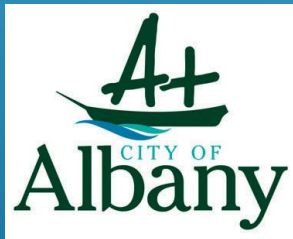




BUILDING BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN



*Shire of Denmark, City of Albany, Shire of
Plantagenet*



Building bushfire resilience in communities – National strategy for disaster resilience

- “State governments and municipal councils to adopt increased or improved protective management, emergency management and advisory roles.”
- Strive to recognize and understand the risks disasters pose to their own and their communities interests.
- Leaders drive development of partnerships and networks to build resilience at government, business, neighborhood and community levels.



What is the “Building Resilience In the Great Southern” [BRIGS] Project?

- The Western Australian and Commonwealth governments have a National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Resilience that delivers the National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP).
- Application was submitted to the NDRP to fund the three local governments to enhance the evacuation planning and bushfire risk mitigation strategies over 8 precincts.
- Aimed to implement sustained resilience or disaster mitigation strategies that directly benefit the WA community.
- This project reduces identified risks and closes capability gaps, in an effort to reduce future post-disaster funding needs.
- This project aided in the development of a rigorous physical risk mitigation program where possible and develops a greater understanding of bushfire risk in the community.



What is the “Building Resilience In the Great Southern” [BRIGS] Project?

8 precincts in 3 LGA's

- Goode Beach (CoA);
- Little Grove and Big Grove (CoA);
- Bayonet Head (CoA);
- Peaceful Bay (SoD);
- Ocean Beach (SoD);
- Weedon Hill (SoD);
- Kendenup (SoP); and
- Mount Barker Hill (SoP).



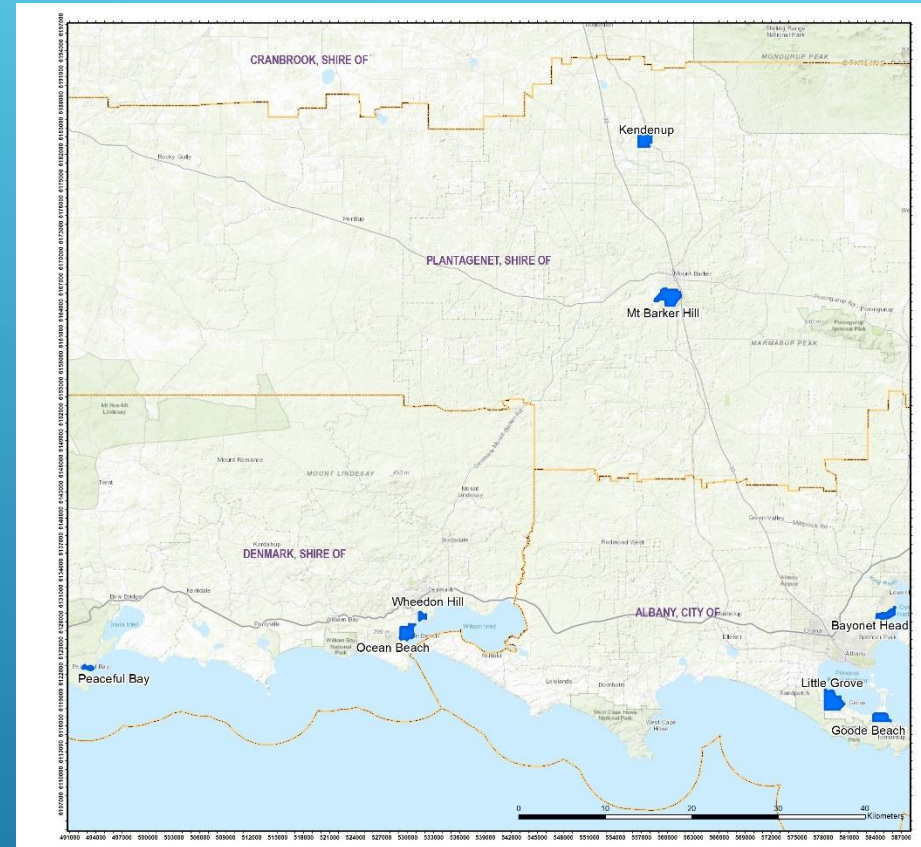
The 8 precincts identified for the project were based on the following parameters:

- High fuel loads and extreme bushfire risks;
- Limited access and egress for the communities to evacuate (one-way access);
- High population density in summer (extreme risk) period
- Legacy planning issues. Communities not consistent with the current SPP 3.7

What is the “Building Resilience In the Great Southern” [BRIGS] Project?

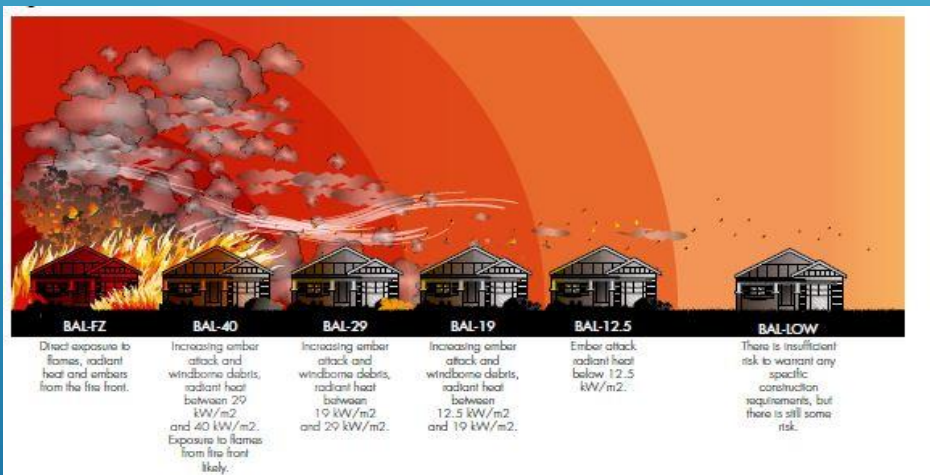
Key processes


- Applying a AS3959 BAL contouring methodological to define and map bushfire risks to our communities.
- CSIRO Spark modelling
- Identification of vulnerable communities where evacuation may be compromised.
- Identifying areas for possible community refuge. Develop Works Programs and treatment schedules with priorities developed.
- Review of gazetted fire notice in each LGA.
- Stakeholder engagement – DBCA, WCWA, DFES, LGA, DoEd,
- Public consultation – during project (in precinct, public sessions and post project through implementation).




AS3959-2018 Measures Bushfire Fuels

- AS3959 provides a measure of radiant heat flux (impact) on a building.
- AS3959 is also used as a planning tool to measure bushfire risk.
- Uses a classification system according to vegetation structure.

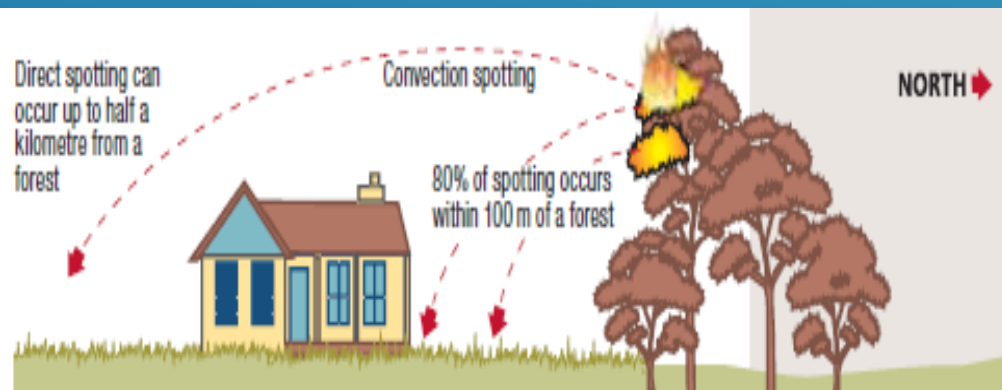
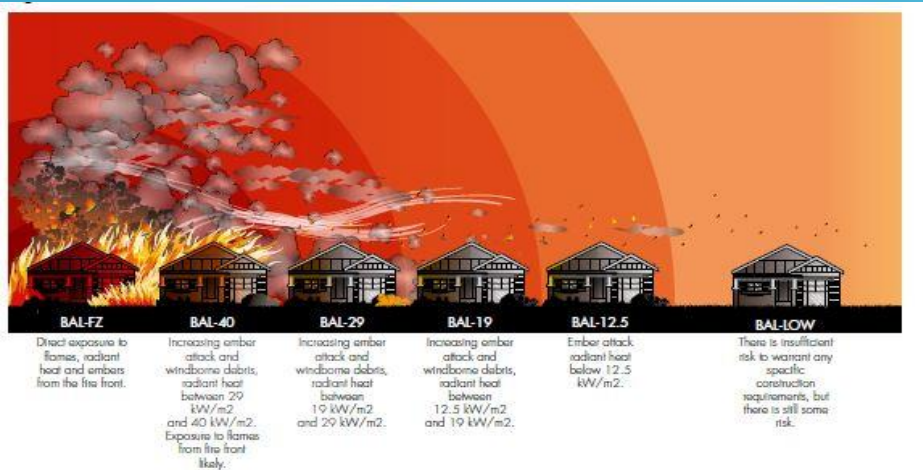


Plot	9	Classification or Exclusion Clause	Grassland Type G
			<p>Location: To the south west, north, north east and south east external to the subject site in agricultural lands. Internal in the north east of the precinct.</p> <p>Description: Grazed paddocks of mixed pasture and unmanaged lots with introduced species such as Kikuyu, Phalaris, Conyza etc.</p> <p>Average vegetation height: 200-300mm.</p> <p>Vegetation Coverage: <10% trees.</p> <p>Available fuel loading: <4.5t/ha.</p> <p>Effective slope: Downslope >0 to 5 degrees.</p>
Photo 1d 44: View to the north west of Grassland Type G located to the west of Mt Barker Road external south west of precinct.			

Plot	5	Classification or Exclusion Clause	Forest Type A
			<p>Location: Located internal and external of the subject site through the central areas of the precinct.</p> <p>Dominant species & description: Mixed Jarrah, Wandoo, Casuarina and Marri low open forest. Includes planted eucalypts and Blue Gum plantations. Overstorey consists of interconnected canopy of Eucalypts with mid storey species of juvenile trees, Banksia, Acacia, Kunzea, Hibbertia, Melaleuca and <u>Leucopogon</u>. Understorey of Kangaroo paws, native sedges and herbs. Multilayered.</p> <p>Average vegetation height: 12-16m.</p> <p>Vegetation Coverage: >30-70% foliage cover.</p> <p>Available fuel loading: 25-35 t/ha.</p> <p>Effective slopes: Downslope >5-10 degrees.</p>
Photo 1d 30: View to the south east of Plot 5 located in private property along the southern boundary of the precinct near Braidwood Road.			

AS3959-2018 Measures Bushfire Fuels

- Once vegetation structure and slope is classified uses a matrix to determine the impact of bushfire onto a building or subject site.
- Fire Danger Index (FDI) of 80.



31

AS 3959:2018

TABLE 2.5
DETERMINATION OF BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL (BAL)—FDI 80 (1090 K)

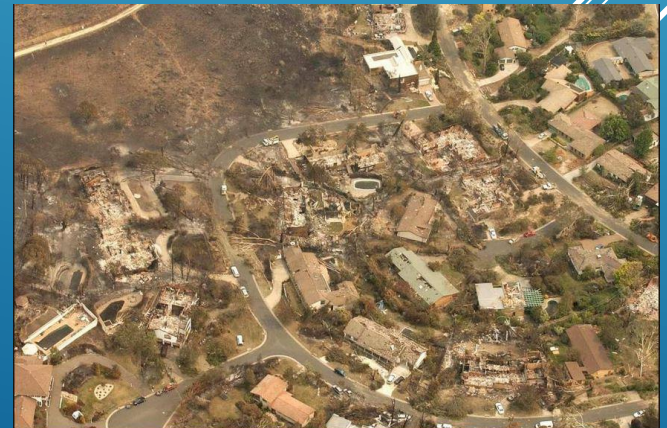
Vegetation classification	BALs				
	BAL—FZ	BAL—40	BAL—29	BAL—19	BAL—12.5
	Distance (m) of the site from the predominant vegetation class				
	All upslopes and flat land (0 degrees)				
A. Forest	<16	16—21	21—31	31—42	42—100
B. Woodland	<10	10—14	14—20	20—29	29—100
C. Shrubland	<7	7—9	9—13	13—19	19—100
D. Scrub	<10	10—13	13—19	19—27	27—100
E. Mallee/Mulga	<6	6—8	8—12	12—17	17—100
F. Rainforest	<6	6—9	9—13	13—19	19—100
G. Grassland	<6	6—8	8—12	12—17	17—50
	Downslope >0 to 5 degrees				
A. Forest	<20	20—27	27—37	37—50	50—100
B. Woodland	<13	13—17	17—25	25—35	35—100
C. Shrubland	<7	7—10	10—15	15—22	22—100
D. Scrub	<11	11—15	15—22	22—31	31—100
E. Mallee/Mulga	<7	7—9	9—13	13—20	20—100
F. Rainforest	<8	8—11	11—17	17—24	24—100
G. Grassland	<7	7—9	9—14	14—20	20—50
	Downslope >5 to 10 degrees				
A. Forest	<26	26—33	33—46	46—61	61—100
B. Woodland	<16	16—22	22—31	31—43	43—100
C. Shrubland	<8	8—11	11—17	17—25	25—100
D. Scrub	<12	12—17	17—24	24—35	35—100
E. Mallee/Mulga	<7	7—10	10—15	15—23	23—100
F. Rainforest	<11	11—15	15—22	22—31	31—100
G. Grassland	<8	8—10	10—16	16—23	23—50
	Downslope >10 to 15 degrees				
A. Forest	<33	33—42	42—56	56—73	73—100
B. Woodland	<21	21—28	28—39	39—53	53—100
C. Shrubland	<9	9—13	13—19	19—28	28—100
D. Scrub	<14	14—19	19—28	28—39	39—100
E. Mallee/Mulga	<8	8—11	11—18	18—26	26—100
F. Rainforest	<14	14—19	19—28	28—39	39—100
G. Grassland	<9	9—12	12—18	18—26	26—50
	Downslope >15 to 20 degrees				
A. Forest	<42	42—52	52—68	68—87	87—100
B. Woodland	<27	27—35	35—48	48—64	64—100
C. Shrubland	<10	10—15	15—22	22—31	31—100
D. Scrub	<15	15—21	21—31	31—43	43—100
E. Mallee/Mulga	<9	9—13	13—20	20—29	29—100
F. Rainforest	<18	18—25	25—36	36—48	48—100
G. Grassland	<10	10—14	14—21	21—30	30—50

How do we get people out

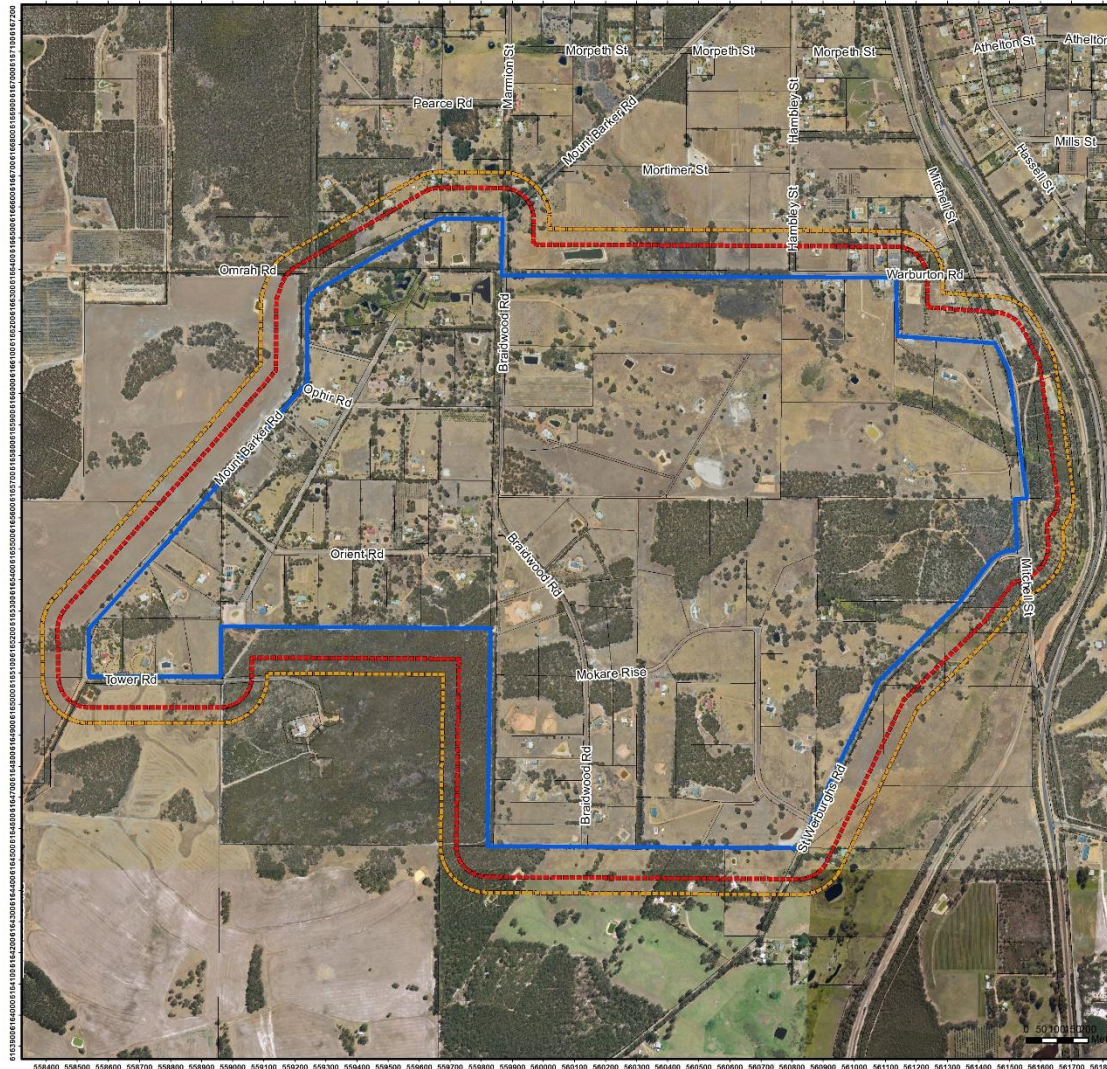
“Bushfire fatality data from 260 fire events from 1901 to 2011 analysed by CSIRO, shows that whilst late evacuation represents the primary activity taken at the time of death, there is a rising trend of fatalities occurring within structures (sheltering in place)”

Need to:

- Examine evacuation travel times and routes.
Bring together studies already done and build on what we don't know.
- If route justified do we have community refuge?
- Is our community prepared?
- Summer visitors prepared? Absentee land owners?



Mount Barker Precinct



This BAL Plan was prepared by:
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 Accreditation No: BPAD30794
 Jurisdiction: Level 2 - WA



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Overview Map Scale 1:100,000

Legend

- Subject Site
- 100m Assessment Boundary
- 150m Assessment Boundary
- Cadastral



Scale
 1:12,000 @ A3
 GDA MGA 94 Zone 50

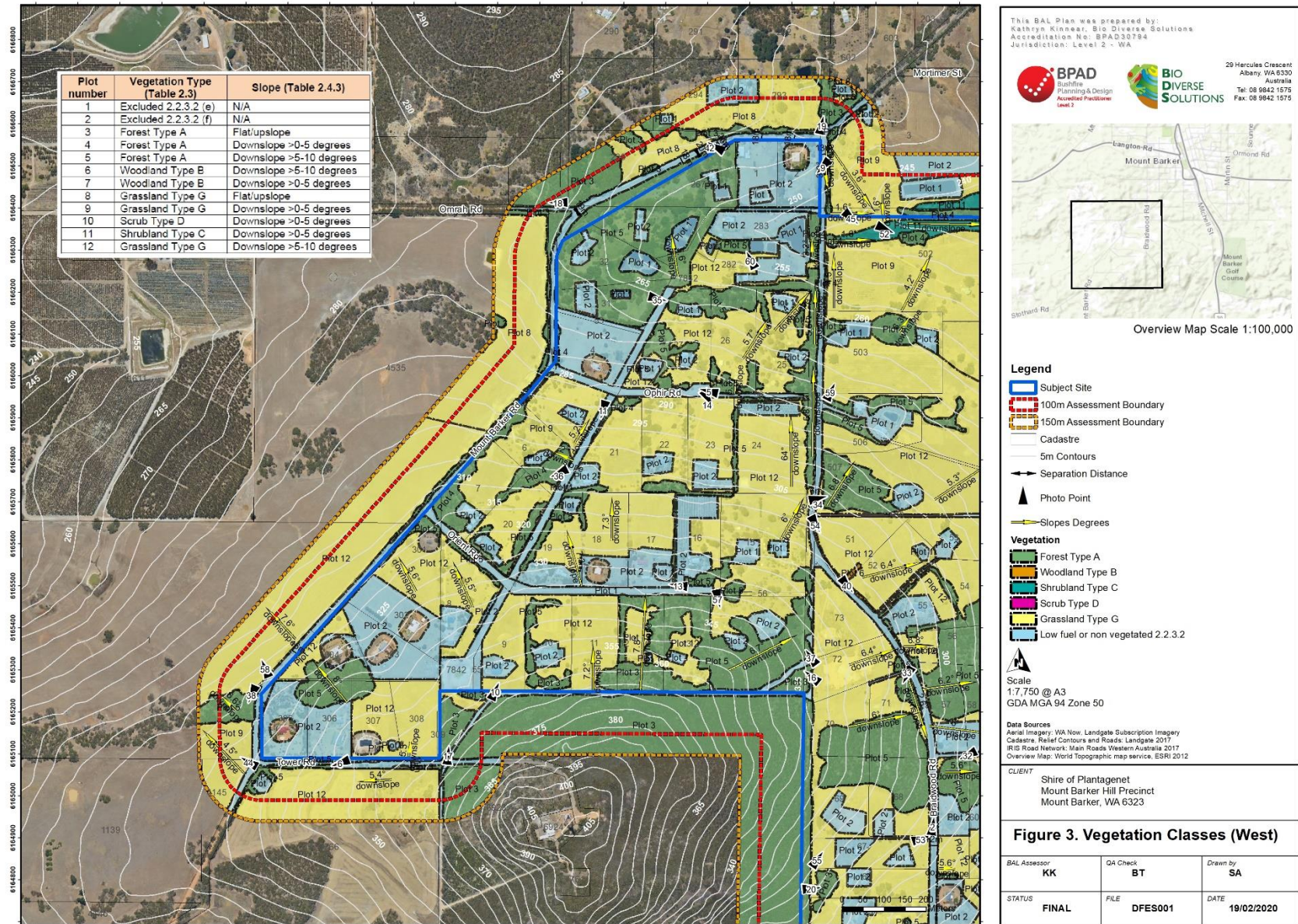
Data Sources
 Aerial Imagery: WA Now, Landscape Subscription Imagery
 Cadastral, Relief Contours and Roads: Landgate 2017
 IRIS Road Network: Main Roads Western Australia 2017
 Overview Map: World Topographic map service, ESR 2012

CLIENT
 Shire of Plantagenet
 Mount Barker Hill Precinct
 Mount Barker, WA 6323

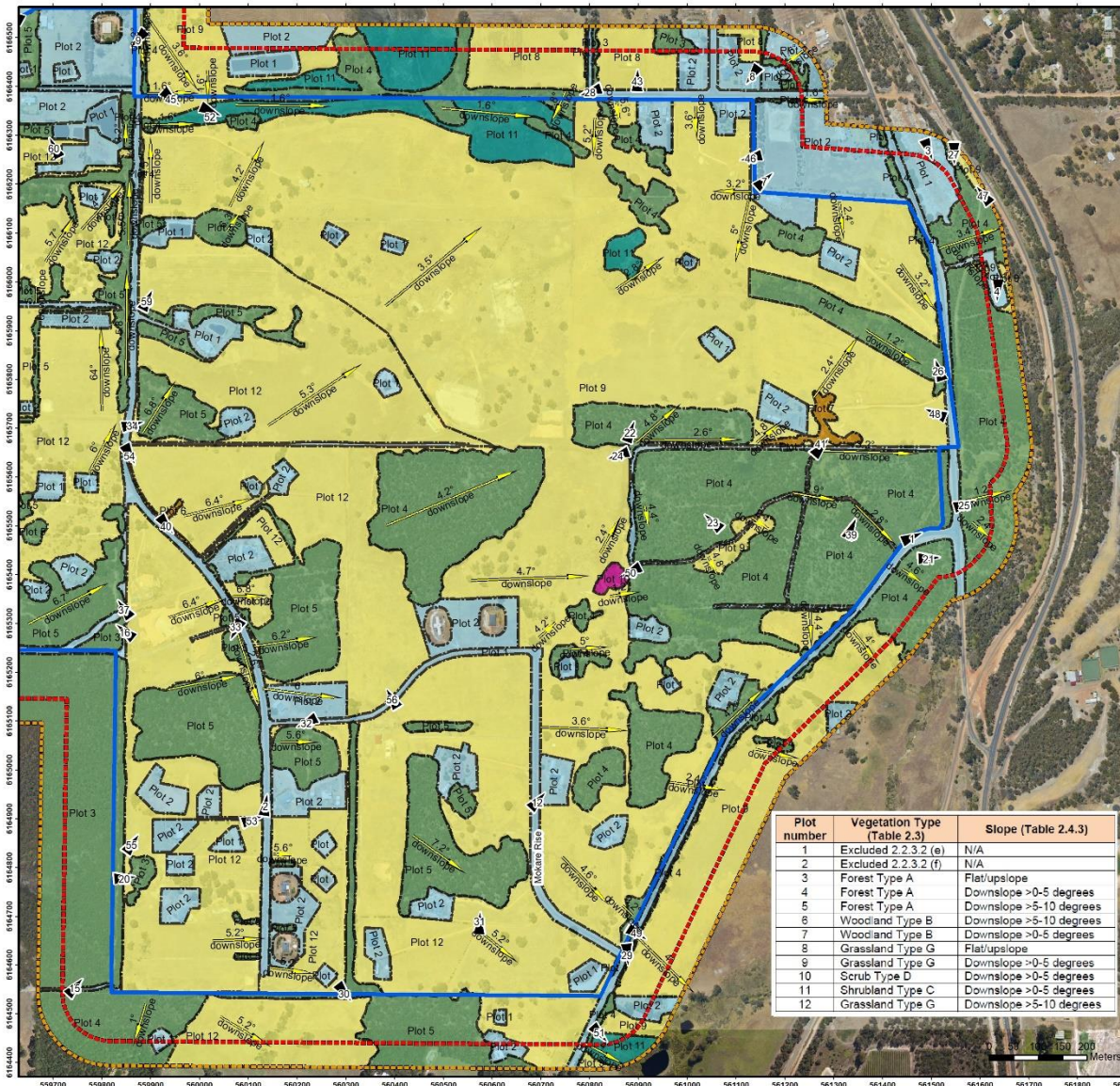
Figure 1 - Mount Barker Hill

BAL Assessor KK	QA Check BT	Drawn by SA
STATUS FINAL	FILE DFES001	DATE 27/07/2020

Vegetation Mapping Mount Barker Hill Precinct to AS3959



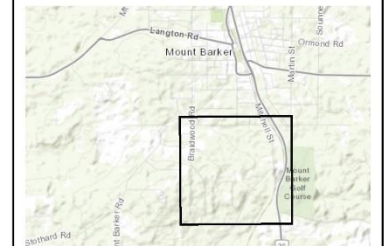
Vegetation Mapping Mount Barker Hill Precinct to AS3959



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Overview Map Scale 1:100,000

Legend

- Subject Site
- 100m Assessment Boundary
- 150m Assessment Boundary
- Cadastral
- 5m Contours
- Photo Point
- Slopes Degrees
- Vegetation**
 - Forest Type A
 - Woodland Type B
 - Shrubland Type C
 - Scrub Type D
 - Grassland Type G
 - Low fuel or non vegetated 2.2.3.2



Scale
1:7,750 @ A3
GDA MGA 94 Zone 50

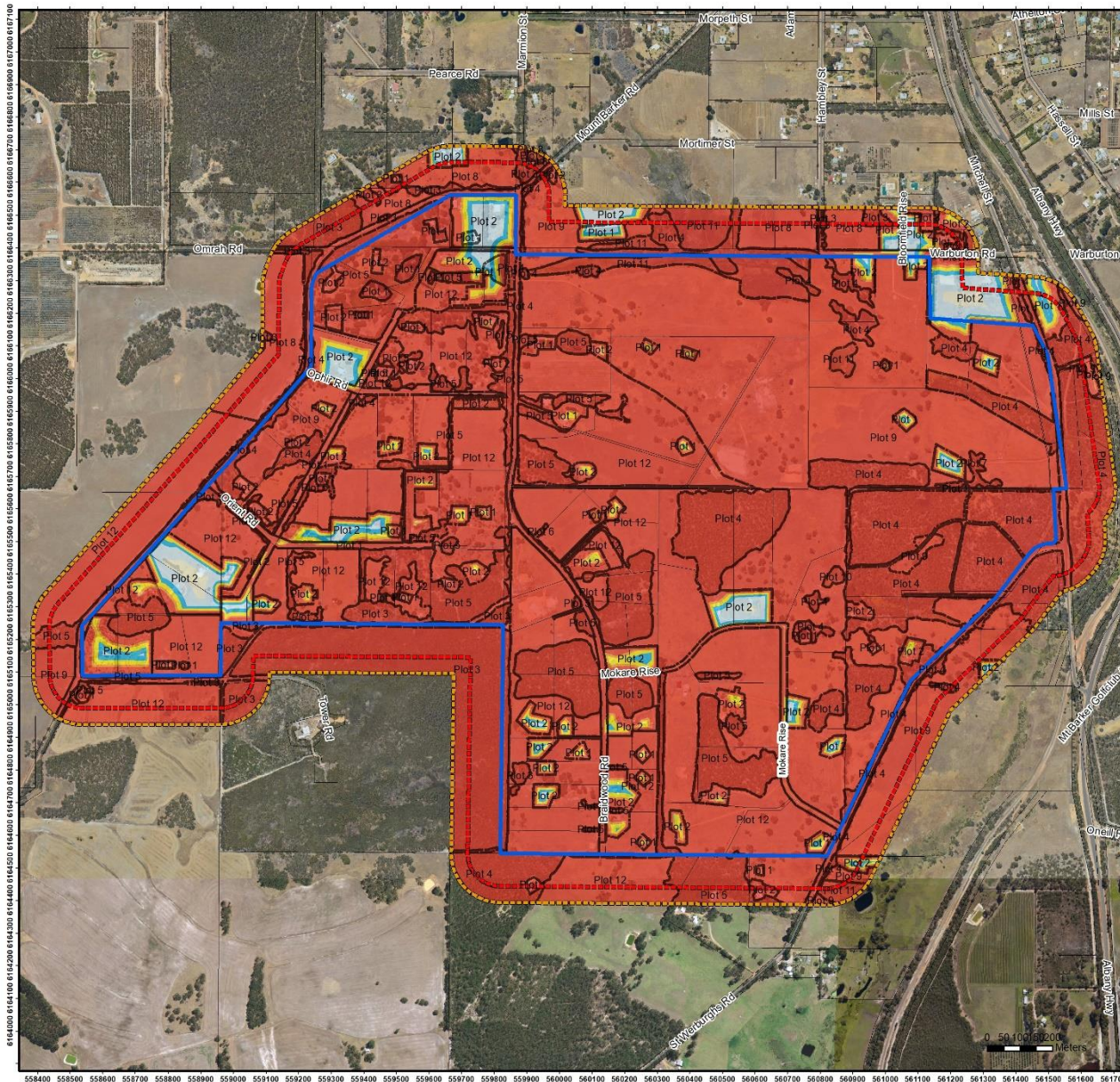
Data Sources
Aerial Imagery: WA Now, Landgate Subscription Imagery
Cadastral, Relief Contours and Roads: Landgate 2017
IGIS Road Network, Main Roads Western Australia 2017
Overview Map: World Topographic map service, ESRI 2012

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Mount Barker Hill Precinct
Mount Barker, WA 6323

Figure 4. Vegetation Classes (East)

BAL Assessor KK	QA Check BT	Drawn by SA
STATUS FINAL	FILE DFES001	DATE 19/02/2020

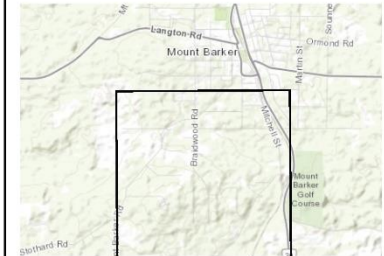
BAL Contour Plan – Mt Barker Hill Precinct



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Overview Map Scale 1:100,000

Legend

- Subject Site
- 100m Assessment Boundary
- 150m Assessment Boundary
- Cadastral
- Vegetation/Plot Boundary

BAL Contours

- BAL-FZ
- BAL-40
- BAL-29
- BAL-19
- BAL-12.5
- BAL-LOW



Scale
1:11,500@ A3
GDA MGA 94 Zone 50

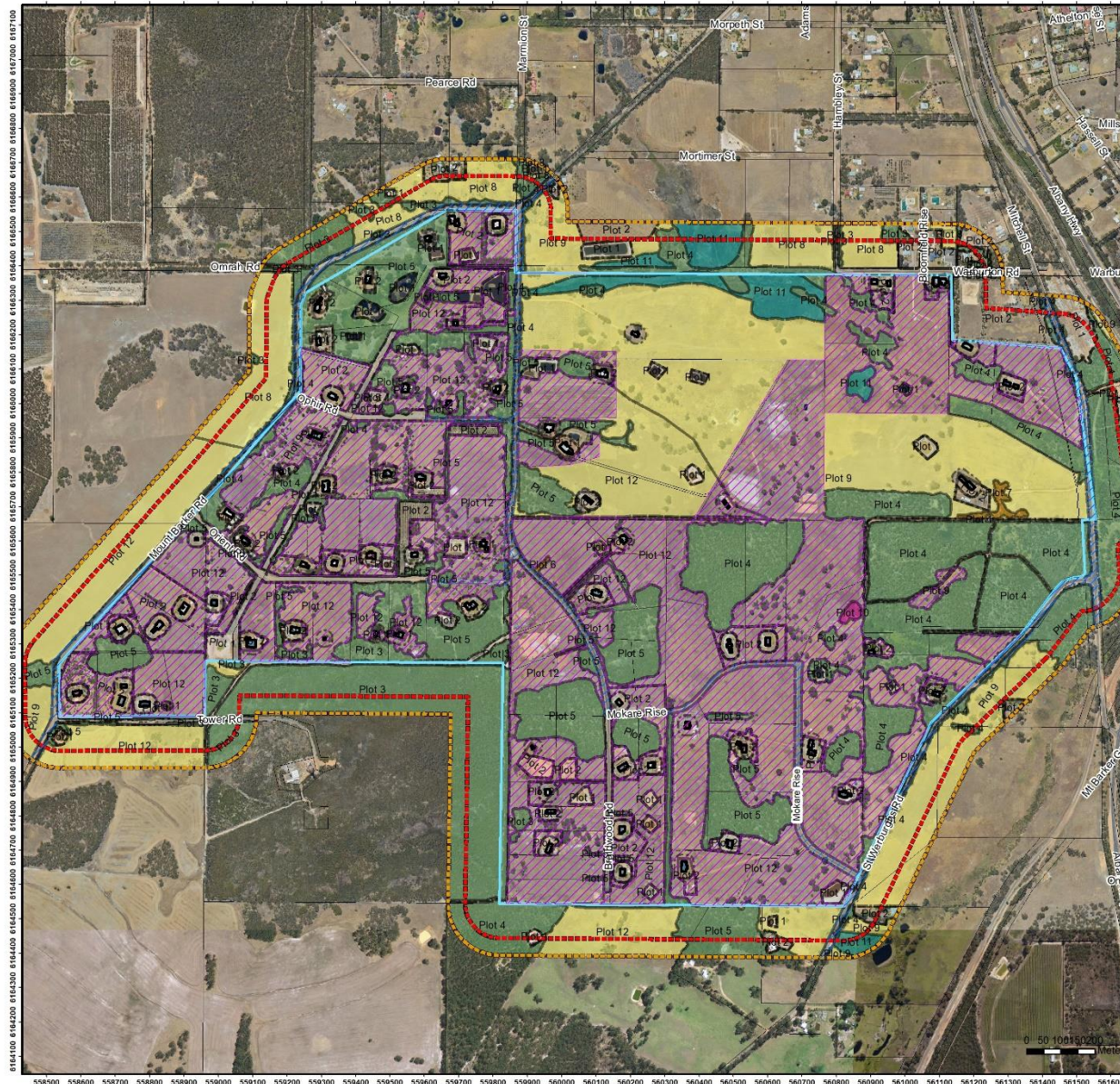
Data Sources
Aerial Imagery: WA Now, Landgate Subscription Imagery
Cadastral, Relief Contours and Roads: Landgate 2017
RTS Road Network: Main Roads Western Australia 2017
Overview Map: World Topographic map service, ESRI 2012

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Mount Barker Hill Precinct
Mount Barker, WA 6323

Figure 5. BAL Contour

BAL Assessor	QA Check	Drawn by
KK	JB	BT
STATUS	FILE	DATE
FINAL	DFES001	21/02/2020

Works Program Mapping



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Overview Map Scale 1:100,000

Legend

- Subject Site
- 100m Assessment Boundary
- 150m Assessment Boundary
- Cadastre
- Existing Dwelling
- BPZ as per BFMN
- Fuel Reduce Crown Land
- Fuel Reduce Grassland <20Ha as per BFMN

Vegetation

- Forest Type A
- Woodland Type B
- Shrubland Type C
- Scrub Type D
- Grassland Type G
- Low fuel or non vegetated 2.2.3.2



Scale
1:11,000@A3
GDA MGA 94 Zone 50

Data Sources
Aerial Imagery: WA Now, Landgate Subscription Imagery
Cadastre, Relief Contours and Roads: Landgate 2017
RIS Road Network: Main Roads Western Australia 2017
Overview Map: World Topographic map service, ESRI 2012

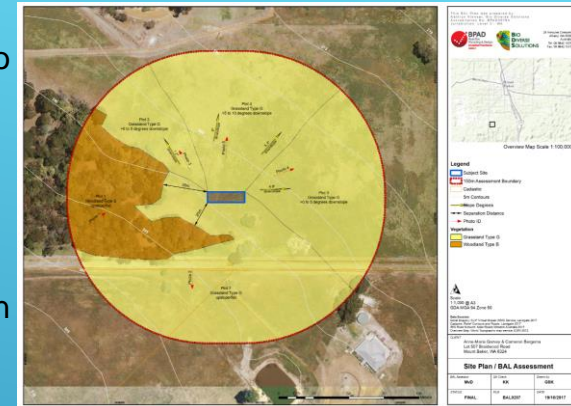
CLIENT
Shire of Plantagenet
Mount Barker Hill Precinct
Mount Barker, WA 6323

Figure 6. Program of Works

BAL Assessor	QA Check	Drawn by
KK	BT	SA
STATUS	FILE	DATE
FINAL	DFES001	20/07/2020

Program of Works

- Applying the SoP Bush Fire Mitigation Notice to the precinct on private property
- Apply BAL assessments for APZs on larger (>2500m²) Special Residential lots to achieve an APZ compliant to BAL 29 or less
- Undertake systematic review of the BFMN
- Retrofitting buildings within the precinct to BAL and AS3959.
- Mechanical fuel reduction in road reserves in Emergency Access Routes to assist in safe evacuation and egress into and exiting the precinct.
- Government agencies and private land owners (larger special residential lots) to consider small, cool burns to assist reduction of fuel loads on private property/reserves and managing of fuels adjacent to other residents
- Linking future public roads, assigning Emergency Access Routes, Emergency Access Ways and Fire Service Access Routes for assisting in rapid flow of traffic in a bushfire emergency.
- Upgrading and/or maintaining access to a minimum of trafficable standards and ensuring turnaround areas are provided to WAPC guidelines technical standards.
- Investigate through Mitigation Activities Funding arrangements (MAF) opportunities to link the public road network.
- Undertake review of scheme text pertaining to the Rural Residential and Rural Small Holdings to reflect the more current WAPC guidelines standards/terminology in relation to bushfire.



Project BAL Build



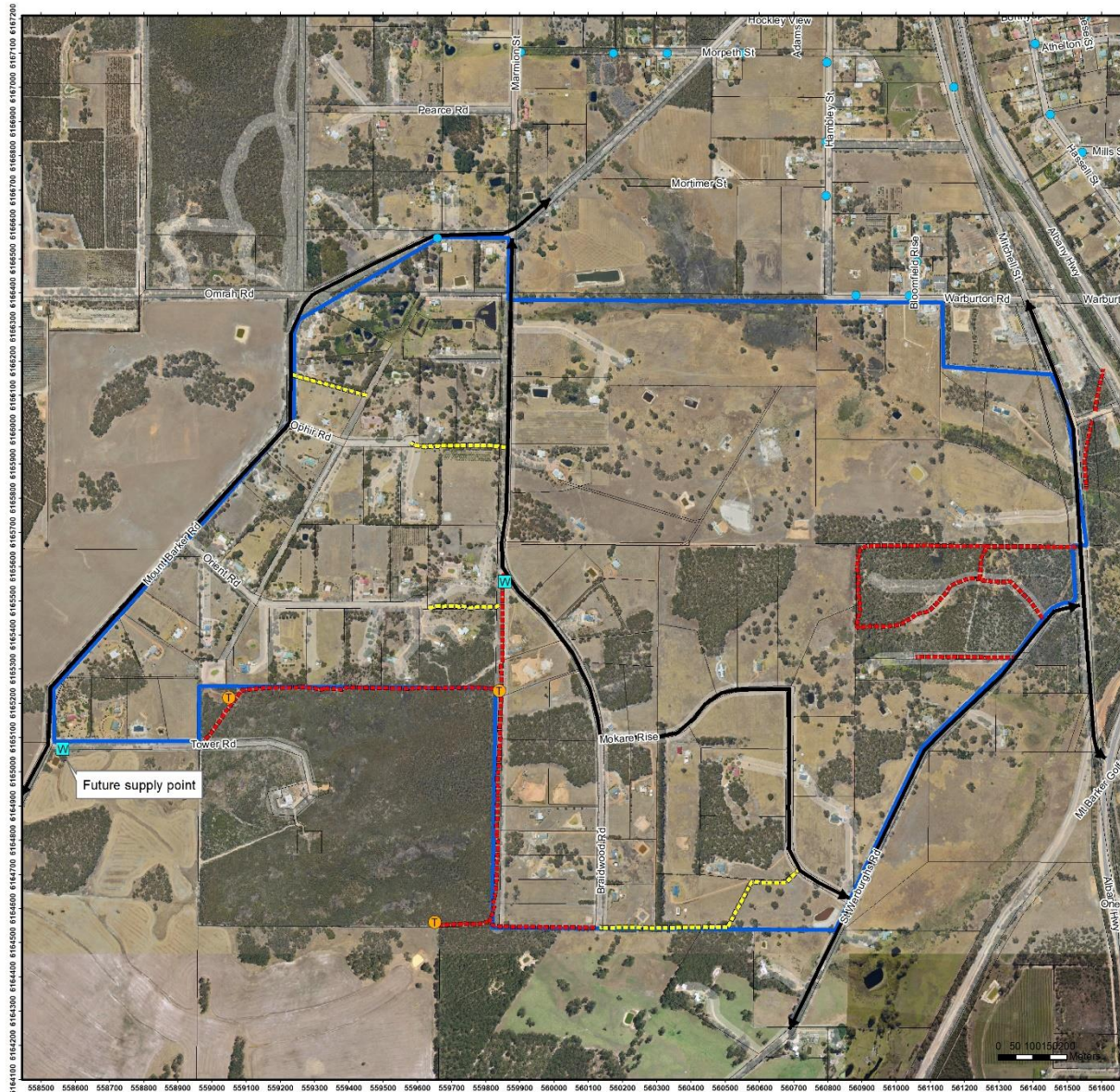
Building a BAL-rated house, like this BAL 19 home, is not as expensive as often thought. Credit: Lee Griffith.

How much does it really cost to build homes that will survive bushfire?

A new West Australian study by Kathryn Kinnear (Bio Diverse Solutions) and Julie de Jong (H + H Architects), Project BAL Build, has sought to address the misinformation and confusion about the cost of building bushfire-resistant houses.



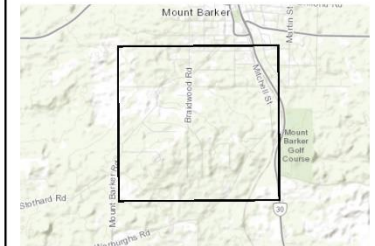
Access and Water



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Overview Map Scale 1:100,000

Legend

- Subject Site
- Cadastre
- Hydrants
- ⦿ Turn Around Area
- W Water Point (Tank Supply)
- ↔ Emergency Access Routes (EAR)
- Fire Service Access (FSA)
- Emergency Access Way (EAW)



Scale
1:11,000 @ A3
GDA MGA 94 Zone 50

Data Sources
Aerial Imagery: WA Now, Landgate Subscription Imagery
Cadastre, Relief Contours and Roads: Landgate 2017
IRIS Road Network, Main Roads Western Australia 2017
Overview Map: World Topographic map service, ESRI 2012

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Shire of Plantagenet
Mount Barker Hill Precinct
Mount Barker, WA 6323

Figure 8. Access & Water

BAL Assessor	QA Check	Drawn by
KK	BT	SA
STATUS	FILE	DATE
FINAL	DFES001	20/07/2020

Water.. Do we have it when we need it?

Precinct	Water infrastructure	Capacity	Location	Comments
Mt Barker	Reservoir Tank	4500m3 225m3	Marmion St	Albany Supply Hydrant pressure Residential Supply

- Water supply through reticulated scheme and three tanks
- power outages anticipated is can be assumed these primary sources may be unavailable during a large fire event.
- A model for water supply for bushfire preparedness is outlined in the proposed PACE model below:

PACE

Primary: Reticulation scheme through hydrant supply.

Alternative: Tank supply and standpipe at Braidwood Road.

Contingency: Shire depot and recreation centre new storage tanks isolated from hydrant supply in event of power failure or supply failure from Albany. Consider developer to provide 150,000L when RR6 area developed in the north of precinct as per the current and endorsed WAPC guidelines.

Emergency: Private tank supply or dams on private property (minimum 10,000L stand-alone supply at each property, camlock fittings).

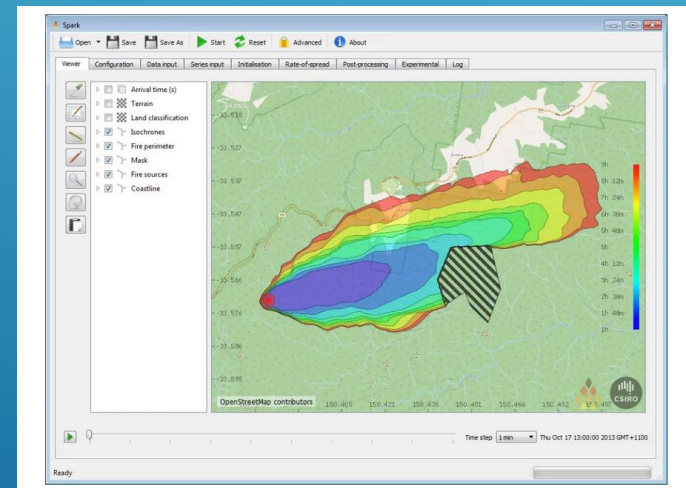
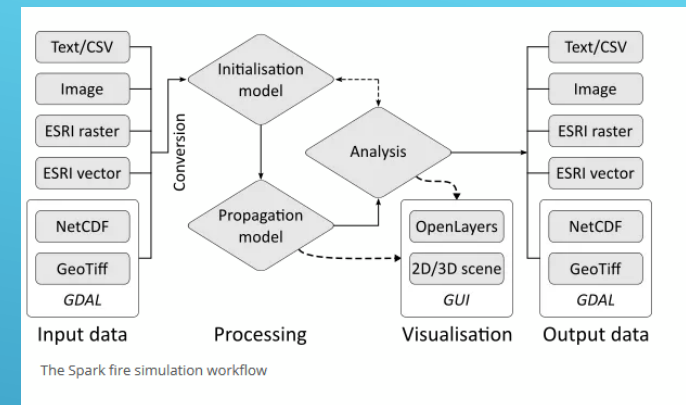


CSIRO SPARK Modelling



SPARK is a system developed by CSIRO that enables the simulation of hours of fire spread at a landscape scale.

- System based on a level set propagation model allowing simulation of any number of distinct fire fronts.
- BRIGS used SPARK to assess the likelihood and consequence of bushfire attack on life and property.
- Undertaken on each precinct for
 - Landscape risk – how large is the bushfire catchment of the precinct;
 - Locality risk – quantity and degree of the bushfire hazard;
 - Building risk – AS3959 to assess amount of buildings at risk; and
 - Analysis of evacuation and refuge options – safer place options within the precinct based on a radiant heat flux of $\leq 10\text{kW/m}^2$.



CSIRO – SPARK burn perimeter analysis

- Fires spreading under a SW wind resulting in the largest impact to the precinct.
- Location of the precinct in an agricultural area, largely surrounded by semi-managed to unmanaged grasslands in all directions means that there are large fire catchments in virtually every direction.
- Primarily grassland bushfire fuels surrounding the precinct which facilitate fast-moving fires - easier to mitigate through regular slashing and installation/maintenance of firebreaks.
- Firebreaks in grassland fuels should aid the reduction of fire spread and therefore the size of bushfire catchment upwind of the precinct.

Figure 4: Burn perimeter analysis (ESE)

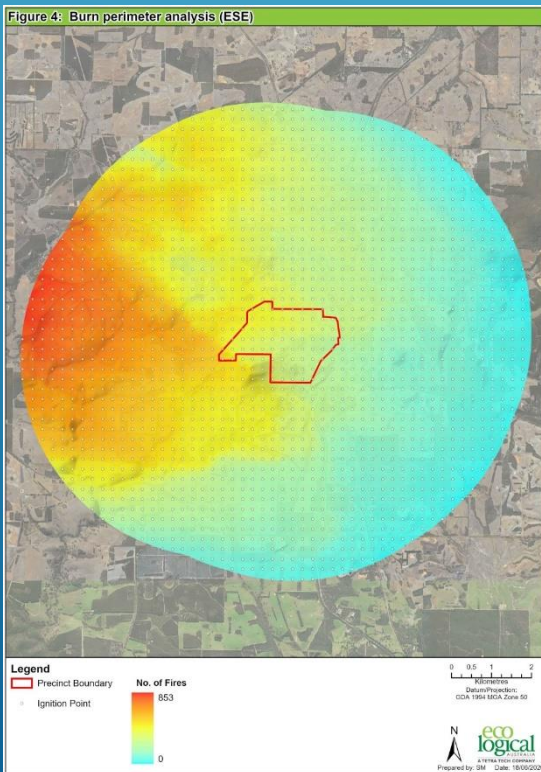


Figure 6: Burn perimeter analysis (NNW)

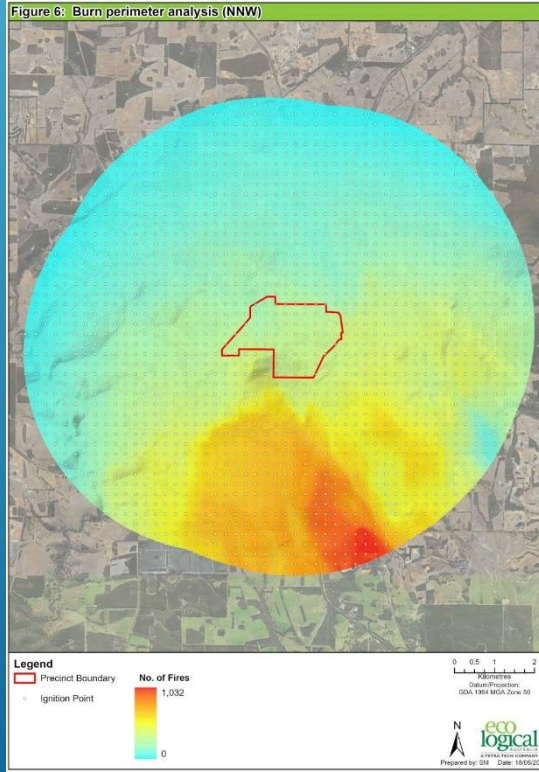
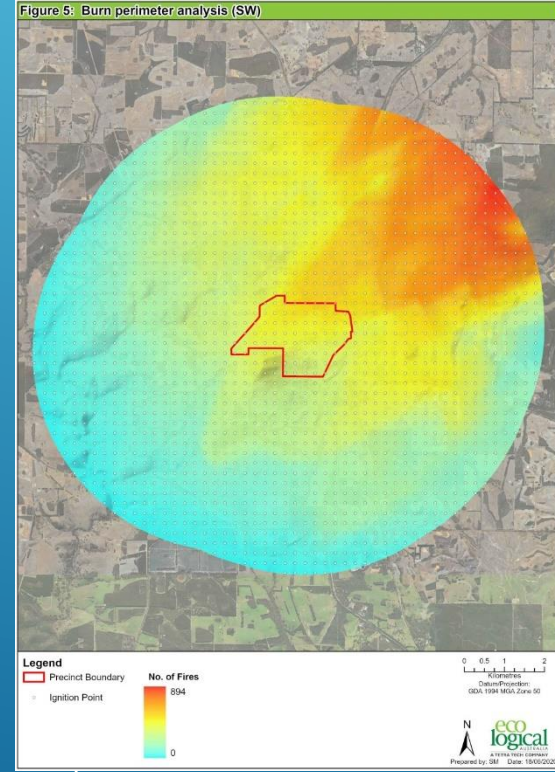
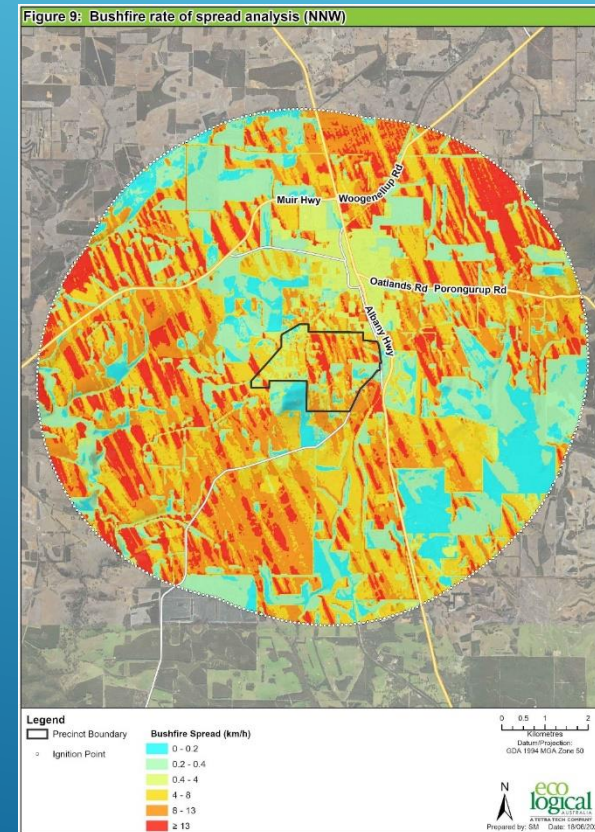
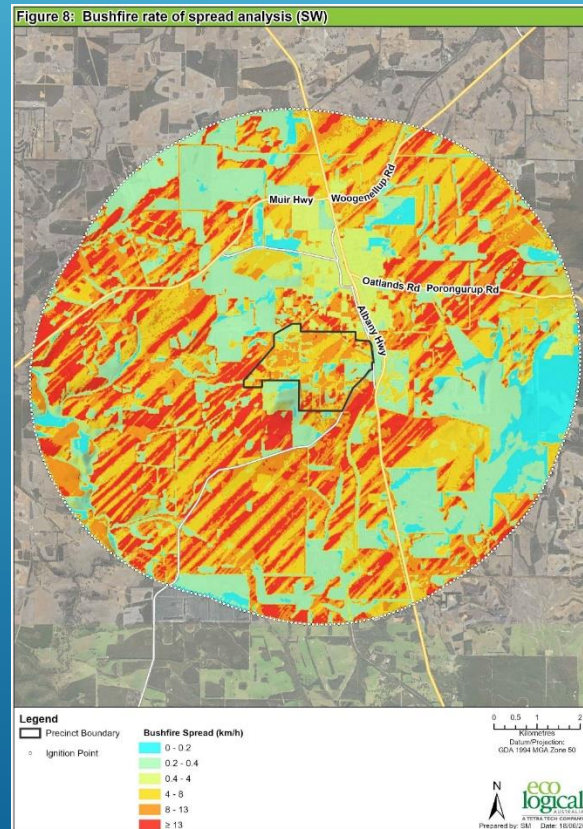
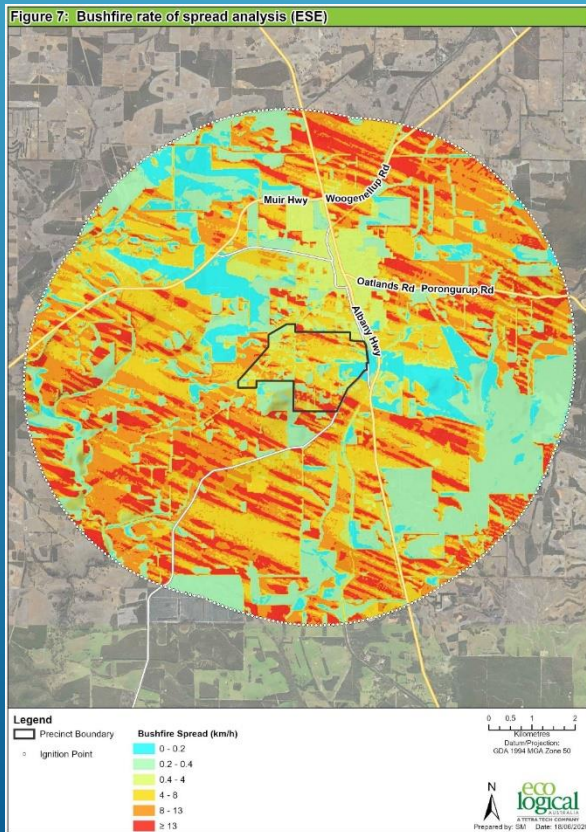


Figure 5: Burn perimeter analysis (SW)



CSIRO – SPARK bushfire rate of spread analysis

- Assesses the potential bushfire spread and speed from different bushfire attack scenarios.
- Provides insights into the potential time to impact of assets within the precinct as well as the road network providing access.
- Fast 'bands' related to the wind direction, topography of the land and grassland vegetation.
- Fast-moving grass fires modelled have the potential to cut off roads very quickly, offsite evacuation may not be appropriate for the precinct under all conditions.



Locality risk for the Precinct

- Results show the potential for high bushfire intensity at the precinct interface under all three wind directions.
- Potential for high bushfire intensities being experienced deep within the Precinct itself.
- High intensities are related to large areas containing grass fuels as well as wooded vegetation in the areas in and surrounding the precinct, which would facilitate very fast-moving, intense bushfires driven by the direction of prevailing winds.
- Results indicate that intense bushfire is possible at all interfaces of the precinct (as well as within). Consequently, the maintenance of existing, and installation of new, fuel breaks (e.g. perimeter roads) would be beneficial to reducing this aspect of bushfire risk.

Figure 10: Bushfire intensity analysis (ESE)

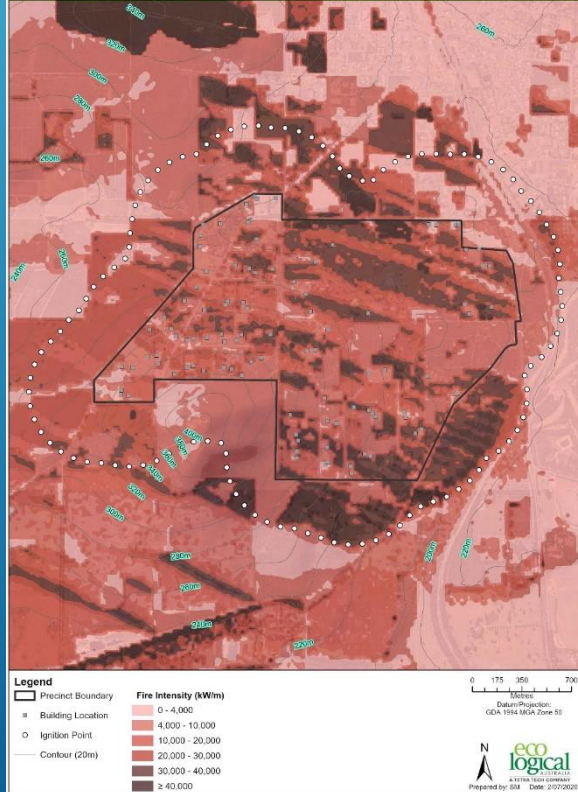


Figure 11: Bushfire intensity analysis (SW)

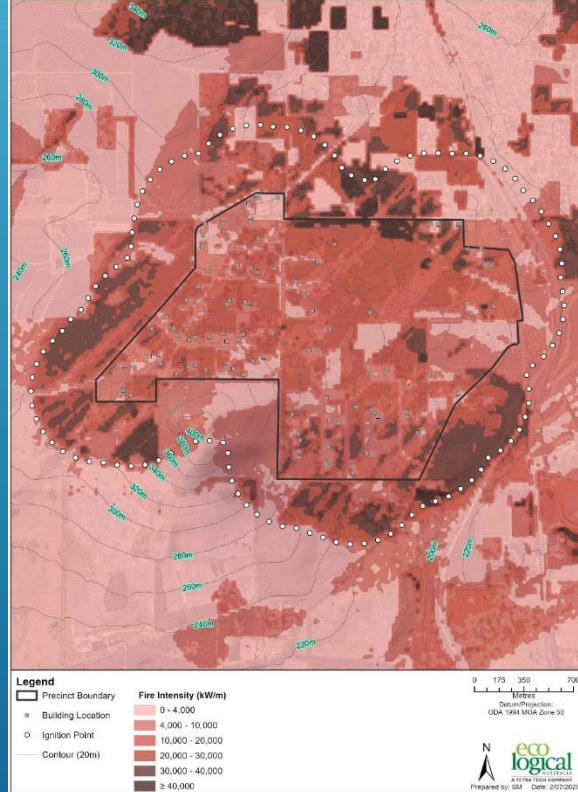
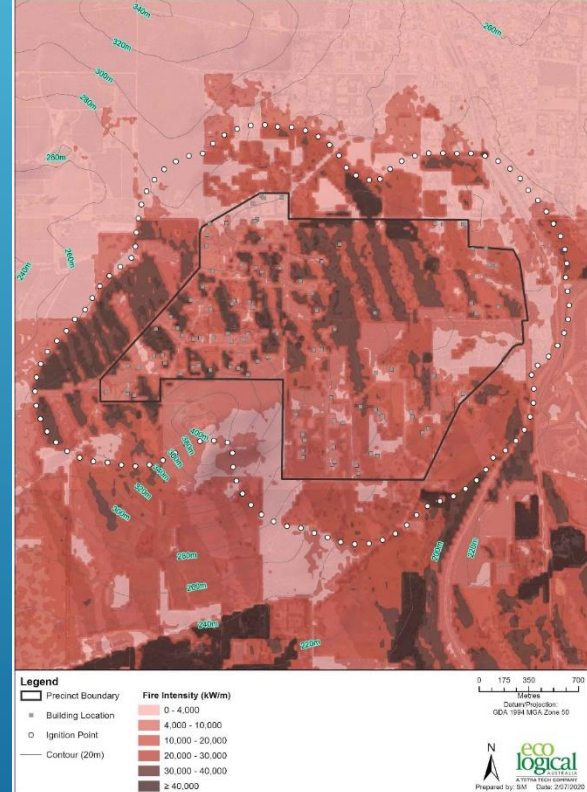


Figure 12: Bushfire intensity analysis (NNW)

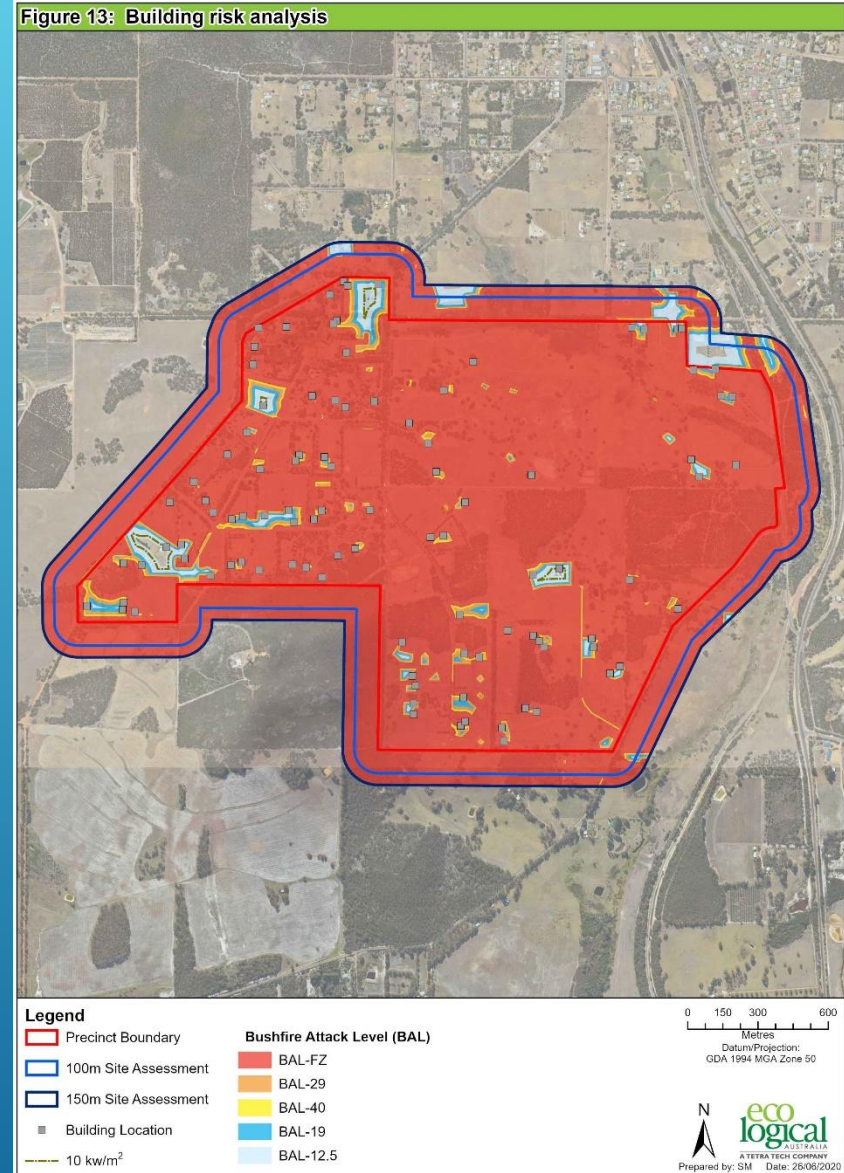


Building risk assessment

- The majority of buildings within the precinct (approx. 66%) occur within areas potentially subject to BAL-FZ (i.e. flame zone) and no buildings were rated as BAL-LOW Caused by the mixture of unmanaged to semi-managed grasslands, shrublands and forest vegetation within the precinct.
- Regular maintenance of vegetation on private properties as per requirements of all private property owners under the Shire of Plantagenet 2019/2020 Annual Bush Fire Mitigation Notice (SoP 2019) would likely lead to a major reduction in building risk.

Table 6: Results of building risk assessment (ELA)

BAL Rating	Number of buildings	% of Buildings
BAL-FZ	66	66%
BAL-40	11	11%
BAL-29	12	12%
BAL-19	6	6%
BAL-12.5	5	5%
BAL-LOW	0	0%
BAL-LOW (100-300 m from hazard)	0	0%
Grand Total	100	100%



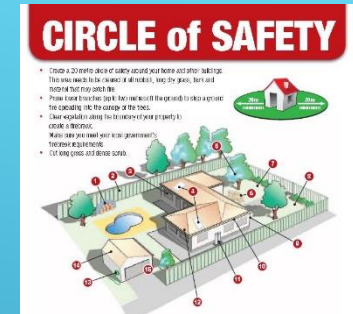
Analysis of evacuation and refuge options

- Early evacuation from the precinct to the Mount Barker townsite is likely to be the safest offsite option currently available to residents and visitors.
- Very fast-moving grass fires could impact on the precinct and roads to the town centre before evacuation can commence or be completed safely off-precinct evacuation should only be at the direction of emergency services.
- Off-precinct evacuation may not be a suitable primary recommendation for the precinct, however every fire is different and if off-precinct evacuation is to occur, early evacuation, well in advance of a bushfire is recommended.
- Consideration should be given to advising residents and visitors to pre-emptively relocate from the precinct if there is an out of control bushfire within 20 km on Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR) days.



On-precinct evacuation

- No area located within the precinct on public land is suitable for a community refuge.
- The precinct is situated very close to the Mount Barker town centre
- Surrounded by/contains grassy fuels that could facilitate rapid bushfire spread,
- Houses not built to AS3959 are not considered a safe sheltering option.
- Management of grassy fuels on private properties and sheltering on-site in a well-prepared and defensible property will enhance safety.
- Homeowners need awareness of the bushfire risk they are exposed to and comply with the Shire of Plantagenet 2019/2020 Annual Bush Fire Mitigation Notice (SoP 2019).
- Residents should be encouraged to prepare their own bushfire survival plan.



1 CHOOSE YOUR BUSHFIRE PLAN

Fill out our quick questionnaire to help you decide whether you want to leave early or stay and defend in the event of a bushfire.

Answer yes, no or unsure to each question.

Q1 Who am I putting in danger? Will any children, guests, dependents, elderly or sick household members leave early and be cared for?

☐ NO

☐ UNSURE

☐ YES



Cost

- Community cost post fire: Trauma, Re-establishment costs and time to rebuild.

"Canberra suffered not just economic loss but significant social devastation. The first person to suffer from the smoke was a 61-year old man in Duffy. He died of asphyxiation fighting the fire in his backyard. Tragically there were also three more to follow, among them an 83-year-old woman and a 37-year-old woman. Many people were affected by depression, particularly those who had lost their homes in the fires. The community began to question the lack of preparation for the fires and the total confusion at the time."

- LGA recovery cost: rebuilding, cost to government.
- Personal cost: trauma and rebuilding.



The red indicates the families and homes destroyed in Duffy



Stakeholder assistance..

Priority and ranking No	Implementation Action	Agency
1	Assist with funding options to private landowners to retrofitting dwellings to BAL and AS3959.	DFES/SEMC & DoHA (fed)
2	Assist with funding options/mechanism through provision of advice to the LGA and private landowners to undertake individual BAL assessments on dwellings to install a compliant APZ associated with BAL-29 or less (where able to achieve) and AS3959 setbacks/APZ area.	DFES/SEMC & DoHA
3	Assist with provision of guiding policy to the LGA on "space open refuge areas" and "community refuge buildings" to assist in development of these areas within the precinct by the LGA/LEMC.	DFES/LEMC
4	Consideration to updating the DFES Homeowner's Bushfire Survival Manual (DFES 2014) or similar public available information to assist with current public available information and dissemination from the LGA.	DFES
5	Assist the LGA through provision of advice on the legal wording in regards to the Fire Management Notice.	DFES
6	Continue to undertake vegetation management to 20m APZ (low fuel) around all water infrastructure within the precinct as shown on Figure 8. Seek adjacent neighbour compliance to meet 20m protection zone where applicable.	WCWA
7	WCWA assist the LGA by providing baseline mapping of water supply to the precinct/greater town to assist with planning, mitigation and suppression activities.	WCWA
8	DPLH assist through provisions of advice to the LGA with planning strategies and schemes to ensure that SPP3.7 is applied consistently throughout the precinct.	DPLH
9	DPLH assist through any scheme review or local planning strategy with advice in regards to bushfire protection compliance.	DPLH

Where to from here..

- How to establish Asset Protection Zones and biological values – talks with the community
- Stakeholder working groups – from established BRIGS group
- Bushfire ready group developed
- Mitigation Activities funding priorities
- Fire control notice review
- Continue engaging with community/precinct



Photo: R.Hedderwick, 2020



Where to from here..lets talk about it its your community..

- Questions
- Suggestions
- Funding options
- Bushfire ready groups
- Stakeholders not considered?
- Next steps from Shire of Plantagenet
- Next fire season 2020/21 preparations
- Feedback on the project

