DISASTER
MANAGEMENT

Rockhampton
Regional Council

LOCAL
DISASTER
MANAGEMENT
PLAN

**Bushfire Preparedness
and Response**

Threat Specific Sub Plan

Document control

This Sub Plan will be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary. The Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) will ensure contact details are kept and up to date.

Minor amendments to this plan can be made by the LDC. Amendments which affect the intent of the plan must be endorsed by the LDMG.

All approved amendments are to be listed below. The LDC will ensure that all copies of the plan are replaced with the most up to date version.

Version	Date	Comments	Approved by
1.1	April 2021	Supersedes Bushfire Sub Plan 2016 (Version 1); Sub plan reviewed and updated following the release of the State Queensland Bushfire Plan and Council's Bushfire Management Study 2020.	LDMG on 13 January 2022
1.2	March 2023	Plan updated to include, - RRC internal Fire Danger Index notifications & Table - RRC Liaison Officer into QFES ICC process - QFES Incident Classifications - RRC equipment & resource availability process and list - List of RRC Liaison Officers - RRC staff actions by role/responsibility table	LDC on 21 March 2023

Table of contents

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full title
BPL	Bushfire Preparedness Level
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDCC	District Disaster Coordination Centre
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DMGs	Disaster Management Groups
EA	Emergency Alert
FDI	Fire Danger Index
FDR	Fire Danger Rating
FFDI	Forest Fire Danger Index
GFDI	Grassland Fire Danger Index
ICC	Incident Control Centre
IMT	Incident Management Team
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LO	Liaison Officer
QBP	Queensland Bushfire Plan
QDMA	Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QPWS&P	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
QSDMP	Queensland State Disaster Management Plan
QPS	Queensland Police Service
RFS	Rural Fire Service
ROC	Regional Operations Centre
RRC	Rockhampton Regional Council
SOC	State Operations Centre
SDC	State Disaster Coordinator
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Threat Specific Sub Plan is to establish the multi-agency collaborative arrangements for bushfire preparation and operations within the Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).

This sub plan is to be used in conjunction with the Local Disaster Management Plan and its Sub Plans. It sets out the agreed responsibilities and actions for the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and applies to emergency/disaster events and associated hazards within the Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) Local Government Area.

Objectives

The objectives of the Bushfire Preparedness and Response Sub Plan are to:

- Operationalise the LDMG Bushfire Management Study (2020), Strategy (2021-2025) and Mitigation Plan (2021-2025) within the phases of preparedness and response to bushfires;
- Set out the roles and responsibilities of the LDMG and QFES for bushfire management during the preparedness and response phase;
- Operationalise the Queensland Bushfire Plan in a local context; and
- Link the response to bushfires across the region to the Recovery Sub Plan for actions post the impact of bushfires.

Key Contacts

- Chair Local Disaster Management Group
- Local Disaster Coordinator
- Coordinator Disaster Management, Rockhampton Regional Council
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (LDMG)
- District Disaster Coordinator (DDMG)
- District Disaster Executive Officer
- Local Controller, State Emergency Service

Responsibilities

This Sub Plan recognises the difference in the responsibilities of the lead agency and the LDMG, and at the same time it promotes a collaborative approach to achieve improved community outcomes.

The Queensland Government bushfire responsibilities are outlined in the Queensland Bushfire Plan (QBP). Some bushfires may result in Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) being enacted. The below table shows the roles and responsibilities set out under the QBP.

Organisation	Responsibilities
QFES	The QBP defines that bushfire suppression and control is a shared responsibility between these agencies, depending on the tenure of the land where the bushfire is burning. In the event that lives, or property are threatened, QFES will assume the lead agency role.[i]
Queensland Parks and Wildfire Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P)	
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)	
HQ Plantations	
RRC (through the provision of the LDMG)	Activation of these arrangements is not dependent on a disaster situation being declared and is determined by respective disaster management groups in accordance with their plans. In this case, QFES remains the primary agency for bushfire response and coordinates with those disaster management groups that have activated.[ii]

Using the definitions from the QBP, it is likely that the LDMG would only be stood up in a bushfire event, where human life or property is threatened. Therefore, this Sub Plan assumes QFES is the primary agency for bushfires, and the LDMG is established to manage community consequence.

Preparedness

Bushfire Preparedness Levels
QFES continually monitors bushfire threat across the Central Region which includes the Rockhampton Regional Council area. Periodically, based on the presenting conditions, QFES sets an area and region Bushfire Preparedness Level (BPL). The BPLs and their corresponding actions are listed in Appendix 1, table 1.

It is important to note that the BPL is not reflective of the existence of fire, or fire behaviour indicators. It is a measurement of the overall risk of bushfires starting and maintaining based on seasonal weather trends.

Where a BPL changes, affecting the Rockhampton Region, this will be communicated to RRC by QFES in the form of the 7-day action plan (emailed each Tuesday).

The Coordinator Disaster Management will consider the information and consequences raised in the 7-day action plan and provide advice to the LDC on recommended actions for the LDMG (if any) to take.

Fire Danger Ratings and Index
Whilst the BPL applies to bushfire danger at a strategic level, the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) for the Region is calculated daily by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and published in a four-day (and next day) outlook.

The Fire Danger Index (FDI) is a rating from 0-100+. It incorporates a formula based on temperature, humidity, wind speed, drought factor, grass curing and a range of other metrics. The FDI is considered in both the risk in the grassland areas – as determined by a Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) and Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI). From the numerical forecasted overall FDI, a corresponding FDR is applied, as per Appendix 1, table 2.

This FDR forecast is produced on a four-day outlook, available on the RFSQ website.

In addition to this, the BoM produces a more accurate and localised FDI and FDR forecast each afternoon for the next day for agencies to consider. This information is typically contained in the 7-day action plan issued by QFES. **Where there is a significant deviation from that plan (for example, a forecasted day exceeds previous forecast models and reaches extreme or catastrophic), the QFES LDMG representative will contact the Coordinator Disaster Management, RRC to notify this change in condition.**

Where an FDR for the RRC area is predicted at severe or higher, the QFES LDMG representative will notify the Coordinator Disaster Management, RRC the day prior. By doing so, the LDMG is able to consider any actions that may be required in regard to community consequence.

Fire Danger Index and Triggers for Preparedness Activities

In addition to these consequences, Appendix 1, table 3 are the actions taken by QFES and the LDMG where fire dangers are predicted for the following day or days.

RRC Internal Notifications

In addition to Table 3, Table 3A lists the internal notifications to be made by the Coordinator Disaster Management or the Local Disaster Coordinator to RRC managers and departments after receiving a notification from QFES of:
- Extreme Fire Danger Index for the coming day/s
- Catastrophic Fire Danger Index for the coming day/s
- Current fire/s likely to draw on significant QFES resource regardless of the Fire Danger Index.

Control and Coordination Centres

Under this Sub Plan, there is a clear delineation of Control and Coordination Centres which facilitate the resolution of the incident and event.

The following definitions are provided for each type used across the Region.

Control Centres

Incident Control Centre
The Incident Control Centre (ICC) is the location where the Incident Controller and various members of the IMT provide overall direction of response activities. For larger scale or more complex incidents, an established facility known as an Incident Control Centre will be used. An Incident Control Centre may be established for any size of incident to cater for the needs of the incident management structure[iii].

QFES have a number of ICCs throughout Central Region that could be utilised to manage incidents within the RRC area. QFES does have a fixed ICC at 174 Alexandra Street, Kawana that is likely to be utilised in the first instance.

Regional Operations Centre
The Regional Operations Centre (ROC) is responsible for developing a regional situational report, which outlines current operations, their status and items of strategic interest.[iv] The ROC for the Central Region is located at Level 4 – 34 East Street Rockhampton.

<u>State Operations Centre</u>
The State Operations Centre (SOC) is the control centre for state level operations, information centre for bushfires and monitors operational readiness at local, regional and state levels. It operates continuously with staffing levels commensurate with the fire conditions. The SOC also accommodates other emergency and support organisations who assist during the management of a bushfire.[v] The State Operations Centre is located at the Kedron Emergency Services Complex in Brisbane.

Coordination Centres

<u>Local Disaster Coordination Centre</u>
Local Disaster Coordination Centres (LDCCs) are either permanent or temporary facilities within each Local Government Area (LGA), or combined LGA, established to support the LDMG during disasters. LDCCs operationalise LDMG decisions, as well as plan and implement strategies and activities on behalf of the LDMG during disaster operations.

The main function of the LDCC is to coordinate resources and assistance in support of local agencies and stakeholders engaged in disaster operations.[vi]

The Rockhampton Regional Council LDCC is located at Rockhampton City Hall 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton. The redundancy site for the LDCC is the Rockhampton Works Depot 13 Dooley Street, North Rockhampton. QFES has a dedicated desk(s) within the LDCC.

The operations of the LDCC are documented in the Local Disaster Coordination Centre Sub Plan.

<u>District Disaster Coordination Centre</u>
A District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC) is established to support the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) in the provision of state-support to affected local governments within that district.

The DDCC coordinates the collection and prompt dissemination of relevant information to and from LDCCs and the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) about disaster events occurring within their disaster district. The DDCC implements decisions of the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) and DDMG and coordinates state and Australian Government resources in support of the LDMGs and disaster affected communities in their district.[vii]

The Rockhampton DDCC is located at 161 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton.

<u>State Disaster Coordination Centre</u>
The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) is a permanent facility located at the Emergency Services Complex at Kedron, Brisbane. The SDCC operates as a 24/7 Watch Desk when not activated for a disaster and is staffed and maintained in a state of operational readiness by QFES.

The SDCC supports the State Disaster Coordinator (SDC) by coordinating the state level operational response capability during disaster operations. The SDCC ensures that information is disseminated to all levels in the QDMA, including the Australian Government.[viii]

<u>Integration of Control and Coordination Centres</u>
This Sub Plan applies the principle of clear roles and responsibilities. It is critical that each level of the primary agency and disaster management arrangements integrate at the correct level. Using the definitions in the liaison arrangements below, Figure 1 shows the relationship between each of the centres during fires within the Rockhampton Region.

This communication either occurs direct where there is no QFES Liaison Officer (LO), or through the LO when allocated to the Rockhampton LDCC.

Liaison Arrangements

A LO is a person who liaises between a coordination centre and their home agency (e.g., SDCC and Ergon Energy during disaster operations. Liaison Officers communicate and coordinate their activities to achieve the best utilisation of resources or services provided to the centre (e.g. provide technical or subject matter expertise, as well as capability and capacity of their home entity).[ix]

During the preparation phase, the liaison model is simplistic, that is the QFES LDMG representative liaises with the Coordinator Disaster Management, RRC on all matters relating to QFES. These officers are able to provide proxies, within their delegation structure. During this phase, liaison can occur in two ways:

Physical – The deployment of a LO to the

Figure 1 – Control and Coordination Relationships between QFES and the Disaster Management Arrangements.

Rockhampton LDCC (if activated) by QFES. Where the LDCC is not activated, liaison occurs between the QFES LDMG Representative and Coordinator Disaster Management, RRC.

Virtual – The use of online platforms or phone calls, where it is clearly understood who the single point of contact is into QFES (LDMG Representative) and RRC (Coordinator Disaster Management, RRC).

Appendix 1, table 4 prescribes the requirement for liaison from QFES to the LDMG (through RRC) against each of the fire dangers, where there may be limited or no fire operations occurring across the Region.

Upon the receipt of this information, the Coordinator Disaster Management will undertake a community threat analysis and provide advice to the Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) on recommended actions for the LDMG (if any) to take. There may be occasions where QFES directly request the LDMG and/or LDCC to be activated to support operations. During these considerations, it is important that the LDC and QFES LDMG representative have clear communication lines to affect a coordinated response to the community.

RRC Liaison into QFES ICC

The Local Disaster Coordinator, Coordinator Disaster Management and/or the General Manager Regional Services (or their delegate) for efficiencies may believe it beneficial to have a RRC Liaison Officer placed into the QFES ICC during:
- Developing bushfire/s situations which is drawing heavily on QFES resources and requests for RRC equipment are being made.
- Days when Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger has been forecasted and the QFES ICC has been stood up in preparation of this forecast.

The list of predetermined RRC Liaison Officers is in *Table 7*, with these officers having:
- A sound knowledge of RRC business
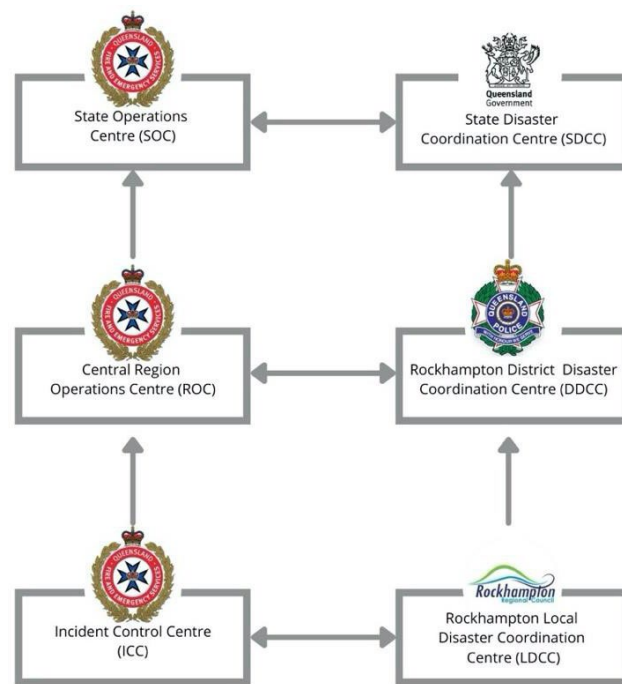- An understanding of RRC resources and their capabilities.

- A level of management authority to offer, commit or research the available RRC resources requested by the ICC or the Incident Controller on the fire ground.
- Have or have access to a RRC vehicle, mobile phone and laptop computer.

Planning or consideration should be given to providing the RRC Liaison Officer with a RRC Support Officer who has access to and can operate the LDCC Guardian System.

RRC will provide Liaison Officers based on the QFES Incident Classification. In the first instance the Liaison Officers will come from Civil Operations unless otherwise determined by RRC senior management.

For (QFES) Level 3 Incidents, RRC will provide staff of manager or engineer levels, who have sound knowledge of RRC business and resources, have an approved level of authority relevant to their role and position.

For Level 2 Incidents, RRC will provide staff of a supervisor level or above who have a sound understanding of RRC resources, RRC operations and have supervisory responsibilities in their normal role.

If the Incident escalates to the point where QFES requests assistance from Council with regard to the deployment of Council Plant and Operators, the RRC Liaison Officer is required to seek and receive authorisation for the deployment of Council Plant and Operators in accordance with Council's Fire Fighting and Emergency Assistance Policy.

Table 7 lists the recommended roles or positions that can fulfil the RRC Liaison Officer role within a QFES Level 2 or Level 3 incident management structure unless otherwise determined by the Manager Civil Operations, the General Manager Regional Services or the Local Disaster Coordinator.

Situational Reporting

Event reporting is necessary to provide decision-makers with real time situational awareness to enable effective operational decision making. Situation reports must be provided to the QFES ICC. The QFES ICC is responsible for providing situational reports to the ROC. The ROC is responsible for developing a regional situational report, which outlines current operations, their status and items of strategic interest. This report is provided to the SOC.

In the event that the disaster management arrangements are activated, the ICC, ROC and SOC will provide situation reports to respective disaster management groups at the appropriate level. Reporting may also occur through QDMA. [x]

QFES has full access to the online Incident Management System – Guardian IMS utilised by the Rockhampton Region LDMG. This allows officers to monitor real-time information, requests and intelligence to supplement the routine Situation Report cycle. This is available to QFES regardless of the activation level of the disaster management arrangements.

Where the disaster arrangements are activated any key intelligence and information provided from the ICC is able to be uploaded by QFES into Guardian. Activation is defined by the Rockhampton Region LDMG moving to an operational activation level of ALERT or higher. An operation within Guardian IMS will be established at Lean Forward to support preparation of the LDCC and incident management. Typical key information required by QFES would be:
- Location of fire;
- Any predictive fire spread information;
- Predicted impact on human life or property; and
- Predicted access or egress routes which may be impacted (for evacuation planning).

Response

The response phase is typically triggered by the actual or imminent threat of a bushfire which has a community impact for the LDMG to manage. For example, a fire which starts and escalates quickly that has the potential to impact the community would trigger the LDMG to move its operational activation level to be able to support QFES operations and manage the community consequences of the fire.

Another example may be a fire which has been burning for day(s), however an increase in fire danger for the following day indicates the fire may impact communities if the weather is realised. This may see a proactive operational activation level increase by the LDMG so that they are ready to react should this occur. For this reason, it is important that information sharing based on the matrix in Table 5 above is followed to ensure the best decision making.

Incident Levels

Disaster management groups may adjust their activation level (alert, lean forward, stand up) during a bushfire.

These groups have plans and arrangements in place which contribute to public safety within their community and are to be considered when conducting bushfire response operations.

Disaster management groups must be consulted with and provided with timely information when bushfires are occurring within their respective area. This approach may be undertaken through the positioning of liaison officers in operation/coordination centres or other arrangements, as determined by respective disaster management groups.[xi]

QFES classifies incidents by a numerical system based on severity. This applies to bushfires as per the QBP.

Appendix 1, table 5 shows the levels of incidents along with their characteristics and actions. This table has been adapted from the QBP for local use across the Rockhampton Region.

Activation of the LDMG is prescribed in the Activation LDMG Sub Plan.

Where the LDMG is activated when fires occur, it is likely the Rockhampton Region LDCC will also be stood up to operationalise their decisions. The likely functions of the LDCC are as follows:
- Public Information;
- Community Leadership and LDMG Operations;
- Evacuation Planning; and
- Recovery Planning.

QFES Incident Classification Levels

QFES will classify fires, incidents and other emergency/disaster situations based on the size, complexity, duration, the resources being used, and the incident management structure used to control and coordinate the event.

1. *Level 1 Incident* – usually involves the primary resources allocated to the incident, it is expected to be relatively short in duration and the officer on the first arriving unit will generally manage the incident to its conclusion. RRC resources, if required, may be requested through Customer Services.
2. *Level 2 Incident* – usually involves QFES resources from a broader area, other agencies will be involved in managing the incident, it is of an extended duration and may be more complex in nature. A (small) dedicated management team will be in place, sometimes on-site using a

dedicated and identified control vehicle or in a Control Centre either improvised or an established QFES location.

3. *Level 3 Incident* – is a multi-agency event, of long duration, covering a wider geographical area. The event is managed from a dedicated Control Centre using an Incident Management Team using the majority or all the AIIMS functions.

Public Information

Public information during bushfires is a shared responsibility between QFES and the LDMG. Appendix 1, table 6 describes the distinct roles and responsibilities between the two during bushfire operations.

Community Leadership and LDMG Operations

The focus of all leadership from both the ICC and LDCC should be anchored on the safety and best possible outcomes for the community. The more communication between the centres, the higher the probability of this aim being achieved.

The LDMG provides community leadership through the Chair (Mayor, RRC), which may take the form of community briefings, in conjunction with the LDMG, or other agencies such as QPWS&P and QFES, as they determine, to manage the community consequence of a bushfire. The LDCC has an Operations cell, which manages RRC resources in support of a bushfire operation. Plant such as bulldozers, graders and water carts are likely to be requested to assist. The LDCC also has the ability to work with neighbouring Councils through the Council-to-Council program to organise additional capability.

Further detail on the governance around the provision of this support is found in the RRC Administrative Policy – Fire Fighting and Emergency Assistance Policy.

The QBP states that some bushfires may result in the QDMA being enacted. Activation of these arrangements is not dependent on a disaster situation being declared and is determined by respective disaster management groups in accordance with their plans. In this case, QFES remains the primary agency for bushfire response and coordinates with those disaster management groups that have activated.

Disaster Declaration for a Bushfire Event

The declaration of a disaster situation is outlined in Part 4, Division 1 of the Disaster Management Act, 2003. It allows that:

- the DDC for a disaster district may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for the district, or a part of it; [xii] or
- The Minister and the Premier may declare a disaster situation for the State, or a part of the State[xiii].

In the event a disaster situation is declared, pursuant to the Disaster Management Act 2003, the relevant disaster management group is responsible for managing the bushfire event. QFES provides the firefighting capability to enable the disaster management group to effectively manage the event.[xiv]

It is important that the intent of this statement is clarified in this Sub Plan.

Where a disaster declaration is made, the change is reflected in the shift in responsibility for the event from QFES to the LDMG. This responsibility is the same as that which rests with the LDMG when a disaster is declared in response to a cyclone/flood/severe weather event. Within the bushfire context, visibly/practically there would be little change.

Whilst the LDMG is ultimately responsible for managing the event (bushfire), they will be reliant on the specialist skills, knowledge and equipment provided by other agencies such as QFES.[xv]

RRC Equipment and Resource Availability

The routine allocations and monitoring of RRC Civil Work Equipment is undertaken daily by:

- Supervisor Plant Hire, supported by two Plant Hire Administration Officers located at Dooley Street for Urban Civil Works Operations; and
- Rural Maintenance Supervisor at Gracemere.

RRC Plant and equipment can be located by their vehicle tracking system with the plant being contactable through the RRC radio network or the driver's personal mobile phone.

On days of forecasted Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger the Supervisor Plant Hire, (Dooley St) and the Rural Maintenance Supervisor at Gracemere will identify the order of availability, priority and locations of plant and equipment likely to be requested by QFES to assist with bush and grass fire operations. Equipment such as,

- Graders
- Water carts
- Front-end loaders
- Road closures signs and equipment
- Mobile electronic display boards.

The Supervisor Plant Hire, (Dooley St) and Rural Maintenance Supervisor at Gracemere, will also notify the driver/operator of their potential priority of deployment to assist QFES, i.e., first water cart to be sent. Where possible this notification will occur as early as practical preferrable the day before if not earlier.

Evacuation Planning

Planned Evacuation

Evacuations can be broadly divided into two categories, planned and emergent. Planned evacuations allow time to consider and document possible scenarios and to develop an agreed approach to the management and coordination of an evacuation, through consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. This approach provides an opportunity to mitigate the time and speed dynamics of a bushfire.[xvi]

In this phase, once again, information sharing is critical. The LDMG (Evacuation Planning Sub Group) is likely to require information such as:

- Time to impacted communities by bushfire;
- Intensity of impact;
- Entry or egress routes which may be compromised; and
- Predictive fire modelling to support information.

This information, where provided by QFES early, along with the other intelligence as prescribed in this Sub Plan will allow for a safe and efficient plan to be developed for communities. It is critical that a QFES Liaison Officer is in the LDCC during these phases to ensure this two-way transfer of information between QFES and the LDCC.

Rockhampton Region has a significant level of pre-planning which will be applied during these events. The Evacuation Sub Plan (2016) prescribes the governance arrangements for LDMG-led evacuations. This has been further localised to a bushfire and community context through the:

- LDMG Bushfire Evacuation Plan – Mount Archer (2020)
- LDMG Bushfire Evacuation Plan – Mount Morgan (2020).

Where it has been determined to affect an evacuation, the plans above must be conducted together between QFES and the LDCC to adjust to event specific requirements.

<u>Emergent Evacuation</u>

Emergent Evacuation is more likely on fires which start and spread quickly. This is why the LDMG considers its pre-planned operational structure proactively on days such as those with Catastrophic FDR, so they are in the best posture to make decisions to support QFES and Queensland Police Service (QPS).

The options for emergent evacuations in the event of a bushfire are as follows:

1. **In a bushfire response, where a disaster or emergency situation has not been declared**, the incident controller is responsible for making the decision to evacuate, pursuant to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*. Where possible, this decision should be made in consultation with other supporting agencies and the Rockhampton LDMG (where activated).
2. In the event that an emergency situation is declared pursuant to the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986*, the QPS Emergency Commander authorises any necessary evacuation in consultation with other supporting agencies and relevant DMGs (if activated).
3. **In the event that a disaster situation has been declared**, the DDC authorises any directed evacuations and exercises any statutory powers pursuant to the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, which are required to enable the evacuation, in consultation with the LDC of the relevant LDMG and other supporting agencies.[xvii]

The two highest risk areas to the Region from bushfire are Mount Archer and Mount Morgan. Both of the LDMG Bushfire Evacuation Plans for these areas include assembly points, places of refuge, and evacuation centre locations.

Recovery Planning

The transition to recovery for bushfires can be different to other hazards such as floods and cyclones. Community impact needs to be considered early, as bushfire is still a relatively new hazard for the Region in relation to the actual community impact. During bushfire operations, there could be extended time before the community can return, as it may not be safe from hazards until a number of agencies have responded.

Under this Sub Plan, the LDMG recovery arrangements, as outlined in the Recovery Sub Plan are activated early during the response phase to ensure that the process is managed well from the LDMG perspectives and achieves the best community outcome post bushfires.

Appendix 1 - Table 1 QFES BPL Levels and Actions (Source: QFES)

BPL	Staff & Agencies	Weight of Initial Attack*	Region Reporting	Resources Prepared	Community Warnings**	Fire Permits*	ICC	ROC	SOC
BPL Readiness Activities									
5	All staff and resources available for activation. QFES staff staged in known hot spots. LDMG and DDMG Liaison Officers identified and are ready to deploy or have already deployed to their identified area.	Strategic use of aircraft and ground resources underway using information/ guidance from PSU to potential areas of extreme risk.	Commander Regional Operations (CRO) report to SOC daily. Neighbouring Regions advised of activities and potential resourcing requirements/ areas of risk. Representative imbedded in LDMG and DDMG.	All resources activated and supported with interstate resources. Resources staged dependent upon PSU information. Earth moving machinery on standby.	Appropriate Community Warnings issued for all incidents.	Consider Declaring State of Fire Emergency.	ICC established and manned with appropriate staff and agencies. At identified times (or when required) report to ROC. Seven-day roster fixed.	Fully manned with appropriate staff and agencies. Roster enacted for 24/7 operations. At identified times (or when required) report to SOC. Seven-day roster fixed.	Manned and Activated. Interstate agencies considered. 24/7 roster enacted. Regular reporting to SDCC and QDMC. Assistance sought through the National Resource Sharing Centre. Seven-day roster fixed.
	Approval for Level 5 to be in consultation with the Commander State Operations								
4	Notify and activate relevant staff and agencies	Maximise initial response	ROC/SOC Liaison	Optimum resources staged where appropriate	Issue Community Warnings	Implement Fire Ban	Incident Controller to determine Level of Activation	CRO to determine Level of Activation	Stand Up
3	Notify relevant staff and agencies	Increase initial response	RM RFS Liaise with CRO	Additional resources verified	Contact key stakeholders and consider issuing general Community Advice and Warnings	Consider Local Fire Permit Restrictions or Local Fire Ban as appropriate	Incident Controller to determine Level of Activation	CRO to determine Level of Activation	Stand Up
2	Notify relevant staff	Normal response	Liaise through RM RFS	Additional resources identified	Provide general Community Safety information and advice	Ensure Adequate Fire Permit Conditions	Incident Controller to determine Level of Activation	CRO to determine Level of Activation	Commander State Operation (CSO) to determine
1	**Operational Readiness Baseline**								

Appendix 1 - Table 2: Fire Danger Index, Ratings and Likely Fire Behaviour

FIRE DANGER RATINGS

Fire danger ratings are used on days when there's a risk of fires and you need to take action. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions and the greater the consequences if a fire starts.

If you're in an area near bush or grasslands, you're in a bushfire risk area. Identify a safer location. A safer location may include an area well away from bushland. If you're in a remote area, consider going to a built-up area that may offer safety.

Fire Danger	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
Key Message	Plan and prepare.	Be ready to act.	Take action now to protect your life and property.	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.
Fire Behaviour	Most fires can be controlled.	Fires can be dangerous.	Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.	If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.
Supporting Messages	• Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.	• There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. • Decide what you will do if a fire starts. • If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.	• These are dangerous fire conditions. • Check your bushfire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready. • If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts. • Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas.	• These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. • Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. • Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. • Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave, and help may not be available.

Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings. Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity. Ensure any industrial or agricultural activities adhere to relevant industry guidelines. If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life. Do not wait for a warning.

Appendix 1 - Table 3 – Actions Taken upon receipt of Fire Dangers – QFES and LDMG

Fire Danger Rating	QFES Actions	LDMG Actions
Moderate	• As per agency plans	• Nil
High	• As per agency plans	• Nil
Extreme	• Notify LDMG (through Coordinator, Disaster Management) of any significant fires in the RRC area that have the potential to impact human life or property and forecasted conditions for the next day. • Consider a liaison model between QFES and the LDMG.	• Ensure LDCC readiness • Consider any potential consequences from existing fires. • Participate in QFES IMT planning meetings or briefings. • Depending on current fire activity, consider escalating LDCC activation level.
Catastrophic	• Notify LDMG (through Coordinator, Disaster Management) of any significant fires in the RRC area that have the potential to impact human life or property and forecasted conditions for the next day. • Establish a liaison model between QFES and the LDMG.	• Establish liaison with the QFES Incident Control Centre (ICC), if established, and where one is not, establish a liaison model for the day with the QFES LDMG Representative. • Consider messaging in line with the Communication Sub Plan, and the Mount Archer and Mount Morgan Bushfire Evacuation Plans, and any other locality specific planning conducted by the LDMG • Consider moving the LDCC to Lean Forward or Stand Up.

Appendix 1 - Table 3A

Internal RRC Notifications for Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Notifications or other Significant Fires. Notification to be completed by Coordinator Disaster Management or LDC		
LDMG members		RRC Airport Operations
LDCC staff		Mayor & Councillors
Identified RRC Liaison Officers		RRC Media/Communications
RRC Regional Services Managers, Engineers and Supervisors	RRC Parks Services (Community Services) Managers and Coordinators	LDMG Sub-Committee Members

Appendix 1 - Table 4 – QFES Notifications to LDMG based on FDR

Fire Danger	Notification of New Fires	Notification of Fires breaking containment lines which have potential to impact human life or property	Notification of FDR being declared (which is not forecasted in the 7-day action plan)	Notification of fires likely to impact communities	Notification of fires reaching Emergency Warning level
Moderate		☑		☑	☑
High		☑		☑	☑
Extreme	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Catastrophic	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

Appendix 1 - Table 5 – QFES Incident Levels, along with their actions and characteristics

Level	Actions and Characteristics (as defined by the QBP)	QFES Actions (as defined by the QBP, and adjusted by Central Region QFES)	LDMG Actions
1	A level 1 bushfire is able to be resolved through the use of local or initial resources, generally small in size, of short duration and poses minimal threat and impact to the general community.	Incident management is undertaken by the first arriving crew.	Nil. QFES requests through normal channels, i.e., Customer Service or After-Hours Supervisor or Leading Hand.
2	A level 2 bushfire is one which exceeds the capacity of the local area to respond and requires wider support for sustained operations. The duration of the fire may be several days or of a significant complexity due to its proximity to population or critical risks.	IMT is established within a Level 2 ICC, comprised of QFES and other stakeholders. ROC activation level is increased. Multi-agency response likely.	**Depending on the community consequence:** The LDMG may decide to move to ALERT or LEAN FORWARD. QFES provide briefings to Coordinator Disaster Management, RRC on potential community consequence. Identifies RRC Liaison Officer/s, deploys to QFES ICC as required.
3	A level 3 bushfire is one which exceeds the capacity of the local area to respond and requires significant support. There is the potential for multiple loss of life, significant impairment to infrastructure, and significant disruption to the economy. The duration of the fire may be for several days or weeks and requires a high concentration of resources.	IMT established within suitable Level 3 ICC, comprised of QFES and other stakeholders. Full multi-agency involvement. SDCC activation. Disaster management arrangements activated.	**Depending on the community consequence:** The LDMG may decide to move to LEAN FORWARD or STAND UP. Where the LDMG is moved to LEAN FORWARD or STAND UP, a QFES liaison officer is deployed to the LDCC to provide liaison between the LDCC and IMT. Identifies RRC Liaison Officer/s, deploys to QFES ICC as required.

Appendix 2 - Public Information roles and responsibilities – QFES and LDMG

QFES	LDMG
QFES is responsible for bushfire warnings. This includes composition and distribution of warnings. Bushfire management stakeholders and partner agencies are to refer community enquiries relating to bushfire warnings to QFES social media channels and website when sharing bushfire warnings. Bushfire warnings provide point-in-time information about a bushfire that is, or is expected to, impact a community. The information describes the impact and expected consequences and includes advice on what action should be taken by community members. These warnings are developed in accordance with the Public Information and Warnings Handbook. In Queensland three levels of warning are utilised. These levels are: **Advice**: A fire has started and there is no immediate danger, this is general information to keep you informed and up to date with developments. **Watch and Act**: There is a possible threat to lives and homes. Conditions are changing, you need to be aware of your situation and take action to prepare and protect yourself and your family. At this stage you will be asked to either prepare to leave or leave now. **Emergency Warning**: You are in danger as your area will be impacted by fire. You need to take immediate action to survive. You may be asked to leave immediately and seek shelter, or seek shelter immediately, if conditions have become too dangerous for you to leave. The decision to issue a bushfire warning is the responsibility of the incident controller. In circumstances where QFES is not the incident controller, QFES will enable the issuing of the required warning after consultation. **This decision may be made in consultation with relevant stakeholders. In the event that disaster management groups have been stood up, these groups must be informed of the imminent release of a bushfire warning to enable coordination between the firefighting response and broader disaster management operations.** When a disaster declaration has not been made, QFES is the authorising agency for Emergency Alerts. Further information regarding Emergency Alerts can be found at section 4.11.2 – Emergency Alert of the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (QSDMP).[xviii] In the case of imminent or severe threat to a specific Queensland community, an Emergency Alert (EA) may be issued (by QFES where there is no disaster declaration made, or by the LDC where a disaster declaration is made). Communication between the LDCC and the ICC is critical during times of community warnings to ensure that information is coordinated to the community by both organisations.	When a **disaster declaration has not been made**: • Sharing of information from trusted sources such as QFES (LO verbal advice or print to be disseminated). • Information on assembly areas, or evacuation planning. • Community Consequence information and relief and recovery information. **When a disaster declaration has been made, the public information** responsibility shifts to the Rockhampton LDMG.[xix] **In this setting, Bushfire Warnings will still be the responsibility of QFES, however the issuing of Emergency Alerts is the responsibility of the LDMG.** **In both cases, it is critical that the liaison model is robust so that prompt information sharing occurs, and the decision to release information is based on close consultation between QFES and the LDCC.**

Appendix 3 - RRC Liaison Officers

Content has been removed for public document.

Appendix 4 – Summary of Actions

On receiving a notification from QFES of:
- Developing bushfire/s situations which is drawing heavily on QFES resources and requests for RRC equipment are being made.
- Days when Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger has been forecasted and the QFES ICC has been stood up in preparation of this forecast.

The following RRC staff will take the following action:

Position	Action
Coordinator Disaster Management (Or delegate)	• Forwards the QFES notification by email to the contacts listed in Table 3A of this Plan. • Liaises with LDC on the state of readiness for the LDCC.
Manager Civil Operations (Or delegate)	• Identifies RRC Liaison Officer/s for QFES Level 2 and 3 Incidents and ensures these officers are resourced appropriately (mobile phone, vehicle, laptop etc). • Authorises the deployment of Council Plant and Operators in accordance with the Fire Fighting and Emergency Assistance Policy if required. • Ensure Supervisor - Plant Hire (Urban) has identified work location and order of priority release of this equipment should it be needed, and the operators of this equipment have been advised. • Ensure Rural Maintenance Supervisor (Gracemere) has identified the work location and order of priority release of this equipment should it be needed, and the operators of this equipment have been advised. • Determines the standby or on-call arrangements for out-of-business hours activations (evenings, weekends or public holidays).
Local Disaster Coordinator (Or delegate)	• Ensures QFES notification has been sent to RRC managers and departments, as per Table 3A. • Decides on state of readiness for LDCC and relevant staff are notified, and sufficient staff are available. • Identifies support staff for the RRC Liaison Officer ensuring they have access to Guardian IMS.
Supervisor - Plant Hire (Urban)	• Identifies work location and order of priority release of RRC equipment should it be needed. • Notifies the operators of this equipment of their order of priority.
Rural Maintenance Supervisor (Gracemere)	• Identifies work location and order of priority release of RRC equipment should it be needed. • Notifies the operators of this equipment of their order of priority.

Appendix 5 - RRC Resources

Content has been removed for public document.

References

i   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Response Functions, p. 42
ii   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Response Arrangements, p. 39
iii   Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System, 2017
iv   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Event Reporting, p. 44
v   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, State Capability, p. 35
vi   Queensland Government, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services PPRR Guideline, Disaster Coordination Centres p. 40
vii   Queensland Government, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services PPRR Guideline, Disaster Coordination Centres p. 40
viii   Queensland Government, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services PPRR Guideline, Disaster Coordination Centres p. 40-41
ix   Queensland Government, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services PPRR Guideline, Glossary p. 95
x   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Event Reporting, p. 44
xi   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Disaster Management Groups, p. 50
xii   Disaster Management Act, 2003 Part 4, Division 1, Subdivision 1, s 64
xiii   Disaster Management Act, 2003 Part 4, Division 1, Subdivision 2, s 69
xiv   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Public Safety, p. 39
xv   Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Official Advice, Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service (7th October 2020)
xvi   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Evacuation Planning, p. 33
xvii   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Evacuations, p. 49
xviii   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Public Safety, p. 48-49
xix   Queensland Government, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Public Safety, p. 49