday bushfires (1967), Ridgeway Bushfire (1998), Broadmarsh-Bluff Road Bushfires (2003), Sugarloaf Road Bushfires (2006) and the most recent Dunalley Bushfires (2013).

Tasmania’s high bushfire risk is the result of factors that increase the likelihood and consequences of fire. These factors include large areas of the state comprising highly flammable dry eucalypt forest, protracted droughts and an increasing population density in bushfire-prone areas.

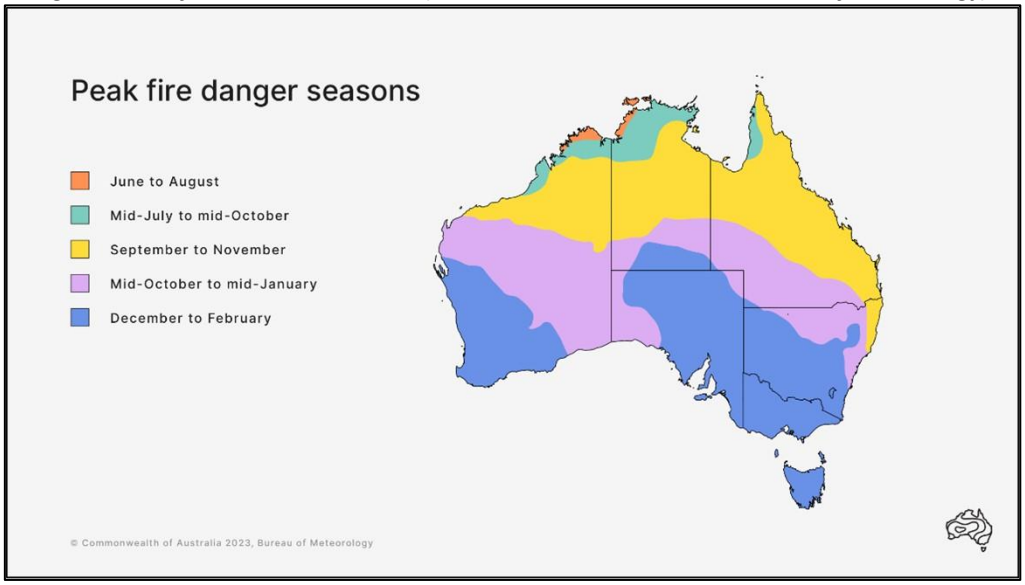
While bushfire is a significant risk facing Tasmania, it is also a natural part of the environment and many plant species rely on fire to regenerate.

A variety of causes can ignite a bushfire; some bushfires result from events that are natural, such as lightning, while others result from human activity. Following ignition, the direction and speed of the fire’s travel, and the height and intensity of the flames are determined by climatic and weather conditions, topography and fuel in the area.

The climate in Tasmania is generally characterised by mild, moist winters followed by hot dry summers. The Tasmanian bushfire season typically occurs between the end of October and the start of May with the peak bushfire season generally being December to February.

Days of elevated bushfire risk are often typified by the passage of a cold front, which causes fires to spread rapidly and then change direction. Coastal sea breezes can have a similar effect. Most of Tasmania’s significant fires have been subject to this type of effect, with fatalities often resulting from people being trapped by these fires after they changed direction.

Figure 4: Peak fire seasons in Australia (Source: Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology)



The greater landscape within and surrounding the Brighton LGA has historically experienced significant bushfires. Most bushfires have impacted the Brighton LGA from the northwest.

Based on the frequency of bushfires relative to the Brighton LGA in recent years, it is clear the LGA will continue to be impacted by bushfires in years to come and that the LGA can be considered at risk from bushfire.

Documented fire history relative to the Brighton LGA (last impacted) was accessed via LISTmap during November 2024. LISTmap www.thelist.tas.gov.au is a publicly assessable State Government managed geographic information system (GIS) database that helps users find and use information about land and property in Tasmania.

Documented fire history relative to this strategy is summarised in Table 2 and shown on Figure 5.

Table 2: Documented bushfire history relative to Brighton LGA

Ignition Season:	Fire Name:	Fire Type:	Area Burnt (ha):
1966/1967	1967 Fire	Bushfire	198,781
1981/1982	Dromedary 2	Bushfire	108,888
1986/1987	Boyer 1	Bushfire	1,446
1992/1993	Unknown 1993 Bushfire	Bushfire	4,694
2012/2013	Tea Tree Road	Bushfire	1,234
2018/2019	Midland Highway	Bushfire	209
2019/2020	Pelham Road	Bushfire	2,114

2.6 Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Brighton Local Provisions, Bushfire-prone Areas Code

Bushfire-prone areas overlays have been developed by the Tasmanian State Government for all 29 local government areas. Bushfire-prone areas overlays apply to land that may be significantly affected by a bushfire. Approximately 98% of Tasmania's land area is designated as bushfire-prone.

If a property is mapped within a bushfire-prone areas overlay there may be mandatory bushfire safety requirements for planning or building compliance purposes. If a property is not mapped within a bushfire-prone areas overlay, it does not mean that there is no risk.

Planning scheme overlays are available to view on the LISTmap website www.thelist.tas.gov.au.

Under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Brighton, Brighton LGA includes a Bushfire-prone Area Code. The purpose of the code is to ensure that use and development is appropriately designed, located, serviced, and constructed, to reduce the risk to human life and property, and the cost to the community, caused by bushfires.

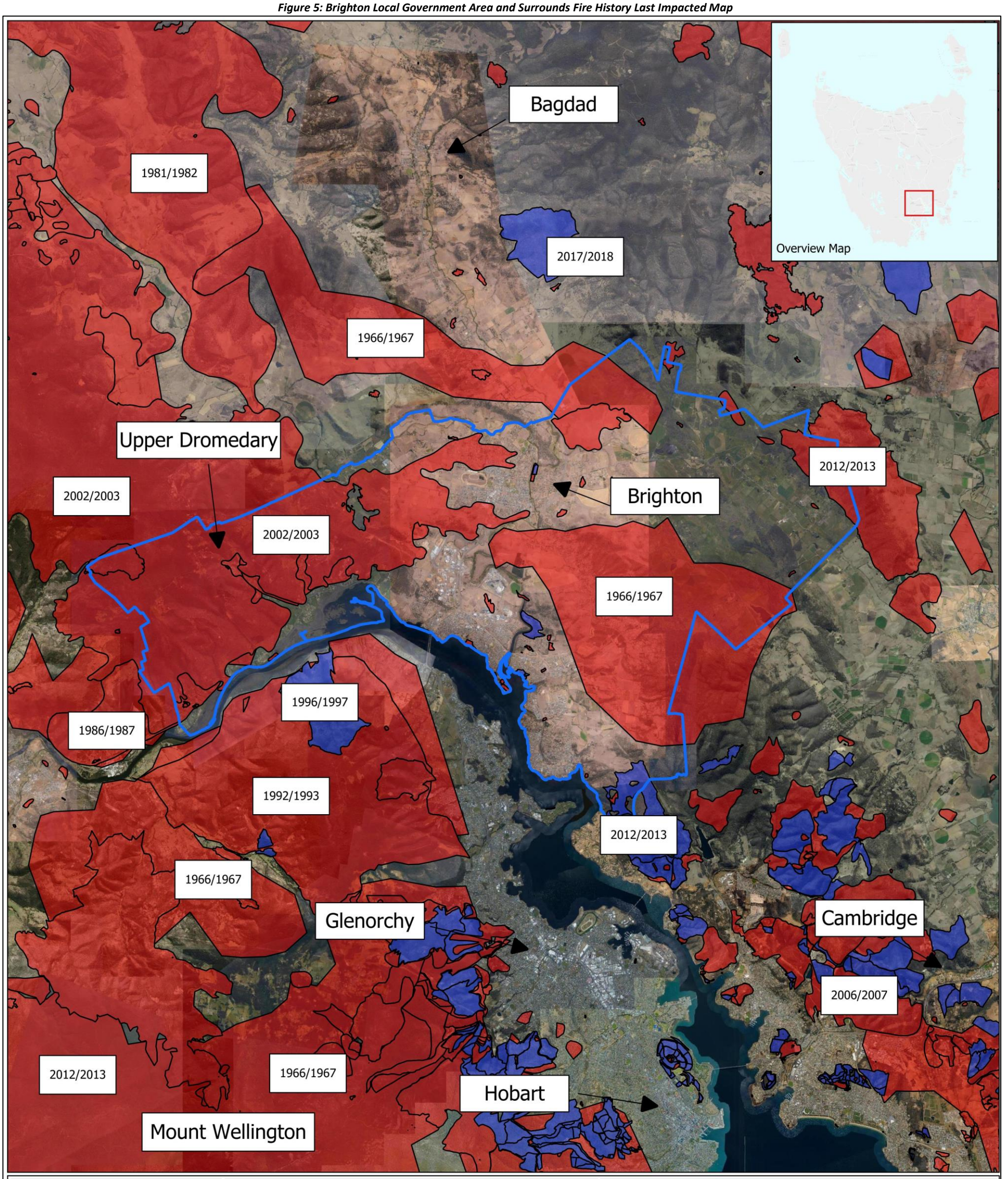
The code applies to:

a) subdivision of land that is located within, or partially within, a bushfire-prone area; and
b) a use, on land that is located within, or partially within, a bushfire-prone area, that is a vulnerable use or hazardous use.

2.6.1 Brighton Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas

Approximately 90% of land within the Brighton LGA is mapped as bushfire-prone. Only 3% of this land are owned and/or managed by Council. Authority land managers within and adjacent to the Brighton LGA is shown on Figure 6, Bushfire-prone areas relative to the Brighton LGA are shown on Figure 7.

Figure 5: Brighton Local Government Area and Surrounds Fire History Last Impacted Map



Brighton Council Local Government Area Fire History Last Impacted Map

Map creation: August 2024

Disclaimer:
While all efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, there may be omissions in the data accuracy. Users are advised to independently verify all data for accuracy and completeness prior to use.

Legend:

Brighton Council LGA Boundary

Fire History:

Bushfire

Completed Planned Burn

N

Brighton Council

0 2.5 5 km

Scale 1:80000
@A3

GPS Projection:
GDA94/MGA zone 55
EPSG:28355

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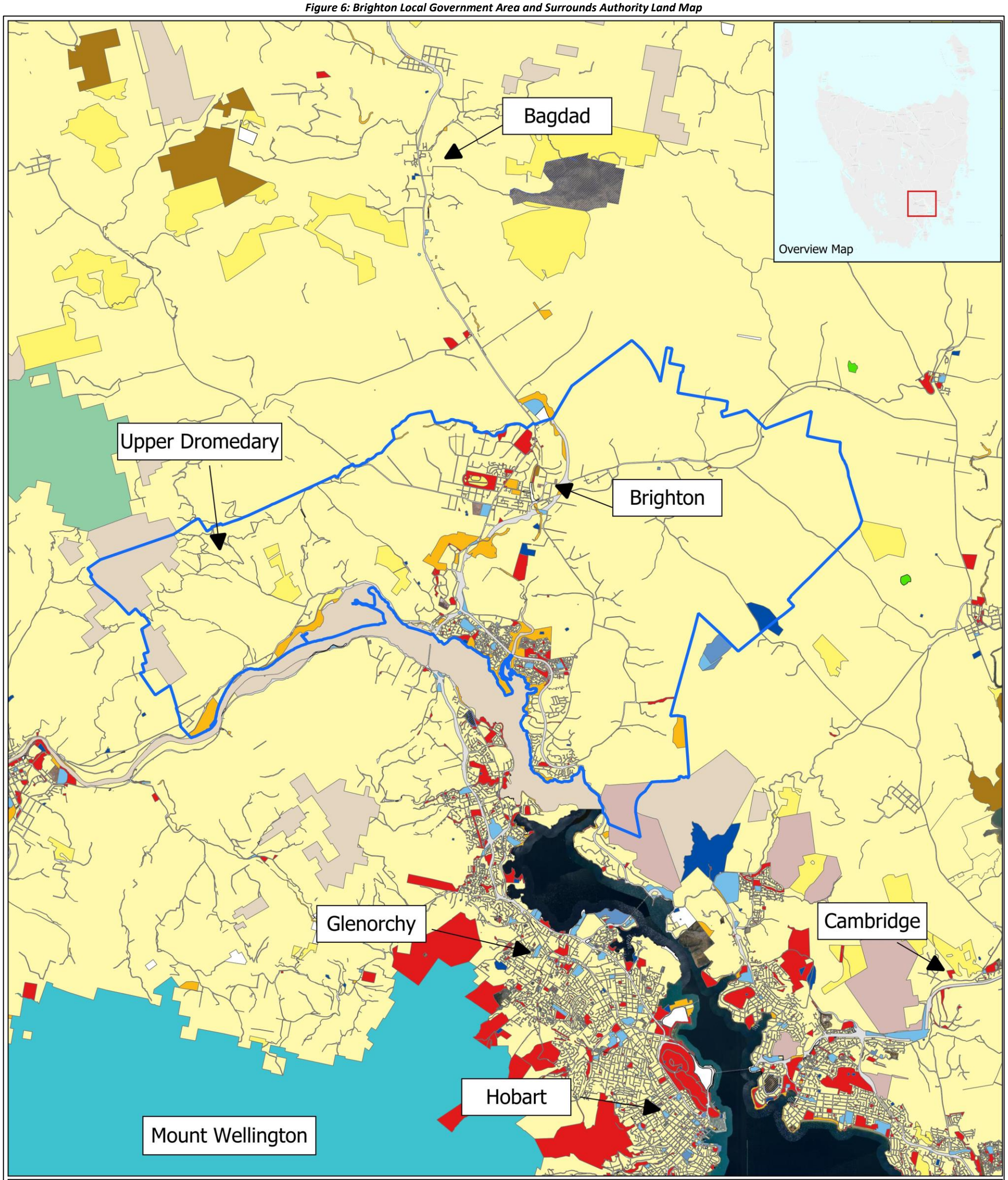
Figure 6: Brighton Local Government Area and Surrounds Authority Land Map



Brighton Council Local Government Area

Authority Land Map

Map creation: August 2024

Disclaimer:
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Legend:

- Brighton Council LGA Boundary

Land Tenure:

- Local Government
- Private Freehold
- Conservation Covenant
- Nature Reserve
- Conservation Area
- Nature Recreation Area
- Permanent Timber Production Zone Land
- Public Reserve
- Crown Land
- Authority Crown
- Wellington Park
- Commonwealth
- Tas Irrigation
- Tas Water

N

0 2.5 5 km

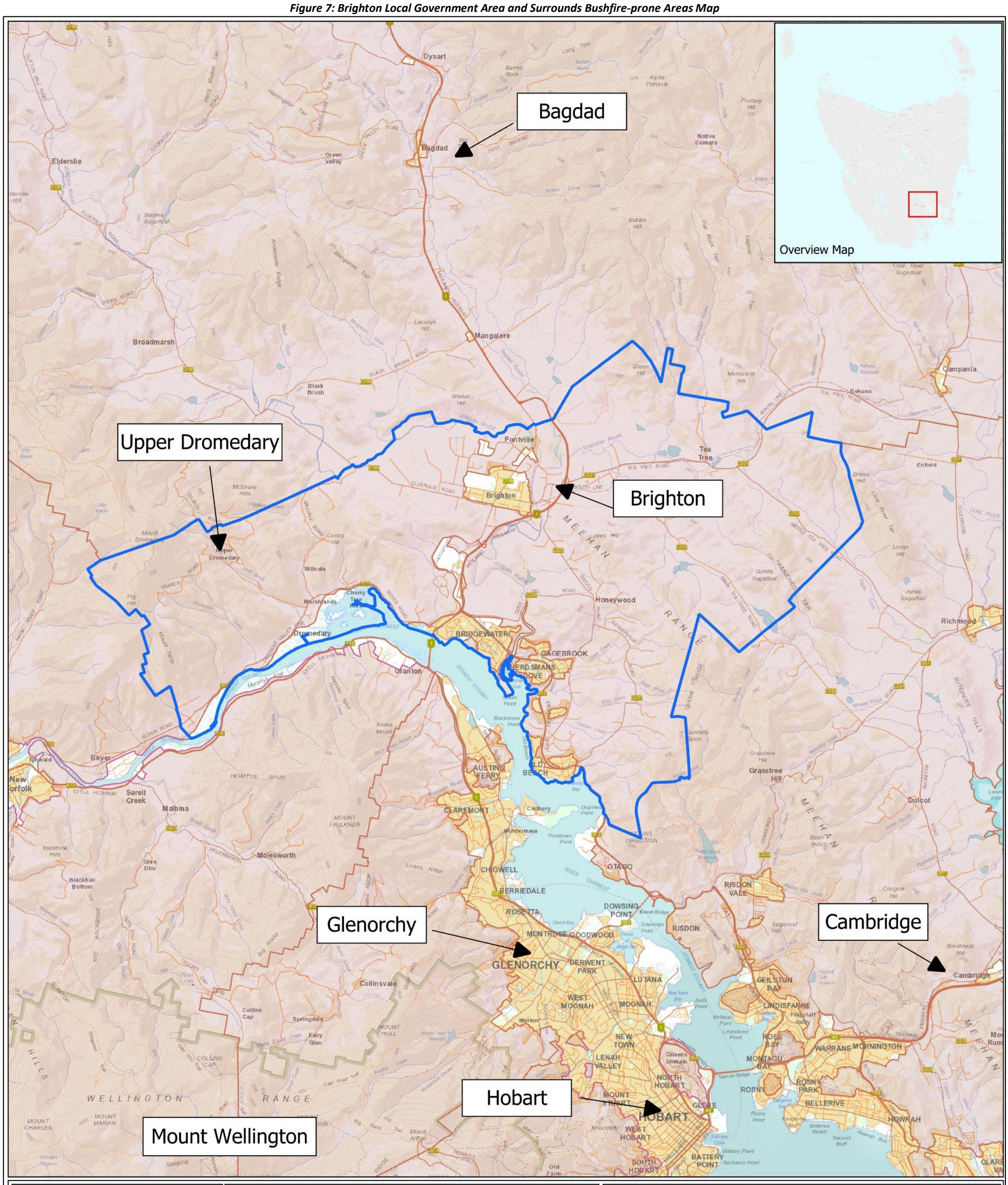
Scale 1:80000 @A3

GPS Projection:
GDA94/MGA zone 55
EPSG:28355

Brighton Council

FIRE RISK Consultants

Figure 7: Brighton Local Government Area and Surrounds Bushfire-prone Areas Map



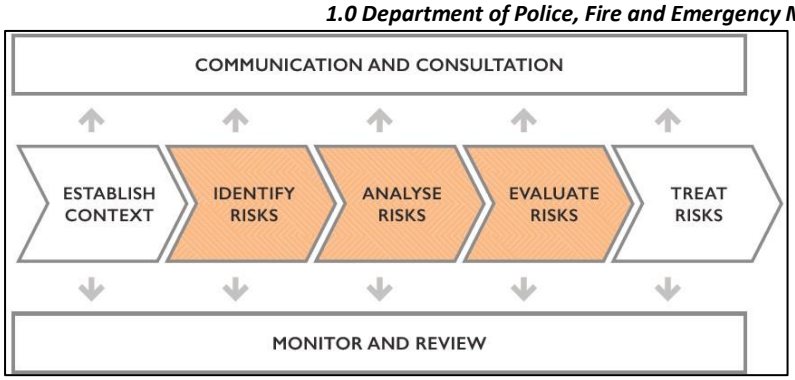
3 Identifying bushfire risks

3.1 General methodology

A standard risk assessment process was used to determine bushfire risk levels and identity high-level principles (Section 5.3) to support Council reduce bushfire risk to Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas. The risk assessment process followed decision support principals from the Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG) available at www.ses.tas.gov.au and the State Government's Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines available at www.sfmc.tas.gov.au.

TERAG provides risk management methodology tailored to the Tasmanian context and is built around ISO 31000:2018 - Risk Management — Guidelines.

Figure 8: TERAG risk management framework (Source: Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines TERAG 2017 VERSION 1.0 Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, n.d.)



The risk assessment process included both desktop and on-ground risk assessments of the Brighton LGA and included two key phases:

PHASE 1: Preliminary desktop assessment of Brighton LGA, initial assessment of bushfire risk indicators and mapping using available spatial and technical project data, specifically:

- Topography and vegetation composition of the Brighton LGA and wider landscape;
- Fire and ignition history;
- Current road network and egress routes within the Brighton LGA and the adequacy of these in relation to potential bushfire risk;
- Land tenure;
- Fire weather in the Brighton LGA and broader Hobart Fire Management Area;
- Identification of potential bushfire response capability within the Brighton LGA;
- Planning scheme overlays and relevant legislation; and
- Desktop landscape bushfire risk assessment.

PHASE 2: Detailed on-ground analysis of Brighton LGA and surrounding landscape, including likely fire scenarios.

The on-ground site analysis was undertaken during September and October 2024 over multiple days with Fire Risk Consultants and Brighton Council staff. This involved driving and inspecting on foot the landscape within the Brighton LGA to confirm information collated from the desktop assessment, including:

- Topography and vegetation composition of the Brighton LGA and wider landscape;
- Visual assessment of adjoining roadsides and their fuel load and management;
- Landscape scale land use;
- Emergency egress routes; and
- Human settlement area locations.

3.2 Drivers of bushfire risk

Bushfires can start in a variety of ways, but there are three factors that contribute to the behaviour of a bushfire; weather, the vegetation and the terrain. The risks associated with a bushfire is determined by a combination of three elements; the hazards that the fire generates, your level of exposure to these hazards, and your vulnerability to these hazards. Understanding and recognising each element will support preparing for bushfire (Bushfire Best Practice Guide, 2021).

3.2.1 Bushfire attack mechanisms

Bushfire attack mechanisms are the characteristics of a bushfire that have potential to impact a building where it can no longer provide a safe haven for occupants.

The four major bushfire attack mechanisms are:

1. wind-blown burning debris (including burning embers);
2. radiant heat which can ignite flammable materials ahead of the fire front and shatter glass;
3. flame contact; and
4. Strong winds generated or intensified by the bushfire.

Ember attack is the most common cause of building damage or loss from bushfires.

The Australian Standard 3959 – 2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas is primarily concerned with improving the ability of buildings in designated bushfire-prone areas to better withstand attack from bushfire thus giving a measure of protection to the building occupants (until the fire front passes) as well as to the building itself (Standards Australia Limited, 2018).

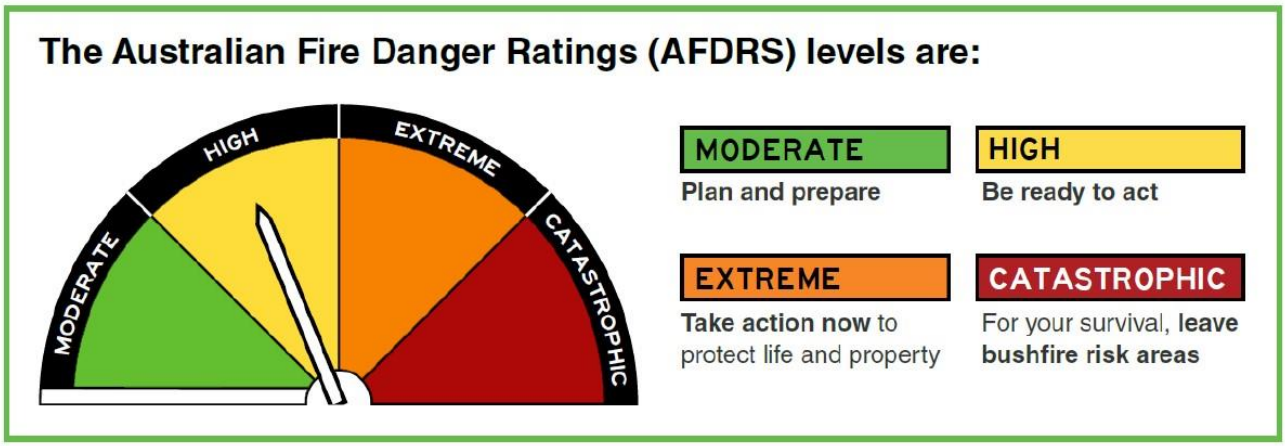
3.3 Australian Fire Danger Rating System & Australian Warning System

Council's understanding of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) and separate Australian Warning System is important as they support Council's pre-emptive measures on days of elevated fire weather; and decision making during a bushfire event.

The AFDRS uses fire danger ratings (Figure 9) to predict and describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions and the greater the consequences if a fire starts.

Forecasted fire danger ratings for the Brighton LGA can be accessed from the Tasmania Fire Service website www.fire.tas.gov.au during the bushfire season.

Figure 9: Australian Fire Danger Rating System (Source: https://afdrs.com.au/)



The Australian Warning System is a national approach to providing clear, concise information and warnings during emergencies like bushfire. A warning provides point-in-time information about a hazard that is impacting or is expected to impact communities. It describes the impact and expected consequences for communities and includes advice on what people should do.

There are three warning levels within the Australian Warning System:

	**Advice (Yellow)** Advice warning indicate an incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes. (May also be used to advise that a threat has reduced).
	**Watch and Act (Orange)** There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
	**Emergency Warning (Red)** An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Current warnings relevant to the Brighton LGA can be accessed from the TasALERT website www.alert.tas.gov.au.

3.4 Treatable and untreatable fuels relative to Brighton LGA

Vegetation (bushfire fuels) can be described as 'treatable vegetation' and 'untreatable vegetation'. Treatable vegetation is those that can be safely treated with planned burning, generally during the spring and autumn months.

Treatable vegetation often includes dry eucalypt forest and woodland vegetation community groups. Untreatable vegetation means that the vegetation is not appropriate or practical to undertake fuel reduction burning. This may be due to typical species composition within each vegetation type, their known sensitivity to fire or that the fuels are simply too wet to burn safely during the safer planned burning weather windows of spring and autumn.

Untreatable fuels will often be dry enough or 'available' to burn only during the warmer summer bushfire period. This poses potential increased levels of bushfire risk to the Brighton LGA.

The vegetation within the Brighton LGA is a combination of both treatable and untreatable for fuel reduction burning. Most of the vegetation within and adjacent to the Dromedary locality can be classified as untreatable for fuel reduction burning due to the difficulty in undertaking planned burns safely due to terrain, fuel types and asset distribution.

3.5 Bushfire Likelihood

Utilising TERAG as the primary guide for the application of the risk assessment, an assessment of the likelihood of a bushfire impacting the Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas within the Brighton LGA considers the below factors:

- Potential for an unplanned fire to occur;
- Potential for an ignition to develop and exhibit significant fire behaviour;
- Potential for that fire to destroy assets; and
- The potential for it to develop into a major fire.

A likelihood scale refers to the potential of unplanned fire beginning and spreading into the external environment. An assessment of likelihood considers factors such as:

- Sources of ignition;
- Land usage;
- History of ignitions; and
- Ability for fire to spread through the area.

Table 3: Bushfire likelihood table

Likelihood Scale	Description
Almost Certain	Fire will definitely occur, and/or high level of recorded incidents, or there is a strong likelihood that the event will occur.
Likely	High probability fire may occur; and/or some recorded incidents.
Unlikely	Probability fire may occur; limited recorded incidents.
Rare	Fire is not expected to occur, but it is not impossible.
Very Rare	Fire is not expected to occur, but it is not impossible.
Extremely Rare	Fire is not expected to occur, but it is not impossible.

3.6 Bushfire consequences

Consequence refers to the potential seriousness of the damage that could result from a bushfire occurring. In assessing the possible consequences, the assessment considers a variety of hazard, exposure and vulnerability factors including:

- Potential fuel levels present within the Brighton LGA;
- Human settlement areas and assets within the Brighton LGA;
- Proximity of human settlement areas and assets; and
- The level of access into the area for suppression actions should a fire occur.

The consequence scale refers to the potential seriousness of the damage which could occur as a result of bushfire.

Table 4: Bushfire consequence table

Consequence scale	People: Injuries/Illness
Catastrophic	More than 1 in 10,000 of the population critically injured with long-term or permanent incapacitation.
Major	More than 1 in 100,000 of the population critically injured with long-term or permanent incapacitation or 1 in 10,000 of the population seriously injured.
Moderate	More than 1 in 1,000,000 of the population critically injured with long-term or permanent incapacitation or 1 in 100,000 of the population seriously injured.
Minor	More than 1 in 10,000,000 of the population critically injured with long-term or permanent incapacitation or 1 in 1,000,000 of the population seriously injured.
Insignificant	Less than 1 in 1,000,000 of the population seriously injured or any minor injuries.

The risk rating table below (Table 5) is used to combine likelihood and consequence to obtain a risk score. The risk score is used to aid decision making by Council. Actions can be prioritised using this method to determine where principles could be applied by Council to reduce bushfire risk within Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas.

Table 5: Bushfire risk matrix

CONSEQUENCE LEVEL					
LIKELIHOOD	**INSIGNIFICANT**	**MINOR**	**MODERATE**	**MAJOR**	**CATASTROPHIC**
Almost Certain	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
Likely	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
Unlikely	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME
Rare	VERY LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
Very Rare	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Extremely Rare	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

3.7 Bushfire hazard identification

Both desktop and on-ground site assessments were undertaken by Fire Risk Consultants to support the identification of bushfire risk levels to Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas.

The bushfire hazard identification process acknowledges that a level of bushfire risk already exists within the Brighton LGA and surrounding landscape. On-ground site assessments supported identifying principles, strategies and actions that could be implemented to reduce bushfire risks. Some principles identified by Fire Risk Consultants in the bushfire hazard identification process do not sit under the control of Brighton Council as they are on land not controlled by Council.

Table 6 identifies key bushfire risks to the Brighton LGA that Council can contribute towards lowering the risk profile at time of assessment. Each key risk includes a cause or comment that contextualises the risk and a possible result of the risk occurring.

Table 6: key bushfire risks to Brighton LGA that Council can contribute towards lowering risk profile

Key bushfire risks to Brighton LGA Council can contribute towards lowering Risk profile - Cause/Comment	Likelihood	Possible Results	Consequences	Risk Rating
• Bushfire originating external to Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas and directly impacting Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas and the community. • The accidental ignition of a fire by Council or Council contractors/volunteers whilst undertaking works including hot works, plant & machinery, smoking, poor maintenance of infrastructure resulting in fire. • Community members unaware of the level of risk bushfire poses to the land they occupy. • Fires may occur outside of tolerable fire intervals for vegetation communities/species. • Fires may impact critical habitat for conservation significant fauna.	Likely	• Fire behaviour and intensity could be erratic if the fire occurs during elevated fire weather conditions. • Under elevated fire weather conditions, bushfire could travel some distance with increased fire intensity before impacting on Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas and the community. • During periods of elevated fire weather an unplanned/accidental ignition may develop into a bushfire. • Community members impacted by bushfire resulting in forced displacement, injury or death, and/or inability to rebuild habitable buildings. • Fire sensitive natural and/or cultural values are significantly impacted by fire.	Major	Extreme

4 Analysing and evaluating bushfire risk

4.1 Bushfire risks to Brighton LGA human settlement areas

A human settlement area is a term to define where people live and work. The dataset was developed by the State Government for the purpose of risk modelling and was created using a combination of building locations, cadastral information, and Australian Bureau of Statistics data. Human settlement areas include seasonally populated areas and industrial areas.

The Hobart Fire Management Area BRMP includes a risk register identifying what values and assets are at risk from bushfire within the Hobart Fire Management Area. This includes risk levels for human settlement areas and the effectiveness of existing controls to reduce risk and a priority ranking for treatment to be put in place to reduce risk. Priority rankings are based on risk ratings and likelihood calculated across the entire state and assigned by the State Government.

Bushfire risk levels for human settlement areas within the Brighton LGA are summarised in Table 7. Risk levels have been collated from the Hobart Fire Management Area BRMP's Risk Register and are based on most current risk modelling at November 2024.

Table 7: Bushfire risk levels for human settlement areas within Brighton LGA

Human Settlement Area	Risk Level
Old Beach, Gagebrook, Tent Hill	High
Dromedary, Mount Dromedary, Clark Stewart Road, Upper Dromedary	Medium
Bridgewater	Medium
Mangalore, Brighton, Pontville	Medium
Honeywood, Gunns Sugarloaf, Yellow Brick Road	Medium
Middle Tea Tree Road	Low
Mount Terra	Low
Phillips Sugarloaf, Tea Tree	Low

4.1.1 Old Beach, Gagebrook, Tent Hill Human Settlement Areas

Council acknowledges the State Government's risk assessments for the Old Beach, Gagebrook and Tent Hill human settlement areas as areas of increased bushfire risk within the Brighton LGA.

Key drivers of risk to these areas include the bushfire-prone vegetation being dry eucalypt forest and woodland, and grassland communities, combined with topography and potential fire paths impacting on primarily Type 1 interfaces (Figure 2). Many homes within these human settlement areas have been built prior to contemporary bushfire construction standards.

The Hobart Fire Management Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2023 notes the Tasmania Fire Service is the responsible organisation for implementing strategic fuel reduction treatments to lower risk profiles to these human settlement areas. The plan notes there are limited areas suitable for fuel reduction burns to be implemented.

Additionally, the plan notes that the preparation of Community Protection and Response Plans are a suitable preparedness treatment to support communities when a bushfire is threatening these areas. These plans are yet to be developed as at February 2025, and will be developed by the Tasmania Fire Service Community Fire Safety Division in collaboration with local communities and stakeholders.

4.1.2 Dromedary, Mount Dromedary, Clark Stewart Road, Upper Dromedary human settlement areas

Council acknowledges the State Government's risk assessments for the Dromedary, Mount Dromedary, Clark Stewart Road, and Upper Dromedary human settlement areas as areas of increased bushfire risk within the Brighton LGA.

These areas sit within the Dromedary locality. A key driver of risk to the Dromedary locality is the vegetation community being dry eucalypt forest and woodland, topography, dead end roads, and many homes being built prior to contemporary bushfire construction standards.

Most vegetation within and adjacent to the Dromedary locality can be classified as untreatable for fuel reduction burning due to the difficulty in undertaking planned burns safely due to terrain, fuel types and asset distribution (State Fire Management Council, 2023).

Much of the bushfire-prone areas within the Dromedary locality are not owned or managed by Council and are privately owned (Figure 6), however the public road network is managed by Council and plays a key role in emergency management during bushfire events.

The State Government identifies Dromedary as a strategic area that if unmanaged, will develop fuels that will allow a fire to spread into a very large fire that has the potential to impact Greater Hobart (State Fire Management Council, 2023).

Council recognises that bushfire safety involves multiple levels of government, agencies, and other stakeholders. For this reason, a coordinated tactical planning document developed by Council may improve the effectiveness of the Dromedary locality's public road network during bushfire events and enhance community resilience during and after such events.

The development of a formalised tactical level planning document by Council is discussed in Section 5.4 of this strategy and further detailed within the strategies Implementation Plan enclosed as Appendix A.

4.1.3 Bushfire risks to critical Council assets

The degree of bushfire danger at any time is a combination of weather, the vegetation and the terrain. The actual risk of a bushfire causing damage to an asset is a function of the probability of a bushfire igniting, and any measures taken to prevent the bushfire causing damage to the asset. The four major modes of bushfire attack that can cause damage to assets are listed in Section 3.2.1. Ember attack is the most common cause of building damage or loss from bushfires.

The potential for damage to Council assets in the path of large fires will depend largely on:

- Whether the bushfire will approach upslope or downslope;
- the quantity and distribution of fuel surrounding the asset;
- whether they are defended during the bushfire;
- their design;
- if the asset is a building, was it constructed to *AS3959:2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas*; and
- How well the asset is maintained.

Critical Council assets that have the potential to cause significant disruptions to the community if impacted by bushfire during and or post a bushfire event have been identified by Council and listed in Table 8.

Section 5.3 identifies key principles based on industry best practices to reduce bushfire susceptibility to Council's critical assets at risk of bushfire.

Table 8: Critical Council assets

Council Asset	Asset Type
Bridgewater Council Depot	Council building
Brighton Civic Centre	Council building
Council Chambers Office	Council building
Cove Hill Radio Tower	Council building
Waste Transfer Station	Council building
Brighton Health Department Lease -205 Brighton Road	Council building
Brighton Family Medical Centre	Council building
Brighton Regional Sports Pavilion	Council building
Jordan River Bridge (Elderslie Road)	Bridge Wooden

4.1.4 Bushfire risk to natural assets

The main bushfire risk to natural assets is considered to come from fire regimes (planned or unplanned) that are outside tolerable fire intervals. A tolerable fire interval is the fire interval range under which a particular vegetation community is likely to be resilient (Leonard, S.W.J, 2021).

Tolerable fire intervals within thresholds of a particular vegetation community will help maintain long-term viability, whereas fire intervals outside thresholds are likely to lead to progressive changes in the structure and floristics of the vegetation community, and loss of habitat for fauna favouring that vegetation community.

High intensity bushfires can damage or destroy valuable fauna habitat including:

- Tree hollows used as nests and dens by many birds and arboreal mammals;
- mature, senescing or dead trees that can be important invertebrate, bird and reptile habitat, and take a long time to replace;
- understorey species that provide nest and shelter sites as well as a food source for many bird and mammal species; and
- fallen logs, bark and leaf litter that provide shelter and a food source for invertebrates, frogs, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Some works undertaken by Council to reduce bushfire risk may require natural and cultural values assessments. The assessment should support Council to identify what impact the treatment is likely to have on the natural and cultural values within the area of works.

Section 5.3 identifies key principles based on industry best practices to support Council undertake natural and cultural values assessments in the context of this strategy.

5 Bushfire risk treatment

5.1 Bushfire suppression within Brighton LGA

Bushfire suppression responsibility within the Brighton LGA is a combination of the Tasmania Fire Service, and Parks and Wildlife Service. Land tenure may influence which fire suppression agency initially responds to a bushfire within the Brighton LGA.

Tasmania Fire Service Fire Stations within the Brighton LGA include:

- Bridgewater Fire Brigade;
- Brighton Volunteer Fire Brigade.
- Old Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade; and
- Tea Tree Volunteer Fire Brigade.

It is probable, although not guaranteed, on a day of increased bushfire risk fire suppression agencies may have additional firefighting resources stood up at strategic locations within the Hobart Fire Management Area for rapid response.

Council's employees are not required to provide frontline firefighting capability as part of their Council employee duties, unless specifically requested. Specific requests should come from the Tasmania Fire Service to Brighton Council's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.

5.2 Tasmanian state government bushfire risk reduction framework

The Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy guides Tasmania's bushfire risk reduction framework through articulating agreed principles and strategies to be used by all Tasmanians, enabling the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities.

This section of the strategy briefly summarises the Tasmanian Stage Government's framework and how Council's bushfire planning framework links in to ensure that the management of bushfire risk is a shared responsibility and that agreed principles and strategies are used by Brighton Council.

Table 9: Tasmanian bushfire risk reduction framework

Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy	• Statutory policy prepared pursuant to the *Fire Service Act 1979*, prepared by the State Fire Management Council and provides overarching direction and principles (Appendix B) on how bushfire risk should be treated within Tasmania.
Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines 2020	• State Government document that presents a framework and guide that facilitates Fire Management Area Committees and subject matter experts to consistently undertake and prepare bushfire risk assessments.
Tasmanian State Bushfire Risk Management Plan	• State Government document to identify state-wide strategies to assist Fire Management Area Committees treat bushfire risk in their areas.
Hobart Fire Management Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan	• State Government document that identifies priorities for the treatment of bushfire risk in the Hobart Fire Management Area. Developed by the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee. This plan aims to coordinate and influence the treatment of bushfire risk in the Hobart Fire Management Area.
Brighton Council Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2025-2035	• Strategic level document managed by Brighton Council intended to provide a high-level framework for Brighton Council to support addressing bushfire risk levels for Brighton Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas.
Brighton Council - Dromedary Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2025-2030	• Tactical level planning document managed by Brighton Council to support Brighton Council enhance community resilience during and after bushfire events within the Dromedary locality.

5.2.1 Hobart Fire Management Area Committee

There are 10 Fire Management Area Committees within Tasmania that are coordinated by the State Fire Management Council. The HFMAC provides a forum for effective bushfire risk management through a consistent, comprehensive, and collaborative approach. The principal aim of the HFMAC is to bring together various stakeholders that manage land use across the Hobart Fire Management Area and work together to effectively manage vegetation fuels to reduce bushfire risk.

Council is required under Section 18 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* to have a representative sit on the HFMAC.

5.2.2 Hobart Fire Management Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan

The Hobart Fire Management Area BRMP identifies priority areas for treating bushfire risk within the Hobart Fire Management Area (including Brighton LGA). The plan is developed by the HFMAC as required under Sections 18 and 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* and is reviewed three-yearly by the HFMAC.

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.

Council's HFMAC representative has the responsibility to report to the HFMAC twice yearly on the progress of implementing treatments identified both within the BRMP relevant to council and relevant outputs of this strategy.

5.2.3 Tasmania Fire Service Community Protection Planning

The Tasmania Fire Service has community protection planning documents prepared for the Brighton LGA that have been considered in this strategy. Community Bushfire Protection Plans provide information for the general public on what to do and where to go when threatened by bushfire. Community protection planning documents are available at the Tasmania Fire Service website www.fire.tas.gov.au.

Community Bushfire Protection Plans relevant to the Brighton LGA include:

- Greater Bagdad Community Bushfire Protect Plan, noting that only a small portion of the plan is directly relating to the Brighton LGA.

5.3 Council's bushfire risk reduction principles

Council's bushfire risk reduction principles are concepts that give Council guidance in its efforts to reduce bushfire risk within the Brighton LGA.

The high-level principles play an important role in promoting a consistent approach to the management of bushfire risk throughout the HFMAC and broader Tasmania.

High-level principles have been designed considering:

- Council's duties as an occupier of land under the *Fire Service Act 1979*; and
- The minimisation of bushfire impact on human life, communities, essential and community infrastructure, industries, the economy, cultural values, and the environment.

High-level principles shall conform with State Government guidelines and industry best practices when applied by Council.

Table 10 of this strategy explains each principle, Table 10 is intended to be a live document and reviewed at three-year intervals (Section 8.2).

Table 10: Council's bushfire risk reduction principles

Category	Bushfire Risk Reduction Principle
Municipal Emergency Management Committee	**Principle 1:** *Council recognises the importance of maintaining and monitoring capacity and capability for emergency management including training and skills currency.*
	Recommendation 1: • Council staff and Councillors who are required and/or have the potential to undertake roles within Council's Municipal Emergency Management Committee, undertake nationally recognised training and maintain skills competency in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS). The training should include incident management exercises. • Emergency management exercises are facilitated annually for Council staff and Councillors who may undertake roles within Council's Municipal Emergency Management Committee. Annual exercises must be based on AIIMS principles. **Responibility:** Council's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.
Roadside vegetation management in bushfire-prone areas	**Principle 2:** *Public roadsides in Tasmania are managed by local and state government authorities to maintain public safety. In bushfire-prone areas, good roadside vegetation management practices will support firefighter intervention, community safety as well as community recovery after bushfires.*
	Recommendation 2: • State Government guidelines for roadside vegetation management in bushfire-prone areas available at www.fire.tas.gov.au (Appendix C) must be used by Council (where practically possible) when undertaking roadside vegetation

Category	Bushfire Risk Reduction Principle

	management on Council managed roads in bushfire-prone areas by Council or Council's Contractors.
	• State Government pre-emptive triggers available at www.fire.tas.gov.au (Appendix D) to cease works due to elevated fire weather conditions must be used by Council when undertaking roadside vegetation management on Council managed roads by Council or Council's Contractors.
	• When procuring external services to undertake roadside vegetation management on Council managed roads in bushfire-prone areas Council must ensure:
	  ○ The State Government guidelines for roadside vegetation management in bushfire-prone areas forms part of the specifications for works.
	  ○ The State Government's pre-emptive triggers to cease works due to elevated fire weather conditions forms part of the specifications for works.
	• Council and its contractors adhere to Total Fire Ban Declaration conditions.
	Responibility:
	Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate.

Community engagement	**Principle 3:** *Community engagement about fire safety is fundamental to the success of minimising bushfire risk in Tasmanian communities.*
	Recommendation 3: • Council's community engagement regarding bushfire safety is partnered with the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods Program (when possible). • Council's bushfire related community engagement employs key messaging and language consistent with State Government terminology. • Community engagement is prioritised to human settlement areas at highest risk to bushfire impact within the Brighton LGA using a structured and coordinated approach. **Responibility:** Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate.
Asset management for key Council assets	**Principle 4:** *Strategic asset management of critical community infrastructure owned and/or managed by the Council aims to improve both Council and community resilience during and after bushfire events.*
	Recommendation 4: • Critical Council assets that have potential to cause significant disruptions to the community if impacted by bushfire (Table 8) have an individual bushfire risk assessment undertaken by a suitably trained and experienced person. • The *Australian Standard 3959 Construction of Building in Bushfire-prone Areas* is considered into future designs of critical community infrastructure, even where legislated bushfire requirements may not be triggered. **Responibility:** Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate.

Category	Bushfire Risk Reduction Principle
Strategic firefighting water supplies	**Principle 5:** *Management of bushfire risk is a shared responsibility through a coordinated approach. Strategically located firefighting water supplies within areas of increased bushfire risk can support reducing risk levels to human life and property during bushfire events.*
	Recommendation 5: • Water supply for firefighting in bushfire-prone areas must comply with State Government requirements. • Brighton Council conducts an assessment of bushfire risk within Council-managed road networks within the Dromedary locality. The purpose of the assessment is to identify potential locations where Council could install new and perpetually maintain static firefighting water supplies within its road network to assist emergency services during bushfire events. **Responibility:** Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate.
Natural and cultural values management	**Principle 6:** *Fire plays a crucial and natural role in the management and renewal of biodiversity and habitats. Adhering to industry best practices in assessing natural and cultural values will enable Council to make well-informed decisions.*
	Recommendation 6: • When required, natural and cultural values assessment are undertaken to assess what impact a treatment to reduce bushfire risk is likely to have on the natural and cultural values within the area of works. • Council should ensure that the personnel undertaking natural and cultural values assessments and preparing operational plans have the appropriate skills, operational experience in the treatment, qualifications and experience in identification and documentation of all natural values of interest, including a knowledge of Tasmanian species, their habitat and other ecological requirements, and vegetation communities. • Council should also ensure that personnel undertaking field work have the appropriate level of oversight. **Responibility:** Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate.

5.4 Brighton Council - Dromedary Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2025-2030

The Brighton Council - Dromedary Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2025-2030 is a tactical level planning document managed by Brighton Council. It addresses bushfire risks within Council owned and/or managed bushfire-prone areas within the Dromedary locality.

Council identified the need to focus on the Dromedary locality for two key reasons:

1) The existing road network is long and includes narrow dead-end roads in a highly forested bushfire-prone environment with varying fuel types, topography and asset distribution; and
2) Much of the built assets within the Dromedary locality do not appear to meet contemporary bushfire design standards, predates the legislated bushfire requirements introduced in 2012 and appears to have minimal resistance to bushfire attack mechanisms, particularly ember attack.

The plan is not a fire response plan and does not deal with bushfire response, instead the plan outlines the specific steps and recommendations that Council can implement to achieve short-term goals with measurable objectives and milestones. This includes management of the existing Council managed road network and identification of locations suitable for installation of static firefighting water supplies within the Council managed road network.

The plan includes a detailed Treatment Plan that guides a coordinated staged approach to ensure the plans objectives are achieved.

The plan was first prepared by Fire Risk Consultants in 2024 for Council with the purpose to support Brighton Council enhance community resilience during and after bushfire events.

The plan is a live document and functions for a five-year period with the first review to be undertaken during 2029. The plan will then continue to perpetually run for five-year periods with subsequent reviews.

The plan must be formally adopted by Brighton Council, prior to Council adoption the plan must be noted by the HFMAC to ensure the plan has the appropriate linkages to the Tasmanian State Government bushfire risk reduction framework and its agreed principles and strategies.

5.5 Fire hazard abatement

Brighton Council manages an annual Fire Hazard Abatement Program for the Brighton LGA. The program is governed by Council's *Serving of an Abatement Notice Policy* which sets out the steps to be followed for the service of an Abatement Notice under Section 200 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The program provides direction to Council staff and landowners as to the measures that should be adopted to minimise the risk of the escape of fire to an adjacent property.

The program commences each year once the Tasmania Fire Service declare the Fire Permit Period within the Brighton LGA. A Council Abatement Officer oversees the program.

5.6 Planned burning

Most bushfire-prone areas in the Brighton LGA cannot be treated with broadscale fuel reduction burning due to difficult terrain, fuel types, and asset distribution, especially in high-risk areas like Dromedary (State Fire Management Council, 2023). Although 90% of Brighton LGA is bushfire-prone, only 3% is managed by Brighton Council, primarily along road casements, which are unsuitable for planned burning. Where fuel reduction burning is not feasible, alternative measures such as vegetation thinning/slashing, community education, or Community Bushfire Response Plans (prepared by the Tasmania Fire Service) are more appropriate.

6 Importance of Stakeholder Engagement in Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

Effective stakeholder engagement is crucial to the success of Council's Bushfire Mitigation Strategy as it can enhance social, environmental, and economic outcomes, whilst increasing trust among stakeholders.

By enhancing stakeholder awareness of the strategy and the Brighton Council - Dromedary Bushfire Mitigation Plan, stakeholders will be better informed about the measures taken by Council to mitigate bushfire risk within the Brighton LGA. Furthermore, supporting a collaborative approach led by the State Government to enhance community bushfire resilience.

Strategic stakeholders relevant to this strategy include:

- Hobart Fire Management Area Committee;
- Tasmania Fire Service, Community Fire Safety Directorate;
- Residents within the Dromedary locality; and

- The Brighton LGA community.

Key actions to support effective stakeholder engagement are identified within the Strategies Implementation Plan enclosed as Appendix A.

Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate has the primary responsibility for overseeing stakeholder engagement relevant to this strategy.

6.1 Hobart Fire Management Area Committee

The draft strategy has been noted by the HFMAC prior to Brighton Council adoption and was circulated to members for individual feedback.

This process ensures that the agreed principles and strategies of the State Government, including those of the HFMAC, are being addressed collaboratively.

Council's HFMAC Representative has the primary responsibility for all engagement with the HFMAC.

7 Strategy Implementation Plan

This strategy includes a detailed Implementation Plan (Appendix A). The Implementation Plan contains actions detailing how Council will implement the strategy throughout the strategy's ten-year lifecycle.

The Implementation Plan can be used to strategically forward plan actions to support resourcing, budgeting, and asset management.

To ensure successful implementation of the strategy, all recommendations within the Implementation Plan should be actioned within the specified timeframes.

Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate has the primary responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the Strategy Implementation Plan.

8 Strategy monitoring, reporting and review

8.1 Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting on the delivery of the strategy, including the Implementation Plan should be undertaken at a minimum once yearly during October. October monitoring and reporting should support Council's preparation for the upcoming bushfire season in additional to any other reporting requirements Council may have with the HFMAC.

Progress towards the strategy's implementation must be documented by Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate within the Strategy's Implementation Plan. The Version Control Table for the strategy must also be updated accordingly.

Monitoring and reporting data should be shared both internally within Council and as required with the HFMAC. Council's HFMAC Representative has the primary responsibility for all engagement with the HFMAC.

8.2 Strategy review

This strategy will function for a ten-year period, with the first review to be undertaken at three years post adoption during 2028. Following reviews must be undertaken at three-year intervals during 2031 and a major review during 2034.

Three-yearly reviews are essential to help adjust the strategy to ensure that it aligns with both Brighton Council's and the HFMAC's vision and goals whilst conforming with State Government guidelines and industry best practices.

An objective of each review will be to work towards achieving common priorities within Council by further embedding bushfire mitigation treatments and risk principals into Council's governance and business as usual operations.

This strategy must enter a review phase if any of the following occurs:

- Significant bushfire event impacts the Hobart Fire Management Area; or
- Significant changes to relevant state or federal bushfire related legislation/policy; or
- Significant change to the Tasmanian State Government's bushfire risk assessment framework.

Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate is responsible for the overall project management of the review of this strategy.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Strategy Implementation Plan

Action ID	Action Description	Priority Level	Target Completion Date	Implementation Responsibility	Comment	Progress
BC-BMS 001	Council to undertake individual bushfire risk assessments of critical Council managed assets (Table 8). Action as required to reduce susceptibility to bushfire impact.	High	1/10/2025	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate	Assessor must be suitably trained and experienced in undertaking bushfire risk assessments with a demonstrated understanding of AS3959 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas.	
BC-BMS 002	Council to conduct assessments of bushfire risk to Council-managed road networks within the Dromedary locality. Identify potential locations where Council could install new and perpetually maintain static firefighting water supplies within road network to assist emergency services during bushfire events.	High	30/6/2025	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate	Water supplies for firefighting in bushfire-prone areas must comply with State Government requirements.	
BC-BMS 003	Council to implement Brighton Council - Dromedary Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2025-2030.	High	1/10/2030	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate	Refer to unique Implementation Plan within Brighton Council - Dromedary Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2025-2030 for further details.	
BC-BMS 004	Council to develop strategic community engagement plan for Dromedary locality.	High	1/10/2025	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate	Limited areas suitable for fuel reduction burns to mitigate bushfire risk to these communities. Council's community engagement regarding fire safety must be partnered with the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods Program (when possible). Council's bushfire related community engagement must employ key messaging and language consistent with State Government terminology. Community engagement must be prioritised to human settlement areas at highest risk to bushfire impact within the Brighton LGA using a structured and coordinated approach. Must involve Tasmania Fire Service, Fuel Reduction Program's Southern Community Engagement Officer (as required).	
BC-BMS 005	Council to implement strategic community engagement plan for Dromedary locality.	Medium	19/12/2025	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative, or their delegate	Limited areas suitable for fuel reduction burns to mitigate bushfire risk to these communities. Council's community engagement regarding fire safety must be partnered with the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods Program (when possible). Council's bushfire related community engagement must employ key messaging and language consistent with State Government terminology. Community engagement must be prioritised to human settlement areas at highest risk to bushfire impact within the Brighton LGA using a structured and coordinated approach. Must involve Tasmania Fire Service, Fuel Reduction Program's Southern Community Engagement Officer (as required).	

Action ID	Action Description	Priority Level	Target Completion Date	Implementation Responsibility	Comment	Progress
BC-BMS 006	Council to provide written annual updates to the HFMAC on the implementation of the Brighton Council Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2025-2035.	High	Annually as per HFMAC meeting schedule	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative	Use HFMAC meetings as forum to provide updates to HFMAC.	
BC-BMS 007	Council to provide written annual updates to the HFMAC on the implementation of the Brighton Council - Dromedary Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2025-2030.	High	Annually as per HFMAC meeting schedule	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative	Use HFMAC meetings as forum to provide updates to HFMAC.	
BC-BMS 008	Council to undertake analysis to identify Council staff and Councillors required to undertake roles within Council's Municipal Emergency Management Committee. Council to source the delivery of nationally recognised training in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) to identified staff and Councillors. The training must include incident management exercises.	High	1/10/2025	Brighton Council's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator		
BC-BMS 009	Council staff and Councillors required to undertake roles within Council's Municipal Emergency Management Committee to undertake annual emergency management exercises to maintain skills currency. Annual exercises must be based on AIIMS principles and provided by an external facilitator with suitable experience in the principles of AIIMS and emergency management.	High	October annually	Brighton Council's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator		
BC-BMS 010	Council's HFMAC Representative and Council staff deemed appropriate by Council's HFMAC Representative foster relationships with the Tasmania Fire Service Fuel Reduction Program's Southern Community Engagement Officer.	High	30/6/2025	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative	Continue to enhance relationships through life of strategy.	
BC-BMS 011	Council's HFMAC Representative and Council staff deemed appropriate by Council's HFMAC Representative foster relationships with the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire Ready Neighbourhood's staff	High	30/6/2025	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative	Continue to enhance relationships through life of strategy.	
BC-BMS 012	Enhance awareness within Brighton Council staff of: State Government's guidelines for roadside vegetation management in bushfire-prone areas (Appendix C); and State Government's pre-emptive triggers to cease works due to elevated fire weather (Appendix D).	High	30/6/2025	Brighton Council's HFMAC Representative	Refer Principle 2 (Table 10).	

Appendix B: Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy 2017

*Note: Appendix B is a summary poster for the Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy, the full policy is available at the www.sfmc.tas.gov.au.

Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities on public and private land across Tasmania to achieve a range of community, cultural, agricultural, silvicultural and environmental objectives.

SFMC
STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Principles and Strategies by which vegetation fire management will occur in Tasmania:

Principles

All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:

- **P-1** Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.
- **P-2** Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.
- **P-3** A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.
- **P-4** The paramount priority is to protect human life.
- **P-5** Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.
- **P-6** Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.
- **P-7** Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.

Strategies

All stakeholders agree that:

- **S-1** Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.
- **S-2** In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.

Vegetation fire management activities will:

- **S-3** Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.
- **S-4** Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.

Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:

- **S-5** Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.
- **S-6** Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.
- **S-7** Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.

Decisions about vegetation fire management will:

- **S-8** Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.
- **S-9** Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with *AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG)* and *Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG).*
- **S-10** Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.
- **S-11** Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.

All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:

- **S-12** Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.
- **S-13** Act in good faith.

Responsibility

- **R-1** The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.

www.sfmc.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Government

Appendix C: State Government Roadside Vegetation Maintenance Guidelines for Bushfire-prone Areas

BUILDING FOR BUSHFIRE

Roadside Management for Bushfire Risk Mitigation

Roadside management in bushfire-prone areas is an important aspect of community fire safety.

Public roadsides in Tasmania are managed by local and state government authorities to maintain public safety. In bushfire-prone areas, good roadside management practices will support firefighter intervention, community safety as well as community recovery after bushfires.

fire.tas.gov.au

Bushfire Risk Unit GPO Box 1526 Hobart Tasmania 7001
Phone (03) 6166 5544 | bfp@fire.tas.gov.au

Tasmania Fire Service

Tasmanian Government

BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are relevant considerations for roadside management in bushfire-prone areas.

1. Fire prevention

Many bushfires originate from roadside ignitions resulting from human activity. Examples include:

- Arson;
- Discarded cigarettes;
- Power infrastructure failure;
- Vehicles (e.g. exhausts, brakes or wheel bearings);
- The use of machinery; and
- Composting organic materials.

Vegetation management within roadsides can reduce the likelihood of ignitions occurring by reducing the amounts of fine fuels that are available to ignite, by increasing the separation between fuel layers and by increasing the separation between potential ignition sources and the vegetation.

2. Fire containment

By modifying the fuel arrangement and quantity within roadside areas, road reserves can function as fuel breaks that slow the spread of bushfire, thereby increasingly the success of suppression efforts.

The effectiveness of road reserves for fire containment depends on factors including fuel type and fire intensity. For example, local roads surrounded by forest are unlikely to be effective in containing fully developed bushfires, even under relatively mild conditions. By comparison, highways with well managed roadsides are more likely to be effective in containing grassfires.

3. Road user safety

Public roads facilitate community evacuation and firefighter intervention and are therefore critically important during bushfire emergencies.

Roads can be unsafe when used in smoky conditions and especially if used during the passage of a fire front. As people can only tolerate low levels of radiant heat, being caught on roads during anything other than extremely low intensity fires can have deadly implications. For this reason, public warnings, public education and emergency management all aim to reduce the likelihood of people travelling on roads during the passage of bushfires.

Increasing separation between roads and adjacent unmanaged vegetation will also improve safe emergency access. This is particularly important for places with limited access options.

Bushfires are typically accompanied with high winds that can cause trees or limbs to fall, blocking evacuation routes. Therefore, trees adjacent to and overhanging roads should be assessed for structural integrity, and trimming or felling undertaken where necessary.

4. Control lines

Well managed roads and roadside areas can provide a useful resource for fire suppression activities, including direct attack and backburning.

The usefulness of road reserves for this purpose depends on their position relative to the surrounding bush and the assets being protected, the surrounding topography and vegetation type, and the roadside management practices that are in place. For example, public roads along the urban-rural interface may be well placed to provide strategic advantage for firefighters in some contexts. The presence of unmanaged vegetation within the roadside however may be conducive to fire spotting across the road and may also compromise firefighter safety.

5. Recovery after fire

Restoring community infrastructure and services in a timely manner is important for recovery after bushfires. Road infrastructure again serves a critical function as it supports access to property and the provision of services. Additionally, there is often other infrastructure present within road reserves (e.g. electricity power poles) that will delay recovery if damaged.

Bushfires can result in some trees becoming unstable and therefore dangerous. Routine audits to identify and remove trees and limbs that are vulnerable to falling on road carriageways and other infrastructure will reduce disruption to road users following bushfire. Providing vegetation management around key infrastructure assets that are located within road reserves may also reduce disruption to the community following bushfire.

DEVELOPMENT COMPLIANCE

The construction of new roads in bushfire-prone areas, such as new subdivisions, are required to comply with strict design standards for bushfire safety. This includes requirements for vegetation clearances as well as gradients, road width and other minimum criteria. Further information on development requirements can be found on the 'Building for Bushfire' section of the TFS website (www.fire.tas.gov.au).

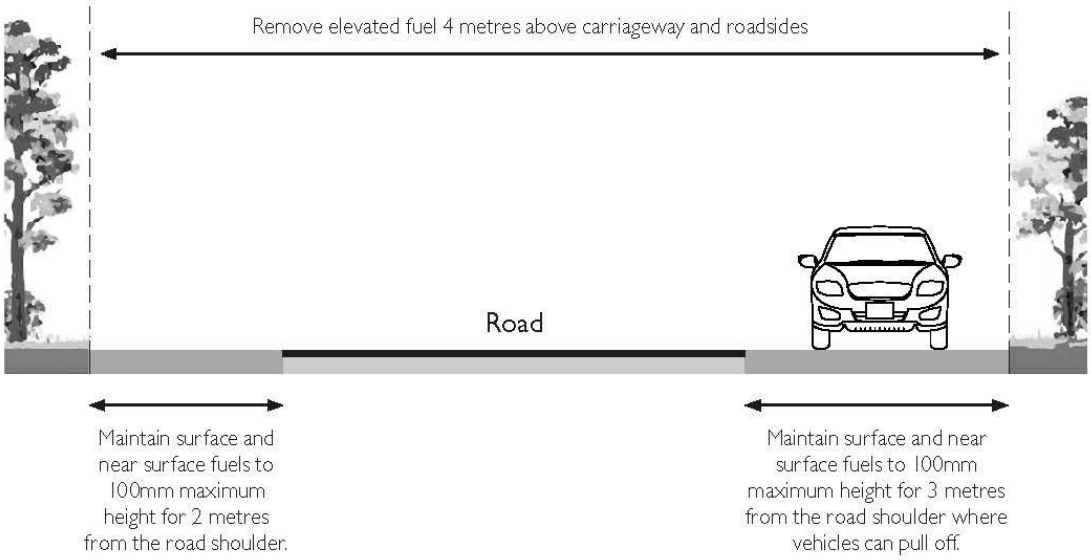
RISK TREATMENT

Road asset managers naturally have budget limitations and need to direct resources efficiently and in accordance with identified priorities. Tasmania Fire Service takes the view that road management prescriptions within bushfire-prone areas should be designed with consideration given to the above mentioned objectives, as relevant to the particular context. Importantly, the level of treatment should reflect the level of risk.

Management of roadside areas for the purposes of bushfire risk mitigation generally means reducing the overall fuel loads, breaking up continuity between fuel layers (vertically and horizontally) and increasing separation between the hazard and the road.

At a minimum, vegetation adjacent to roads should be managed to the following standards:

- Horizontal clearance of 2 metres either side of the carriageway (3 metres where vehicles are expected or likely to pull off the road); and
- Vertical clearance of 4 metres above the carriageway and roadsides.



Horizontal clearance is to be achieved by maintaining surface and near surface fuels (such as grasses) to a nominal maximum height of 100 millimetres. Vertical clearance is to be achieved by removing elevated fuels to a height of 4 metres. In some cases a reduced separation may be acceptable if required to retain significant trees, threatened vegetation or because of topographical or infrastructure constraints. In these situations, a horizontal clearance of 0.5 metres should be considered an absolute minimum.

In some contexts additional vegetation removal and maintenance may be warranted to achieve risk mitigation objectives. For example:

- Where access and egress options to a community are limited and evacuation would require travelling through bushland;
- Where a road has extensive vegetation downslope of the carriageway (of a type that is likely to burn);
- Where a road provides access to a nearby safer place or vulnerable use;
- Where there is other infrastructure within a road reserve that is critical to the functioning of a community.

Bushfire risk is of course not the only management objective that requires consideration by road managers. In some cases there may be overlapping benefits that can be achieved, for example where vegetation removal reduces bushfire risk whilst also improving sightlines and supporting weed management. In other cases there may be a need to tailor vegetation management prescriptions to reduce impacts on other values, such as natural values and scenic values.

IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE

Vegetation management prescriptions (including minimum widths for managed areas) should be clearly documented with appropriate timeframes and budgets identified for ongoing maintenance.

Ideally roadsides identified for management will be maintained throughout Spring and Summer however seasonal weather variations will naturally affect the timing of works.

The use of machinery and equipment for roadside vegetation management works should comply with the Tasmania Fire Service Machinery Operations Guideline and Total Fire Ban restrictions. Refer to www.fire.tas.gov.au for further information.

Tasmania Fire Service

Tasmanian Government

fire.tas.gov.au

Bushfire Risk Unit GPO Box 1526 Hobart Tasmania 7001
Phone 1800 000 699 (option 5) | bfp@fire.tas.gov.au

Appendix D: Tasmania Fire Service - Machinery Operations Guideline, A Basis for Safe Work in Dry Vegetation

MACHINERY OPERATIONS TABLE

If the local wind speed is above the threshold, suspend operations until conditions moderate.

RH%	Average Wind Speed (KPH)								RH%
	TEMPERATURE (°C)								
	15	20	25	30	35	40	45		
5	31	29	27	25	23	21	19	5	5
10	35	33	30	28	26	24	22	10	10
15	38	36	33	31	28	26	24	15	15
20	40	38	36	33	31	28	26	20	20
25	43	40	38	35	33	30	28	25	25
30	45	43	40	37	35	32	30	30	30
40	49	46	44	41	38	35	33	40	40
50	53	50	47	44	41	39	36	50	50
60	56	53	50	47	44	41	39	60	60
65	58	55	52	49	46	43	40	65	65

* These weather combinations relate to a Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) of 35.

Tasmanian Government

Tasmania Fire Service

for further information on your bushfire safety needs

Free-call 1800 000 699 or visit fire.tas.gov.au

TASALERT alert.tas.gov.au

You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

alert.tas.gov.au

@TasALERT

facebook.com/**TasALERT**

Bureau of Meteorology Website – **bom.gov.au**

Download the App – **bom.gov.au/app/**

This guideline produced in association with

200211_V2/2020

Machinery Operations Guideline

Tasmania Fire Service

A basis for safe work in dry vegetation

This Guideline provides fire safety measures for machinery operations in or near dry vegetation, and specifies criteria for when fire weather conditions warrant stopping machinery operations. This Guideline is endorsed by Tasmania Fire Service as suitable bushfire risk mitigation practices.

1800 000 699
fire.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Government

MACHINERY OPERATIONS BAN

The use of certain machinery and practices can be restricted during the **Fire Permit Period** and on days of **Total Fire Ban**. When conditions warrant, Tasmania Fire Service will ban machinery operations with an explicitly worded Total Fire Ban declaration.

RECOMMENDED MACHINERY OPERATING PRACTICES

IMPORTANT: The following practices should be adopted when using engines, vehicles, equipment or machinery in areas that are within, or in close proximity to dry vegetation and similar combustible materials. If you require further information contact TFS on 1800 000 699.

Plan

- Establish a fire prevention and emergency response strategy for staff, contractors and machinery operators.
- Be aware of potential ignition sources from the machinery being used.
- Adopt a regular maintenance program, both before and during operations, paying particular attention to wearing parts, bearings and engines.
- Aim to ensure machinery is free from faults and mechanical defects.
- Ensure combustible residues on machines are kept to a minimum, especially in areas of high fire risk, such as engines, exhausts and brakes.

Prepare

- Prior to commencing operations, check the fire weather forecast on the Bureau of Meteorology App or website (bom.gov.au).
- Have ready access to telephones and UHF radios.
- Machinery operators should have appropriate firefighting clothing and a plan for the protection of themselves, their equipment and the community.
- Have ready access to operational firefighting equipment, such as:
  - Fire extinguisher,
  - Knapsack, and ideally
  - A 250 litre transportable firefighting unit.
- Drive on tracks and park in cleared areas to prevent fires starting from hot exhausts.
- Provide 3 metres clearance around and above stationary machinery or engines, or remain with the equipment while running.

Monitor

- Monitor current weather observations from the Bureau of Meteorology App or website (bom.gov.au).
- Suspend operations when weather reaches the thresholds shown in the Machinery Operations Table.
- Monitor fire information and advice through TasALERT (alert.tas.gov.au).

Respond

- If a fire starts phone 000 immediately.
- Attempt to put the fire out if safe to do so.
- In the event of a fire, and if safe to do so without causing additional fires and endangering your own life, locate the machinery to a fuel reduced area, in an attempt to prevent fire spread.

THIS GUIDELINE DOES NOT APPLY TO FORESTRY OPERATIONS

MACHINERY OPERATIONS TABLE

The table below uses the **average wind speed (km/h)** for a range of different **temperature (°C)** and **relative humidity (RH%)** combinations to decide when machinery operations should cease.

To use the table:

- Obtain the relative humidity (RH%), temperature (°C) and wind speed (km/h) values from the nearest suitable weather station.
- Use the temperature values (rounded up to nearest 5°C) and relative humidity (rounded down to nearest 5%), to work out which is the threshold wind speed in the table.

If the local wind speed is above the threshold, suspend operations until conditions moderate.

EXAMPLE: Refer to the highlighted areas on the table.

1. Temperature: 25°C.
2. Relative Humidity: 17% rounded down to 15%.
3. For this combination of Temperature and Relative Humidity operations should stop when the average wind speed goes above 33 km/h.

TEMPERATURE (°C) / RH%	5	10	15	20	25
15	31	35	38	40	43
20	29	33	36	38	40
25	27	30	33	36	3
30	25	28	31	33	35
35	23	26	28	31	33
40	21	24	26	28	30
45	19	22	24	26	2
RH%	5	10	15	20	25