



Point Henry Community Fire Strategy

Why is the Strategy being prepared?

The strategy is being prepared because of the increased community concern following the December 2012 fire in the Fitzgerald River National Park and the Black Cat Creek fire near Albany. It is also recognised that the multiple Rural Residential zones, Planning Scheme provisions and fire management plans may be confusing and need to be consolidated.

What is the purpose of the Strategy?

The long term management of the bush fire risk is a shared responsibility between landowners, government and industry. In developing the strategy, the Shire will:

- Review the adequacy of current bushfire mitigation activities;
- Review land use planning, environmental, and building practices and policies that apply to the study area;
- Investigate the actions that can and should be taken by landowners, residents and tenants in relation to bushfire risk management; and
- Consider management requirements for the Crown Reserves.

This holistic approach seeks to increase community resilience by raising awareness and encouraging participation in the management of mitigation measures. It will be prepared in conjunction with the Bush Fire Ready program.

What is the Bush Fire Ready program?

Bushfire Ready is a local community action program aimed at encouraging local residents to work together in preparing and protecting their families and properties against bushfires. The local facilitator for this is Melanie Haymont.

Will the Strategy be a statutory document?

No the Strategy will not be a legal document It may make recommendations for amendments to the Planning Scheme or Fire Break Notice which will have to be considered by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee and Council.

The Strategy must recognise the statutory requirements of other legislation such as vegetation clearing controls in the Environmental Protection Act.

Will the Strategy prohibit further development?

The Strategy will recognise the existing zoning, subdivision and development expectations within the Town Planning Scheme and the Local Planning Strategy. It will not be prohibiting this development but it may make recommendations on the conditions which should be applied to it.

What is the time frame for the Strategy?

The Strategy needs to be completed well before the start of the 2013 – 2014 fire season i.e. 1st November.

Will I be able to clear my block?

No there will not be any automatic ability to clear blocks.

The Strategy will examine what is appropriate clearing for the protection of dwellings. Additional clearing may not occur without the approval of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

What is the process for preparing the Strategy and for consultation?

The preparation of the Strategy will have the following stages:

1. Initial public consultation, fact find and identification of issues;
2. Preparation of a draft report and recommendations;
3. Adoption by Council and agreement to advertise;
4. Formal advertising of the Strategy and referral to landowners;
5. Council consideration of submissions and final adoption.

An initial community workshop will be held to allow residents to express their views.

The draft Strategy will be advertised with a summary sheet sent to all landowners for any comments to be made.

Further Information

Any queries, comments or suggestions can be directed to either:

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