# ROCKHAMPTON REGION LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Bushfire management study, strategy and mitigation plan summary

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Rockhampton Regional Council

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

# FOREWORD

Bushfires are the greatest natural threat facing our region, and we need to work together to ensure that our community is prepared.

We have seen the nature of bushfires change over the last two decades, becoming more frequent and more dangerous. According to the Rockhampton Region Emergency Risk Management Assessment, it is likely that one will occur each year in our community. The words 'bushfire season' carry more certainty than they used to, and, if the current trend continues this is a threat that is only going to intensify.

In response to this increasing risk, the Local Disaster Management Group has commissioned a Bushfire Management Study (2021), Bushfire Management Strategy (2021-2025) and Bushfire Management Mitigation Plan (2021-2025) for the Region. The pages ahead provide an overview of the Study, Strategy, and Plan, and outline how we can all work together to protect our community.

This document looks back on our history, examines our risk, and highlights those communities which are particularly vulnerable. It provides an outline of the nine pathways identified in the Bushfire Management Strategy, mapping the options we can take moving forward through prevention and preparedness to response and recovery. It also outlines the actions we can begin to implement immediately. This body of work is a huge step forward in protecting our community, and ensuring we're all ready when bushfires do occur.

I want to thank the officers, agencies, volunteers, and community members who have worked with us to develop the Study, Strategy, and Plan. It could not have been done without you. The only way we can face this risk is together.

**Mayor Tony Williams**
Chair - Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group

Mount Archer

# BACKGROUND

Since the early 2000's, the nature of bushfires across the Rockhampton Region (Region) has noticeably changed. While there has always been a bushfire threat, the likelihood, intensity and impacts have increased.

Bushfires that impacted Mount Archer and the Berserker Ranges in 2009 highlighted the risk to the community. Bushfires around Kabra, Gracemere and Stanwell and Mount Morgan in 2018 again highlighted the risk and how the risk has changed.
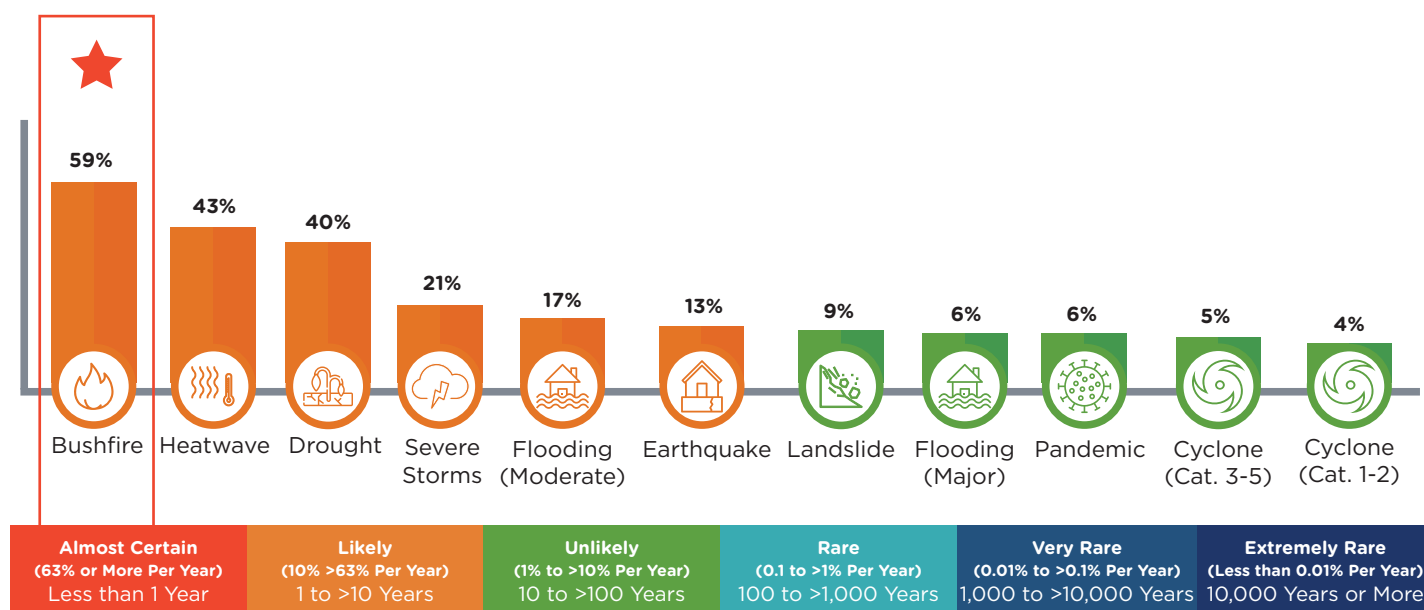
The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) commissioned a Bushfire Management Study, Bushfire Management Strategy (2021-2025) and Bushfire Management Mitigation Plan (2021-2025) for the Region in response. As part of this process an updated disaster management risk assessment methodology (QERMF) was applied to assess the Region's bushfire risk.

The assessment, funded by the CQ Bushfires Flexible Funding Grant (Round Two), builds on the LDMG's knowledge and understanding of bushfire risk and provides strategies to mitigate future impact.

The assessment identified that bushfire is the highest natural disaster risk for our community. With an Annual Exceedance Probability of 59% it is considered likely that a bushfire will occur once in a year based on the current trend.

Bushfire management, as described in the Queensland Bushfire Plan, is a shared risk. The members of the LDMG, Rockhampton Fire Management Group (FMG), Local Fire Management Groups (LFMG) and landowners are encouraged to actively collaborate to manage bushfire risk, for the interest of community safety, the economy and environment.

## ROCKHAMPTON REGION HAZARD RISK PROFILE

| Hazard | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Bushfire | 59% |
| Heatwave | 43% |
| Drought | 40% |
| Severe Storms | 21% |
| Flooding (Moderate) | 17% |
| Earthquake | 13% |
| Landslide | 9% |
| Flooding (Major) | 6% |
| Pandemic | 6% |
| Cyclone (Cat. 3-5) | 5% |
| Cyclone (Cat. 1-2) | 4% |

| Almost Certain (63% or More Per Year) Less than 1 Year | Likely (10% >63% Per Year) 1 to >10 Years | Unlikely (1% to >10% Per Year) 10 to >100 Years | Rare (0.1 to >1% Per Year) 100 to >1,000 Years | Very Rare (0.01% to >0.1% Per Year) 1,000 to >10,000 Years | Extremely Rare (Less than 0.01% Per Year) 10,000 Years or More |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

# INTRODUCTION

The Bushfire Management Study, Strategy and Mitigation Plan were developed through a collaborative information gathering process.

Over several months workshops and interviews were conducted with key stakeholders including members of the LDMG, FMG, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) officers and agencies who manage land throughout the Region. Community consultation was undertaken through surveys and various engagement opportunities.

*"By working together with communities, other Government agencies and stakeholders in the public and private sectors, we are enabled to effectively manage our bushfire hazard. It is our shared responsibility to undertake those activities, which helps us to reduce the impact of bushfire and prepare our communities to respond and recover."*[1]

A fundamental consideration within the project was the application of the Queensland Bushfire Plan (QBP). Released in 2020 the QBP outlines the arrangements for a whole-of-government approach to bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The Bushfire Management Study (Study) provides a holistic understanding of bushfire risk in the Region by considering:

- past bushfire history;
- current management practices and firefighting capability;
- fuel structure and load;
- ecology and topography;
- community risk profiles; and
- forecast higher temperatures and increased frequency of 'hot' days that heighten the risk of bushfire prone conditions.

The Bushfire Management Strategy (Strategy) proposes a five-year plan that provides a regional and strategic assessment of bushfire risk identifying priority areas and outlining pathways that can be taken across the four phases of disaster management – Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

The Bushfire Management Mitigation Plan (Mitigation Plan) proposes a five-year plan that breaks down the pathways into actions that will reduce current and future bushfire risk across the Region through a range of measures.

The Study, Strategy and Mitigation Plan navigate bushfire risk management for the Region. The suite of documents support collaboration between operations of the LDMG and the FMG. The framework supports the development and implementation of effective mitigation strategies and relevant community engagement and education opportunities.

The LDMG is responsible for the planning, organisation, coordination and implementation of a range of measures to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from, disasters within the Region. The FMG provides a forum for major landowners to discuss planning, preparedness, response and recovery strategies for bushfire management.

This summary document seeks to support these groups to understand bushfire risk and the strategies and mitigation activities being implemented.

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[1] *Greg Leach Commissioner Queensland Fire and Emergency Services*

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## STRATEGIC DRIVERS

*Queensland Bushfire Plan (2020)*

*Queensland Climate Adoption Strategy (2017 - 2030)*

*Rockhampton Local Disaster Management Plan*

*LDMP Bushfire Sub-Plan*

Rockhampton Region Bushfire Management Study (2020)

Rockhampton Region Bushfire Management Strategy (2021 - 2025)

Rockhampton Region Bushfire Management Mitigation Plan (2021 - 2025)

| AIM | To enable the LDMG's management of bushfire hazard through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. |
|---|---|
| OBJECTIVE | That the management of bushfire hazard follows the principles of the QBP, encourages the good neighbour policy and is driven by a collaborative approach as endorsed by the Disaster Management Arrangements. |

## PREVENTION

| Land Use Planning | Risk Based Planning | Fuel Reduction |
|---|---|---|

## PREPAREDNESS

| Treat Risk | Seasonal Fire Risk | Bushfire Preparedness |
|---|---|---|

## RESPONSE | RECOVERY

| Flexible Model | Modern Resilience |
|---|---|

## STRATEGIES

| PREVENTION | | PREPAREDNESS | | RESPONSE | RECOVERY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A commitment to coordinated bushfire risk management across the region | Rockhampton Regional Council's commitment as a regulator and land manager | Group commitment to community resilience | Working with the AFMG, clear roles and accountabilities for bushfire management | A more flexible disaster management response to bushfires | A modernised community resilience focused recovery |

# UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK

**59%**

**LIKELY**

A robust understanding of bushfire risk is vital to minimising its potential impact and increasing resilience in the Region. By considering a range of factors, including ecology, topography, climate, bushfire prone area mapping, fuel load, fire history and community consequence, the Study identified the three highest bushfire risk areas as the Mount Archer area, Mount Morgan area and Fitzroy Northern area.

The Mount Archer area is comprised of over three thousand properties and includes those at the summit of Mount Archer and areas in Frenchville, Koongal, Lakes Creek and Norman Gardens adjacent to the Mount Archer National Park (Map 1).

The Mount Morgan area is comprised of over one thousand properties and includes areas in Baree, Hamilton Creek, Horse Creek, Leydens Hill, Moongan, Mount Morgan, Struck Oil and Walterhall (Map 2).

The Fitzroy Northern area is comprised of over eight hundred properties and includes Alton Downs, Dalma, Garnant, Glenroy, Morinish, Morinish South, Nine Mile, Pink Lily, Ridgelands and South Yaamba (Map 3).

While these three areas are considered the most vulnerable in terms of community consequence there are many other localities that have the potential to be impacted by bushfire and are identified as having a very high bushfire risk. These are:
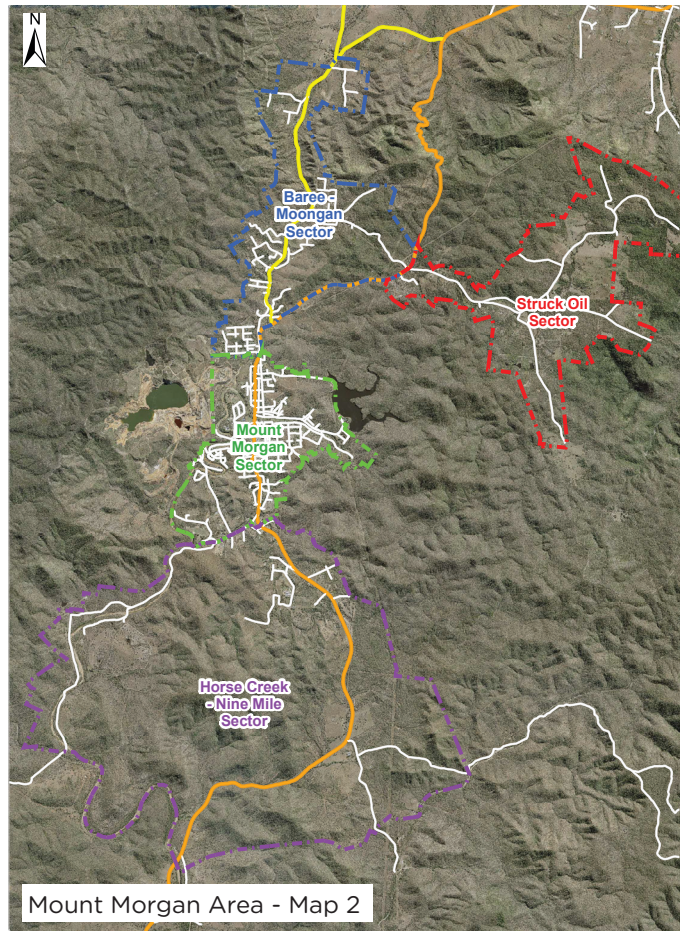
• Kabra
• Stanwell
• Wycarbah
• Westwood
• Bouldercombe
• Bajool
• Upper and South Ulam

Community feedback provided insights into general bushfire awareness in the Rockhampton Region. It was identified that the community does not fully comprehend issues such as the risk of bushfire, the devastating effects of bushfire, and the impact that weather has on fire and bushfire conditions. This Bushfire Management Plan has been developed to assist in augmenting community awareness.
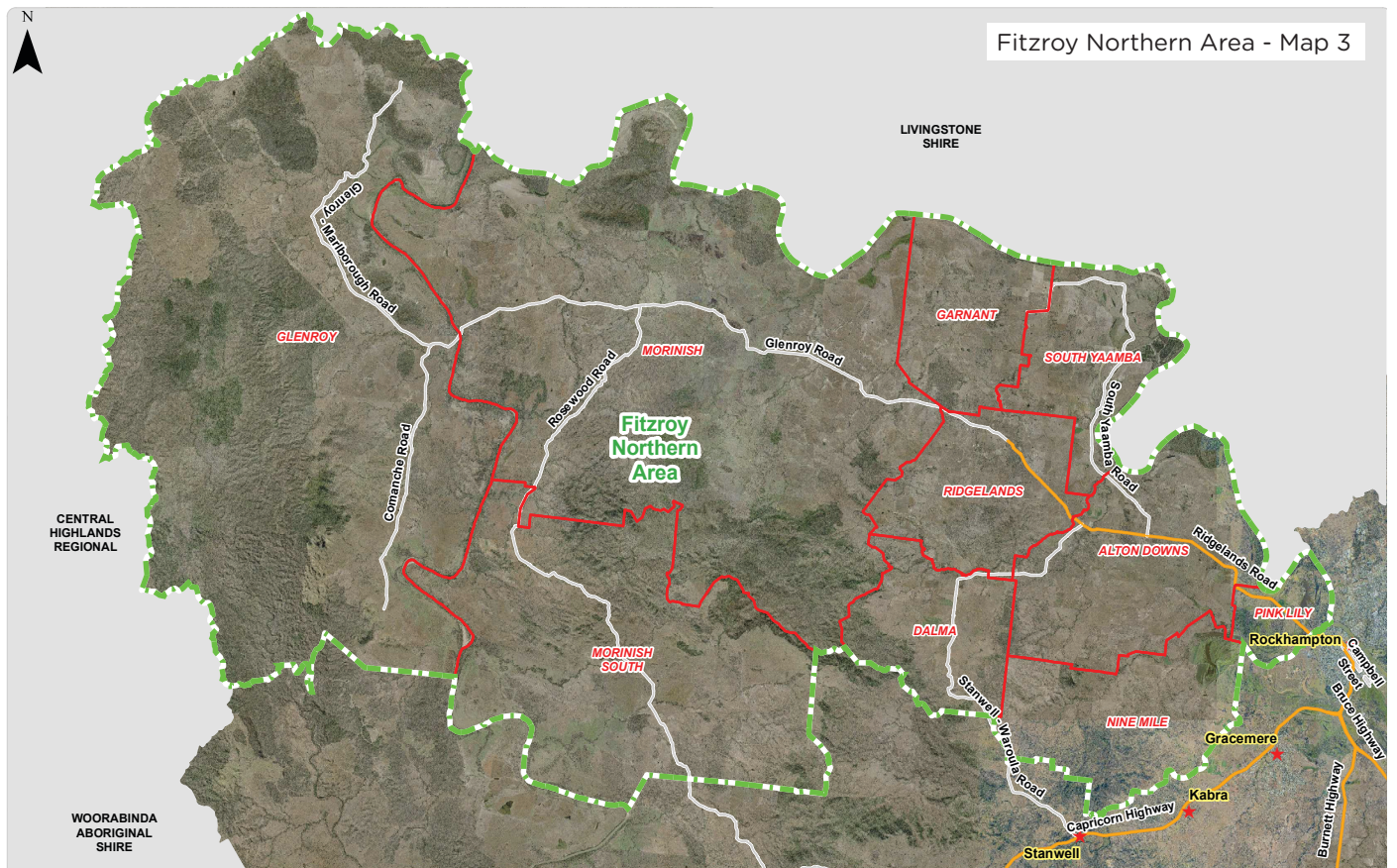
Residents of the Rockhampton Region are able to access bushfire prone mapping for their property online via RockePlan (electronic planning scheme) on Rockhampton Regional Council's website or the Bushfire Postcode Checker on the Queensland Rural Fire Service website. Further disaster preparedness information and advice is available on Council's Emergency Dashboard.

Mt Archer Area - Map 1


Mount Morgan Area - Map 2


Fitzroy Northern Area - Map 3

A key component in gaining an understanding of bushfire risk in the Region is the consideration of fire history. Previous studies, media reports, fire scars and available Geographic Information System (GIS) layers have been reviewed. Examples of recent significant bushfire events are detailed below.

## MOUNT ARCHER NATIONAL PARK 2009

In October 2009 dry conditions and erratic winds resulted in a large bushfire within Mount Archer National Park. Over one week hundreds of homes were threatened within the vicinity. More than 11,000 hectares of land was burnt out. The bushfire was eventually contained with the assistance of volunteer firefighters and firebombing aircraft. Residents in the area were asked to evacuate in response to worsening conditions. One home was lost and others sustained damage.

## COMMUNITY ACCOUNTS

Community consultation was conducted through a regional survey as part of the information gathering process undertaken. This survey was distributed through a mail out and Council's social media channels. The survey sought feedback from the community on their understanding of bushfire risk and experience of past events. Community members that were in the area during the bushfire in 2009 reported that:

*"We closed up our home, to avoid the smoke."*

*"We had zero preparedness or survival plan – we didn't see the risk, nor know what to do."*

*"Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) officers were happy with our preparation and used our driveways to defend our property."*

*"When the fire was apparent, I started cleaning up my yard, cleared gutters etc."*

*"We know the list of things we need to pack and get out."*

## KABRA, GRACEMERE AND STANWELL 2018

The most significant fire, from a community consequence perspective, in recent times was the Kabra, Gracemere and Stanwell fire in 2018. Although the area had not been drought declared there had been well-below-average rainfall in 2018. Pastures were dry and the root zone and upper soil moisture was below average.

On 25 November 2018, the area was experiencing high temperatures, reaching 41.5°C that day. On 26 November a previously extinguished fire on private property at Stanwell reignited and QFES assistance was requested. On 28 November, under 'Catastrophic' conditions, the fire quickly became uncontrollable. By the afternoon the fire was advancing in the direction of Gracemere and its 11,300 residents.

QFES Fire Behaviour Analysts, in partnership with other agencies, used predictive analytic modelling software to map the potential path of the fire. The modelling showed that the fire was likely to impact the Gracemere Township, particularly from ember attack, by 5.00pm.

At 3:16pm QFES advised that evacuating the town was necessary to prevent loss of life. Thousands of residents heeded the advice and evacuated.

Intensive aerial water bombing along with on the ground fire crews, worked to slow the fire. Continuous use of predictive modelling allowed both aircraft and ground crews to be deployed to maximise effectiveness.

At 9am on 29 November the risk was downgraded and residents could return to their homes. They were told to remain on alert. One house was lost as well as a number of sheds and outbuildings (QFES, 2019[2]).



## COMMUNITY ACCOUNTS

Results from a door knock campaign at Gracemere conducted after the 2018 bushfire, were considered as part of the information gathering process undertaken to develop the Study. Community members that were in the area during the bushfire reported that:

*"I was in Rockhampton when I found out through word of mouth about the evacuation. I rushed home and it took 20 minutes to gather clothes and the animals. After the event, I got insurance (I didn't have any before the fire) and will consider putting together an evacuation kit."*

*"We nearly ran out of fuel in the line up to get out of Gracemere and a fellow resident walked back to the petrol station to get fuel."*

*"It was very hot so we had to keep the cars running for the air conditioner."*

*"I was inside my house with air conditioning on, so was oblivious to the fire until I went outside and saw the reaction of the neighbours."*

*"We had to rely on a family member to pick us up as we do not have driver's licenses."*

*"As I work at the mines I had to get my neighbour to go into my home to pick up my personal items. On the phone I had to explain where everything was."*

[2] QFES Bushfire Report, 2019

## MOUNT ARCHER AND BERSERKER RANGES FIRE 2019

Fires impacted the Mount Archer and Berserker Ranges area again in September 2019. Residents were urged to stay informed about the fire burning in the National Park on the mountain range in the vicinity of Pilbeam Drive. Fire fighters from QFES, RFSQ and QPWS&P continued to work on the fires to build containment lines and were supported by two water-bombing helicopters.

On 11 September, QFES issued a 'Prepare to Leave' message as the fire travelled from the Mount Archer National Park towards residential streets. "The fire is likely to impact houses in Murlay Avenue, Bloxsom Street, Saunders Street, Thirkettle Avenue and adjoining areas."

The warning was downgraded an hour later to 'Stay Informed'. Residents were asked to keep up to date and decide what actions they would take if the situation changed.

During the night of 11 September, the fire travelled slowly through the area adjacent to Pilbeam Drive. Consideration was given to back-burn in and around Koongal, particularly in the area of Rockonia Road, however it was decided not to proceed.

On Sunday 16 September, QFES provided their final update: "QFES crews are aware of a bushfire in Mount Archer National Park, Mount Archer. This fire has been contained and is posing no threat to property at this time. QPWS&P crews are monitoring. Smoke may affect surrounding areas. Residents are advised to close windows and doors and keep respiratory medications close by. Motorists should drive with caution and to conditions. If you feel your property is under threat, call Triple Zero (000) immediately."



## COMMUNITY ACCOUNTS

The survey sought feedback on what they could do "to become more resilient to disasters". In respect to bushfire, respondents suggested:

*"Keeping our own backyards clean and tidy as well as frequent burn offs on the mountain as the undergrowth there if not done enough is just trouble and possibly incidents waiting to happen."*

*"Checking in on neighbours to increase awareness amongst those who may be more vulnerable in the community."*

*"Keep our properties in good condition, e.g. no overgrown yards, loose items, remove rubbish."*

*"Learn from past disasters."*

*"Neighbourhoods work together to help each other out."*

# STRATEGY PATHWAYS

Informed by the Study, the Bushfire Management Strategy outlines nine pathways that can be taken over five years from 2021 to 2025.


Volunteers & Organisations Active in Disasters Workshop

## PATHWAY 1 (PREVENTION): LAND USE PLANNING

*"Local governments play a central role in land use planning and the management of local roads, as well as the coordination of emergency centres and the provision of emergency relief."[3]*

Pathway 1 recommends that Rockhampton Regional Council (Council) holistically review its policy framework on land use planning in relation to bushfire management considerations.

The Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme, prepared by Council, regulates the use and development of land in the local area and contains requirements for those seeking to purchase and/or develop property on bushfire prone land.

Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy provides a vision, shared objectives and pathways to advance sustainability across our Region. The Strategy helps guide our approach to protect our natural environment, empower our community to live more sustainably, enhance the liveability of our Region, ensure that we use our resources more wisely and much more.

As the Rockhampton Region continues to grow, Council faces the challenge of balancing development, public safety and biodiversity in its planning strategies.

## PATHWAY 2 (PREVENTION): DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (INCLUDING BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND STANDARDS)

*"Risk from natural hazards to lives and property is influenced by past decisions, such as how and where communities, businesses, infrastructure and homes were built. While the consequences may only be felt decades later, this risk is inherited by those who are responsible for the built environment today."[4]*

Pathway 2 recommends Council strengthen the current requirement for development applications to have a compliant and useful Bushfire Management Plan (BMP).

The Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme contains a Bushfire Management Planning Scheme Policy which requires developers to have an approved BMP when building on bushfire prone land. By updating the Planning Scheme Policy there is an opportunity to provide a better understanding of risk and improved community safety in the event of bushfire.

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[3] *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, 2020.*
[4] *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, 2020.*

Mayor Tony Williams & RFS Regional Manager Brian Smith

## PATHWAY 3 (PREVENTION): RISK BASED PLANNING – SHARED OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

*"The Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) allow partners and stakeholders in the AFMG area to share information about bushfire risks and mitigation priorities to reach consensus on tenure-blind, joint priorities. QFES coordinates land managers' efforts to assess and mitigate bushfire risk through leadership of these governance arrangements."[5]*

Pathway 3 recommends strengthening the bushfire reporting arrangements between the Rockhampton Fire Management Group (FMG) and the LDMG and establishing two Locality Specific Fire Management Groups (LSFMG)s at Mount Archer and Mount Morgan.

Under the QBP, the LDMG is responsible for the management of residual bushfire risk. The QBP supports a cohesive and collaborative relationship between the FMG and LDMG.

The establishment of two LSFMGs will provide local input and knowledge to the FMG about fire management in these two high risk areas. Local resource sharing at the agency level can be explored here to get the maximum benefit from bushfire management strategies.

## PATHWAY 4 (PREVENTION): RISK BASED PLANNING - COUNCIL LAND MANAGEMENT

*"Governments also own and manage land, property and other assets, including state forests and national parks, government buildings, and some critical infrastructure. Governments must manage risks to these assets, just as businesses and individuals must manage risks to their own assets."[6]*

Pathway 4 recommends the establishment of a Council cross directorate working group and a central point for land management issues to provide a more strategic and connected approach to bushfire management.

The increased focus, both at the State and Federal levels, in relation to land managers being responsible to manage bushfire risk on their land is increasing and is likely to continue to do so in the future.

Coordinating the functions of bushfire management activities, including identifying and treating risk, and coordinating Council's bushfire activities with the FMG, would enable Council, as a major land manager across the Region, to work in a more cohesive way to deliver prevention and mitigation actions and to be further connected into the LDMG.

The establishment of a Bushfire Prevention Working Group will ensure that there is coordination and information sharing across directorates on the management of on-ground bushfire risk reduction efforts on Council owned land.

[5] *QFES Bushfire Report, 2019*
[6] *Royal Commission into National Disaster Arrangements, 2020*

Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

## PATHWAY 5 (PREPAREDNESS): RISK BASED PLANNING - SEASONAL PREPAREDNESS

*"Fire management groups will interact with disaster management groups to facilitate effective bushfire management across all phases."[7]*

Pathway 5 recommends building a closer link between Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the LDMG in relation to operational decision making in response to preparedness levels.

Establishing common Bushfire Preparedness Levels (BPL)s and reflecting this in disaster management plans allows a consistent understanding of risk. If QFES and the members of the LDMG understand the current risk to the Region a coordinated approach to planning can be achieved.

## PATHWAY 6 (PREPAREDNESS): RISK BASED PLANNING - COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

*"Individuals and communities play a role in their own preparedness, but governments should educate people and provide accessible information to help them make informed decisions and take appropriate action. This is necessary because managing disaster risk is inherently complex."[8]*

Pathway 6 recommends the establishment of a regional Community Education Working Group to plan and conduct community engagement activities for bushfire within the all-hazard framework. Integrating the work of the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) project to promote bushfire resilience in the community has also been recommended.

By implementing a regional Community Education Working Group priority messages are able to be shared and integrated into various agencies engagement campaigns. The Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) project is currently working to identify how communities and organisations can work with people with disability and carers to ensure their safety and welfare is managed appropriately during disaster events.

[7] *QFES Bushfire Report, 2019*
[8] *QFES Bushfire Report, 2019*

Romp In The Park, 2021

## PATHWAY 7 (RESPONSE): RISK BASED PLANNING - BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY IMPACT

*"The importance of local knowledge to disaster management, and particularly to disaster response, was emphasised by many people who provided input, including firefighters and the public. State, territory and local governments expressed strong support for the principle and stressed the need for 'deep engagement' with affected communities. A locally-led response was described as 'one of the strengths of the disaster management system' and a 'foundational principle'."[9]*

Pathway 7 recommends that the LDMG build capability and capacity across member agencies to ensure all plans are aligned, trained, and exercised.

The LDMG can improve bushfire preparation and response by clarifying roles and responsibilities, building capability, and practicing the arrangements for command, control and coordination centres.

Holding an exercise focused on bushfire management will lead to capability building at all levels. Having a representative of each agency able to obtain a better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities leads to better relationships. Exercises provide an ideal environment for learning and testing of systems so that when activated, people are ready, and relationships are formed.

## PATHWAY 8 (RESPONSE): RISK BASED PLANNING - BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

*"Fire management groups will interact with disaster management groups to facilitate effective bushfire management across all phases."[10]*

Pathway 8 recommends building on the relationship established in Seasonal Preparedness (Pathway 5) and details how a closer liaison model could be considered between the LDMG and QFES in relation to operations and coordination centres. This will ensure decision making is based on current, validated, and connected intelligence.

There is potential for intelligence feeds between QFES and the LDMG to be strengthened. The role of the LDMG during bushfires should focus on planning for effective disaster management, coordination of public messaging, planning for community impact, such as evacuation management, and resourcing the primary agency, QFES, for their response to the fires.

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[9] *Royal Commission into National Disaster Arrangements, 2020*
[10] *Queensland Bushfire Plan, 2020*

Dreamtime Markets, 2020

## PATHWAY 9 (RECOVERY): RISK BASED PLANNING - RESILIENCE FOCUSED BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

*"There is broad acceptance across all levels of government and communities of the importance of locally-led recovery. The role of local governments in facilitating locally led recovery processes will vary, depending on jurisdictional legislation and emergency arrangements. Generally, it involves local level planning and delivery of a broad range of services to communities".* [11]

Pathway 9 recommends applying the current guidelines available from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and the Inspector General Emergency Management (IGEM) to continue to deliver a modernised recovery model for the Region.

Recovery for bushfires may involve additional challenges, compared to those from more traditional hazards. There is opportunity for the LDMG to mature the recovery arrangements and to document the differences between recovery in the bushfire context (as it is quite new to the Queensland context) compared to other events.

Effectively delivering these pathways will reduce bushfire risk, increase community understanding, and build resilience across the Region.

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[11] *Royal Commission into National Disaster Arrangements, 2020*

# MITIGATION ENHANCEMENT AREAS

Informed by the Study, the Bushfire Management Mitigation Plan has outlined five broad Mitigation Enhancement Areas for the LDMG to consider to continue to drive resilience across the community. These Mitigation Enhancement Areas outline bushfire mitigation measures that are in addition to the work that already occurs across the Region.

## MITIGATION ENHANCEMENT AREA 1

### Legislation & Regulation

Details options and how an increase in compliance activities in relation to private and government land will lead to more resilient communities through the reduction of risk.

## MITIGATION ENHANCEMENT AREA 2

### Risk Based Planning

Details how the Fire Management Group (FMG) and LDMG can work together to understand residual risk, and options to accept, share or transfer risk to the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG).

## MITIGATION ENHANCEMENT AREA 3

### Fuel Reduction Across the Region

Details how fuel can be reduced using a variety of techniques to reduce the overall risk to the Region.

## MITIGATION ENHANCEMENT AREA 4

### Fire Lines & Access Trails

Details how the maintenance and further construction of fire lines and access trails will assist with mitigation. Fire lines and trails provide firefighting options and assist with breaks for crews to work off when performing hazard reductions/activities.

## MITIGATION ENHANCEMENT AREA 5

### Arson Reduction

Details how a regional focus, but with specific attention on Mount Morgan, can assist with the reduction in ignition and fire spread.

Mount Morgan Bushfire Planning

Breaking down the Mitigation Enhancement Areas, the Mitigation Plan outlines specific actions, to be undertaken during 2021-2025, for the three priority bushfire risk areas of Mount Archer area, Mount Morgan area and Fitzroy Northern Area. These locations are focal areas for enhanced mitigation works over the five year period.

## MOUNT ARCHER AREA MITIGATION ACTIONS

**MITIGATION ACTION 1 -** Increase surveillance and clearing of the interface between Mount Archer National Park and residential zones to stop the collection of additional fuel behind houses.

**MITIGATION ACTION 2 -** Deliver an annual bushfire education program that focuses on preparation and evacuation priorities of the residents of Mount Archer.

**MITIGATION ACTION 3 -** Mount Archer National Park has a range of fire trails, access tracks, and is accessible to larger amounts of resources on poor fire danger days. The amount of planning which has been done in this area for both fire mitigation, response and evacuation planning reduces the risk profile of this area. These practices should continue to be prioitised.

**MITIGATION ACTION 4 -** Continued support for current fuel reduction programs undertaken by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P).

**MITIGATION ACTION 5 -** Budget for fuel reduction burns behind the urban areas of Frenchville is continued to be supported by Council, QPWS&P and QFES.

## MOUNT MORGAN AREA MITIGATION ACTIONS

**MITIGATION ACTION 1 –** Increase the current burning program by the Department of Resources (DoR) and that consideration is given to integrating this with Council's slashing program.

**MITIGATION ACTION 2 –** Council should consider fire trail construction to access the new mountain bike trail, to support a balanced outcome to leisure activities and bushfire safety.

**MITIGATION ACTION 3 –** Work should continue to maintain and build the fire access trail network. In addition to this, the trails are classified, and mapping is updated.

**MITIGATION ACTION 4 –** Deliver a targeted community education program on evacuation and arson prevention, based on seasonal risk (QPS, QFES, LDGM).

Mt Archer

## FITZROY NORTHERN AREA MITIGATION ACTIONS

**MITIGATION ACTION 1 –** Create a greater awareness of the QPWS&P parks closure process based on fire danger.

**MITIGATION ACTION 2 –** Deliver a targeted Community Education Program, based on seasonal risk.

**MITIGATION ACTION 3 –** Details of local mitigation programs being undertaken are shared with the LDMG and incorporated into agency plans.

**MITIGATION ACTION 4 –** In addition to the significant work conducted annually by the QPWS&P for annual fire line maintenance at Goodedulla National Park, consideration should be given to linking this work with additional mitigation measures occurring outside of the park.

**MITIGATION ACTION 5 –** A greater focus be given to increase fuel reduction across both Goodedulla and Morinish State Forests, building on the work that exists already with local neighbours who proactively carry out fuel mitigation to minimise risk to pastures.

# READY. RESPOND. RECOVER.

A good understanding of bushfire risk is vital to minimising potential impact and increasing resilience in the Rockhampton Region. Recent experiences throughout Australia, and predicted increases in the frequency and intensity of bushfire, makes this knowledge more important than ever.

*Disaster Resilience is the capacity of communities to prepare for, absorb and recover from natural hazard events, and the capacities of communities to learn, adapt and transform towards resilience.[12]*

Preparation of the Bushfire Management Study, Strategy and Mitigation Plan has provided the LDMG, FMG and key stakeholders with an increased understanding of bushfire risk, including priority focal areas, in the Region. Strategy Pathways and Mitigation Enhancement Areas have been identified across the four phases of disaster management – Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Additional mitigation actions for the Mount Archer area, Mount Morgan area and Fitzroy Northern Area have also been proposed for consideration.
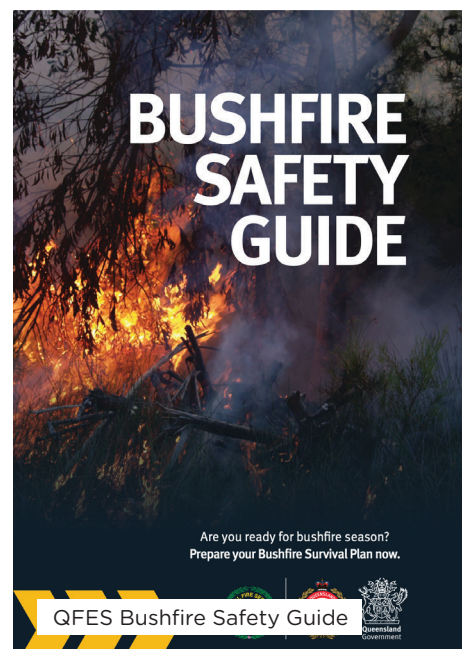
The level of cooperation and initiative by many stakeholders across the Region was evident during development of the Study, Strategy and Mitigation Plan. Stakeholders are passionate about their community and wanting to drive bushfire management to a new level. Embracing these champions of change to lead the enhanced bushfire management strategies will be a cornerstone opportunity for the LDMG.

This document seeks to provide the LDMG an overview understanding of bushfire risk and the available strategies and mitigation activities.

For more information refer to the full version of the Bushfire Management Study, Strategy and Mitigation Plan.



Disaster Ready Storybook



Emergency Dashboard



QFES Bushfire Safety Guide

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[12] *Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience - https:// knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-apr-2017-the-australian-natural-disaster-resilience-index/*