

9.2.5 a) Terms of Reference - Stakeholder Working Group

Shire of Jerramungup Bushfire Risk Management Plan – Stakeholder Working Group Terms of Reference

Membership.

The Shire of Jerramungup will invite stakeholder groups to nominate one member and/or proxy to sit on the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) for the review of the Shire of Jerramungup Bushfire Risk Management Plan. It is the representative's obligation, as a member of the Working Group to report back to their relevant group and/or committee.

The SWG will comprise of representation from the agencies, local government, traditional owners, community interest groups and qualified local members in Attachment 1.

The SWG can be expanded as required to include Water Corp, Main Roads WA, Western Power and Horizon Power.

The SWG can be expanded as required to include key interest groups within the Plan area.

In addition to the member or their delegate, additional officers from each agency or other personnel with special expertise may attend any meeting with the prior approval of the Chair.

Background

Of the 650,700 hectares within the Shire of Jerramungup, 200,415 hectares is Crown land, with 136,647 of this managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The remaining Crown land is unallocated or unmanaged.

By definition, Crown land is held by the State. However, in practical terms, the responsibility to manage Crown land is spread across a range of government agencies, and through them, are often assigned to other entities or individuals creating a complex patchwork of tenure arrangements.

Our Shire is also identified primarily as being bushfire prone. The responsibility for managing bushfire risk is shared across community. Successful bushfire risk management requires local government, State Government, industry, private landholders, and other community members to collaboratively identify and assess risk and implement coordinated treatments across the landscape.

The Shire of Jerramungup, under the State Emergency Management Framework, is assigned the responsibility for Bushfire Risk Management (BRM) planning by virtue of the State Hazard Plan Fire 2023.

Local governments identified within this State Hazard Plan Fire as having high or extreme

bushfire risk must develop a BRM Plan that applies to the entire local government area.

—State Hazard Plan Fire 2023

A BRM Plan assists a local government to identify, assess, prioritise, treat and monitor bushfire risk throughout its local government area. The BRM Plan is a document that provides contextual

information about the local government area to inform the subsequent risk assessment. This can also help inform the treatment strategies.

To assist in the communication and consultation process the Shire has engaged an external facilitator (and Chair) to manage the BRM planning process and has committed to establishing a Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) that can provide input and experience to the contextual information about the local government area to help inform the subsequent risk assessment and treatment strategies for the BRM Plan.

Purpose of the Stakeholder Working Group

The purpose of the BRM planning process is to reduce bushfire risk in our local government area via a program of works, informed by a comprehensive risk assessment. The SWG has been established to review the program of works and provide input into the risk management process, and to ensure all stakeholders understand their risks and why particular treatments are prioritised. The SWG is an advisory group only to assist the preparation of the Shire's BRM Plan. The SWG does not have any delegated authority to make decisions but can make recommendations to the content of the BRM Plan in relation to local context and treatment strategies. The endorsement of the BRM Plan is ultimately a decision of Council with the Minister for the Emergency Services having the final sign off.

Written submissions can be made by any member of the group to ***Biodiverse Solutions up to 7th September 2024***. Submissions must be based on available evidence or data and relate directly to the context, treatment areas or strategies proposed for the Plan. Member submissions do not require SWG endorsement. The position of each member on the final BRM plan will be noted within the final report to be put to Council for their consideration prior to endorsement.

Objectives

1. Develop a program of works to treat areas of high risk to better prepare and protect the community, based on historical treatment data and current conditions, which will assist suppression agencies to contain and control bushfires.
2. Establish a context statement that underpins the characteristics of the local government area with a focus on factors that will influence the amount and distribution of bushfire risk and how bushfire risk will be treated.
3. Use best practice and an evidence-based approach for the continued management of risk, environmental damage and heritage protection across the landscape.
4. Share knowledge and plans so an overall landscape mitigation plan is developed and supported to complement the work of other agencies.
5. Provide a way for communities to engage in deliberations about bushfire risk and approaches to reducing it and thereby building a shared responsibility for bushfire risk management and enhancing community resilience.

Stakeholder Working Group Meetings

A Working Group meeting will be held in August 2024 and will be a briefing about the proposed draft BRM Plan, proposed treatment areas and a presentation on the process for developing the Plan.

A second meeting will be held in September 2024. The draft BRM Plan will then be reviewed and endorsed by Shire Council and finally seek Ministerial approval. Ongoing meeting throughout the life of the BRM Plan will be held in April of each year with Ad-hoc meetings called by the Facilitator/Chair as required.

Area of the Works

The Shire of Jerramungup

Adopted TBA

Attachment 1.

Membership Invite list.

BioDiverse Solutions (Chair)

BioDiverse Solutions (Facilitator)

DBCA – Regional Leader Conservation

DBCA – Albany District Threatened Flora Officer

DBCA – Regional Leader Conservation

District Officer, Great Southern Region

WKSN - Representative

SoJ – Council Representative

SoJ - Shire Representative

SoJ – Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator

SoJ – Community Emergency Services Manager

Jerramungup VFES Representative

Bremer Bay VFES Representative

Point Henry Bushfire Ready Group Representative

FBG / Wellstead Estuary Group Representative

Bremer Bay Primary School Representative

Jerramungup District High school Representative

Boxwood Combined Sports Club Representative

Gairdner Progress Association Representative

Bremer Bay Progress Association Representative

Bremer Bay Sports Club Representative

Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective Representative

Bremer Bay Caravan Park Representative

Bremer Bay Beaches Resort Tourist Park Representative

Jerramungup Sports Club Representative