

Wanda Kropp

From: QFES Correspondence
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 1:30 PM
To: QFES Commissioner Staff Officer
Cc: QFES Correspondence
Subject: 01155 - EBN - Operation Cool Burn 2021 & Future Direction
Attachments: 01155 - EBN.docx; Attachment 1 - Risk Assessment Methodology.docx; Attachment 2 - Commissioner's Intent.docx

Good afternoon

Please see the attached EBN for signature.

Kind Regards

Chantelle Marsh (Part time Monday to Thursday)

Senior Correspondence Officer

Executive, Ministerial and Corporate Services

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information





Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: John Bolger, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical **Urgent** **General**

Briefing note for approval Briefing note for information

MECS #: 01155-2021

File #: QFS/15845

To: Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

Subject: Operation Cool Burn 2021 and Future Direction

Date: 15/03/21

1. Background

- The annual Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 is due to commence on 1 April 2021.
- OCB was established in 2016 and has continued to lead and develop state-wide capabilities for improved bushfire mitigation planning, activities and reporting. The next step in this development is addressing contemporary needs of Queensland. It is proposed to enhance evidence-based decision making, recognise the year-round nature of bushfire mitigation and increase transparency of shared accountabilities with partners in 2021.

2. Issues

- The 2019 Black Summer fires and the severe 2018 and 2019 Queensland bushfire seasons have led to heightened community and political interest and concern about bushfire mitigation.
- OCB 2020 was highly successful with record numbers of completed mitigation activities with nearly 80% of all planned activities completed however it has been five years since the last major OCB changes and as such a review of OCB direction and methods has been undertaken.
- The major proposed changes to OCB will occur in three stages:
 1. A new Risk Assessment Methodology has been developed for OCB 2021 to help Area Fire Management Groups identify risks and prioritise mitigation activities (**Attachment 1**) consistent with the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework process and compatible with the Department of Environment and Science/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service risk assessment framework (currently nearing finalisation);
 2. From 31 August 2021, what would be the traditional end of OCB, the direction will be to transition to an annual mitigation program recognising the increasing length of bushfire seasons and mitigation activities which can be undertaken at any time; and
 3. The year-round program should then mature into a rolling program based upon landowner / land manager longer term strategies for management of fire prone areas. In effect, this year will see the end of a time-based OCB pre-bushfire.
- OCB may continue to exist in the future as a heightened period of mitigation activity to address priority emergent risks prior to the main bushfire season.
- The new Risk Assessment Methodology is supported by enhanced current fuel hazard information for the whole of state, a single dataset to identify buildings at risk, evidence-based mapping at a locality (sub-LGA) level and risk assessment tools to allow incorporation of local knowledge to adjust risk levels.

- The transition to the year-round approach has been recognised in the attached OCB 2021 draft Commissioner's Intent (**Attachment 2**) which notes the desired situation as at 31 August 2021 but also includes an intended future state.
- Whilst the OCB strategy of focussing on identified areas of highest risk to community (generally closest to the assets) has been supported by recent research (e.g. the Bushfire Recovery Report findings widely reported in New South Wales and Victorian press on 15 March 2021) the move to year-round programs will also include consideration of mitigation activities across the landscape which will allow a more complete approach to protecting all values and avoiding "Mega Fires".
- This transition will require increased partnership and accountability with land management agencies to facilitate a collaborative approach to mitigation data capture and a Working Group has been endorsed by the State Bushfire Committee to support this transition, review the Risk Assessment Methodology and establish agreed standard data to allow a consolidated common operating picture.
- A whole of QFES approach will be required to manage the significant information management adaptation required in this transition and an implementation plan will be developed with the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Advanced Capability Unit and QFES Geographic Information Systems as well as external partners.
- Once an annual program is established, a gradual change to a rolling program is envisaged however this will require significant change in some external partners capabilities and accountability.
- The overall strategic future direction of stages 2 and 3 was supported by the State Bushfire Committee at their inaugural meeting of 1 March 2021.
- The future direction of OCB and expanded annual mitigation program will be supported by the enhancement of bushfire mitigation capacity through the recently approved RFS 20 additional FTEs specifically for mitigation.

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with:
 - The State Bushfire Committee which concurs with the future direction and the establishment of a Working Group and
 - Brenton Phillips (Acting Manager, Hazard and Risk Emergency Management and Community Capability), and RFS State and regional representatives who concur with the OCB Risk Assessment Methodology.

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?

- N/A

5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- N/A

6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the *Human Rights Act 2019* been considered?

- This brief is compatible with QFES' obligations regarding the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA).

8. Funding

- Nil additional funding proposed (See note above regarding recently approved RFS bushfire mitigation enhancement).

9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- Yes.

10. Recommendation

- That you:
 - approve the direction being taken and the attached Commissioner's Intent (**Attachment 2**)
 - note the attached OCB risk assessment methodology and approve for release to SBC working group (**Attachment 1**)
 - consider advising the Minister of this matter.

Endorsed

Mike Wassing AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Greg Leach
COMMISSIONER

26/3/2021

/ /

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

Comments:



Bushfire Risk Assessment Methodology

Operation Cool Burn 2021

QFES RTI/20774



Table of Contents

SUMMARY	1
1. PURPOSE	3
2. RISK FRAMEWORK	4
Queensland’s Emergency Risk Management Framework	4
QPWS&P Bushfire Risk Management Framework	5
Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework	5
Bushfire Risk Model	6
3. IMPROVED SPATIAL DATA SETS	7
Overview	7
Community Elements at Risk	8
Bushfire Hazard: Overall Fuel Hazard Rating	10
Egress and Access Vulnerability	12
Community Function Vulnerability Rating	13
Exposure	14
Likelihood of fire arrival	15
4. RISK ANALYSIS PROCESS	16
Overview	16
Stage 1: Calculating Potential Impact at the Building Scale	17
Stage 2: Calculating Community Bushfire Risk	17
Stage 3: AFMG Adjustment of Bushfire Risk	19
5. DISCUSSION	20
6. CONCLUSIONS	20



QUEENSLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
 RTI FINAL RELEASE

Prepared by:	Robert Preston		
Contributors:	Simon Webster, Raymond Bott, Russell Stephens-Peacock, Paul Storrs, Neil Kelso		
		Date of review	New version number
Reviewed by:	Supt. James Haig, Exec Manager, Office of Bushfire Mitigation, RFS	16/03/2021	1.0
	Chief Supt. Tony Johnstone, Director Regional Coordination, RFS	19/03/2021	1.1
	AC John Bolger ASFM, Assistant Commissioner, RFS	26/03/2021	1.2
Authorised by:	DC Mike Wassing ASFM, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Management, Volunteerism & Community Resilience, QFES	26/03/2021	1.2



Summary

As the primary goal of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) is to mitigate the risk of bushfires to Queensland communities, it follows that mitigation activities should be geographically targeted to locations that are most at risk from bushfires. A rigorous process to identify the level of risk for different locations is also key to the prioritisation of mitigation activities to treat these risks.

With increasing interest in the identification of areas at risk from bushfires, QFES has developed an enhanced Bushfire Risk Methodology for OCB 2021 which incorporates improved spatial data sets and facilitate the addition of local knowledge in a structured way that is consistent with an accepted risk framework

The development of this enhanced methodology has also been informed by experience from QFES partners during Operation Cool Burn between 2016 to 2020, in line with principles of continuous improvement.

Within this context, core requirements of an enhanced risk assessment methodology are that it should:

- utilise relevant, reliable and up-to-date spatial data sets;
- credible and scientifically valid;
- transparent and accessible to all OCB stakeholders;
- relevant to the preparation of Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs) by Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) as required under the Queensland Bushfire Plan¹;
- repeatable and scalable from the buildings level through to risk-hotspots and recognised localities;
- encourage consistent application and enable valid comparison from one locality to another;
- readily interpreted and suited to the incorporation of local knowledge by AFMG members, and
- suitable for informing the prioritisation of mitigation actions.

This methodology has been implemented via the QFES Catalyst information management system and associated tools,

Some of the key elements of the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Methodology for OCB 2021 are:

- it is based on the Queensland Emergency Management Risk Management Framework (QERMF) which upholds international risk management standards championed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- the methodology has been applied through an enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model which reflects the combined effect of potential community impacts and the likelihood of fire arrival,
- it draws on several improved data sets to identify community elements at risk from bushfires including up-to-date mapping of buildings with a roof area of > 9 sq.m. (i.e. Geoscape Buildings);
- the identification of community elements at risk also relies on accepted mapping of the Bushfire Prone Area (2017);
- the methodology uses new simplified mapping of current bushfire hazard levels represented as 2020 Overall Fuel Hazard Rating (OFHR) which combines spatial information on fire

¹ <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/cdmp/Documents/QLD-Bushfire-Plan.pdf>



history, potential fuel load and vegetation type mapping using assumed fuel reaccumulation curves;

- hazard exposure to community elements at risk is estimated by calculating the average OFHR within 100m of buildings in the bushfire prone area,
- it also incorporates improved data sets to reflect community vulnerability using Geographic Information System (GIS) models and data regarding egress and access vulnerability, and community functional vulnerability,
- the Bushfire Risk Model has been applied to all buildings in the bushfire prone area and to all identified localities in Queensland using a repeatable formula applied using geospatial technologies;
- maps and tables listing calculated Bushfire Risk Ratings for all defined localities in Queensland and all LGAs have been generated and distributed to AFMGs to highlight geographical areas of greatest risk,
- tools have also been developed for use by AFMG members to access and adjust calculated risk components and risk ratings by incorporating local knowledge,
- statistical data on landscape fires incidents has also been made available to AFMGs to assist with estimation of the likelihood of fire arrival; and
- AFMGs are able to utilise the bushfire risk assessment framework and all associated data sets to also inform the identification of finer-scale community risk hotspots and mitigation activities to address those risks.

This bushfire risk assessment methodology has been made available to AFMG members across Queensland to underpin planning for OCB 2021 and the drafting of BRMPs to enable the reliable identification of localities and communities with greatest bushfire risk.

Experience gained through this process will help to inform further development and improvement of the bushfire risk assessment methodology and its implementation for future risk mitigation projects and programs.



1. Purpose

In recent years, Queensland and other States have experienced bushfires with wide-ranging and severe impacts to communities, infrastructure and the environment. These concerns are reflected in the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements report², otherwise known as the 'Bushfires Royal Commission'.

In view of these recent impacts and the potential for heightened bushfire conditions into the future, proactive efforts to mitigate bushfire risks continues to be of high importance at all levels of government and throughout Queensland communities.

As the primary goal of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) is to mitigate the risk of bushfires to Queensland communities, it follows that mitigation activities should be geographically targeted to locations at risk from bushfires. A rigorous process to identify the level of risk for different localities is also key to the prioritisation of mitigation activities to treat these risks.

With increasing interest in the identification of areas that are most at risk from bushfires, QFES has developed an enhanced Bushfire Risk Methodology for OCB 2021 which incorporates improved spatial data sets and facilitate the addition of local knowledge in a structured way that is consistent with an accepted risk framework

To ensure this enhanced methodology is aligned with current best practice, it draws from the Queensland Emergency Management Risk Management Framework (QERMF) which upholds international risk management standards championed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The development of this enhanced methodology has also been informed by experience from QFES partners during Operation Cool Burn between 2016 to 2020, in line with principles of continuous improvement.

Within this context, core requirements of an enhanced risk assessment methodology are that it should:

- utilise relevant, reliable and up-to-date spatial data sets;
- credible and scientifically valid;
- transparent and accessible to all OCB stakeholders;
- relevant to the preparation of Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs) by Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) as required under the Queensland Bushfire Plan³;
- repeatable and scalable from the buildings level through to risk-hotspots and recognised localities;
- encourage consistent application and enable valid comparison from one locality to another;
- readily interpreted and suited to the incorporation of local knowledge by AFMG members, and
- suitable for informing the prioritisation of mitigation actions.

² <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/royal-commission-national-natural-disaster-arrangements-report>

³ <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/cdmp/Documents/QLD-Bushfire-Plan.pdf>



2. Risk Framework

Queensland’s Emergency Risk Management Framework

This enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Methodology draws from Queensland’s Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF)⁴.

The QERMF establishes that the successful foundation for risk management lies in clearly identifying and understanding the level of exposure and vulnerability of a community and its assets against particular hazards. Accepted definitions of these key concepts are:

- Exposure – the elements within a given area that have been, or could be, subject to the impact of a particular hazard. Exposure is also sometimes referred to as the 'elements at risk'.
- Hazard – a source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.
- Vulnerability – the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard.

The fourth concept relevant to risk assessment is the likelihood of an event impacting the elements at risk. The accepted definition is:

- Likelihood – the chance of something happening whether defined, measured or determined objectively or subjectively, qualitatively or quantitatively and described using general terms or mathematically.

The combination of these factors allows estimation of the risk of impact to elements at risk, given the likelihood of the hazard and their vulnerability to the hazard.

- Risk - the likelihood (or probability) of loss of life, injury or destruction and damage from a disaster in a given period of time.

The QERMF presents a conceptual representation of how these factors are integrated (Figure 1).

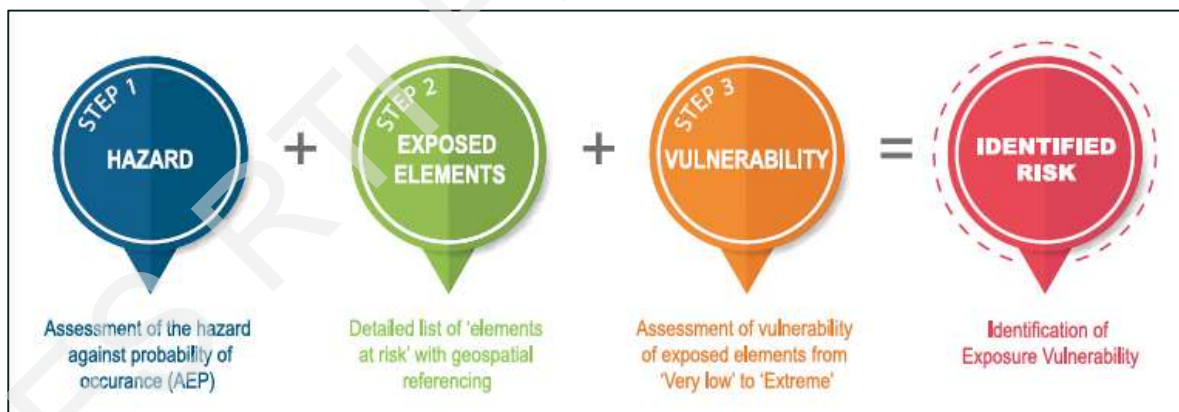


Figure 1. QERMF process for identifying risk

The QERMF risk assessment approach is applied using two key processes to firstly identify the risk, and then to assign the level of risk as represented in Figure 2.

⁴ <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmg/st/Documents/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf>

Process 1: Identifying risk	Process 2: Assigning level of risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the hazard Detail the exposed elements (elements at risk) Assess the vulnerability of these exposed elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the likelihood (using scenario modelling based on the past 50 years of historical data) Identify vulnerability (drawn from Process 1) Assess the consequence Develop Risk Statements (for identified risks) Assign level of risk, and response

Figure 2. QERMF Risk Assessment process

QPWS&P Bushfire Risk Management Framework

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) are also developing a Bushfire Risk Management Framework, which interprets the QERMF to identify and manage risks associated with unplanned bushfire events on the QPWS&P estate and surrounds.

This interpretation of the QERMF is required to address two key issues that distinguish bushfires from other natural disasters. The first is that the source of bushfire hazard (fuel) is vegetation, which is also an important environmental asset or value. Fire-prone ecosystems are therefore both the hazard source and an at-risk asset or value. The second issue is that while bushfire risk assessment considers the impact of bushfire on environmental assets and values, varying degrees of harm and loss can also arise for many environmental values if fire is excluded or the historical fire regime to which they are adapted is altered.

The proposed QPWS&P risk assessment framework has adopted the following definitions:

- Consequence - the potential consequence/s to identified at-risk assets/values arising from bushfires. This assessment considers the effect of existing risk controls. The potential consequence is a function of Hazard severity x Vulnerability x Exposure.
- Likelihood - the likelihood of potential bushfire consequences to identified at-risk assets/values, taking into account existing risk controls. Likelihood is calculated based on the historical potential of fire ignition and probability of fire reaching & impacting at-risk assets.
- Risk - a function of consequence and likelihood, using a qualitative risk level matrix. Risk levels can be determined as well as a 'risk score' (numbers in brackets) which allows for a greater degree of resolution in differentiating between risks at the same level, which can be useful during risk evaluation.

Of particular relevance is the proposal that all non-environmental assets assessed by this process with an extreme or high-risk rating are also to be notified to the relevant AFMG (and locality-specific FMG where applicable) for consideration of additional off-park risk controls.

Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework

Having regard to the purpose of OCB, the QERMF the QPWS&P Bushfire Risk Management Framework and the characteristics of bushfires compared to other natural hazards, this enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework has adopted the following definitions.

- Bushfire risk - the likelihood (or probability) of loss of life, injury or destruction and damage to community elements from a bushfire in a given period of time, taking into account the potential community impact and likelihood of fire arrival.
- Potential community impact – The potential effects to a community by way of the loss of life, injury or destruction and damages from a severe bushfire given the conditions of exposure, hazard, and vulnerability of community elements at risk.
- Bushfire hazard – the potential intensity of a bushfire that may cause harm or has the potential to cause loss as a result of factors affecting bushfire behaviour such as the quantity

and arrangement of available fuel, weather conditions, topography (slope) and the spatial pattern of fuel continuity.

- Vulnerability – the characteristics and circumstances of a building, community, system or other asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a bushfire including
 - (a) egress and access vulnerability that would affect options and timeliness of effective evacuation from an approaching bushfire or emergency attendance to assist with bushfire suppression, and
 - (b) functional vulnerability (including both social and economic vulnerabilities) that reflect the susceptibility of community elements at risk to damage or loss.
- Community elements at risk – buildings, other built assets, and its inhabitants, users, contents and other characteristics relevant to community functions (both social and economic).
- Exposure – the quantity of community elements at risk that have been, or could be, subject to the impact of a bushfire.
- Likelihood – the chance of fire arrival that would have an effect on community elements at risk.

This framework focussed on the direct threats to communities from bushfires that are applicable to the purpose of Operation Cool Burn. This framework also recognises that other elements at risk, such as agricultural crops or areas of high biodiversity value are also important considerations for owners of those assets when conducting bushfire risk assessment and the planning or conduct of actions to mitigate those risks.

Bushfire Risk Model

The Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework has been operationalised using a Bushfire Risk Assessment Model (Figure 3) to describe how estimated potential community impacts can be combined with an estimate of the likelihood of fire arrival to indicate different levels of bushfire risk.

This model is based on a system of ordinal ratings of risk components to ensure it is accessible to a wide array of AFMG stakeholders involved in OCB. Other more sophisticated risk models are often more reliant on a broader range of environmental, economic and social data sets.

Component 1. Potential Community Impact Assessment					Component 2. Bushfire Risk Assessment						
Rating	Potential Community Impact				Potential Community Impact	Likelihood of Fire Arrival					
	1. Overall Fuel Hazard	2. Vulnerability		3. Exposure		1 Rare	2 Unlikely	3 Possible	4 Likely	5 Almost certain	
	a Egress and Access	b. Community function									
1	Very low	Very low	Very low	Very low	1	Very low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
2	Low	Low	Low	Low	2	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
3	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	3	Moderate	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
4	High	High	High	High	4	High	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
5	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	5	Extreme	Medium	Medium	High	High	High

Figure 3. Enhanced Bushfire Risk Model

The first component of the Bushfire Risk Model estimates Potential Community Impact by combining the risk factors of Bushfire Hazard (represented by Overall Fuel Hazard), Egress and Access Vulnerability, Community Function Vulnerability and Exposure. The Potential Community Impact model estimates the combined effect of bushfire hazard, vulnerability and exposure using the below formula (Equation 1) which has been adapted from the QERMF risk matrix.



Equation 1. Potential Community Impact

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Potential Community Impact} \\
 &= \text{Average Overall Fuel Hazard} \times (0.5 \times \text{Egress and Access Vulnerability}) \\
 & \times (0.5 \times \text{Community Function Vulnerability}) \times \text{Exposure}
 \end{aligned}$$

This model estimates that Community Elements at Risk with low Vulnerability, low Exposure and a low Average Overall Fuel Hazard will have a low Potential Community Impact. Conversely, Community Elements at Risk with moderate or extreme ratings of each component will have a moderate to extreme Potential Community Impact.

The second component of the Bushfire Risk Model combines Potential Community Impact and the Likelihood of Fire Arrival using the below formula (Equation 2).

Equation 2. Bushfire Risk

$$\text{Bushfire Risk} = \text{Potential Community Impact} \times \text{Likelihood of Fire Arrival}$$

Community Elements at Risk that have a low Potential Community Impact and a rare or unlikely Likelihood of Fire Arrival would have a low Bushfire Risk. Similarly, Community Elements at Risk with a moderate to extreme Potential Community Impact and a possible to almost certain Likelihood of Fire Arrival would have a medium to high Bushfire Risk.

3. Improved spatial data sets

Overview

As the utility and reliability of the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model is contingent on the quality of spatial data sets, a focus for OCB 2021 is to ensure that spatial data sets are as relevant and as accurate as possible. Given the structure of the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, priority has been given to quantification of input variables which can be reliably calculated using available Geographic Information Systems data and geospatial technologies. A summary of spatial data sets which meet these criteria is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Spatial data sets used to provide measures of Bushfire Risk Components

Bushfire Risk Component	Measured by:	Spatial data sets
Community Elements at Risk	Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfire Prone Area (2017) Geoscape Buildings(2021)
Bushfire Hazard	Overall Fuel Hazard Rating (Average Rating within 100m of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire history (Jul 2020) Fuel Type Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk)
Vulnerability	Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating (Average score of points on State Road Network within 500m of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Digital Road Network Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk)
	Community Function Vulnerability Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland Land Use Mapping Program



Bushfire Risk Component	Measured by:	Spatial data sets
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert rating of Community Functional Rating Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk)
Exposure	Exposure rating of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk) Geoscape Buildings (area)
Likelihood of Fire Arrival	Average number of attended landscape fire incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QFES OMS data

Community Elements at Risk

As introduced above, identified Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area provides a useful and reliable spatial data source to indicate Community Elements at Risk from bushfires. While other data on asset locations are held and maintained by other state agencies, local governments, industry organisations and private landholders, it has not been feasible to integrate and rationalise these multiple data sets for OCB 2021.

As depicted in Figure 4, two data sets have been combined to identify community elements at risk, (otherwise referred to as Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area). These are (a) Geoscape Buildings (2021) and (b) Bushfire Prone Area (2017). The intersection of these data sets allows generation of BRMP maps and tables.

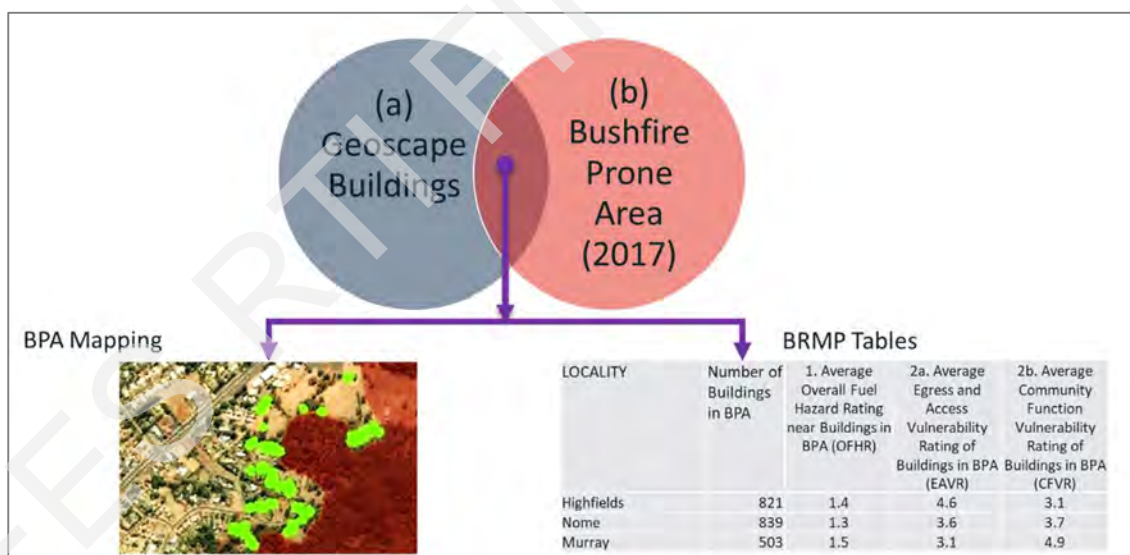


Figure 4. Approach for mapping Community Elements at Risk

Whilst Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) mapping⁵ was originally developed for land use planning and building purposes, it has a sound scientific underpinning due to its development by CSIRO bushfire researchers, and is extensively used by State agencies, local governments and industry bodies. Of relevance is that the mapping includes a 100m Potential Impact Buffer from the edge of potentially

⁵ See Leonard and Opie (2017)

<https://publications.csiro.au/publications/publication/Plcsi:EP167343>

hazardous vegetation (see Figure 5) which is sufficient to include up to 80% of potential housing loss and 80% of potential human life loss⁶.

While hazard classes used in BPA mapping (Very high, High, Medium) are relevant to land use planning decisions, these hazard classes have not been included in the bushfire risk assessment methodology because the BPA hazard classes assume a 2050 fire weather scenario and the hazard classes do not reflect any reductions of fuel due to fire or grazing.

The second data set used to identify Community Elements at Risk is sourced from the Geoscape Buildings data set⁷ supplied under license to QFES. The Geoscape Buildings data set is derived by interpretation of satellite and aerial imagery. This data set identifies buildings with a roof area of greater than 9 sq.m. regarded as “structures generally permanent in nature which has been constructed to meet specific objective (e.g. housing, storage, and workplace), and may include less permanent structures such as caravans and other portable housing”.

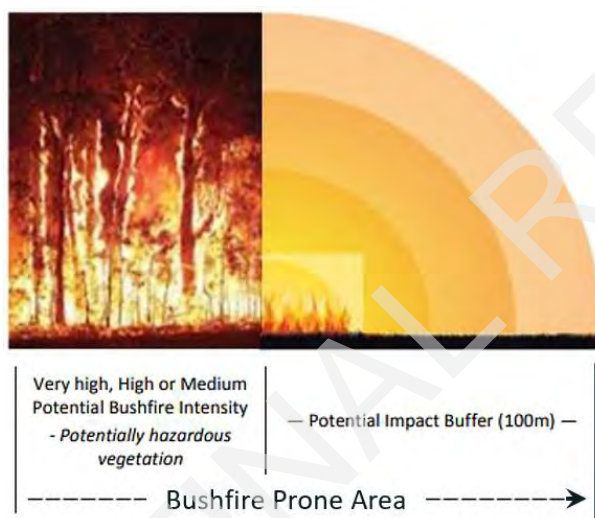


Figure 5. The Potential Impact Buffer forms part of the Bushfire Prone Area

As depicted in Figure 6, this data set delineates the outline of each roof, which enables measurement of basic geometric properties such as building area. In this example identified buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area are outlined in green. The extent of the Potential Impact Buffer and the Bushfire Prone Area are shown in yellow.

The consistent and accurate mapping of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area provides a solid foundation for identifying community elements at risk of bushfires to underpin application of this enhanced Risk Assessment Methodology. While this mapping includes a wide range of built infrastructure, such as water towers, an exhaustive check against all other built assets was not able to be completed for OCB 2021. Bushfire mitigation planning in future years will be able to incorporate and validate data sets representing a broader range of asset types. Local knowledge of asset types can also supplement mapped information used in risk analysis calculations.

⁶ Chen, K. and J. McAneney (2004). Quantifying bushfire penetration into urban areas in Australia. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* **31**(12): L12212.

⁷ <https://geoscape.com.au/data/buildings/>



Figure 6. Example of Geoscape Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area (incl 100m Potential Impact Buffer)

Bushfire Hazard: Overall Fuel Hazard Rating

Under the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model adopted for OCB, Bushfire Hazard is represented as the Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating (OFHR) within 100m of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area. While this measure does not take into account other factors that affect fire behaviour, such as slope and weather conditions, it is readily understood and is correlated with the likely severity of fire impacts. Another advantage of this measure is that it is omni-directional (i.e., independent of direction of fire arrival) and reflects mitigation efforts to manage reduce fuel within the immediate vicinity of the building.

Table 8.1 Determining the Overall Fuel Hazard Rating

1 Bark Hazard	2 Elevated Fine Fuel Hazard	3 Combined Surface and Near-surface Fine Fuel Hazard *				
		L	M	H	VH	E
Low or Moderate	L	L	M	M	H	H
	M	L	M	M	H	H
	H	L	M	H	VH	VH
	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH
High	E	E	E	E	E	E
	L	L	M	H	H	H
	M	L	M	H	H	H
	H	L	H	H	VH	VH
Very High or Extreme	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	E
	E	E	E	E	E	E
	L	L	VH	VH	VH	E
	M	M	VH	VH	E	E
	H	M	VH	E	E	E
	VH	E	E	E	E	E
	E	E	E	E	E	E
	E	E	E	E	E	E

Figure 7. Overall fuel hazard assessment guide

OFHR is best known as an output of the site-based fuel assessment process conducted using the Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment guide⁸. OFHR combines estimates of surface and near surface fine fuel hazard, elevated fine fuel hazard and bark hazard as depicted in Figure 7. OFHR provides an

⁸ https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/21110/Report-82-overall-fuel-assess-guide-4th-ed.pdf



indication of the probability of success of first attack suppression at a given forest fire danger index. The rating ranges from Extreme (5) to Low (1). Because the measure of Average OFHR with 100m of buildings reflects the percent of the area around the building in each OFHR class, as well as the rating itself, it also provides a good indication of the hazard exposure of the building. The combined effect of spatial and attribute properties of Average OFHR measure are demonstrated in Figure 8 and Table 2. In this diagram, the building in Example B has an average OFHR of 1.25 (Low-Mod) because 75% of the area around the building has a Low (1) OFHR and 25% of the remaining area has a Moderate OFHR (2). In example E the building has an average OFHR of 2 (Mod) because 100% of area surrounding the building has a Moderate OFHR of 2.

Improved mapped information from the QFES Predictive Services Unit used in this analysis has been derived from a number of mapping sources including Fuel Types and Fire History. OFHR mapping also incorporates data from field observations that reflects the potential fuel hazard associated with different vegetation types, as well as available information on fuel reduction activities and modelled fuel reaccumulation.

Table 2. Example of how percent of area within 100m of building (by OFHR class) affects Average OFHR

		Overall Fuel Hazard Rating					Average OFHR
		Low (1)	Moderate (2)	High (3)	Very High (4)	Extreme (5)	
Percent of area within 100m of building	Example						
	A	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	Low (1)
	B*	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%	Low-Mod (1.25)
	C	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	Low-Mod (1.5)
	D	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	Mod (2)
	E*	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	Mod (2)
	F	50%	0%	0%	0%	50%	High (3)
	G	25%	0%	0%	0%	75%	Very High (4)
G	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	Extreme (5)	

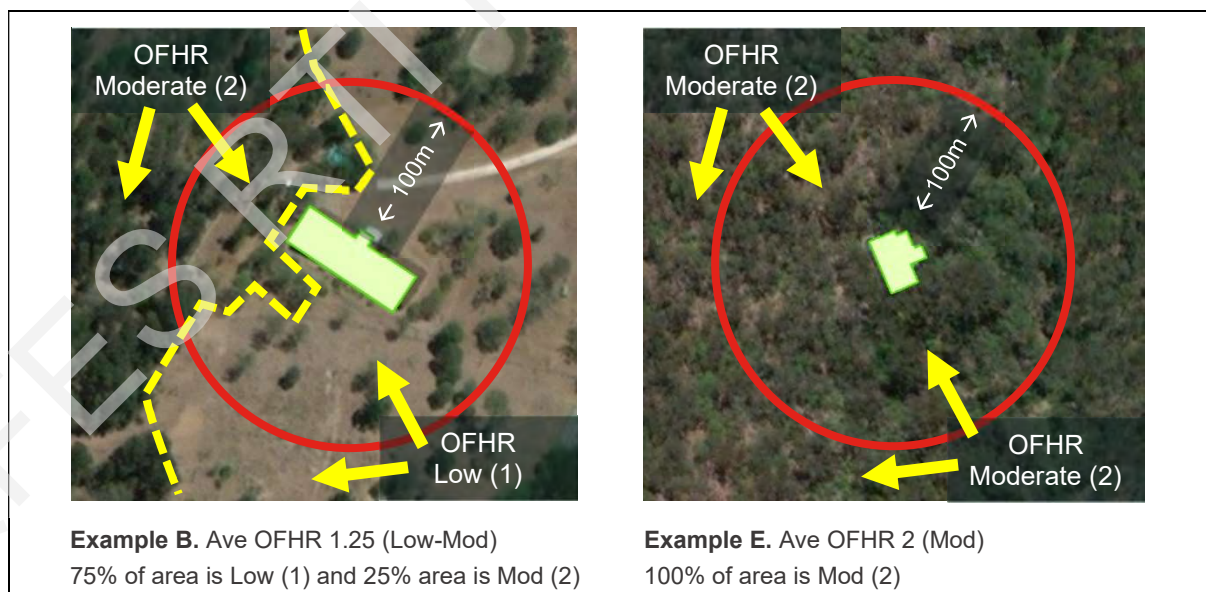


Figure 8. Example of how percent of area of each OFHR category surrounding the building and the OFHR class affect the Average OFHR

Mapping of OFHR has been developed for the whole of Queensland at scales relevant locality-based risk assessment and planning for by AFMGs. An example of OFHR mapping for the Cabarlah area, near Toowoomba, is provided in Figure 9.

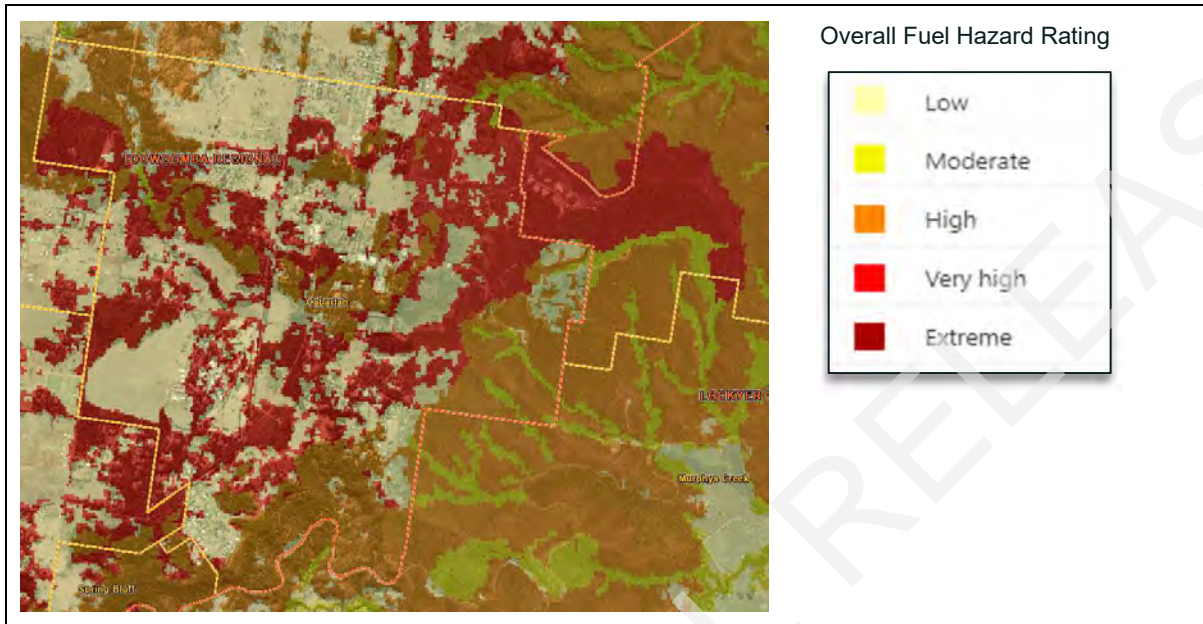


Figure 9. Overall Fuel Hazard Rating mapping for the Cabarlah area, Toowoomba

Egress and Access Vulnerability

As outlined in the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, egress and access vulnerability is also an important factor which contributes to estimation of potential community impacts.

The density of the public road network within 500m of buildings in the bushfire prone area has been calculated using geospatial models to derive an Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating by estimating the length of road in each road classification (1. Freeways/Motorways, 2. Highway, 3. Secondary Roads, 4. Local Connector Roads, 5. Street/Local) within each identified building. In this analysis each road segment is represented by equidistant points to allow efficient geoprocessing.

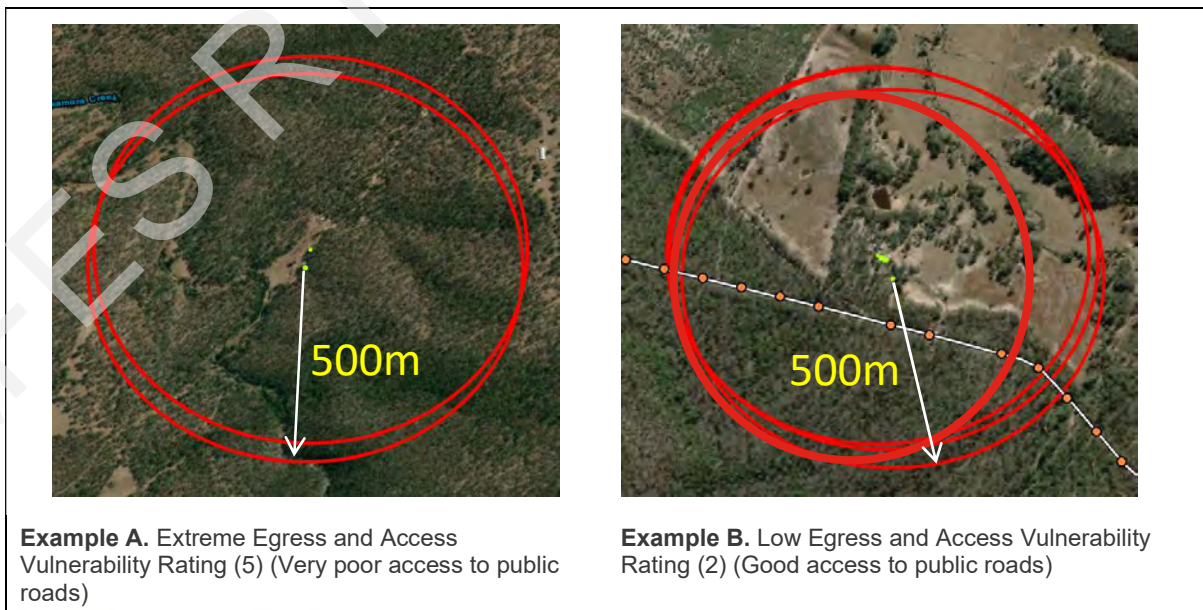


Figure 10. Example of Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating based on road network within 500m

Community Function Vulnerability Rating

As introduced in the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, the function of communities is susceptible to bushfire impacts such as the interruption to essential services, community services and business. These impacts may also include, for example, disruption to water supplies, electricity, education and health services, food services, accommodation, business and other economic services.

Queensland Land Use Mapping Program (QLUMP) mapping was combined with data showing Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area to generate estimates of Community Function Vulnerability, ranging from 1 (low) to 5 (extreme), as indicated in Table 3, Figure 11 and Figure 12. These ratings indicate the threat to life and property rather than environmental or cultural values.

Table 3. Community Function Vulnerability Rating for Buildings in different Land Use Categories

Vulnerability Rating	Community Function	Examples of Land Use Categories applied to Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area
5	Essential and public services	Airports/aerodromes
		Navigation and communication
		Public services
4	Industrial and commercial uses	Bulk grain storage
		Commercial services
		Manufacturing and industrial
4	Rural production	Cropping
		Dairy sheds and yards
		Grazing
3	Residential uses	Farm buildings/infrastructure
		Remote communities
		Rural residential with agriculture
2	Environmental uses	Habitat/species management area
		Marsh/wetland
		National park
1	Nil	Nil

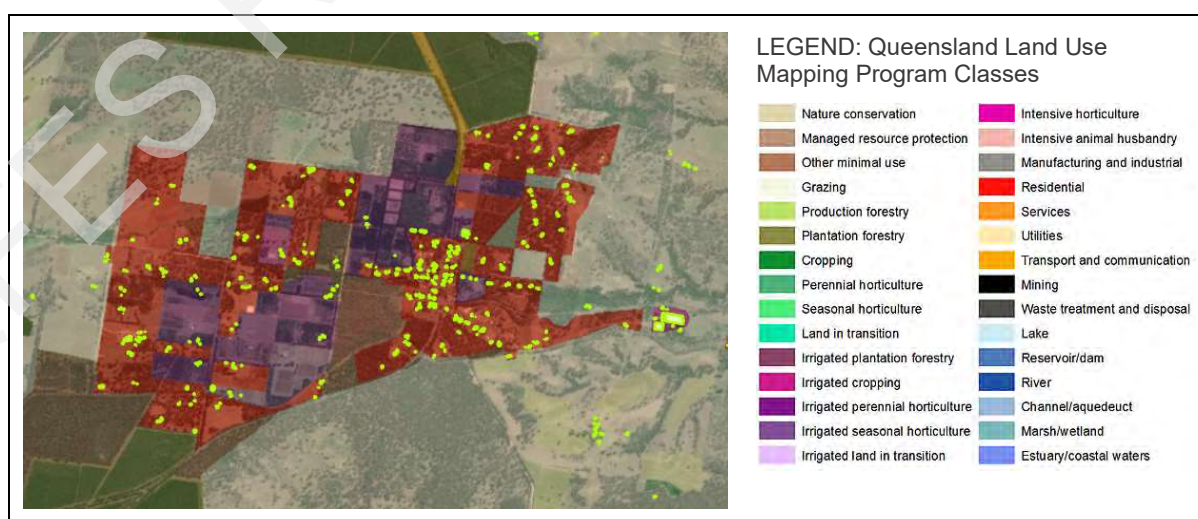


Figure 11. Land Use Mapping data used to estimate Community Function Vulnerability Rating

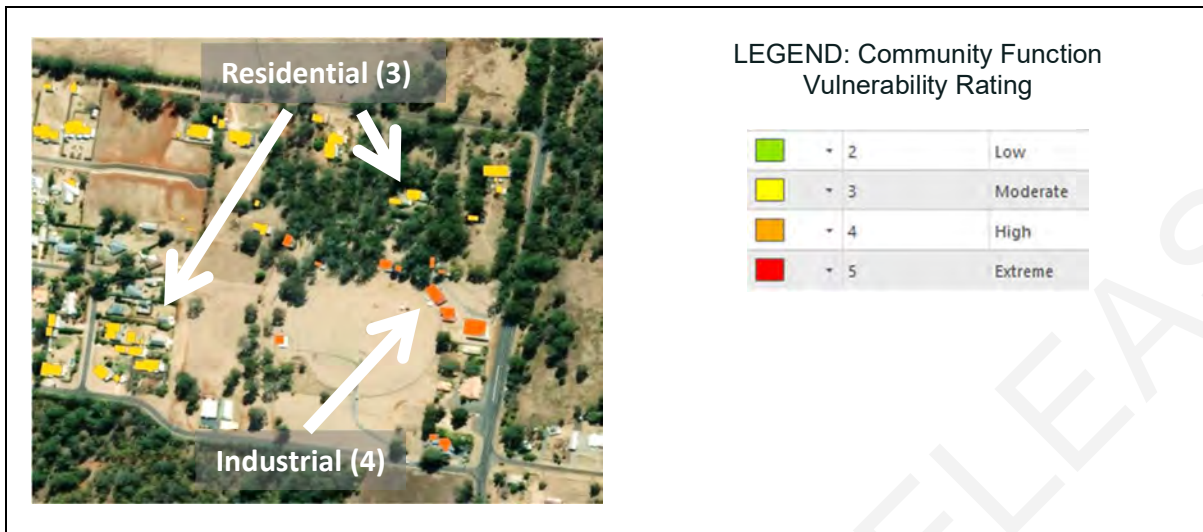


Figure 12. Community Function Vulnerability Rating applied to Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area

Exposure

As indicated in the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, exposure is a measure of the quantity of community elements at risk that have been, or could be, subject to the impact of a bushfire. For OCB 2021, exposure has been calculated as the number of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area, weighted by an Exposure Score represented by the size of the estimated roof area contributed by the Geoscape Buildings data set.

As depicted in Figure 13, very large buildings with a roof area of greater than 800 sq.m. (Exposure score 5) and other large buildings with a roof area of 301-800 sq.m (Exposure Score of 4) have higher community usage than buildings with a roof area of 61-300 sq.m. (exposure score 3), which includes most residential buildings. In this illustration, Example A illustrates a community with a high proportion of moderate size residential buildings with an exposure score of 3; and Example B illustrates a community with a high proportion of larger industrial buildings with an exposure score of 4 and 5.

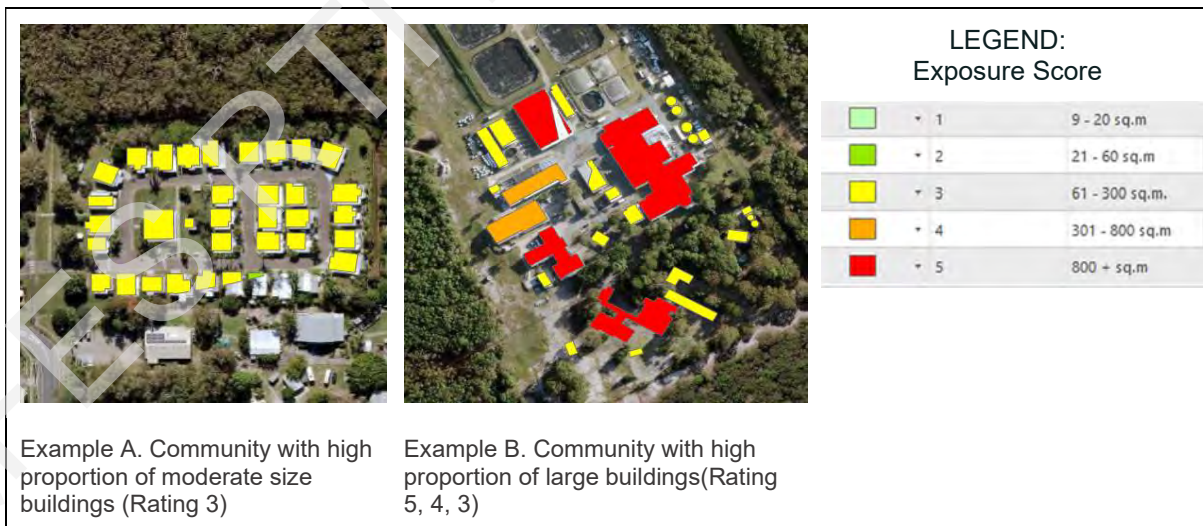


Figure 13. Exposure scores applied to Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area

Likelihood of fire arrival

As described in the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, the likelihood of fire arrival is also an important factor in determining bushfire risk. The QERMF likelihood rating scale (Table 4) has been adopted as the rating scale for estimating the likelihood of fire arrival.

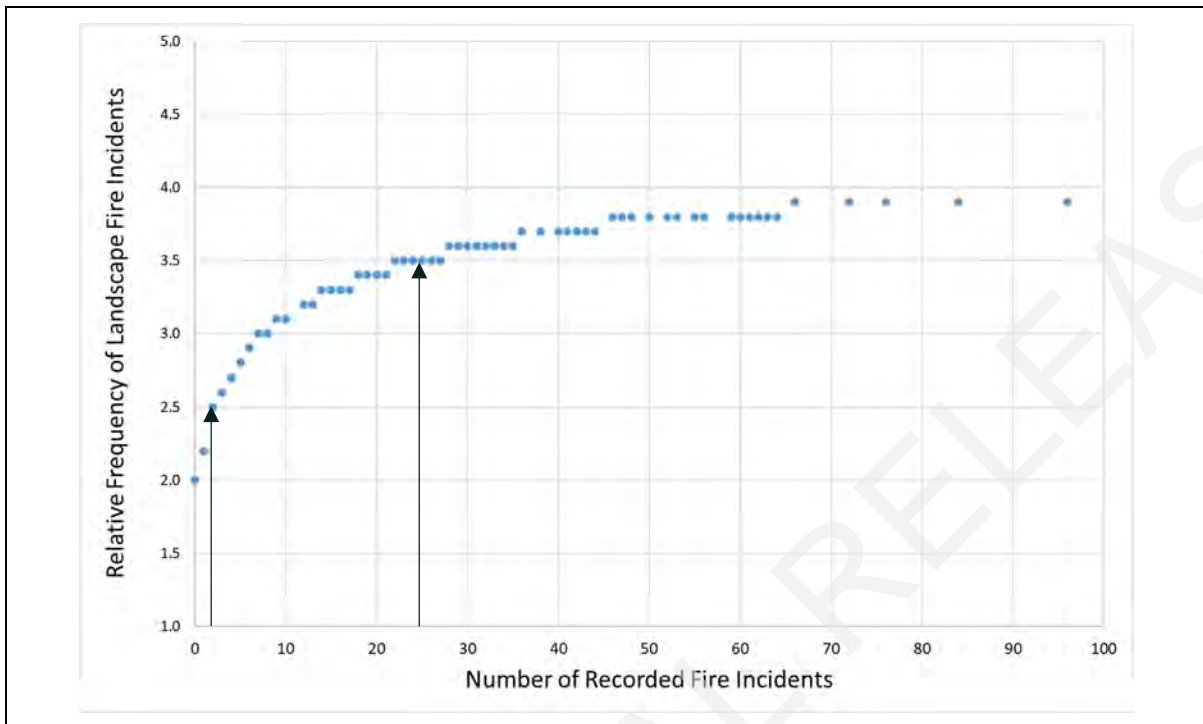
Table 4. Likelihood of fire arrival criteria (from QEFRMF likelihood table)

Historical Likelihood	Likelihood Rating	Definition
Has occurred 3 or more times in the last year or at least each year over the last 5 years	Almost Certain (5)	Almost certain to occur in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 5 years	Likely (4)	Likely chance of occurring in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 10 years	Possible (3)	Might occur in most cases
May occur, and has occurred once in the last 20 years	Unlikely (2)	Not expected to occur in most cases
May only occur in exceptional circumstances or has occurred only once in the last 50 years or more	Rare (1)	Will only occur in exceptional circumstances and has not occurred in most cases

QFES fire incident records from the Operational Management System (OMS) for the period 2012-2020 has been summarised to support local AFMG decision making regarding the likelihood of fire arrival. This information translates the number of recorded historic fire incidents into an index of the relative frequency of landscape fire incidents on a scale between 2 and 4. This index approximates the likelihood of fire arrival. While this data set may not represent all historic fire incidents it provides a consistent data set which can be validated in Stage 3 of the risk analysis process.

As illustrated in Figure 14, this model indicates that communities with less than 2 recorded landscape fire incidents would have a score of relative frequency of landscape fire incidents of 2.5, which would be equivalent to a Likelihood of Fire Arrival of between Unlikely (2) and Possible (3). Similarly, communities with 25 recorded landscape incidents would score a relative frequency of landscape fire incidents of 3.5. These estimates are able to be verified and adjusted by AFMGs to reflect local knowledge of historical and expected fire incidents.

Figure 14. Relationship between number of recorded fire incidents & relative frequency of fire incidents



4. Risk Analysis Process

Overview

These improved data sets have been applied using the enhanced Bushfire Risk Model in 3 process stages as depicted in Figure 15.

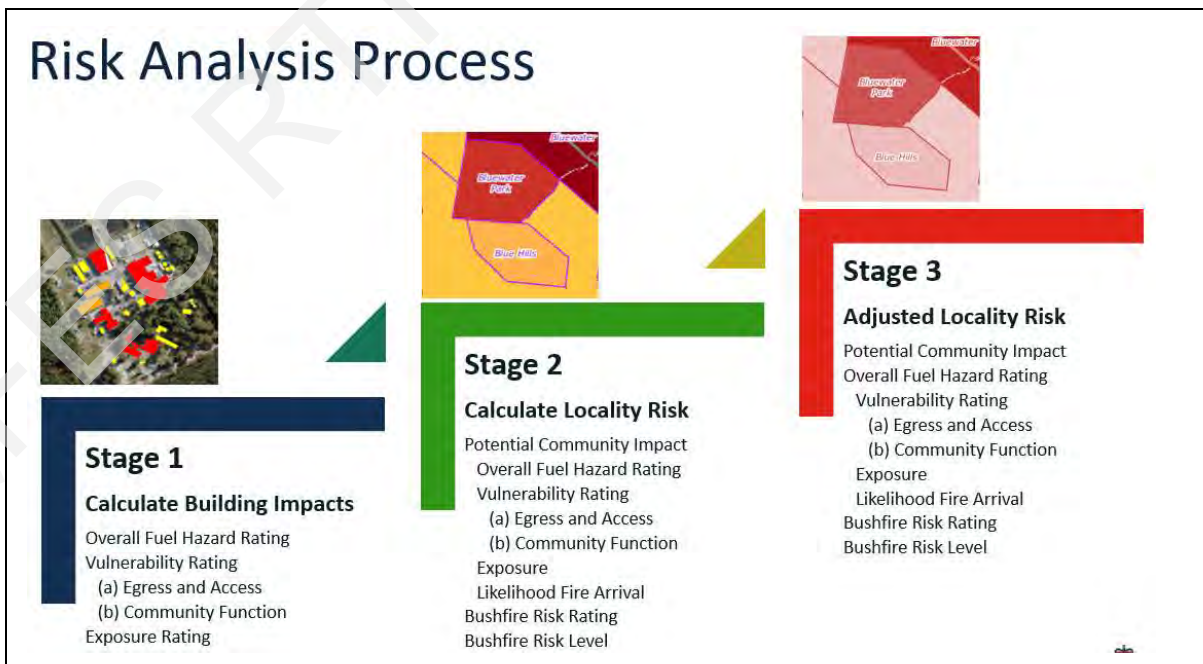


Figure 15. Bushfire risk analysis process

Stage 1: Calculating Potential Impact at the Building Scale

Stage 1 involves geospatial analysis to calculate the potential community impact for each Building in the Bushfire Prone Area as a combination of Overall Fuel Hazard Rating, Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating, Community Function Vulnerability Rating and Building Exposure Score. Geospatial analysis was conducted for all Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area.

As depicted in Figure 16, larger buildings with essential community functions and a high average OFHR due to their close proximity to hazardous vegetation are estimated to have a higher potential community impact than small buildings with low community functional vulnerability and a low average OFHR due to high separation from potentially hazardous vegetation. In this example the water tank to the right of the diagram has a higher impact rating compared to adjacent buildings because of its size and higher exposure.

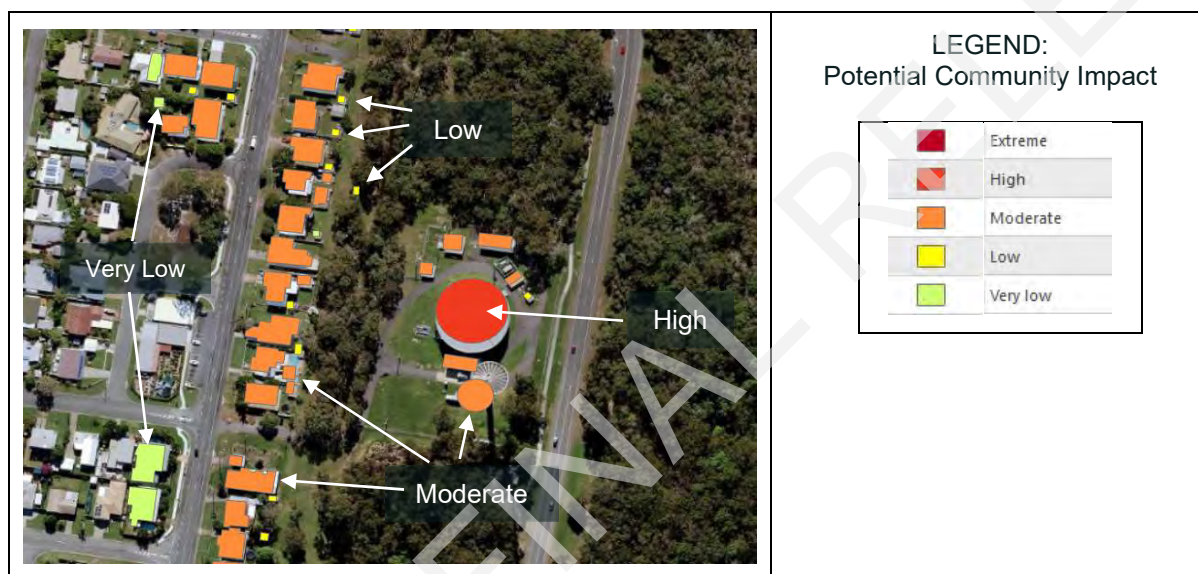


Figure 16. Example of Calculated Potential Building Impact

This analysis was applied to all Community Elements at Risk using data sets and equations described in sections 2 and 3 of this report.

Stage 2: Calculating Community Bushfire Risk

In view of the many thousands of individual community elements at risk from bushfires and the need to enable AFMGs to incorporate local knowledge into the risk analysis process, building-scale data on calculated community impacts and all other risk elements has been summarised for all identified localities and multiplied by an assumed Likelihood of Fire Arrival of 3 (Possible) as set out in Equation 2 above. This calculated risk score was then normalised to a scale between from 1 (low) to 20 (high), referred to as the Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating, for all identified localities in Queensland.

To further simplify application of this model and improve application to AFMG members, localities with Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of 20 have been allocated a Calculated Risk Level of High, localities with a Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of 19 to 10 have been allocated a Calculated Risk Level of Medium, and localities with a Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of less than 10 have been allocated a Calculated Risk Level of Low.

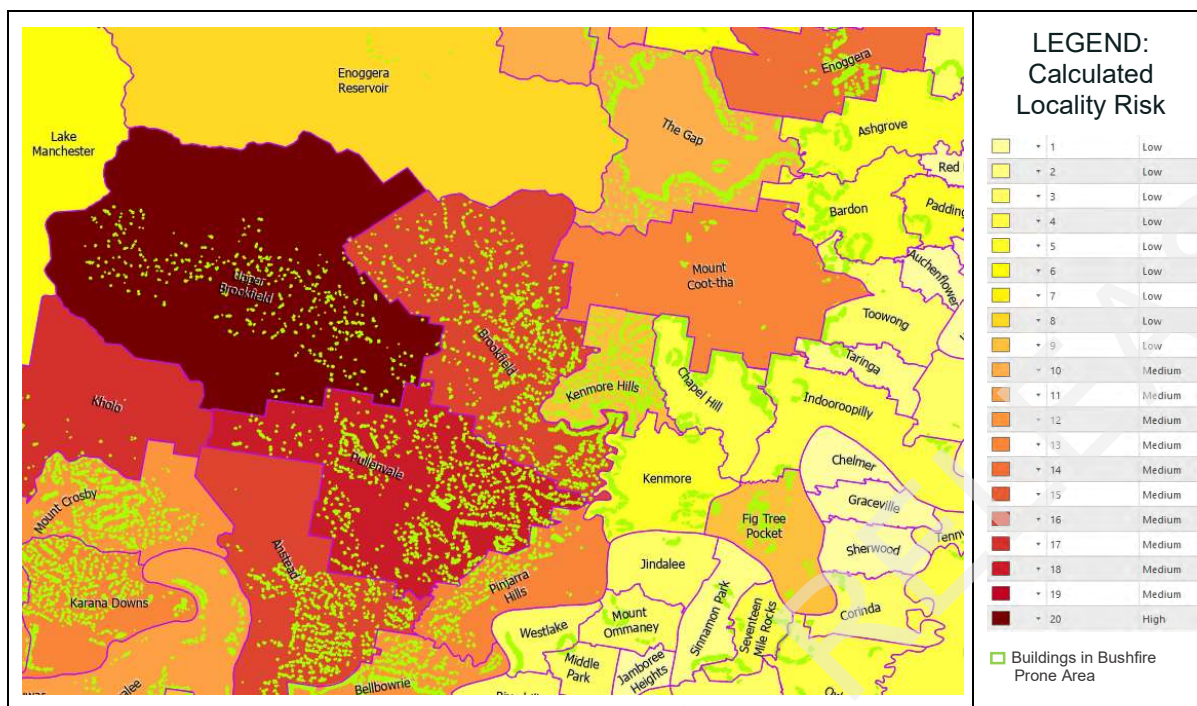


Figure 17. Example of Calculated Bushfire Risk by Locality

As depicted in Figure 17, the locality of Upper Brookfield is estimated to have a High Calculated Bushfire Risk Level with a Calculated Risk Rating of 20. Adjoining localities such as Pullenvale have a Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of 18 (Medium). Other localities with lower bushfire exposure such as Graceville have been calculated to have a Bushfire Risk Rating of between 1 and 9 (Low).

The Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating for all localities in each of Queensland’s LGAs has been prepared in tabular format for use in BRMPs, as illustrated in Table 5. This table shows two of the calculated high-risk localities Brisbane – Upper Brookfield and Burbank. Both of these localities have a relatively high scores for Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating, Egress and Access Vulnerability, Community Function Vulnerability and Exposure.

In these calculations the Likelihood of Fire Arrival is assumed to have a value of 3 (Possible) because of limitations in direct application of historic landscape fire incident data for OCB 2021.

Table 5. Example of Calculated Bushfire Risk by Locality - Brisbane

Community Elements at Risk		Potential Community Impact				Likelihood of Fire Arrival	Bushfire Risk	
LOCALITY	Buildings in BPA	Overall Fuel Hazard	Egress and Access Vulnerability	Community Function Vulnerability	Exposure		Calculated Risk Rating	6. Calculated Risk Level
Upper Brookfield	697	2.6	3.8	3.0	4.7	3	20	High
Burbank	1249	2.5	3.1	3.1	4.9	3	20	High
Pullenvale	1389	2.1	2.9	3.1	4.9	3	18	Medium
Kholo	401	2.0	3.2	3.2	4.4	3	17	Medium
Ransome	297	2.2	3.2	3.0	4.1	3	17	Medium
Cowan Cowan	67	1.5	5.0	4.0	2.7	3	16	Medium
Koorngal	221	1.6	3.3	4.0	3.8	3	16	Medium
Brookfield	1406	1.9	2.6	3.2	4.9	3	16	Medium

Stage 3: AFMG Adjustment of Bushfire Risk

As available spatial data sets may not accurately reflect current local conditions, AFMG members are able to incorporate local knowledge to adjust estimated risk factors including Overall Fuel Hazard Rating and Likelihood of Fire Arrival to determine an adjusted risk rating.

AFMG members are able to amend calculated risk estimates where there is good agreement and high certainty that these ratings are inconsistent with local observations.

Circumstances where local knowledge should be applied to adjust the calculated risk assessment include:

- where the effects of fire, grazing or slashing in the proximity of community elements at risk on Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating is not reflected by the calculated Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating,
- where access from buildings to public roads is not accurately reflected by the calculated Egress or Access Vulnerability Rating,
- where a community's buildings have structural properties or functional characteristics which are not reflected by the calculated Community Function Rating, or
- where local evidence of the likelihood of fire arrival is markedly different to the assumed Likelihood of Fire Arrival value of 3 (Possible).

As a guideline, components such as Overall Fuel Hazard Rating, Egress or Access Vulnerability Rating or Community Function Rating may be adjusted by up to 50% (e.g., 2.0 Moderate > 1.0 Low) to reflect local knowledge of AFMG members. Similarly, the Likelihood of Fire Arrival may be adjusted by up to 2 units (e.g., 3.0 > 1.0) to reflect local knowledge of AFMG members.

The evidence and rationale for any adjustments should also be recorded as per the example in Figure 18. In this theoretical example for the Toowoomba LGA, the Overall Fuel Hazard Rating has been adjusted by from 2.0 to 1.5 to reflect a reduction in available fuel as a result of grazing which is not reflected in Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating. This has the effect of changing the Adjusted Risk Rating from 20 (High) to 17 (Medium).

Figure 18. Example of AFMG adjustment of calculated risk components

LOCALITY	Buildings in BPA	Potential Community Impact					4. Adjusted Likelihood of Fire Arrival	5. Adjusted Risk Rating	6. Adjusted Risk Level	AFMG Comments on adjustments
		1. Adjusted Overall Fuel Hazard	2a. Adjusted Egress and Access Vulnerability	2b. Adjusted Community Function Vulnerability	3. Exposure	Potential Community Impact Rating				
Ravensbourne	716	2.5	3.2	3.7	4.6	5.0	3.8	20	High	
Condamine Farms	99	2.5	4.4	4.0	2.9	4.9	3.4	20	High	
Wattle Ridge	67	2.8	4.5	4.0	2.6	4.9	3.2	20	High	
Captains Mountain	280	1.8	4.4	3.6	4.0	4.8	3.5	20	High	
Cabarlah	846	2.5	2.6	3.4	4.8	4.7	3.8	20	High	
Geham	491	2.0	3.6	3.7	4.4	4.9	3.3	20	High	

LOCALITY	Buildings in BPA	Potential Community Impact					4. Adjusted Likelihood of Fire Arrival	5. Adjusted Risk Rating	6. Adjusted Risk Level	AFMG Comments on adjustments
		1. Adjusted Overall Fuel Hazard	2a. Adjusted Egress and Access Vulnerability	2b. Adjusted Community Function Vulnerability	3. Exposure	Potential Community Impact Rating				
Ravensbourne	716	2.5	3.2	3.7	4.6	5.0	3.8	20	High	
Condamine Farms	99	2.5	4.4	4.0	2.9	4.9	3.4	20	High	
Wattle Ridge	67	2.8	4.5	4.0	2.6	4.9	3.2	20	High	
Captains Mountain	280	1.8	4.4	3.6	4.0	4.8	3.5	20	High	
Cabarlah	846	2.5	2.6	3.4	4.8	4.7	3.8	20	High	
Geham	491	1.5	3.6	3.7	4.4	4.3	3.3	17	Medium	Fuel Hazard 25% lower because of recent grazing

UNADJUSTED

ADJUSTED



5. Discussion

The introduction of a structured approach to bushfire risk assessment using geospatial data sets combined in a risk model provides an opportunity for increased reliability and transparency in the identification of at-risk communities, and the prioritisation of bushfire mitigation activities.

The use of explicit risk variables including measures of hazard, vulnerability, exposure and likelihood adds to the completeness of the risk assessment process, as a solid foundation towards understanding the complex and dynamic nature of bushfire risk across the landscape.

One of the greatest innovations of this improved approach is the mapping and explicit consideration of Overall Fuel Hazard Rating and its intersection with identified Community Elements at Risk.

While the data sets and the enhanced risk model do not include all factors that determine bushfire risk to communities, the adoption of an accepted risk framework and introduction of a new tool set to AFMGs improves the opportunity for greater validation of risk variables and increased local ownership of decision making.

Wide adoption and use of these data sets and models to AFMG members across Queensland will also help to enable increased scrutiny and ultimately increased reliability in identification of at-risk localities and treatments to mitigate these risks.

6. Conclusions

This enhanced bushfire risk assessment methodology has been developed for use by AFMGs across Queensland to underpin the preparation of BRMPs, and to improve the reliability, validity and confidence in the identification of localities and communities with greatest bushfire risk. Experience gained through this process will help to improve mitigation outcomes for OCB 2021, and will inform further development and implementation of bushfire risk methodologies for future applications.

Commissioner's Intent

CI002.1.0

Effective Date: 22/11/19

CI xxxxx

Effective Date: ??/??/21

Operation Cool Burn 2021

Operation Cool Burn 2021 is an operational period focussed on identifying high priority bushfire risk locations, planning and undertaking mitigation activities designed to improve community safety prior to the 2021 bushfire season. It will commence on 1 April 2021 and transition to year round activities commencing 31 August 2021.

Mission

Through Operation Cool Burn 2021, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners will mitigate the risk of bushfire impacts to communities in identified areas by planning and coordinating activities that reduce bushfire risks, including hazard reduction, constructing or maintaining firebreaks and fire trails, and Informing the community so that they can undertake preparations to reduce their risk.

Principles

Queensland experiences bushfires that can have wide-ranging significant impacts to communities, industries and the environment. Recent bushfire events in Queensland and nationally have raised the awareness in all levels of government and the community of the importance of mitigating bushfire risks.

The severe bushfire weather patterns of recent years can be expected to continue and proactive efforts to mitigate bushfire risks are critical to protecting the Queensland community. The design and implementation of regional strategies to achieve the OCB 2021 mission objective will be guided by principles of the Queensland Bushfire Plan (<https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/cdmp/Pages/default.aspx>) and drawn from recent bushfire related reviews including the 2019 review of Queensland Bushfires by the Inspector General of Emergency Management.

Method

We will work with partners and stakeholders to:

- Utilise Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) as the primary mechanism for the coordination of bushfire mitigation activities across Queensland by;
 - Engaging LDMG representatives and all key stakeholders in AFMG meetings and throughout the OCB 2021 process.
 - Identify priority local government areas (LGA) where Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans BRMPs are to be prepared.
 - Use both formal evidence and local knowledge of partners and stakeholders to identify high-risk localities, high-risk hotspots
 - Collaborate with all AFMG members to plan mitigation actions to address risks in high-risk localities, high-risk hotspots within each identified LGA
 - Encourage the use of varied mitigation activities to suit the local environment and community including Hazard Reduction, Community Engagement, Fire break and fire trail construction and upgrading
 - Encouraging the use of Cultural Burning practices where appropriate.
 - Working with AFMG partners to capture completion data for mitigation activities.
 - Adopt a coordinated approach to messaging across communities to encourage broad community preparation.



- Assess bushfire risk prior to the bushfire season commencing for all localities in identified Local Government Areas to inform preparedness and response planning for the season itself.

Key Milestones

30 March 2021	Preliminary OCB Videoconference
31 April 2021	BRMPs completed for all LGAs with identified high risk
31 May 2021	Prepare an interim report on Operation Cool Burn 2021 including priority LGAs, high risk localities and high-risk hot spots and activities planned
31 August 2021	Final Fortnightly Videoconference
7 September 2020	Provide an annex to all BRMPs, indicating planned activities, completed activities and assessment of remaining risk at the end of the reporting period to the Chair of appropriate LDMGs, AFMG members and the Office of Bushfire Mitigation
30 September 2020	Provide an end of Operation Cool Burn 2021 to commencement of the bushfire season transitional report, showing completed mitigation actions and residual risks for all identified LGAs.
Ongoing	Continue work with partners to capture completion of OCB mitigation activities as part of a transition to a year round bushfire mitigation program.

Reporting items for OCB 2021

Reporting items will be captured through a dashboard and through completion of the fortnightly regional reporting templates with verbal updates by exception. Standard reporting items will include;

1. The number, dates and names of AFMG meetings convened, the number of attendees, and any success or challenges encountered.
2. The number and names of LGAs where BRMPs are to be completed, and the status of each BRMP including communication with LDMGs and submission of BRMPs to LDMGs
3. The number of high-risk localities and priority hotspots identified at AFMGs, and names of key localities of interest by exception.
4. Progress on completion of planned mitigation activities by activity type being
 - a) hazard reduction burns.
 - b) firebreak or fire trail construction or upgrade activities.
 - c) community education and engagement activities.
 - d) substitution of planned mitigation activities
5. Regional strategies to engage with stakeholders and support achievement of OCB mission objectives.
6. RFS State Office will also work with QFES media to capture mainstream and social media community education activities for targeted localities and the broader community.

State at 31 August

By 31 August 2021:

- Identified high risk communities will be more resilient to the potential impacts of bushfires
- All key partners and stakeholders will have actively participated in the AFMG process.
- BRMPs will be completed to a high standard for all priority LGAs and provided to LDMGs
- Identified mitigation activities will be delivered in collaboration with our partners and through a whole of QFES approach.

- Assessment of identified priority areas following mitigation activities to inform risk assessments and preparedness and response planning for the 2021 bushfire season.
- QFES will have met government and community expectations of OCB 2021.

Future State

At the end of the Operation Coolburn reporting period for 2021 all reporting systems to remain open to allow for the transition to wholistic 365 days a year, whole of landscape reporting to commence at the end of the 2021 / 2022 bushfire season in line with QFES, partner and community expectations.

Implementation

Regional Assistant Commissioners and Regional Management Teams, the Assistant Commissioner RFS, the Office of Bushfire Mitigation, the Assistant Commissioner EMCC and the State Operations Centre (SOC) will collectively manage and support achievement of OCB 2020 Mission Objectives and End State as per the OCB2021 Implementation Strategy (Attachment A).

Greg Leach
Commissioner

Attachments

- Attachment A – OCB 2021 QFES Implementation Strategy
- Attachment B – Fortnightly Video Conference and Key Milestones.



Licence URL: [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Please give attribution to © State of Queensland ([Queensland Fire and Emergency Services](https://www.qld.gov.au/)) 2018

XXXXXXXX

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 3 of 4

This document is maintained in electronic form. The approved version of this document is located on the QFES Gateway and is uncontrolled when printed. It is the responsibility of the user to verify this copy is the latest version.

RTH/20774 Page 30

Attachment A – OCB2021 QFES Implementation Strategy

QFES streams will collectively manage and support achievement of OCB 2021 Mission Objectives and desired outcomes including:

Regional Assistant Commissioners and Regional Management Teams will:

- Determine and plan optimal strategies to implement the Commissioner's Intent for OCB 2021,
- Enable the timely completion of BRMPs for priority LGAs, and
- Ensure support and appropriate input and participation at AFMG meetings occurs.

The Regional Manager (RFS) will:

- Ensure that AFMG are fully functional.
- Utilise the Regional Bushfire Committees to address any issues forwarded from AFMGs.
- Ensure necessary Regional RFS resources are allocated to meet Regional commitments.

RFS Area Directors (supported by Bushfire Safety Officers and regional bushfire mitigation staff) will:

- Chair AFMG meetings in accordance with AFMG Terms of Reference,
- Lead preparation of BRMPs and the BRMP Annex for priority LGAs in accordance with the Operational Cool Burn 2021 – BRMP template,
- Facilitate AFMG processes to identify high-risk localities, hotspots and planned mitigation activities
- Ensure that completed mitigation activities are recorded, and
- Assess bushfire risk prior to the bushfire season commencing for all localities in identified Local Government Areas to inform preparedness and response planning for the season itself.

The Assistant Commissioner RFS and the Executive Managers of the Office of Bushfire Mitigation will:

- Support Regions to conduct AFMG meetings, prepare Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans,
- Compile regular State Reports for OCB 2021 to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services,
- Determine and implement additional policy needed to support OCB 2021, and
- Liaise with any partner agencies in the State Bushfire Committee where escalation beyond the regional level is required.

The Assistant Commissioner EMCC will

- Support Regions to conduct OCB 2021 planning by providing necessary information and tools to undertake evidence-based identification of bushfire risks, planning of mitigation activities and the evaluation of residual risk, develop and maintain the BRMP template and reporting tools, and conduct and provide predictive analysis for identified project areas.

The State Operations Centre (SOC) will

- Facilitate a fortnightly video conference hosted by the SOC Coordinator and Chaired by the Assistant Commissioner RFS or senior delegate for Assistant Commissioners of Regions or delegates to deliver a combined verbal and written report on the region's progress to achieve OCB Mission Objectives.

All QFES participants will

- Manage and maintain full records relating to Operation Cool Burn 2021 expenditure, resourcing, reports, emails and evidentiary documentation needed to meet legislative requirements.



Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: ~~Mike Wassing AFSM, Deputy Commissioner EMVCR~~ John Bolger, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical **Urgent** **General**

Briefing note for approval Briefing note for information

MECS #: ~~xxxx-~~
xxxx01155-2021

File #: ~~xxxxxx~~QFS/15845

To: ~~Greg Leach~~ Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

Subject: Operation Cool Burn 2021 and Future Direction

Date: 15/03/21

1. Background

- The annual Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 is due to commence on 1 April 2021.
- OCB was established in 2016 and has continued to lead and develop state-wide capabilities for improved bushfire mitigation planning, activities and reporting. The next step in this development is n-addressing contemporary needs of Queensland; it is proposed in-2021 to enhance evidence-based decision making, recognise the year-round nature of bushfire mitigation and increase transparency of shared accountabilities with partners in 2021.

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

2. Issues

- The 2019 Black Summer fires and the severe 2018 and 2019 Queensland bushfire seasons have led to heightened community and political interest and concern about bushfire mitigation.
- OCB 2020 was highly successful with record numbers of completed mitigation activities with nearly 80% of all planned activities completed however it has been is five5 years since the last major OCB changes and as such a review of OCB direction and methods has been undertaken.
- The major proposed changes to OCB come in will occur in three (3) 3-stages:
 - For OCB 2021 Aa new Risk Aassessment Methodology has been developed for OCB 2021 to help Area Fire Management Groups identify risks and prioritise mitigation activities (Attachment 1) consistent with the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework process and compatible with the Department of Environment and Science ES/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service PWS risk assessment framework (currently nearing finalisation); RFS staff on project team);
 - From the 31 August 2021, (what would be the traditional end of OCB), the direction will be to transition to an annual mitigation program recognising the increasing length of bushfire seasons and that mitigation activities which can be undertaken at any time; and
 - The year-round program should then mature into a rolling program based upon landowner / land manager longer term strategies for management of fire prone areas. In effect, this year will see the end of a time-based OCB pre-bushfire.
- OCB may continue to exist in the future as a heightened period of mitigation activity to address priority emergent risks prior to the main bushfire season.
- The new Risk Aassessment Methodology is supported by enhanced current fuel hazard information for the whole of state, a single data-set to identify buildings at risk, evidence-based

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm

Formatted: Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font color: Auto

Action Officer: Name

Area James Haig
Area: Unit

Telephone Bushfire Mitigation Office
Telephone: ~~xxxx-73 - Irrelevant information~~

mapping at a locality (sub-LGA) level and risk assessment tools to allow incorporation of local knowledge to adjust risk levels.

- The transition to the year-round approach has been recognised in the attached OCB 2021 draft Commissioner's Intent (**Attachment 2**) which notes the desired situation as at 31 August 2021 but also includes an intended future state.
- Whilst the OCB strategy of focussing on identified areas of highest risk to community (generally closest to the assets) has been supported by recent research (e.g. the Bushfire Recovery Report findings widely reported in [New South Wales NSW](#) and [Victorian VIC](#) press on 15 March 2021) the move to year-round programs will also include consideration of mitigation activities across the landscape which will allow a more complete approach to protecting all values and avoiding "Mega Fires".
- This transition will require increased partnership and accountability with land management agencies to facilitate a collaborative approach to mitigation data capture and a Working Group has been endorsed by the State Bushfire Committee to support this transition, review the Risk Assessment methodology and establish agreed standard data to allow a consolidated common operating picture.
- A whole of QFES approach will be required to manage the significant information management adaptation required in this transition and an implementation plan will be developed with the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Advanced Capability Unit and QFES Geographic Information Systems GIS as well as external partners.
- Once an annual program is established, a gradual change to a rolling program is envisaged however this will require significant change in some external partners capabilities and accountability.
- The overall strategic future direction of stages 2 and 3 was supported by the State Bushfire Committee at their inaugural meeting of 1 March 2021.
- The future direction of OCB and expanded annual mitigation program will be supported by the enhancement of bushfire mitigation capacity through the recently approved RFS 20 additional FTEs specifically for mitigation.

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt, Font color: Auto

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with:
 - The State Bushfire Committee [reweich concurs with the future deirection](#) and [the establishment of a Wworking Ggroup](#); and
 - Brenton Phillips (Acting /Manager, Hazard and Risk [Emergency Management and Community CapabilityEMCC](#)), and RFS [Sstate](#) and regional representatives [who concur with re](#) the OCB Risk Assessment Methodology.

Formatted: Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?

- N/A

5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- N/A

6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the Human Rights Act 2019 been considered?

- This brief is compatible with QFES' obligations regarding the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA).

8. Funding

- Nil additional funding proposed (See note above regarding recently approved RFS bushfire mitigation enhancement).

9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- Yes.

10. Recommendation

- That you:

- approve the direction being taken and the attached Commissioner's intent (Attachment 2)
- Note the attached OCB risk assessment methodology and approve for release to SBC working group (Attachment 1)
- That you consider advising the Minister of this issue matter.

Formatted

Formatted: Font: Bold

John Bolger AFSM
Assistant Commissioner RFS

Endorsed

Name Mike Wassing AFSM

Greg Leach

Title DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

COMMISSIONER

Date / / 26/3/2021

/ /

Formatted: Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font color: Auto

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

~~Each level of departmental management must quality assure and approve the content and accuracy of this document before progressing it.~~

Comments:

~~Do not delete any headings. If a section is not required, please put N/A. Where additional information is required, supporting schedules / attachments should be used.~~

Commissioner's Intent

CI002.1.0

Effective Date: 22/11/19

Operation Cool Burn 2021

CI xxxxx

Effective Date:
22/11/21

Operation Cool Burn 2021 is an operational period focussed on identifying high priority bushfire risk locations, planning and undertaking mitigation activities designed to improve community safety prior to the 2021 bushfire season. It will commence on 1 April 2021 and transition to year round activities commencing 31 August 2021.

Mission

Through Operation Cool Burn 2021, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners will mitigate the risk of bushfire impacts to communities in identified areas by planning and coordinating activities that reduce bushfire risks, including hazard reduction, constructing or maintaining firebreaks and fire trails, and informing the community so that they can undertake preparations to reduce their risk.

Principles

Queensland experiences bushfires that can have wide-ranging significant impacts to communities, industries and the environment. Recent bushfire events in Queensland and nationally have raised the awareness in all levels of government and the community of the importance of mitigating bushfire risks.

The severe bushfire weather patterns of recent years can be expected to continue and proactive efforts to mitigate bushfire risks are critical to protecting the Queensland community. The design and implementation of regional strategies to achieve the OCB 2021 mission objective will be guided by principles of the Queensland Bushfire Plan (<https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/cdmp/Pages/default.aspx>) and drawn from recent bushfire related reviews including the 2019 review of Queensland Bushfires by the Inspector General of Emergency Management.

Method

We will work with partners and stakeholders to:

- Utilise Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) as the primary mechanism for the coordination of bushfire mitigation activities across Queensland by:
 - Engaging LDMG representatives and all key stakeholders in AFMG meetings and throughout the OCB 2021 process.
 - Identify priority local government areas (LGA) where Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) are to be prepared.
 - Use both formal evidence and local knowledge of partners and stakeholders to identify high-risk localities, high-risk hotspots
 - Collaborate with all AFMG members to plan mitigation actions to address risks in high-risk localities, high-risk hotspots within each identified LGA
 - Encourage the use of varied mitigation activities to suit the local environment and community including Hazard Reduction, Community Engagement, Fire break and fire trail construction and upgrading
 - Encouraging the use of Cultural Burning practices where appropriate.
 - Working with AFMG partners to capture completion data for mitigation activities.
 - Adopt a coordinated approach to messaging across communities to encourage broad community preparation.



- Assess bushfire risk prior to the bushfire season commencing for all localities in identified Local Government Areas to inform preparedness and response planning for the season itself.

Key Milestones

30 March 2021	Preliminary OCB Videoconference
31 April 2021	BRMPS completed for all LGAs with identified high risk
31 May 2021	Prepare an interim report on Operation Cool Burn 2021 including priority LGAs, high risk localities and high-risk hot spots and activities planned
31 August 2021	Final Fortnightly Videoconference
7 September 2020	Provide an annex to all BRMPS, indicating planned activities, completed activities and assessment of remaining risk at the end of the reporting period to the Chair of appropriate LDMGs, AFMG members and the Office of Bushfire Mitigation
30 September 2020	Provide an end of Operation Cool Burn 2021 to commencement of the bushfire season transitional report, showing completed mitigation actions and residual risks for all identified LGAs.
Ongoing	Continue work with partners to capture completion of OCB mitigation activities as part of a transition to a year round bushfire mitigation program.

Reporting items for OCB 2021

Reporting items will be captured through a dashboard and through completion of the fortnightly regional reporting templates with verbal updates by exception. Standard reporting items will include;

1. The number, dates and names of AFMG meetings convened, the number of attendees, and any success or challenges encountered.
2. The number and names of LGAs where BRMPS are to be completed, and the status of each BRMP including communication with LDMGs and submission of BRMPS to LDMGs
3. The number of high-risk localities and priority hotspots identified at AFMGs, and names of key localities of interest by exception.
4. Progress on completion of planned mitigation activities by activity type being
 - a) hazard reduction burns.
 - b) firebreak or fire trail construction or upgrade activities.
 - c) community education and engagement activities.
 - d) substitution of planned mitigation activities
5. Regional strategies to engage with stakeholders and support achievement of OCB mission objectives.
6. RFS State Office will also work with QFES media to capture mainstream and social media community education activities for targeted localities and the broader community.

State at 31 August

By 31 August 2021:

- Identified high risk communities will be more resilient to the potential impacts of bushfires
- All key partners and stakeholders will have actively participated in the AFMG process.
- BRMPS will be completed to a high standard for all priority LGAs and provided to LDMGs
- Identified mitigation activities will be delivered in collaboration with our partners and through a whole of QFES approach.

XXXXXXXX

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 2 of 4

This document is maintained in electronic form. The approved version of this document is located on the QFES Gateway and is uncontrolled when printed. It is the responsibility of the user to verify this copy is the latest version.

- Assessment of identified priority areas following mitigation activities to inform risk assessments and preparedness and response planning for the 2021 bushfire season.
- QFES will have met government and community expectations of OCB 2021.

Future State

At the end of the Operation Coolburn reporting period for 2021 all reporting systems to remain open to allow for the transition to wholistic 365 days a year, whole of landscape reporting to commence at the end of the 2021 / 2022 bushfire season in line with QFES, partner and community expectations.

Implementation

Regional Assistant Commissioners and Regional Management Teams, the Assistant Commissioner RFS, the Office of Bushfire Mitigation, the Assistant Commissioner EMCC and the State Operations Centre (SOC) will collectively manage and support achievement of OCB 2020 Mission Objectives and End State as per the OCB2021 Implementation Strategy (Attachment A).

Greg Leach
Commissioner

Attachments

- Attachment A – OCB 2021 QFES Implementation Strategy
- ~~Attachment B – Fortnightly Video Conference and Key Milestones.~~

Commented [JL1]: Vidcon/Milestones to be updated through SOC, separately to Commissioner' intent



Licence URL: [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Please give attribution to © State of Queensland ([Queensland Fire and Emergency Services](https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/)) 2018

XXXXXXXX

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 3 of 4

This document is maintained in electronic form. The approved version of this document is located on the QFES Gateway and is uncontrolled when printed. It is the responsibility of the user to verify this copy is the latest version.

Attachment A – OCB2021 QFES Implementation Strategy

QFES streams will collectively manage and support achievement of OCB 2021 Mission Objectives and desired outcomes including:

Regional Assistant Commissioners and Regional Management Teams will:

- Determine and plan optimal strategies to implement the Commissioner's Intent for OCB 2021,
- Enable the timely completion of BRMPs for priority LGAs, and
- Ensure support and appropriate input and participation at AFMG meetings occurs.

The Regional Manager (RFS) will:

- Ensure that AFMG are fully functional.
- Utilise the Regional Bushfire Committees to address any issues forwarded from AFMGs.
- Ensure necessary Regional RFS resources are allocated to meet Regional commitments.

RFS Area Directors (supported by Bushfire Safety Officers and regional bushfire mitigation staff) will:

- Chair AFMG meetings in accordance with AFMG Terms of Reference,
- Lead preparation of BRMPs and the BRMP Annex for priority LGAs in accordance with the Operational Cool Burn 2021 – BRMP template,
- Facilitate AFMG processes to identify high-risk localities, hotspots and planned mitigation activities
- Ensure that completed mitigation activities are recorded, and
- Assess bushfire risk prior to the bushfire season commencing for all localities in identified Local Government Areas to inform preparedness and response planning for the season itself.

The Assistant Commissioner RFS and the Executive Managers of the Office of Bushfire Mitigation will:

- Support Regions to conduct AFMG meetings, prepare Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans,
- Compile regular State Reports for OCB 2021 to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services,
- Determine and implement additional policy needed to support OCB 2021, and
- Liaise with any partner agencies in the State Bushfire Committee where escalation beyond the regional level is required.

The Assistant Commissioner EMCC will

- Support Regions to conduct OCB 2021 planning by providing necessary information and tools to undertake evidence-based identification of bushfire risks, planning of mitigation activities and the evaluation of residual risk, develop and maintain the BRMP template and reporting tools, and conduct and provide predictive analysis for identified project areas.

The State Operations Centre (SOC) will

- Facilitate a fortnightly video conference hosted by the SOC Coordinator and Chaired by the Assistant Commissioner RFS or senior delegate for Assistant Commissioners of Regions or delegates to deliver a combined verbal and written report on the region's progress to achieve OCB Mission Objectives.

All QFES participants will

- Manage and maintain full records relating to Operation Cool Burn 2021 expenditure, resourcing, reports, emails and evidentiary documentation needed to meet legislative requirements.

XXXXXXXX

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 4 of 4

This document is maintained in electronic form. The approved version of this document is located on the QFES Gateway and is uncontrolled when printed. It is the responsibility of the user to verify this copy is the latest version.



Bushfire Risk Assessment Methodology

Operation Cool Burn 2021

QFES RTI/20774 RELEASE



Table of Contents

SUMMARY	1
1. PURPOSE	3
2. RISK FRAMEWORK	4
Queensland’s Emergency Risk Management Framework	4
QPWS&P Bushfire Risk Management Framework	5
Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework	5
Bushfire Risk Model	6
3. IMPROVED SPATIAL DATA SETS	7
Overview	7
Community Elements at Risk	8
Bushfire Hazard: Overall Fuel Hazard Rating	10
Egress and Access Vulnerability	12
Community Function Vulnerability Rating	13
Exposure	14
Likelihood of fire arrival	15
4. RISK ANALYSIS PROCESS	16
Overview	16
Stage 1: Calculating Potential Impact at the Building Scale	17
Stage 2: Calculating Community Bushfire Risk	17
Stage 3: AFMG Adjustment of Bushfire Risk	19
5. DISCUSSION	20
6. CONCLUSIONS	20



RTI FINAL RELEASE

Prepared by:	Robert Preston		
Contributors:	Simon Webster, Raymond Bott, Russell Stephens-Peacock, Paul Storrs, Neil Kelso		
		Date of review	New version number
Reviewed by:	Supt. James Haig, Exec Manager, Office of Bushfire Mitigation, RFS	16/03/2021	1.0
	Chief Supt. Tony Johnstone, Director Regional Coordination, RFS	19/03/2021	1.1
	AC John Bolger ASFM, Assistant Commissioner, RFS	26/03/2021	1.2
Authorised by:	DC Mike Wassing ASFM, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Management, Volunteerism & Community Resilience, QFES	26/03/2021	1.2



Summary

As the primary goal of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) is to mitigate the risk of bushfires to Queensland communities, it follows that mitigation activities should be geographically targeted to locations that are most at risk from bushfires. A rigorous process to identify the level of risk for different locations is also key to the prioritisation of mitigation activities to treat these risks.

With increasing interest in the identification of areas at risk from bushfires, QFES has developed an enhanced Bushfire Risk Methodology for OCB 2021 which incorporates improved spatial data sets and facilitate the addition of local knowledge in a structured way that is consistent with an accepted risk framework

The development of this enhanced methodology has also been informed by experience from QFES partners during Operation Cool Burn between 2016 to 2020, in line with principles of continuous improvement.

Within this context, core requirements of an enhanced risk assessment methodology are that it should:

- utilise relevant, reliable and up-to-date spatial data sets;
- credible and scientifically valid;
- transparent and accessible to all OCB stakeholders;
- relevant to the preparation of Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs) by Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) as required under the Queensland Bushfire Plan¹;
- repeatable and scalable from the buildings level through to risk-hotspots and recognised localities;
- encourage consistent application and enable valid comparison from one locality to another;
- readily interpreted and suited to the incorporation of local knowledge by AFMG members, and
- suitable for informing the prioritisation of mitigation actions.

This methodology has been implemented via the QFES Catalyst information management system and associated tools,

Some of the key elements of the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Methodology for OCB 2021 are:

- it is based on the Queensland Emergency Management Risk Management Framework (QERMF) which upholds international risk management standards championed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- the methodology has been applied through an enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model which reflects the combined effect of potential community impacts and the likelihood of fire arrival,
- it draws on several improved data sets to identify community elements at risk from bushfires including up-to-date mapping of buildings with a roof area of > 9 sq.m. (i.e. Geoscape Buildings);
- the identification of community elements at risk also relies on accepted mapping of the Bushfire Prone Area (2017);
- the methodology uses new simplified mapping of current bushfire hazard levels represented as 2020 Overall Fuel Hazard Rating (OFHR) which combines spatial information on fire

¹ <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/cdmp/Documents/QLD-Bushfire-Plan.pdf>



history, potential fuel load and vegetation type mapping using assumed fuel reaccumulation curves;

- hazard exposure to community elements at risk is estimated by calculating the average OFHR within 100m of buildings in the bushfire prone area,
- it also incorporates improved data sets to reflect community vulnerability using Geographic Information System (GIS) models and data regarding egress and access vulnerability, and community functional vulnerability,
- the Bushfire Risk Model has been applied to all buildings in the bushfire prone area and to all identified localities in Queensland using a repeatable formula applied using geospatial technologies;
- maps and tables listing calculated Bushfire Risk Ratings for all defined localities in Queensland and all LGAs have been generated and distributed to AFMGs to highlight geographical areas of greatest risk,
- tools have also been developed for use by AFMG members to access and adjust calculated risk components and risk ratings by incorporating local knowledge,
- statistical data on landscape fires incidents has also been made available to AFMGs to assist with estimation of the likelihood of fire arrival; and
- AFMGs are able to utilise the bushfire risk assessment framework and all associated data sets to also inform the identification of finer-scale community risk hotspots and mitigation activities to address those risks.

This bushfire risk assessment methodology has been made available to AFMG members across Queensland to underpin planning for OCB 2021 and the drafting of BRMPs to enable the reliable identification of localities and communities with greatest bushfire risk.

Experience gained through this process will help to inform further development and improvement of the bushfire risk assessment methodology and its implementation for future risk mitigation projects and programs.



1. Purpose

In recent years, Queensland and other States have experienced bushfires with wide-ranging and severe impacts to communities, infrastructure and the environment. These concerns are reflected in the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements report², otherwise known as the 'Bushfires Royal Commission'.

In view of these recent impacts and the potential for heightened bushfire conditions into the future, proactive efforts to mitigate bushfire risks continues to be of high importance at all levels of government and throughout Queensland communities.

As the primary goal of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) is to mitigate the risk of bushfires to Queensland communities, it follows that mitigation activities should be geographically targeted to locations at risk from bushfires. A rigorous process to identify the level of risk for different localities is also key to the prioritisation of mitigation activities to treat these risks.

With increasing interest in the identification of areas that are most at risk from bushfires, QFES has developed an enhanced Bushfire Risk Methodology for OCB 2021 which incorporates improved spatial data sets and facilitate the addition of local knowledge in a structured way that is consistent with an accepted risk framework

To ensure this enhanced methodology is aligned with current best practice, it draws from the Queensland Emergency Management Risk Management Framework (QERMF) which upholds international risk management standards championed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The development of this enhanced methodology has also been informed by experience from QFES partners during Operation Cool Burn between 2016 to 2020, in line with principles of continuous improvement.

Within this context, core requirements of an enhanced risk assessment methodology are that it should:

- utilise relevant, reliable and up-to-date spatial data sets;
- credible and scientifically valid;
- transparent and accessible to all OCB stakeholders;
- relevant to the preparation of Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs) by Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) as required under the Queensland Bushfire Plan³;
- repeatable and scalable from the buildings level through to risk-hotspots and recognised localities;
- encourage consistent application and enable valid comparison from one locality to another;
- readily interpreted and suited to the incorporation of local knowledge by AFMG members, and
- suitable for informing the prioritisation of mitigation actions.

² <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/royal-commission-national-natural-disaster-arrangements-report>

³ <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/cdmp/Documents/QLD-Bushfire-Plan.pdf>



2. Risk Framework

Queensland’s Emergency Risk Management Framework

This enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Methodology draws from Queensland’s Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF)⁴.

The QERMF establishes that the successful foundation for risk management lies in clearly identifying and understanding the level of exposure and vulnerability of a community and its assets against particular hazards. Accepted definitions of these key concepts are:

- Exposure – the elements within a given area that have been, or could be, subject to the impact of a particular hazard. Exposure is also sometimes referred to as the 'elements at risk'.
- Hazard – a source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.
- Vulnerability – the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard.

The fourth concept relevant to risk assessment is the likelihood of an event impacting the elements at risk. The accepted definition is:

- Likelihood – the chance of something happening whether defined, measured or determined objectively or subjectively, qualitatively or quantitatively and described using general terms or mathematically.

The combination of these factors allows estimation of the risk of impact to elements at risk, given the likelihood of the hazard and their vulnerability to the hazard.

- Risk - the likelihood (or probability) of loss of life, injury or destruction and damage from a disaster in a given period of time.

The QERMF presents a conceptual representation of how these factors are integrated (Figure 1).

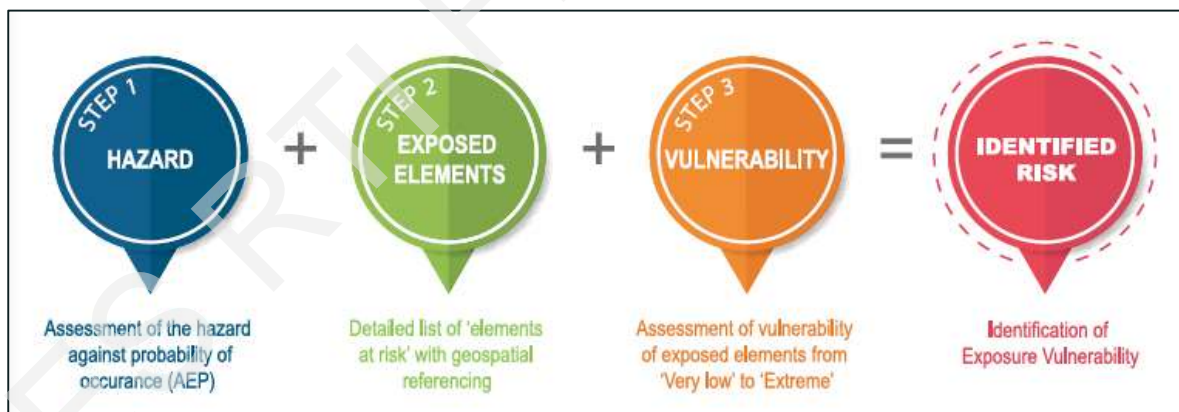


Figure 1. QERMF process for identifying risk

The QERMF risk assessment approach is applied using two key processes to firstly identify the risk, and then to assign the level of risk as represented in Figure 2.

⁴ <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmg/st/Documents/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf>

Process 1: Identifying risk	Process 2: Assigning level of risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the hazard Detail the exposed elements (elements at risk) Assess the vulnerability of these exposed elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the likelihood (using scenario modelling based on the past 50 years of historical data) Identify vulnerability (drawn from Process 1) Assess the consequence Develop Risk Statements (for identified risks) Assign level of risk, and response

Figure 2. QERMF Risk Assessment process

QPWS&P Bushfire Risk Management Framework

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) are also developing a Bushfire Risk Management Framework, which interprets the QERMF to identify and manage risks associated with unplanned bushfire events on the QPWS&P estate and surrounds.

This interpretation of the QERMF is required to address two key issues that distinguish bushfires from other natural disasters. The first is that the source of bushfire hazard (fuel) is vegetation, which is also an important environmental asset or value. Fire-prone ecosystems are therefore both the hazard source and an at-risk asset or value. The second issue is that while bushfire risk assessment considers the impact of bushfire on environmental assets and values, varying degrees of harm and loss can also arise for many environmental values if fire is excluded or the historical fire regime to which they are adapted is altered.

The proposed QPWS&P risk assessment framework has adopted the following definitions:

- Consequence - the potential consequence/s to identified at-risk assets/values arising from bushfires. This assessment considers the effect of existing risk controls. The potential consequence is a function of Hazard severity x Vulnerability x Exposure.
- Likelihood - the likelihood of potential bushfire consequences to identified at-risk assets/values, taking into account existing risk controls. Likelihood is calculated based on the historical potential of fire ignition and probability of fire reaching & impacting at-risk assets.
- Risk - a function of consequence and likelihood, using a qualitative risk level matrix. Risk levels can be determined as well as a 'risk score' (numbers in brackets) which allows for a greater degree of resolution in differentiating between risks at the same level, which can be useful during risk evaluation.

Of particular relevance is the proposal that all non-environmental assets assessed by this process with an extreme or high-risk rating are also to be notified to the relevant AFMG (and locality-specific FMG where applicable) for consideration of additional off-park risk controls.

Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework

Having regard to the purpose of OCB, the QERMF the QPWS&P Bushfire Risk Management Framework and the characteristics of bushfires compared to other natural hazards, this enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework has adopted the following definitions.

- Bushfire risk - the likelihood (or probability) of loss of life, injury or destruction and damage to community elements from a bushfire in a given period of time, taking into account the potential community impact and likelihood of fire arrival.
- Potential community impact – The potential effects to a community by way of the loss of life, injury or destruction and damages from a severe bushfire given the conditions of exposure, hazard, and vulnerability of community elements at risk.
- Bushfire hazard – the potential intensity of a bushfire that may cause harm or has the potential to cause loss as a result of factors affecting bushfire behaviour such as the quantity

and arrangement of available fuel, weather conditions, topography (slope) and the spatial pattern of fuel continuity.

- Vulnerability – the characteristics and circumstances of a building, community, system or other asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a bushfire including
 - (a) egress and access vulnerability that would affect options and timeliness of effective evacuation from an approaching bushfire or emergency attendance to assist with bushfire suppression, and
 - (b) functional vulnerability (including both social and economic vulnerabilities) that reflect the susceptibility of community elements at risk to damage or loss.
- Community elements at risk – buildings, other built assets, and its inhabitants, users, contents and other characteristics relevant to community functions (both social and economic).
- Exposure – the quantity of community elements at risk that have been, or could be, subject to the impact of a bushfire.
- Likelihood – the chance of fire arrival that would have an effect on community elements at risk.

This framework focussed on the direct threats to communities from bushfires that are applicable to the purpose of Operation Cool Burn. This framework also recognises that other elements at risk, such as agricultural crops or areas of high biodiversity value are also important considerations for owners of those assets when conducting bushfire risk assessment and the planning or conduct of actions to mitigate those risks.

Bushfire Risk Model

The Bushfire Risk Assessment Framework has been operationalised using a Bushfire Risk Assessment Model (Figure 3) to describe how estimated potential community impacts can be combined with an estimate of the likelihood of fire arrival to indicate different levels of bushfire risk.

This model is based on a system of ordinal ratings of risk components to ensure it is accessible to a wide array of AFMG stakeholders involved in OCB. Other more sophisticated risk models are often more reliant on a broader range of environmental, economic and social data sets.

Component 1. Potential Community Impact Assessment					Component 2. Bushfire Risk Assessment						
Rating	Potential Community Impact				Potential Community Impact	Likelihood of Fire Arrival					
	1. Overall Fuel Hazard	2. Vulnerability		3. Exposure		1 Rare	2 Unlikely	3 Possible	4 Likely	5 Almost certain	
	a Egress and Access	b. Community function									
1	Very low	Very low	Very low	Very low	1	Very low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
2	Low	Low	Low	Low	2	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
3	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	3	Moderate	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
4	High	High	High	High	4	High	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
5	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	5	Extreme	Medium	Medium	High	High	High

Figure 3. Enhanced Bushfire Risk Model

The first component of the Bushfire Risk Model estimates Potential Community Impact by combining the risk factors of Bushfire Hazard (represented by Overall Fuel Hazard), Egress and Access Vulnerability, Community Function Vulnerability and Exposure. The Potential Community Impact model estimates the combined effect of bushfire hazard, vulnerability and exposure using the below formula (Equation 1) which has been adapted from the QERMF risk matrix.



Equation 1. Potential Community Impact

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Potential Community Impact} \\
 &= \text{Average Overall Fuel Hazard} \times (0.5 \times \text{Egress and Access Vulnerability}) \\
 & \times (0.5 \times \text{Community Function Vulnerability}) \times \text{Exposure}
 \end{aligned}$$

This model estimates that Community Elements at Risk with low Vulnerability, low Exposure and a low Average Overall Fuel Hazard will have a low Potential Community Impact. Conversely, Community Elements at Risk with moderate or extreme ratings of each component will have a moderate to extreme Potential Community Impact.

The second component of the Bushfire Risk Model combines Potential Community Impact and the Likelihood of Fire Arrival using the below formula (Equation 2).

Equation 2. Bushfire Risk

$$\text{Bushfire Risk} = \text{Potential Community Impact} \times \text{Likelihood of Fire Arrival}$$

Community Elements at Risk that have a low Potential Community Impact and a rare or unlikely Likelihood of Fire Arrival would have a low Bushfire Risk. Similarly, Community Elements at Risk with a moderate to extreme Potential Community Impact and a possible to almost certain Likelihood of Fire Arrival would have a medium to high Bushfire Risk.

3. Improved spatial data sets

Overview

As the utility and reliability of the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model is contingent on the quality of spatial data sets, a focus for OCB 2021 is to ensure that spatial data sets are as relevant and as accurate as possible. Given the structure of the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, priority has been given to quantification of input variables which can be reliably calculated using available Geographic Information Systems data and geospatial technologies. A summary of spatial data sets which meet these criteria is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Spatial data sets used to provide measures of Bushfire Risk Components

Bushfire Risk Component	Measured by:	Spatial data sets
Community Elements at Risk	Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfire Prone Area (2017) Geoscape Buildings(2021)
Bushfire Hazard	Overall Fuel Hazard Rating (Average Rating within 100m of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire history (Jul 2020) Fuel Type Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk)
Vulnerability	Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating (Average score of points on State Road Network within 500m of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Digital Road Network Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk)
	Community Function Vulnerability Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland Land Use Mapping Program



Bushfire Risk Component	Measured by:	Spatial data sets
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert rating of Community Functional Rating Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk)
Exposure	Exposure rating of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area (Community Elements at Risk) Geoscape Buildings (area)
Likelihood of Fire Arrival	Average number of attended landscape fire incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QFES OMS data

Community Elements at Risk

As introduced above, identified Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area provides a useful and reliable spatial data source to indicate Community Elements at Risk from bushfires. While other data on asset locations are held and maintained by other state agencies, local governments, industry organisations and private landholders, it has not been feasible to integrate and rationalise these multiple data sets for OCB 2021.

As depicted in Figure 4, two data sets have been combined to identify community elements at risk, (otherwise referred to as Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area). These are (a) Geoscape Buildings (2021) and (b) Bushfire Prone Area (2017). The intersection of these data sets allows generation of BRMP maps and tables.

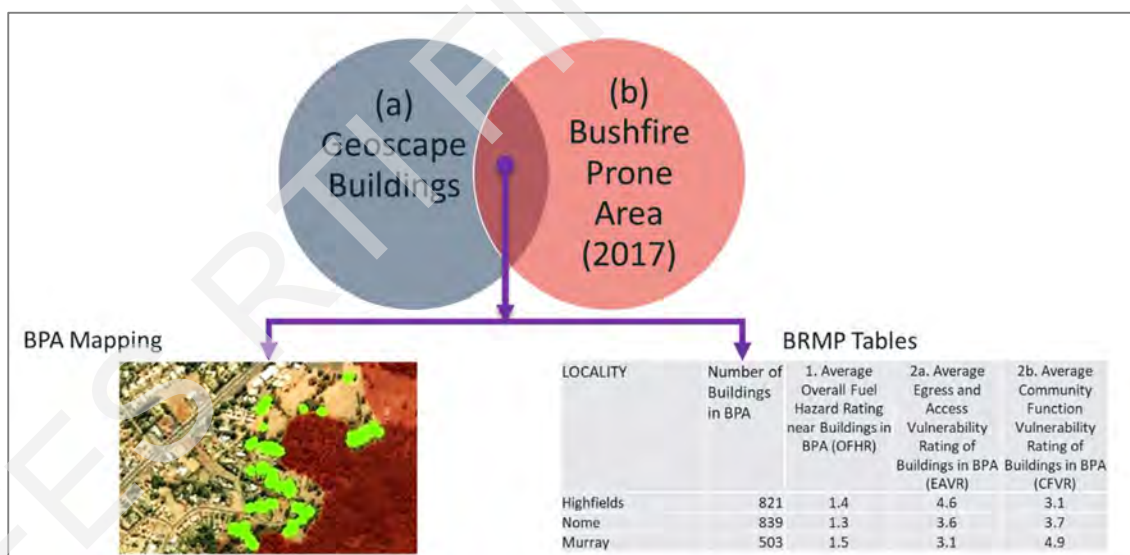


Figure 4. Approach for mapping Community Elements at Risk

Whilst Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) mapping⁵ was originally developed for land use planning and building purposes, it has a sound scientific underpinning due to its development by CSIRO bushfire researchers, and is extensively used by State agencies, local governments and industry bodies. Of relevance is that the mapping includes a 100m Potential Impact Buffer from the edge of potentially

⁵ See Leonard and Opie (2017)

<https://publications.csiro.au/publications/publication/Plcsiro:EP167343>

hazardous vegetation (see Figure 5) which is sufficient to include up to 80% of potential housing loss and 80% of potential human life loss⁶.

While hazard classes used in BPA mapping (Very high, High, Medium) are relevant to land use planning decisions, these hazard classes have not been included in the bushfire risk assessment methodology because the BPA hazard classes assume a 2050 fire weather scenario and the hazard classes do not reflect any reductions of fuel due to fire or grazing.

The second data set used to identify Community Elements at Risk is sourced from the Geoscape Buildings data set⁷ supplied under license to QFES. The Geoscape Buildings data set is derived by interpretation of satellite and aerial imagery. This data set identifies buildings with a roof area of greater than 9 sq.m. regarded as “structures generally permanent in nature which has been constructed to meet specific objective (e.g. housing, storage, and workplace), and may include less permanent structures such as caravans and other portable housing”.

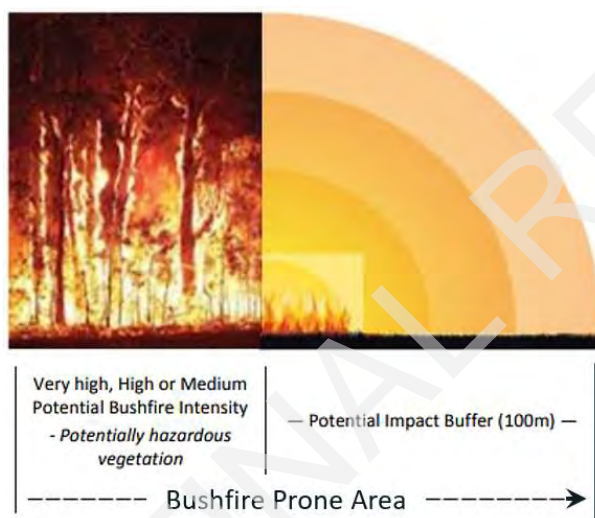


Figure 5. The Potential Impact Buffer forms part of the Bushfire Prone Area

As depicted in Figure 6, this data set delineates the outline of each roof, which enables measurement of basic geometric properties such as building area. In this example identified buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area are outlined in green. The extent of the Potential Impact Buffer and the Bushfire Prone Area are shown in yellow.

The consistent and accurate mapping of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area provides a solid foundation for identifying community elements at risk of bushfires to underpin application of this enhanced Risk Assessment Methodology. While this mapping includes a wide range of built infrastructure, such as water towers, an exhaustive check against all other built assets was not able to be completed for OCB 2021. Bushfire mitigation planning in future years will be able to incorporate and validate data sets representing a broader range of asset types. Local knowledge of asset types can also supplement mapped information used in risk analysis calculations.

⁶ Chen, K. and J. McAneney (2004). Quantifying bushfire penetration into urban areas in Australia. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* **31**(12): L12212.

⁷ <https://geoscape.com.au/data/buildings/>



Figure 6. Example of Geoscape Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area (incl 100m Potential Impact Buffer)

Bushfire Hazard: Overall Fuel Hazard Rating

Under the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model adopted for OCB, Bushfire Hazard is represented as the Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating (OFHR) within 100m of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area. While this measure does not take into account other factors that affect fire behaviour, such as slope and weather conditions, it is readily understood and is correlated with the likely severity of fire impacts. Another advantage of this measure is that it is omni-directional (i.e., independent of direction of fire arrival) and reflects mitigation efforts to manage reduce fuel within the immediate vicinity of the building.

Table 8.1 Determining the Overall Fuel Hazard Rating

Bark Hazard	Elevated Fine Fuel Hazard	Combined Surface and Near-surface Fine Fuel Hazard *				
		L	M	H	VH	E
Low or Moderate	L	L	M	M	H	H
	M	L	M	M	H	H
	H	L	M	H	VH	VH
	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH
High	E	E	E	E	E	E
	L	L	M	H	H	H
	M	L	M	H	H	H
	H	L	H	H	VH	VH
Very High or Extreme	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	E
	E	E	E	E	E	E
	L	L	VH	VH	VH	E
	M	M	VH	VH	E	E
	H	M	VH	E	E	E
	VH	E	E	E	E	E
	E	E	E	E	E	E
	E	E	E	E	E	E

Figure 7. Overall fuel hazard assessment guide

OFHR is best known as an output of the site-based fuel assessment process conducted using the Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment guide⁸. OFHR combines estimates of surface and near surface fine fuel hazard, elevated fine fuel hazard and bark hazard as depicted in Figure 7. OFHR provides an

⁸ https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/21110/Report-82-overall-fuel-assess-guide-4th-ed.pdf

indication of the probability of success of first attack suppression at a given forest fire danger index. The rating ranges from Extreme (5) to Low (1). Because the measure of Average OFHR with 100m of buildings reflects the percent of the area around the building in each OFHR class, as well as the rating itself, it also provides a good indication of the hazard exposure of the building. The combined effect of spatial and attribute properties of Average OFHR measure are demonstrated in Figure 8 and Table 2. In this diagram, the building in Example B has an average OFHR of 1.25 (Low-Mod) because 75% of the area around the building has a Low (1) OFHR and 25% of the remaining area has a Moderate OFHR (2). In example E the building has an average OFHR of 2 (Mod) because 100% of area surrounding the building has a Moderate OFHR of 2.

Improved mapped information from the QFES Predictive Services Unit used in this analysis has been derived from a number of mapping sources including Fuel Types and Fire History. OFHR mapping also incorporates data from field observations that reflects the potential fuel hazard associated with different vegetation types, as well as available information on fuel reduction activities and modelled fuel reaccumulation.

Table 2. Example of how percent of area within 100m of building (by OFHR class) affects Average OFHR

		Overall Fuel Hazard Rating					Average OFHR
		Low (1)	Moderate (2)	High (3)	Very High (4)	Extreme (5)	
Percent of area within 100m of building	Example						
	A	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	Low (1)
	B*	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%	Low-Mod (1.25)
	C	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	Low-Mod (1.5)
	D	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	Mod (2)
	E*	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	Mod (2)
	F	50%	0%	0%	0%	50%	High (3)
	G	25%	0%	0%	0%	75%	Very High (4)
G	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	Extreme (5)	

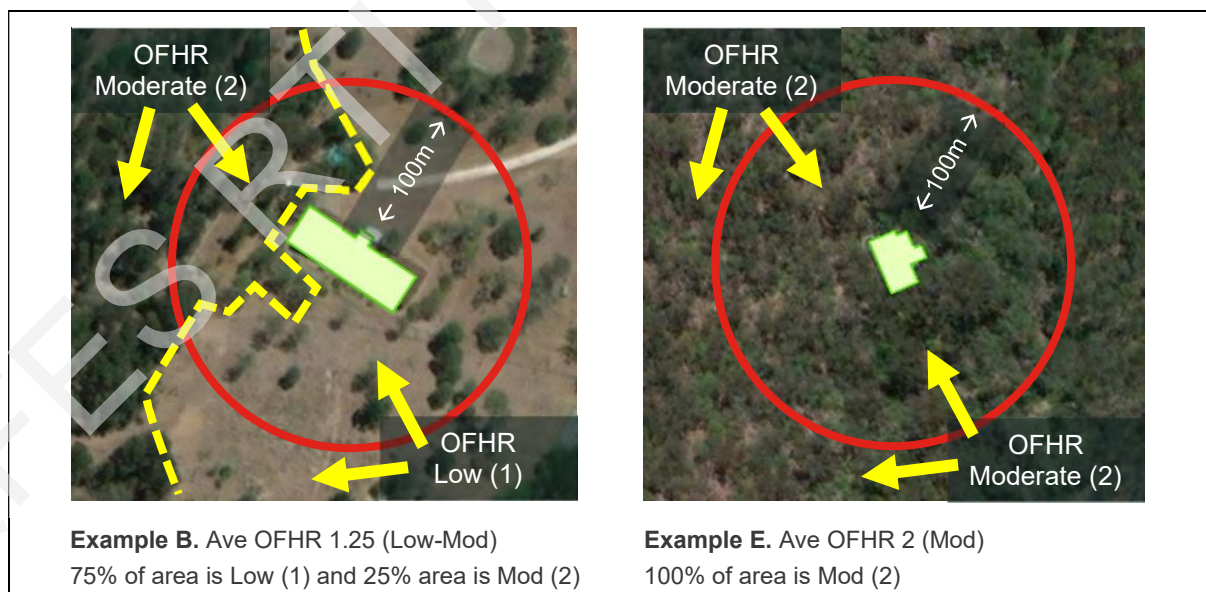


Figure 8. Example of how percent of area of each OFHR category surrounding the building and the OFHR class affect the Average OFHR

Mapping of OFHR has been developed for the whole of Queensland at scales relevant locality-based risk assessment and planning for by AFMGs. An example of OFHR mapping for the Cabarlah area, near Toowoomba, is provided in Figure 9.

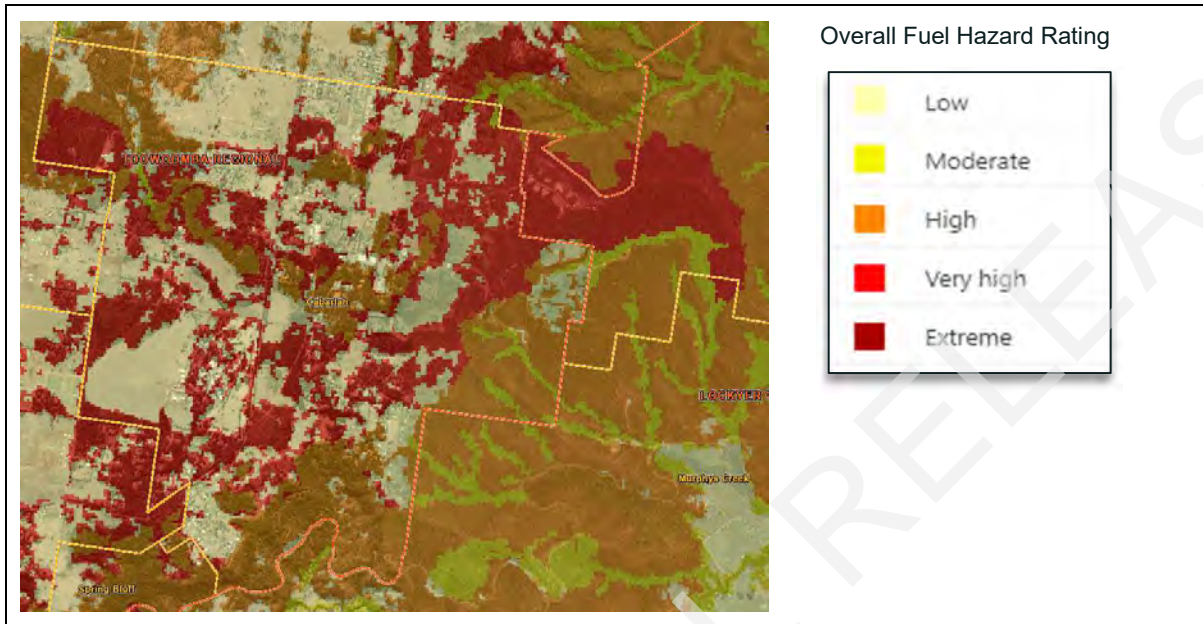


Figure 9. Overall Fuel Hazard Rating mapping for the Cabarlah area, Toowoomba

Egress and Access Vulnerability

As outlined in the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, egress and access vulnerability is also an important factor which contributes to estimation of potential community impacts.

The density of the public road network within 500m of buildings in the bushfire prone area has been calculated using geospatial models to derive an Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating by estimating the length of road in each road classification (1. Freeways/Motorways, 2. Highway, 3. Secondary Roads, 4. Local Connector Roads, 5. Street/Local) within each identified building. In this analysis each road segment is represented by equidistant points to allow efficient geoprocessing.

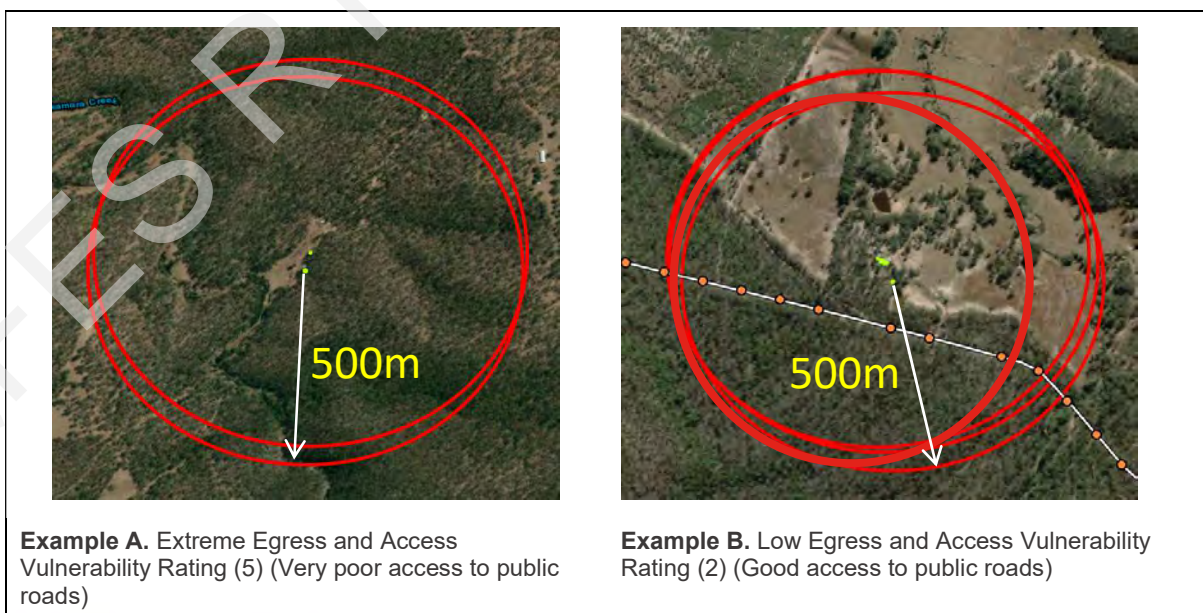


Figure 10. Example of Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating based on road network within 500m

Community Function Vulnerability Rating

As introduced in the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, the function of communities is susceptible to bushfire impacts such as the interruption to essential services, community services and business. These impacts may also include, for example, disruption to water supplies, electricity, education and health services, food services, accommodation, business and other economic services.

Queensland Land Use Mapping Program (QLUMP) mapping was combined with data showing Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area to generate estimates of Community Function Vulnerability, ranging from 1 (low) to 5 (extreme), as indicated in Table 3, Figure 11 and Figure 12. These ratings indicate the threat to life and property rather than environmental or cultural values.

Table 3. Community Function Vulnerability Rating for Buildings in different Land Use Categories

Vulnerability Rating	Community Function	Examples of Land Use Categories applied to Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area
5	Essential and public services	Airports/aerodromes
		Navigation and communication
		Public services
4	Industrial and commercial uses	Bulk grain storage
		Commercial services
		Manufacturing and industrial
4	Rural production	Cropping
		Dairy sheds and yards
		Grazing
3	Residential uses	Farm buildings/infrastructure
		Remote communities
		Rural residential with agriculture
2	Environmental uses	Habitat/species management area
		Marsh/wetland
		National park
1	Nil	Nil

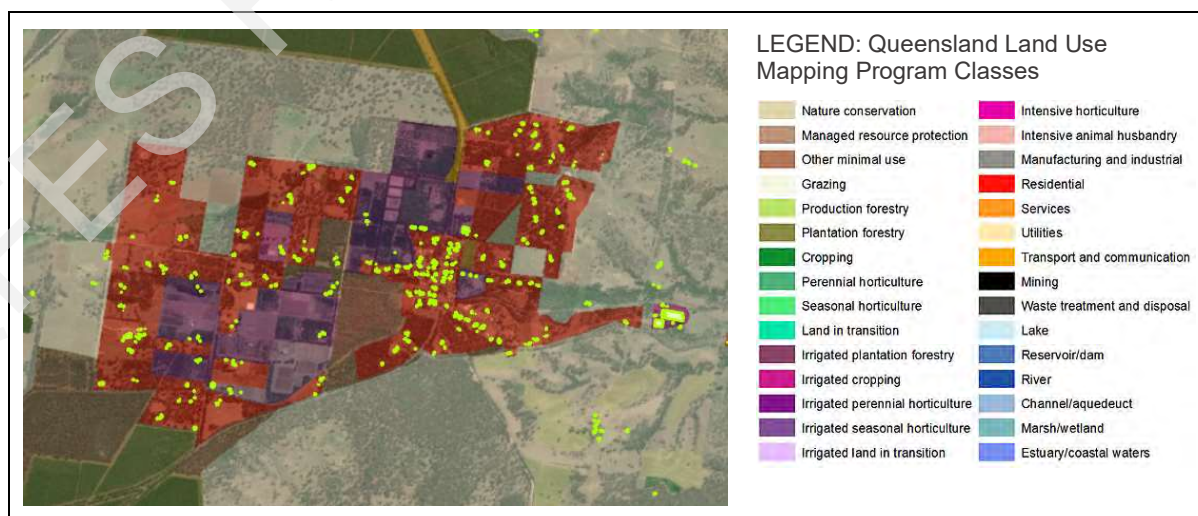


Figure 11. Land Use Mapping data used to estimate Community Function Vulnerability Rating

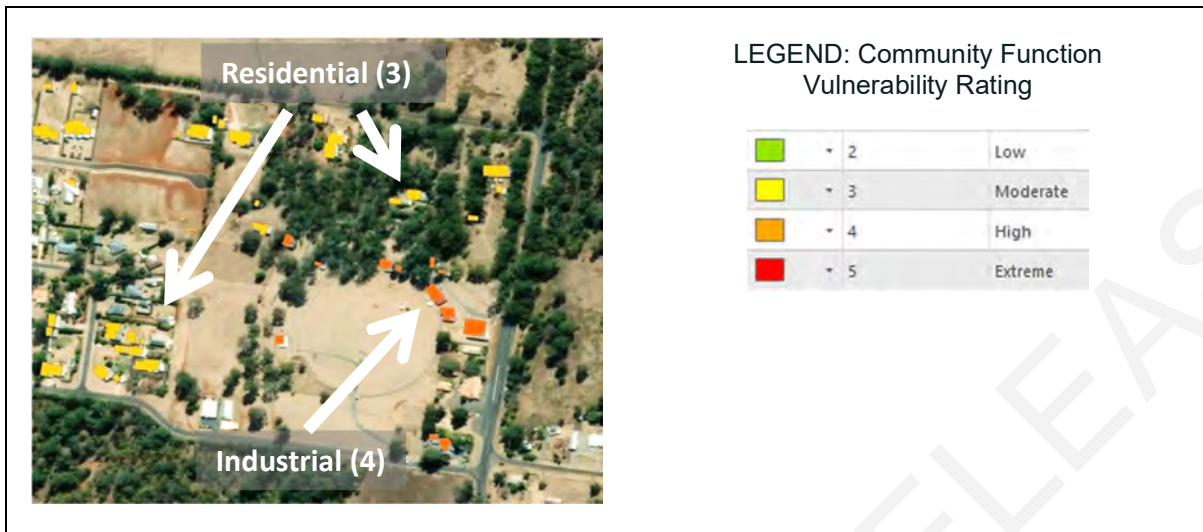


Figure 12. Community Function Vulnerability Rating applied to Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area

Exposure

As indicated in the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, exposure is a measure of the quantity of community elements at risk that have been, or could be, subject to the impact of a bushfire. For OCB 2021, exposure has been calculated as the number of Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area, weighted by an Exposure Score represented by the size of the estimated roof area contributed by the Geoscape Buildings data set.

As depicted in Figure 13, very large buildings with a roof area of greater than 800 sq.m. (Exposure score 5) and other large buildings with a roof area of 301-800 sq.m (Exposure Score of 4) have higher community usage than buildings with a roof area of 61-300 sq.m. (exposure score 3), which includes most residential buildings. In this illustration, Example A illustrates a community with a high proportion of moderate size residential buildings with an exposure score of 3; and Example B illustrates a community with a high proportion of larger industrial buildings with an exposure score of 4 and 5.



Figure 13. Exposure scores applied to Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area

Likelihood of fire arrival

As described in the enhanced Bushfire Risk Assessment Model, the likelihood of fire arrival is also an important factor in determining bushfire risk. The QERMF likelihood rating scale (Table 4) has been adopted as the rating scale for estimating the likelihood of fire arrival.

Table 4. Likelihood of fire arrival criteria (from QEFRMF likelihood table)

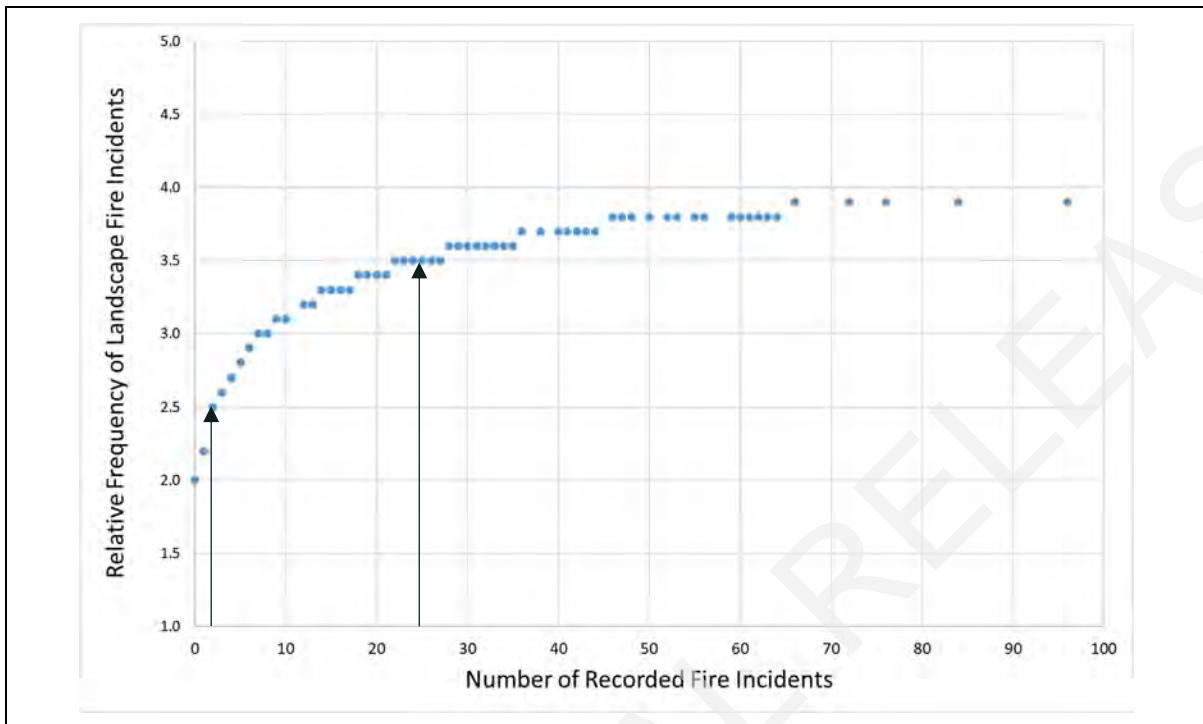
Historical Likelihood	Likelihood Rating	Definition
Has occurred 3 or more times in the last year or at least each year over the last 5 years	Almost Certain (5)	Almost certain to occur in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 5 years	Likely (4)	Likely chance of occurring in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 10 years	Possible (3)	Might occur in most cases
May occur, and has occurred once in the last 20 years	Unlikely (2)	Not expected to occur in most cases
May only occur in exceptional circumstances or has occurred only once in the last 50 years or more	Rare (1)	Will only occur in exceptional circumstances and has not occurred in most cases

QFES fire incident records from the Operational Management System (OMS) for the period 2012-2020 has been summarised to support local AFMG decision making regarding the likelihood of fire arrival. This information translates the number of recorded historic fire incidents into an index of the relative frequency of landscape fire incidents on a scale between 2 and 4. This index approximates the likelihood of fire arrival. While this data set may not represent all historic fire incidents it provides a consistent data set which can be validated in Stage 3 of the risk analysis process.

As illustrated in Figure 14, this model indicates that communities with less than 2 recorded landscape fire incidents would have a score of relative frequency of landscape fire incidents of 2.5, which would be equivalent to a Likelihood of Fire Arrival of between Unlikely (2) and Possible (3). Similarly, communities with 25 recorded landscape incidents would score a relative frequency of landscape fire incidents of 3.5. These estimates are able to be verified and adjusted by AFMGs to reflect local knowledge of historical and expected fire incidents.



Figure 14. Relationship between number of recorded fire incidents & relative frequency of fire incidents



4. Risk Analysis Process

Overview

These improved data sets have been applied using the enhanced Bushfire Risk Model in 3 process stages as depicted in Figure 15.

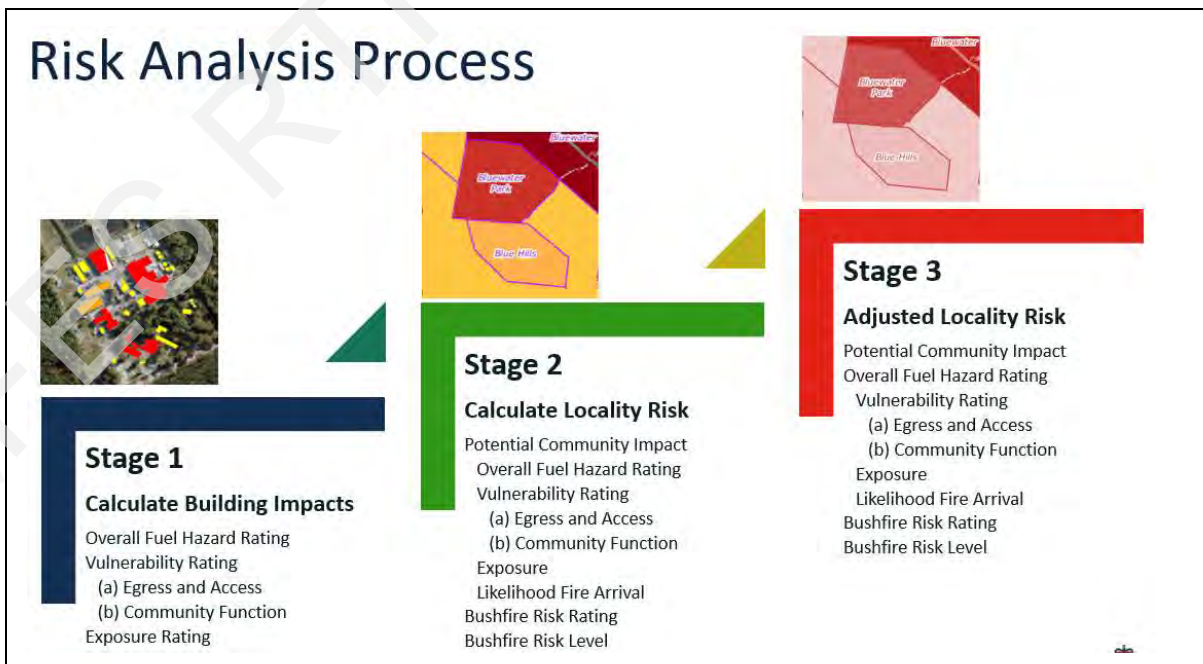


Figure 15. Bushfire risk analysis process

Stage 1: Calculating Potential Impact at the Building Scale

Stage 1 involves geospatial analysis to calculate the potential community impact for each Building in the Bushfire Prone Area as a combination of Overall Fuel Hazard Rating, Egress and Access Vulnerability Rating, Community Function Vulnerability Rating and Building Exposure Score. Geospatial analysis was conducted for all Buildings in the Bushfire Prone Area.

As depicted in Figure 16, larger buildings with essential community functions and a high average OFHR due to their close proximity to hazardous vegetation are estimated to have a higher potential community impact than small buildings with low community functional vulnerability and a low average OFHR due to high separation from potentially hazardous vegetation. In this example the water tank to the right of the diagram has a higher impact rating compared to adjacent buildings because of its size and higher exposure.

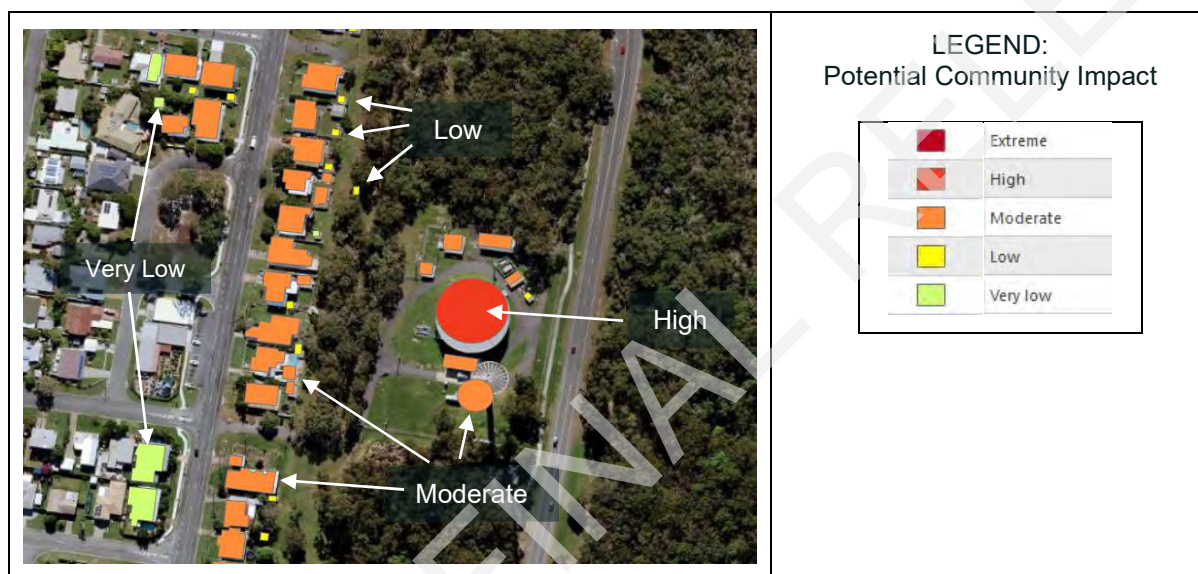


Figure 16. Example of Calculated Potential Building Impact

This analysis was applied to all Community Elements at Risk using data sets and equations described in sections 2 and 3 of this report.

Stage 2: Calculating Community Bushfire Risk

In view of the many thousands of individual community elements at risk from bushfires and the need to enable AFMGs to incorporate local knowledge into the risk analysis process, building-scale data on calculated community impacts and all other risk elements has been summarised for all identified localities and multiplied by an assumed Likelihood of Fire Arrival of 3 (Possible) as set out in Equation 2 above. This calculated risk score was then normalised to a scale between from 1 (low) to 20 (high), referred to as the Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating, for all identified localities in Queensland.

To further simplify application of this model and improve application to AFMG members, localities with Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of 20 have been allocated a Calculated Risk Level of High, localities with a Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of 19 to 10 have been allocated a Calculated Risk Level of Medium, and localities with a Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of less than 10 have been allocated a Calculated Risk Level of Low.

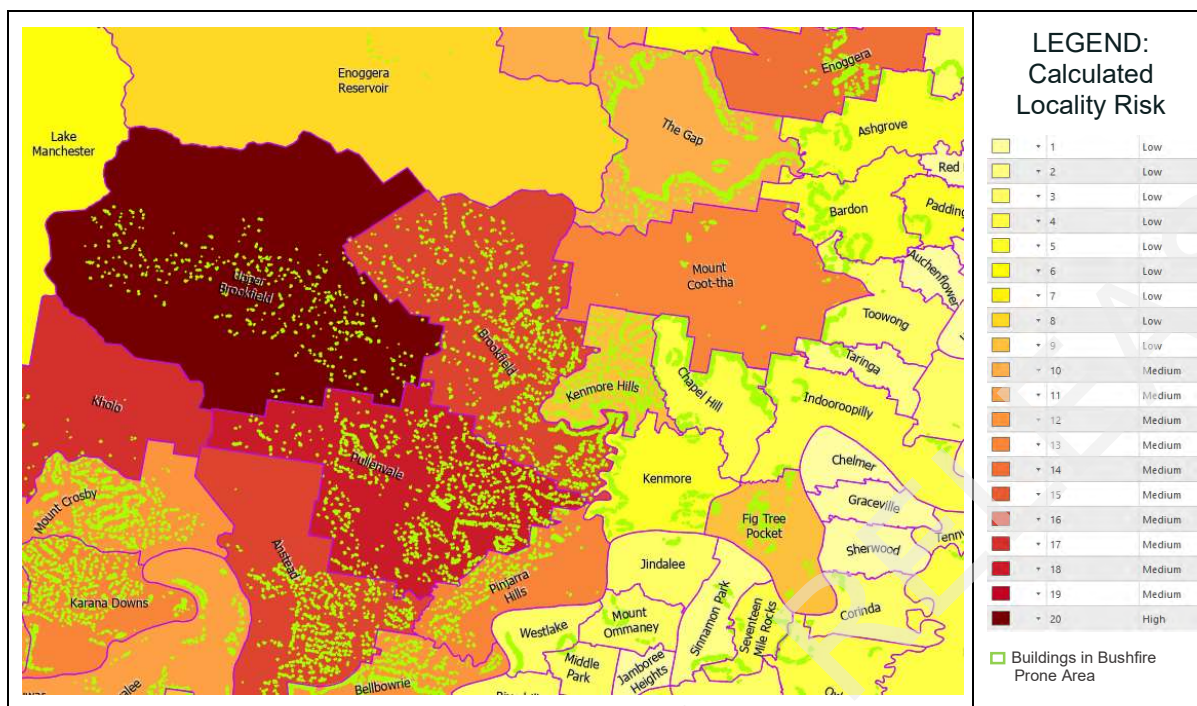


Figure 17. Example of Calculated Bushfire Risk by Locality

As depicted in Figure 17, the locality of Upper Brookfield is estimated to have a High Calculated Bushfire Risk Level with a Calculated Risk Rating of 20. Adjoining localities such as Pullenvale have a Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating of 18 (Medium). Other localities with lower bushfire exposure such as Graceville have been calculated to have a Bushfire Risk Rating of between 1 and 9 (Low).

The Calculated Bushfire Risk Rating for all localities in each of Queensland’s LGAs has been prepared in tabular format for use in BRMPs, as illustrated in Table 5. This table shows two of the calculated high-risk localities Brisbane – Upper Brookfield and Burbank. Both of these localities have a relatively high scores for Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating, Egress and Access Vulnerability, Community Function Vulnerability and Exposure.

In these calculations the Likelihood of Fire Arrival is assumed to have a value of 3 (Possible) because of limitations in direct application of historic landscape fire incident data for OCB 2021.

Table 5. Example of Calculated Bushfire Risk by Locality - Brisbane

Community Elements at Risk		Potential Community Impact				Likelihood of Fire Arrival	Bushfire Risk	
LOCALITY	Buildings in BPA	Overall Fuel Hazard	Egress and Access Vulnerability	Community Function Vulnerability	Exposure		Calculated Risk Rating	6. Calculated Risk Level
Upper Brookfield	697	2.6	3.8	3.0	4.7	3	20	High
Burbank	1249	2.5	3.1	3.1	4.9	3	20	High
Pullenvale	1389	2.1	2.9	3.1	4.9	3	18	Medium
Kholo	401	2.0	3.2	3.2	4.4	3	17	Medium
Ransome	297	2.2	3.2	3.0	4.1	3	17	Medium
Cowan Cowan	67	1.5	5.0	4.0	2.7	3	16	Medium
Koorngal	221	1.6	3.3	4.0	3.8	3	16	Medium
Brookfield	1406	1.9	2.6	3.2	4.9	3	16	Medium



Stage 3: AFMG Adjustment of Bushfire Risk

As available spatial data sets may not accurately reflect current local conditions, AFMG members are able to incorporate local knowledge to adjust estimated risk factors including Overall Fuel Hazard Rating and Likelihood of Fire Arrival to determine an adjusted risk rating.

AFMG members are able to amend calculated risk estimates where there is good agreement and high certainty that these ratings are inconsistent with local observations.

Circumstances where local knowledge should be applied to adjust the calculated risk assessment include:

- where the effects of fire, grazing or slashing in the proximity of community elements at risk on Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating is not reflected by the calculated Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating,
- where access from buildings to public roads is not accurately reflected by the calculated Egress or Access Vulnerability Rating,
- where a community's buildings have structural properties or functional characteristics which are not reflected by the calculated Community Function Rating, or
- where local evidence of the likelihood of fire arrival is markedly different to the assumed Likelihood of Fire Arrival value of 3 (Possible).

As a guideline, components such as Overall Fuel Hazard Rating, Egress or Access Vulnerability Rating or Community Function Rating may be adjusted by up to 50% (e.g., 2.0 Moderate > 1.0 Low) to reflect local knowledge of AFMG members. Similarly, the Likelihood of Fire Arrival may be adjusted by up to 2 units (e.g., 3.0 > 1.0) to reflect local knowledge of AFMG members.

The evidence and rationale for any adjustments should also be recorded as per the example in Figure 18. In this theoretical example for the Toowoomba LGA, the Overall Fuel Hazard Rating has been adjusted by from 2.0 to 1.5 to reflect a reduction in available fuel as a result of grazing which is not reflected in Average Overall Fuel Hazard Rating. This has the effect of changing the Adjusted Risk Rating from 20 (High) to 17 (Medium).

Figure 18. Example of AFMG adjustment of calculated risk components

LOCALITY	Buildings in BPA	Potential Community Impact					4. Adjusted Likelihood of Fire Arrival	5. Adjusted Risk Rating	6. Adjusted Risk Level	AFMG Comments on adjustments
		1. Adjusted Overall Fuel Hazard	2a. Adjusted Egress and Access Vulnerability	2b. Adjusted Community Function Vulnerability	3. Exposure	Potential Community Impact Rating				
Ravensbourne	716	2.5	3.2	3.7	4.6	5.0	3.8	20	High	
Condamine Farms	99	2.5	4.4	4.0	2.9	4.9	3.4	20	High	
Wattle Ridge	67	2.8	4.5	4.0	2.6	4.9	3.2	20	High	
Captains Mountain	280	1.8	4.4	3.6	4.0	4.8	3.5	20	High	
Cabarlah	846	2.5	2.6	3.4	4.8	4.7	3.8	20	High	
Geham	491	2.0	3.6	3.7	4.4	4.9	3.3	20	High	

LOCALITY	Buildings in BPA	Potential Community Impact					4. Adjusted Likelihood of Fire Arrival	5. Adjusted Risk Rating	6. Adjusted Risk Level	AFMG Comments on adjustments
		1. Adjusted Overall Fuel Hazard	2a. Adjusted Egress and Access Vulnerability	2b. Adjusted Community Function Vulnerability	3. Exposure	Potential Community Impact Rating				
Ravensbourne	716	2.5	3.2	3.7	4.6	5.0	3.8	20	High	
Condamine Farms	99	2.5	4.4	4.0	2.9	4.9	3.4	20	High	
Wattle Ridge	67	2.8	4.5	4.0	2.6	4.9	3.2	20	High	
Captains Mountain	280	1.8	4.4	3.6	4.0	4.8	3.5	20	High	
Cabarlah	846	2.5	2.6	3.4	4.8	4.7	3.8	20	High	
Geham	491	1.5	3.6	3.7	4.4	4.3	3.3	17	Medium	Fuel Hazard 25% lower because of recent grazing

UNADJUSTED

ADJUSTED



5. Discussion

The introduction of a structured approach to bushfire risk assessment using geospatial data sets combined in a risk model provides an opportunity for increased reliability and transparency in the identification of at-risk communities, and the prioritisation of bushfire mitigation activities.

The use of explicit risk variables including measures of hazard, vulnerability, exposure and likelihood adds to the completeness of the risk assessment process, as a solid foundation towards understanding the complex and dynamic nature of bushfire risk across the landscape.

One of the greatest innovations of this improved approach is the mapping and explicit consideration of Overall Fuel Hazard Rating and its intersection with identified Community Elements at Risk.

While the data sets and the enhanced risk model do not include all factors that determine bushfire risk to communities, the adoption of an accepted risk framework and introduction of a new tool set to AFMGs improves the opportunity for greater validation of risk variables and increased local ownership of decision making.

Wide adoption and use of these data sets and models to AFMG members across Queensland will also help to enable increased scrutiny and ultimately increased reliability in identification of at-risk localities and treatments to mitigate these risks.

6. Conclusions

This enhanced bushfire risk assessment methodology has been developed for use by AFMGs across Queensland to underpin the preparation of BRMPs, and to improve the reliability, validity and confidence in the identification of localities and communities with greatest bushfire risk. Experience gained through this process will help to improve mitigation outcomes for OCB 2021, and will inform further development and implementation of bushfire risk methodologies for future applications.



Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: John Bolger, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical **Urgent** **General**

Briefing note for approval Briefing note for information

MECS #: 01155-2021

File #: XXXXXXX

To: Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Subject: Operation Cool Burn 2021 and Future Direction

Date: 15/03/21

1. Background

- The annual Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 is due to commence on 1 April 2021.
- OCB was established in 2016 and has continued to lead and develop state-wide capabilities for improved bushfire mitigation planning, activities and reporting. The next step in this development is addressing contemporary needs of Queensland. It is proposed to enhance evidence-based decision making, recognise the year-round nature of bushfire mitigation and increase transparency of shared accountabilities with partners in 2021.

2. Issues

- The 2019 Black Summer fires and the severe 2018 and 2019 Queensland bushfire seasons have led to heightened community and political interest and concern about bushfire mitigation.
- OCB 2020 was highly successful with record numbers of completed mitigation activities with nearly 80% of all planned activities completed however it has been 5 years since the last major OCB changes and as such a review of OCB direction and methods has been undertaken.
- The major proposed changes to OCB will occur in three (3) stages:
 1. A new Risk Assessment Methodology has been developed for OCB 2021 to help Area Fire Management Groups identify risks and prioritise mitigation activities (Attachment 1) consistent with the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework process and compatible with the Department of Environment and Science/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service risk assessment framework (currently nearing finalisation);
 2. From 31 August 2021, what would be the traditional end of OCB, the direction will be to transition to an annual mitigation program recognising the increasing length of bushfire seasons and mitigation activities which can be undertaken at any time; and
 3. The year-round program should then mature into a rolling program based upon landowner / land manager longer term strategies for management of fire prone areas. In effect, this year will see the end of a time-based OCB pre-bushfire.
- OCB may continue to exist in the future as a heightened period of mitigation activity to address priority emergent risks prior to the main bushfire season.
- The new Risk Assessment Methodology is supported by enhanced current fuel hazard information for the whole of state, a single dataset to identify buildings at risk, evidence-based mapping at a locality (sub-LGA) level and risk assessment tools to allow incorporation of local knowledge to adjust risk levels.

Action Officer:

James Haig
Area:

Bushfire Mitigation Office
Telephone: 07 553 2200
RTI/20774 Page 62

- The transition to the year-round approach has been recognised in the attached OCB 2021 draft Commissioner's intent (Attachment 2) which notes the desired situation as at 31 August 2021 but also includes an intended future state.
- Whilst the OCB strategy of focussing on identified areas of highest risk to community (generally closest to the assets) has been supported by recent research (e.g. the Bushfire Recovery Report findings widely reported in NSW and VIC press on 15 March 2021) the move to year-round programs will also include consideration of mitigation activities across the landscape which will allow a more complete approach to protecting all values and avoiding "Mega Fires".
- This transition will require increased partnership and accountability with land management agencies to facilitate a collaborative approach to mitigation data capture and a Working Group has been endorsed by the State Bushfire Committee to support this transition, review the Risk Assessment Methodology and establish agreed standard data to allow a consolidated common operating picture.
- A whole of QFES approach will be required to manage the significant information management adaptation required in this transition and an implementation plan will be developed with the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Advanced Capability Unit and QFES Geographic Information Systems as well as external partners.
- Once an annual program is established, a gradual change to a rolling program is envisaged however this will require significant change in some external partners capabilities and accountability.
- The overall strategic future direction of stages 2 and 3 was supported by the State Bushfire Committee at their inaugural meeting of 1 March 2021.
- The future direction of OCB and expanded annual mitigation program will be supported by the enhancement of bushfire mitigation capacity through the recently approved RFS 20 additional FTEs specifically for mitigation.

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with:
 - The State Bushfire Committee who concur with the future direction and the establishment of a Working Group; and
 - Brenton Phillips (Acting Manager, Hazard and Risk Emergency Management and Community Capability), and RFS State and regional representatives who concur with the OCB Risk Assessment Methodology.

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?

- N/A

5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- N/A

6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the *Human Rights Act 2019* been considered?

- This brief is compatible with QFES' obligations regarding the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA).

8. Funding

- Nil additional funding proposed (See note above regarding recently approved RFS bushfire mitigation enhancement).

9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- Yes

10. Recommendation

- That you approve the direction being taken and the attached Commissioner's intent. (Attachment 2)
- Note the attached OCB risk assessment methodology and approve for release to SBC working group.(Attachment 1)
- That you consider advising the Minister of this issue.



Mike Wassing AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Greg Leach
COMMISSIONER

26 / 03 / 2021

/ /

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

Comments:



Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: John Bolger, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical **Urgent** **General**

Briefing note for approval Briefing note for information

MECS #: 01155-2021

File #: QFS/15845

To: Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

Subject: Operation Cool Burn 2021 and Future Direction

Date: 15/03/21

1. Background

- The annual Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 is due to commence on 1 April 2021.
- OCB was established in 2016 and has continued to lead and develop state-wide capabilities for improved bushfire mitigation planning, activities and reporting. The next step in this development is addressing contemporary needs of Queensland. It is proposed to enhance evidence-based decision making, recognise the year-round nature of bushfire mitigation and increase transparency of shared accountabilities with partners in 2021.

2. Issues

- The 2019 Black Summer fires and the severe 2018 and 2019 Queensland bushfire seasons have led to heightened community and political interest and concern about bushfire mitigation.
- OCB 2020 was highly successful with record numbers of completed mitigation activities with nearly 80% of all planned activities completed however it has been five years since the last major OCB changes and as such a review of OCB direction and methods has been undertaken.
- The major proposed changes to OCB will occur in three stages:
 1. A new Risk Assessment Methodology has been developed for OCB 2021 to help Area Fire Management Groups identify risks and prioritise mitigation activities (**Attachment 1**) consistent with the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework process and compatible with the Department of Environment and Science/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service risk assessment framework (currently nearing finalisation);
 2. From 31 August 2021, what would be the traditional end of OCB, the direction will be to transition to an annual mitigation program recognising the increasing length of bushfire seasons and mitigation activities which can be undertaken at any time; and
 3. The year-round program should then mature into a rolling program based upon landowner / land manager longer term strategies for management of fire prone areas. In effect, this year will see the end of a time-based OCB pre-bushfire.
- OCB may continue to exist in the future as a heightened period of mitigation activity to address priority emergent risks prior to the main bushfire season.
- The new Risk Assessment Methodology is supported by enhanced current fuel hazard information for the whole of state, a single dataset to identify buildings at risk, evidence-based mapping at a locality (sub-LGA) level and risk assessment tools to allow incorporation of local knowledge to adjust risk levels.

- The transition to the year-round approach has been recognised in the attached OCB 2021 draft Commissioner's Intent (**Attachment 2**) which notes the desired situation as at 31 August 2021 but also includes an intended future state.
- Whilst the OCB strategy of focussing on identified areas of highest risk to community (generally closest to the assets) has been supported by recent research (e.g. the Bushfire Recovery Report findings widely reported in New South Wales and Victorian press on 15 March 2021) the move to year-round programs will also include consideration of mitigation activities across the landscape which will allow a more complete approach to protecting all values and avoiding "Mega Fires".
- This transition will require increased partnership and accountability with land management agencies to facilitate a collaborative approach to mitigation data capture and a Working Group has been endorsed by the State Bushfire Committee to support this transition, review the Risk Assessment Methodology and establish agreed standard data to allow a consolidated common operating picture.
- A whole of QFES approach will be required to manage the significant information management adaptation required in this transition and an implementation plan will be developed with the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Advanced Capability Unit and QFES Geographic Information Systems as well as external partners.
- Once an annual program is established, a gradual change to a rolling program is envisaged however this will require significant change in some external partners capabilities and accountability.
- The overall strategic future direction of stages 2 and 3 was supported by the State Bushfire Committee at their inaugural meeting of 1 March 2021.
- The future direction of OCB and expanded annual mitigation program will be supported by the enhancement of bushfire mitigation capacity through the recently approved RFS 20 additional FTEs specifically for mitigation.

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with:
 - The State Bushfire Committee which concurs with the future direction and the establishment of a Working Group and
 - Brenton Phillips (Acting Manager, Hazard and Risk Emergency Management and Community Capability), and RFS State and regional representatives who concur with the OCB Risk Assessment Methodology.

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?

- N/A

5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- N/A

6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the *Human Rights Act 2019* been considered?

- This brief is compatible with QFES' obligations regarding the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA).

8. Funding

- Nil additional funding proposed (See note above regarding recently approved RFS bushfire mitigation enhancement).

9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- Yes.

10. Recommendation

- That you:
 - approve the direction being taken and the attached Commissioner's Intent (**Attachment 2**)
 - note the attached OCB risk assessment methodology and approve for release to SBC working group (**Attachment 1**)
 - ~~consider advising the Minister of this matter.~~

Endorsed

Mike Wassing AFSM

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

26/3/2021



Greg Leach

COMMISSIONER

30/3/2021

~~Noted~~ / ~~Approved~~ / ~~Not Approved~~

Comments:

Approved. An MBN will be prepared on this topic but will also include information on public messaging plans per DLO email advice dated 30/3.

From: Margot Gladstone
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 12:12 PM
To: RFS Assistant Commissioner
Cc: John Bolger; James Haig; QFES Correspondence
Subject: RE: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Moji

That is fine. I have created a campaign in MECS – “Operation Cool Burn 2021”.

Cheryl / Katinka – can you create an item in MECS for this first brief and progress it via MECS please. Please liaise with Moji on timeframes.

Cheers
Margot



Margot Gladstone
Executive Manager
Executive and Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Post: GPO Box 1425, Brisbane Qld 4001
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Mail Cluster 6.9

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 11:58 AM
To: Margot Gladstone **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Cc: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; James Haig **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: FW: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Margot

I understand last year RFS provided regular reports following OCB fortnightly videoconferences. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and James Haig has discussed with Cathy Knapp and Lauren Poynting who are also supportive of continuing this approach this year.

The progress report will be due to the MO fortnightly on Monday morning.

Could I please request that QFES Corro allocates this each fortnight to us so we can action and obtain necessary approvals in time.

Thank you in advance.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Kind regards
Moji



Moji Sadrizadeh
 A/Executive Officer
 Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service
 [Redacted]
 Emergency Services Complex – Block C Level 2
 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron QLD 4031
 GPO Box 1425 BRISBANE QLD 4001

From: James Haig [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:46 AM
To: John Bolger [Redacted]; RFS Assistant Commissioner [Redacted]
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

This report is prepared using data compiled up to the second OCB fortnightly videoconference held on 27 April. As per the Commissioner's Intent we have fortnightly videoconferences on a Tuesday Morning which provide a standard point in time for statistics. Last year we provided regular reports following these and this seemed to work well in avoiding different figures taken at slightly different times, a single point of truth if you like. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and I think it could work well this year also (Cathy Knapp is supportive). Jason Brown from QFES futures and I link up so that all data is the same. I contacted Lauren Poynting, Chief of Staff in the Commissioners Office regarding using this report to brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings and she was supportive.

The media reporting section will grow as media activity in OCB 2021 ramps up and the various other headings can also be expanded as needs emerge (e.g. if weather or other issues arise).

I had hoped to have this completed by yesterday and apologies for the delay which was due to a key staff member being ill and another on deployment with SES to Western Australia.

If appropriate could you please forward on through channels To Lauren Poynting Chief of Staff to the Commissioner?
 Apologies for the delay

Regards

James

James Haig
 Superintendent
 Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
 Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
 [Redacted]



From: QFES Correspondence
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 1:51 PM
To: Corro QFES EMVCR RFS
Cc: QFES Correspondence; Corro QFES EMVCR DC
Subject: FW: Operation Cool Burn - Progress Report No 3
Attachments: Attachment 1 - Risk Assessment Methodology (002)_SO Input.docx

Good afternoon Mojgan,

Please see attached edits and queries from the Commissioner's office for inclusion in the next fortnightly report – due Friday 28/5 at 12pm.

I have created a new MECS item which will be allocated to you shortly.

Kind Regards,

Katinka Pauli



A/Sr Correspondence Officer (Mon- Tue & Thu – Fri)
Executive, Ministerial and Corporate Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information

Emergency Services Complex – Block D Lvl 2
125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron 4031 - GPO Box 1425, Brisbane 4001

From: QFES Commissioner Staff Officer **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 12:13 PM
To: Lisa Walsh **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; Lauren Poynting **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Cc: QFES Correspondence **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: RE: Operation Cool Burn - Progress Report No 3

Hi Lisa,
I've provided this to the Commissioner for his use this afternoon. After some discussion, it will need some rework if it is to be endorsed on MECS, and some clarification will need to be provided by the unit providing the information for future reports

I've attached a copy with a couple of edits and comments. I'll attach it in MECS too and add a general comment.

Thanks,
Joel



Joel Love
Staff Officer to the Commissioner | Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information

Direct Email: Joel.Love@qfes.qld.gov.au
Emergency Services Complex | 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron 4031
Mail Cluster 6.1 | GPO Box 1425, Brisbane 4001

From: Lisa Walsh **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 4:55 PM
To: Lauren Poynting **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; QFES Commissioner Staff Officer

s.73 - Irrelevant information

Cc: QFES Correspondence s.73 - Irrelevant information

Subject: Operation Cool Burn - Progress Report No 3

Hi Lauren and Joel

Please find attached the Operation Cool Burn Status Report.

I have been told that the Commissioner requires this to meet with the Minister on Monday.

A hard copy will be progressed to the Commissioner's Office first thing Monday morning.

I wanted to send through a forward copy for your information in case you wanted to send it to the Commissioner this afternoon.

Lisa

Lisa Walsh

A/Executive Manager

Executive and Ministerial Services

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information





OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 02

Date:	11 May 2021
Reporting Period:	27 April 2021 to 11 May 2021
Includes data up to:	08:15 11 May 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) at an advanced stage. .
- The total number of planned activities for OCB 2021 at 11 May is 583 across 242 high risk localities.

Deleted: 0

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology Weather and Climate Outlook Brief for OCB (11 May 2021) reports that:

- The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. Climate model outlooks indicate this neutral phase will last until at least September. The Indian Ocean Dipole is currently neutral and forecast to remain so at least through the early part of winter.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that below median rainfall is possible across parts of far north Queensland over the June to August period, while above median rainfall will be possible across the southern half of the state.
- Recent rains in southern areas including thunderstorms are delaying some mitigation activities.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 11 May 2021, a total of 583 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in 242 localities (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
- Of these 583 planned activities, 215 are community education activities, 117 are firebreaks or fire trails and 251 are hazard reduction activities (including burns and mechanical reduction).
- At this stage of OCB 2021, 3.8 percent of all planned activities have been completed (i.e. 22 out of 583), 4.7 percent of community education activities have been completed (i.e. 10 out of 205), 5.1 percent of firebreak or fire trail activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 117) and 2.4 percent of hazard reduction activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 251).
- Note that activities not completed by August 31 will carry over as part of the transition to a year-round mitigation program.

Commented [JL1]: What are the likely impacts of this?
 - Drop in activities completed this year?
 - Excess next year resulting in relative drop the following year?
 What plans are in place to manage these effects?
 - Should a clean cut over be made in reporting?

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane	14	0	14	7		7			0	9		9	16	0	16
Central	50	6	56	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	102	9	111
Far Northern	26	0	26			0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast	42	0	42	17		17	5		5	48		48	70	0	70
Northern	8	2	10	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East	64	2	66	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	218	6	224
South West	24	4	28	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	39	4	43
Total	228	14	242	205	10	215	111	6	117	245	6	251	561	22	583
% completed	5.8%			4.7%			5.1%			2.4%			3.8%		

Commented [JL2]: Confirm there are no Fire Trails managed by QFES in BR. E.g. Mt Coot-Tha?

Commented [JL3]: These totals don't add up (14 + 7 + 9)

Commented [JL4]: Confirm there are no Community Education activities for FNR?

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- Most AFMGs have met.
- 4 AFMGs in Northern and Far Northern Regions have not met to date because of wet weather conditions. Meeting dates for these areas remain weather dependent from both fuel assessment and availability of partner representatives' points of view.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- Most BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well noting that recent rains in some areas have delayed burning in the short term. (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB activity to 9 May

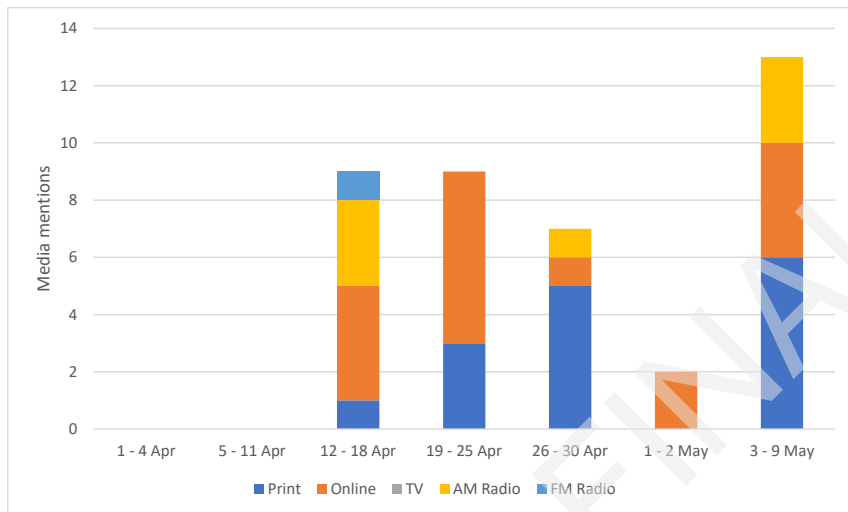
Media activity has been relatively low to date (31 traditional media OCB related stories so far) which is expected as it concentrates in the middle and latter months of OCB when communities become more aware of ongoing hazard reduction burning activity and more receptive to messaging on the need for them to recognise their bushfire risk and plan and prepare for the coming season. Regions are being encouraged to proactively use the media to carry this planning and preparation message to Queenslanders in lower risk areas where there are no specific mitigation activities are planned.

There have been 24 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 26 April – Sun 9 May), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 42. These figures are shown graphically below.

Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	26 April – 2 May	3 – 9 May	Fortnight total (26 April – 9 May)	OCB total (1 April – 9 May)
Brisbane / State	3	7	10	13
Central	0	0	0	1
Far Northern	2	0	2	5
North Coast	3	3	6	11
Northern	0	0	0	4
South East	3	3	6	7
South West	0	0	0	1
Total	11	13	24	42

Number of media mentions 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)

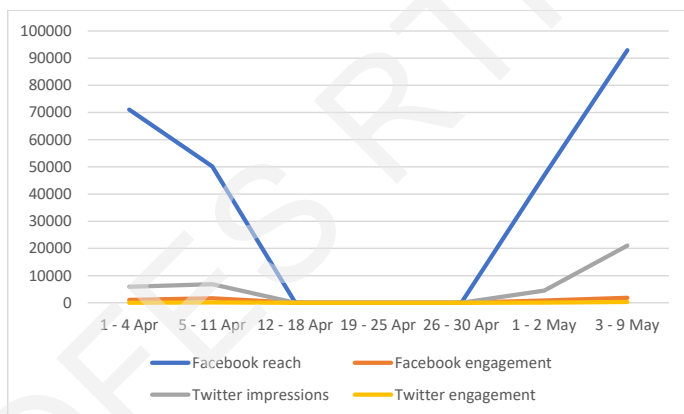




Figure 2. OCB 2020 Mitigation Activities Dashboard at 11 May 2021

Operation Cool Burn Report 5/11/2021 8:15:35 AM

Estimated_Completion_Year
2021

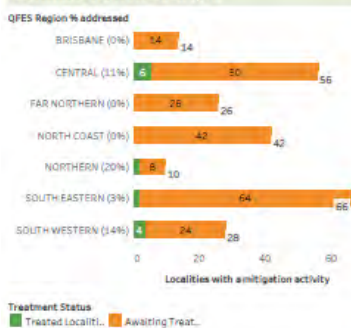
Table 1. Number of mitigation activities

Hotspot QFES Region	Community Education			Broad Activity Category / Activity Status			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Awaiting Completion	Completed	Total	Fire Breaks or Trails		Total	Hazard Reduction		Total	
				Awaiting Completion	Completed		Awaiting Completion	Completed		
BRISBANE	7		7				9		9	16
CENTRAL	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	111
FAR NORTHERN				33		33	53		53	86
NORTH COAST	17		17	5		5	48		48	70
NORTHERN	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	33
SOUTH EASTERN	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	204
SOUTH WESTERN	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	43

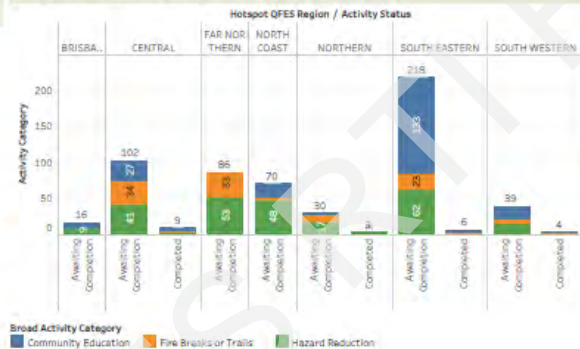
Map 1. Number of Mitigation Activities



Graph 1. Number of localities with an identified high risk hotspot



Graph 2. Number of mitigation activities



Graph 3. Number of mitigation activities





OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 02

Date:	11 May 2021
Reporting Period:	27 April 2021 to 11 May 2021
Includes data up to:	08:15 11 May 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) at an advanced stage. .
- The total number of planned activities for OCB 2020 at 11 May is 583 across 242 high risk localities.

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology Weather and Climate Outlook Brief for OCB (11 May 2021) reports that:

- The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. Climate model outlooks indicate this neutral phase will last until at least September. The Indian Ocean Dipole is currently neutral and forecast to remain so at least through the early part of winter.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that below median rainfall is possible across parts of far north Queensland over the June to August period, while above median rainfall will be possible across the southern half of the state.
- Recent rains in southern areas including thunderstorms are delaying some mitigation activities.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 11 May 2021, a total of 583 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in 242 localities (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
- Of these 583 planned activities, 215 are community education activities, 117 are firebreaks or fire trails and 251 are hazard reduction activities (including burns and mechanical reduction).
- At this stage of OCB 2021, 3.8 percent of all planned activities have been completed (i.e. 22 out of 583), 4.7 percent of community education activities have been completed (i.e. 10 out of 205), 5.1 percent of firebreak or fire trail activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 117) and 2.4 percent of hazard reduction activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 251).
- Note that activities not completed by August 31 will carry over as part of the transition to a year-round mitigation program.

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane	14	0	14	7		7			0	9		9	16	0	16
Central	50	6	56	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	102	9	111
Far Northern	26	0	26			0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast	42	0	42	17		17	5		5	48		48	70	0	70
Northern	8	2	10	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East	64	2	66	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	218	6	224
South West	24	4	28	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	39	4	43
Total	228	14	242	205	10	215	111	6	117	245	6	251	561	22	583
% completed	5.8%			4.7%			5.1%			2.4%			3.8%		

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- Most AFMGs have met.
- 4 AFMGs in Northern and Far Northern Regions have not met to date because of wet weather conditions. Meeting dates for these areas remain weather dependent from both fuel assessment and availability of partner representatives' points of view.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- Most BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well noting that recent rains in some areas have delayed burning in the short term. (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB activity to 9 May

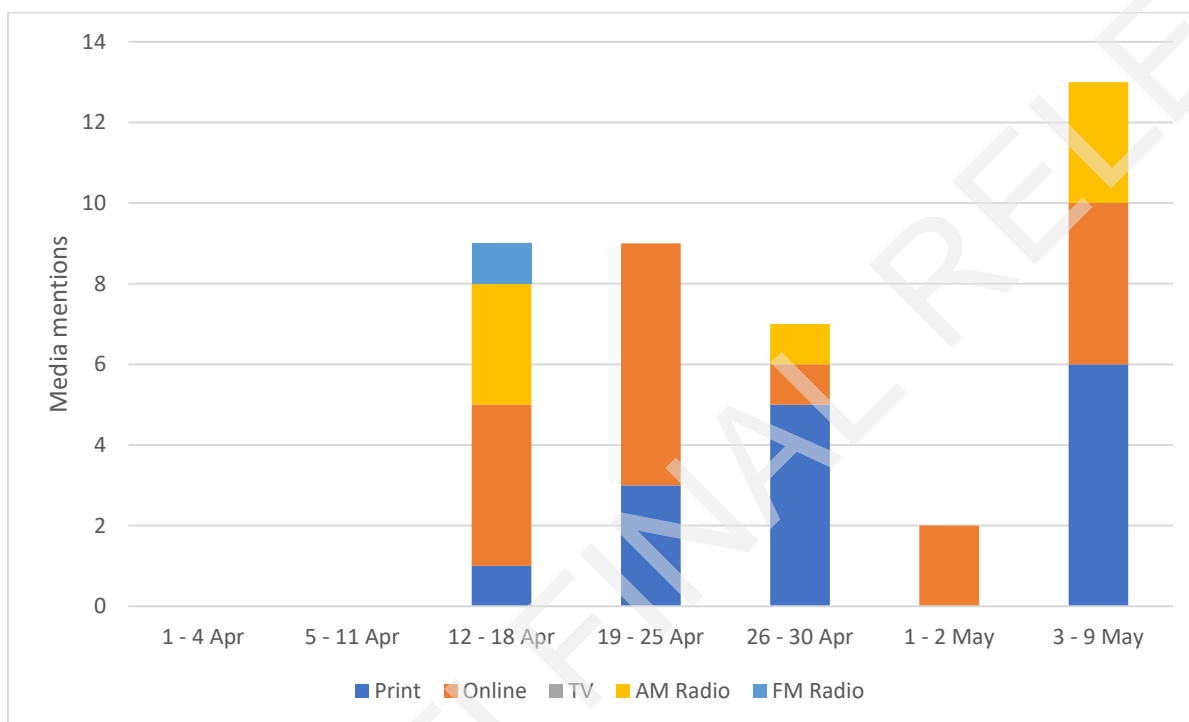
Media activity has been relatively low to date (31 traditional media OCB related stories so far) which is expected as it concentrates in the middle and latter months of OCB when communities become more aware of ongoing hazard reduction burning activity and more receptive to messaging on the need for them to recognise their bushfire risk and plan and prepare for the coming season. Regions are being encouraged to proactively use the media to carry this planning and preparation message to Queenslanders in lower risk areas where there are no specific mitigation activities are planned.

There have been 24 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 26 April – Sun 9 May), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 42. These figures are shown graphically below.

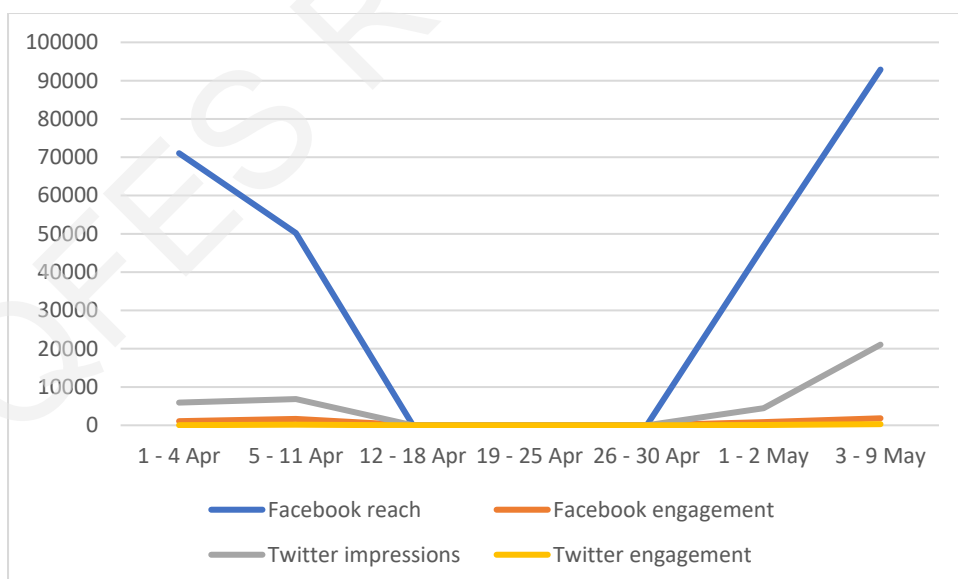
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	26 April – 2 May	3 – 9 May	Fortnight total (26 April – 9 May)	OCB total (1 April – 9 May)
Brisbane / State	3	7	10	13
Central	0	0	0	1
Far Northern	2	0	2	5
North Coast	3	3	6	11
Northern	0	0	0	4
South East	3	3	6	7
South West	0	0	0	1
Total	11	13	24	42

Number of media mentions 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



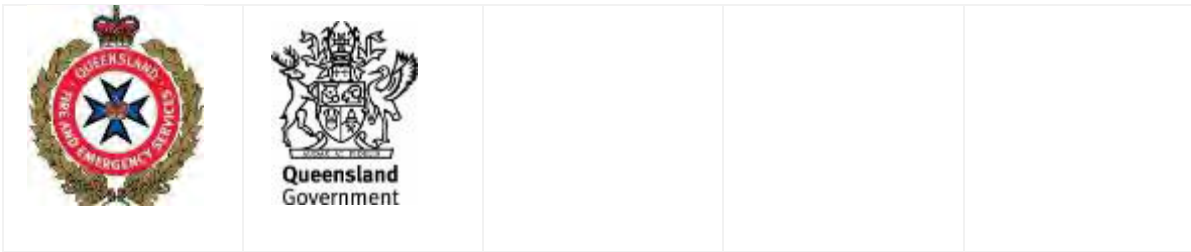


Figure 2. OCB 2020 Mitigation Activities Dashboard at 11 May 2021

Operation Cool Burn Report 5/11/2021 8:15:35 AM

Estimated_Completion_Year
2021

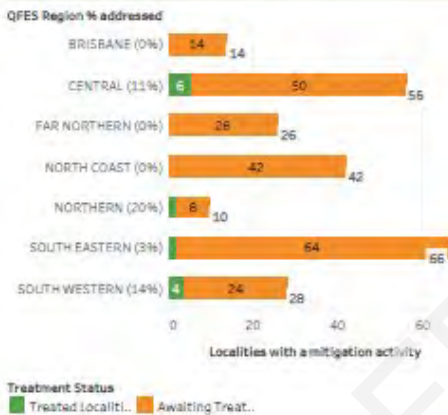
Table 1. Number of mitigation activities

Hotspot QFES Region	Community Education			Broad Activity Category / Activity Status			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Awaiting Completion	Completed	Total	Awaiting Completion	Completed	Total	Awaiting Completion	Completed	Total	
BRISBANE	7		7				9		9	16
CENTRAL	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	111
FAR NORTHERN				33		33	53		53	86
NORTH COAST	17		17	5		5	48		48	70
NORTHERN	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	33
SOUTH EASTERN	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	224
SOUTH WESTERN	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	43

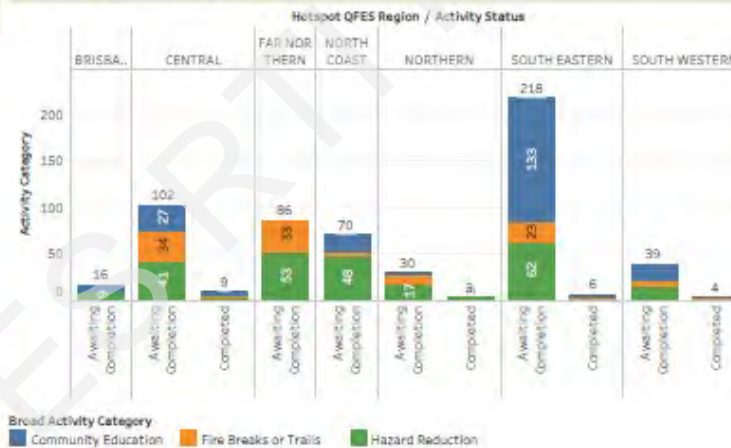
Map 1. Number of Mitigation Activities



Graph 1. Number of localities with an identified high risk hotspot



Graph 2. Number of mitigation activities



Graph 3. Number of mitigation activities





OPERATION COOL BURN 2021
State Progress Report No. 02

Date:	11 May 2021
Reporting Period:	27 April 2021 to 11 May 2021
Includes data up to:	08:15 11 May 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) at an advanced stage.
- The total number of planned activities for OCB 2021 at 11 May is 583 across 242 high risk localities.

Deleted: 0

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology Weather and Climate Outlook Brief for OCB (11 May 2021) reports that:

- The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. Climate model outlooks indicate this neutral phase will last until at least September. The Indian Ocean Dipole is currently neutral and forecast to remain so at least through the early part of winter.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that below median rainfall is possible across parts of far north Queensland over the June to August period, while above median rainfall will be possible across the southern half of the state.
- Recent rains in southern areas including thunderstorms are delaying some mitigation activities.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 11 May 2021, a total of 583 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in 242 localities (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
- Of these 583 planned activities, 215 are community education activities, 117 are firebreaks or fire trails and 251 are hazard reduction activities (including burns and mechanical reduction).
- At this stage of OCB 2021, 3.8 percent of all planned activities have been completed (i.e. 22 out of 583), 4.7 percent of community education activities have been completed (i.e. 10 out of 205), 5.1 percent of firebreak or fire trail activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 117) and 2.4 percent of hazard reduction activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 251).
- Note that activities not completed by August 31 will carry over as part of the transition to a year-round mitigation program.

Commented [JL1]: What are the likely impacts of this?
 - Drop in activities completed this year?
 - Excess next year resulting in relative drop the following year?
 What plans are in place to manage these effects?
 - Should a clean cut over be made in reporting?

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane	14	0	14	7		7			0	9		9	16	0	16
Central	50	6	56	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	102	9	111
Far Northern	26	0	26			0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast	42	0	42	17		17	5		5	48		48	70	0	70
Northern	8	2	10	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East	64	2	66	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	218	6	224
South West	24	4	28	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	39	4	43
Total	228	14	242	205	10	215	111	6	117	245	6	251	561	22	583
% completed	5.8%			4.7%			5.1%			2.4%			3.8%		

Commented [JL2]: Confirm there are no Fire Trails managed by QFES in BR. E.g. Mt Coot-Tha?

Commented [JL3]: These totals don't add up (14 + 7 + 9)

Commented [JL4]: Confirm there are no Community Education activities for FNR?

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- Most AFMGs have met.
- 4 AFMGs in Northern and Far Northern Regions have not met to date because of wet weather conditions. Meeting dates for these areas remain weather dependent from both fuel assessment and availability of partner representatives' points of view.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- Most BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well noting that recent rains in some areas have delayed burning in the short term. (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB activity to 9 May

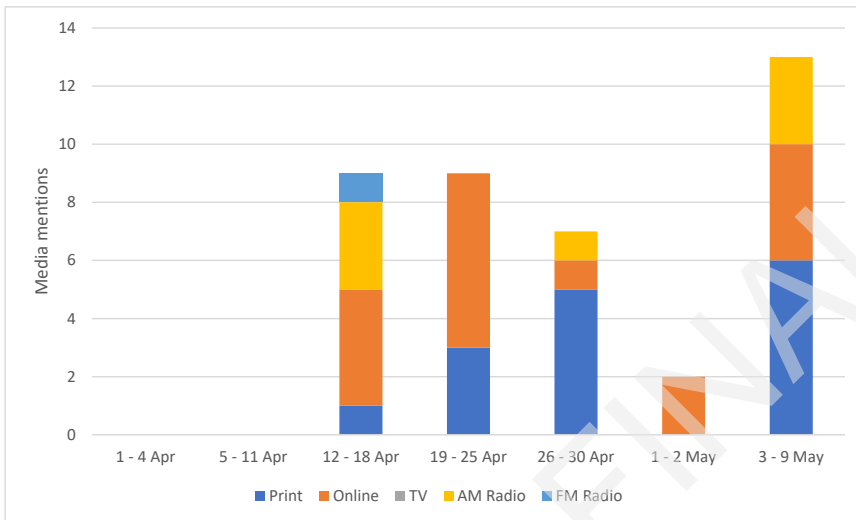
Media activity has been relatively low to date (31 traditional media OCB related stories so far) which is expected as it concentrates in the middle and latter months of OCB when communities become more aware of ongoing hazard reduction burning activity and more receptive to messaging on the need for them to recognise their bushfire risk and plan and prepare for the coming season. Regions are being encouraged to proactively use the media to carry this planning and preparation message to Queenslanders in lower risk areas where there are no specific mitigation activities are planned.

There have been 24 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 26 April – Sun 9 May), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 42. These figures are shown graphically below.

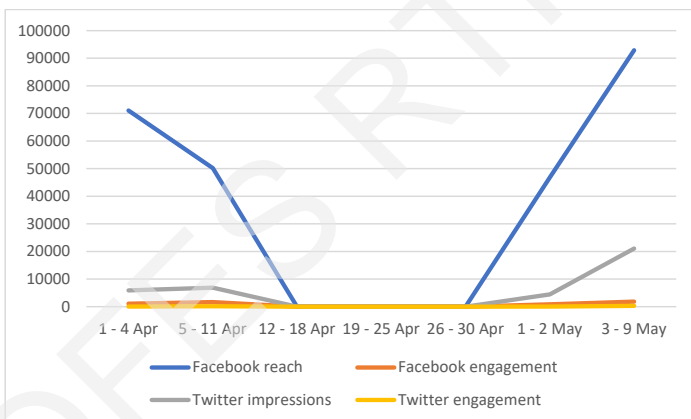
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	26 April – 2 May	3 – 9 May	Fortnight total (26 April – 9 May)	OCB total (1 April – 9 May)
Brisbane / State	3	7	10	13
Central	0	0	0	1
Far Northern	2	0	2	5
North Coast	3	3	6	11
Northern	0	0	0	4
South East	3	3	6	7
South West	0	0	0	1
Total	11	13	24	42

Number of media mentions 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



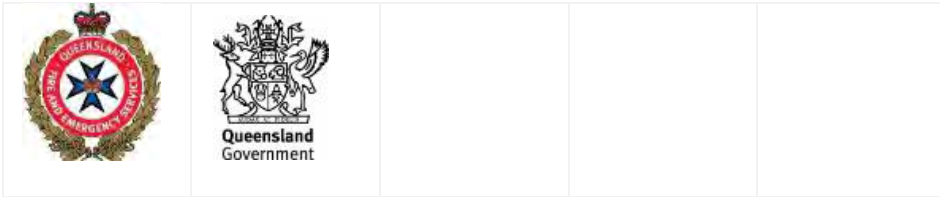


Figure 2. OCB 2020 Mitigation Activities Dashboard at 11 May 2021

Operation Cool Burn Report 5/11/2021 8:15:35 AM

Estimated_Completion_Year
2021

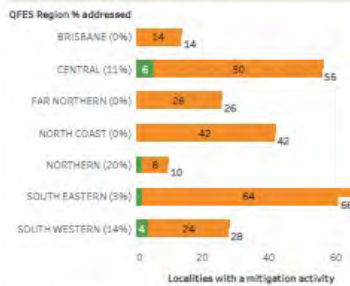
Table 1. Number of mitigation activities

Hotspot QFES Region	Community Education			Broad Activity Category / Activity Status			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Awaiting Completion	Completed	Total	Fire Breaks or Trails		Total	Hazard Reduction		Total	
				Awaiting Completion	Completed		Awaiting Completion	Completed		
BRISBANE	7		7				9		9	16
CENTRAL	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	111
FAR NORTHERN				33		33	53		53	86
NORTH COAST	17		17	5		5	48		48	70
NORTHERN	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	33
SOUTH EASTERN	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	234
SOUTH WESTERN	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	43

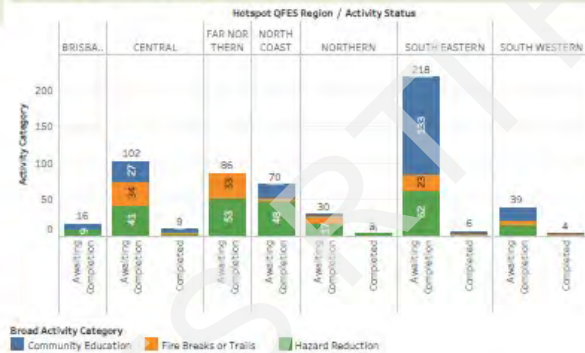
Map 1. Number of Mitigation Activities



Graph 1. Number of localities with an identified high risk hotspot



Graph 2. Number of mitigation activities



Graph 3. Number of mitigation activities



From: DC EMVCR
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 3:15 PM
To: Commissioner QFES; Lauren Poynting
Cc: DC EMVCR; RFS Assistant Commissioner; James Haig
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April
Attachments: 20210427 OCB2021 State Progress Report No 1 as at 1300 on the 29.04.2021 James v3.docx

Categories: Action Required

Good afternoon Lauren

Please find attached progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 endorsed by A/DC Greenfield.

Kind regards
Claire

From: Joanne Greenfield s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 2:56 PM
To: DC EMVCR s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: RE: For urgent endorsement: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

approved – thank you

Joanne Greenfield
A/ Deputy Commissioner
Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience



Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
L3 DMC Building, 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron Qld 4031
GPO BOX 1425 BRISBANE QLD 4001 Mail Cluster 14.11

s.73 - Irrelevant information

From: DC EMVCR s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 2:28 PM
To: Joanne Greenfield s.73 - Irrelevant information
Cc: DC EMVCR s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: For urgent endorsement: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April
Importance: High

Hi Joanne

Please find attached progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 prepared by James Haig.

I understand office of CQFES are happy to receive this fortnightly report so CQFES can brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings.

Please note this will be uploaded on to MECS

For your endorsement please.

Thanks
Claire

From: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 1:44 PM
To: RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; Mojgan Sadrizadeh **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: FW: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Approved thanks Moji

Cheers

John Bolger AFSM.
CMgr FIML.GAICD.GIFireE.

Assistant Commissioner



Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Emergency Services Complex. Kedron.

s.73 - Irrelevant information

W: www.qfes.qld.gov.au

 [@johnbolgerQFES](https://twitter.com/johnbolgerQFES)

Respect. Integrity. Courage. Loyalty and Trust. OUR SHARED VALUES

From: James Haig **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:46 AM
To: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

This report is prepared using data compiled up to the second OCB fortnightly videoconference held on 27 April. As per the Commissioner's Intent we have fortnightly videoconferences on a Tuesday Morning which provide a standard point in time for statistics. Last year we provided regular reports following these and this seemed to work well in avoiding different figures taken at slightly different times, a single point of truth if you like. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and I think it could work well this year also (Cathy Knapp is supportive). Jason Brown from QFES futures and I link up so that all data is the same. I contacted Lauren Poynting, Chief of Staff in the Commissioners Office regarding using this report to brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings and she was supportive.

The media reporting section will grow as media activity in OCB 2021 ramps up and the various other headings can also be expanded as needs emerge (e.g. if weather or other issues arise).

I had hoped to have this completed by yesterday and apologies for the delay which was due to a key staff member being ill and another on deployment with SES to Western Australia.

If appropriate could you please forward on through channels To Lauren Poynting Chief of Staff to the Commissioner?
Apologies for the delay

Regards

James

James Haig

Superintendent

Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation

Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information



QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 01

Date:	27 April 2021
Reporting Period:	1 April 2021 to 27 April 2021
Includes data up to:	08:30 27 April 2021

Summary

- Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has successfully commenced and is well advanced in the planning phase of the operation with early completion of some activities. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and 64 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) have been prepared.
- The total number of planned activities for OCB 2020 at this stage is 539 across 222 high risk localities. The number of planned activities is expected to increase as BRMPs are consolidated in coming weeks. high risk localities.
- From 31 August 2021 (the traditional end of OCB) mitigation will transition to an annual mitigation program recognising the diverse climatic conditions across Queensland, the increasing length of bushfire seasons and that mitigation activities can be effectively undertaken throughout the year
- The State Bushfire Committee endorsed the establishment of Bushfire Mitigation Working Group which will play a major role in transition from an April to August Operation Cool Burn mitigation program to a year-round program. This group had its first meeting on 22 April attended by representatives of 10 major mitigation partners. There was strong support for increased capturing and sharing of mitigation data to enhance collaboration and transition to an annual program.

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology Weather and Climate Outlook Brief for OCB (27 April 2021) reports that:

- The Bureau's El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral, with no sign of El Niño or La Niña developing in the coming months. The climate model outlooks suggest the tropical Pacific Ocean will remain at neutral ENSO levels until September.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that below median rainfall is possible across parts of far north Queensland over the May to July period, while above median rainfall will be possible across the southwest of the state. Other areas are likely to experience average rainfall, recognising we are entering a normally dry period of the year.
- The short-term outlook is generally for low-moderate fire dangers and conditions are reported to be drying out except in the north, allowing hazard reduction burning to progress.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2020

- As at 27 April 2021 a total of 539 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2020 in 222 localities (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
- Further refinements to the total number of planned mitigation activities and the number of high-risk locations is likely before the next reporting period (11 May) however these are expected to be minor driven by as most BRMPs have been finalised and planned activities are largely consolidated.
- Of these 539 planned activities, 196 are community education activities, 113 are firebreaks or fire trails and 230 are hazard reduction activities (including burns and mechanical reduction).
- At this stage of OCB 2021, 2.4 percent of all planned activities have been completed (i.e. 13 out of 539), 2.0 percent of community education activities have been completed (i.e. 4 out of 196), 3.5 percent of firebreak or fire trail activities have been completed (i.e. 4 out of 113) and 2.2 percent of hazard reduction activities have been completed (i.e. 5 out of 230).
- Note that activities not completed by August 31 will carry over as part of the transition to a year-round mitigation program.

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane	14		14	7		7			0	9		9	16	0	16
Central	48	5	53	25	2	27	31	3	34	39	2	41	95	7	102
Far Northern	26		26			0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast	41		41	15		15	5		5	49		49	69	0	69
Northern	8	2	10	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East	51		51	124		124	24		24	42		42	190	0	190
South West	24	3	27	18	2	20	6	1	7	16		16	40	3	43
Total	212	10	222	192	4	196	109	4	113	225	5	230	526	13	539
% completed	4.5%			2.0%			3.5%			2.2%			2.4%		

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- Some 61 AFMGs have met to date (note includes some newly established AFMGs compared to 2020).
- 4 AFMGs in Northern and Far Northern Regions have not met to date because of wet weather conditions. Meeting dates for these areas remain weather dependent from both fuel assessment and availability of partner representatives points of view.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- To date 64 BRMPs have been prepared with most submitted to LDMGs already.
- The remaining LGAs have been recognised as a lower priority for BRMP preparation because of lower levels of bushfire risk in these areas and detailed BRMPs will not be prepared.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

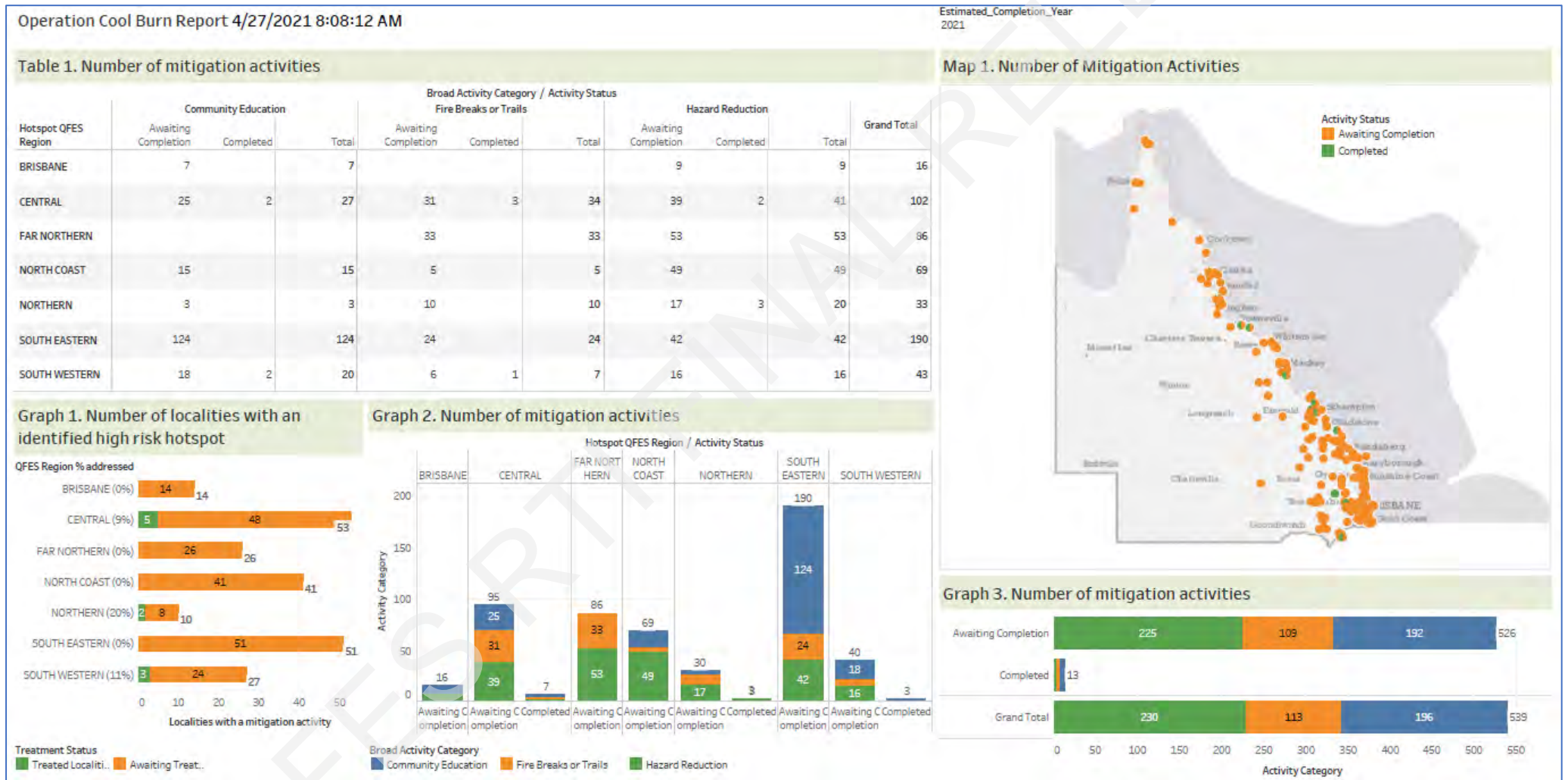
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required. Particular attention will be paid to northern areas where there has been significant rain in March and April however the BoM forecast of below average rainfall in these areas should improve conditions in coming months.
- COVID-19 restrictions are also having significantly less impact on activities than in OCB 2020 however experience and procedures from 2020 will be reapplied if the situation changes.

6. Media summary OCB activity to 27 April 2021

Media activity has been relatively low to date (31 traditional media OCB related stories so far) which is expected as it concentrates in the middle and latter months of OCB when communities become more aware of ongoing hazard reduction burning activity and more receptive to messaging on the need for them to recognise their bushfire risk and plan and prepare for the coming season. Regions are being encouraged to proactively use the media to carry this planning and preparation message to Queenslanders in lower risk areas where there are no specific mitigation activities are planned.



Figure 2. OCB 2020 Mitigation Activities Dashboard at 27 April 2021



QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 01

Date:	27 April 2021
Reporting Period:	1 April 2021 to 27 April 2021
Includes data up to:	08:30 27 April 2021

Summary

- Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has successfully commenced and is well advanced in the planning phase of the operation with early completion of some activities. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and 64 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) have been prepared.
- The total number of planned activities for OCB 2020 at this stage is 539 across 222 high risk localities. The number of planned activities is expected to increase as BRMPs are consolidated in coming weeks. high risk localities.
- From 31 August 2021 (the traditional end of OCB) mitigation will transition to an annual mitigation program recognising the diverse climatic conditions across Queensland, the increasing length of bushfire seasons and that mitigation activities can be effectively undertaken throughout the year
- The State Bushfire Committee endorsed the establishment of Bushfire Mitigation Working Group which will play a major role in transition from an April to August Operation Cool Burn mitigation program to a year-round program. This group had its first meeting on 22 April attended by representatives of 10 major mitigation partners. There was strong support for increased capturing and sharing of mitigation data to enhance collaboration and transition to an annual program.

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology Weather and Climate Outlook Brief for OCB (27 April 2021) reports that:

- The Bureau's El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral, with no sign of El Niño or La Niña developing in the coming months. The climate model outlooks suggest the tropical Pacific Ocean will remain at neutral ENSO levels until September.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that below median rainfall is possible across parts of far north Queensland over the May to July period, while above median rainfall will be possible across the southwest of the state. Other areas are likely to experience average rainfall, recognising we are entering a normally dry period of the year.
- The short-term outlook is generally for low-moderate fire dangers and conditions are reported to be drying out except in the north, allowing hazard reduction burning to progress.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2020

- As at 27 April 2021 a total of 539 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2020 in 222 localities (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
- Further refinements to the total number of planned mitigation activities and the number of high-risk locations is likely before the next reporting period (11 May) however these are expected to be minor driven by as most BRMPs have been finalised and planned activities are largely consolidated.
- Of these 539 planned activities, 196 are community education activities, 113 are firebreaks or fire trails and 230 are hazard reduction activities (including burns and mechanical reduction).
- At this stage of OCB 2021, 2.4 percent of all planned activities have been completed (i.e. 13 out of 539), 2.0 percent of community education activities have been completed (i.e. 4 out of 196), 3.5 percent of firebreak or fire trail activities have been completed (i.e. 4 out of 113) and 2.2 percent of hazard reduction activities have been completed (i.e. 5 out of 230).
- Note that activities not completed by August 31 will carry over as part of the transition to a year-round mitigation program.

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane	14		14	7		7			0	9		9	16	0	16
Central	48	5	53	25	2	27	31	3	34	39	2	41	95	7	102
Far Northern	26		26			0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast	41		41	15		15	5		5	49		49	69	0	69
Northern	8	2	10	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East	51		51	124		124	24		24	42		42	190	0	190
South West	24	3	27	18	2	20	6	1	7	16		16	40	3	43
Total	212	10	222	192	4	196	109	4	113	225	5	230	526	13	539
% completed	4.5%			2.0%			3.5%			2.2%			2.4%		

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- Some 61 AFMGs have met to date (note includes some newly established AFMGs compared to 2020).
- 4 AFMGs in Northern and Far Northern Regions have not met to date because of wet weather conditions. Meeting dates for these areas remain weather dependent from both fuel assessment and availability of partner representatives points of view.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- To date 64 BRMPs have been prepared with most submitted to LDMGs already.
- The remaining LGAs have been recognised as a lower priority for BRMP preparation because of lower levels of bushfire risk in these areas and detailed BRMPs will not be prepared.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

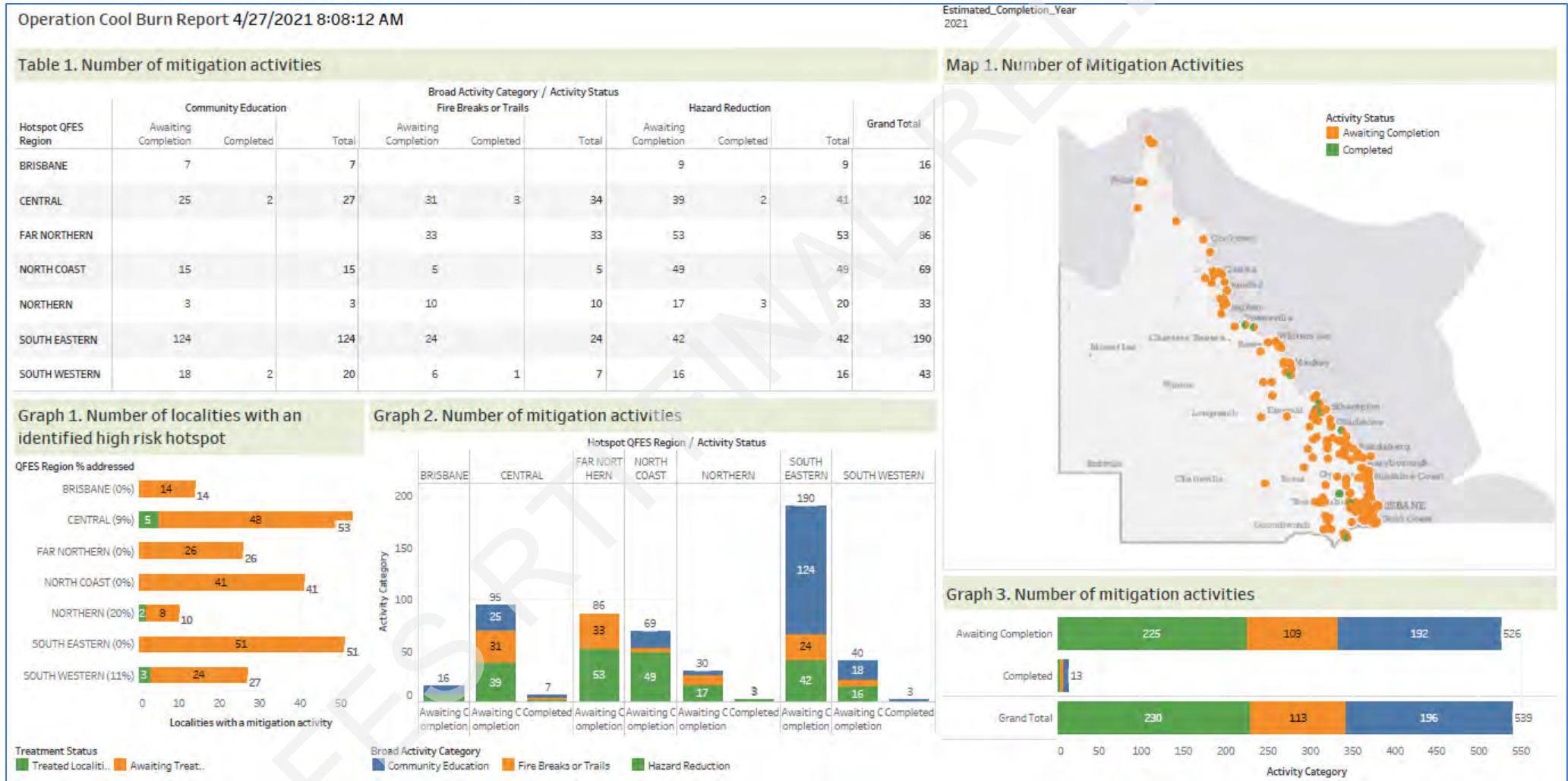
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required. Particular attention will be paid to northern areas where there has been significant rain in March and April however the BoM forecast of below average rainfall in these areas should improve conditions in coming months.
- COVID-19 restrictions are also having significantly less impact on activities than in OCB 2020 however experience and procedures from 2020 will be reapplied if the situation changes.

6. Media summary OCB activity to 27 April 2021

Media activity has been relatively low to date (31 traditional media OCB related stories so far) which is expected as it concentrates in the middle and latter months of OCB when communities become more aware of ongoing hazard reduction burning activity and more receptive to messaging on the need for them to recognise their bushfire risk and plan and prepare for the coming season. Regions are being encouraged to proactively use the media to carry this planning and preparation message to Queenslanders in lower risk areas where there are no specific mitigation activities are planned.



Figure 2. OCB 2020 Mitigation Activities Dashboard at 27 April 2021



QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 01

Date:	27 April 2021
Reporting Period:	1 April 2021 to 27 April 2021
Includes data up to:	08:30 27 April 2021

Summary

- Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has successfully commenced and is well advanced in the planning phase of the operation with early completion of some activities. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and 64 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) have been prepared.
- The total number of planned activities for OCB 2020 at this stage is 539 across 222 high risk localities. The number of planned activities is expected to increase as BRMPs are consolidated in coming weeks. high risk localities.
- From 31 August 2021 (the traditional end of OCB) mitigation will transition to an annual mitigation program recognising the diverse climatic conditions across Queensland, the increasing length of bushfire seasons and that mitigation activities can be effectively undertaken throughout the year
- The State Bushfire Committee endorsed the establishment of Bushfire Mitigation Working Group which will play a major role in transition from an April to August Operation Cool Burn mitigation program to a year-round program. This group had its first meeting on 22 April attended by representatives of 10 major mitigation partners. There was strong support for increased capturing and sharing of mitigation data to enhance collaboration and transition to an annual program.

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology Weather and Climate Outlook Brief for OCB (27 April 2021) reports that:

- The Bureau's El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral, with no sign of El Niño or La Niña developing in the coming months. The climate model outlooks suggest the tropical Pacific Ocean will remain at neutral ENSO levels until September.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that below median rainfall is possible across parts of far north Queensland over the May to July period, while above median rainfall will be possible across the southwest of the state. Other areas are likely to experience average rainfall, recognising we are entering a normally dry period of the year.
- The short-term outlook is generally for low-moderate fire dangers and conditions are reported to be drying out except in the north, allowing hazard reduction burning to progress.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2020

- As at 27 April 2021 a total of 539 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2020 in 222 localities (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
- Further refinements to the total number of planned mitigation activities and the number of high-risk locations is likely before the next reporting period (11 May) however these are expected to be minor driven by as most BRMPs have been finalised and planned activities are largely consolidated.
- Of these 539 planned activities, 196 are community education activities, 113 are firebreaks or fire trails and 230 are hazard reduction activities (including burns and mechanical reduction).
- At this stage of OCB 2021, 2.4 percent of all planned activities have been completed (i.e. 13 out of 539), 2.0 percent of community education activities have been completed (i.e. 4 out of 196), 3.5 percent of firebreak or fire trail activities have been completed (i.e. 4 out of 113) and 2.2 percent of hazard reduction activities have been completed (i.e. 5 out of 230).
- Note that activities not completed by August 31 will carry over as part of the transition to a year-round mitigation program.

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane	14		14	7		7			0	9		9	16	0	16
Central	48	5	53	25	2	27	31	3	34	39	2	41	95	7	102
Far Northern	26		26			0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast	41		41	15		15	5		5	49		49	69	0	69
Northern	8	2	10	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East	51		51	124		124	24		24	42		42	190	0	190
South West	24	3	27	18	2	20	6	1	7	16		16	40	3	43
Total	212	10	222	192	4	196	109	4	113	225	5	230	526	13	539
% completed	4.5%			2.0%			3.5%			2.2%			2.4%		

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- Some 61 AFMGs have met to date (note includes some newly established AFMGs compared to 2020).
- 4 AFMGs in Northern and Far Northern Regions have not met to date because of wet weather conditions. Meeting dates for these areas remain weather dependent from both fuel assessment and availability of partner representatives points of view.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- To date 64 BRMPs have been prepared with most submitted to LDMGs already.
- The remaining LGAs have been recognised as a lower priority for BRMP preparation because of lower levels of bushfire risk in these areas and detailed BRMPs will not be prepared.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

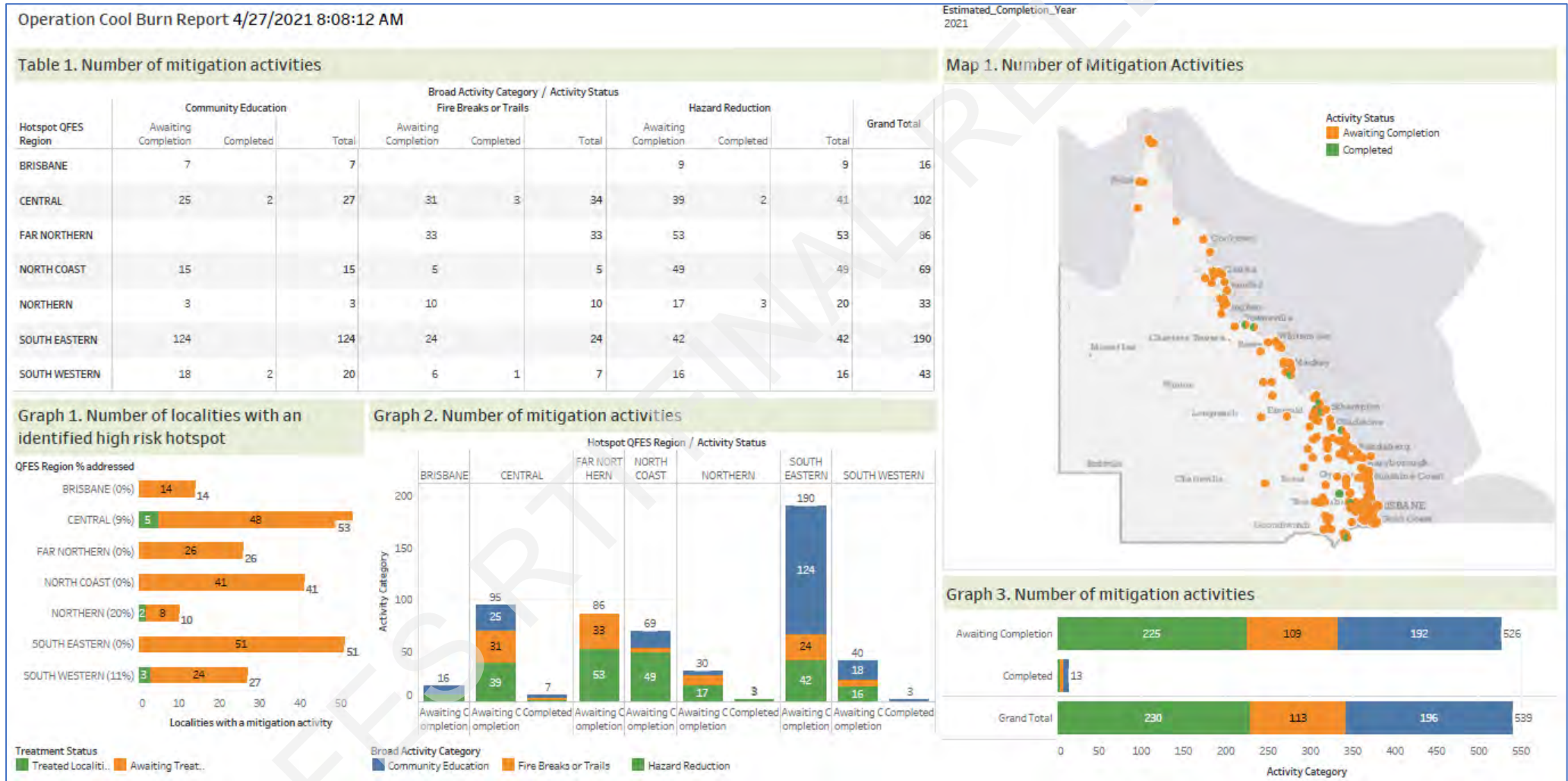
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required. Particular attention will be paid to northern areas where there has been significant rain in March and April however the BoM forecast of below average rainfall in these areas should improve conditions in coming months.
- COVID-19 restrictions are also having significantly less impact on activities than in OCB 2020 however experience and procedures from 2020 will be reapplied if the situation changes.

6. Media summary OCB activity to 27 April 2021

Media activity has been relatively low to date (31 traditional media OCB related stories so far) which is expected as it concentrates in the middle and latter months of OCB when communities become more aware of ongoing hazard reduction burning activity and more receptive to messaging on the need for them to recognise their bushfire risk and plan and prepare for the coming season. Regions are being encouraged to proactively use the media to carry this planning and preparation message to Queenslanders in lower risk areas where there are no specific mitigation activities are planned.



Figure 2. OCB 2020 Mitigation Activities Dashboard at 27 April 2021



QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

From: Margot Gladstone
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 12:12 PM
To: RFS Assistant Commissioner
Cc: John Bolger; James Haig; QFES Correspondence
Subject: RE: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Moji

That is fine. I have created a campaign in MECS – “Operation Cool Burn 2021”.

Cheryl / Katinka – can you create an item in MECS for this first brief and progress it via MECS please. Please liaise with Moji on timeframes.

Cheers
Margot



Margot Gladstone
Executive Manager
Executive and Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Post: GPO Box 1425, Brisbane Qld 4001
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Mail Cluster 6.9

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: RFS Assistant Commissioner s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 11:58 AM
To: Margot Gladstone s.73 - Irrelevant information
Cc: John Bolger s.73 - Irrelevant information; James Haig s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: FW: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Margot

I understand last year RFS provided regular reports following OCB fortnightly videoconferences. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and James Haig has discussed with Cathy Knapp and Lauren Poynting who are also supportive of continuing this approach this year.

The progress report will be due to the MO fortnightly on Monday morning.

Could I please request that QFES Corro allocates this each fortnight to us so we can action and obtain necessary approvals in time.

Thank you in advance.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Kind regards
Moji



Moji Sadrizadeh
 A/Executive Officer
 Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service
 [Redacted]
 Emergency Services Complex – Block C Level 2
 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron QLD 4031
 GPO Box 1425 BRISBANE QLD 4001

From: James Haig **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:46 AM
To: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

This report is prepared using data compiled up to the second OCB fortnightly videoconference held on 27 April. As per the Commissioner's Intent we have fortnightly videoconferences on a Tuesday Morning which provide a standard point in time for statistics. Last year we provided regular reports following these and this seemed to work well in avoiding different figures taken at slightly different times, a single point of truth if you like. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and I think it could work well this year also (Cathy Knapp is supportive). Jason Brown from QFES futures and I link up so that all data is the same. I contacted Lauren Poynting, Chief of Staff in the Commissioners Office regarding using this report to brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings and she was supportive.

The media reporting section will grow as media activity in OCB 2021 ramps up and the various other headings can also be expanded as needs emerge (e.g. if weather or other issues arise).

I had hoped to have this completed by yesterday and apologies for the delay which was due to a key staff member being ill and another on deployment with SES to Western Australia.

If appropriate could you please forward on through channels To Lauren Poynting Chief of Staff to the Commissioner?
 Apologies for the delay

Regards

James

James Haig
 Superintendent
 Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
 Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information



From: QFES Correspondence
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 1:51 PM
To: Corro QFES EMVCR RFS
Cc: QFES Correspondence; Corro QFES EMVCR DC
Subject: FW: Operation Cool Burn - Progress Report No 3
Attachments: Attachment 1 - Risk Assessment Methodology (002)_SO Input.docx

Categories: Katinka

Good afternoon Mojgan,

Please see attached edits and queries from the Commissioner's office for inclusion in the next fortnightly report – due Friday 28/5 at 12pm.

I have created a new MECS item which will be allocated to you shortly.

Kind Regards,

Katinka Pauli



A/Sr Correspondence Officer (Mon- Tue & Thu – Fri)
Executive, Ministerial and Corporate Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information

Emergency Services Complex – Block D Lvl 2

125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron 4031 - GPO Box 1425, Brisbane 4001

From: QFES Commissioner Staff Officer **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 12:13 PM
To: Lisa Walsh **s.73 - Irrelevant information** Lauren Poynting **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Cc: QFES Correspondence **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: RE: Operation Cool Burn - Progress Report No 3

Hi Lisa,

I've provided this to the Commissioner for his use this afternoon. After some discussion, it will need some rework if it is to be endorsed on MECS, and some clarification will need to be provided by the unit providing the information for future reports

I've attached a copy with a couple of edits and comments. I'll attach it in MECS too and add a general comment.

Thanks,

Joel



Joel Love

Staff Officer to the Commissioner | Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information

Emergency Services Complex | 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron 4031

Mail Cluster 6.1 | GPO Box 1425, Brisbane 4001

From: Lisa Walsh s.73 - Irrelevant information

Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 4:55 PM

To: Lauren Poynting s.73 - Irrelevant information; QFES Commissioner Staff Officer

s.73 - Irrelevant information

Cc: QFES Correspondence s.73 - Irrelevant information

Subject: Operation Cool Burn - Progress Report No 3

Hi Lauren and Joel

Please find attached the Operation Cool Burn Status Report.

I have been told that the Commissioner requires this to meet with the Minister on Monday.

A hard copy will be progressed to the Commissioner's Office first thing Monday morning.

I wanted to send through a forward copy for your information in case you wanted to send it to the Commissioner this afternoon.

Lisa

Lisa Walsh

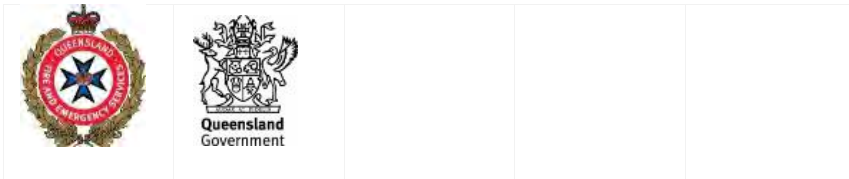
A/Executive Manager

Executive and Ministerial Services

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information





OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 02

Date:	11 May 2021
Reporting Period:	27 April 2021 to 11 May 2021
Includes data up to:	08:15 11 May 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) at an advanced stage. .
- The total number of planned activities for OCB 2021 at 11 May is 583 across 242 high risk localities.

Deleted: 0

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology Weather and Climate Outlook Brief for OCB (11 May 2021) reports that:

- The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. Climate model outlooks indicate this neutral phase will last until at least September. The Indian Ocean Dipole is currently neutral and forecast to remain so at least through the early part of winter.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that below median rainfall is possible across parts of far north Queensland over the June to August period, while above median rainfall will be possible across the southern half of the state.
- Recent rains in southern areas including thunderstorms are delaying some mitigation activities.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 11 May 2021, a total of 583 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in 242 localities (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
- Of these 583 planned activities, 215 are community education activities, 117 are firebreaks or fire trails and 251 are hazard reduction activities (including burns and mechanical reduction).
- At this stage of OCB 2021, 3.8 percent of all planned activities have been completed (i.e. 22 out of 583), 4.7 percent of community education activities have been completed (i.e. 10 out of 205), 5.1 percent of firebreak or fire trail activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 117) and 2.4 percent of hazard reduction activities have been completed (i.e. 6 out of 251).
- Note that activities not completed by August 31 will carry over as part of the transition to a year-round mitigation program.

Commented [JL1]: What are the likely impacts of this?
 - Drop in activities completed this year?
 - Excess next year resulting in relative drop the following year?
 What plans are in place to manage these effects?
 - Should a clean cut over be made in reporting?

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane	14	0	14	7		7			0	9	9	16	0	16	
Central	50	6	56	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	102	9	111
Far Northern	26	0	26			0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast	42	0	42	17		17	5		5	48		48	70	0	70
Northern	8	2	10	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East	64	2	66	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	218	6	224
South West	24	4	28	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	39	4	43
Total	228	14	242	205	10	215	111	6	117	245	6	251	561	22	583
% completed	5.8%			4.7%			5.1%			2.4%			3.8%		

Commented [JL2]: Confirm there are no Fire Trails managed by QFES in BR. E.g. Mt Coot-Tha?

Commented [JL3]: These totals don't add up (14 + 7 + 9)

Commented [JL4]: Confirm there are no Community Education activities for FNR?

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- Most AFMGs have met.
- 4 AFMGs in Northern and Far Northern Regions have not met to date because of wet weather conditions. Meeting dates for these areas remain weather dependent from both fuel assessment and availability of partner representatives' points of view.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- Most BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well noting that recent rains in some areas have delayed burning in the short term. (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB activity to 9 May

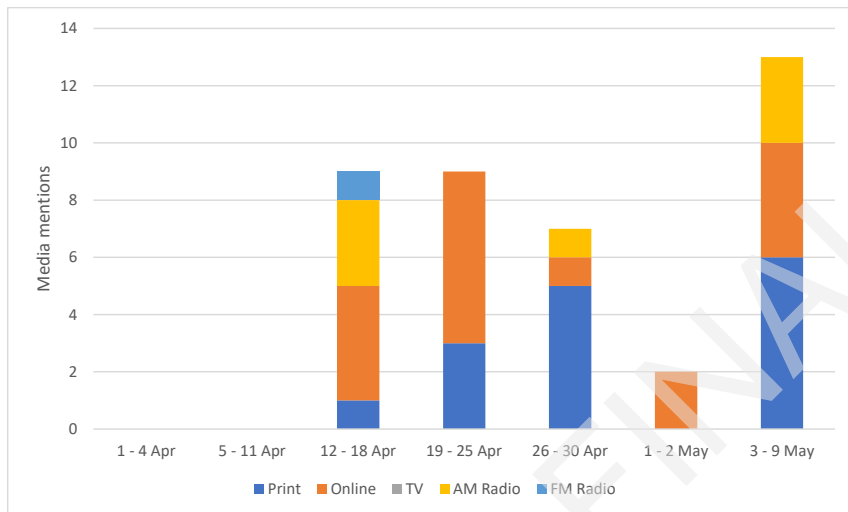
Media activity has been relatively low to date (31 traditional media OCB related stories so far) which is expected as it concentrates in the middle and latter months of OCB when communities become more aware of ongoing hazard reduction burning activity and more receptive to messaging on the need for them to recognise their bushfire risk and plan and prepare for the coming season. Regions are being encouraged to proactively use the media to carry this planning and preparation message to Queenslanders in lower risk areas where there are no specific mitigation activities are planned.

There have been 24 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 26 April – Sun 9 May), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 42. These figures are shown graphically below.

Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	26 April – 2 May	3 – 9 May	Fortnight total (26 April – 9 May)	OCB total (1 April – 9 May)
Brisbane / State	3	7	10	13
Central	0	0	0	1
Far Northern	2	0	2	5
North Coast	3	3	6	11
Northern	0	0	0	4
South East	3	3	6	7
South West	0	0	0	1
Total	11	13	24	42

Number of media mentions 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 9 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)

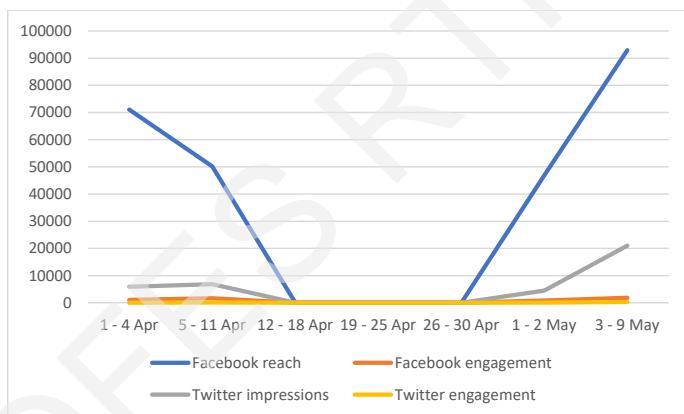




Figure 2. OCB 2020 Mitigation Activities Dashboard at 11 May 2021

Operation Cool Burn Report 5/11/2021 8:15:35 AM

Estimated_Completion_Year
2021

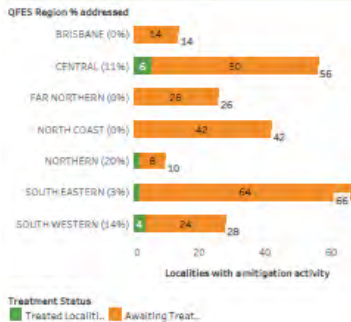
Table 1. Number of mitigation activities

Hotspot QFES Region	Community Education			Broad Activity Category / Activity Status			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Awaiting Completion	Completed	Total	Fire Breaks or Trails		Total	Hazard Reduction		Total	
				Awaiting Completion	Completed		Awaiting Completion	Completed		
BRISBANE	7		7				9		9	16
CENTRAL	27	4	31	34	3	37	41	2	43	111
FAR NORTHERN				33		33	53		53	86
NORTH COAST	17		17	5		5	48		48	70
NORTHERN	3		3	10		10	17	3	20	33
SOUTH EASTERN	133	4	137	23	2	25	62		62	204
SOUTH WESTERN	18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	43

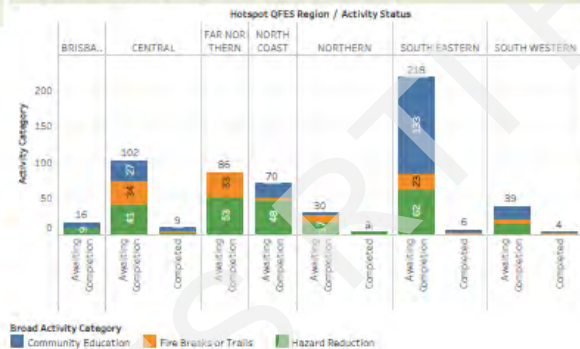
Map 1. Number of Mitigation Activities



Graph 1. Number of localities with an identified high risk hotspot



Graph 2. Number of mitigation activities



Graph 3. Number of mitigation activities



From: Lisa Walsh
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 4:03 PM
To: QFES Commissioner Staff Officer
Subject: 01789-2021 OCB2021 State Progress Report No 4
Attachments: DMView_1622181660102_01789-2021_620158_OCB2021_State_Progress_Report_No_4.docx

Hi Joel

Please find attached the fortnightly OCB State Progress Report no 4.

I know we forwarded this to you on Friday afternoon, last fortnight.

If you would like me to deliver a hard copy, let me know.

Lisa

Lisa Walsh
A/Executive Manager
Executive and Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

s.73 - Irrelevant information





OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 04

Date:	28 May 2021
Reporting Period:	11 May 2021 to 25 May 2021
Includes data up to:	08:40 25 May 2021

Note: Due to a technical issue in data processing / analysis, OBM have discovered a potential error within the Localities data and are working with EMCC to confirm and rectify the issue before the next report.

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has commenced, 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) are at an advanced stage. .

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May 2021 <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 24 May 2021, a total of 585 activities had been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1).

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane				6	1	7			0	9		9	15	1	16
Central				24	7	31	30	7	37	33	10	43	87	24	111
Far Northern						0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast				17		17	5		5	48		48	70	0	70
Northern				3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East				133	4	137	23	2	25	64		64	220	6	226
South West				18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	39	4	43
Total				201	14	215	107	10	117	239	14	253	547	38	585
% completed				6.5%			8.5%			5.5%			6.5%		

Note: Localities with a high-risk hotspot have been removed for this reporting period.

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- A majority of the AFMGs across Queensland have met.
- Northern Region met with Palm Island to discuss its future BRMP requirements.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

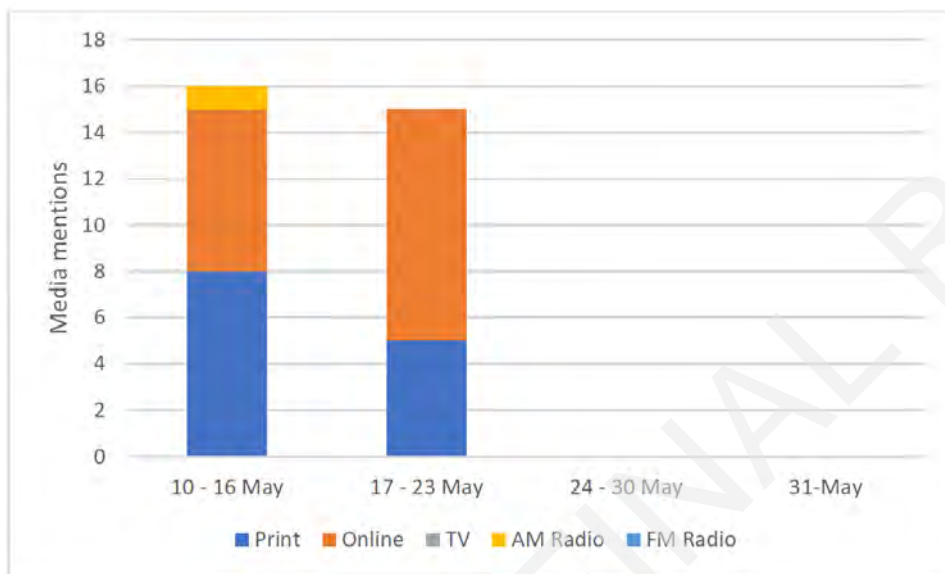
6. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 10 May – Sun 23 May

- There have been 31 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 10 May – Sun 23 May), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 73.
- Some of the key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire responses, planned burns and RFS-led bushfire mitigation activities.

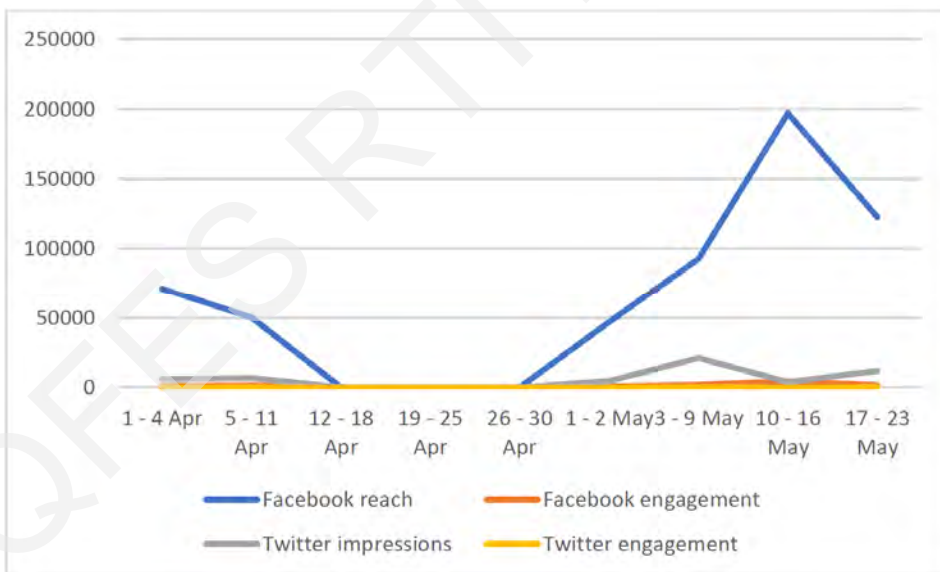
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	10 – 16 May	17 – 23 May	Fortnight total (10 May – 23 May)	OCB total (1 April – 23 May)
Brisbane / State	1	5	6	19
Central	0	1	1	2
Far Northern	3	2	5	10
North Coast	4	2	6	17
Northern	3	3	6	17
South East	4	2	6	25
South West	1	0	1	2
Total	16	15	31	73

Number of media mentions 10 May to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)





--	--	--	--	--

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



Queensland
Government

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 04

Date:	28 May 2021
Reporting Period:	11 May 2021 to 25 May 2021
Includes data up to:	08:40 25 May 2021

Note: Due to a technical issue in data processing / analysis, OBM have discovered a potential error within the Localities data and are working with EMCC to confirm and rectify the issue before the next report.

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has commenced, 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) are at an advanced stage. .

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May 2021 <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 24 May 2021, a total of 585 activities had been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1).

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane				6	1	7			0	9		9	15	1	16
Central				24	7	31	30	7	37	33	10	43	87	24	111
Far Northern						0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast				17		17	5		5	48		48	70	0	70
Northern				3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East				133	4	137	23	2	25	64		64	220	6	226
South West				18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	39	4	43
Total				201	14	215	107	10	117	239	14	253	547	38	585
% completed				6.5%			8.5%			5.5%			6.5%		

Note: Localities with a high-risk hotspot have been removed for this reporting period.

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- A majority of the AFMGs across Queensland have met.
- Northern Region met with Palm Island to discuss its future BRMP requirements.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

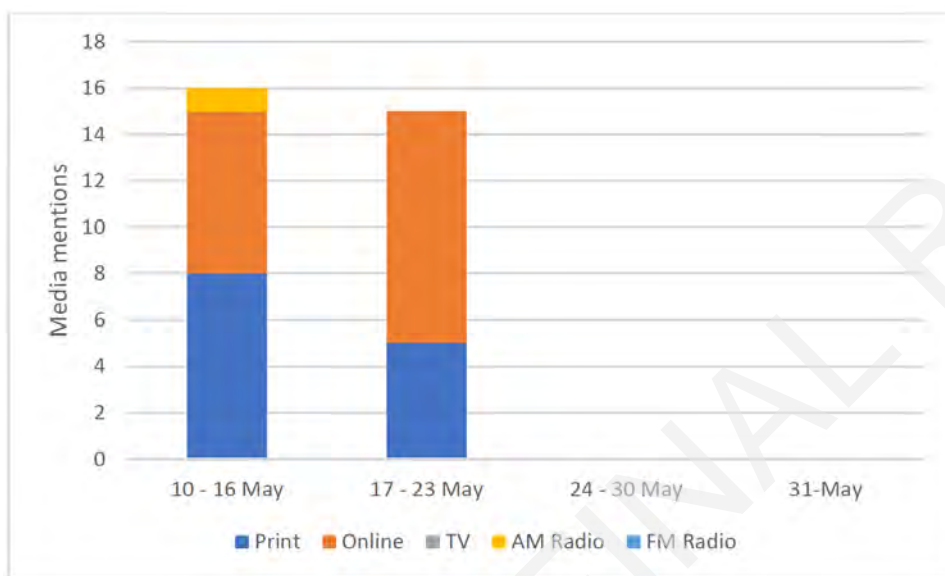
6. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 10 May – Sun 23 May

- There have been 31 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 10 May – Sun 23 May), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 73.
- Some of the key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire responses, planned burns and RFS-led bushfire mitigation activities.

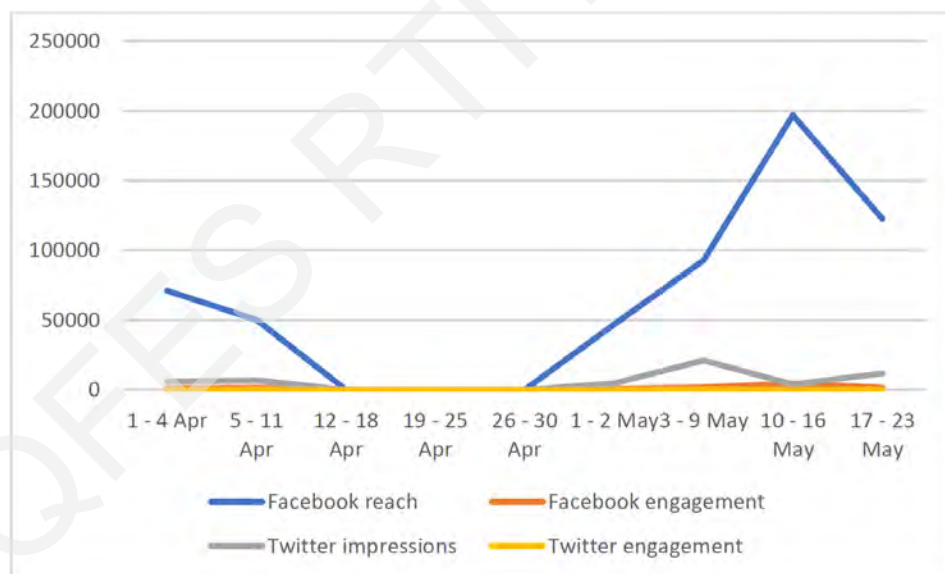
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	10 – 16 May	17 – 23 May	Fortnight total (10 May – 23 May)	OCB total (1 April – 23 May)
Brisbane / State	1	5	6	19
Central	0	1	1	2
Far Northern	3	2	5	10
North Coast	4	2	6	17
Northern	3	3	6	17
South East	4	2	6	25
South West	1	0	1	2
Total	16	15	31	73

Number of media mentions 10 May to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)





Queensland
Government

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



Queensland
Government

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

From: Margot Gladstone
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 12:12 PM
To: RFS Assistant Commissioner
Cc: John Bolger; James Haig; QFES Correspondence
Subject: RE: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Moji

That is fine. I have created a campaign in MECS – “Operation Cool Burn 2021”.

Cheryl / Katinka – can you create an item in MECS for this first brief and progress it via MECS please. Please liaise with Moji on timeframes.

Cheers
Margot



Margot Gladstone
Executive Manager
Executive and Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Post: GPO Box 1425, Brisbane Qld 4001
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Mail Cluster 6.9

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: RFS Assistant Commissioner s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 11:58 AM
To: Margot Gladstone s.73 - Irrelevant information
Cc: John Bolger s.73 - Irrelevant information; James Haig s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: FW: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Margot

I understand last year RFS provided regular reports following OCB fortnightly videoconferences. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and James Haig has discussed with Cathy Knapp and Lauren Poynting who are also supportive of continuing this approach this year.

The progress report will be due to the MO fortnightly on Monday morning.

Could I please request that QFES Corro allocates this each fortnight to us so we can action and obtain necessary approvals in time.

Thank you in advance.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Kind regards
Moji



Moji Sadrizadeh
 A/Executive Officer
 Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service
 [Redacted]
 Emergency Services Complex – Block C Level 2
 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron QLD 4031
 GPO Box 1425 BRISBANE QLD 4001

From: James Haig [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:46 AM
To: John Bolger [Redacted]; RFS Assistant Commissioner [Redacted]
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

This report is prepared using data compiled up to the second OCB fortnightly videoconference held on 27 April. As per the Commissioner's Intent we have fortnightly videoconferences on a Tuesday Morning which provide a standard point in time for statistics. Last year we provided regular reports following these and this seemed to work well in avoiding different figures taken at slightly different times, a single point of truth if you like. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and I think it could work well this year also (Cathy Knapp is supportive). Jason Brown from QFES futures and I link up so that all data is the same. I contacted Lauren Poynting, Chief of Staff in the Commissioners Office regarding using this report to brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings and she was supportive.

The media reporting section will grow as media activity in OCB 2021 ramps up and the various other headings can also be expanded as needs emerge (e.g. if weather or other issues arise).

I had hoped to have this completed by yesterday and apologies for the delay which was due to a key staff member being ill and another on deployment with SES to Western Australia.

If appropriate could you please forward on through channels To Lauren Poynting Chief of Staff to the Commissioner?
 Apologies for the delay

Regards

James

James Haig
 Superintendent
 Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
 Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
 [Redacted]





OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 05

Date:	11 June 2021
Reporting Period:	25 May 2021 to 08 June 2021
Includes data up to:	08:33 08 June 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) at an advanced stage. .

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas.
- A cold dry air mass spread across Queensland commencing June 9 which accelerated curing through the dry air and frosts. This should allow better conditions for hazard reduction burning in wetter areas but also highlights that windows for burning in other areas may become restricted as conditions dry.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 8 June a total of 519 activities has been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1)

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 11/06/2021 - 1328hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
Far Northern	0	0	0	27	0	27	40	0	40	67
Northern	3	0	3	6	0	6	15	2	17	26
Central	22	7	29	22	13	35	32	9	41	105
North Coast	15	1	16	5	0	5	42	0	42	63
South West	15	3	18	6	1	7	14	2	16	41
Brisbane	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
South East	110	8	118	19	2	21	58	4	64	203
Grand Total	168	21	189	85	16	101	210	17	229	519

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- A majority of the AFMGs across Queensland have met.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 24 May – Sun 06 June

There have been 30 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 24 May – Sun 6 June), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 115.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, the importance of landholders preparing for the season and RFS-led bushfire mitigation activities.

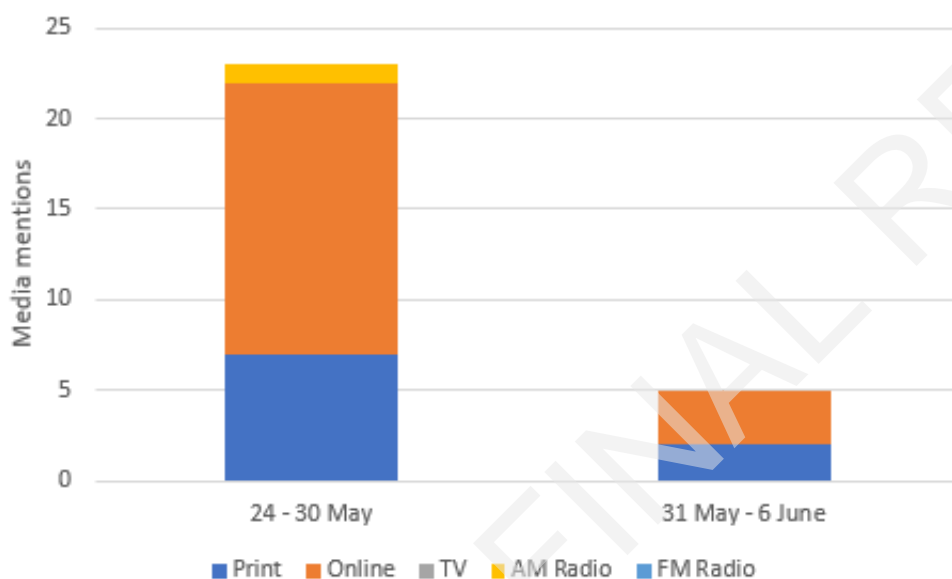
Key messages covered included: the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; bushfire mitigation is a community effort and residents need to pitch in to do their bit; landowners are responsible for managing and mitigating bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

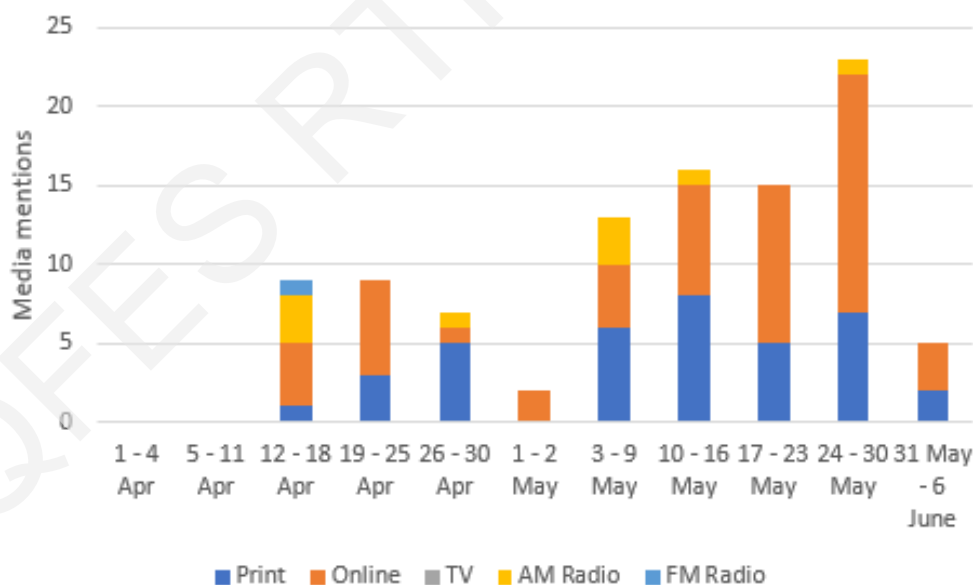
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	24 - 30 May	31 May – 6 June	Fortnight total (24 May – 6 June)	OCB total (1 April – 6 June)
Far North Region	6	3	9	19
Northern Region	0	0	0	10
Central Region	2	0	2	4
North Coast Region	2	0	2	19
Brisbane Region / state	2	0	2	21
South East Region	11	2	13	38
South West Region	2	0	2	4
Total	25	5	30	115

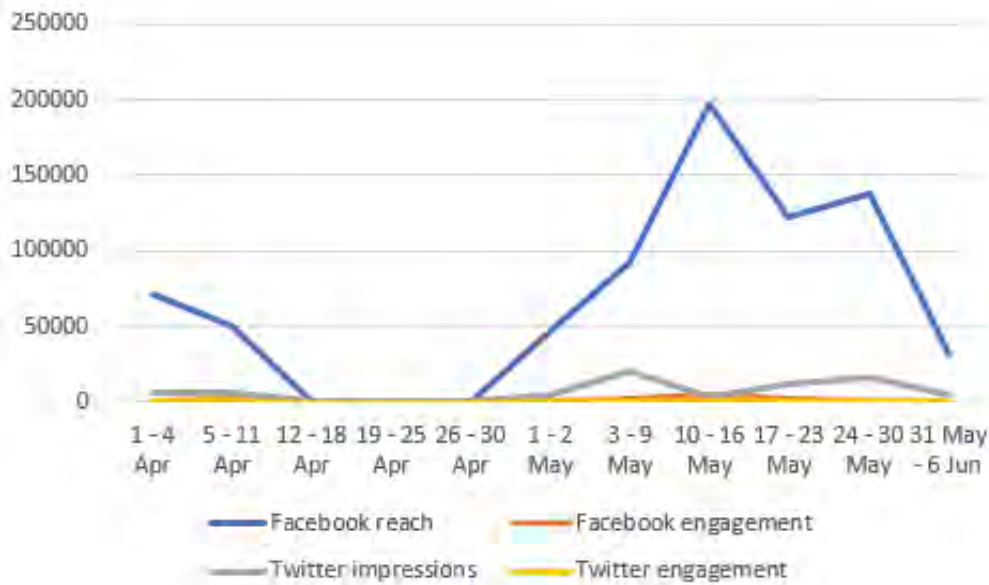
Number of media mentions 24 May to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Number of media mentions 1 April to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 06 June 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season; RFS managed hazard reduction burns and smoke alerts.

Some of the key messages included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.



Queensland
Government

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 04

Date:	28 May 2021
Reporting Period:	11 May 2021 to 25 May 2021
Includes data up to:	08:40 25 May 2021

Note: Due to a technical issue in data processing / analysis, OBM have discovered a potential error within the Localities data and are working with EMCC to confirm and rectify the issue before the next report.

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has commenced, 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) are at an advanced stage. .

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May 2021 <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 24 May 2021, a total of 585 activities had been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1).

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

QFES Region	Localities with a high-risk hotspot			Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Total Planned		
	Awaiting mitigation	One or more activities completed	Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Sub-Total	Awaiting completion	Completed	Total Planned
Brisbane				6	1	7			0	9		9	15	1	16
Central				24	7	31	30	7	37	33	10	43	87	24	111
Far Northern						0	33		33	53		53	86	0	86
North Coast				17		17	5		5	48		48	70	0	70
Northern				3		3	10		10	17	3	20	30	3	33
South East				133	4	137	23	2	25	64		64	220	6	226
South West				18	2	20	6	1	7	15	1	16	39	4	43
Total				201	14	215	107	10	117	239	14	253	547	38	585
% completed				6.5%			8.5%			5.5%			6.5%		

Note: Localities with a high-risk hotspot have been removed for this reporting period.

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- A majority of the AFMGs across Queensland have met.
- Northern Region met with Palm Island to discuss its future BRMP requirements.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

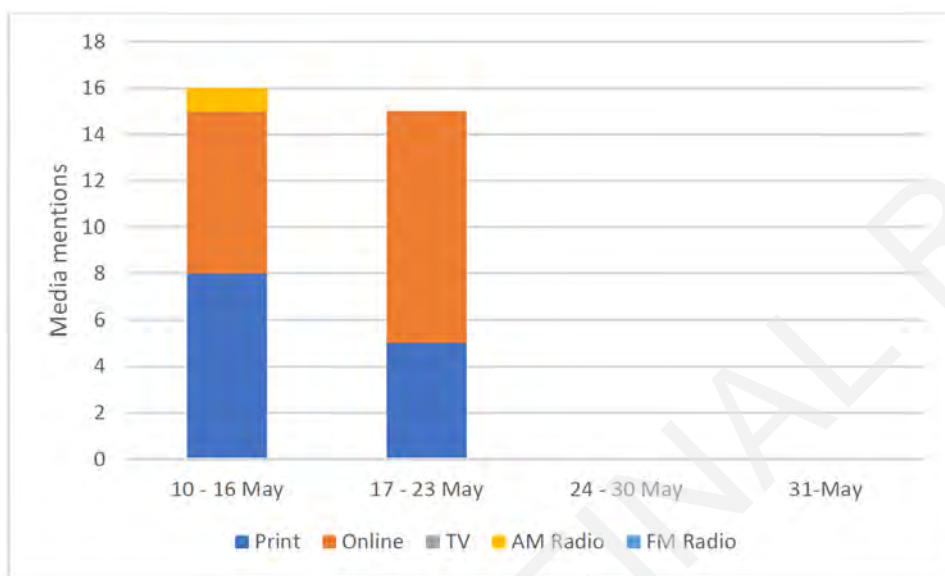
6. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 10 May – Sunday 23 May

- There have been 31 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 10 May – Sunday 23 May), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 73.
- Some of the key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire responses, planned burns and RFS-led bushfire mitigation activities.

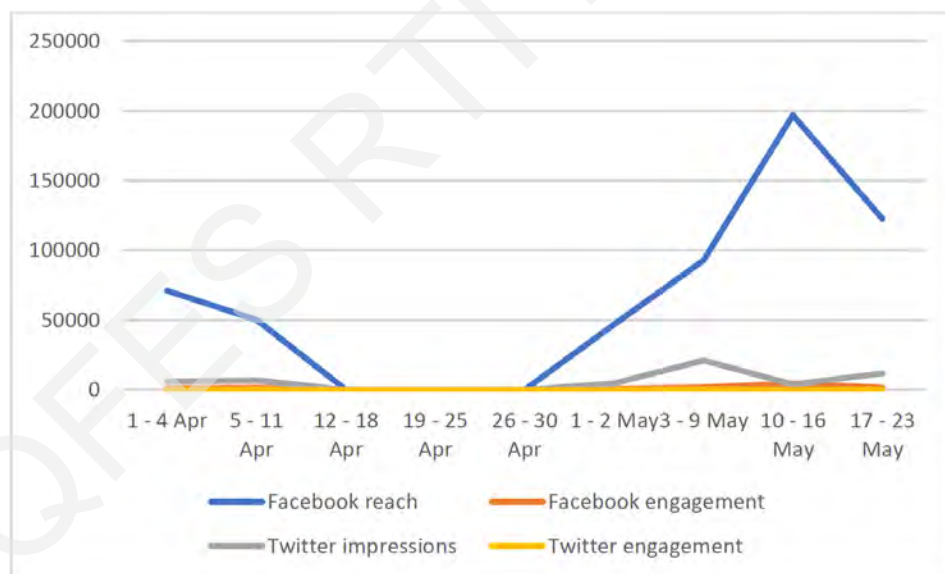
Media mentions by QFES Region

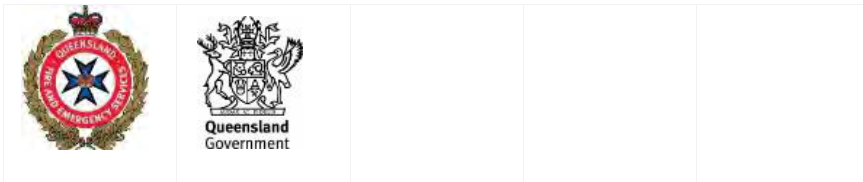
QFES Region	10 – 16 May	17 – 23 May	Fortnight total (10 May – 23 May)	OCB total (1 April – 23 May)
Brisbane / State	1	5	6	19
Central	0	1	1	2
Far Northern	3	2	5	10
North Coast	4	2	6	17
Northern	3	3	6	17
South East	4	2	6	25
South West	1	0	1	2
Total	16	15	31	73

Number of media mentions 10 May to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)





OPERATION COOL BURN 2021
State Progress Report No. 05

Date:	11 June 2021
Reporting Period:	25 May 2021 to 8 June 2021
Includes data up to:	8:33am on 8 June 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) are at an advanced stage.

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June to August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas.
- A cold dry air mass spread across Queensland commencing 9 June which accelerated curing through the dry air and frosts. This should allow better conditions for hazard reduction burning in wetter areas but also highlights that windows for burning in other areas may become restricted as conditions dry.

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 8 June, 519 activities has been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1)

Formatted: Width: 21 cm, Height: 29.7 cm

Deleted: 0

Deleted: 0

Deleted: 0

Deleted: T

Deleted: 9

Deleted: Operation Cool Burn

Deleted: a total of

Formatted: Right

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 11/06/2021 - 1328hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
Far Northern	0	0	0	27	0	27	40	0	40	67
Northern	3	0	3	6	0	6	15	2	17	26
Central	22	7	29	22	13	35	32	9	41	105
North Coast	15	1	16	5	0	5	42	0	42	63
South Western	15	3	18	6	1	7	14	2	16	41
Brisbane	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
South Eastern	110	8	118	19	2	21	58	4	64*	203
Grand Total	168	21	189	85	16	101	210	17	229	519

*inclusive of 2 activities that have been postponed.

3. AFMG Meetings

- A majority of the AFMGs across Queensland have met.

4. BRMP

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG)s.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading_1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only a minor impact on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 24 May – Sunday 6 June

There have been 30 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 24 May – Sunday 6 June), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 115.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, the importance of landholders preparing for the season and Rural Fire Service (RFS) led bushfire mitigation activities.

Key messages included: the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; bushfire mitigation is a community effort and residents need to pitch in to do their bit; landowners are responsible for managing and mitigating bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, QFES is aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight could change once this is resolved.

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Deleted: Area Fire Management Group (

Deleted:)

Deleted: Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (

Deleted:)

Deleted:

Deleted: 0

Deleted: -

Deleted: covered

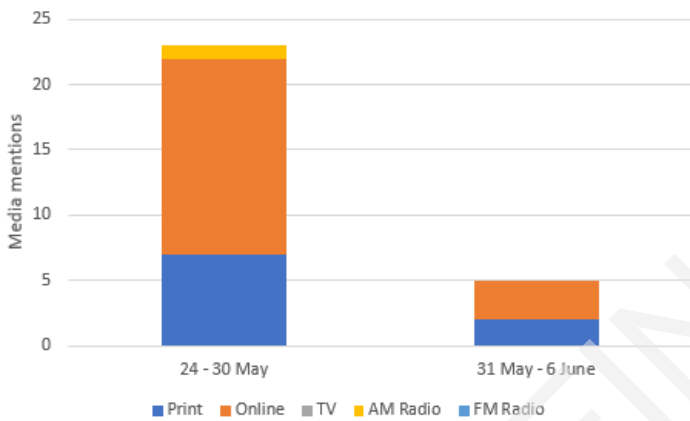
Deleted: we are

Deleted: are likely to

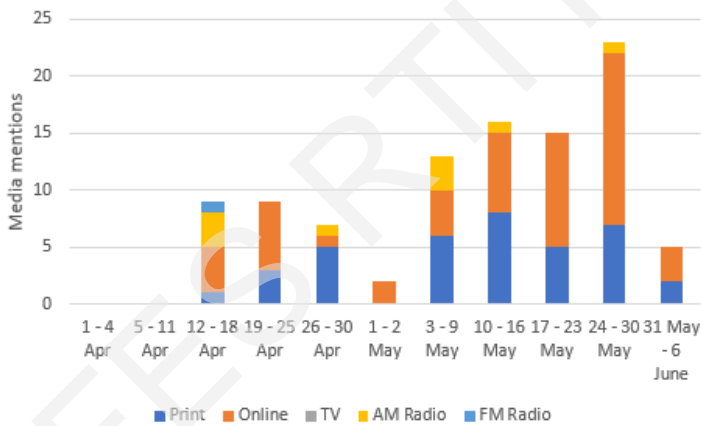
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	24 - 30 May	31 May – 6 June	Fortnight total (24 May – 6 June)	OCB total (1 April – 6 June)
Far North Region	6	3	9	19
Northern Region	0	0	0	10
Central Region	2	0	2	4
North Coast Region	2	0	2	19
Brisbane Region / state	2	0	2	21
South East Region	11	2	13	38
South West Region	2	0	2	4
Total	25	5	30	115

Number of media mentions 24 May to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)

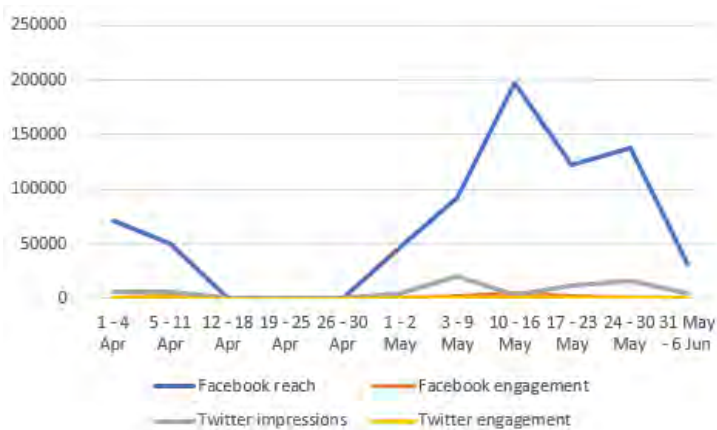


Number of media mentions 1 April to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 6 June 2021 (OBC campaign to date)

Deleted: 0



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season; RFS managed hazard reduction burns and smoke alerts.

Some of the key messages included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.

Deleted: ¶
 Deleted: —Section Break (Next Page)—
 Deleted: ¶
 Deleted: ¶
 Deleted: —Section Break (Next Page)—



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 05

Date:	11 June 2021
Reporting Period:	25 May 2021 to 8 June 2021
Includes data up to:	8:33am on 8 June 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) are at an advanced stage. .


1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June to August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland's climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas.
- A cold dry air mass spread across Queensland commencing 9 June which accelerated curing through the dry air and frosts. This should allow better conditions for hazard reduction burning in wetter areas but also highlights that windows for burning in other areas may become restricted as conditions dry.

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 8 June, 519 activities has been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1)



18-06-2021

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 11/06/2021 - 1328hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
Far Northern	0	0	0	27	0	27	40	0	40	67
Northern	3	0	3	6	0	6	15	2	17	26
Central	22	7	29	22	13	35	32	9	41	105
North Coast	15	1	16	5	0	5	42	0	42	63
South Western	15	3	18	6	1	7	14	2	16	41
Brisbane	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
South Eastern	110	8	118	19	2	21	58	4	64*	203
Grand Total	168	21	189	85	16	101	210	17	229	519

*inclusive of 2 activities that have been postponed.

3. AFMG Meetings

- A majority of the AFMGs across Queensland have met.

4. BRMP

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG)s.

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above).
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only a minor impact on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 24 May – Sunday 6 June

There have been 30 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 24 May – Sunday 6 June), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 115.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, the importance of landholders preparing for the season and Rural Fire Service (RFS) led bushfire mitigation activities.

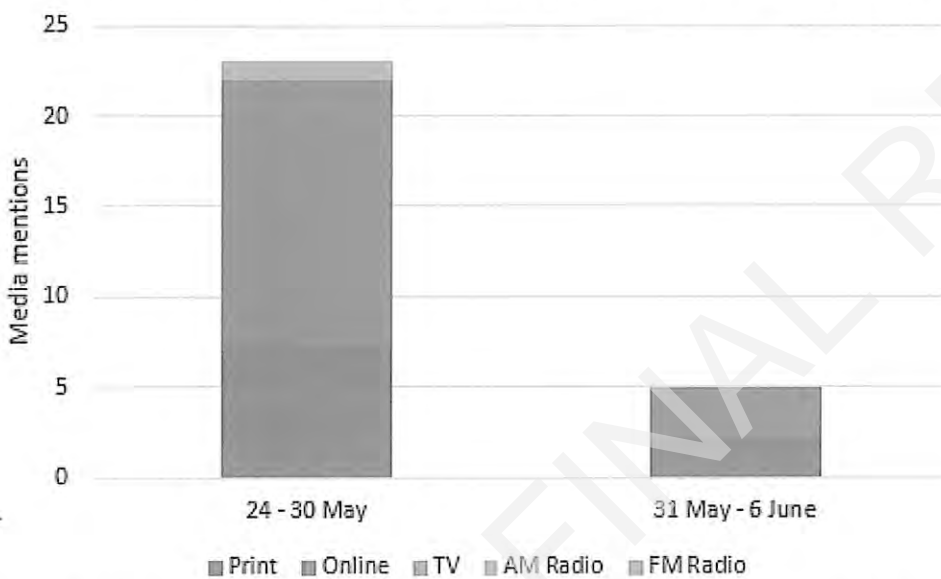
Key messages included: the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; bushfire mitigation is a community effort and residents need to pitch in to do their bit; landowners are responsible for managing and mitigating bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, QFES is aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight could change once this is resolved.

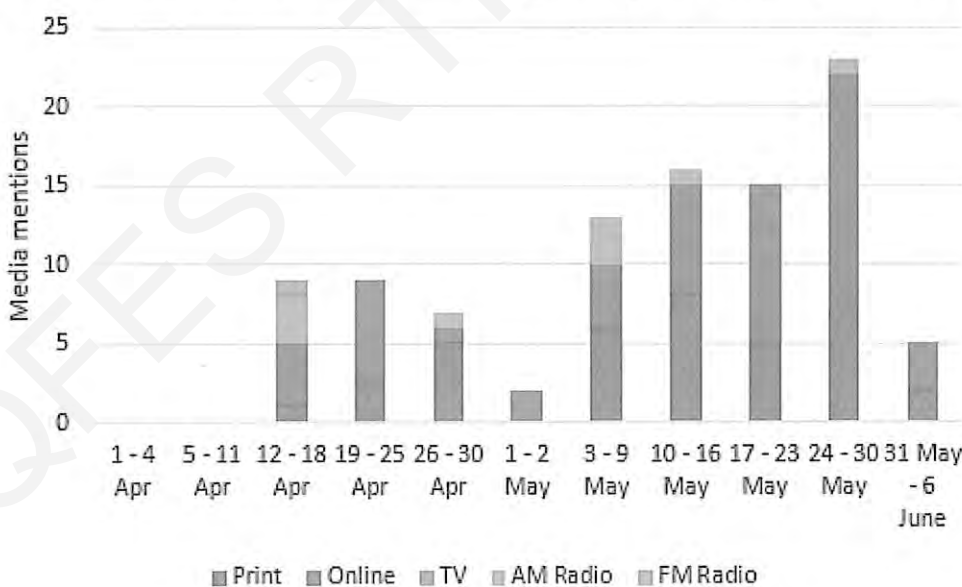
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	24 - 30 May	31 May – 6 June	Fortnight total (24 May – 6 June)	OCB total (1 April – 6 June)
Far North Region	6	3	9	19
Northern Region	0	0	0	10
Central Region	2	0	2	4
North Coast Region	2	0	2	19
Brisbane Region / state	2	0	2	21
South East Region	11	2	13	38
South West Region	2	0	2	4
Total	25	5	30	115

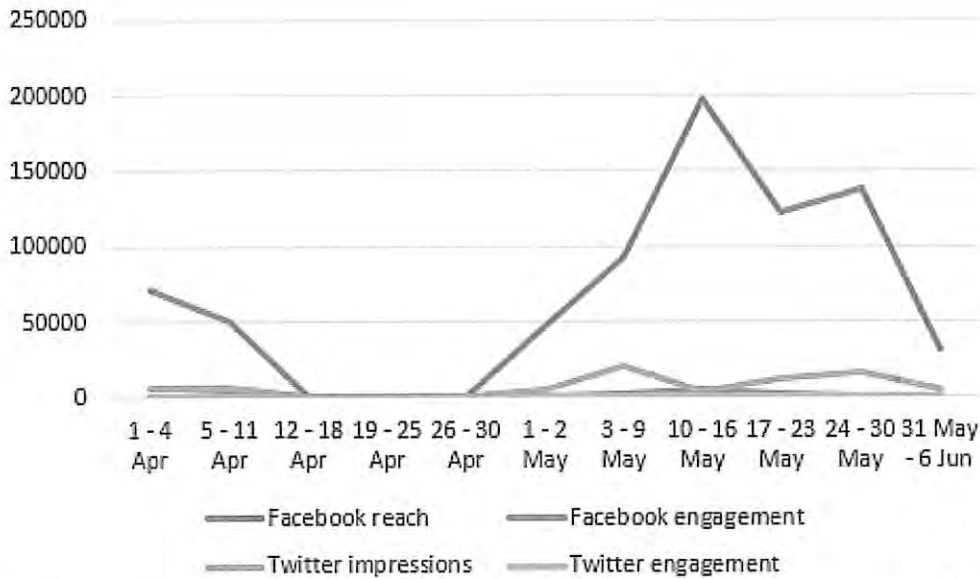
Number of media mentions 24 May to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Number of media mentions 1 April to 23 May 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 6 June 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season; RFS managed hazard reduction burns and smoke alerts.

Some of the key messages included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.

From: Margot Gladstone
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 12:12 PM
To: RFS Assistant Commissioner
Cc: John Bolger; James Haig; QFES Correspondence
Subject: RE: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Moji

That is fine. I have created a campaign in MECS – “Operation Cool Burn 2021”.

Cheryl / Katinka – can you create an item in MECS for this first brief and progress it via MECS please. Please liaise with Moji on timeframes.

Cheers
Margot



Margot Gladstone
Executive Manager
Executive and Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Post: GPO Box 1425, Brisbane Qld 4001
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Mail Cluster 6.9

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 11:58 AM
To: Margot Gladstone **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Cc: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information** James Haig **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: FW: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Margot

I understand last year RFS provided regular reports following OCB fortnightly videoconferences. The Minister’s Office were supportive of this approach and James Haig has discussed with Cathy Knapp and Lauren Poynting who are also supportive of continuing this approach this year.

The progress report will be due to the MO fortnightly on Monday morning.

Could I please request that QFES Corro allocates this each fortnight to us so we can action and obtain necessary approvals in time.

Thank you in advance.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Kind regards
Moji



Moji Sadrizadeh
 A/Executive Officer
 Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service
 s.73 - Irrelevant information
s.73 - Irrelevant information
 Emergency Services Complex – Block C Level 2
 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron QLD 4031
 GPO Box 1425 BRISBANE QLD 4001

From: James Haig **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:46 AM
To: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

This report is prepared using data compiled up to the second OCB fortnightly videoconference held on 27 April. As per the Commissioner's Intent we have fortnightly videoconferences on a Tuesday Morning which provide a standard point in time for statistics. Last year we provided regular reports following these and this seemed to work well in avoiding different figures taken at slightly different times, a single point of truth if you like. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and I think it could work well this year also (Cathy Knapp is supportive). Jason Brown from QFES futures and I link up so that all data is the same. I contacted Lauren Poynting, Chief of Staff in the Commissioners Office regarding using this report to brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings and she was supportive.

The media reporting section will grow as media activity in OCB 2021 ramps up and the various other headings can also be expanded as needs emerge (e.g. if weather or other issues arise).

I had hoped to have this completed by yesterday and apologies for the delay which was due to a key staff member being ill and another on deployment with SES to Western Australia.

If appropriate could you please forward on through channels To Lauren Poynting Chief of Staff to the Commissioner?
 Apologies for the delay

Regards

James

James Haig
 Superintendent
 Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
 Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information



From: Andrea Reeves
Sent: Friday, 25 June 2021 4:50 PM
To: QFES Correspondence
Cc: Commissioner QFES
Subject: FW: For approval - Op Cool Burn Status Progress Report #6

Good afternoon Katinka,

Commissioner Leach has approved the Op Cool Burn Status Progress Report No. 6.

Regards,
Andrea

Andrea Reeves
A/Executive Coordinator
Office of the Commissioner
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
GPO Box 1425, Brisbane 4001

s.73 - Irrelevant information

s.73 - Irrelevant information



From: Greg Leach s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 25 June 2021 4:48 PM
To: Andrea Reeves s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: Re: For approval - Op Cool Burn Status Progress Report #6

Hi Andrea,

This is approved.

Thanks,

Greg

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Andrea Reeves s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 4:41:53 PM
To: Greg Leach s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: For approval - Op Cool Burn Status Progress Report #6

Good afternoon Commissioner,

This report is for your Pre Cab papers on Monday – for endorsement please.

Regards,
Andrea

Andrea Reeves

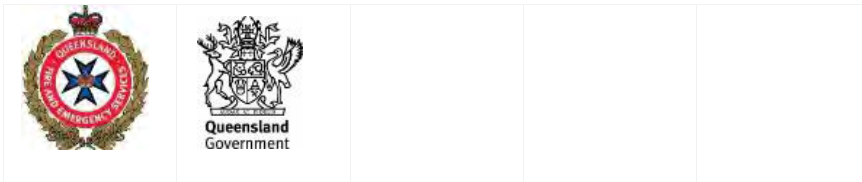
A/Executive Coordinator
Office of the Commissioner
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
GPO Box 1425, Brisbane 4001

s.73 - Irrelevant information

s.73 - Irrelevant information



QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021
State Progress Report No. 06

Date:	25 June 2021
Reporting Period:	08 June 2021 to 22 June 2021
Includes data up to:	08:09 22 June 2021

Formatted: Font: Bold
 Formatted Table
 Formatted: Font: Bold
 Formatted: Font: Bold

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Council (CRC) on 27 May 2021 www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

Deleted: <https://>

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 22 June 2021, a total of 539 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021, (see Table 1).
- Of the 240 Hazard Reduction activities, only 20 have been reported completed thus far, while overall completions have been 73. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. Office of Bushfire Mitigation has emphasised the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

Deleted: in

Deleted: st

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/06/22 - 0809hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	3	30	50	1	51	81
NORTHERN	3	0	3	6	0	6	14	3	17	26
CENTRAL	22	7	29	22	13	35	32	9	41	105
NORTH COAST	14	2	16	5	1	6	42	0	42	64
SOUTH WESTERN	16	4	20	7	1	8	14	2	16	44
BRISBANE	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	102	18	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	160	33	193	86	20	106	220	20	240	539

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).
- The K'gari Location Specific Fire Management Group Meeting (LSFMG) met on 24 June 2021 and is working on bushfire management issues, including mitigation as per the IGEM K'gari review recommendations.

Deleted: the

Deleted: th

Deleted:

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been/will soon be submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs).

Deleted: or

Deleted:

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB 2021 is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 07 June – Sun 20 June

There have been 13 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the fortnight from Monday 7 June – Sunday 20 June, bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB 2021 period to 128.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, smoke alerts and bushfire warnings.

Key messages covered included:

- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and that doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all;
- that QFES needs residents to understand their risk and to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

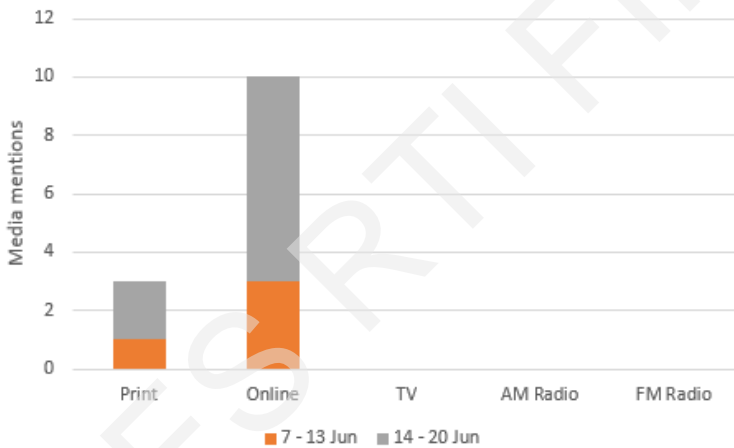
Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

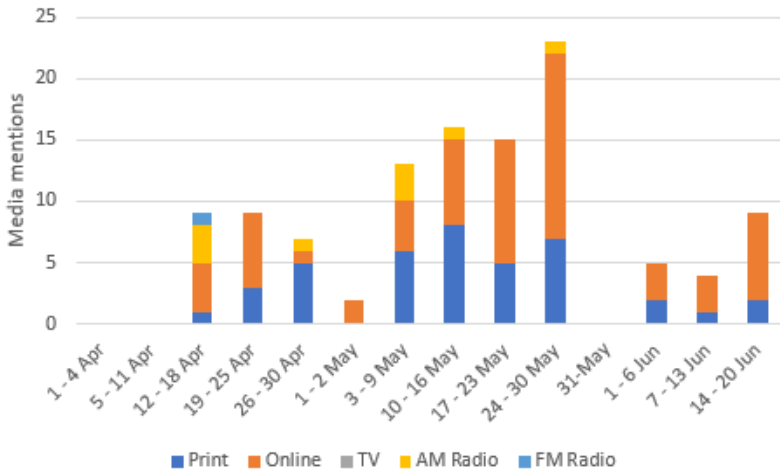
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	7 – 13 June	14 – 20 June	Fortnight total (7 - 20 June)	OCB total (1 April – 20 June)
Far North Region	3	2	5	24
Northern Region	1	3	4	14
Central Region	0	1	1	5
North Coast Region	0	0	0	19
Brisbane Region / state	0	0	0	21
South East Region	0	1	1	39
South West Region	0	2	2	6
Total	4	9	13	128

Number of media mentions 07 – 20 June 2021

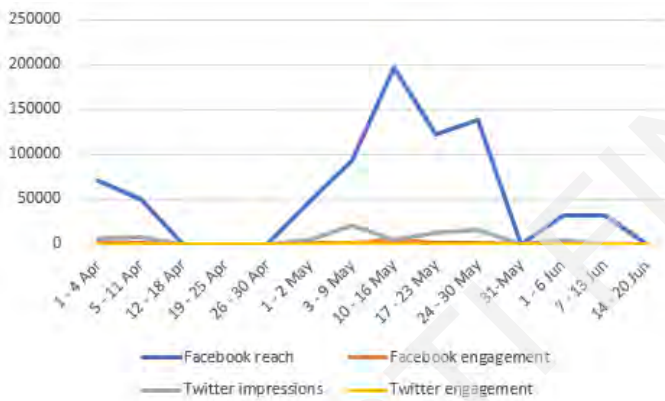


Number of media mentions 1 April to 20 June 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Deleted: ¶
 ¶
 ¶
 ¶
 ¶
 ¶
 Deleted: BC

Social media results 1 April to 06 June 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Deleted: B

Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season (specifically community education meetings).

Some of the key messages included:

- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all;
- QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their proportion.

Formatted: Font: 11 pt
 Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted + Level: 1 +
 Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

From: Margot Gladstone
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 12:12 PM
To: RFS Assistant Commissioner
Cc: John Bolger; James Haig; QFES Correspondence
Subject: RE: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Moji

That is fine. I have created a campaign in MECS – “Operation Cool Burn 2021”.

Cheryl / Katinka – can you create an item in MECS for this first brief and progress it via MECS please. Please liaise with Moji on timeframes.

Cheers
Margot



Margot Gladstone
Executive Manager
Executive and Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Post: GPO Box 1425, Brisbane Qld 4001
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Mail Cluster 6.9

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 11:58 AM
To: Margot Gladstone **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Cc: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; James Haig **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: FW: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Margot

I understand last year RFS provided regular reports following OCB fortnightly videoconferences. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and James Haig has discussed with Cathy Knapp and Lauren Poynting who are also supportive of continuing this approach this year.

The progress report will be due to the MO fortnightly on Monday morning.

Could I please request that QFES Corro allocates this each fortnight to us so we can action and obtain necessary approvals in time.

Thank you in advance.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Kind regards
Moji



Moji Sadrizadeh
 A/Executive Officer
 Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service
 s.73 - Irrelevant information
s.73 - Irrelevant information
 Emergency Services Complex – Block C Level 2
 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron QLD 4031
 GPO Box 1425 BRISBANE QLD 4001

From: James Haig **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:46 AM
To: John Bolger **s.73 - Irrelevant information**; RFS Assistant Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

This report is prepared using data compiled up to the second OCB fortnightly videoconference held on 27 April. As per the Commissioner's Intent we have fortnightly videoconferences on a Tuesday Morning which provide a standard point in time for statistics. Last year we provided regular reports following these and this seemed to work well in avoiding different figures taken at slightly different times, a single point of truth if you like. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and I think it could work well this year also (Cathy Knapp is supportive). Jason Brown from QFES futures and I link up so that all data is the same. I contacted Lauren Poynting, Chief of Staff in the Commissioners Office regarding using this report to brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings and she was supportive.

The media reporting section will grow as media activity in OCB 2021 ramps up and the various other headings can also be expanded as needs emerge (e.g. if weather or other issues arise).

I had hoped to have this completed by yesterday and apologies for the delay which was due to a key staff member being ill and another on deployment with SES to Western Australia.

If appropriate could you please forward on through channels To Lauren Poynting Chief of Staff to the Commissioner?
 Apologies for the delay

Regards

James

James Haig
 Superintendent
 Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
 Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information



From: Michael Wassing
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 8:46 PM
To: DC EMVCR
Subject: FW: MECS Item No. 02361-2021 Submitted For your Approval : Due: 08/07/21: Subject: REPORT - Operation Cool Burn (OCB) fortnightly progress report 2021 - due 9/7

Endorsed

Could you ask either Corro team or FDS to assess why the dc.emvcr address no longer is available in MECS

I can no longer use online MECS for management of corro

From: Corro QFES Commissioner **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:49 PM
To: Michael Wassing **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: MECS Item No. 02361-2021 Submitted For your Approval : Due: 08/07/21: Subject: REPORT - Operation Cool Burn (OCB) fortnightly progress report 2021 - due 9/7

MECS Item No. 02361-2021 has been actioned by DC EMVCR and is submitted for your approval.

The following comments are provided (if any): **To DC EMVCR for endorsement. REPORT - OCB fortnightly progress report 2021 .**

This is due on or before 08/07/21.

Item Details

Action Type: QFES - Brief for Commissioner (EBN)
Subject: REPORT - Operation Cool Burn (OCB) fortnightly progress report 2021 - due 9/7

You should either:

1. Approve the draft or select the EC Approve Button. ([Show Me How](#))
2. Press 'Reject' to return if further work is required (please provide comments). ([Show Me How](#))

Please click on the [Item Link](#) to view the item in MECS.

If you have any queries please contact officers from QFES - Commissioner or email **s.73 - Irrelevant information**

email: EmailApplyApproval

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 07

Date:	9 June 2021
Reporting Period:	22 June 2021 to 9 July 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 8 June 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland's climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 09 July a total of 540 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1)
- Of the 241 Hazard Reduction activities only 28 have been reported completed thus far whilst overall completions have been 150 across community education and fire breaks. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The Office of Bushfire Mitigation continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

s.73 - Irrelevant information

John Bolger AFSM
Assistant Commissioner
Rural Fire Service

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/07/05 - 1514hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	3	30	50	1	51	81
NORTHERN	3	0	3	3	3	6	14	4	18	27
CENTRAL	21	8	29	19	16	35	31	10	41	105
NORTH COAST	14	2	16	5	1	6	36	6	42	64
SOUTH WESTERN	14	6	20	7	1	8	14	2	16	44
BRISBANE	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	90	30	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	145	48	193	80	26	106	213	28	241	540

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).
- The K'gari Location Specific Fire Management Group Meeting (LSFMG) met on the 24th June and is working on bushfire management issues, including mitigation as per the IGEM K'gari review recommendations.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Mitigation activities (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region are conducting additional Community Engagement activities in the Somerset, Redland and Brisbane Local Government Areas with funding provided through previous grants.
- Central Region have completed approximately 30% of their mitigation activities.
- South West Region will be leading a mail out for several high risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 21 June – Sun 04 July

There have been 23 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 21 June – Sun 4 July), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 138.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, smoke alerts and bushfire season outlook.

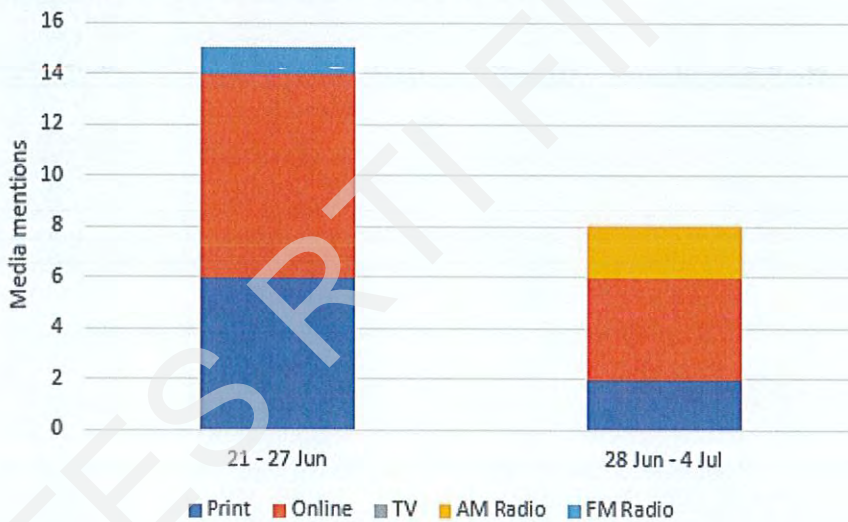
Key messages covered included: the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

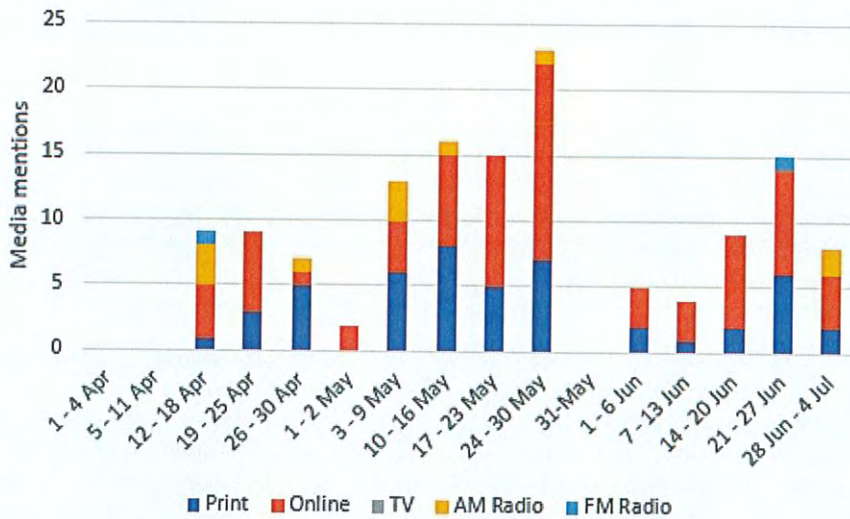
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	21 – 27 June	28 June – 4 July	Fortnight total (21 June – 4 July)	OCB total (1 April – 4 July)
Far North Region	4	2	6	25
Northern Region	0	1	1	11
Central Region	0	0	0	4
North Coast Region	2	3	5	24
Brisbane Region / state	5	1	6	27
South East Region	2	1	3	41
South West Region	2	0	2	6
Total	15	8	23	138

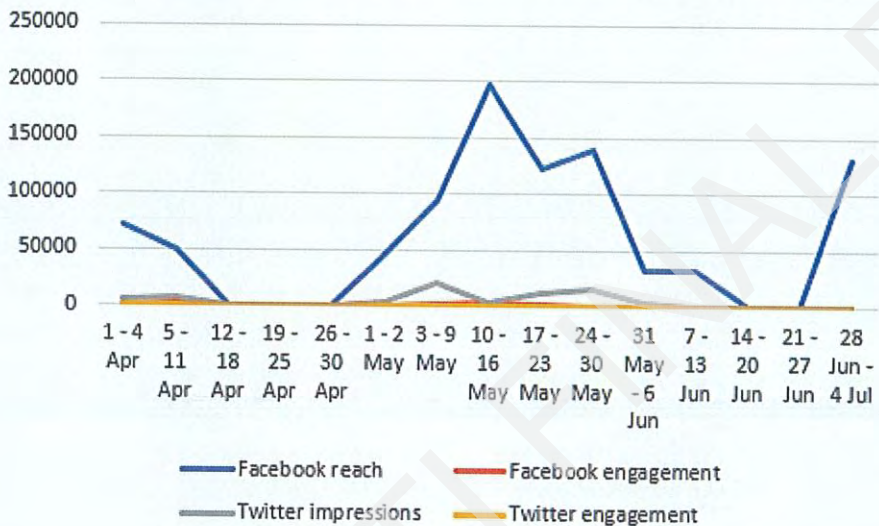
Number of media mentions 21 – 04 July 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 04 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 4 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season hazard reduction burns, OCB and RFS recruitment.

Some of the key messages included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 07

Date:	9 June 2021
Reporting Period:	22 June 2021 to 9 July 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 8 June 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 09 July a total of 540 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 in (see Table 1)
- Of the 241 Hazard Reduction activities only 28 have been reported completed thus far whilst overall completions have been 150 across community education and fire breaks. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The Office of Bushfire Mitigation continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/07/05 - 1514hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	3	30	50	1	51	81
NORTHERN	3	0	3	3	3	6	14	4	18	27
CENTRAL	21	8	29	19	16	35	31	10	41	105
NORTH COAST	14	2	16	5	1	6	36	6	42	64
SOUTH WESTERN	14	6	20	7	1	8	14	2	16	44
BRISBANE	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	90	30	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	145	48	193	80	26	106	213	28	241	540

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).
- The K'gari Location Specific Fire Management Group Meeting (LSFMG) met on the 24th June and is working on bushfire management issues, including mitigation as per the IGEM K'gari review recommendations.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Mitigation activities (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region are conducting additional Community Engagement activities in the Somerset, Redland and Brisbane Local Government Areas with funding provided through previous grants.
- Central Region have completed approximately 30% of their mitigation activities.
- South West Region will be leading a mail out for several high risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 21 June – Sun 04 July

There have been 23 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 21 June – Sun 4 July), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 138.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, smoke alerts and bushfire season outlook.

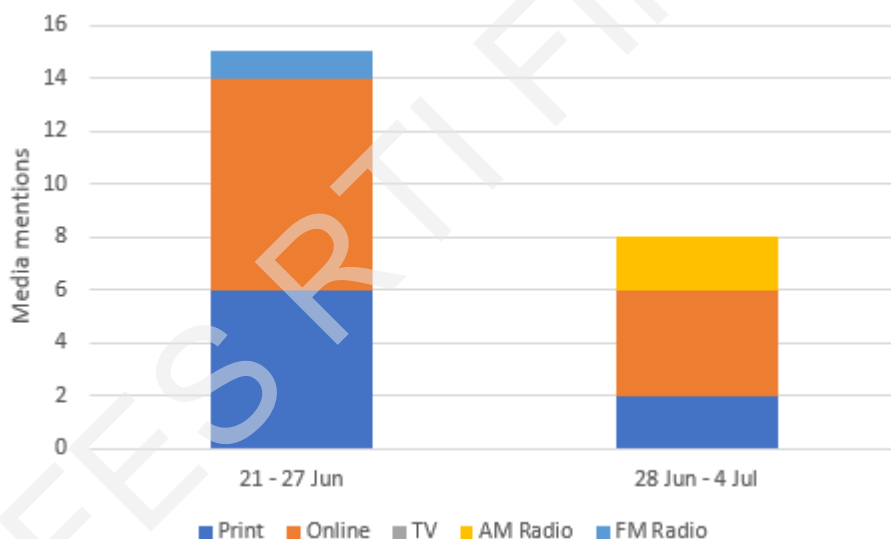
Key messages covered included: the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

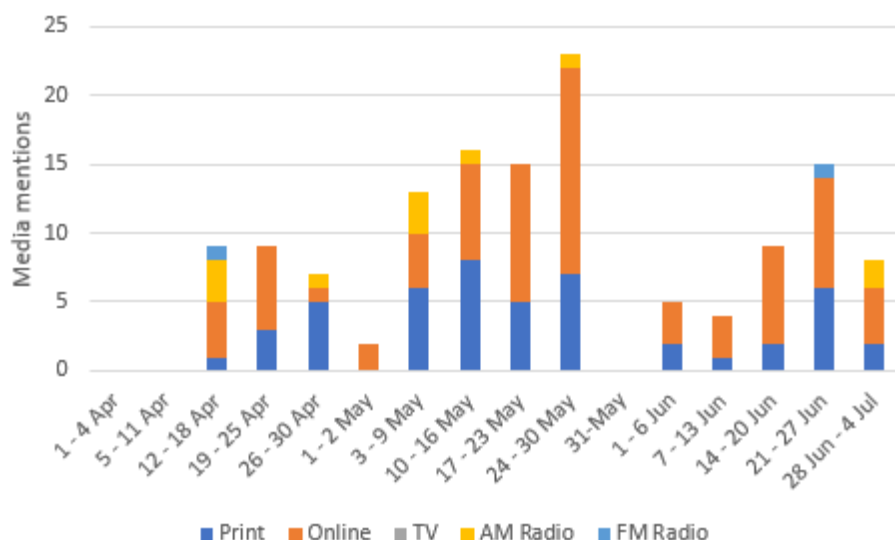
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	21 – 27 June	28 June – 4 July	Fortnight total (21 June – 4 July)	OCB total (1 April – 4 July)
Far North Region	4	2	6	25
Northern Region	0	1	1	11
Central Region	0	0	0	4
North Coast Region	2	3	5	24
Brisbane Region / state	5	1	6	27
South East Region	2	1	3	41
South West Region	2	0	2	6
Total	15	8	23	138

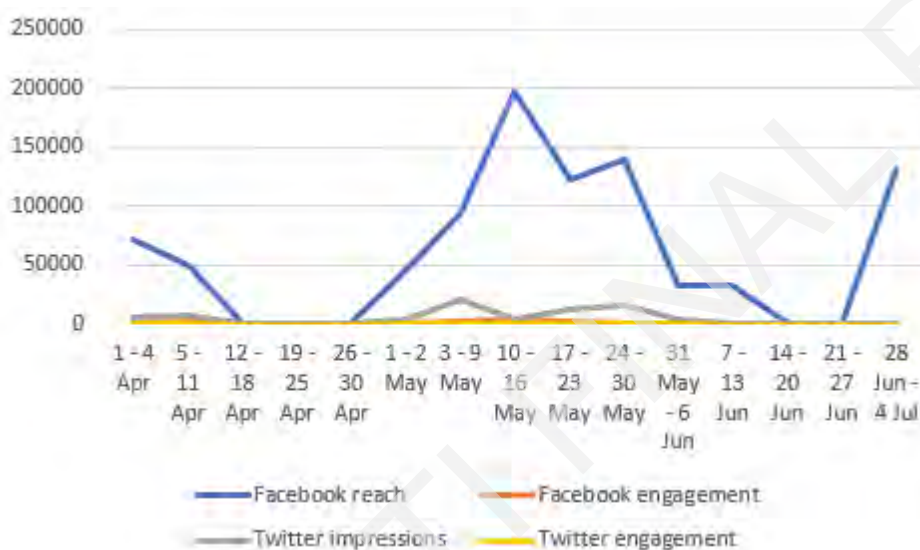
Number of media mentions 21 – 04 July 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 04 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 4 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season hazard reduction burns, OCB and RFS recruitment.

Some of the key messages included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 06

Date:	25 June 2021
Reporting Period:	08 June 2021 to 22 June 2021
Includes data up to:	08:09 22 June 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Council (CRC) on 27 May 2021 www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 22 June 2021, a total of 539 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 (see Table 1).
- Of the 240 Hazard Reduction activities, only 20 have been reported completed thus far, while overall completions have been 73. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. Office of Bushfire Mitigation has emphasised the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/06/22 - 0809hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	3	30	50	1	51	81
NORTHERN	3	0	3	6	0	6	14	3	17	26
CENTRAL	22	7	29	22	13	35	32	9	41	105
NORTH COAST	14	2	16	5	1	6	42	0	42	64
SOUTH WESTERN	16	4	20	7	1	8	14	2	16	44
BRISBANE	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	102	18	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	160	33	193	86	20	106	220	20	240	539

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).
- The K'gari Location Specific Fire Management Group Meeting (LSFMG) met on 24 June 2021 and is working on bushfire management issues, including mitigation as per the IGEM K'gari review recommendations.

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been/will soon be submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs).

5. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB 2021 is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

6. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 07 June – Sun 20 June

There have been 13 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the fortnight from Monday 7 June – Sunday 20 June, bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB 2021 period to 128.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, smoke alerts and bushfire warnings.

Key messages covered included:

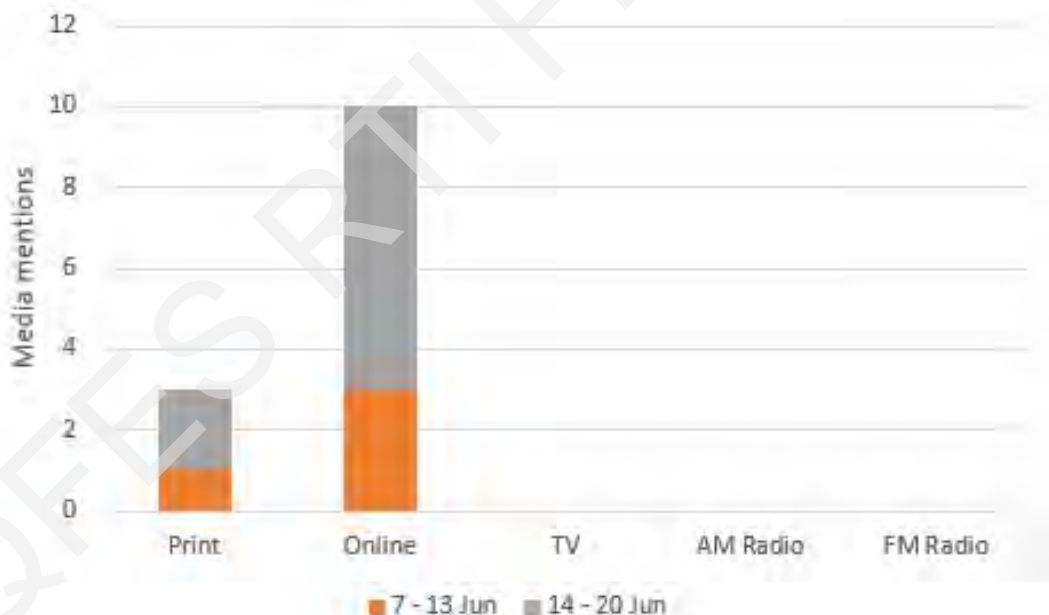
- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and that doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all;
- that QFES needs residents to understand their risk and to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

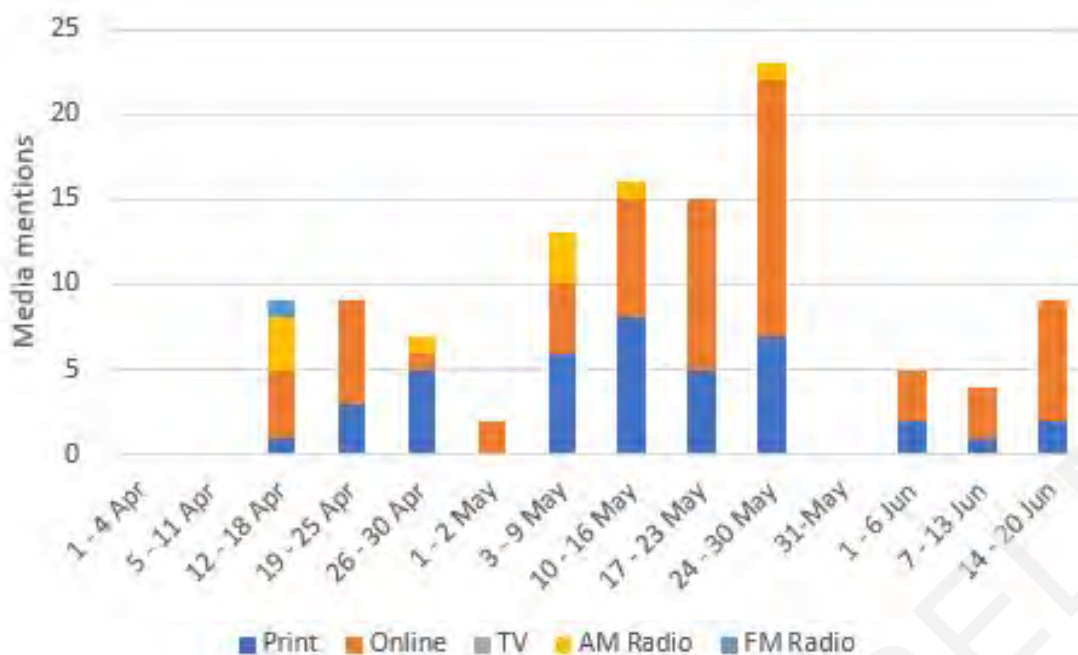
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	7 – 13 June	14 – 20 June	Fortnight total (7 - 20 June)	OCB total (1 April – 20 June)
Far North Region	3	2	5	24
Northern Region	1	3	4	14
Central Region	0	1	1	5
North Coast Region	0	0	0	19
Brisbane Region / state	0	0	0	21
South East Region	0	1	1	39
South West Region	0	2	2	6
Total	4	9	13	128

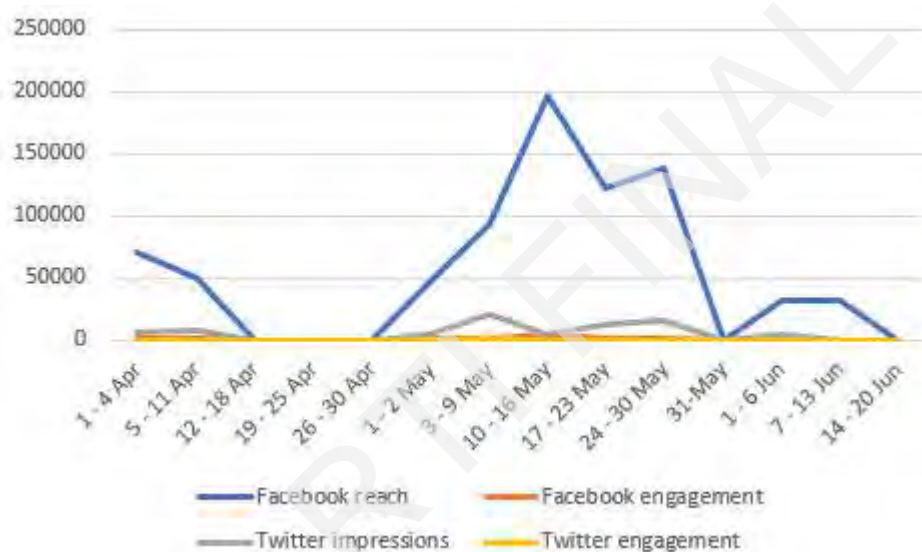
Number of media mentions 07 – 20 June 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 20 June 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 06 June 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season (specifically community education meetings).

Some of the key messages included:

- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all;
- QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their proportion.

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 07

Date:	9 July 2021
Reporting Period:	22 June 2021 to 9 July 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 8 July 2021

Deleted: June

Deleted: ne

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

Deleted: d with

Formatted: Justified

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May 2021 <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland's climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress, with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 9 July 2021, a total of 540 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 (see Table 1).
- Of the 241 hazard reduction activities, only 28 have been reported completed thus far, while overall completions have been 150 across community education and fire breaks. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The Office of Bushfire Mitigation continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

Deleted: 0

Deleted: in

Deleted: H

Deleted: R

Deleted: st

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/07/05 - 1514hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	3	30	50	1	51	81
NORTHERN	3	0	3	3	3	6	14	4	18	27
CENTRAL	21	8	29	19	16	35	31	10	41	105
NORTH COAST	14	2	16	5	1	6	36	6	42	64
SOUTH WESTERN	14	6	20	7	1	8	14	2	16	44
BRISBANE	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	90	30	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	145	48	193	80	26	106	213	28	241	540

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).
- The K'gari Location Specific Fire Management Group Meeting (LSFMG) met on 24 June 2021 and is working on bushfire management issues, including mitigation as per the IGEM K'gari review recommendations.

Formatted: Justified

Deleted: the

Deleted: th

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

Formatted: Justified, Space After: 0 pt, Line spacing: single

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Justified

Deleted: ¶

5. Mitigation activities (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region are conducting additional Community Engagement activities in the Somerset, Redland and Brisbane Local Government Areas with funding provided through previous grants.
- Central Region has completed approximately 30% of their mitigation activities.
- South Western Region will be leading a mail out for several high risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

Deleted: ve

Deleted: m

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only a minor impact on activities compared to OCB 2020.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 21 June – Sun 04 July

There have been 23 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the fortnight from Monday 21 June – Sunday 4 July, bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 138.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, smoke alerts and bushfire season outlook.

Key messages covered included:

- the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties;
- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and that doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

Formatted: Justified, Space Before: 6 pt, After: 0 pt, Line spacing: single

Deleted: past

Formatted: Justified

Deleted: (

Deleted:)

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

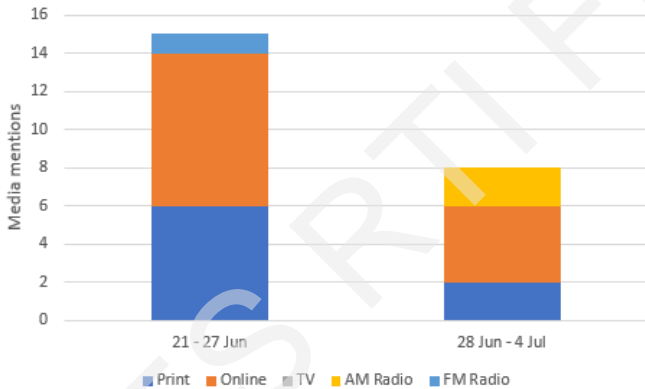
Formatted: List Paragraph, Justified, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Formatted: Justified

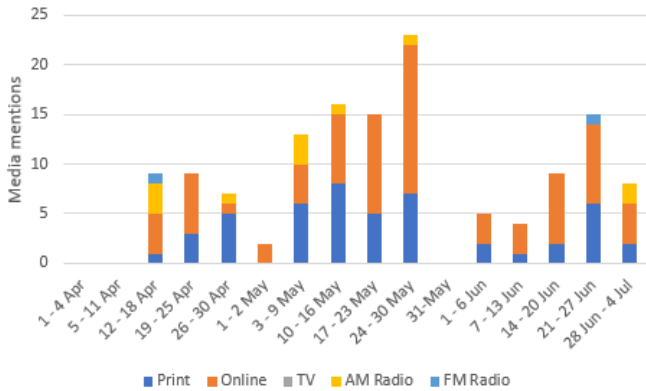
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	21 – 27 June	28 June – 4 July	Fortnight total (21 June – 4 July)	OCB total (1 April – 4 July)
Far North Region	4	2	6	25
Northern Region	0	1	1	11
Central Region	0	0	0	4
North Coast Region	2	3	5	24
Brisbane Region / state	5	1	6	27
South East Region	2	1	3	41
South West Region	2	0	2	6
Total	15	8	23	138

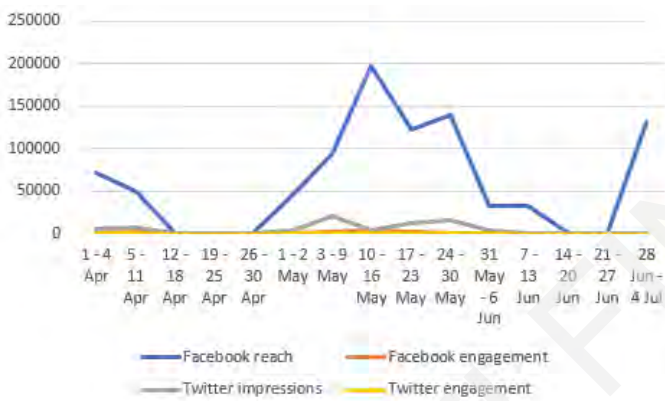
Number of media mentions 21 – 04 July 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 04 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 4 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season hazard reduction burns, OCB and RFS recruitment.

Formatted: Justified

Some of the key messages included:

- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all;
- QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: List Paragraph, Justified, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

From: Margot Gladstone
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 12:12 PM
To: RFS Assistant Commissioner
Cc: John Bolger; James Haig; QFES Correspondence
Subject: RE: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Moji

That is fine. I have created a campaign in MECS – “Operation Cool Burn 2021”.

Cheryl / Katinka – can you create an item in MECS for this first brief and progress it via MECS please. Please liaise with Moji on timeframes.

Cheers
Margot



Margot Gladstone
Executive Manager
Executive and Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Post: GPO Box 1425, Brisbane Qld 4001
s.73 - Irrelevant information
Mail Cluster 6.9

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: RFS Assistant Commissioner s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 11:58 AM
To: Margot Gladstone s.73 - Irrelevant information
Cc: John Bolger s.73 - Irrelevant information; James Haig s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: FW: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Hi Margot

I understand last year RFS provided regular reports following OCB fortnightly videoconferences. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and James Haig has discussed with Cathy Knapp and Lauren Poynting who are also supportive of continuing this approach this year.

The progress report will be due to the MO fortnightly on Monday morning.

Could I please request that QFES Corro allocates this each fortnight to us so we can action and obtain necessary approvals in time.

Thank you in advance.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Kind regards
Moji



Moji Sadrizadeh
 A/Executive Officer
 Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service
 s.73 - Irrelevant information
 s.73 - Irrelevant information
 Emergency Services Complex – Block C Level 2
 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron QLD 4031
 GPO Box 1425 BRISBANE QLD 4001

From: James Haig s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:46 AM
To: John Bolger s.73 - Irrelevant information; RFS Assistant Commissioner s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: Report for Operation Cool Burn progress to 27 April

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

Sir/Ma'am, please find attached a progress report for Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021.

This report is prepared using data compiled up to the second OCB fortnightly videoconference held on 27 April. As per the Commissioner's Intent we have fortnightly videoconferences on a Tuesday Morning which provide a standard point in time for statistics. Last year we provided regular reports following these and this seemed to work well in avoiding different figures taken at slightly different times, a single point of truth if you like. The Minister's Office were supportive of this approach and I think it could work well this year also (Cathy Knapp is supportive). Jason Brown from QFES futures and I link up so that all data is the same. I contacted Lauren Poynting, Chief of Staff in the Commissioners Office regarding using this report to brief the Minister during Monday morning pre-cabinet briefings and she was supportive.

The media reporting section will grow as media activity in OCB 2021 ramps up and the various other headings can also be expanded as needs emerge (e.g. if weather or other issues arise).

I had hoped to have this completed by yesterday and apologies for the delay which was due to a key staff member being ill and another on deployment with SES to Western Australia.

If appropriate could you please forward on through channels To Lauren Poynting Chief of Staff to the Commissioner?
 Apologies for the delay

Regards

James

James Haig
 Superintendent
 Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
 Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
 s.73 - Irrelevant information



OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 07

Date:	9 July 2021
Reporting Period:	22 June 2021 to 9 July 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 8 July 2021

Deleted: June

Deleted: ne

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have met and preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

Deleted: d with

Formatted: Justified

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May 2021 <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland's climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in June, progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state and partners are implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress, with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 9 July 2021, a total of 540 activities have been identified to mitigate risk during OCB 2021 (see Table 1).
- Of the 241 hazard reduction activities, only 28 have been reported completed thus far, while overall completions have been 150 across community education and fire breaks. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The Office of Bushfire Mitigation continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

Deleted: 0

Deleted: in

Deleted: H

Deleted: R

Deleted: st

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/07/05 - 1514hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	3	30	50	1	51	81
NORTHERN	3	0	3	3	3	6	14	4	18	27
CENTRAL	21	8	29	19	16	35	31	10	41	105
NORTH COAST	14	2	16	5	1	6	36	6	42	64
SOUTH WESTERN	14	6	20	7	1	8	14	2	16	44
BRISBANE	3	2	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	90	30	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	145	48	193	80	26	106	213	28	241	540

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).
- The K'gari Location Specific Fire Management Group Meeting (LSFMG) met on 24 June 2021 and is working on bushfire management issues, including mitigation as per the IGEM K'gari review recommendations.

Formatted: Justified

Deleted: the

Deleted: th

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

Formatted: Justified, Space After: 0 pt, Line spacing: single

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Justified

Deleted: ¶

5. Mitigation activities (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region are conducting additional Community Engagement activities in the Somerset, Redland and Brisbane Local Government Areas with funding provided through previous grants.
- Central Region has completed approximately 30% of their mitigation activities.
- South Western Region will be leading a mail out for several high risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

Deleted: ve

Deleted: m

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only a minor impact on activities compared to OCB 2020.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 21 June – Sun 04 July

There have been 23 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the fortnight from Monday 21 June – Sunday 4 July, bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 138.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include hazard reduction burns, smoke alerts and bushfire season outlook.

Key messages covered included:

- the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties;
- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and that doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

Formatted: Justified, Space Before: 6 pt, After: 0 pt, Line spacing: single

Deleted: past

Formatted: Justified

Deleted: (

Deleted:)

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

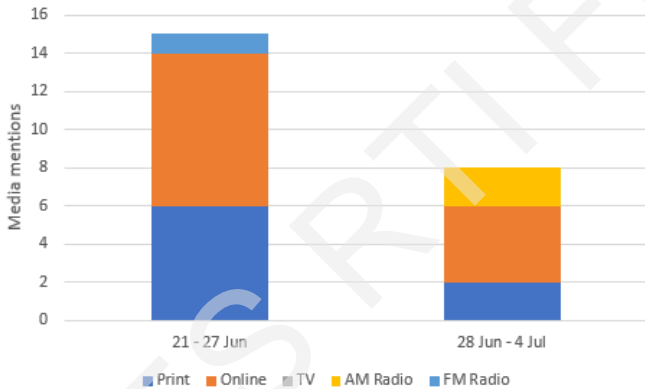
Formatted: List Paragraph, Justified, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Formatted: Justified

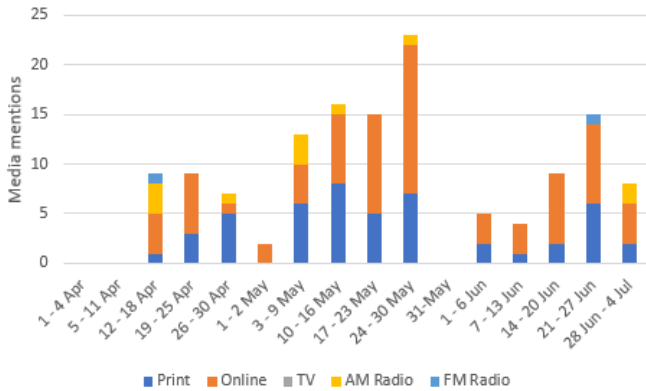
Media mentions by QFES Region

QFES Region	21 – 27 June	28 June – 4 July	Fortnight total (21 June – 4 July)	OCB total (1 April – 4 July)
Far North Region	4	2	6	25
Northern Region	0	1	1	11
Central Region	0	0	0	4
North Coast Region	2	3	5	24
Brisbane Region / state	5	1	6	27
South East Region	2	1	3	41
South West Region	2	0	2	6
Total	15	8	23	138

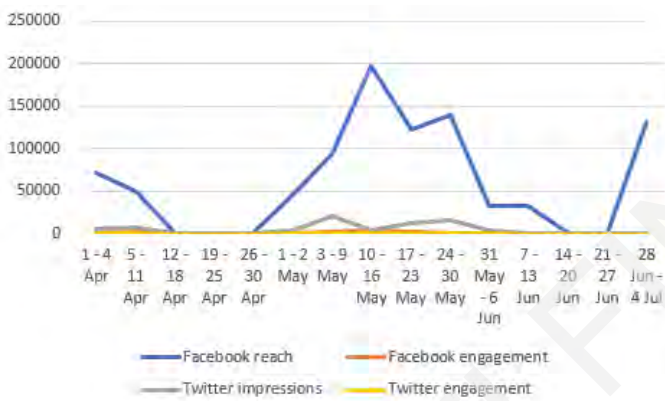
Number of media mentions 21 – 04 July 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 04 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 4 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include property preparation for bushfire season hazard reduction burns, OCB and RFS recruitment.

Formatted: Justified

Some of the key messages included:

- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all;
- QFES has many partners in managing bushfires; we need residents to understand their risk; and we need residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties.

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: List Paragraph, Justified, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 08

Date:	22 July 2021
Reporting Period:	6 July 2021 to 20 July 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 20 July 2021

Deleted: 0

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) meeting and the preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

Formatted: Justified

1. Weather and climate outlook

On 27 May 2021, the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

Deleted: T

Deleted: on 27 May 2021

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state with partners implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in Northern Region to progress, with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).
- Key Messages for this weekly report**
 - Fresh to strong and gusty westerly winds will develop around southeast, southern and central Queensland through the week. Further windy conditions are likely into the weekend.
 - A cold front will move across the state into Wednesday, and some snow or sleet may occur about higher parts of the Granite Belt.
 - Fire danger ratings have been capped at High across the state all week, a drier air mass has been slowly penetrating into the tropics throughout the week.

Deleted: the

Formatted: Justified, Space After: 12 pt, Outline numbered + Level: 2 + Numbering Style: Bullet + Aligned at: 1.9 cm + Tab after: 2.54 cm + Indent at: 2.54 cm

Deleted: Yesterday –a Sheep Graziers Warning has been issued.

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Justified

Deleted:

Deleted:

- Widespread morning frost has been occurring across the southeast, southern and central interior of the state.

Formatted: Justified

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 19 July 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 573 activities have been recorded (Community Education, Fire Breaks or Trails, and Hazard Reduction), see Table 1.
- Of the 271 Hazard Reduction activities, only 59 have been reported as complete thus far, while overall completions have been 96 across community education and fire breaks. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The Office of Bushfire Mitigation continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

Deleted: (

Deleted:)

Deleted: st

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/07/19 - 1514hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	4	31	50	1	51	82
NORTHERN	3	0	3	0	6	6	13	9	22	31
CENTRAL	21	8	29	17	18	35	31	10	41	105
NORTH COAST	12	5	17	5	0	5	36	32	68	90
SOUTH WESTERN	12	10	22	7	1	8	14	2	16	46
BRISBANE	0	5	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	83	37	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	131	65	196	75	31	106	212	59	271	573

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

Formatted: Justified

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs).

Deleted: LDMGs.

5. Mitigation activities (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region is conducting additional Community Engagement activities in the Somerset, Redland and Brisbane Local Government Areas with funding provided through previous grants.

Deleted: are

- Brisbane Region Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteers are also doorknocking to over 300 properties in the Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious and Jollys Lookout areas on Saturday 24 July, delivering Community Education material on Bushfires and Local Government Warning and Alert systems.
- Central Region has completed approximately 30% of its mitigation activities.
- South Western Region will be leading a mailout for several high risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

Deleted:

Deleted: Three Hundred

Deleted: th

Deleted: have

Deleted: m

Deleted: their

Deleted:

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 05 July – Sun 18 July

There have been 18 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 5 – Sunday 18 July), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 156.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include the Large Air Tanker (LAT) announcement, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

Key messages covered included:

- the LAT will now be based in Australia year-round after the Palaszczuk Government struck a four-year deal;
- the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties;
- QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Deleted:

Formatted: Font:

Formatted: Font:

Formatted: List Paragraph, Space Before: 0 pt, After: 0 pt, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Formatted: List Paragraph, Justified, Space Before: 0 pt, After: 0 pt, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Formatted: Justified

Deleted: we are

Deleted: our

Deleted: are

Please note, QFES is aware of media interviews completed that the monitoring service has not recorded and is currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

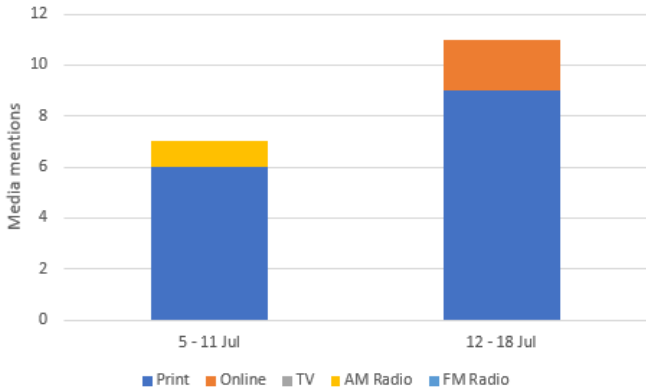
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	5-11 July	12-18 July	Fortnight total (5-18 July)	OCB total (1 April – 18 July)
Far North Region	0	1	1	26
Northern Region	0	2	2	13
Central Region	0	0	0	4
North Coast Region	3	2	5	29
Brisbane Region / state	1	1	2	29
South East Region	2	4	6	47
South West Region	1	1	2	8
Total	7	9	18	156

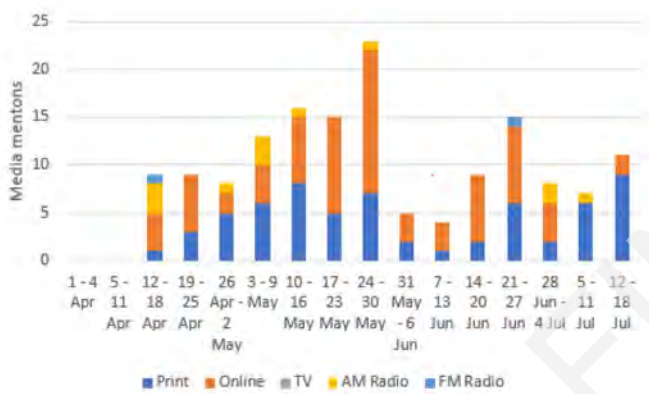
Deleted: 15

Deleted: 8

Number of media mentions 5 – 18 July 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 18 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 18 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include smoke alerts, property preparation for bushfire season, including property access.

Formatted: Justified

Some of the key messages included:

- QFES needs residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties;
- Residents are responsible for ensuring their properties are prepared,
- Actions you can take include permitted burns, mowing your lawn regularly, trimming overhanging branches and getting rid of flammable materials from your property;
- There is adequate access for fire trucks so we can get in your property and display a prominent house or lot number.

Formatted: Font:

Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Deleted: t

Formatted: Font:

Formatted: List Paragraph, Justified, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Not Bold

State Progress Report No. 08

Date:	22 July 2021
Reporting Period:	06 Jul 2021 to 20 Jul 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 20 July 2021

Summary

- The planning phase of Operation Cool Burn (OCB) for 2021 has been completed with 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) meeting and the preparation of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) is at an advanced stage (minor adjustments only).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June To August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state with partners implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).
- **Key Messages for this weekly report**
 - Fresh to strong and gusty westerly winds will develop around southeast, southern and central Queensland through the week. Further windy conditions are likely into the weekend.
 - A cold front will move across the state into Wednesday and some snow or sleet may occur about higher parts of the Granite Belt. Yesterday –a Sheep Graziers Warning had been issued.

- Fire danger ratings have been capped at High across the state all week –a drier air mass has been slowly penetrating into the tropics through out the week.
- Widespread morning frost has been occurring across the southeast, southern and central interior of the state.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation Cool Burn 2021

- As at 19 July 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations a total of 573 activities have been recorded (Community Education, Fire Breaks or Trails, and Hazard Reduction), (see Table 1).
- Of the 271 Hazard Reduction activities only 59 have been reported as complete thus far whilst overall completions have been 96 across community education and fire breaks. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The Office of Bushfire Mitigation continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide link-ups.

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/07/19 - 1514hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	4	31	50	1	51	82
NORTHERN	3	0	3	0	6	6	13	9	22	31
CENTRAL	21	8	29	17	18	35	31	10	41	105
NORTH COAST	12	5	17	5	0	5	36	32	68	90
SOUTH WESTERN	12	10	22	7	1	8	14	2	16	46
BRISBANE	0	5	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	14
SOUTH EASTERN	83	37	120	19	2	21	59	5	64	205
Grand Total	131	65	196	75	31	106	212	59	271	573

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- A majority of the BRMPs have been prepared and have been or will soon be submitted to LDMGs.

5. Mitigation activities (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region are conducting additional Community Engagement activities in the Somerset, Redland and Brisbane Local Government Areas with funding provided through previous grants.

- Brisbane Region RFS and SES volunteers are also door knocking to over Three Hundred properties in the Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious and Jollys Lookout areas on Saturday 24th July delivering Community Education material on Bushfires and Local Government Warning and Alert systems.
- Central Region have completed approximately 30% of their mitigation activities.
- South West Region will be leading a mail out for several high risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are having only minor on activities compared to OCB 2020.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 05 July – Sun 18 July

There have been 18 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 5 – Sun 18 July), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 156.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include the Large Air Tanker (LAT) announcement, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

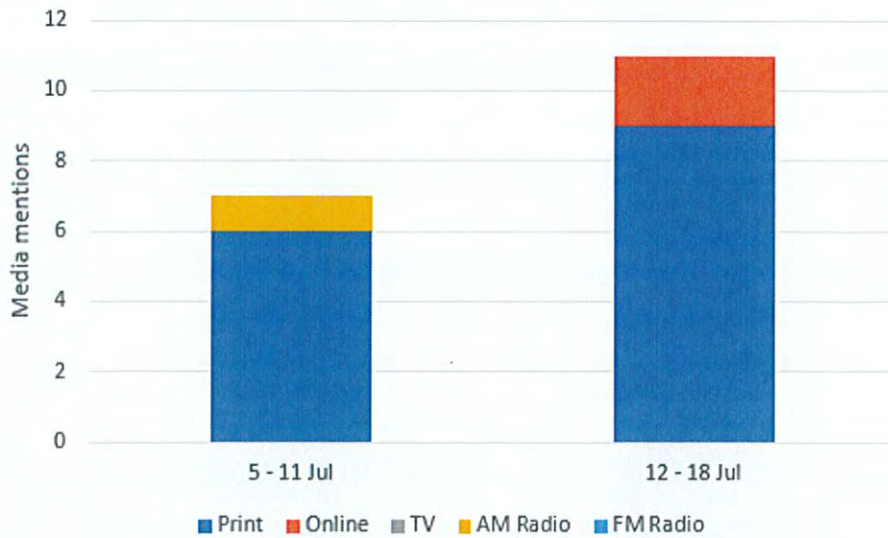
Key messages covered included: the LAT will now be based in Australia year round after the Palaszczuk Government struck a four-year deal; the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

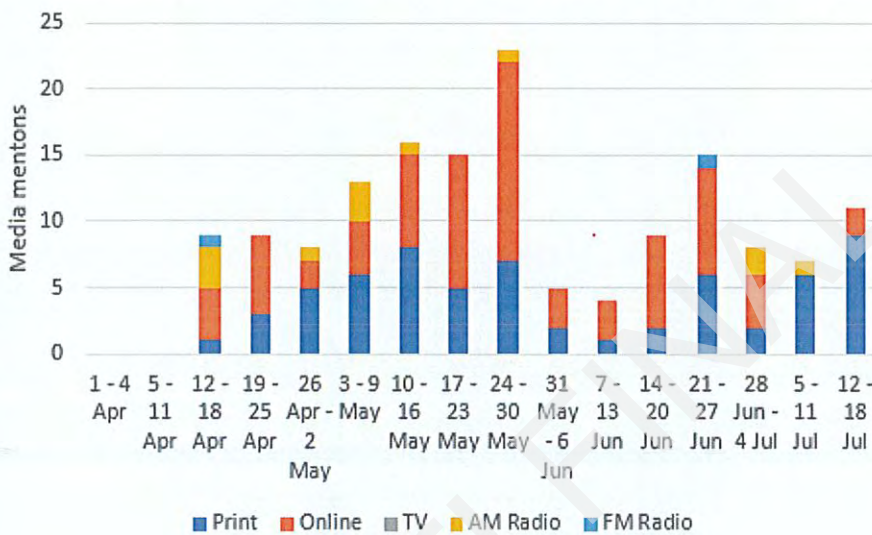
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	5-11July	12-18 July	Fortnight total (5-18 July)	OCB total (1 April – 18 July)
Far North Region	0	1	1	26
Northern Region	0	2	2	13
Central Region	0	0	0	4
North Coast Region	3	2	5	29
Brisbane Region / state	1	1	2	29
South East Region	2	4	6	47
South West Region	1	1	2	8
Total	15	8	18	156

Number of media mentions 5 – 18 July 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 18 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 18 July 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include smoke alerts, property preparation for bushfire season, including property access.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents are responsible for ensuring their properties are prepared, Actions you can take include permitted burns, mowing your lawn regularly, trimming overhanging branches and getting rid of flammable materials from your property; there is adequate access for fire trucks so we can get in your property and display a prominent house or lot number.

s.73 - Irrelevant information

John Bolger AFSM
Assistant Commissioner
Rural Fire Service

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 09

Date:	5 August 2021
Reporting Period:	20 July 2021 to 3 August 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 3 August 2021

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. A total of 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have completed Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June to August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Council on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland’s climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state with partners implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).
- Key Messages for this weekly report**
 - A high moving eastward across southern Australia extends a firm ridge and a cool, dry air mass across the state. The high will move into the Tasman Sea early next week, with winds turning more onshore along the east coast.
 - Fire danger ratings have been capped at High across the state all week – a dryer air mass has been slowly penetrating the tropics throughout the week.
 - Widespread morning frost has been occurring across the southeast, southern and central interior of the state.
 - Officers from the OBM travelled to Charleville last week for a meeting with the Veg Hub and to attend property management workshops. Grassland curing data was recorded with curing in excess of 90% widespread from frost.

Formatted: Bottom: 1 cm, Not Different first page header

Deleted: 0

Deleted:

Deleted: 0

Deleted: 0

Deleted: b

Deleted: worked to

Deleted: i

Deleted: Office of Bushfire Mitigation

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 3 August, QFES and partner agencies are managing 295 High Risk locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 560 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
- Of the 256 hazard reduction activities, only 54 were reported as complete as at 3 August, with 88 community education and 40 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.
- Updated reporting at 8am on 5 August include:
 - 68 hazard reduction burns
 - 91 community engagements and
 - 47 fire break, fire trail upgrades and construction.

- Deleted: Operation Cool Burn
- Deleted: 0
- Deleted: 2021
- Deleted: our
- Deleted: s
- Deleted: L
- Deleted: C
- Deleted: E
- Deleted: F
- Deleted: B
- Deleted: T
- Deleted: H
- Deleted: R
- Deleted: H
- Deleted: R
- Deleted: (
- Deleted: 'rd
- Deleted:)
- Deleted:
- Deleted: Office of Bushfire Mitigation
- Deleted: 0
- Deleted: :00
- Deleted: 0
- Deleted: H
- Deleted: R
- Deleted: B
- Deleted: C
- Deleted: E
- Deleted: F
- Deleted: B
- Deleted: F
- Deleted: T

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 02/08/2021 - 1200hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	5	32	54	8	62	94
NORTHERN	3	0	3	0	6	6	12	10	22	31
CENTRAL	17	12	29	10	25	35	26	15	41	105
NORTH COAST	11	4	15	5	0	5	32	10	42	62
SOUTH WESTERN	12	11	23	7	1	8	14	2	16	47
BRISBANE	0	6	6	0	0	0	8	1	9	15
SOUTH EASTERN	66	55	121	18	3	21	56	8	64	206
Grand Total	109	88	197	67	40	107	202	54	256	560

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and have been submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) and OBM.

5. Mitigation actives (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region, 49 Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Service volunteers and RFS staff supported by the Moreton Regional Council door knocked over 350 properties in the Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious and Jollys Lookout areas on Saturday 24 July delivering community education material on bushfires, a fact sheet on the community siren warning system, and volunteer recruitment opportunities.
- Central Region has completed approximately 30% of its mitigation activities.
- South Western Region will be leading a mail out for several high-risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

- Deleted: c
- Deleted: Three hundred and fifty
- Deleted:
- Deleted: C
- Deleted: E
- Deleted: B
- Deleted: F
- Deleted: S
- Deleted: '
- Deleted: '
- Deleted: ve
- Deleted: their

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are again impacting operations on the ground.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 19 July – Sun 1 August

There have been 43 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight, bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 199.

Deleted: (Mon 19 July – Sun 1 August)

Some key topics mentioned in the media include preview to bushfire season highlighting new technology, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

Key messages covered included: the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, QFES is aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

Deleted: we are

Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	19-25 July	26 July – 1 August	Fortnight total (19 Jul- 1 Aug)	OCB total (1 April – 1 Aug)
Far Northern Region	2	4	6	32
Northern Region	6	3	9	22
Central Region	1	1	2	6
North Coast Region	3	7	10	39
Brisbane Region / State	3	5	8	37
South Eastern Region	5	0	5	52
South Western Region	0	3	3	11
Total	20	23	43	199

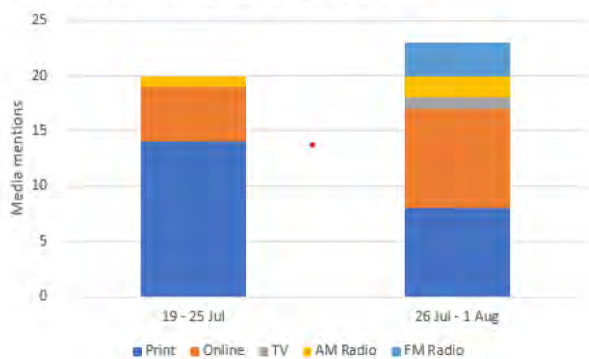
Deleted: s

Formatted Table

Number of media mentions 19 July – 1 August 2021

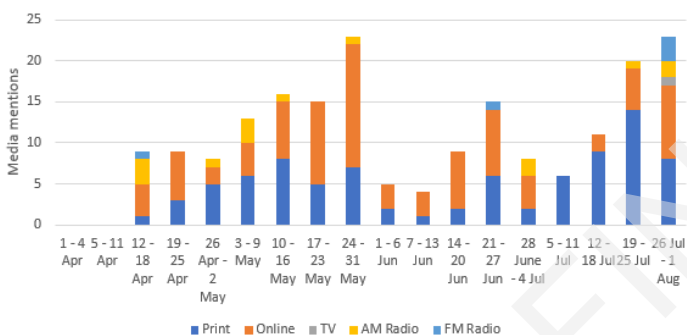
Deleted: ¶

Number of media mentions 19 July – 1 August 2021



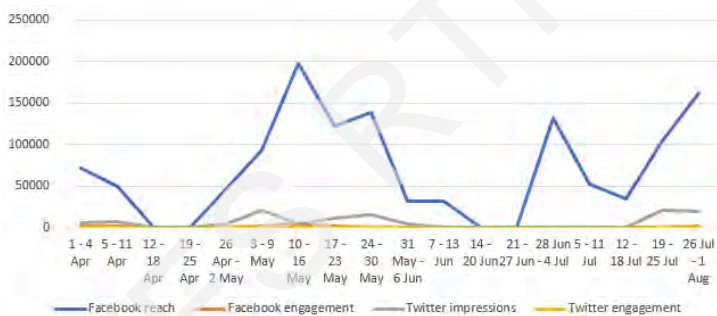
Number of media mentions 1 April to 1 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)

Deleted: ¶



Deleted: ¶

Social media results 1 April to 1 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include RFS Week, property preparation for bushfire season, including property access.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents are responsible for ensuring their properties are prepared, Actions you can take

include permitted burns, mowing your lawn regularly, trimming overhanging branches and getting rid of flammable materials from your property.

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 09

Date:	05 August 2021
Reporting Period:	20 July 2021 to 03 August 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 03 August 2021

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool bBurn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. A total of 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have worked to completed Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for June to August was released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Council on 27 May <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/97>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Most of Queensland has experienced mild and wet conditions for the first six months of 2021. This will likely see long-term rainfall deficits reduced through most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between Rockhampton and the Wide Bay area, leading into the winter period. The outlook for rainfall for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula areas and above average across the remainder of the state.
- These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
- With the El Niño–Southern Oscillation neutral and expected to remain inactive for winter, Queensland's climate is expected to be influenced by local drivers. The temperature outlook shows average maximum temperatures in the central to south west inland areas, with above average temperatures across the remainder of the state. Increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- The observed weather conditions, together with the indication of milder conditions and the increased chances of above average rainfall in many areas, indicate a slower start to the fire season. Conditions will be favourable for continued grass growth, increasing the fuel loads in grassland areas. The potential for frosts in the south western inland areas in the coming months may lead to localised curing of grassland and the possibility of high intensity grass fires during the fire season. Underlying drought conditions may generate an early onset of grass fires in the South Burnett region in progressing into the western area between Maryborough and Gympie into early July.
- These conditions are generally supportive of delivering OCB activities in many parts of the state with partners implementing burns as conditions continue to dry in coastal areas. Note however that the drier areas in the South Burnett will become too dry to burn safely if the drying trend continues much longer.
- The drying conditions in the last two weeks have allowed hazard reduction burning in the Northern Region to progress with multiple burns underway in the Townsville area in the current week (not yet finalised by partners or reported).
- Key Messages for this weekly report**
 - A high moving eastward across southern Australia extends a firm ridge and a cool, dry airmass across the state. The high will move into the Tasman Sea early next week, with winds turning more onshore along the east coast.
 - Fire danger ratings have been capped at High across the state all week – a drier air mass has been slowly penetrating the tropics throughout the week.
 - Widespread morning frost has been occurring across the southeast, southern and central interior of the state.
 - Officers from the Office of Bushfire Mitigation OBM travelled to Charleville last week for a meeting with the Veg Hub and to attend property management workshops. Grassland curing data was recorded with curing in excess of 90% widespread from frost.

2. Current planned activities and completion for Operation-Cool-Burn-OCB 2021

- As at 03 August 2021, QFES and our partner agencies are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 560 activities have been recorded (Community Education, Fire Breaks or Trails, and Hazard Reduction), (see Table 1).
- Of the 256 Hazard Reduction activities, only 54 were reported as complete as at (3rd August), with 88 community education and 40 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The Office of Bushfire Mitigation OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.
- Updated reporting at 08:00am on 05 August include:
 - 68 Hazard Reduction Burns
 - 91 Community Engagements and
 - 47 Fire Break, Fire Trail upgrades and construction.

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 02/08/2021 - 1200hrs)										
Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Grand Total
	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	Planned	Completed	Total	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	27	5	32	54	8	62	94
NORTHERN	3	0	3	0	6	6	12	10	22	31
CENTRAL	17	12	29	10	25	35	26	15	41	105
NORTH COAST	11	4	15	5	0	5	32	10	42	62
SOUTH WESTERN	12	11	23	7	1	8	14	2	16	47
BRISBANE	0	6	6	0	0	0	8	1	9	15
SOUTH EASTERN	66	55	121	18	3	21	56	8	64	206
Grand Total	109	88	197	67	40	107	202	54	256	560

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and have been submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) and OBM.

5. Mitigation actives (Some examples across regions)

- Brisbane Region, 49 Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Service volunteers and RFS staff supported by the Moreton Regional Council door knocked over Three hundred and fifty-350 properties in the Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious and Jollys Lookout areas on Saturday -24 July delivering Community Education material on Bushfires, a Fact Sheet on the 'community siren warning system' and volunteer recruitment opportunities.
- Central Region has completed approximately 30% of their mitigation activities.
- South Western Region will be leading a mail out for several high-risk locations to complement planned community events. All fire trails identified within OCB are nearing completion.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- All regions are working and progressing well within the BRMP realm and a majority of BRMPs are being submitted as required to the LDMGs for approval and support.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the particular problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.
- COVID-19 restrictions are again impacting operations on the ground.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Mon 19 July – Sun 1 August

There have been 43 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Mon 19 July – Sun 1 August), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 199.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include preview to bushfire season highlighting new technology, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

Key messages covered included: the importance of residents taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

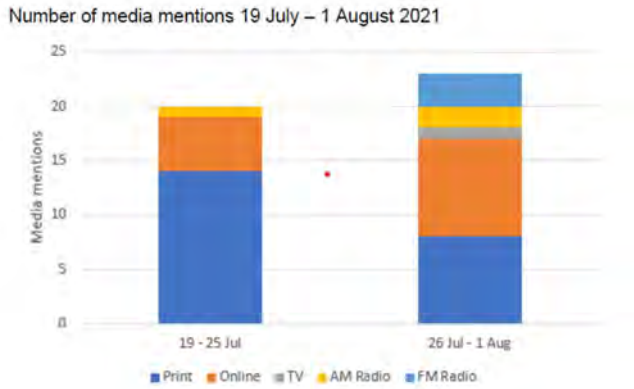
Please note, **we are QFES is aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.**

Media mentions by QFES Region.

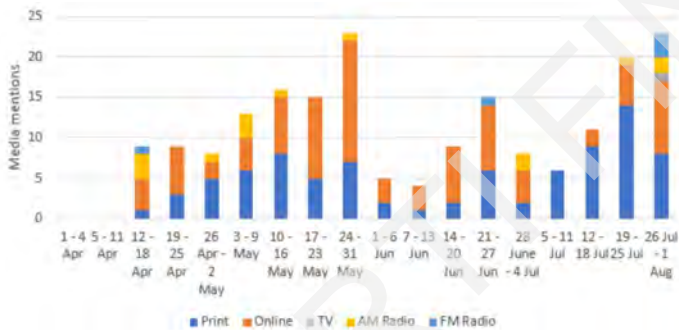
QFES Region	19-25 July	26 July – 1 August	Fortnight total (19 Jul- 1 Aug)	OCB total (1 April – 1 Aug)
Far Northern Region	2	4	6	32
Northern Region	6	3	9	22
Central Region	1	1	2	6
North Coast Region	3	7	10	39
Brisbane Region / sState	3	5	8	37
South Eastern Region	5	0	5	52
South Western Region	0	3	3	11
Total	20	23	43	199

Formatted Table

Number of media mentions 19 July – 1 August 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 1 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 1 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include RFS Week, property preparation for bushfire season, including property access.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents are responsible for ensuring their properties are prepared, Actions you can take include permitted burns, mowing your lawn regularly, trimming overhanging branches and getting rid of flammable materials from your property.

From: Michael Wassing
Sent: Monday, 16 August 2021 7:02 AM
To: DC EMVCR
Subject: Fwd: Reminder: MECS Item Overdue :02784-2021 Subject: EBN - Extension of Operation Cool Burn 2021 ReportingDue: 13/08/21

Endorsed

I have not done the MECS endorsement

Mike Wassing
Deputy Commissioner
QFES

Sent from my iPad

From: Corro QFES EMVCR RFS **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 5:02:42 AM
To: Michael Wassing **s.73 - Irrelevant information**
Subject: Reminder: MECS Item Overdue :02784-2021 Subject: EBN - Extension of Operation Cool Burn 2021 ReportingDue: 13/08/21

MECS Item 02784-2021 is overdue.

Item Details

Action Type: QFES - Brief for Commissioner (EBN)
Subject: EBN - Extension of Operation Cool Burn 2021 Reporting

Please click on the [Item Link](#) to view the item in MECS.

If you have any queries please contact officers from QFES - EMVCR RFS or email **s.73 - Irrelevant information**

email: EmailItemOverDue



Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: John Bolger AFSM, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical **Urgent** **General**

Briefing note for approval **Briefing note for information**

MECS #: 02784-2021

File #: QFS/15845

Deleted: xxxx-xxxx

To: Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Subject: Extension of Operation Cool Burn 2021 reporting **Date:** 12/08/2021

1. Background

- Operation Cool Burn (OCB) traditionally runs from 1 April to 31 August each year and is the period of primary focus for [Queensland Fire and Emergency Services \(QFES\)](#) and its partners in which bushfire mitigation activities are coordinated and conducted prior to the upcoming bushfire season.

Formatted: Justified

2. Issues

- As at 12 August 2021, wet weather conditions experienced across the state have impacted the ability of our partners to effectively put fire to the ground and effectively mitigate their respective fire risk as required.
- In addition, mitigation activities have also been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions implemented in numerous Queensland Local Government Areas throughout the year.
- Of the 256 hazard reduction activities identified by the various Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) for actioning, only 68 have been reported as completed within the OCB 2021 reporting period.
- Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through to early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
- Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would be advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. This will ensure we capture and collate the additional activity when briefing the QFES Senior Executive of ongoing proactive work being undertaken in this space, as well as utilising the additional data to more accurately inform future OCB operations.
- There are no additional imposts to QFES and/or its partners with regard to an extension of the OCB 2021 reporting period as it is a data collection process only.

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: number, Justified, Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 0.75 cm, Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Formatted: Justified, Indent: Left: -0 cm, Space Before: 6 pt, Add space between paragraphs of the same style

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: being undertaken

Deleted:

Deleted:

Deleted: for use in

Deleted: Cool Burn

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: s

Formatted: Justified, Indent: Left: 0.63 cm, Hanging: 0.63 cm

Deleted: Neil Kelso

Deleted: State Office,

Deleted: Wayne Ford

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with [Mr Neil Kelso](#), Superintendent, [State - Rural Fire Service](#) and [Mr Wayne Ford](#), Acting Inspector, [Office of Bushfire Mitigation](#), [Rural Fire Service](#) who concur with the contents of this brief.

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?

- N/A

5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- N/A

6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the *Human Rights Act 2019* been considered?

- N/A

8. Funding

- N/A

9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- N/A

10. Recommendation

- That the OCB 2021 reporting period be extended to 30 September 2021.

Formatted: Justified, Indent: Left: 0.75 cm, No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Justified, Indent: Left: 0.63 cm, Hanging: 0.63 cm

Deleted: Operation Cool Burn

Deleted: out

Deleted:

Formatted: Justified

Endorsed

Mike Wassing AFSM

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Greg Leach

COMMISSIONER

16 / 08 / 2021

/ / 2021

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

Comments:

Deleted: ..

Deleted: .

Deleted: .

Deleted: ..

Deleted: ..

Deleted: Noted / Endorsed / Not Endorsed



Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: John Bolger AFSM, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical Urgent General

Briefing note for approval Briefing note for information

MECS #: xxxx-xxxx

File #: QFS/15845

02784-2021

To: Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Subject: Extension of Operation Cool Burn 2021 reporting

Date: 12/08/2021

1. Background

- Operation Cool Burn (OCB) traditionally runs from 1 April to 31 August each year and is the period of primary focus for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners in which bushfire mitigation activities are coordinated and conducted prior to the upcoming bushfire season.

2. Issues

- As at 12 Aug 2021, wet weather conditions experienced across the state have impacted the ability of our partners to effectively put fire to the ground and effectively mitigate their respective fire risk as required.
- In addition, mitigation activities have also been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions implemented in numerous Queensland Local Government Areas throughout the year.
- Of the 256 hazard reduction activities identified by the various Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) for actioning, only 68 have been reported as completed within the OCB 2021 reporting period.
- Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through to early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
- Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would be advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. This will ensure we capture and collate the additional activity when briefing the QFES Senior Executive of ongoing proactive work being undertaken in this space, as well as utilising the addition data to more accurately inform future Cool Burn operations.
- There are no additional imposts to QFES and/or its partners with regard to an extension of the OCB 2021 reporting period as it is a data collection process only.

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with Superintendent Neil Kelso, State Office, Rural Fire Service and Acting Inspector Wayne Ford, Office of Bushfire Mitigation, who concur with the contents of this brief.

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?
 - N/A
5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?
 - N/A
6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?
 - N/A
7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the *Human Rights Act* 2019 been considered?
 - N/A
8. Funding
 - N/A
9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?
 - N/A
10. Recommendation
 - That the Operation Cool Burn 2021 reporting period be extended to 30 September 2021.

Mike Wassing AFSM
 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
 VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Greg Leach
 COMMISSIONER

.. / .. / 2021

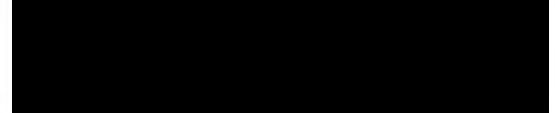
.. / .. / 2021

Noted / Endorsed / Not Endorsed

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

Comments:

s.73 - Irrelevant information



John Bolger AFSM
 Assistant Commissioner
 Rural Fire Service



Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: John Bolger AFSM, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical **Urgent** **General**

MECS #: 02784-2021

Briefing note for approval **Briefing note for information**

File #: QFS/15845

To: Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Subject: Extension of Operation Cool Burn 2021 reporting

Date: 12/08/2021

1. Background

- Operation Cool Burn (OCB) traditionally runs from 1 April to 31 August each year and is the period of primary focus for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners in which bushfire mitigation activities are coordinated and conducted prior to the upcoming bushfire season.

2. Issues

- As at 12 Aug 2021, wet weather conditions experienced across the state have impacted the ability of our partners to effectively put fire to the ground and effectively mitigate their respective fire risk as required.
- In addition, mitigation activities have also been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions implemented in numerous Queensland Local Government Areas throughout the year.
- Of the 256 hazard reduction activities identified by the various Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) for actioning, only 68 have been reported as completed within the OCB 2021 reporting period.
- Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through to early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
- Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would be advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. This will ensure we capture and collate the additional activity when briefing the QFES Senior Executive of ongoing proactive work being undertaken in this space, as well as utilising the addition data to more accurately inform future Cool Burn operations.
- There are no additional imposts to QFES and/or its partners with regard to an extension of the OCB 2021 reporting period as it is a data collection process only.

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with Superintendent Neil Kelso, State Office, Rural Fire Service and Acting Inspector Wayne Ford, Office of Bushfire Mitigation, who concur with the contents of this brief.

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?

- N/A

5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- N/A

6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the *Human Rights Act 2019* been considered?

- N/A

8. Funding

- N/A

9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- N/A

10. Recommendation

- That the Operation Cool Burn 2021 reporting period be extended to 30 September 2021.



Mike Wassing AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Greg Leach
COMMISSIONER

16 / 08 / 2021

.. / .. /2021

Noted / **Endorsed** / Not Endorsed

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

Comments:



Executive Briefing Note



Requested by: John Bolger AFSM, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service

Critical **Urgent** **General**

MECS #: 02784-2021

Briefing note for approval **Briefing note for information**

File #: QFS/15845

To: Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Subject: Extension of Operation Cool Burn 2021 reporting

Date: 12/08/2021

1. Background

- Operation Cool Burn (OCB) traditionally runs from 1 April to 31 August each year and is the period of primary focus for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners in which bushfire mitigation activities are coordinated and conducted prior to the upcoming bushfire season.

2. Issues

- As at 12 August 2021, wet weather conditions experienced across the state have impacted the ability of our partners to effectively put fire to the ground and effectively mitigate their respective fire risk as required.
- In addition, mitigation activities have also been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions implemented in numerous Queensland Local Government Areas throughout the year.
- Of the 256 hazard reduction activities identified by the various Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) for actioning, only 68 have been reported as completed within the OCB 2021 reporting period.
- Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through to early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
- Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would be advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. This will ensure we capture and collate the additional activity when briefing the QFES Senior Executive of ongoing proactive work being undertaken in this space, as well as utilising the additional data to more accurately inform future OCB operations.
- There are no additional imposts to QFES and/or its partners with regard to an extension of the OCB 2021 reporting period as it is a data collection process only.

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with Mr Neil Kelso, Superintendent, State - Rural Fire Service and Mr Wayne Ford, Acting Inspector, Office of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service who concur with the contents of this brief.

4. Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted?

- N/A

5. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- N/A

6. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

7. Has QFES' obligations in relation to the *Human Rights Act 2019* been considered?

- N/A

8. Funding

- N/A

9. If this brief includes a new policy, publication, initiative, or is a change in a policy or publication, is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- N/A

10. Recommendation

- That the OCB 2021 reporting period be extended to 30 September 2021.

Endorsed

Mike Wassing AFSM

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



Greg Leach

COMMISSIONER

16 / 08 / 2021

17 / 08 / 2021

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

Comments:

From: Michael Wassing
Sent: Thursday, 2 September 2021 1:19 PM
To: DC EMVCR
Subject: RE: For endorsement: 02979-2021: Due: 10/09/21: REPORT - Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 fortnightly progress report No.11

The numbers don't add up in completed

Can you check and assess please.

For me 270 (which now puts at less than 50% total completion (which we have already said we have passed) is now less than.

My count was 386

From: DC EMVCR s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Thursday, 2 September 2021 10:14 AM
To: Michael Wassing s.73 - Irrelevant information
Cc: DC EMVCR s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: For endorsement: 02979-2021: Due: 10/09/21: REPORT - Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 fortnightly progress report No.11

Hi Mike

Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 fortnightly progress report No.11 attached for your endorsement please.

Kind regards
Claire

From: Corro QFES EMVCR RFS s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Thursday, 2 September 2021 9:58 AM
To: Corro QFES EMVCR DC s.73 - Irrelevant information
Subject: MECS Item No. 02979-2021 Submitted For your Approval : Due: 10/09/21: Subject: REPORT - Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 fortnightly progress report No.11

MECS Item No. 02979-2021 has been actioned by Corro QFES EMVCR RFS and is submitted for your approval.

The following comments are provided (if any): .

This is due on or before 10/09/21.

Item Details

Action Type: QFES - Brief for Commissioner (EBN)
Subject: REPORT - Operation Cool Burn (OCB) 2021 fortnightly progress report No.11

You should either:

1. Approve the draft or select the EC Approve Button. ([Show Me How](#))
2. Press 'Reject' to return if further work is required (please provide comments). ([Show Me How](#))

Please click on the [Item Link](#) to view the item in MECS.

If you have any queries please contact officers from QFES - EMVCR RFS or email
s.73 - Irrelevant information

email: EmailApplyApproval

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 11

Date:	31 August 2021
Reporting Period:	17 August to 31 August 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 31 August 2021

Deleted: 2021

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have worked to complete Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM).

Deleted: b

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2021 was released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) on 26 August 2021 <https://www.afac.com.au/>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Queensland has continued to experience mild and wet conditions over the first seven months of 2021, with long term rainfall deficits returning to average conditions across most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between the Capricornia and Wide Bay areas and the Granite belt. These weather events have led to a slower start to the fire season with the exception of the Burnett, Wide Bay and Bundaberg regions which have experienced an earlier than expected start to their fire season.
- A dry and mild August period has generated higher than average median growth in the Wide Bay and Burnett regions and a higher than normal chance of ignition. With a negative Indian Ocean Dipole and neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions and a La Niña outlook forecast, the climate outlook for the August to November period is likely to be influenced by significant rainfall and local drivers. The temperature outlooks are for average to lower maximum temperatures across most of the state with above average temperatures in the Far North/Cape area; increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- Rainfall outlook is above median rainfall across the remainder of the state. The milder conditions and the probability of above median rainfall across the state will likely result in continuation of the favourable conditions for new grass growth. Queensland is likely to see a slight increase in localised areas of grassland fires across the South East area, the Burnett/Wide Bay areas, coastal areas between Gladstone and Mackay and North Queensland.

Deleted: NSO

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Key Messages for this weekly report

- A weak ridge extends over eastern Queensland, but will strengthen as a large high east of New Zealand builds in coming days. A lingering trough over the central and northern interior will contract to the west of the state by Thursday and weaken. A new trough will move into the far southwest late Friday and during Saturday.
- A slight chance of showers and possible afternoon thunderstorms about the southeast. A slight to medium chance of showers about the east coast north of Sarina, increasing to a high to very high chance about the North Tropical Coast and eastern Peninsula.
- A slight to medium chance of shower and a thunderstorm or two about western districts. Mostly sunny elsewhere, with the chance of morning fog in the central and southeastern districts. Moderate to fresh east to southeasterly winds about central and northeastern coastal districts. Light to moderate east to northeasterly winds, fresh at times during the day over the far west and central interior. Winds tending northeast to northwesterly about the southeastern interior. Temperatures near to above average.

Deleted: Operation Cool Burn

Deleted: C

Deleted: E

Deleted: F

Deleted: B

Deleted: T

Deleted: H

Deleted: R

Deleted: 5

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: H

Deleted: R

Deleted: st

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 31 August 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 572 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
 - Note: An increase in five activities (total 577) has occurred due to a duplication in Catalyst reporting. OBM is managing this data discrepancy as required.
- Of the 270 hazard reduction activities, 141 were reported as complete (31 August) with 149 community education and 96 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between

completion of burns by partners and reporting. OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.

Deleted: The Office of Bushfire Mitigation

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/08/30 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Planned	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
Far Northern	0	0	0	4	28	32	11	62	73	105
Northern	0	3	3	0	6	6	10	12	22	31
Central	11	18	29	2	33	35	21	20	41	105
North Coast	1	14	15	1	4	5	20	21	41	61
South Western	8	16	24	1	9	10	15	3	18	52
Brisbane	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
South Eastern	29	92	121	5	16	21	47	19	66	208
State - Targets	198			109			270			577
State - Completion Rate	149			96			141			386
State - Remaining Activities	49			13			129			191

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and have been submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) and OBM.

5. Mitigation actives

- Mitigation activities continue to occur across the State.

Deleted: (Some examples across regions)

Deleted: , Region by Region

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- QFES has launched the Bushfire Safety Campaign this week. Currently being aired across multimedia and television.
- As a deliberate strategy, the OCB 2021 reporting period has been extended to 30 September 2021. Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
- QFES, in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan are now advising LDMGs of what mitigation activities have been undertaken during the OCB period.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the problem areas.

Deleted: Qld

Deleted: Coolburn

- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 16 August – Sunday 29 August

There have been 58 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 16 August – Sunday 29 August), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 298.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire incident response, Large Air Tanker, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

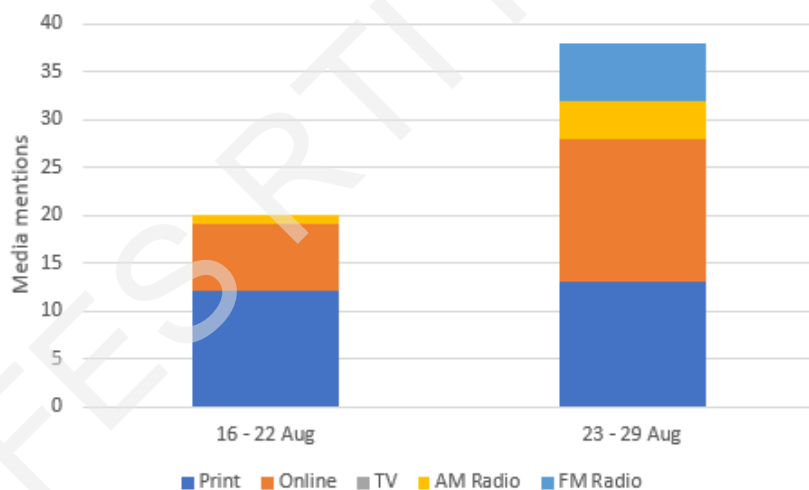
Key messages covered included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

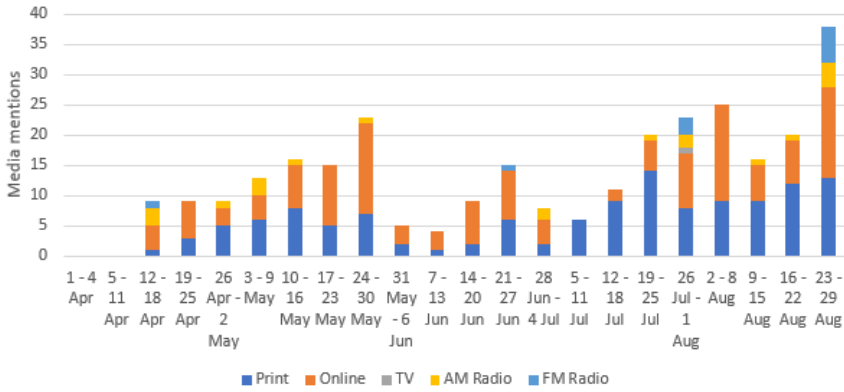
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	16 – 22 August	23 - 29 August	Fortnight total (16 – 29 August)	OCB total (1 April – 29 Aug)
Far Northern	2	5	7	53
Northern	5	2	7	36
Central	2	4	6	12
North Coast	3	7	10	54
Brisbane / State	2	5	7	50
South Eastern	4	13	17	75
South Western	2	2	4	18
Total	20	38	58	298

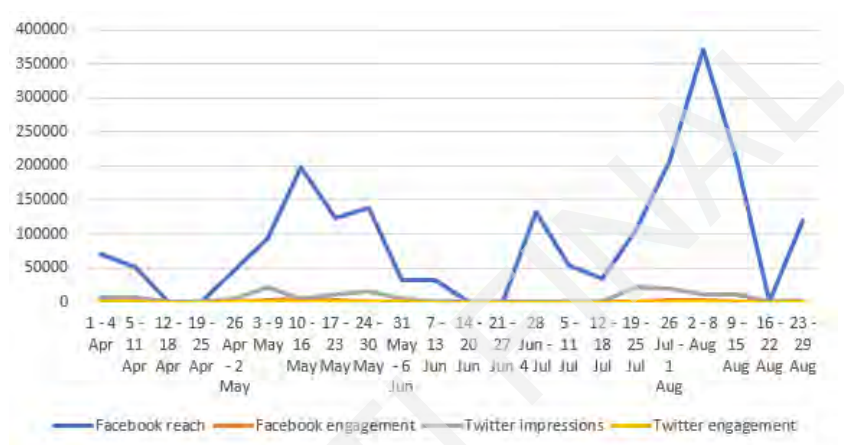
Number of media mentions 16 - 29 August 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 29 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 29 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include bushfire response and property preparation for bushfire season.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents are responsible for ensuring their properties are prepared, Actions you can take include permitted burns, mowing your lawn regularly, trimming overhanging branches and getting rid of flammable materials from your property.

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 11

Date:	31 August 2021
Reporting Period:	17 August to 31 August 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 31 August 2021

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have worked to complete Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2021 was released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) on 26 August 2021 <https://www.afac.com.au/>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Queensland has continued to experience mild and wet conditions over the first seven months of 2021, with long term rainfall deficits returning to average conditions across most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between the Capricornia and Wide Bay areas and the Granite belt. These weather events have led to a slower start to the fire season with the exception of the Burnett, Wide Bay and Bundaberg regions which have experienced an earlier than expected start to their fire season.
- A dry and mild August period has generated higher than average median growth in the Wide Bay and Burnett regions and a higher than normal chance of ignition. With a negative Indian Ocean Dipole and neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions and a La Niña outlook forecast, the climate outlook for the August to November period is likely to be influenced by significant rainfall and local drivers. The temperature outlooks are for average to lower maximum temperatures across most of the state with above average temperatures in the Far North/Cape area; increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- Rainfall outlook is above median rainfall across the remainder of the state. The milder conditions and the probability of above median rainfall across the state will likely result in continuation of the favourable conditions for new grass growth. Queensland is likely to see a slight increase in localised areas of grassland fires across the South East area, the Burnett/Wide Bay areas, coastal areas between Gladstone and Mackay and North Queensland.

• Key Messages for this weekly report

- A weak ridge extends over eastern Queensland, but will strengthen as a large high east of New Zealand builds in coming days. A lingering trough over the central and northern interior will contract to the west of the state by Thursday and weaken. A new trough will move into the far southwest late Friday and during Saturday.
- A slight chance of showers and possible afternoon thunderstorms about the southeast. A slight to medium chance of showers about the east coast north of Sarina, increasing to a high to very high chance about the North Tropical Coast and eastern Peninsula.
- A slight to medium chance of shower and a thunderstorm or two about western districts. Mostly sunny elsewhere, with the chance of morning fog in the central and southeastern districts. Moderate to fresh east to southeasterly winds about central and northeastern coastal districts. Light to moderate east to northeasterly winds, fresh at times during the day over the far west and central interior. Winds tending northeast to northwesterly about the southeastern interior. Temperatures near to above average.

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 31 August 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 572 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
 - Note: An increase in five activities (total 577) has occurred due to a duplication in Catalyst reporting. OBM is managing this data discrepancy as required.
- Of the 270 hazard reduction activities, 141 were reported as complete (31 August) with 149 community education and 96 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between

completion of burns by partners and reporting. OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/08/30 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Planned	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
Far Northern	0	0	0	4	28	32	11	62	73	105
Northern	0	3	3	0	6	6	10	12	22	31
Central	11	18	29	2	33	35	21	20	41	105
North Coast	1	14	15	1	4	5	20	21	41	61
South Western	8	16	24	1	9	10	15	3	18	52
Brisbane	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
South Eastern	29	92	121	5	16	21	47	19	66	208
State – Targets	198			109			270			577
State - Completion Rate	149			96			141			386
State - Remaining Activities	49			13			129			191

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and have been submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) and OBM.

5. Mitigation actives

- Mitigation activities continue to occur across the State.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- QFES has launched the Bushfire Safety Campaign this week. Currently being aired across multimedia and television.
- As a deliberate strategy, the OCB 2021 reporting period has been extended to 30 September 2021. Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
- QFES, in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan are now advising LDMGs of what mitigation activities have been undertaken during the OCB period.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the problem areas.

- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 16 August – Sunday 29 August

There have been 58 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 16 August – Sunday 29 August), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 298.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire incident response, Large Air Tanker, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

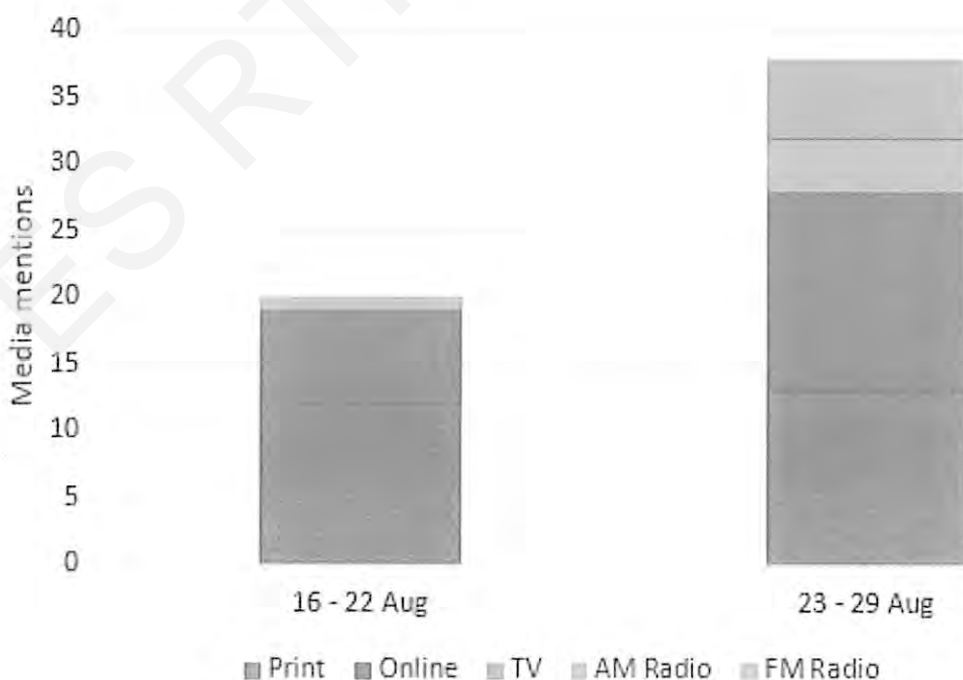
Key messages covered included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

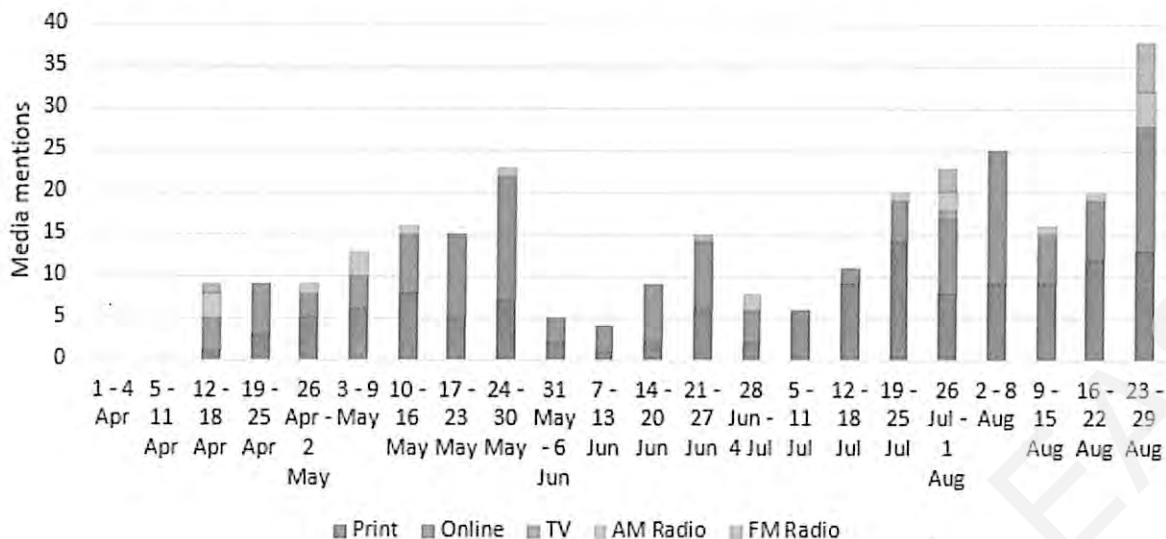
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	16 – 22 August	23 - 29 August	Fortnight total (16 – 29 August)	OCB total (1 April – 29 Aug)
Far Northern	2	5	7	53
Northern	5	2	7	36
Central	2	4	6	12
North Coast	3	7	10	54
Brisbane / State	2	5	7	50
South Eastern	4	13	17	75
South Western	2	2	4	18
Total	20	38	58	298

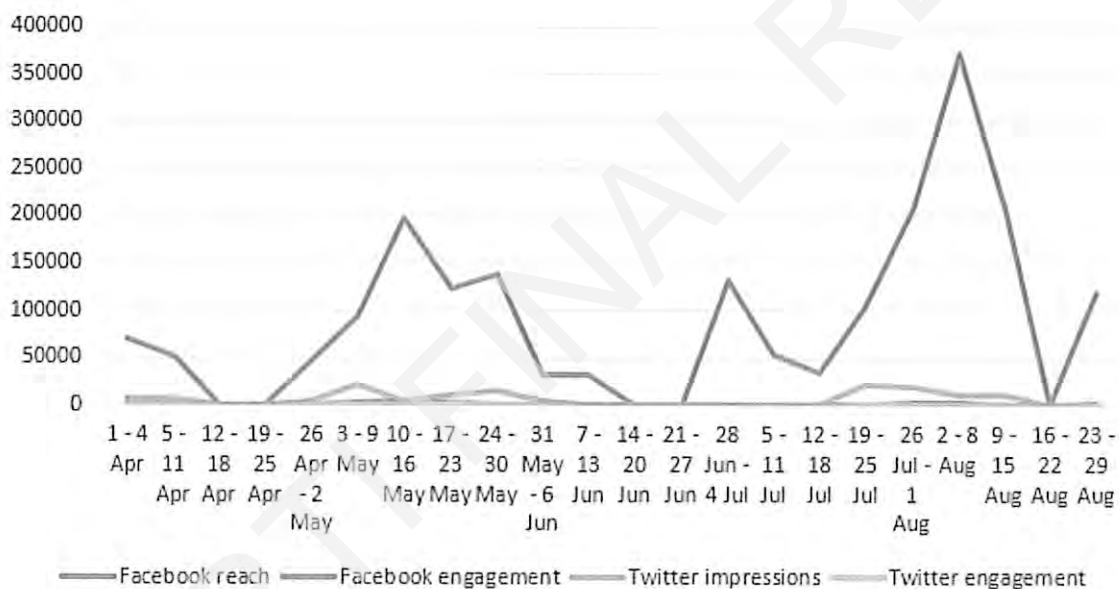
Number of media mentions 16 - 29 August 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 29 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 29 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include bushfire response and property preparation for bushfire season.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents are responsible for ensuring their properties are prepared, Actions you can take include permitted burns, mowing your lawn regularly, trimming overhanging branches and getting rid of flammable materials from your property.

CC

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 11

Date:	31 August 2021
Reporting Period:	17 August to 31 August 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 31 August 2021

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have worked to complete Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2021 was released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) on 26 August 2021 <https://www.afac.com.au/>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Queensland has continued to experience mild and wet conditions over the first seven months of 2021, with long term rainfall deficits returning to average conditions across most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between the Capricornia and Wide Bay areas and the Granite belt. These weather events have led to a slower start to the fire season with the exception of the Burnett, Wide Bay and Bundaberg regions which have experienced an earlier than expected start to their fire season.
- A dry and mild August period has generated higher than average median growth in the Wide Bay and Burnett regions and a higher than normal chance of ignition. With a negative Indian Ocean Dipole and neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions and a La Niña outlook forecast, the climate outlook for the August to November period is likely to be influenced by significant rainfall and local drivers. The temperature outlooks are for average to lower maximum temperatures across most of the state with above average temperatures in the Far North/Cape area; increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- Rainfall outlook is above median rainfall across the remainder of the state. The milder conditions and the probability of above median rainfall across the state will likely result in continuation of the favourable conditions for new grass growth. Queensland is likely to see a slight increase in localised areas of grassland fires across the South East area, the Burnett/Wide Bay areas, coastal areas between Gladstone and Mackay and North Queensland.

• Key Messages for this weekly report

- A weak ridge extends over eastern Queensland, but will strengthen as a large high east of New Zealand builds in coming days. A lingering trough over the central and northern interior will contract to the west of the state by Thursday and weaken. A new trough will move into the far southwest late Friday and during Saturday.
- A slight chance of showers and possible afternoon thunderstorms about the southeast. A slight to medium chance of showers about the east coast north of Sarina, increasing to a high to very high chance about the North Tropical Coast and eastern Peninsula.
- A slight to medium chance of shower and a thunderstorm or two about western districts. Mostly sunny elsewhere, with the chance of morning fog in the central and southeastern districts. Moderate to fresh east to southeasterly winds about central and northeastern coastal districts. Light to moderate east to northeasterly winds, fresh at times during the day over the far west and central interior. Winds tending northeast to northwesterly about the southeastern interior. Temperatures near to above average.

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 31 August 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 572 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
 - Note: An increase in five activities (total 577) has occurred due to a duplication in Catalyst reporting. OBM is managing this data discrepancy as required.
- Of the 270 hazard reduction activities, 141 were reported as complete (31 August) with 149 community education and 96 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between

completion of burns by partners and reporting. OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/08/30 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Planned	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
Far Northern	0	0	0	4	28	32	11	62	73	105
Northern	0	3	3	0	6	6	10	12	22	31
Central	11	18	29	2	33	35	21	20	41	105
North Coast	1	14	15	1	4	5	20	21	41	61
South Western	8	16	24	1	9	10	15	3	18	52
Brisbane	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
South Eastern	29	92	121	5	16	21	47	19	66	208
State – Targets	198			109			270			577
State - Completion Rate	149			96			141			386
State - Remaining Activities	49			13			129			191

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and have been submitted to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) and OBM.

5. Mitigation actives

- Mitigation activities continue to occur across the State.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- QFES has launched the Bushfire Safety Campaign this week. Currently being aired across multimedia and television.
- As a deliberate strategy, the OCB 2021 reporting period has been extended to 30 September 2021. Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
- QFES, in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan are now advising LDMGs of what mitigation activities have been undertaken during the OCB period.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the problem areas.

- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 16 August – Sunday 29 August

There have been 58 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 16 August – Sunday 29 August), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 298.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire incident response, Large Air Tanker, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

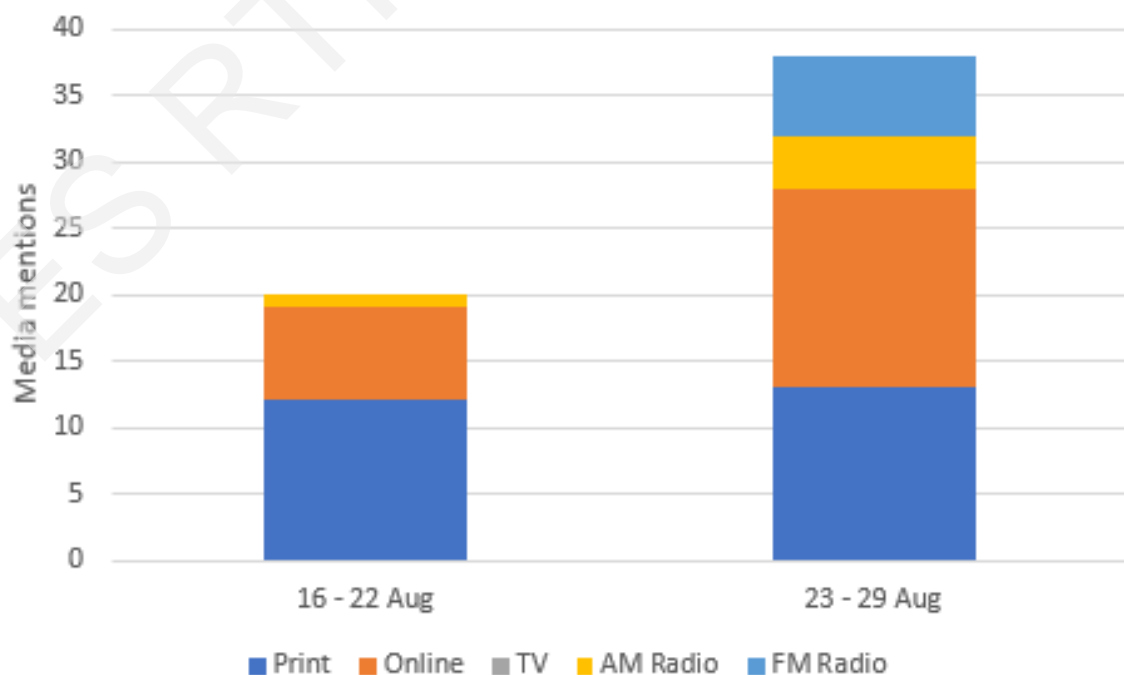
Key messages covered included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

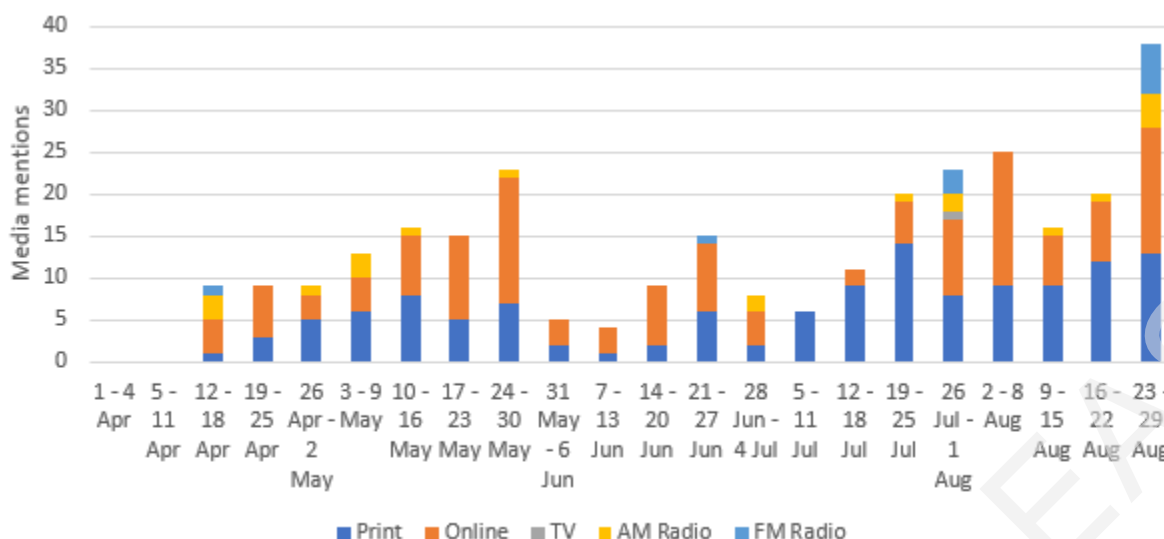
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	16 – 22 August	23 - 29 August	Fortnight total (16 – 29 August)	OCB total (1 April – 29 Aug)
Far Northern	2	5	7	53
Northern	5	2	7	36
Central	2	4	6	12
North Coast	3	7	10	54
Brisbane / State	2	5	7	50
South Eastern	4	13	17	75
South Western	2	2	4	18
Total	20	38	58	298

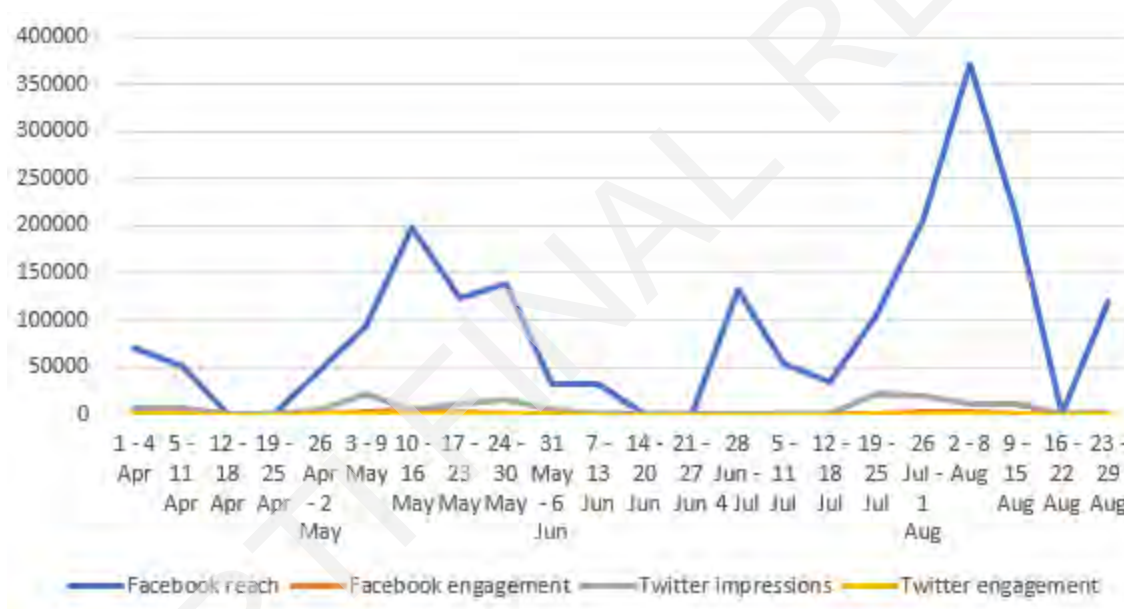
Number of media mentions 16 - 29 August 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 29 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 29 August 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include bushfire response and property preparation for bushfire season.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to start taking action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents are responsible for ensuring their properties are prepared, Actions you can take include permitted burns, mowing your lawn regularly, trimming overhanging branches and getting rid of flammable materials from your property.

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 12

Date:	16 September 2021
Reporting Period:	31 August 2021 to 16 September 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 16 September 2021

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. A total of 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have worked to complete Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM)

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2021 was released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) on 26 August 2021 <https://www.afac.com.au/>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Queensland has continued to experience mild and wet conditions over the first seven months of 2021, with long term rainfall deficits returning to average conditions across most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between the Capricornia and Wide Bay areas and the Granite belt. These weather events have led to a slower start to the fire season with the exception of the Burnett, Wide Bay and Bundaberg regions which have experienced an earlier than expected start to their fire season.
- A dry and mild August period has generated higher than average median growth in the Wide Bay and Burnett regions and a higher than normal chance of ignition. With a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions and a La Niña outlook forecast, the climate outlook for the August to November period is likely to be influenced by significant rainfall and local drivers. The temperature outlooks are for average to lower maximum temperatures across most of the state with above average temperatures in the Far North/Cape area; increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- Rainfall outlook is above median rainfall across the remainder of the state. The milder conditions and the probability of above median rainfall across the state will likely result in continuation of the favourable conditions for new grass growth. Queensland is likely to see a slight increase in localised areas of grassland fires across the South East area, the Burnett/Wide Bay areas, coastal areas between Gladstone and Mackay and North Queensland.
- Key Messages for this weekly report**
 - A ridge lies over the state, extending from a high-pressure system near Tasmania. The high will move east into the Tasman Sea over the next few days, maintaining a firm ridge and dry airmass over most of the state. The high will move into the Tasman Sea late in the week, while a trough will move into the southwest early on Saturday or late on Friday, moving slowly eastwards across the state over the weekend.
 - A trough is forecast to move across the south of the state, likely moving offshore on Tuesday. A new high will develop in the Great Australian Bight behind the trough and extend a firm ridge across the state. A slight to medium chance of showers about the northeast coast. A slight chance of showers about the southeaster interior, clearing on Wednesday. Mostly sunny elsewhere, with the risk of morning frost about the Granite Belt on Wednesday. Temperatures near or above average, cooling from the south from Tuesday.

Deleted:

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 16 September 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 576 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or Trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
 - Note: An increase in four activities (total 576) has occurred due to a duplication in Catalyst reporting. OBM is managing this data discrepancy as required.
- Of the 269 hazard reduction activities, 163 were reported as complete (16 September 2021), with 198 community education and 109 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: ,

Mitigation activities yet to be completed

- Hazard Reduction Burns – 106 outstanding across the State
- Fire Breaks and our Trails – 11 outstanding across the State
- Community Education – 43 outstanding across the State

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/09/13 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	2	30	32	11	62	73	105
NORTHERN	0	3	3	0	6	6	7	14	21	30
CENTRAL	9	20	29	2	34	36	19	23	42	107
NORTH COAST	8	7	15	1	3	4	12	28	40	59
SOUTH WESTERN	1	23	24	1	9	10	10	8	18	52
BRISBANE	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
SOUTH EASTERN	25	96	121	5	16	21	42	24	66	208
State - Remaining Activities	43			11			106			160
State - Completion Rate	155			98			163			416
State - Reportable Activities	198			109			259			576

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and provided to OBM.

5. Mitigation actives (Some examples across regions)

- Mitigation activities continue to occur across the State, Region by Region.
- The Brisbane Home show was attended by RFS volunteers, Regional RECEO and OBM staff in support of Brisbane City Council Disaster Management Team.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- QFES recently launched the Bushfire Safety Campaign. Currently being aired across multimedia and television.
- As a deliberate strategy, the OCB 2021 reporting period has been extended to 30 September 2021. Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
 - As at 16 September 2021, there are 160 (Hazard Reduction, Fire Breaks / Fire Trails, and Community Engagement) planned activities outstanding. 72% completed.

- QFES, in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan, is now working towards improving relationships with Local Disaster Management Groups and understanding how to better manage bushfire hazard and risk within each local government area.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.

Deleted: L

Deleted: G

Deleted: A

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 30 August – Sunday 12 September

There have been 62 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 30 August – Sunday 12 September), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 360.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire incident response, bushfire outlook, Large Air Tanker, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

Deleted: (LAT)

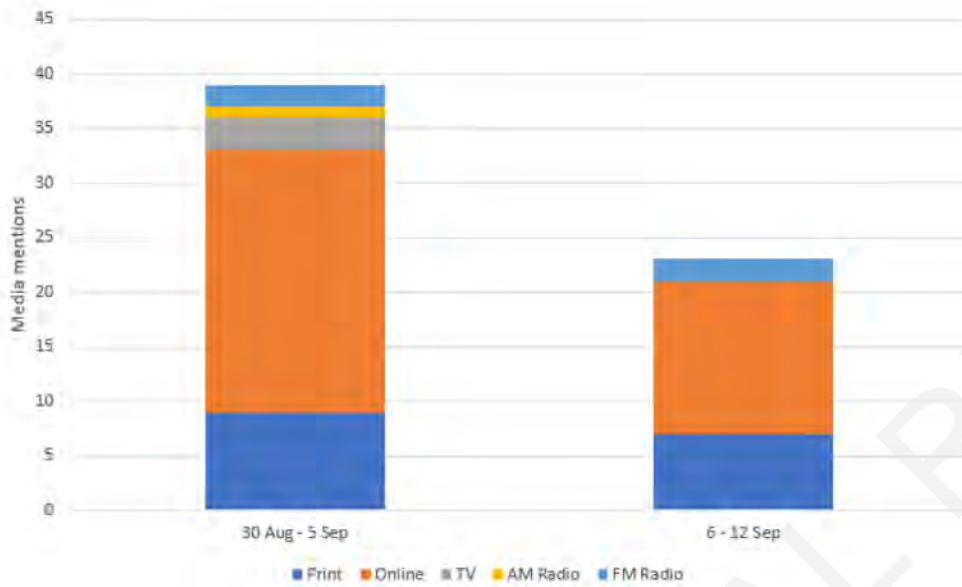
Key messages covered included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; it's important to create a Bushfire Survival Plan and clean up around your property to prepare your home and household for bushfire season.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

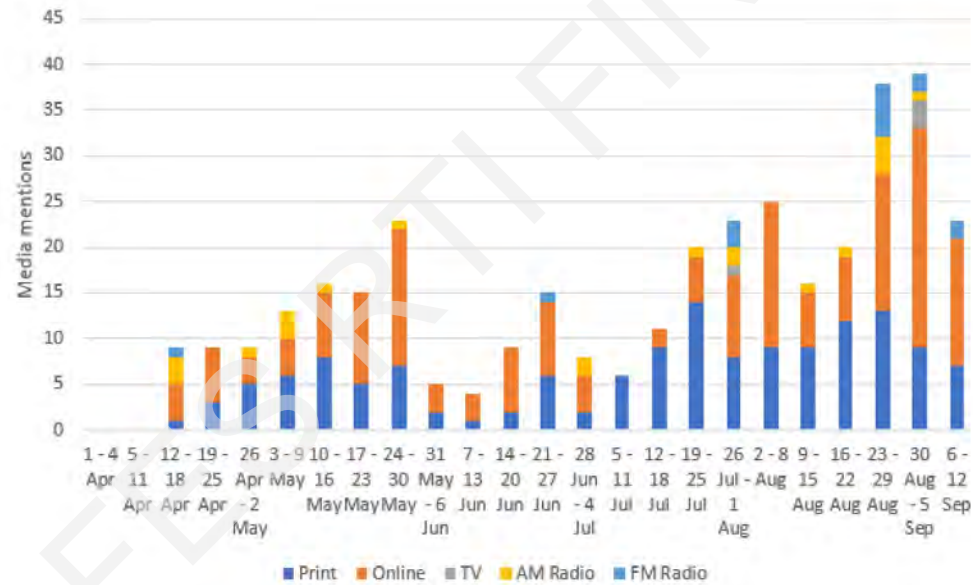
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	30 August – 5 September	6 – 12 September	Fortnight total (30 Aug – 12 Sep)	OCB total (1 April – 12 Sep)
Far North Region	4	6	10	63
Northern Region	7	0	7	43
Central Region	0	0	0	12
North Coast Region	3	1	4	58
Brisbane Region / state	12	6	18	68
South East Region	7	8	15	90
South West Region	6	2	8	26
Total	39	23	62	360

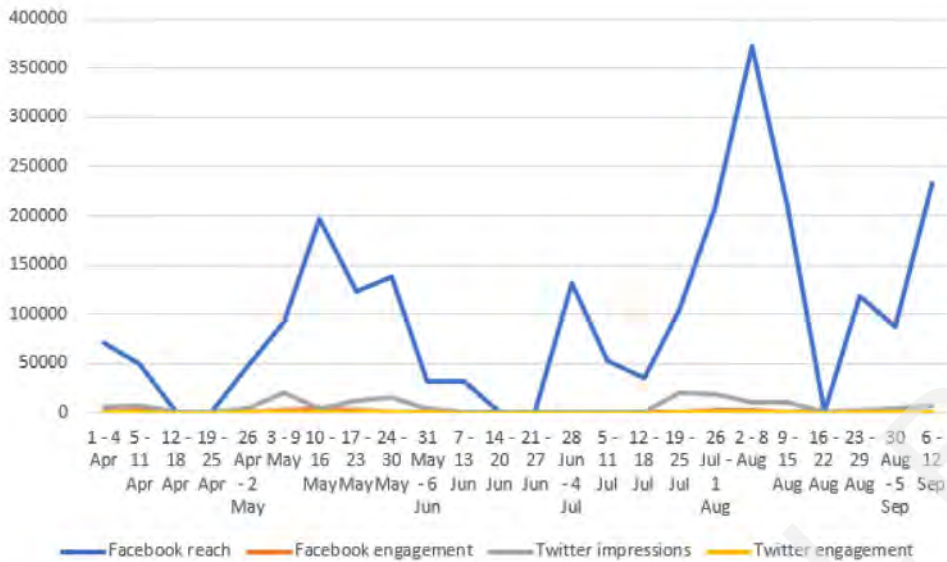
Number of media mentions 30 August – 12 September 2021.



Number of media mentions 1 April to 12 September 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 12 September 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include bushfire response, property preparation for bushfire season, hazard reduction burns and fire danger ratings.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to take action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents need to be aware of the fire danger rating in their area and what actions to take; Residents need to be aware of the smoke generated by local hazard reduction burns.

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 12

Date:	16 September 2021
Reporting Period:	31 August 2021 to 16 September 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 16 September 2021

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. A total of 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have worked to complete Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM)

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2021 was released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) on 26 August 2021 <https://www.afac.com.au/>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- Queensland has continued to experience mild and wet conditions over the first seven months of 2021, with long term rainfall deficits returning to average conditions across most of the state, except coastal and inland areas between the Capricornia and Wide Bay areas and the Granite belt. These weather events have led to a slower start to the fire season with the exception of the Burnett, Wide Bay and Bundaberg regions which have experienced an earlier than expected start to their fire season.
- A dry and mild August period has generated higher than average median growth in the Wide Bay and Burnett regions and a higher than normal chance of ignition. With a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions and a La Niña outlook forecast, the climate outlook for the August to November period is likely to be influenced by significant rainfall and local drivers. The temperature outlooks are for average to lower maximum temperatures across most of the state with above average temperatures in the Far North/Cape area; increased minimum temperatures are forecast for the entire state.
- Rainfall outlook is above median rainfall across the remainder of the state. The milder conditions and the probability of above median rainfall across the state will likely result in continuation of the favourable conditions for new grass growth. Queensland is likely to see a slight increase in localised areas of grassland fires across the South East area, the Burnett/Wide Bay areas, coastal areas between Gladstone and Mackay and North Queensland.

• Key Messages for this weekly report

- A ridge lies over the state, extending from a high-pressure system near Tasmania. The high will move east into the Tasman Sea over the next few days, maintaining a firm ridge and dry airmass over most of the state. The high will move into the Tasman Sea late in the week, while a trough will move into the southwest early on Saturday or late on Friday, moving slowly eastwards across the state over the weekend.
- A trough is forecast to move across the south of the state, likely moving offshore on Tuesday. A new high will develop in the Great Australian Bight behind the trough and extend a firm ridge across the state. A slight to medium chance of showers about the northeast coast. A slight chance of showers about the southeaster interior, clearing on Wednesday. Mostly sunny elsewhere, with the risk of morning frost about the Granite Belt on Wednesday. Temperatures near or above average, cooling from the south from Tuesday.

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 16 September 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 576 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or Trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
 - Note: An increase in four activities (total 576) has occurred due to a duplication in Catalyst reporting. OBM is managing this data discrepancy as required.
- Of the 269 hazard reduction activities, 163 were reported as complete (16 September 2021) with 198 community education and 109 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. The OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.

Mitigation activities yet to be completed

- Hazard Reduction Burns – 106 outstanding across the State
- Fire Breaks and our Trails – 11 outstanding across the State
- Community Education – 43 outstanding across the State

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/09/13 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	2	30	32	11	62	73	105
NORTHERN	0	3	3	0	6	6	7	14	21	30
CENTRAL	9	20	29	2	34	36	19	23	42	107
NORTH COAST	8	7	15	1	3	4	12	28	40	59
SOUTH WESTERN	1	23	24	1	9	10	10	8	18	52
BRISBANE	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
SOUTH EASTERN	25	96	121	5	16	21	42	24	66	208
State - Remaining Activities	43			11			106			160
State - Completion Rate	155			98			163			416
State - Reportable Activities	198			109			269			576

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and provided to OBM.

5. Mitigation actives (Some examples across regions)

- Mitigation activities continue to occur across the State, Region by Region.
- The Brisbane Home show was attended by RFS volunteers, Regional RECEO and OBM staff in support of Brisbane City Council Disaster Management Team.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- QFES recently launched the Bushfire Safety Campaign. Currently being aired across multimedia and television.
- As a deliberate strategy, the OCB 2021 reporting period has been extended to 30 September 2021. Given the likelihood of ongoing hazard reduction activities being conducted into and throughout September this year, it would advantageous to extend the OCB reporting period accordingly. Historically, our partners continue to conduct hazard reduction activities well into September and through early October if the weather conditions are favourable to do so.
 - As at 16 September 2021, there are 160 (Hazard Reduction, Fire Breaks / Fire Trails, and Community Engagement) planned activities outstanding. 72% completed.

- QFES, in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan, is now working towards improving relationships with Local Disaster Management Groups and understanding how to better manage bushfire hazard and risk within each local government area.
- At present, the weather outlook is generally favourable and OCB is progressing well (see heading 1 above) noting the problem areas.
- QFES will continue to monitor weather and fuel conditions (i.e. too wet or too dry) and adapt as required.

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 30 August – Sunday 12 September

There have been 62 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 30 August – Sunday 12 September), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 360.

Some key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire incident response, bushfire outlook, Large Air Tanker, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns.

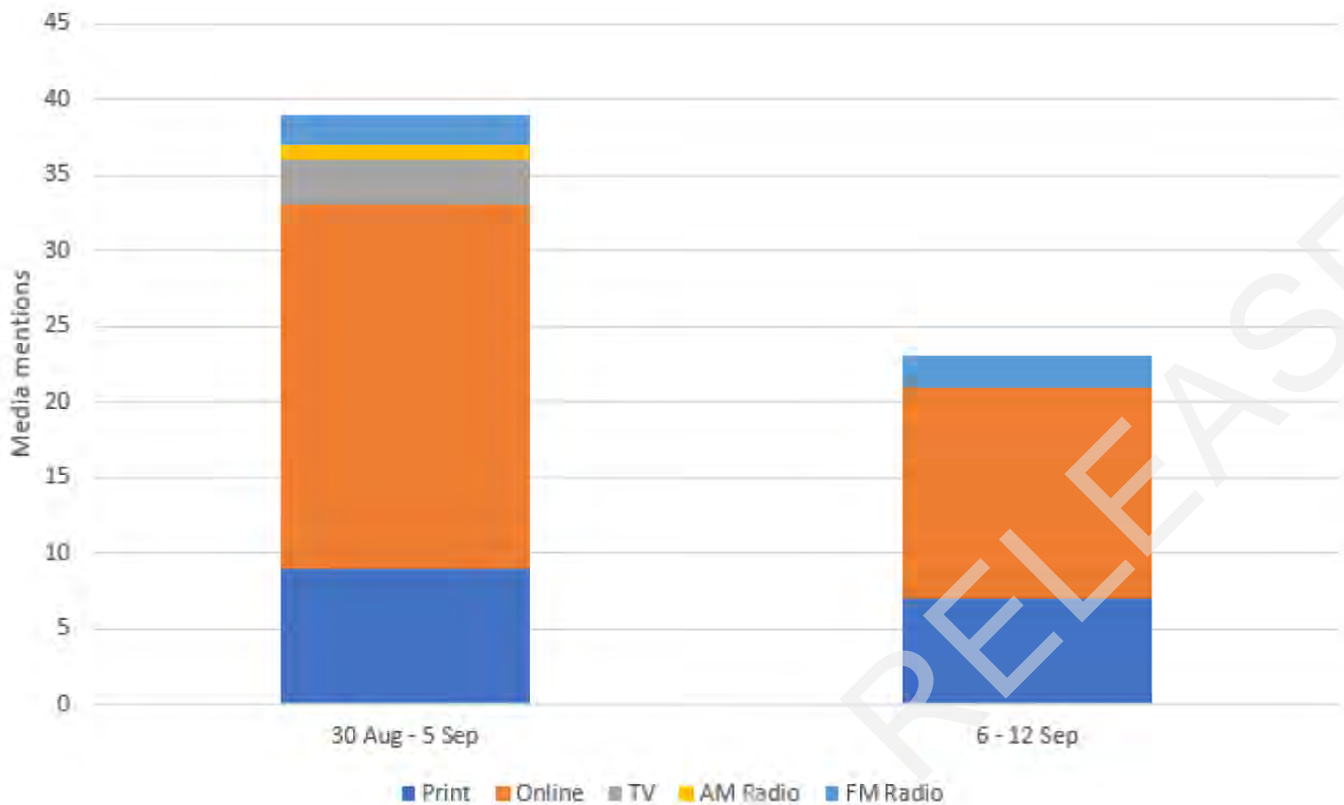
Key messages covered included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; it's important to create a Bushfire Survival Plan and clean up around your property to prepare your home and household for bushfire season.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

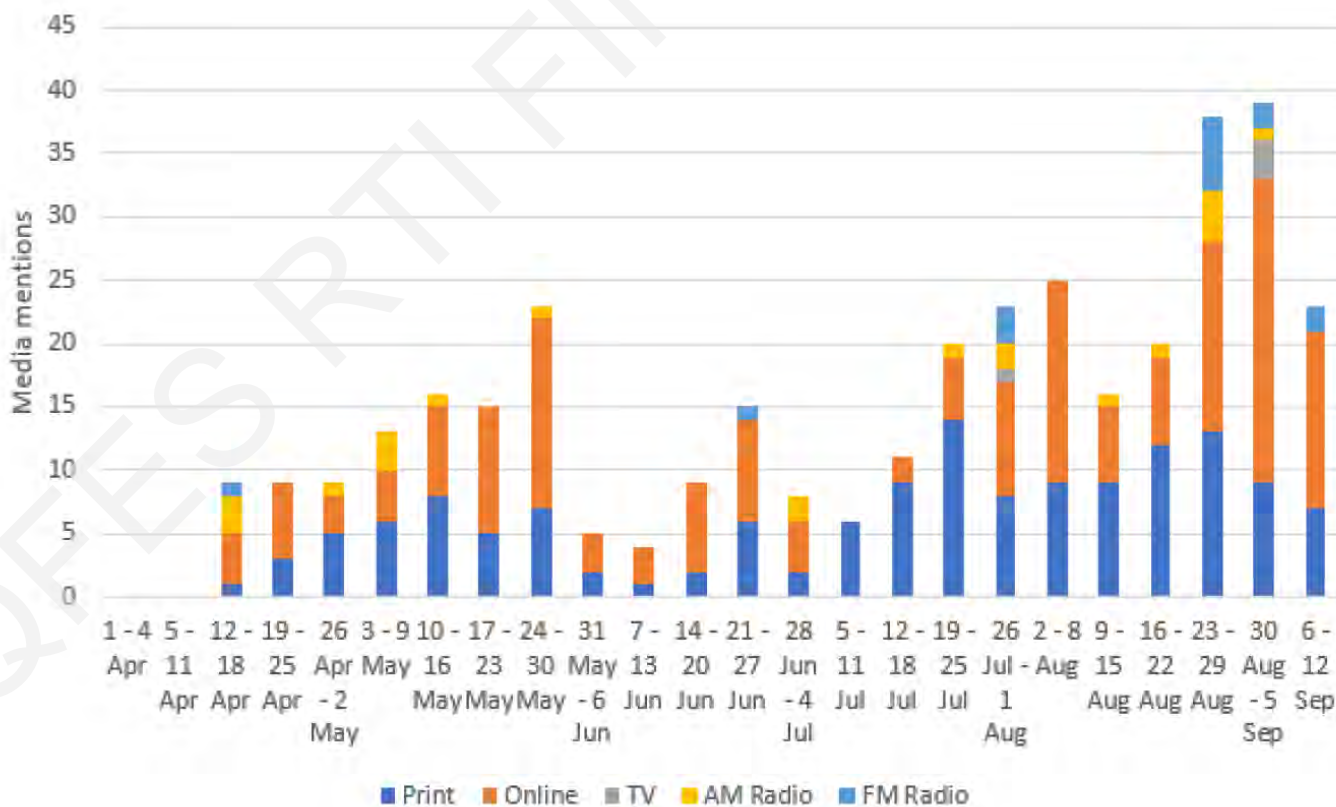
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	30 August – 5 September	6 – 12 September	Fortnight total (30 Aug – 12 Sep)	OCB total (1 April – 12 Sep)
Far North Region	4	6	10	63
Northern Region	7	0	7	43
Central Region	0	0	0	12
North Coast Region	3	1	4	58
Brisbane Region / state	12	6	18	68
South East Region	7	8	15	90
South West Region	6	2	8	26
Total	39	23	62	360

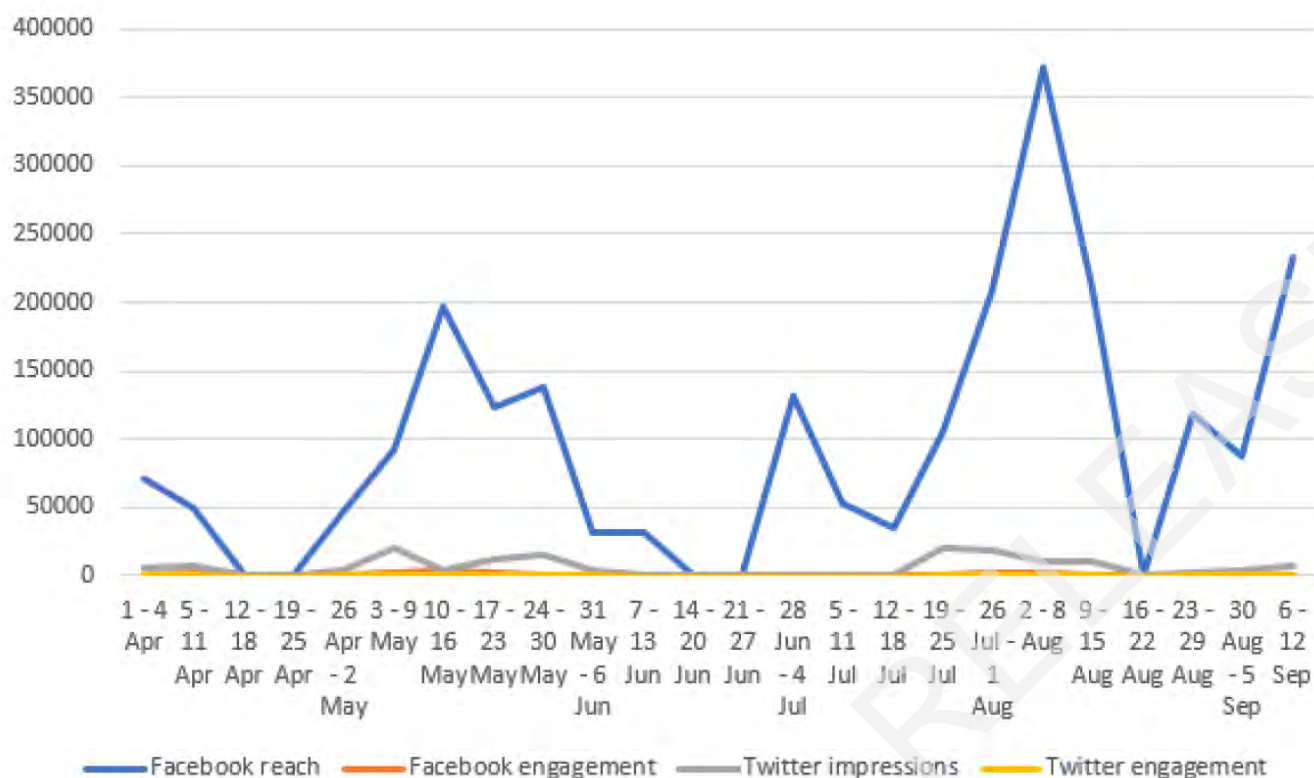
Number of media mentions 30 August – 12 September 2021.



Number of media mentions 1 April to 12 September 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 12 September 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include bushfire response, property preparation for bushfire season, hazard reduction burns and fire danger ratings.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to take action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents need to be aware of the fire danger rating in their area and what actions to take; Residents need to be aware of the smoke generated by local hazard reduction burns.

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 13

Date:	30 September 2021
Reporting Period:	13 September to 30 September 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 30 September 2021

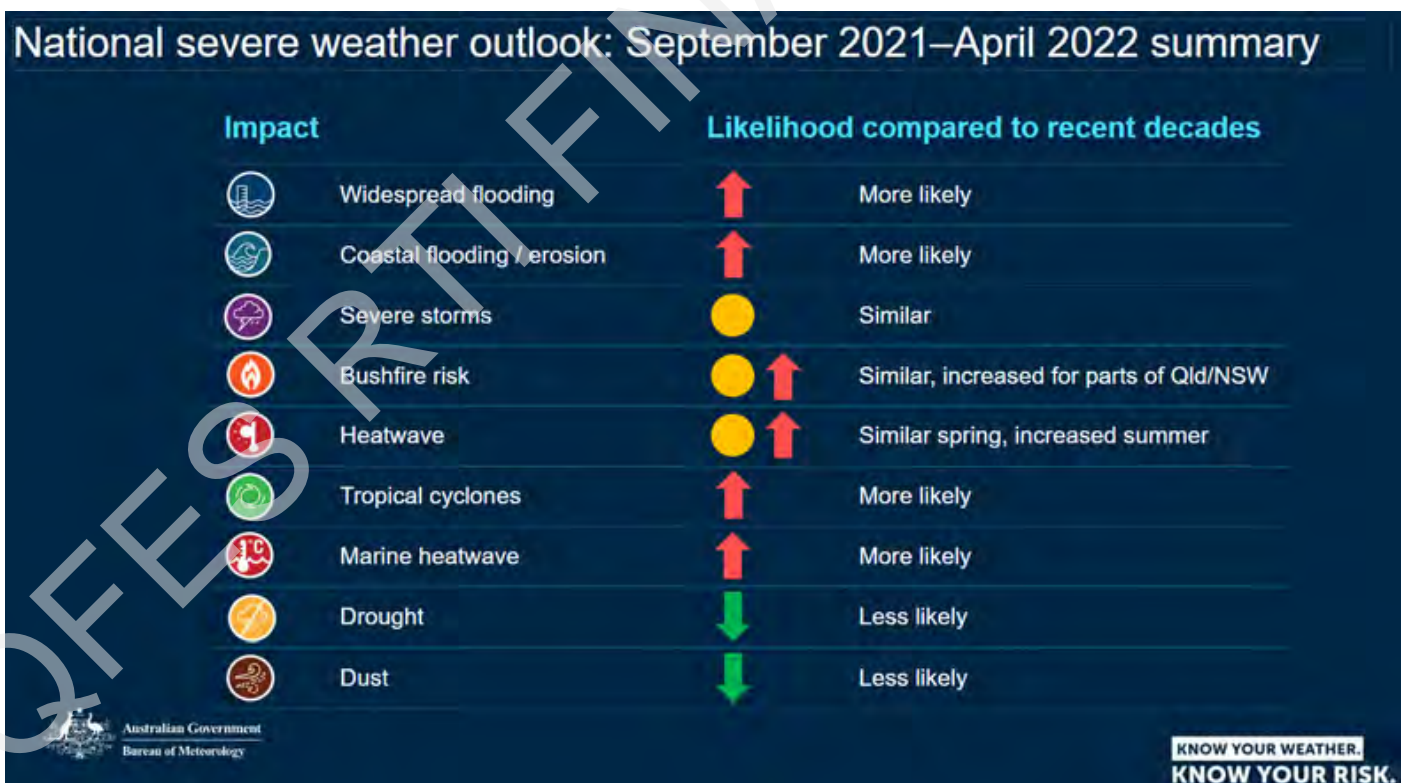
Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well under way across the state. 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) have worked to complete Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM).

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2021 was released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) on 26 August 2021 <https://www.afac.com.au/>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- A negative Indian Ocean Dipole has weakened and may soon end, but warmer waters near Australia may still increase rainfall for the next few months.
- The El Niño Southern Oscillation is currently neutral. We remain in La Niña a watch with a 50% chance of La Niña forming in late spring.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that above median rainfall is likely across much of Queensland over the next few months.
- Above median daytime temperatures are more likely across the far north during spring and early summer, while being below median elsewhere in the state.
- Elevated fire danger remains possible particularly in the east and southeast.



Key Messages for this weekly report

- A high pressure system in the Tasman Sea extends a weak ridge across the east of the state. A trough over the interior will move eastward across the state as an upper trough amplifies over southeastern states, the trough is expected to clear offshore of the east coast overnight Friday or early Saturday.

- A weak ridge will remain over the far north. A trough over the eastern interior will approach the east coast, possibly moving off the southeast coast late in the evening, as an amplified upper trough moves across southern and southeast Queensland.

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 30 September 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations a total of 576 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
 - Note: An increase in four activities (total 576) has occurred due to a duplication in Catalyst reporting. OBM is managing this data discrepancy as required.
- Of the 269 hazard reduction activities 168 were reported as complete (27 September 2021), with 198 community education and 109 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.

Mitigation activities yet to be completed

- Hazard Reduction Burns – 101 outstanding across the State
- Fire Breaks and our Trails – 11 outstanding across the State
- Community Education – 35 outstanding across the State

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/09/30 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	2	30	32	11	62	73	105
NORTHERN	0	3	3	0	6	6	5	16	21	30
CENTRAL	10	20	30	2	34	36	19	23	42	108
NORTH COAST	8	7	15	1	3	4	12	28	40	59
SOUTH WESTERN	0	23	23	1	9	10	7	11	18	51
BRISBANE	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
SOUTH EASTERN	17	104	121	5	16	21	42	24	66	208
State - Remaining Activities	35			11			101			147
State - Completion Rate	163			98			168			429
State - Reportable Activities	198			109			269			576

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMP)

- All BRMPs have been prepared and provided to OBM.

5. Mitigation activities

- Mitigation activities continue to occur across the State.

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- This will be the final OCB 2021 Report for 2021. OBM is developing a process where all planning mitigation activities will be recorded and captured over a three year period.
- OCB is no longer fit for purpose (procedurally, operationally, and strategically), therefore OCB will be phased out and replaced by 'Mitigate 365', where all mitigation activity is captured (fuel reduction, community education / engagement, fire breaks / fire trails and media) all year round.
- Mitigate 365 is about planning mitigation activities over a three year period and then working with our partners, community leaders and our stakeholders in an annual implementation plan in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan. Mitigation activities will not be seen as targets and fortnightly statistics. Within Mitigate 365, mitigation activities will be seen as planning and preparing the community within an all hazards environment.
- Future Regional Mitigation Teams (RMTs) will collaborate and empower land managers to develop strategies that outline their arrangements to effectively manage vegetation (environmental, pasture and bushfire). All plans will be developed within the context of bushfire management: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Mitigate 365 must empower our RMTs that support our partners and stakeholders. A collective effort is underpinned by collaboration and coordination.
- In going forward OBM will take ownership of the RMTs:
 - identify peer influencers/change champions – create a mitigation network,
 - indigenous burning practices,
 - work smarter on mitigation products that align to our partners,
 - drive a capability that remains operationally relevant,
 - create a coalition within the leadership of RFS, a willingness to succeed and empower RFS volunteers at all levels, and
 - redesign the current Bushfire Risk Management Plan to reflect best practices (easy to use).

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 13 September – Sunday 26 September

There have been 132 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 13 September – Sunday 26 September), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 492.

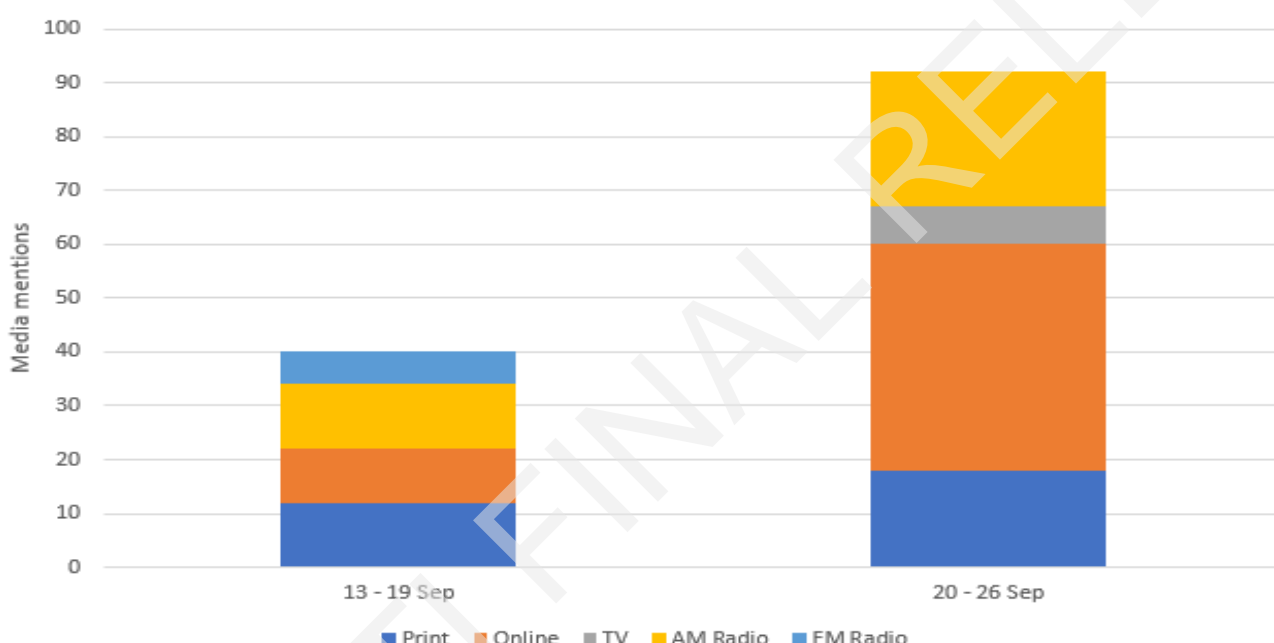
Some key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire incident response, fire danger rating, local fire bans, Large Air Tanker (LAT), smoke alerts, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns. Key messages covered included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; it's important to create a Bushfire Survival Plan and clean up around your property to prepare your home and household for bushfire season; if smoke is impacting your community please close windows and doors and drive with caution and to conditions; exercise caution in the following days due to the high fire danger.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

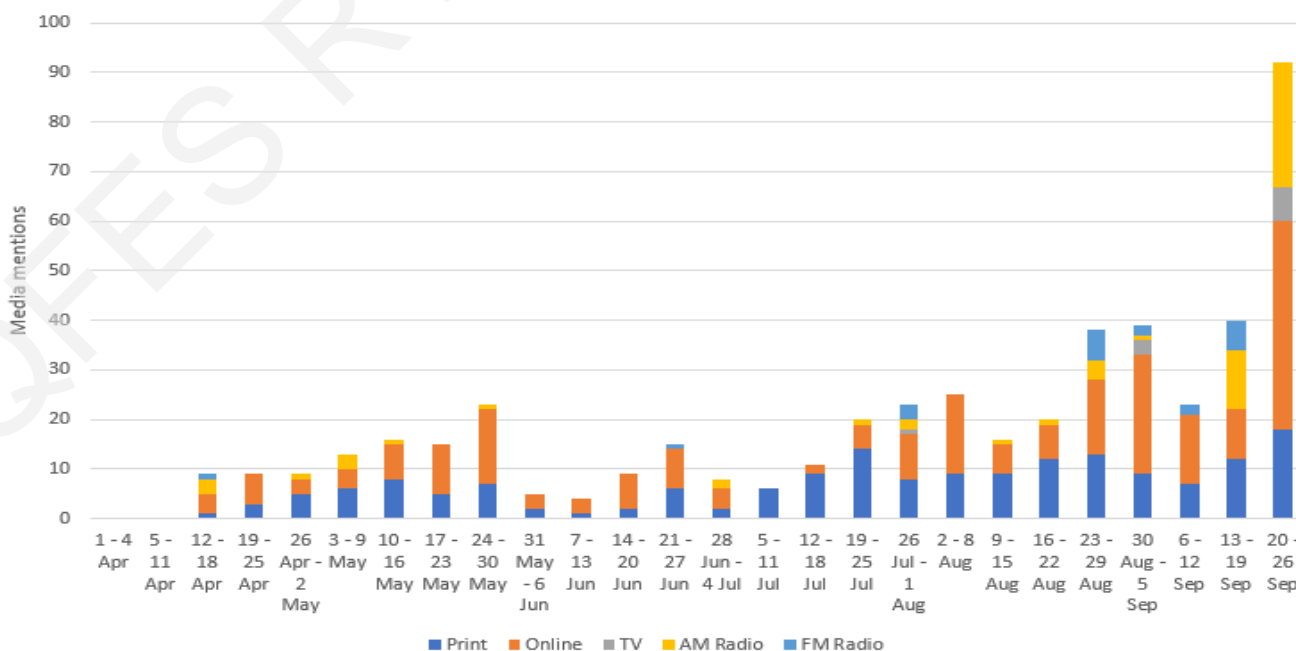
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	13 – 19 September	20 - 26 September	Fortnight total 13–26 September	OCB total (1 April–26 September)
Far Northern	6	15	21	84
Northern	5	12	17	60
Central	1	1	2	14
North Coast	3	8	11	69
Brisbane / State	12	45	57	125
South Eastern	12	8	20	110
South Western	1	3	4	30
Total	40	92	132	492

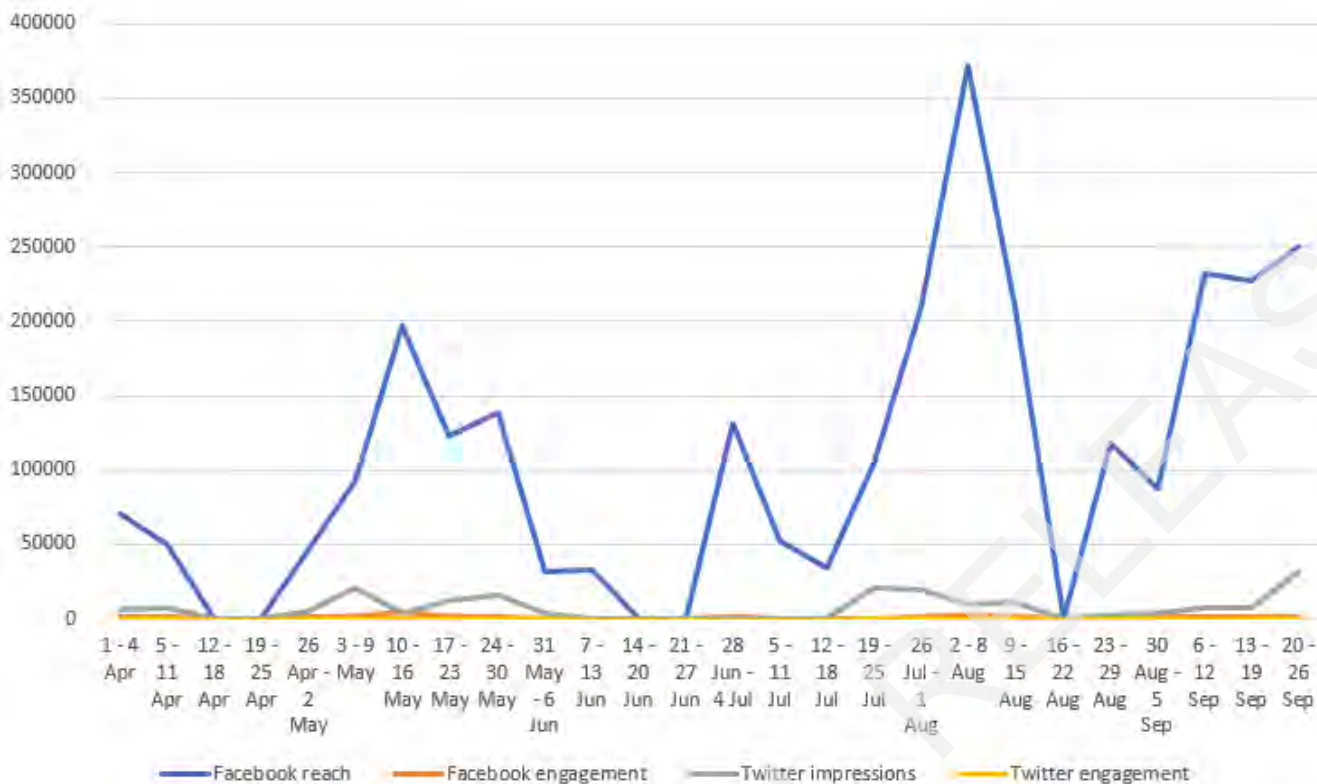
Number of media mentions 13 September – 29 September 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 26 September 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 26 September 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include bushfire response, Large Air Tanker (LAT), property preparation for bushfire season, local fire ban, hazard reduction burns and fire danger ratings.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to take action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents need to be aware of the fire danger rating in their area and what actions to take; Residents need to be aware of the smoke generated by local hazard reduction burns.

OPERATION COOL BURN 2021

State Progress Report No. 13

Date:	30 September 2021
Reporting Period:	13 - 30 September 2021
Includes data up to:	12:00pm 30 September 2021

Deleted: September to

Deleted: ep

Summary

- The on-ground implementation of the planned Operation Cool Burn (OCB) activities is well underway across the state. A total of 61 Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) have worked to complete Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (BRMPs) for their respective areas and provided copies to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM).

Deleted:

Formatted: List Paragraph, Justified, Space Before: 0 pt, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Bold

Formatted: Justified

1. Weather and climate outlook

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2021 was released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) on 26 August 2021 <https://www.afac.com.au/>. The outlook for Queensland includes the following:

- A negative Indian Ocean Dipole has weakened and may soon end, but warmer waters near Australia may still increase rainfall for the next few months.
- The El Niño Southern Oscillation is currently neutral. We remain in La Niña watch with a 50% chance of La Niña forming in late spring.
- The rainfall outlook indicates that above median rainfall is likely across much of Queensland over the next few months.
- Above median daytime temperatures are more likely across the far north during spring and early summer, while being below median elsewhere in the state.
- Elevated fire danger remains possible particularly in the east and southeast.

Deleted:

Deleted:

Deleted:

Deleted:

Deleted:

National severe weather outlook: September 2021–April 2022 summary



Key Messages for this weekly report

- A high pressure system in the Tasman Sea extends a weak ridge across the east of the state. A trough over the interior will move eastward across the state as an upper trough amplifies over southeastern states, the trough is expected to clear offshore of the east coast overnight Friday or early Saturday.

Formatted: Justified

- o A weak ridge will remain over the far north. A trough over the eastern interior will approach the east coast, possibly moving off the southeast coast late in the evening, as an amplified upper trough moves across southern and southeast Queensland.

2. Current planned activities and completion for OCB 2021

- As at 30 September 2021, QFES and our partners are managing 295 High Risk Locations. To mitigate the risk across all of these locations, a total of 576 activities have been recorded (community education, fire breaks or trails, and hazard reduction), (see Table 1).
 - o Note: An increase in four activities (total 576) has occurred due to a duplication in Catalyst reporting. OBM is managing this data discrepancy as required.
- Of the 269 hazard reduction activities, 168 were reported as complete (27 September 2021), with 198 community education and 109 fire breaks completions also reported. There is often a lag between completion of burns by partners and reporting. OBM continues to emphasise the importance of this data capture at recent state-wide linkups.

Deleted: ep

Mitigation activities yet to be completed

- Hazard Reduction Burns – 101 outstanding across the State
- Fire Breaks and our Trails – 11 outstanding across the State
- Community Education – 35 outstanding across the State.

Deleted:

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/09/30 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	2	30	32	11	62	73	105
NORTHERN	0	3	3	0	6	6	5	16	21	30
CENTRAL	10	20	30	2	34	36	19	23	42	108
NORTH COAST	8	7	15	1	3	4	12	28	40	59
SOUTH WESTERN	0	23	23	1	9	10	7	11	18	51
BRISBANE	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
SOUTH EASTERN	17	104	121	5	16	21	42	24	66	208
State - Remaining Activities	35			11			101			147
State - Completion Rate	163			98			168			429
State - Reportable Activities	198			109			269			576

Table 1. Mitigation Activities by QFES Region and Activity Type

3. Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) Meetings

- 61 AFMGs across Queensland have met (as per summary).

Formatted: Justified

4. Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans

- All BRMPs have been prepared and provided to OBM.

Deleted: (BRMP)

5. Mitigation activities

- Mitigation activities continue to occur across the State.

Deleted: ves)

6. Challenges and alternative strategies

- ~~This will be the final OCB 2021 Report for 2021.~~ OBM is developing a process where all planning mitigation activities will be recorded and captured over a three-year period.
- OCB is no longer fit-for-purpose (procedurally, operationally, and strategically), therefore OCB will be phased out and replaced by 'Mitigate 365', where all mitigation activity is captured (fuel reduction, community education / engagement, fire breaks / fire trails and media) all year round.
- Mitigate 365 is about planning mitigation activities over a three-year period and then working with our partners, community leaders and our stakeholders in an annual implementation plan in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan. Mitigation activities will not be seen as targets and fortnightly statistics. Within Mitigate 365, mitigation activities will be seen as planning and preparing the community within an all hazards environment.
- Future Regional Mitigation Teams (RMTs) will collaborate and empower land managers to develop strategies that outline their arrangements to effectively manage vegetation (environmental, pasture and bushfire). All plans will be developed within the context of bushfire management: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Mitigate 365 must empower our RMTs that support our partners and stakeholders. A collective effort is underpinned by collaboration and coordination.
- In going forward, OBM will take ownership of the RMTs:
 - o identify peer influencers/change champions – create a mitigation network
 - o indigenous burning practices
 - o work smarter on mitigation products that align to our partners
 - o drive a capability that remains operationally relevant
 - o create a coalition within the leadership of Rural Fire Service (RFS), a willingness to succeed and empower RFS volunteers at all levels, and
 - o redesign the current BRMP to reflect best practices (easy to use).

Deleted:

Deleted:

Deleted:

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

Deleted:

Deleted: ,

Deleted: ,

Deleted: ,

Deleted: ,

Deleted: Bushfire Risk Management Plan

7. Media summary OCB campaign: Monday 13 September – Sunday 26 September

There have been 132 media mentions of QFES regarding preparations for bushfire season in the past fortnight (Monday 13 – Sunday 26 September), bringing the total number of media mentions for the OCB period to 492.

Deleted: September

Deleted: pe

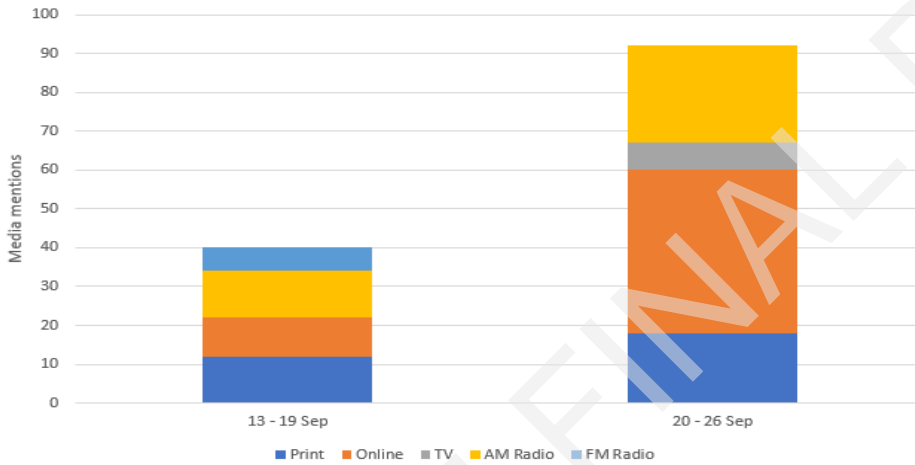
Some key topics mentioned in the media include bushfire incident response, fire danger rating, local fire bans, Large Air Tanker (LAT), smoke alerts, bushfire season preparation and hazard reduction burns. Key messages covered included: QFES works with partner agencies and landholders to conduct controlled burns and doing this helps to limit the severity of bushfires and reduces the overall threat of bushfires starting at all; it's important to create a Bushfire Survival Plan and clean up around your property to prepare your home and household for bushfire season; if smoke is impacting your community, please close windows and doors and drive with caution and to conditions; exercise caution in the following days due to the high fire danger.

Please note, we are aware of media interviews completed that our monitoring service has not recorded and are currently working to resolve this issue. Results for the past fortnight are likely to change once this is resolved.

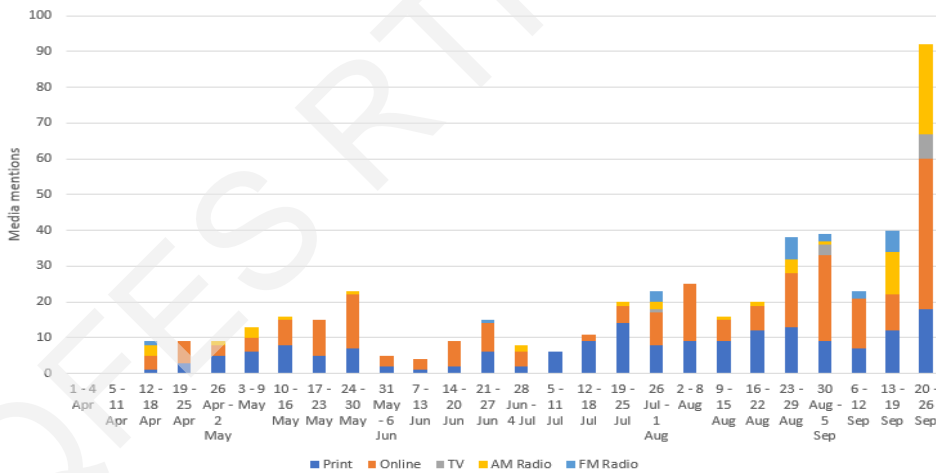
Media mentions by QFES Region.

QFES Region	13 – 19 September	20 - 26 September	Fortnight total 13–26 September	OCB total (1 April–26 September)
Far Northern	6	15	21	84
Northern	5	12	17	60
Central	1	1	2	14
North Coast	3	8	11	69
Brisbane / State	12	45	57	125
South Eastern	12	8	20	110
South Western	1	3	4	30
Total	40	92	132	492

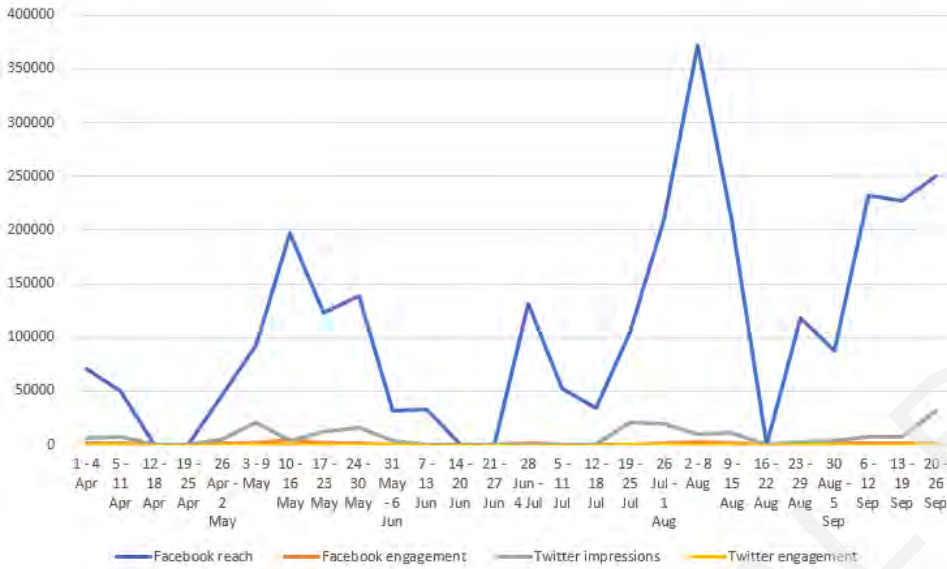
Number of media mentions 13 September – 29 September 2021



Number of media mentions 1 April to 26 September 2021 (OCB campaign to date)



Social media results 1 April to 26 September 2021 (OBC campaign to date)



Key topics covered on social media include bushfire response, LAT, property preparation for bushfire season, local fire ban, hazard reduction burns and fire danger ratings.

Some of the key messages included: QFES needs residents to take action to reduce bushfire risk on their properties; Residents need to be aware of the fire danger rating in their area and what actions to take; Residents need to be aware of the smoke generated by local hazard reduction burns.

- Deleted: Large Air Tanker (
- Deleted:)
- Formatted: Justified

Wanda Kropp

From: Tony Johnstone
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 12:01 AM
To: QFES Executive Leadership Team
Subject: Information Sesbania, confirmation update documents distributed, reference material for your visibility.
Attachments: Operation Sesbania FMG Frequently asked questions 18032022.pptx; Qld Fire Management Group and Committee - Governance and Admin guide Final 10032022.pdf; Operation Sesbania Fact Sheet.pdf; Operation Sesbania_Program Grass Tree ELT Brief 17 Nov 2021.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Evening ELT,

As discussed at today's meeting I have distributed updated documents to the Regional Managers RFS.

We have also developed the *QLD Fire Management Group and Committee Guide*, this is an internal governance document that has been developed, the aim of the document is to provide the Rural Fire Service (RFS) appointed chairs, secretariates and administration support officers of the various fire management groups and committee's guidance on the governance, reporting, coordination, and administration of their respective:

- **Locality Specific Fire Management Groups (LSFMGs).**
- **Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs).**
- **Regional Bushfire Committees (RBCs)** referred to as Regional Inter-departmental Committees Bushfire under the Queensland Bushfire Plan.
- **State Bushfire Committee (SBC)** referred to as the State Inter-departmental Committee Bushfire in the Queensland Bushfire Plan.

The Regional Managers have received updated :

- AFMG Residual Risk Reporting and Actions Template
- LSFMG Residual Risk Reporting and Action Template
- RBC Residual Risk reporting Template
- RBC ToR
- AFMG ToR
- Operational Sesbania FMG Frequently asked questions
- RSFMP Template (Strategic template for RBC)
- AFMG BRMP
- LSFMG BRMP

The OBM Sharepoint site has also been updated, this site has also been set up so all relevant Regional documentation can be saved in one location, this will assist with internal reviews at a latter date and meet the requirements of the royal commission in regards to auditability, trackability and visibility of BRMP and associated documentation.

For your information I have attached an number of documents that may assist you in regards to understanding the LAFMG, AFMG, RBC and SIBC , there connection and alignment to the disaster management arrangement.

The Regional/Area staff have a range of tools and templates to assist them, i.e. Burnt Area Mapping tool (which is available to people on the ground) , Local Risk identification Hotspot capture tool, templates, guides, FAQ , Fact sheet, Agendas , Action logs, letter templates etc.

The final tool (Operation Sesbania Dashboard) will be released later this week, once the final testing is done.

The Operational Sesbania Dashboard, allows for risk to be reviewed and also allows reports to be generated on what activities have been completed to mitigate the risk. Reports can be run from a mesh block (property) to , brigade, LGA region and State. The tool also helps the staff with information required for the BRMP, as the tool generates the current risk using the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework(QERMF) , ready for the AFMG/Regions validation in preparation for mitigation activities (Process 2)

As indicated in below diagram , the system produces a report (process one) for the AFMG to validate and amend as required.



I will ensure that a briefing is provided to ELT once the POC has been moved from the test environment to the live environment. View access will be available to all QFES staff . We have a design for a similar dashboard that could be displayed to members of the public, allowing us to address recommendations from different reviews. This piece of

work will progress in due course once appropriate approval's and checks have been completed. The Inspector Mitigation have had input into the development of the tool.

A number of Regions report they have AFMG meetings planned or underway, a number of Regions have indicated that they are capturing information for the BRMP. As previous indicated BRMPs will have to be tabled with each local government. Some BRMP's will be quite lengthy and complexed where others will be simple and brief.

The State Bushfire Committee will be held on the 1st of April.

In preparation for the coming Bushfire season, RFS has engaged with relevant stakeholders to revamp the State Operational Bushfire plan and Regional Annex, with the introduction of the AFDRS and the changes to the way that QFES conducts business, changes to BPL, the plan needs to be recontextualised /updated to meet the needs and address any areas of risk. I wish to do this in a timely manner. As briefly discussed with the Regional Managers our intent is to have the first draft of the plan to them before the RFS SLT meeting on the 11 and 12 of May 2022. This way we can discuss the plan or any concerns.

We hope to have the final documents out by 15 June 2022, so the Regions can complete there annex's prior to their preseason briefings in late July early August 2022.

The purpose of this plan is to enable Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) regions to develop consistent, valid and timely Bushfire Annexes to ensure QFES meets its responsibilities as prescribed in the Queensland Bushfire Plan.

In recognition of the geographical size and diversity of Queensland, each QFES region will need to develop a plan (Regional Bushfire Annex) which facilitates regional requirements, while enabling the implementation of QFES responsibilities as outlined in the Queensland Bushfire Plan.

This plan is not a stand-alone document and should be read in conjunction with:

- Queensland Bushfire Plan
- Queensland State Disaster Management Plan
- QFES Policy and procedures

The Plan objectives

- Undertake QFES responsibilities as described in the Queensland Bushfire Plan.
- Implement a coordinated approach to the management of the bushfire hazard.
- Ensuring the management of bushfire is integrated with Queensland's disaster management arrangements.

I hope the information provided is of some use to you all.

If you require any further information please let me know.

Regards

Tony Johnstone AFSM

A/Assistant Commissioner

Rural Fire
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

P 07 3635 3624 M s.73 - Irrelevant information
Tony.Johnstone@qfes.qld.gov.au

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

On the 15 January 2022, Operation Sesbania will replace Operation Cool Burn. Traditionally, Operation Cool Burn has run from 1st April to 31st August and this was the primary focus period for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners to coordinate bushfire mitigation activities prior to the bushfire season.

Operation Sesbania is about planning mitigation over a period of time and working with our partners, community and stakeholders in an annual implementation plan in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan. Mitigation undertaken in an informed, planned and coordinated manner can play a crucial role in influencing the potential for ignition, frequency and intensity of bushfires and their impacts upon communities. Across Queensland, mitigation options vary according to location and seasonality and will be informed by knowledge of fire ecology and fire behaviour.



Hazard Mitigation



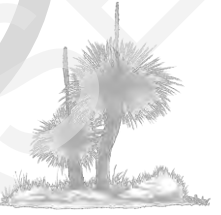
Public Safety



Collaboration & Coordination



Operation Sesbania



Operation Sesbania is the operational component of Program Grass Tree. Program Grass Tree is a three year bushfire mitigation program focused on creating a workable balance between establishing and sustaining a safe living environment for Queensland communities whilst maintaining our diverse vegetative landscape in the face of the ever present risk of bushfires, achievable by way of informed decision making and consultative engagement and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, state-wide.

Queensland's bushfire management arrangements are characterised by partnerships and shared responsibility between land managers, the community, service providers, fire management groups, disaster management groups (DMGs), committees at a regional and state level and government at the local, state and Commonwealth level. Our partnerships and shared responsibility are underpinned by principles which are drawn from the Good Neighbour Policy developed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Understanding and recognition of rights and responsibilities of all land managers	The development and maintenance of open, respectful and positive relationships	Open and robust communication	Consultation at all levels and across all partners	Coordination and cooperation	Recognition that effective bushfire management is applied across all boundaries
---	--	-------------------------------	--	------------------------------	---



What's in the name?

Operation Sesbania, is in reference to and memory of three members of Sesbania Rural Fire Brigade who died on 14/11/1954 in Central Queensland in a burn over while attending a grass fire started by a dry lightning storm 160 kilometres southwest of Hughenden. A father and son along with a family cousin succumb to serious burns.

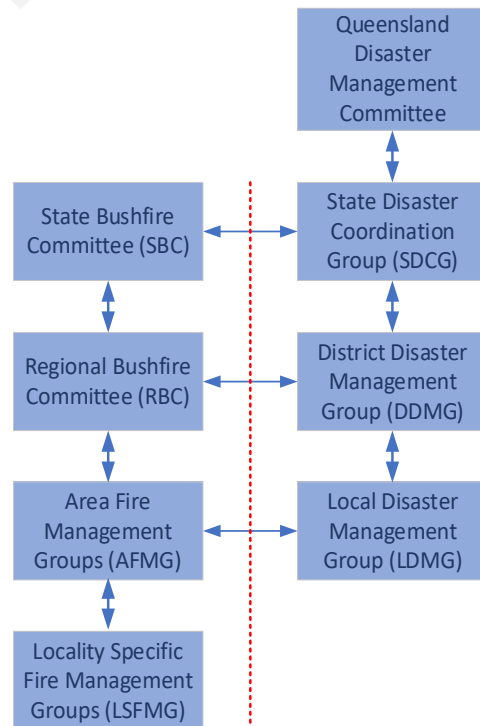


Capability Integration

Queensland has the capability to coordinate bushfire management activities across the local, state and Commonwealth levels and within various industries. All entities are required to work in a collaborative and coordinated manner to manage bushfire risk in Queensland. This is achieved by undertaking capability integration activities outlined in the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (QSDMP)



Bushfire Risk Management & Disaster Management Integration





Queensland Bushfire Plan





A key component of Operation Sesbania is the inclusion of mapping the Queensland bioregions to each Local Government Area. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) have developed Planned Burn Guidelines across all 13 bioregions.


The purpose of each guideline is to support the formation of fire strategies, burn proposals and on-ground planned burn implementation supported by the Planned Burn Guidelines. They assist land managers to:


- 

Protect life & property
- 

Maintain healthy ecosystems
- 

Promote awareness of fire management
- 

Identify clear fire management objectives to address the hazard
- 

Identify suitable fire behaviour, burn tactics, weather conditions
- 

Info & tools to assist in implementing burn plans

Preparation (Residual Risk)

Planning

January

15th January
Operation Sesbania
start date

December

February

November

March

October

April

September

May

August

June

July

Operations

Operation Sesbania

Operation Sesbania is about planning mitigation over a period of time and working with our partners, community and stakeholders in an annual implementation plan in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan.

What's success look like?

- Operation Sesbania must empower our Regional Mitigation Teams (RMT)
- RFS Brigades and Fire Wardens validate the risk identified by risk methodology.
- Supports our partners and stakeholders
- Mitigation is undertaken in an informed, planned and coordinated manner
- Operation Sesbania is about preparedness, capability integration
- Bushfire Risk Management & Disaster Management is aligned and mutually supportive.

Data Collection
Future Partnerships
Community Engagement

- Preparation & Planning (Start of Cycle)**
- Future 12 months
 - Digital BRMP
 - Stakeholder Plan
 - Identify future AFMG and LDMG dates

- ¼ 365 Report**
- Identify Challenges
 - Identify future planning requirements (Support, Mitigation, Communication, Education)

- ¼ 365 1st Report**
- Identify Challenges
 - Identify future planning requirements (Support, Mitigation, Communication, Education)

- Guidance from Brigades and Fire Wardens informs high risk locations
- Identify resources (Community Education)
- VCE and RFS Brigade inclusion
- Funding and budgets (mitigation activities)

- 1st AFMG's must align with LDMG meetings at the start of each year.

- Completed BRMPs. Must align with LDMG meeting

- Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan**
- State Bushfire Committee (SBC)
 - Residual Risk into Regional Bushfire Annex
 - Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)
 - Regional Inter Departmental Committee (RIDC)

Validating outcomes
Mitigation activities are collated and made available for readiness and situational awareness for upcoming Fire Season

- Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan for State Bushfire Committee (SBC)**

- ¼ 3rd 365 Report**
- Residual Risk
 - What has been mitigated within the region?

- ¼ 2nd 365 Report**
- Identify Challenges
 - Identify future planning requirements (Support, Mitigation, Communication, Education)

- Identified at Risk Locations**
- Communicated with Brigades and Fire Wardens
 - Develop a Regional Operational Plan
 - Conducting Community Engagement
 - RFS Brigades conducting local hazard analysis
 - Developing Mitigation Plans

- Legend**
- Area Fire Management Group (AFMG)
 - ¼ 365 Report
 - Bushfire Risk Management Plan

Prepared by: Office of Bushfire Mitigation
OBM@qfes.qld.gov.au

Rural Fire Service Office of Bushfire Mitigation

QUEENSLAND RURAL FIRE SERVICE



Office of Bushfire Mitigation



Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



The Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM)

The lead for Bushfire Mitigation across QFES, the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM) provides the strategy, policy, tools, procedures, leadership, and direction in prevention and preparedness phases to enable safer and more resilient communities.

The Office of Bushfire Mitigation focuses on evidence-based mitigation through partnerships and effective stakeholder engagement.



Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to brief to you the changes that have been made with Operation Coolburn going forward and the introduction of Program Grass Tree 2022.

Method: Provide a clear brief as to why changes are being made, why we as a business need to change and what this means to our partners and stakeholders.

Endstate: Have a much clearer picture as to why we have challenged the Operation Coolburn concept. Embrace and provide leadership to support the future intent across each Region.

Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Operation Coolburn

- Does not capture all mitigation activity that could assist in planning and operational response for pending fire season,
- Data that is collected is only being used for the purpose of statistical reporting as apposed to analysis, exploitation, & input into the risk management cycle for hazard mitigation,
- Only provides a snapshot in time for four months of the year.

Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Operation Coolburn

- What we were producing:

Operation Cool Burn 2021 Analysis (Correct as at 2021/09/27 - 1200hrs)										
OCB Activities by Type / Status / Region	Community Education			Fire Breaks or Trails			Hazard Reduction			Regional Targets set for OCB 21 Activities
	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	Remaining	Completed	Target set for OCB 21	
FAR NORTHERN	0	0	0	2	30	32	11	62	73	105
NORTHERN	0	3	3	0	6	6	5	16	21	30
CENTRAL	10	20	30	2	34	36	19	23	42	108
NORTH COAST	8	7	15	1	3	4	12	28	40	59
SOUTH WESTERN	0	23	23	1	9	10	7	11	18	51
BRISBANE	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	4	9	15
SOUTH EASTERN	17	104	121	5	16	21	42	24	66	208
State - Remaining Activities	35			11			101			147
State - Completion Rate	163			98			168			429
State - Reportable Activities	198			109			269			576

28 Sep 2021

Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Our future intent

- Bushfire Mitigation has expanded to become more than just burning landscape,
- Mitigation is about influencing a healthy landscape through the use of fire as tool, and in conjunction with other tools such as education, training, and a greater understanding of our landscape.
- Empowering our partners and stakeholders



Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



What's is the Name?

- Operation Sesbania, is in reference to and memory of three members of Sesbania Rural Fire Brigade who died on 14/11/1954 in Central Queensland in a burn over while attending a grass fire started by a dry lightning storm 160 kilometres southwest of Hughenden.
- A father and son along with a family cousin.



Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Operation Sesbania

- Operation sits within Program Grass Tree (Healthy Country – Healthy Interface) which is a much larger program.
- Working with and alongside our partners, communities, and stakeholders in 3-year annual implementation plan in accordance with Queensland Bushfire Plan.
- Plays a crucial role in influencing the potential for ignition, frequency and intensity of bushfires and their impacts upon communities.

Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Operation Sesbania

Change Drivers

- Operation Coolburn is no longer fit for purpose (procedurally, operationally, and strategically).
- Current mitigation activities are used as benchmarks and targets.
- Operation Sesbania must empower our Regional Mitigation Teams (RMIT) that support our partners and stakeholders. A collective effort is underpinned by collaboration and coordination.
- Mitigation is undertaken in an informed, planned and coordinated manner will play a crucial role in influencing the severity of future bushfires.
- Operation Sesbania is about preparedness. Preparedness is the taking of preparatory measures to ensure communities, resources and services can cope with the effects of bushfire.
- Queensland Bushfire Plan
- QFES Strategy 2030

Stakeholder Engagement

- An OBM Stakeholder and Engagement plan (DRAFT) is in development. OBM will also look to develop a simple and effective Communication and Engagement Plan.
- State Bushfire Committee (SBC)
- Change Drivers to be used to support key messages.
- To better understand our internal and external partners and stakeholders within the Queensland Bushfire Management Arrangements to Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower.

Key Impacts

WHO: Regional Mitigation Staff (paid) – Regional Mitigation Inspectors, Bushfire Safety Officers, First Nations Bushfire Safety Officers?
WHAT: 3yr plan with our partners, develop and implement a 12month implementation plan, manage vegetation (environmental, pasture, and bushfire).

WHO: Regional Managers?
WHAT: Regional Managers will engage more closely with their mitigation teams to better understand the operating environment, (What hazards are being mitigated against). Will have more relevant response processes and posture dependent on risk. Bushfire Safety Officers, more time to follow-up volunteers to do training, new process to follow,

WHO: Area Directors?
WHAT: No longer hold the role of Chief Fire Warden. Will still chair the Area Fire Management Group (AFMG). Area Directors will remain responsible for Training, Response and Recovery. RFS Mitigation Inspector will be responsible for community prevention and preparedness (building community resilience).



WHO: Partners?
WHAT: The additional mitigation staff within each region will enhance partner engagement and opportunities for improved operational liaison and community consultation.

Current State: No longer in line with Commissioners Intent, historical culture, lack of clarity, numbers used as statistics over analysis and mitigation, does not provide residual risk, not all activities are mapped, only high risk locations are identified, reported over a set period of time, time constraints, data entry is time intensive, lack of training and education, limited foundation that is accepted across the regions, lack of ownership (accountability) at the regional level, lack of engagement, no longer fit for purpose, stigmatised, Catalyst issues,— not tailored to decision making and operational requirements.

Future State: All mitigation activity is captured (fuel reduction, community education / engagement, fire breaks / fire trails and media) all year round, empowered RFS mitigation staff, stronger leadership decisions, simplified process, simple to use, SMART, operationally relevant, and realistic within a time sensitive environment for our partners and stakeholders. Indigenous burning practices, empowering bushfire management groups. Identify residual risk prior to the next fire season. Improved reporting process at the LDMG / DDMG (QDMA).

What is Changing: Operation Sesbania is about planning and mitigating the risk at identified High Risk locations (Hot Spots) across the State. Operation Sesbania will sit within Program Grass Tree (Healthy Country – Healthy Interface) which is a much larger program. Working with and alongside our partners, communities, and stakeholders in 3-year annual implementation plan in accordance with Queensland Bushfire Plan. Mitigation will be undertaken in an informed, planned and coordinated manner. This will play a crucial role in influencing the potential for ignition, frequency and intensity of bushfires and their impacts upon communities.

Acceptance Strategies

(risk mitigation and building on strengths and opportunities)

- Operation Sesbania is about planning mitigation activities over a 3-year period and working with our partners, communities, and our stakeholders in an annual implementation plan in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan. Mitigation activities must not be viewed as annual TARGETS or fortnightly statistics. Operation Sesbania is about planning and preparing the community within the Bushfire context.
- Future RMITs will collaborate and work alongside land managers to develop strategies that outline their arrangements to effectively manage vegetation (environmental, pasture and bushfire). All plans should be developed within the context of bushfire management: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Hazard mitigation, community engagement, and public safety underpins all mitigation activity.
- OBM will work with and support the RMITs to conduct the following:
 - Identify peer influencers/change champions – develop a mitigation network,
 - Support and empower Indigenous burning practices,
 - Work smarter on mitigation products that align to our partners and stakeholder’s mitigation schedules,
 - Drive a capability that remains operationally relevant,
 - Create a coalition within the leadership of RFS, a willingness to succeed & empower the RFS volunteer at all levels.

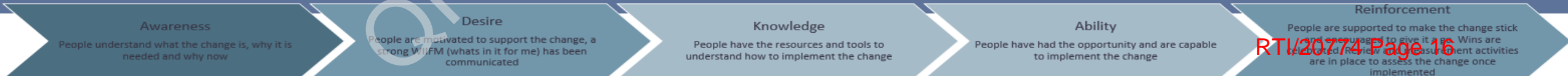
Sponsor: AC John Bolger AFSM
Business Lead: A/Superintendent Adam Moss
Date: 08 Nov 2021
Version: v2.0



Governance

- DC Mike Wassing AFSM
- Assistant Commissioner John Bolger AFSM
- Chief Superintendent Tony Johnstone AFSM
- Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM)
- RFS Regional Managers
- RFS Regional Mitigation Inspectors
- Bushfire Safety Officers (BSO)

Milestones



Operation Sesbania

Change Drivers



- Current mitigation activities are used as benchmarks and targets.
- Operation Sesbania must empower our Regional Mitigation Teams (RMIT) that support our partners and stakeholders. A collective effort is underpinned by collaboration and coordination.
- Mitigation is undertaken in an informed, planned and coordinated manner will play a crucial role in influencing the severity of future bushfires.
- Operation Sesbania is about preparedness. Preparedness is the taking of preparatory measures to ensure communities, resources and services can cope with the effects of bushfire.
- Queensland Bushfire Plan & QFES Strategy 2030

Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Operation Sesbania



Stakeholder Engagement

- An OBM Stakeholder and Engagement plan (DRAFT) is in development. OBM will also look to develop a simple and effective Communication and Engagement Plan.
- State Bushfire Committee (SBC)
- Regional Community Engagement Strategies and Plans on a page (Develop a State Plan with Regions to copy.)
- Change Drivers to be used to support key messages
- To better understand our internal and external partners and stakeholders within the Queensland Bushfire Management Arrangements to Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower.

Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust



Preparation (Residual Risk)

January

Planning



December

¼ 365 Report

- Identify Challenges
- Identify future planning requirements (Support, Mitigation, Communication, Education)

State Bushfire Committee (SBC)

February

- Guidance from Brigades and Fire Wardens informs high risk locations
- Identify resources (Community Education)
- VCE and RFS Brigade inclusion
- Funding and budgets (mitigation activities)

¼ 365 1st Report

- Identify Challenges
- Identify future planning requirements (Support, Mitigation, Communication, Education)

AFMG

March

- Completed BRMPs. Must align with LDMG meeting

Bushfire Risk Management Plan

April

Identified at Risk Locations

- Communicated with Brigades and Fire Wardens
- Develop a Regional Operational Plan
- Conducting Community Engagement
- RFS Brigades conducting local hazard analysis
- Developing Mitigation Plans

State Bushfire Committee (SBC)

September

Yearly Mitigation Report for State Bushfire Committee (SBC)

¾ 3rd 365 Report

- Residual Risk
- What has been mitigated within the region?

May

¾ 2nd 365 Report

- Identify Challenges
- Identify future planning requirements (Support, Mitigation, Communication, Education)

August

Seasonal Challenges (What mitigation activities are outstanding and require support – e.g. RFS Strike Teams, Community Engagement and Support.

July

State Bushfire Committee (SBC)

3yr Mitigation Program

Operation Sesbania

- High Risk Locations (Hot Spots)
- Updated and enhanced Risk Methodology
- Managing Residual Risk

Qld Fire Landscapes

- Fire Management Guidelines
- Regional Ecosystems Framework
- 13 x Bioregions
- Mapping Bioregions to LGA's
- Assisting Land Managers to plan risk reduction activities based on Ecosystem Bioregions

State Bushfire Committee (SBC)

- Queensland Bushfire Plan
- Policy, PPRR
- Public Safety
- Collaboration & Coordination

First Nations Integration

- Building indigenous Fire Training Program Partnerships
- First Nations Bushfire Safety Officer
- Indigenous engagement and partnership
- Cultural Burning
- Understanding Country
- Knowledge exchange

Technology & Electronics

- QFES Fire Warden App
- RFS Fire Mapping App (Capturing all fires that are applied to the landscape and updated onto TOM) QFES, Partners & Stakeholders
- RFS Community Engagement App (Capturing all community engagement applied to fire mitigation)
- Cultural Burn App
- A quarterly picture of what fire has been applied in the landscape (Fire Scars)
- Electronic Permit to Light Fire
- Unauthorised Fires

Program Grass Tree

Healthy Country – Healthy Interface

Rural Fire Service – Office of Bushfire Mitigation

Bushfire Mitigation Plans

- Mitigating risk at High Risk Locations
- Execution and General outline of mitigation task

Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)

- Fuel load type validation
- Enhanced Fire Danger Rating at LGA level
- 'Live' Fire Danger Viewer

Community Engagement

- Local Governments
- QFES Partners
- Community Groups

Annual mitigation 'Think Tanks'

- Thinking outside the 'box' for mitigation
- Industry leaders
- Encourage networking
- Mentoring

Capability & Capacity Mapping

- Using data and information from across the program to analyse RFS Capability, Training and Capacity

Common Operating Dashboard

- Operation Sesbania (High Risk Locations captured and analysed)
- Other Fire Mitigation activities not usually captured and reported
- Community Engagement
- Permit to light
- Cultural Burns
- Fire Trails

The Clarke Connors Range bushfire consortium

The Clarke Connors Range Bushfire Consortium is a Reef Catchments initiative with funding support from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.

Cape York Peninsula

Appropriate fire management practices to help land managers plan hazard reduction burning and in undertaking planned burns for improved production and conservation outcomes

Brigalow Belt (North)

Fire Management Guidelines

Appropriate fire management practices to help land managers plan hazard reduction burning and undertake planned burns to improve production and conservation outcomes

Planned Burn Guidelines

Desert Uplands Bioregion of Queensland
Department of National Parks,
Recreation, Sport and Racing

Planned Burn Guidelines

Southeast Queensland Bioregion of Queensland
Department of National Parks,
Recreation, Sport and Racing

Planned Burn Guidelines

Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland



Questions

Prepared by: Office of Bushfire Mitigation
OBM@qfes.qld.gov.au

Respect

Integrity

Courage

Loyalty

Trust

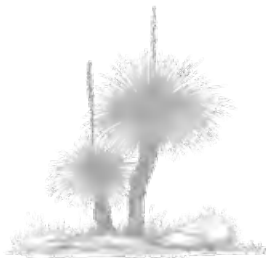




Operation
Sesbania

Locality Specific Fire Management Group

Frequently asked questions

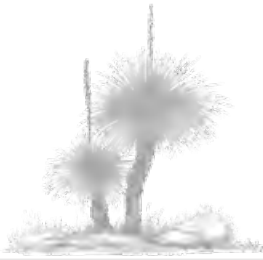


Question	Answer
1. Is this level of formality required for an LSFMG?	LSFMG members follow the membership governance arrangement as per the AFMG. Formal Members, Observers, and Invited guests.
2. Is the LSFMG a Committee?	Yes, it is.
3. As LSFMG's are established by the AFMG, do they require the stringent management processes proposed for higher levels of FMG's?	An LSFMG is established to manage an identified local risk or ecosystem that requires a specific bushfire mitigation treatment and will have the appropriate governance processes in place.
4. Are LSFMG members required to commit resources?	Yes, as a member of the LSFMG.
5. Has a formal agreement been reached on the format of sharing data between organisations?	This is still work in progress through the SBC.
6. Can the Chair dismiss a member?	No, the chair cannot dismiss a member.
7. When the chair is absent, can the Chair be arranged prior to the meeting?	Yes, with the approval of the quorum.
8. Do LSFMG's require the level of governance of 50% plus one member?	Yes, see Terms of Reference for LSFMG's.
9. The First meeting should occur no later than the last week of February. Is this feasible?	The Sesbania planning cycle commences in October providing opportunity for inclusion into the AFMG, RBC and update to the SBC in April.
10. Does the AFMG update the RBC for the SBC update in September?	Through the reporting chain of LSFMG, AFMG and RBC reporting of residual risk and mitigation activity challenges are provided to the SBC in the September meeting.
11. Is there a template for the Annex A, of the Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan?	An Annex A, template attachment has been developed for LSFMG'S, AFMG's and RBCs.
12. Do LSFMG's require the formality of papers being provide Five days before the meeting or at the discretion of the chair at the time of the meeting?	Yes, normal committee governance guidelines.
13. Do LSFMG's require the formality of recording the decisions to Approve, Endorse, Reject or Note the resolution of a submission?	Yes, normal committee governance guidelines.
14. Why can't the annual report from the LSFMG to the AFMG suffice instead of quarterly reports?	The Sesbania dashboard contains functionality for updates on planned and completed activities. LSFMG's provide quarterly updates on progress or challenges in implementing the Locality Specific Management Plan through the AFMG, RBC for inclusion in the SBC report.
15. Why are the LSFMG required to inform QFES reporting requirements?	LSFMG's through the AFMG provide data on activities that are recorded on the QFES Operation Sesbania Dashboard in line with Department reporting requirements.



Operation Sesbania

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Area Fire Management Group Frequently asked questions

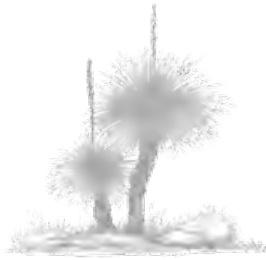


PLEASE

Question	Answer
1. Are these historically 'guiding principles' of an AFMG?? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfire Risk Mitigation Community Engagement Disaster Management Fire Management Groups and Collaboration 	These are the Guiding Principles approved by the QFES Commissioner.
2. Bushfire Risk Mitigation, what tools do the AFMG have to measure the outcomes of their mitigation actions?	The Sesbania dashboard mesh blocks identify and adjusts the risk profiles on confirmation of completed actives. This will also adjust the QEMR risk matrix for further mitigation planning.
3. Disaster Management, is the identification of risk and documentation of mitigation actions the 'management of bushfire'?	Queensland Bushfire Plan, Page 8 Section 2.1, Identifies as yes.
4. Members are expected to allocate sufficient time and energy to their AFMG duties. Does this Statement show, the development and maintenance of open, respectful, and positive relationship.	Queensland Bushfire Plan, Page 8 Section 2.1, Identifies as yes.
5. Is an observer under the standing invite at a AFMG a member, and does an AFMG have compliance or financial delegation?	Observers do not have a voting position. AFMG's have compliance responsibilities and the members should have decision making and financial delegation on behalf of their organisation.
6. Liaise with the Chair of the LDMG, QFES already has representatives on the LDMG to table the BRMP. Is the AFMG Chair now providing the BRMP to the LDMG?	The role is to liaise with the chair of the LDMG. Building relationships.
7. The Letter of Appointment states acknowledgment of the Terms of Reference for the Committee. Are members agreeing to this?	Yes, that is the expectation of the Terms of Reference and the Letter of Appointment as a member of the AFMG.
8. Attend AMFG meeting when called by the chair. Are members agreeing to this Terms of Reference for the committee and conditions on the Letter of Appointment?	Yes, that is the expectation of the Terms of Reference and the Letter of Appointment as a member of the AFMG. <i>Also see section Delegation if unable to attend a meeting.</i>
9. Can members be pressured into specific actions?	Members represent their agency/organisation. Members should not be pressured into anything. If a decision on a course of action cannot be agreed, then the matter should be referred to the RBC.
10. Can the AFMG demand information from organisations due to the statement? (At each meeting, group members need to provide)	The intent is that AFMG members provide all of the information that the AFMG require to make informed decisions.
11. Can the Chair stand members down?	No, they can't, if a member moves away and no replacement has been arranged then that is escalated to the representative's agency.
12. Do members have to complete the letter of appointment and provide to the Chair prior to attending a meeting as member?	Yes, they do.
13. Delegation of AFMG Chair if unavailable?	Can be delegated prior to the meeting by the chair or as agreed at the commencement of the meeting.
14. Delegation by members if unavailable?	Members can delegate to one organisational level lower. No further delegation at a lower level is permitted. An organisation wishing to provide a lower delegation guest for development purposes is at the discretion of the chair.
15. Members are required to attend all AFMG meetings. Can this be changed to encouraged/preferred?	Members must attend all meeting or provide an apology to the chair or suitable replacement.



Operation Sesbania



Area Fire Management Group Frequently asked questions

PLEASE

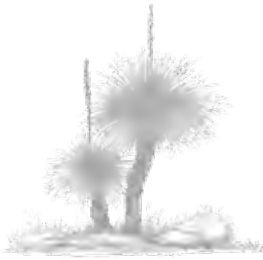
Question	Answer
16. Can an AFMG provide information to draft a BRMP without making a quorum.	Yes, the quorum approves the document.
17. What if a meeting is convened and a quorum cannot be established?	Other options are available: Special meeting, TEAMS meeting and emails.
18. The first meeting should occur no later than the last week of February. Is this feasible?	The Sesbania planning cycle commences in October providing opportunity for inclusion into the AFMG, RBC and update to the SBC in April.
19. Can meetings be scheduled after August to report on completed mitigation activities and residual risk?	The Sesbania dashboard provides update on completed activities and the ability to identify residual risk from the incomplete activities. This information is a requirement for the RBC plans and SBC report.
20. Do AFMG's require the formality of papers being provided Five days before the meeting or at the discretion of the chair on the time of the meeting. Is this in line with the open forum that we have previously encouraged.	Yes, normal committee governance guidelines. The open forum discussion can be an agenda item.
21. What would constitute a 'submission'? Dose a stakeholder update require a decision?	A submission could be a late paper tabled at the meeting with the approval of the chair or an agenda item requiring a decision from the group.
22. Is the management of documentation and action items for AFMG's managed in region?	Regions are responsible for the management and storage of the LFMG, AFMG and RBC documents. The OBM SharePoint site has appropriate folders established for regions to store and share information.
23. Are BRMP's only generated by AFMG's ?	Under the Queensland Bushfire Plan, 2.1.1 Bushfire Management Groups, all groups are responsible for the development of a Bushfire Risk Management Plan.
24. Are the AFMG BRMP's provided to the LDMG for the LDMP for potential reference BRMP or their discretion.	It is a function of the AFMG to provide the BRMP to provide the BRMP to the LDMG. Queensland Bushfire Plan page 11, AFMG, Functions.
25. All AFMG's must provide quarterly reports to their RBC. Why can't we provide biannually?	Real time update are available via the Sesbania dashboard. Quarterly updates are required for the RBC updates to the SBC.
26. AFMG are required to report on residual risk. Is there a template for this?	Yes, a template has been developed for the LFMG, AFMG and RBC.

QFES



Operation Sesbania

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Regional Bushfire Committee Frequently asked questions

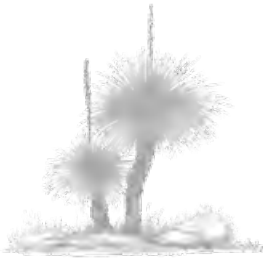


Question	Answer
1. An RBC provides a forum for stakeholders including occupiers? How are occupiers involved.	Occupiers can be major leasehold and freehold enterprises, corporations.
2. Is the Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan Templated?	Yes, a temple Regional Specific Fire Management Plan template has been produced.
3. Integrated - Integration acknowledges the complexity of bushfire management. How does acknowledging complexity show integration?	Acknowledging the complexity provides the forum for discussion. Queensland Bushfire Plan. Page 12, Members
4. Is the RBC, Community focussed?	Queensland Bushfire Plan. Page, 12 Members. Specifically list community groups involved in bushfire management in the membership.
5. Is the Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan a Mulit-agency regional plan?	Yes, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Page 12 Function.
6. Is it the RBC's role to establish AFMG's?	The RBC dose not establish the AFMG, that is done under the Queensland Bushfire Plan. The RBC is responsible for establishing and supporting the efficient operation thought providing advice and resolving issues.
7. Do RBC's have sub committees or working groups?	If required, an RBC can establish sub committees or working groups.
8. Hose does the RBC link io the DDMG? • Provide report, share minutes.	The RBC links to the DDMG through developing communication and relationships that are necessary during events.
9. How does the RBC communicate to communities?	Through community engagement networks, media, local government web sites.
10. Are there standard forms for the report, work plan and strategic plan?	The work plan and strategic plans are the BRMP. The report is within the Sesbania Dashboard reporting tool.
11. Should the SBC implement their own decisions?	The State Bushfire committee through the chain of command provides strategic leadership in bushfire management etc. Queensland Bushfire Plan, Page 13 Function.
12. Does the Chair of the RBC liaise with the Chair of the DDMG?	Yes, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Page 12
13. Is there a template for the RBC to report to the SBC?	No
14. Is the SBC expected to provide direction to the RBC?	Yes, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Page 12, Functions
15. Are RBC members expected to attend meetings when requested by the chair?	Yes, Queensland Bushfire Plan, Page 12, Role of Members.
16. Can the RBC only meet once a year?	The RBC must meet at least twice a year in line with the RBC reporting cycle to the SBC.
17. Will the link to the RFS OBM SharePoint site be available to RBC members outside of QFES?	No, the site is for internal QFES. Document templates within the SharePoint can be distributed through the RBC secretariate to members.
18. Will there be members of the RBC that will not receive a copy of any AFMG BRMP within the RBC area?	All RBC members will receive a copy of any AFMG BRMP that is within their respective area.



Operation Sesbania

Regional Bushfire Committee Frequently asked questions



Question	Answer
19. Will the Regional Bushfire Mitigation Plan be standardised across the state?	Yes the template has been developed.
20. What processes are in place for the RBC to communicate to the community?	Media, meetings, web sites, Brigades and newsletters.
21. What information would the RBC be providing to QFES Operation Sesbania?	Meeting outcomes, Regional Strategic priorities , issue (if any) that cannot be resolved regionally.
22. Is there a template available for the RBC to report on residual risk to the DDMG?	Yes reporting templates have been developed foy the LFMG, AFMG and RBC.
23. What content would be expected in the quarterly reports from the AFMG to the RBC?	Progress updates from the Sesbania dashboard, any issues that may require a regional intervention or any other items.

State Bushfire Committee Frequently asked questions

Question	Answer
1.SBC scheduled for the 1 st April 2022. Have all members returned signed letters of appointment?	This is the responsibility of the SBC chair and secretariat.
2. Must SBC members be always contactable?	Queensland Bushfire Plan Section 4, Preparedness 5.2.7. Queensland Disaster Arrangements, in the event of a disaster situation is declared the relevant disaster management group is responsible for managing the Bushfire event.
3. Why are RBC meetings limited to Four hours?	These are executive meetings.

Queensland Fire Management Groups and Committees

A guide to assist in governance and
administration of Fire Management
Groups and Committees

PREPARED BY

The Office of Bushfire Mitigation - Rural Fire Service

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Table of Contents

Purpose	3
Background	3
Chapter 1 – Locality Specific Fire Management Group	4
Chapter 2 – Area Fire Management Group	11
Chapter 3 – Regional Bushfire Committee.....	20
Chapter 4 – State Bushfire Committee	29
Glossary (including abbreviations).....	37
Annex A - Reporting Matrix	38
Annex B – Operation Sesbania.....	39

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

Purpose

The aim of this Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) internal document is to provide the Rural Fire Service (RFS) appointed chairs, secretariates and administration support officers of the various fire management groups and committee's guidance on the governance, reporting, coordination, and administration of their respective:

- **Locality Specific Fire Management Groups** (LSFMGs).
- **Area Fire Management Groups** (AFMGs).
- **Regional Bushfire Committees** (RBCs) referred to as Regional Inter-departmental Committees Bushfire under the Queensland Bushfire Plan.
- **State Bushfire Committee** (SBC) referred to as the State Inter-departmental Committee Bushfire in the Queensland Bushfire Plan.

Background

As detailed in the [Queensland Bushfire Plan](#), Queensland's bushfire management arrangements are characterised by partnerships and shared responsibility between land managers, the community, service providers, fire management groups, disaster management groups, committees at a regional and state level and government at the local, state and Commonwealth level.

Our partnerships and shared responsibility are underpinned by the following principles:

- Understanding and recognition of rights and responsibilities of all land managers.
- The development and maintenance of open, respectful, and positive relationships.
- Communication.
- Consultation.
- Cooperation.
- Recognition that effective bushfire management is applied across boundaries.

Queensland's bushfire management arrangements are coordinated by groups at the area, regional and state level. These groups provide support to Disaster Management Groups and land managers to manage the bushfire risk.

The state is comprised of numerous LSFMGs and AFMGs and seven RBCs. These groups report to the SBC.

All fire management groups have the following functions:

- Identification and consensus on areas of bushfire risk.
- Providing advice on fuel reduction and other mitigation activities.
- Fostering effective and harmonious working relationships between partners, stakeholders, and the community.
- Enhancing partner and stakeholder cooperation and resource sharing at bushfire incidents and hazard reduction activities.
- Providing a forum for clarifying and disseminating information on regulatory requirements and best practice principles for bushfire management and bushfire risk mitigation.
- Supporting cooperation and coordination in delivering community education activities to build community resilience.
- Development of a Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan (BRMP).

In addition to these functions, groups and committees at each level undertake specific functions, which are covered in greater detail in the chapters to follow.

Chapter 1 – Locality Specific Fire Management Group



Locality Specific Fire Management Group (LSFMG)

LOCALITY SPECIFIC FIRE MANAGEMENT GROUP (LSFMG)	
FORMATION	Established by AFMGs on an as needs basis
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Geographically defined area, such as a catchment, within a local government area
MEMBERS	All major stakeholders involved in the mitigation and response to bushfires in the locality
FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management of a local risk or ecosystem that requires specific treatment• Develop localised plans for submission to the AFMG.
COMMUNICATIONS	To the relevant AFMG: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide plans and maps of bushfire mitigation activities for inclusion in the BRMP• Any information which identifies areas of risk• Details of mitigation activities undertaken• Issues requiring resolution.

*Above extract from the Queensland Bushfire Plan – Page 10

Role

A LSFMG is established to foster a proactive approach to manage a bushfire hazard effectively and efficiently in a geographically defined area, for example a catchment or location of cultural and/or environmental significance within a specific area. This is achieved through strategic, coordinated bushfire management programs involving relevant government agencies, industry, landholders, and other relevant stakeholders as required.

A LSFMG is established with the sole focus of managing an identified local risk or ecosystem that requires a specific bushfire mitigation treatment.

Establishment

A LSFMG is established under the authority of the Queensland Bushfire Plan on a needs basis as determined by its respective AFMG.

Terms of Reference (and other administrative templates)

A LSFMG must establish its Terms of Reference at the earliest opportunity and are to be based on the information provided in this guide. To assist in this, and other administrative functions of the group, a suite of templates have been created for use by all LSFMGs. Utilisation of these templates will ensure governance and reporting consistency throughout the state whilst capturing the individuality of each group. These templates have been made available via the [RFS Office of Bushfire Management \(OBM\) SharePoint site](#).

Templates available are as follows:

- Letter of Appointment
- Meeting Action and Decision Log.
- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Attendance list.
- Meeting Minutes.

- Out-of-Session Submission Paper.
- Submission Paper.
- Terms of Reference.

Review of Terms of Reference

The LSFMG is to review its Terms of Reference at least every two (2) years or when required.

Responsibilities

A LSFMG is responsible for:

- determining the extent of bushfire risk for the nominated locality.
- developing localised plans and maps of bushfire mitigation activities for submission to their respective AFMG for inclusion in the BRMP.
- documenting mitigation activities undertaken.
- identifying and communicating areas of residual risk within the locality to the AFMG.
- other responsibilities as outlined in the Queensland Bushfire Plan.

A LSFMG is established by the AFMG and as such reports back accordingly.

Membership

A LSFMG is to comprise of those persons which may effectively contribute to the management of bushfire within the nominated locality and should include the following entities as members.

- Area Director, Rural Fire Service (Chairperson – the Chair) or nominated delegate¹.
- Local representatives of identified agencies/organisation including (but not limited to):
 - State government.
 - Local government.
 - Federal government.
 - Non - government organisations.
 - government owned corporations.
 - critical infrastructure owners and operators.
 - others considered suitable by the LSFMG.

Members are required to be local representatives of their respective organisations who understand their organisation's capabilities and are authorised to (or have timely access to an officer who can) make decisions and where necessary commit resources on behalf of their organisations.

LSFMG members must have an appropriate level of both knowledge and ability to support the LSFMG in carrying out its function. Members are expected to allocate sufficient time and energy to LSFMG duties.

Only LSFMG members have the rights and obligations that the role of member is afforded, unless otherwise validly delegated through the Chair.

A person attending a LSFMG meeting as an observer under invite (singular or standing) is not considered a member.

Role of the Chair

The Chair has the following responsibilities:

- manage and coordinate the business of the committee.
- ensure the LSFMG performs its functions.
- report to the Chair of their respective AFMG on activities of the group.

¹ The decision to establish a LSFMG derives from the AFMG and as such the Chair AFMG is responsible for implementation of governance arrangements. The AFMG may choose to chair the LSMFG or delegate the authority as they deem appropriate. The Chair of the LSFMG is to be determined on creating the group.

Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by the RFS by way of one/or more of the following positions:

- Inspector for Mitigation.
- Bushfire Safety Officer.
- Regional Support Officer.
- Area Support Officer.

Role of Members

A member has the following responsibilities:

- attend meetings of the group when called by the Chair.
- provide information (on behalf of their agency) to inform the management of the bushfire risk in the identified location.
- commit resources of their organisation, when requested and where necessary, to enable the group to perform its functions.
- actively participate in the business of the group.
- maintain confidentiality of relevant items under discussion (determined at the discretion of the Chair).

At each LSFMG meeting, group members must provide:

- any information which may help in identifying relevant concerns to risk areas.
- details of any planned bushfire mitigation activities that they intend to carry out which relate to the identified risk areas.
- detailed information and/or maps of bushfire mitigation activities that they have undertaken since the previous meeting (in a suitable agreed format).

Appointment of Members

LSFMG members are appointed by the Chair with the following conditions:

- the term of appointment will continue until the earlier of, the completion of the appointment term of three years or the resignation of the member from their role on the committee or their movement to another role.
- prior to commencement as a member, a Letter of Appointment will be issued. This must be executed and returned to the Chair, prior to commencement of duties on the group.

A newly appointed member is to be provided with all necessary and relevant information to enable the member to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of them while a member on the LSFMG.

This includes a copy of the endorsed LSFMG Terms of Reference and Letter of Appointment.

Delegation

Where the Chair is absent from a meeting, the Chair may be delegated to another member as agreed at the commencement of the meeting.

Members may delegate their authority to a party with the same authority as the member, or a party that is one organisational level below the member. Further delegation at a lower level is not permitted.

Attendance

Members are required to attend all LSFMG meetings. Where attendance is not possible, an apology to the Chair is to be provided. Only those noted on the circulated agenda for that meeting may attend.

Proxy / Guest / Observer Attendees

If a standing member is unable to attend, a representative from within the member organisation may attend. Proxy representation is at the discretion of the Chair.

Through invitation by the Chair, subject matter experts may attend a meeting. Other members may also submit a request to the Chair to extend an invitation to non-members for consideration. Attendance of guests and/or observers is at the discretion of the Chair, however approval requested by a Member should not be unreasonably withheld.

A person attending as an observer under a standing invitation is not considered a member.

Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. The quorum for a meeting to occur is 50% plus one of the members including the Chair or a delegate of the Chair. The quorum for a decision to be approved at meetings requires 50 per cent, plus one of the members present at the committee meeting, including the Chair to agree. If this threshold is not met, the matter is to be held over and reconsidered at an appropriate time.

Meetings

A LSFMG must meet no less than twice a year.

Emergency or special meetings can be convened by the Chair as required.

The first meeting of the LSFMG each year should occur no later than the last week of February and be used to plan mitigation activities.

A meeting should also be scheduled to report and evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation program, to their respective AFMG for inclusion in the AFMG update to the RBC and SBC meeting scheduled in September of each year.

An *Annual Reporting Matrix for Fire Management Groups and Committees* is provided at Annex A and provides a visualisation of how meetings and reporting among the various group is proposed.

Virtual / Hybrid Meetings

In 2020, the Australian Government made temporary modifications to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) whereby changes were introduced, designed to facilitate holding online, phone dial-in or a mixture of attendance options (also called hybrid meeting format) to assist members in attend and participating in meetings.

- Under temporary modifications groups and committees can:
- provide notice of general meetings to members using email or SMS text
- satisfy quorum requirements with members attending online or via phone / smart device
- hold virtual or hybrid styled general meetings

assist members to attend general meetings through a variety of offered means including in person, online, over the phone / smart device, or a combination of these methods; to ensure all eligible members can fully participate by witnessing proceedings, moving motions, asking questions and voting.

The Chair is to, where possible, ensure virtual / hybrid meeting arrangement are available to members who are unable to attend in person.

(For more information and tips on hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings please refer to [RFBM D1.4.1 – Appendix E – Hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings Fact Sheet](#)).

Agenda and Papers

A suit of templates has been developed to support LSFMG meeting administration, including a Meeting Agenda and Submission Paper template. These templates are available on the [RFS OBM SharePoint site](#).

The preparation and issuing of the agenda and submissions papers will be facilitated by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair.

The agenda will consider the work plan and items nominated by members; with the inclusion of these on the agenda being at the discretion of the Chair.

Papers are to be provided no later than five (5) days prior to the LSFMG meeting. Late papers may be considered at the discretion of the Chair.

Minutes and Recording of Meetings

At a minimum, the minutes of the LSFMG meeting will note:

- date, time, and location of meeting held.
- members, guests, apologies, proxies, and secretariat.
- key discussion points made by members and invited subject matter experts and related explanations.
- resolutions, including any actions and accountable officer.
- meeting minutes must be distributed to members within 21 days of the meeting.

Digital recording of meetings is at the discretion of the Chair and LSFMG members however this does not replace the requirement for detailed hard-copy minutes.

Decisions

Upon consideration of a submission at the meeting, the LSFMG resolution will clearly state the following decision, to:

- Approve.
- Endorse.
- Reject
- Note.

Administration

The Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit, RFS will provide advice and administrative support to the LSFMG.

A record of all agenda, papers, minutes, and summary of outstanding actions will be maintained by the groups Secretariat, and a copy held at the Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit. This can be hard copy or digital copy, with a copy forwarded to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation.

A copy of the LSBMP will be provided to the Area Fire Management Group and members of the LSFMG.

Record Keeping

A copy of all LSFMG documents will be held at the RFS Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit for a period of seven years.

Accountability

A LSFMG reports to its respective AFMG is must submit quarterly reports accordingly.

Reporting and Outputs

A LSFMG must provide their plans and maps to the relevant AFMG for collation and reporting.

The Chair, delegate and/or the Secretariat of the LSFMG will collate all information for potential incorporation into the BRMP.

A LSFMG is responsible for providing data on their activities to inform the QFES (for inclusion in Operation Sesbania² reporting requirement) through the Secretariat and the Chair of the AFMG.

A LSFMG is required to advise their respective AFMG after each meeting of the following:

- meeting outcomes.
- local strategic priorities.
- Issues (if any) that cannot be resolved locally.
- residual risk.

This is to be facilitated through the provision of the Meeting Minutes (as endorsed by Chair).

Linkages to Other Groups and Committees

Any issues that cannot be resolved at a LSFMG must be reported to their respective AFMG for consideration and mediation.

² Operation Sesbania is the QFES bushfire mitigation planning operation component of Program Grass Tree. Fact sheets on Operation Sesbania and Program Grass Tree is available at Annex B

Chapter 2 – Area Fire Management Group



Area Fire Management Group (AFMG)

AREA FIRE MANAGEMENT GROUP (AFMG)	
FORMATION	Established by the Queensland Bushfire Plan
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Local Government Area (In some instances an AFMG may cover multiple LGAs, upon approval from the Commissioner, QFES)
MEMBERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chaired by Rural Fire Service, Area Director <p>Membership of AFMGs may consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major landholders and land managers within the area• Government (local, state, Commonwealth)• Community groups involved in bushfire management• Industry groups• Any other entity or person deemed suitable by the AFMG.
FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop the BRMP for the relevant local government area/s• Provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss planning, preparedness, response and recovery strategies to the effects of bushfire• Provide the BRMP to the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)• Advise the LDMG of mitigation activities undertaken and residual risk• Provide a forum to foster interoperability during response• Provide strategic advice to the LDMG in the event of bushfire related activation.
COMMUNICATIONS	<p>To the relevant Regional Inter-Departmental Committee Bushfire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide plans and maps of bushfire mitigation activities• Any information which identifies areas of risk• Details of mitigation activities undertaken• Any information which identifies areas of residual risk• Issues requiring resolution. <p>To the LDMG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on mitigation activities undertaken• Report on areas of residual bushfire risk• Table the BRMP.

[*Above extract from the Queensland Bushfire Plan – Page 11](#)

Role

A AFMG provides a forum for stakeholders such as government agencies; land managers / owners / occupiers; QFES representatives and other interested parties to identify areas where there is a bushfire risk and discuss and plan mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of bushfires on communities.

An AFMG fulfils its role and undertakes its functions through a shared approach to planning, implementation and reporting of bushfire mitigation activities.

An AFMG manages its roles and functions in accordance with section 2.1 of the [Queensland Bushfire Plan](#).

Establishment

AFMGs are established under the Queensland Bushfire Plan with an AFMG established in each Local Government Area throughout Queensland.

An AFMG may cover multiple Local Government Areas, upon approval from the Commissioner, QFES.

In some instances when require, a LSFMG may be established as a subgroup of an AFMG within a geographically defined area, such as a catchment area (see [Chapter One](#) for further information on LSFMGs).

Terms of Reference (and other administrative templates)

An AFMG must establish its Terms of Reference at the earliest opportunity and are to be based on the information provided in this guide. To assist in this, and other administrative functions of the group, a suite of templates have been created for use by all AFMGs. Utilisation of these templates will ensure governance and reporting consistency throughout the state whilst capturing the individuality of each group. These templates have been made available via the [RFS OBM SharePoint site](#).

Templates available are as follows:

- Letter of Appointment.
- Meeting Action and Decision Log.
- Meeting Agenda.
- Meeting Attendance List.
- Meeting Minutes.
- Out-of-Session Submission Paper.
- Submission Paper.
- Terms of Reference.

Review of Terms of Reference

The AFMG is to review its Terms of Reference at least every two (2) years or when required.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles for a AFMG are as follows:

- **Bushfire Risk Mitigation** – reducing the risk of bushfire is a critical element of managing the bushfire hazard in Queensland. Mitigation strategies are informed by risk and are targeted to achieve measurable outcomes.
- **Community Engagement** – a key component of managing the bushfire hazard is ensuring that landowners (managers) and the Queensland population understand their bushfire risk and the mitigation strategies they can use. Engagement is educating in the four priorities of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) from bushfires.
- **Disaster Management** - bushfire has the potential to cause serious disruption in a community and may require a significant coordinated response by the State. To ensure effective coordination, bushfire is managed in alignment with the Queensland disaster management arrangements.
- **Fire Management Groups** – Queensland is a vast state consisting of different topography and vegetation types, which require localised mitigation programs, developed at a local level, with coordination and support provided at a regional and state level. These committees and groups connect communities, land managers, essential service providers and government.

- **Collaboration** – managing the bushfire hazard in Queensland is enabled by a network of partnerships that are based on the following:
 - Understanding and recognition of rights and responsibilities of the landowner (manager),
 - The development and maintenance of open, respectful, and positive relationships,
 - Communication, consultation, cooperation, and
 - The recognition that effective bushfire management is applied across boundaries.

Responsibilities

The functions of a AFMG are to:

- identify areas of bushfire risk, in particular those areas where there is a threat to people, property, infrastructure and/or other values (environmental/cultural).
- develop a BRMP.
- implement bushfire mitigation strategies.
- support the implementation of the Queensland Bushfire Plan.
- establish a LSFMG (if required).
- prepare communities through the dissemination of bushfire prevention and risk reduction strategies, including Bushfire Survival Plans, the Prepare-Act-Survive initiative, and proactive property preparation.
- support and deliver a consistent and collaborative approach to community education activities to increase community awareness and understanding of fire as a land management tool for hazard reduction and other land management activities.
- provide a forum for discussing, clarifying, and disseminating information on regulatory requirements and best practice principles for bushfire management.
- identify residual risk in relation to the bushfire hazard.
- provide the BRMP to the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).
- report mitigation activities undertaken to the RBC and the LDMG (for noting only).
- communicate residual risk to the RBC and the LDMG (for noting only).
- report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of the bushfire hazard in the region to the RBC.

Membership

An AFMG is to comprise of those persons which may effectively contribute to the management of bushfire within the nominated locality and should include the following entities as members:

- Area Director, Rural Fire Service (Chair) or delegate.
- Area representatives of identified agencies/organisations which may include (but is not limited to):
 - State Government
 - Local government.
 - Federal Government.
 - Non - government organisations.
 - government owned corporations.
 - critical infrastructure owners and operators.
 - Any other entity or person deemed suitable by the AFMG.

Members are to be area representatives of their organisations who understand their organisation's capabilities, are authorised to (or have timely access to an officer who can) make decisions and where necessary commit resources on behalf of their organisations. An AFMG member must have the appropriate level of both knowledge and ability to support the AFMG to perform its functions. Members are expected to allocate sufficient time and energy to their AFMG duties.

Only members have the rights and obligations that the role of Member affords, unless otherwise validly delegated in accordance with the AFMG Chair.

A person attending an AFMG meeting as an observer, under a standing invite (singular or standing) are not considered a member.

Role of the Chair

The Chair has the following responsibilities:

- manage and coordinate the business of the committee.
- ensure the AFMG performs its functions.
- ensuring appropriate action is taken in relation to actions arising from the meeting.
- lead the development of the BRMP.
- report to the RBC on activities of the group.
- liaise with the Chairperson of the LDMG / Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) as required.

Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by the RFS by way of one/or more of the following positions:

- Inspector for Mitigation.
- Bushfire Safety Officer.
- Regional Support Officer.
- Area Support Officer.

Role of Members

Members have the following responsibilities:

- attend AFMG meetings when called by the Chair.
- provide information (on behalf of their agency) that assists in identifying issues within a bushfire risk area, details of any planned mitigation activities or mitigation activities that have been completed.
- commit to the development of the BRMP and other activities to enable the AFMG in meeting its responsibilities.
- contribute to the development of the BRMP and other activities to enable the AFMG in meeting its responsibilities.
- actively participate in the business of the AFMG.
- provide detailed information and/or maps of bushfire mitigation activities that they have undertaken since the previous meeting (in a suitably agreed format).
- maintain confidentiality of relevant items under discussion (determined at the discretion of the Chair).

At each AFMG meeting, group members need to provide:

- any information which may help in identifying relevant concerns to risk areas.
- details of any planned bushfire mitigation activities that they intend to carry out which relate to the identified risk areas.
- detailed information and/or maps of the bushfire mitigation activities that they have undertaken since the previous meeting (in a suitably agreed format).

Appointment of Members

AFMG members are appointed by the Chair with the following conditions:

- The term of appointment will continue until the earlier of, the completion of the appointment term of three years or the resignation of the member from their role on the committee or their movement to another role.
- Prior to commencement as a member, a Letter of Appointment will be issued. This must be executed and returned to the Chair, prior to commencement of duties on the group.

A newly appointed member is to be provided with all necessary and relevant information to enable the member to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of them while a member on the AFMG.

This includes a copy of the endorsed Terms of Reference and Letter of Appointment.

A newly appointed member will be provided with all necessary and relevant information to enable the member to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of them while a member on the AFMG.

Delegation

When the Chair is absent from a meeting, the chair can delegate this to another member or as agreed at the commencement of the meeting.

Members may delegate their authority to a party with the same authority as the member, or a party that is one organisational level below the member. Further delegation at a lower level is not permitted.

Attendance

Members are required to attend all AFMG meetings. Where attendance is not possible, an apology to the Chair is to be given. Only those noted on the circulated agenda for that meeting may attend.

Proxy / Standing Invitees / Guest / Observer Attendees

If a standing member is unable to attend, a representative from within the member organisation may attend. Proxy representation is at the discretion of the Chair.

Where relevant, a standing invitation may be offered to the following persons to attend the meeting to observe:

- Regional Manager, RFS in their capacity as Chair of the respective RBC.

Through invitation by the Chair, subject matter experts may attend a meeting. Other members may also submit a request to the Chair to extend an invitation to non-members for consideration. Attendance of guests and/or observers is at the discretion of the Chair, however approval requested by a Member should not be unreasonable withheld.

A person attending as an observer under a standing invitation is not considered a member.

Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. The quorum for a meeting to occur is 50 per cent plus one of the members including the Chair or a delegate of the Chair. The quorum for a decision to be approved at meetings requires 50% plus one of the members present at the committee meeting, including the Chair to agree. If this threshold is not met, the matter is to be held over and reconsidered at an appropriate time.

Meetings

An AFMG must meet at least twice a year. Emergency or special meetings can be convened by the Chair as required.

The first meeting of the AFMG each year should occur no later than the last week of February and be used to plan mitigation activities for the coming season.

A meeting should be scheduled no later than the last week of August to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the mitigation program, prepare for the operational period of the upcoming fire season, and to review the residual risk.

An Annual Reporting Matrix for Fire Management Groups and Committees is provided at Annex A and provides a visualisation of how meetings and reporting among the various group is proposed.

Virtual / Hybrid Meetings

In 2020, the Australian Government made temporary modifications to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) whereby changes were introduced, designed to facilitate holding online, phone dial-in or a mixture of attendance options (also called hybrid meeting format) to assist members in attend and participating in meetings.

- Under temporary modifications groups and committees can:
- provide notice of general meetings to members using email or SMS text
- satisfy quorum requirements with members attending online or via phone / smart device
- hold virtual or hybrid styled general meetings

assist members to attend general meetings through a variety of offered means including in person, online, over the phone / smart device, or a combination of these methods; to ensure all eligible members can fully participate by witnessing proceedings, moving motions, asking questions and voting.

The Chair is to, where possible, ensure virtual / hybrid meeting arrangement are available to members who are unable to attend in person.

(For more information and tips on hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings please refer to [RFBM D1.4.1 – Appendix E – Hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings Fact Sheet](#)).

Out of Session meetings

Out of Session meetings may be utilised for urgent business requirements only. An out of session meeting may be conducted by a circular or an ad hoc meeting, depending on the urgency of the matter and as approved by the Chair.

The process with respect to Out of Session items is as follows:

- requests for Out of Session submissions are forwarded to the Secretariat providing evidence of the urgent need.
- Secretariat forwards the request to the Chair.
- the chair determines if the matter is to be considered as an Out of Session item.
- the item is to be distributed by the Secretariat to all members, noting a required response timeframe.

Where a decision is not reached within the designated time frame for approval, the submission will be referred to the next AFMG meeting.

Agenda and Papers

A suit of templates has been developed to support AFMG meeting administration and includes a Meeting Agenda and Submission Paper template. These templates are available on [RFS OBM SharePoint site](#).

The preparation and issuing of the agenda, submissions and papers will be facilitated by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair.

The agenda will consider the work plan and items nominated by members; inclusion of these on the agenda is at the discretion of the Chair.

Papers will be provided no later than five (5) days prior to the AFMG meeting. Late papers may be considered at the discretion of the Chair.

Minutes and Recording of Meetings

At a minimum, the minutes of the AFMG meeting will note:

- date, time, and location of meeting held.
- members, guests, apologies, proxies, and secretariat.
- key discussion points made by members, invited subject matter experts, and related explanations.
- resolutions, including any actions and accountable officers.
- Meeting minutes must be distributed to members within 21 days of the meeting.

Digital recording of meetings is at the discretion of the Chair and AFMG members however this does not replace the requirement for detailed hard-copy minutes.

Decisions

On consideration of a submission at the meeting, the AFMG resolution will clearly state the following decision, to:

- Approve.
- Endorse.
- Reject.
- Note.

Administration

The Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit, RFS will provide advice and administrative support to the AFMG.

A record of all agenda, papers, minutes, and summary of outstanding actions will be maintained by the Secretariat. Digital or hard copies will be provided to the Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit, RFS and to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation.

AFMG members will be provided with a copy of the AFMG BRMP including the BRMP for the LSFMG if established.

Record Keeping

A copy of all AFMG documents will be held at the RFS Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit.

A current copy of the AFMG BRMP Plan will be provided to each relevant Local Government within the area for their consideration and potential reference, in the Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP). All BRMPs are to be kept on record by the Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit for seven years.

Accountability

All AFMGs must report to their respective RBC and submit quarterly reports accordingly.

Reporting and Outputs

All AFMG's must provide their plans to the relevant LDMG and RBC.

The chair, delegate and/or the secretariat of the AFMG will collate all information for potential incorporation into the Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan (BRMP).

An AFMG is responsible for providing data on their activities to inform QFES Operation Sesbania³ reporting requirements through their Secretariat and the Chair of the AFMG.

An AFMG is required to advise their respective RBC after each meeting of the following:

- meeting outcomes.
- area strategic priorities.
- issues (if any) that cannot be resolved regionally.
- residual risk.

This is to be facilitated through the provision of the Meeting Minutes (as endorsed by Chair).

An AFMG is required to report to their respective LDMGs about residual bushfire risk⁴.

The secretariat will prepare a report outlining bushfire mitigation activities undertaken across the region, residual bushfire risk, and preparations for the bushfire season.

Linkages to Other Groups and Committees

An AFMG reports to its respective RBC and must maintain links with their respective LDMG.

Any issues that cannot be resolved at the AFMG must be reported to the RBC for consideration and mediation.

³ Operation Sesbania is the QFES bushfire mitigation planning operation component of Program Grass Tree. Fact sheets on Operation Sesbania and Program Grass Tree is available at Annex B

⁴ [Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework 3.5.1](#) refers

Chapter 3 – Regional Bushfire Committee



QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

Regional Bushfire Committee (RBC)

REGIONAL INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE BUSHFIRE (RIDCB)	
FORMATION	Established by the Queensland Bushfire Plan
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	QFES region (Refer to Appendix 2 - QFES Regions)
MEMBERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaired by Regional Manager, Rural Fire Service <p>Membership of RIDCB may consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major partners and stakeholders within the area Government (local, state, Commonwealth) Community groups involved in bushfire management Industry groups Any other entity or person deemed suitable by the RIDCB.
FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the regional direction for bushfire management Support AFMGs by providing advice and resolving issues Evaluate residual risk issues identified by AFMGs and elevate to the SIDCB if appropriate Ensure area and local fire management plans are linked to regional strategic direction Develop the regional Strategic Fire Management Plan.
COMMUNICATIONS	<p>To the State Inter-departmental Committee Bushfire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise the SIDCB of regional strategic priorities Advise the SIDCB on any issues which cannot be resolved regionally Advise the SIDCB of residual risk Report on mitigation activities undertaken and their outcome to the AFMG and relevant DDMGs Advise AFMGs of strategic priorities Inform the AFMGs of any directions or guidance from the SIDCB. <p>To relevant DDMG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise of mitigation activities undertaken Advise of areas of residual bushfire risk Provide information on regional strategic priorities Provide information on the regional Strategic Fire Management Plan.

*Above extract from the Queensland Bushfire Plan – Page 12

The Regional Inter-Departmental Committees Bushfire as detailed in the Queensland Bushfire Plan is known as the RBC as is referred to as such throughout this document and support administrative templates

Role

An RBC provides a forum for stakeholders such as local and state government agencies; land managers, owners, and occupiers; QFES representatives and other interested parties to develop a co-ordinated, targeted and a strategic approach to bushfire hazard management across the relevant QFES region.

Establishment

RBCs are established under the Queensland Bushfire Plan with an RBC formed in each QFES Region.

The objective of the RBC is the strategic management of bushfire mitigation and supporting the coordinated, collaborative, integrated, risk-based, and community-focussed outcomes.

An RBC is to provide the following functions:

- establish the regional direction for bushfire management.
- support AFMGs by providing advice and resolving issues.
- evaluate residual risk issues identified by AFMGs and elevate to the SBC if appropriate.
- ensure BRMPs or area and local fire management plans are linked to regional strategic direction.
- develop the Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan.

Terms of Reference (and other administrative templates)

An RBC must establish their Terms of Reference at the earliest opportunity and are to be based on the information provided in this guide. To assist in this, and other administrative functions of the group, a suite of templates have been created for use by all RBCs. Utilisation of these templates will ensure governance and reporting consistency throughout the state whilst capturing the individuality of each group. These templates have been made available via the [RFS OBM SharePoint site](#).

Templates available are as follows:

- Letter of Appointment.
- Meeting Action and Decision Log.
- Meeting Agenda.
- Meeting Attendance list.
- Meeting Minutes.
- Out-of-Session Submission Paper.
- Submission Paper.
- Terms of Reference.

Review of Terms of Reference

The RBC is to review its Terms of Reference at least every two (2) years or when required.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles for all RBCs are as follows:

- **Coordinated** - Coordination of bushfire management is facilitated by the regional bushfire committees and AFMGs, guided and supported by the SBC. Linking with Queensland's disaster management arrangements and other related statutory mechanisms improves coordination and recognises that disaster management and associated activities conducted across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery also contribute to the effective management of bushfires.
- **Collaborative** – All RBCs will develop and implement collaborative strategies aligned with Queensland's disaster management arrangements as outlined in the [Disaster Management Act 2003](#), the [Queensland State Disaster Management Plan](#) and the Queensland Bushfire Plan. This collaborative approach is underpinned by consultation and communication between all stakeholders and acknowledges that management of bushfire risk in Queensland is a shared responsibility.

- **Integrated** - Integration acknowledges the complexity of bushfire management across multiple levels, land tenures and land uses.
- **Risk Based** - A planned risk-based approach identifying bushfire risk, enables targeted prevention and preparedness activities, at the local, regional, and state levels. Assessing the interaction of bushfire hazards and the impact of hazard characteristics on exposed elements provides a clear understanding of the regions or community's vulnerabilities.
- **Community Focussed** - Community focussed strategies recognise the need for communities to understand their bushfire risk, enabling them to make informed decisions about their role in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from bushfires.

Responsibilities

In executing its duties, an RBC will provide direction in the development of strategies, plans, tactics, and operations for managing bushfire relating to the following:

Strategy

- establishing the regional strategy for bushfire management.
- developing the Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan to support the implementation of the Queensland Bushfire Plan and guide the management of bushfire across the region.

Risk Management

- evaluating and coordinating management of residual bushfire risk identified by AFMGs, and to elevate to the SBC where needed.

Capability and Service Delivery

- establishing and supporting the efficient operation of AFMGs.
- conducting additional consultation with industry groups, communities and not for profit organisations needed to fulfil its role and functions.
- forming additional sub-committees or working groups on specific issues or matters needed to fulfil the role and functions of the RBC.
- communicating relevant bushfire management information to regional bushfire management stakeholders as required.
- liaising and collaborating with District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) within the region.
- communicating bushfire hazard mitigation activities carried out by its members to the community.

Governance and Reporting

- reporting on the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of the bushfire hazard in the region to the SBC.
- developing an annual work plan to enable the RBC to undertake its functions.
- ensuring the activities of AFMGs and LSFMGs align to the Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan.
- Implementing decisions made by the SBC.

Membership

RBC is to comprise of the following persons:

- Regional Manager, RFS (Chair).
- Senior regional representatives of identified agencies/organisations which may include (but is not limited to):
 - State government.
 - Local government.
 - Federal government.
 - Non - government organisations.
 - government owned corporations.
 - critical infrastructure owners and operators.

- any other entity or person deemed suitable by the RBC.

Members are to be area representatives of their organisations who understand their organisation's capabilities and are authorised to make decisions, and where necessary commit resources on behalf of their organisations. RBC members must have the appropriate level of both knowledge and ability to support the RBC to perform its functions. Members are expected to allocate sufficient time and energy to their RBC duties.

Only Members have the rights and obligations that the role of Member affords, unless otherwise validly delegated in accordance with the RBC Chair.

A person attending an RBC meeting as an observer under a standing invite (singular or standing), are not considered a member.

Role of the Chair

The Chair has the following responsibilities:

- manage and coordinate the business of the committee.
- ensure the RBC performs its functions.
- report to the chair of the SBC on activities of the RBC.
- liaise with the chairpersons of District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) within the region.
- prepare an annual report to the SBC or other reports upon the request of the SBC.
- engage with the bushfire management stakeholders to enhance the recognition, acceptance and implementation of bushfire risk mitigation plans and strategies in Queensland.
- advise the AFMG's of the regional strategic direction.
- Inform the AFMG's of any directions or guidance from the SBC.

Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by the RFS by way of one/or more of the following positions:

- Inspector for Mitigation.
- Bushfire Safety Officer.
- Regional Support Officer

Role of Members

RBC Members have the following responsibilities:

- attend meetings of the RBC when called by the chair.
- provide information from their organisations that contributes to situational awareness for bushfire management.
- commit the resources of their organisation, where necessary to enable the RBC to perform its functions.
- identify where meeting agendas and out-of-session items require wider agency expertise and ensure that expertise is accessed.
- contribute to the development of the Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan and any other strategies deemed appropriate for the management of bushfires within the region.
- maintain confidentiality of relevant items under discussion.
- actively participate in the business of the RBC to enable it to meet its responsibilities.
- maintain confidentiality of relevant items under discussion (determined at the discretion of the Chair).

Appointment of Members

All members of the RBC will be appointed by the chair with the following conditions.

- The term of appointment will continue until the earlier of, the completion of the appointment term of three years, or the resignation of the member from their role on the committee or their movement to another role.
- Prior to commencement as a member, a Letter of Appointment will be issued. This must be executed and returned to the Chair, prior to commencement of duties on the group.

A newly appointed member will be provided with all necessary and relevant information to enable the member to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of them while a member on the RBC.

This includes a copy of the endorsed RBC Terms of Reference and Letter of Appointment.

Delegation

If the chair is absent from a meeting, the chair may be delegated to another member or as agreed at the commencement of the meeting.

Members may delegate their authority to a party with the same authority as the member, or a party that is one organisational level below the member. Further delegation at a lower level is not permitted.

Attendance

Members are required to attend all RBC meetings. Where attendance is not possible, an apology to the Chair is to be given. Only those noted on the circulated agenda for that meeting may attend.

Proxy / Standing Invites / Guest / Observer Attendees

If a standing member is unable to attend, a representative from within the member organisation may attend. Proxy representation is at the discretion of the Chair.

Where relevant, a standing invitation may be offered to the following persons to attend the meeting to observe:

- Regional Assistant Commissioner, QFES.

Through invitation by the Chair, subject matter experts may attend a meeting. Other Members may also request that the Chair invite subject matter experts. Attendance of subject matter experts is at the discretion of the Chair, however, approval requested by a Member should not be unreasonably withheld.

A person attending as an observer under a standing invitation is not considered a member.

Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. The quorum for a meeting to occur is 50 per cent plus one of the members including the Chair or a delegate of the Chair. The quorum for a decision to be approved at meetings requires 50 percent plus one of the members present at the committee meeting, including the Chair to agree. If this threshold is not met, the matter is to be held over and reconsidered at an appropriate time.

Meetings

An RBC must meet at least twice a year. Emergency or special meetings will be convened as required. An RBC meeting must be held one month prior to the SBC.

An *Annual Reporting Matrix for Fire Management Groups and Committees* is provided at Annex A and provides a visualisation of how meetings and reporting among the various group is proposed.

Virtual / Hybrid Meetings

In 2020, the Australian Government made temporary modifications to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) whereby changes were introduced, designed to facilitate holding online, phone dial-in or a mixture of attendance options (also called hybrid meeting format) to assist members in attend and participating in meetings.

- Under temporary modifications groups and committees can:
- provide notice of general meetings to members using email or SMS text
- satisfy quorum requirements with members attending online or via phone / smart device
- hold virtual or hybrid styled general meetings

assist members to attend general meetings through a variety of offered means including in person, online, over the phone / smart device, or a combination of these methods; to ensure all eligible members can fully participate by witnessing proceedings, moving motions, asking questions and voting.

The Chair is to, where possible, ensure virtual / hybrid meeting arrangement are available to members who are unable to attend in person.

(For more information and tips on hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings please refer to [RFBM D1.4.1 – Appendix E – Hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings Fact Sheet](#)).

Out of Session meetings

Out of Session meetings may be utilised for urgent business requirements only. An out of session meeting may be conducted by a circular or an ad hoc meeting, depending on the urgency of the matter and as approved by the Chair.

The process with respect to Out of Session items is as follows:

- requests for Out of Session submission are forwarded to the Secretariat providing evidence of the urgent need
- Secretariat forwards the request to the Chair
- Chair determines if the matter is to be considered as an Out of Session Item.
- item is to be distributed by the Secretariat to all members, noting a required response timeframe.

Where a decision is not reached within the designated time frame for approval, the submission will be referred to the next RBC meeting.

Agenda and papers

A suit of templates has been developed to support RBC meeting administration including a Meeting Agenda and Submission Paper template. These templates are available on the [RFS OBM SharePoint site](#) via the following link

The preparation and issuing of the agenda, submissions and papers will be facilitated by the Secretariat in consultation with the chair.

The agenda will consider the work plan and items nominated by members; inclusion of these on the agenda is at the discretion of the chair.

Agenda items must be provided to the secretariat two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Papers are to be provided to members no later than five (5) days prior to the RBC meeting. Late papers may be considered at the discretion of the chair.

The Secretariat on behalf of the Chair must make the agenda available to members one (1) week prior to the meetings.

Minutes and Recording of Meetings

At a minimum, the minutes of the RBC meeting will note:

- Date, time, and location of meeting held.
- Members, guests, apologies, proxies, and secretariat.
- Key discussion points made by members and invited subject matter experts and related explanations.
- Resolutions, including any actions and an accountable officer.
- Meeting minutes must be distributed to members within 21 days of the meeting.

Digital recording of meetings is at the discretion of the Chair and RBC members however this does not replace the requirement for detailed hard-copy minutes.

Decisions

On consideration of a submission at the meeting, the RBC resolution will clearly state the following decision, to:

- Approve.
- Endorse.
- Reject.
- Note.

Administration

The Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit, RFS will provide advice and administrative support to the RBC.

A record of all agenda papers, minutes and a summary of outstanding actions will be maintained by the groups Secretariat. A hard or digital copy will be provided to the Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit and forward to the Office of Bushfire Mitigation.

All RBC members will be provided with a copy of their respective Local Government Area AFMG BRMP.

Record Keeping

A copy of all RBC documents will be held at the RFS Regional Bushfire Mitigation Unit and will be held for seven years

A current copy of the Regional Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan will be provided to each relevant DDMG within the region for their consideration and potential reference in the District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP).

Reporting and Outputs

All RBCs must provide their plans to the SBC.

The RBC should cooperatively communicate bushfire hazard mitigation activities carried out by its members to the relevant community.

The RBC is responsible for providing data on their activities to inform QFES Operation Sesbania⁵ reporting requirements through their Secretariat and the Chair of the RBC

⁵ Operation Sesbania is the QFES bushfire mitigation planning operation component of Program Grass Tree. Fact sheets on Operation Sesbania and Program Grass Tree is available at Annex B

An RBC is required to advise the SBC after each meeting of the following:

- Meeting outcomes.
- regional strategic priorities.
- issues (if any) that cannot be resolved regionally.
- residual risk.

An RBC is required to report to the relevant DDMGs about residual bushfire risk. The secretariat will prepare a report outlining bushfire mitigation activities undertaken across the region, residual bushfire risk and preparations for the bushfire season.

Accountability

The RBC will report to the SBC which in turn reports to the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) as a part of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements.

The RBC will submit four quarterly reports to the SBC.

Linkages to Other Groups and Committees

All RBCs report to the SBC. An RBC must maintain links with their respective DDMGs. Any issues that cannot be resolved at the RBC must be reported to the SBC.

Chapter 4 – State Bushfire Committee

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

State Bushfire Committee (SBC)

STATE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE BUSHFIRE (SIDCB)

FORMATION	Established by the Queensland Bushfire Plan
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	State of Queensland
MEMBERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chaired by Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service <p>Membership of the SIDCB may consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Government agencies• Critical infrastructure providers• Government owned corporations• Local government representatives• Non-government organisations• Commonwealth agencies• Any other entity or person deemed suitable by the SIDCB.
FUNCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide strategic leadership in bushfire management• Develop and adopt tools and processes to enable consistent and continuous improvement in bushfire management• Provide strategic context to support bushfire planning• Evaluate residual risk issues identified by the RIDCB.
COMMUNICATION	<p>To the RIDCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise RIDCB of strategic priorities• Inform RIDCB of any directions or guidance. <p>To the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SIDCB provides reports and recommendations, where appropriate, about matters relating to bushfire management.

*Above extract from the Queensland Bushfire Plan – Page 13

The State Inter-Departmental Committee Bushfire as detailed in the Queensland Bushfire Plan is known as the SBC as is referred to as such throughout this document and support administrative templates.

Role

The role of the SBC is to provide strategic direction for a coordinated and effective risk-based approach to the management of bushfires across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery for Queensland.

Objectives

The objectives of the SBC include the strategic management of bushfires being collaborative, integrated, risk-based, community-focussed and coordinated as follow:

- **Collaborative** - It will develop and implement collaborative strategies aligned with Queensland's disaster management arrangements as outlined in the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan, and the Queensland Bushfire Plan. This collaborative approach is underpinned by consultation and communication between all stakeholders and acknowledges that the management of bushfire risk in Queensland is a shared responsibility.

- **Integrated** - Integration acknowledges the complexity of bushfire management across multiple scales, land tenures and land uses.
- **Risk Based** - A planned risk-based approach to the identification of bushfire risk areas enables targeted prevention and preparedness activities by informing planning at the local, regional, and state level. Assessing the interaction of bushfire hazard and the impact of hazard characteristics on exposed elements provides a clear understanding of a regions or community's vulnerabilities.
- **Community Focussed** - Community focussed strategies recognise the need for communities to understand their bushfire risk, to enable them to make informed decisions about their role in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from bushfires.
- **Coordinated** - Coordination of bushfire management is facilitated by RBCs and AFMGs, guided and supported by the SBC. This links with Queensland's emergency management, disaster management arrangements and other related statutory mechanisms. This enables improved coordination and recognises that disaster management and associated activities conducted across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery also contribute to the effective management of bushfires.

Terms of Reference (and other administrative templates)

The SBC must establish their Terms of Reference at the earliest opportunity and are to be based on the information provided in this guide. To assist in this, and other administrative functions of the group, a suite of templates have been created for use by the SBC. Utilisation of these templates will ensure governance and reporting consistency throughout the state whilst capturing the individuality of each group. These templates have been made available via the [RFS OBM SharePoint site](#).

Templates available are as follows:

- Letter of Appointment.
- Meeting Action and Decision Log.
- Meeting Agenda.
- Meeting Attendance list.
- Meeting Minutes.
- Out-of-Session Submission Paper.
- Submission Paper.
- Terms of Reference.

Review of Terms of Reference

The SBC is to review its Terms of Reference at least every two (2) years or when required.

Responsibilities

In executing its duties, the SBC will provide direction in making decisions regarding the development of strategies, plans, tactics, and operations for managing bushfire relating to:

Strategy

- Providing strategic leadership in bushfire management.
- Coordinating the development of state bushfire policies, strategies, standards, or other processes needed to support consistent and continuous improvement in implementation of the Queensland Bushfire Plan across the phases of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery that are applicable to State government agencies, local governments, landholders, non-government, or private sector organisations to reflect their shared responsibilities.

- Reviewing the Queensland Bushfire Plan (i.e., the hazard specific plan required by the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan) to meet evolving needs of the Queensland community, industry, and environmental changes.

Risk Management

- Evaluating and coordinating management of residual bushfire risk identified and advised by Regional Bushfire Committees, and to elevate to the SDCG where needed.
- Promoting research into effective methods for the management of bushfire to enable the development of best practice strategies, plans, tactics, and standards.

Capability and Service Delivery

- Supporting the efficient operation of RBCs, AFMGs and LSFMGs.
- Conducting additional consultation with state industry groups, state community and not for profit organisations needed to fulfil its role and functions.
- Forming additional Sub-Committees or Working Groups on specific issues or sectoral matters needed to fulfil the role and functions of the SBC.
- Performing other functions relating to the mitigation of bushfires that may be requested by the QDMC through SDCG.

Governance and Reporting

- Providing reports and recommendations, where appropriate, about matters relating to bushfire management to the SDCG.
- Develop an annual work plan to enable the SBC to undertake its functions.
- Communicate relevant bushfire management matters to relevant bushfire management stakeholders as required.

Membership

The SBC will be comprised of the following Members:

- Assistant Commissioner, RFS (Chair).
- Senior Representatives of identified organisations which may consist of:
 - State government.
 - Local government.
 - Federal Government.
 - non-government
 - government owned corporations
 - critical infrastructure owners and operators
 - Government owned corporations
 - any other entity or person deemed suitable by the SBC

Members will be senior representatives of their organisations who understand their organisation's capabilities, are authorised to make decisions and where necessary commit resources on behalf of their organisations to enable the SBC to perform its functions.

SBC members must have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities to enable the SBC to perform its functions. Members are expected to allocate sufficient time and energy to their SBC duties.

The persons attending as observers under a standing invite are not considered a Member.

The role of Secretariat will be undertaken by the Executive Officer, Office of the Assistant Commissioner, RFS (or suitable delegate if unavailable).

Only Members have the rights and obligations that the role of Member affords, unless otherwise validly delegated in accordance with the terms of reference.

Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Rural Fire Service.

Appointment of Members

The Commissioner, QFES is responsible for appointment of the Chair.

All Members of the SBC will be appointed by the Chair and sets forth the following membership rules:

- member of the SBC will be made up of the persons detailed above.
- the term of appointment will continue until the earlier of:
 - the completion of the appointment term of three years
 - the resignation of the member from their role on the committee or their movement to another role.
- prior to commencement of duties on the SBC, a Letter of Appointment and Confidentiality, Privacy and Conflict of Interest Deed will be issued. These must be executed and returned to the secretariat, prior to commencement of duties on the SBC by a Member.

Role of Members

The Chair will have the following responsibilities:

- manage and coordinate the business of the committee
- ensure the SBC performs its functions
- report to the Commissioner, QFES and the Queensland Disaster Management Committee through the SDCG on activities of the SBC

Members (and proxies, who participate as representatives) will:

- attend meetings of the SBC when requested by the Chair
- provide information from their organisations that contributes to intelligence and situational awareness of bushfire management
- commit the resources of their organisation, where necessary to enable the SBC to perform its functions
- identify where meeting agendas and out-of-session items require wider agency expertise, and ensure that expertise is accessed
- contribute to the development of bushfire plans, policies, strategies, standards, or other processes
- maintain confidentiality of relevant items under discussion
- members must be always contactable
- actively participate in the business of the SBC.

A newly appointed Member will be provided with all necessary and relevant information to enable the Member to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of them while a Member on the SBC.

Delegation

Members may delegate their authority to a party with the same authority as the Member, or a party that is one organisational level below the Member. Further delegation at a lower level is not permitted.

Where the Committee Chair is absent from a meeting, the Chair may be delegated to another member.

Attendance

Members are required to attend all SBC Meetings. Where attendance is not possible, an apology to the Chair will be given. Only those noted on the distributed agenda may attend the SBC meeting.

Proxy Attendees

If a standing member is unable to attend, a senior level representative from within the member organisation may attend. Proxy representation is at the discretion of the Chair.

When the SBC agenda includes the consideration of a specific matter of a strategic nature, a proxy with policy/expert knowledge of the subject matter, may attend for the relevant agenda item.

Through invitation by the Chair, subject matter experts may attend a meeting. Other Members may also request that the Chair invite subject matter experts. Attendance of subject matter experts is at the discretion of the Chair, however, approval requested by a Member should not be unreasonably withheld.

Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. The quorum for a meeting to occur is 50% plus one of the members including the Chair or a delegate of the Chair. The quorum for a decision to be approved at meetings requires 50% plus one of the members present at the committee meeting, including the Chair to agree. If this threshold is not met, the matter is to be held over and reconsidered at an appropriate time. Out of session meetings require unanimous approval of all the members.

Meetings

SBC meetings will be held on a quarterly basis and will run for a period of no longer than four hours. Emergency or special meetings will be convened as required.

An *Annual Reporting Matrix for Fire Management Groups and Committees* is provided at Annex A and provides a visualisation of how meetings and reporting among the various group is proposed.

Virtual / Hybrid Meetings

In 2020, the Australian Government made temporary modifications to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) whereby changes were introduced, designed to facilitate holding online, phone dial-in or a mixture of attendance options (also called hybrid meeting format) to assist members in attend and participating in meetings.

- Under temporary modifications groups and committees can:
- provide notice of general meetings to members using email or SMS text
- satisfy quorum requirements with members attending online or via phone / smart device
- hold virtual or hybrid styled general meetings

assist members to attend general meetings through a variety of offered means including in person, online, over the phone / smart device, or a combination of these methods; to ensure all eligible members can fully participate by witnessing proceedings, moving motions, asking questions and voting.

The Chair is to, where possible, ensure virtual / hybrid meeting arrangement are available to members who are unable to attend in person.

(For more information and tips on hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings please refer to [RFBM D1.4.1 – Appendix E – Hosting of Virtual / Hybrid General Meetings Fact Sheet](#)).

Out of Session meetings

Out of Session submission may be utilised for urgent business requirements only. An out of session meeting may be conducted by a circular or an adhoc meeting, depending on the urgency of the matter and as approved by the Chair.

The process with respect to Out of Session submission is as follows:

- Requests for Out of Session submission are forwarded to the Secretariat providing evidence of the urgent need.
- The Secretariat forwards the request to the Chair.
- The Chair determines if the matter is to be considered as an Out of Session Item.

- The item is distributed by the Secretariat to Members, noting a required response timeframe.
- The SBC will consider the item. A decision will be made once a quorum is achieved; and
- The decision will be recorded in the minutes at the next scheduled meeting.

Where a decision is not reached within the designated time frame for approval, the submission will be referred to the next SBC meeting.

Agenda and Papers

A suit of templates has been developed to support SBC meeting administration including a Meeting Agenda and Submission Paper template.

The preparation and issuing of the agenda and submissions papers will be facilitated by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair.

The agenda will consider the work plan, and items nominated by members; with the inclusion of these on the agenda being at the discretion of the Chair.

Papers are to be provided no later than five (5) days prior to the SBC meeting. Late papers may be considered at the discretion of the Chair.

Minutes

At a minimum, the minutes of the SBC meeting will note:

- Date, time, and location of meeting held.
- Members, guests, apologies, proxies, and secretariat.
- Key discussion points made by members and invited subject matter experts and related explanations.
- Resolutions, including any actions and accountable officer.
- meeting minutes must be distributed to members within 21 days of the meeting

Digital recording of meetings is at the discretion of the Chair and SBC members however this does not replace the requirement for detailed hard-copy minutes.

Decisions

On consideration of a submission at the meeting, the SBC resolution will clearly state the following decision, to:

- Approve
- Endorse
- Reject
- Note

Internal assessment

The SBC is to self-assess its performance against the Terms of Reference and the key performance indicators as determined by the SBC.

The Chair of the SBC is to obtain feedback from the members on the performance of the SBC at least every 12 months. The Chair must provide a summary of the internal assessment findings and feedback to the SBC members.

Accountability

The SBC is established in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan. The committee will report to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) through the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG).

The SBC will submit an annual report to the SDCG.

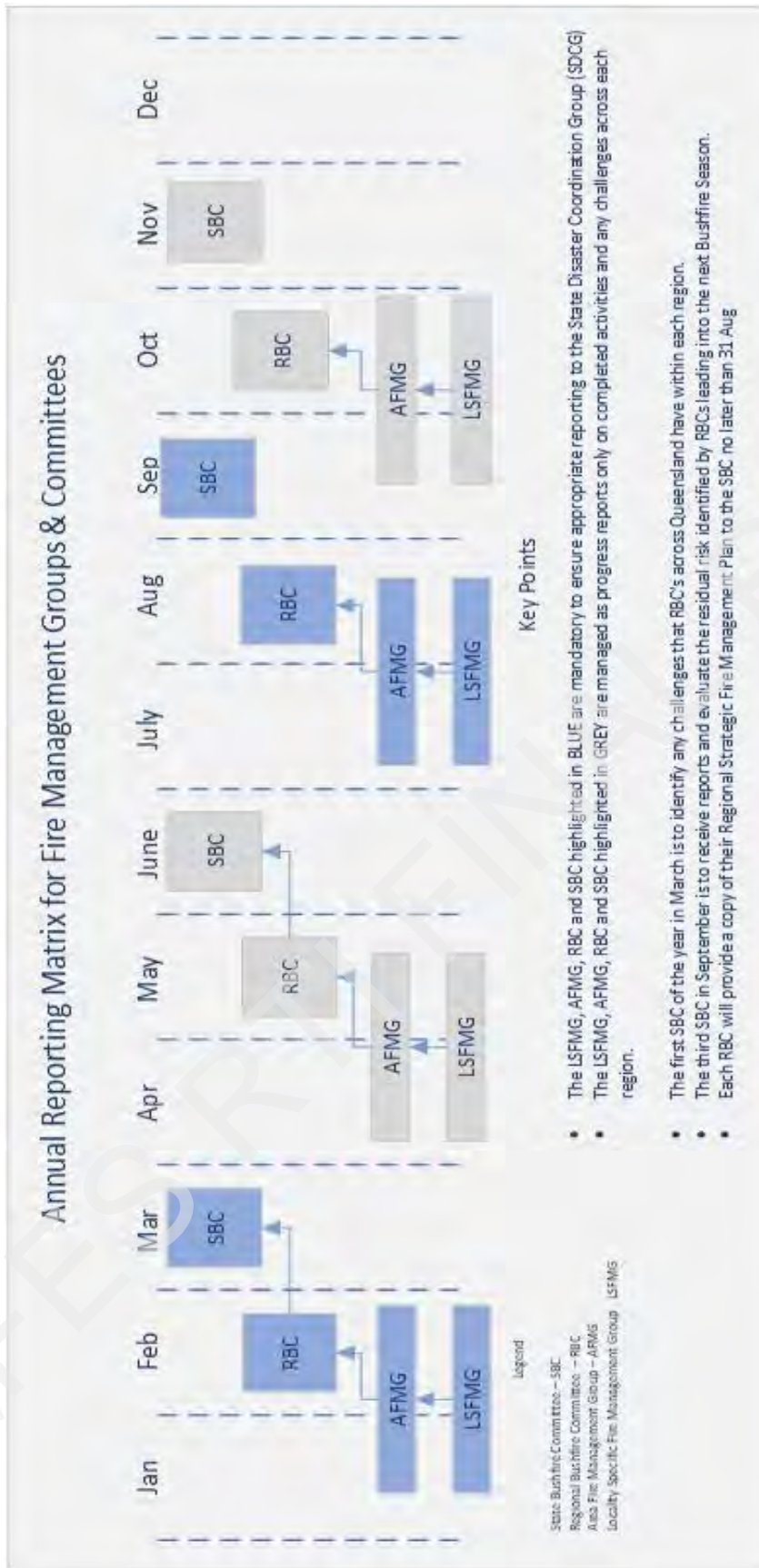
LSFMGs and AFMGs report up to RBCs who in turn report to the SBC.

QFES RTI FINAL RELEASE

Glossary (including abbreviations)

AFMG - Area Fire Management Group
AFMGs - Area Fire Management Groups
ABMP - Area Bushfire Mitigation Plan
BRMP - Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan
DDMG - District Disaster Management Group
DDMP - District Disaster Management Plan
FMG - Fire Management Group
LDMG - Local Disaster Management Group
LGA - Local Government Area
LDMP - Local Disaster Management Plan
LSBMP - Locality Specific Bushfire Mitigation Plan
LSFMG - Locality Specific Fire Management Group
LSFMGs – Locality Specific Fire Management Groups
OBM – Office of Bushfire Mitigation
PPRR - Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
QFES - Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
RFS - Rural Fire Service
RBC - Regional Bushfire Committee
RIDC – Regional Inter-departmental Committees Bushfire
SIDC - State Inter-Departmental Committee Bushfire
SBC - State Bushfire Committee

Annex A - Reporting Matrix



Annex B – Operation Sesbania Fact Sheet

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

On the 15 January 2022, Operation Sesbania will replace Operation Cool Burn. Traditionally, Operation Cool Burn has run from 1st April to 31st August and this was the primary focus period for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners to coordinate bushfire mitigation activities prior to the bushfire season.

Operation Sesbania is about planning mitigation over a period of time and working with our partners, community and stakeholders in an annual implementation plan in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan. Mitigation undertaken in an informed, planned and coordinated manner can play a crucial role in influencing the potential for ignition, frequency and intensity of bushfires and their impacts upon communities. Across Queensland, mitigation options vary according to location and seasonality and will be informed by knowledge of fire ecology and fire behaviour.

Operation Sesbania is the operational component of Program Grass Tree. Program Grass Tree is a three year bushfire mitigation program focused on creating a workable balance between establishing and sustaining a safe living environment for Queensland communities whilst maintaining our diverse vegetative landscape in the face of the ever present risk of bushfires, achievable by way of informed decision making and consultative engagement and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, state-wide.

Queensland's bushfire management arrangements are characterised by partnerships and shared responsibility between land managers, the community, service providers, fire management groups, disaster management groups (DMGs), committees at a regional and state level and government at the local, state and Commonwealth level. Our partnerships and shared responsibility are underpinned by principles which are drawn from the Good Neighbour Policy developed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.



Hazard Mitigation



Public Safety



Collaboration & Coordination



Operation Sesbania

Understanding and recognition of rights and responsibilities of all land managers	The development and maintenance of open, respectful and positive relationships	Open and robust communication	Consultation at all levels and across all partners	Coordination and cooperation	Recognition that effective bushfire management is applied across all boundaries
---	--	-------------------------------	--	------------------------------	---



What's in the name?

Operation Sesbania, is in reference to and memory of three members of Sesbania Rural Fire Brigade who died on 14/11/1954 in Central Queensland in a burn over while attending a grass fire started by a dry lightning storm 160 kilometres southwest of Hughenden. A father and son along with a family cousin succumb to serious burns.



A key component of Operation Sesbania is the inclusion of mapping the Queensland bioregions to each Local Government Area. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) have developed Planned Burn Guidelines across all 13 bioregions.



Capability Integration

Queensland has the capability to coordinate bushfire management activities across the local, state and Commonwealth levels and within various industries. All entities are required to work in a collaborative and coordinated manner to manage bushfire risk in Queensland. This is achieved by undertaking capability integration activities outlined in the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (QSDMP)



Bushfire Risk Management & Disaster Management Integration



Queensland Bushfire Plan



The purpose of each guideline is to support the formation of fire strategies, burn proposals and on-ground planned burn implementation supported by the Planned Burn Guidelines. They assist land managers to:



Protect life & property



Maintain healthy ecosystems



Promote awareness of fire management



Identify clear fire management objectives to address the hazard



Identify suitable fire behaviour, burn tactics, weather conditions



Info & tools to assist in implementing burn plans

RFS.OBM@qfes.qld.gov.au
Office of Bushfire Mitigation
Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services



Annex B – Program Grass Tree Fact Sheet

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Program Grass Tree

Healthy Country – Healthy Interface

'Program Grass Tree is a three year bushfire mitigation program focused on creating a workable balance between establishing and sustaining a safe living environment for Queensland communities whilst maintaining our diverse vegetative landscape in the face of the ever present risk of bushfires, achievable by way of informed decision making and consultative engagement and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, state-wide.'

Background

The grass tree or Xanthorrhoea is very much part of the unique Australian landscape and symbolises a healthy country and a well-managed landscape.

In parts of Queensland there are grass trees that are over 500 years old. As a grass tree grows it develops an outer sheath of old leaf bases that chars in a bushfire, forming an almost indestructible shield. When some species of grass tree burn, they form a dark, deeply pigmented ring of leaf. Some tend to flower after a fire, resulting in a kink in the trunk. Given these specific responses as a result of fire, a grass tree can provide a history of burning activity going back hundreds of years. We too have a history of burning our landscape as part bushfire hazard mitigation.

The grass tree was chosen to represent this program which takes the lessons we have learned over time, applies both modern and traditional bushfire mitigation methodologies, and looks to the future of bushfire mitigation in Queensland.

Bushfires are not just about whether they occur or not – but about their 'regime'. It matters how often they come back, which is in turn is linked to a fire's severity at any given time.

Frequent, and/or severe fires can damage our bioregions and vegetation. In some vegetation, no fire can also lead to a drop in diversity. Somewhere in between these two extremes is an optimal environment, where just the right amount of burning can not only maintain but promote healthy biodiversity.

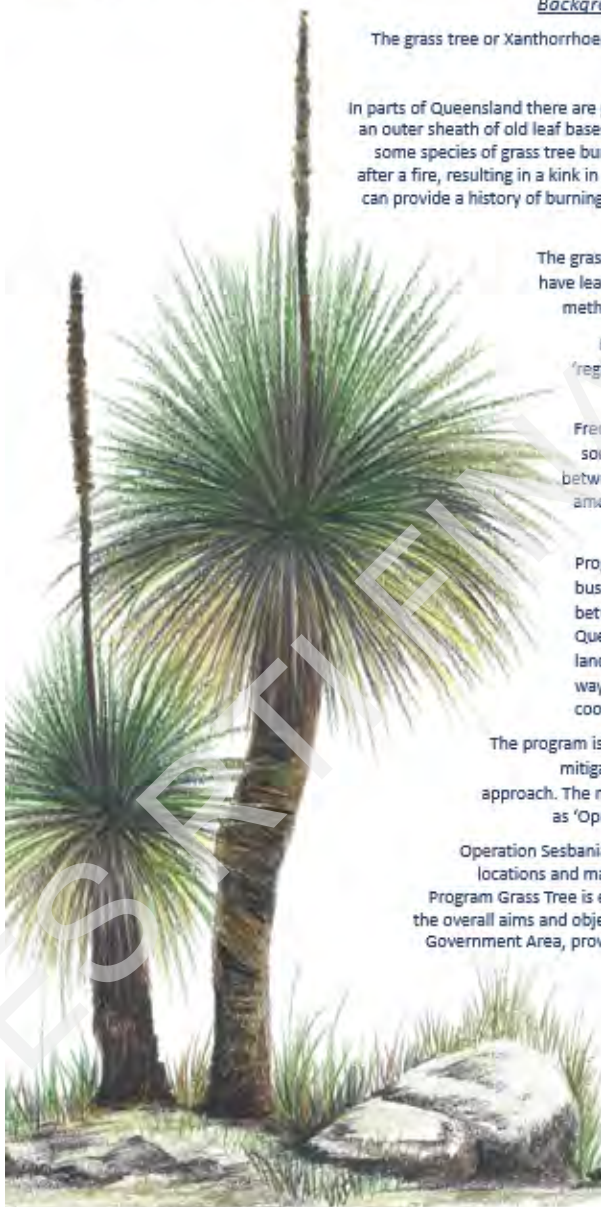
The Program

Program Grass Tree is a three year (partner three-year business plan) bushfire mitigation program focused on creating a workable balance between establishing and sustaining a safe living environment for Queensland communities whilst maintaining our diverse vegetative landscape in the face of the ever present risk of bushfires, achievable by way of informed decision making and consultative engagement and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, state-wide.

The program is empowered by an enhanced bushfire risk methodology where bushfire mitigation is undertaken in an informed, planned, coordinated and consistent approach. The methodology informs the operational component of the program known as 'Operation Sesbania'. Operation Sesbania has replaced Operation Coolburn.

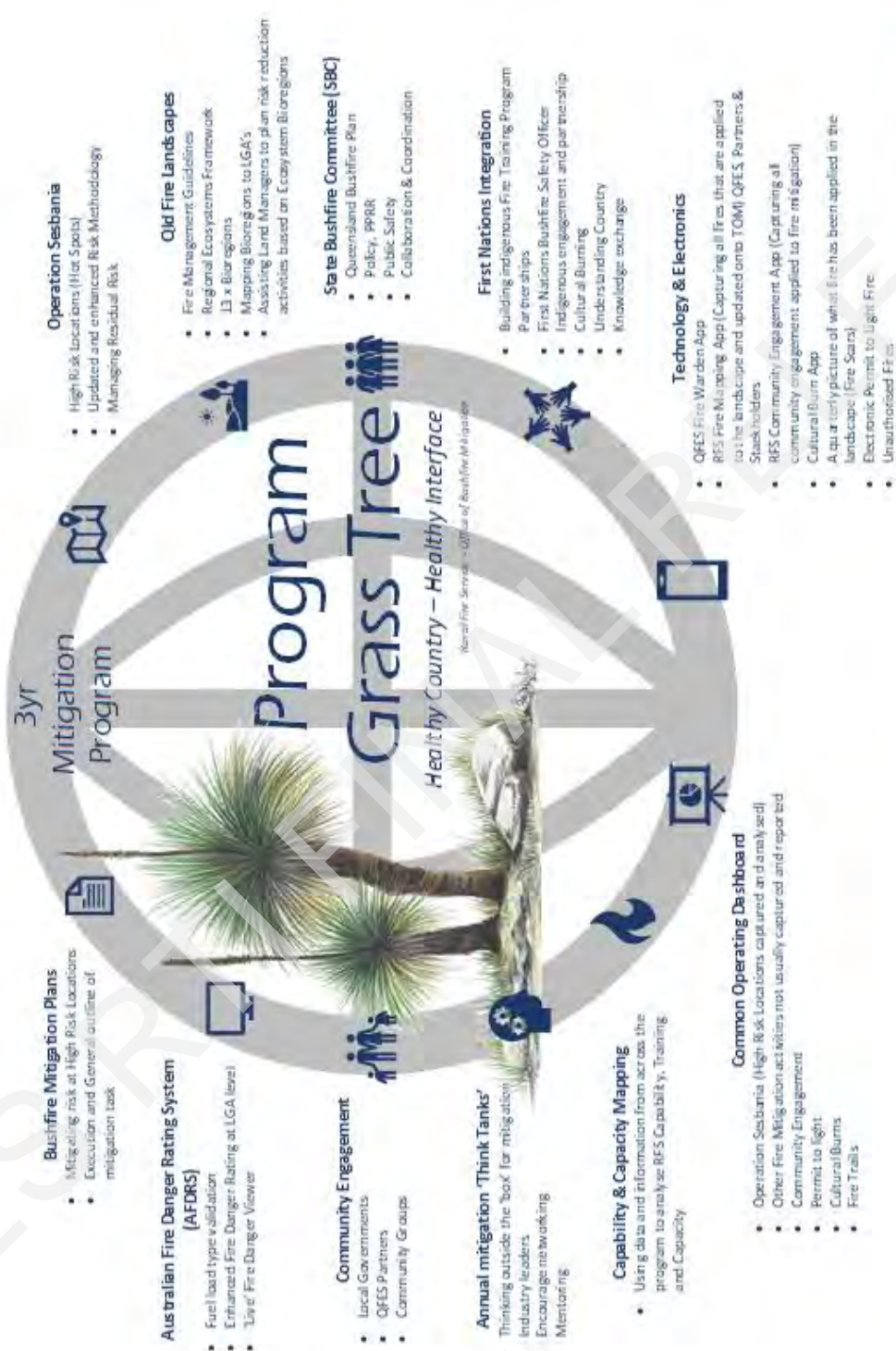
Operation Sesbania focuses on planning mitigation activities in areas identified as high risk locations and managing any residual risk as required. In addition to Operation Sesbania, Program Grass Tree is enhanced by 10 individual separate but interlinked projects that support the overall aims and objectives. These include mapping the Queensland bioregions to each Local Government Area, providing leadership and enhanced bushfire management through the State Bushfire Committee.

Other projects include first nation learnings integration to better understand country and cultural burning techniques, technology and mobile application platform development, information collection, data interrogation and trend analysis, common operating picture dashboards to inform and facilitate enhanced decision making, capability and capacity mapping across each geographical region, annual conferences to encourage 'out of the box' thinking, greater community engagement, and bushfire mitigation planning to match fuel load validations.



RFS.OBM@qfes.qld.gov.au
Office of Bushfire Mitigation
Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services





Abene is a visual representation of Project Grass Tree showing the many sub projects/program/operational activities that will feed into the 'big picture' of all levels being local, operational, and strategic. Should you wish to discuss the body of work with a representative from the Office of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Services, or the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services please contact us via our business account: RES_DBM@qfesa.qld.gov.au

Annex B – Operation Sesbania Information & Decision-Making Process Fact Sheet

Operation Sesbania Information & Decision Making Process

Operation Sesbania is about planning mitigation over a period of time and working with our partners, community and stakeholders in an annual implementation plan in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan. Mitigation undertaken in an informed, planned and coordinated manner plays a crucial role in influencing the potential for ignition, frequency and intensity of bushfires and their impacts upon communities.

A key driver of hazard mitigation is understanding the bushfire risk, which will be informed through a structured process of risk assessment to identify elements of exposure and vulnerabilities within communities.

The Advanced Capability Support Unit (CSU), Community Resilience & Risk Mitigation have empowered the Office of Bushfire Mitigation (OBM) and the Regional Mitigation Team's (RMT) with an advanced platform (Operation Sesbania Dashboard) replacing the Catalyst system that is no longer fit for purpose. The Operation Sesbania Dashboard still recognises the data inputs as per the previous system however it now has enhanced capability of capturing (planned activities, completed activities, & reporting functions across multiple partners and stakeholders).

The dashboard is designed to be user friendly across multiple technology types. The key aspect of the dashboard is its availability to our partners and stakeholders led and managed by the Area Fire Management Groups.

Operation Sesbania Dashboard



Functions of Area Fire Management Groups (Old Bushfire Plan)

- Develop the Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) for the relevant local government area/s.
- Provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss planning, preparedness, prevention, response and recovery strategies to the effects of bushfire.
- Provide the BRMP to the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).
- Advise the LDMG and the RBC of mitigation activities undertaken and residual risk.
- Provide a forum to foster interoperability during response.
- Provide strategic advice to the LDMG in the event of bushfire related activation.



Hazard Mitigation



Public Safety



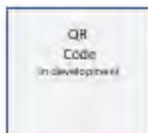
Collaboration & Coordination

Other considerations:

- Identify areas of bushfire risk in particular those areas where there is a threat to people, property, infrastructure and/or other values (environmental/cultural).
- Implement bushfire mitigation strategies.
- Support the implementation of the Queensland Bushfire Plan.
- Establish a Locality Specific Fire Management Group (LSFMG) if required.
- Prepare communities through the dissemination of bushfire prevention and risk reduction strategies, including Bushfire Survival Plans, the Prepare-Act-Survive initiative, and proactive property preparation.
- Communicate the completion of bushfire risk mitigation activities within their area.
- Support and deliver a consistent and collaborative approach to community education activities to increase community awareness and understanding of fire as a land management tool for hazard reduction and other land management activities.
- Provide a forum for clarifying and disseminating information on regulatory requirements and best practice principles for bushfire management.
- Identify residual risk in relation to the bushfire hazard.
- Provide the BRMP to the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).
- Report mitigation activities undertaken to the Regional Bushfire Committee (RBC) and the LDMG.
- Communicate residual risk to the RBC and the LDMG.
- Report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of the bushfire hazard in the region to the RBC.

Technology Supporting Area Fire Management Groups

In Field Burnt Area Mapping



Queensland's bushfire management arrangements are characterised by partnerships and shared responsibility between land managers, the community, service providers, fire management groups, disaster management groups (DMGs), committees at a regional and state level and government at the local, state and Commonwealth level.

Community Engagement Survey



Managing the bushfire hazard in Queensland occurs across all phases of disaster management – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. It involves a wide range of stakeholders, whose collective effort will produce positive outcomes for the Queensland community.

Risk Assessment Methodology Fact Sheet



The collective effort is underpinned by coordination, which is enabled through Queensland's bushfire management arrangements. These arrangements support the development of strategies, plans, tactics and operations for managing bushfire.

Annex B – Operation Sesbania Risk Assessment Methodology - Overview

