

# **BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022 COMMUNITY PLAN**



# Table of Contents



01

Acknowledgement  
of Country

02

President's  
Message

03

Community  
Information

04

Learnings

05

The Plan

06

Conclusion



Smoking Ceremony Mural: Artist Kyle Wicker

# Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Dundas respectfully acknowledges both Ngadju and Mirning as Traditional Owners, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



# Message from the Shire President

*Message to be inserted after final consultation period.*



Image by Lynn Webb

# Community information

**An impact report is a way for organisations to communicate the issues they are trying to improve, as well as their strategy on how they facilitated change.**

The Shire of Dundas area is fortunate to be nestled in one of the outstanding natural landscapes in the world, the Great Western Woodlands and the grasslands of the Nullarbor Plain. These landscapes have evolved with and are prone to large bushfires. The old people of the Ngadju and Mirning communities tell stories of fire and used fire as they moved through the landscape.

Our community regularly experiences these fires and in 2019/20, once again communities were isolated, people were trapped, supply chains were disrupted and infrastructure threatened, as the shrub and woodlands including its natural and cultural values were decimated by fire.

After this last fire and in response to council lobbying, resources were provided to prepare a bushfire risk management plan for the Shire and our neighbours in Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie Boulder.

Karrgain story from the ladies of Fraser Range.

*Karrgain godain bal  
nambal nambal,  
eembalalla  
geen geen, eembalalla  
geen, geen*

Karrgain brought the  
smoke  
and the fire,  
the smoke and the fire

# Bush fire risk assessment

A bush fire risk assessment was undertaken using a combination of the West Australian Emergency Management Guide (DFES) and the Guidelines for preparing a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (DFES) to give a holistic understanding of the risk posed by bush fire to things that are important to us and the State of WA.

The assessment considered bushfire risk with regards to people, the environment, our wellbeing and culture, the economy, its infrastructure and public services. The assessment identified 223 “assets” across the council area, these included cultural, environment, human settlement, economic and infrastructure. These risks have been assessed and sit within a risk register identifying their risk level and priority for action.



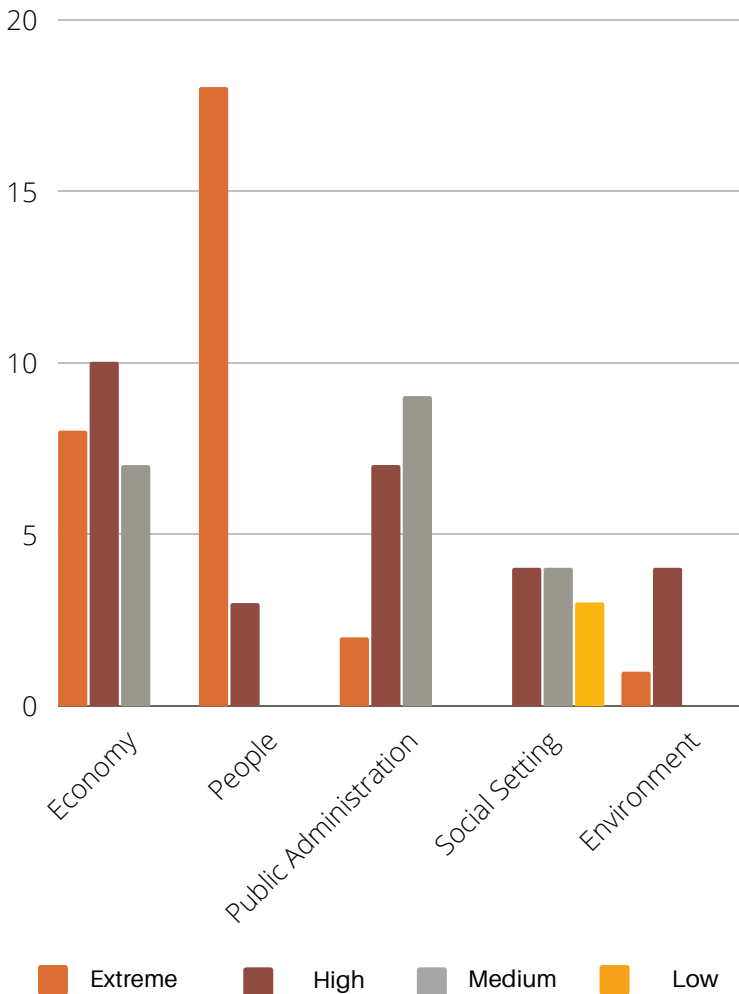
Supply chains were severely disrupted during the 19/20 bushfires

# what we learnt

## 1

### The risks to people were highest and the economy second.

Extreme economic risk is often associated with national infrastructure. Some services to the Dundas community may be impacted by events in other locations. A number of these risks have multiple assets spread across the Council area and whilst not extreme or high rated may not be tolerable to the community.



## 2

### Risks with the highest ratings included

Visitors, miners, prospectors to the areas travelling or staying in remote camps, across the goldfields, parks and highways, and those with health conditions.

People living in or visiting communities of southern Norseman, Red Rocks or Wanteen.

Under prepared fire fighters on underprepared lands.

Disruption to the north south and east west national supply chains of the Eyre and Coolgardie Esperance economic corridors.

Housing loss and excessive replacement cost leading to permanent dislocation of the community.

Environmental contamination from burnt asbestos buildings or mine sites.

Impacts on community wellbeing through damage to culturally important places through mitigation or bushfire response.

Return fire events in woodland regrowth.

Damage and disruption to underprepared communications infrastructure, power supply and water supply servicing the Dundas community and including the national fibre optic backbone.

# Risks rated as extreme or high are a priority for action

Based on the assessment a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan has been prepared. Assets and values and the proposed treatments are captured in the DFES Bush Fire Risk Management System.

The types of consequence that may occur, ranges from the national to the individual, and the responsibilities to manage them include an incredibly diverse group of organisations working together.

Few organisations have the access or resources to achieve the necessary actions by themselves.

## Organisations involved in Bush fire risk management planning actions.

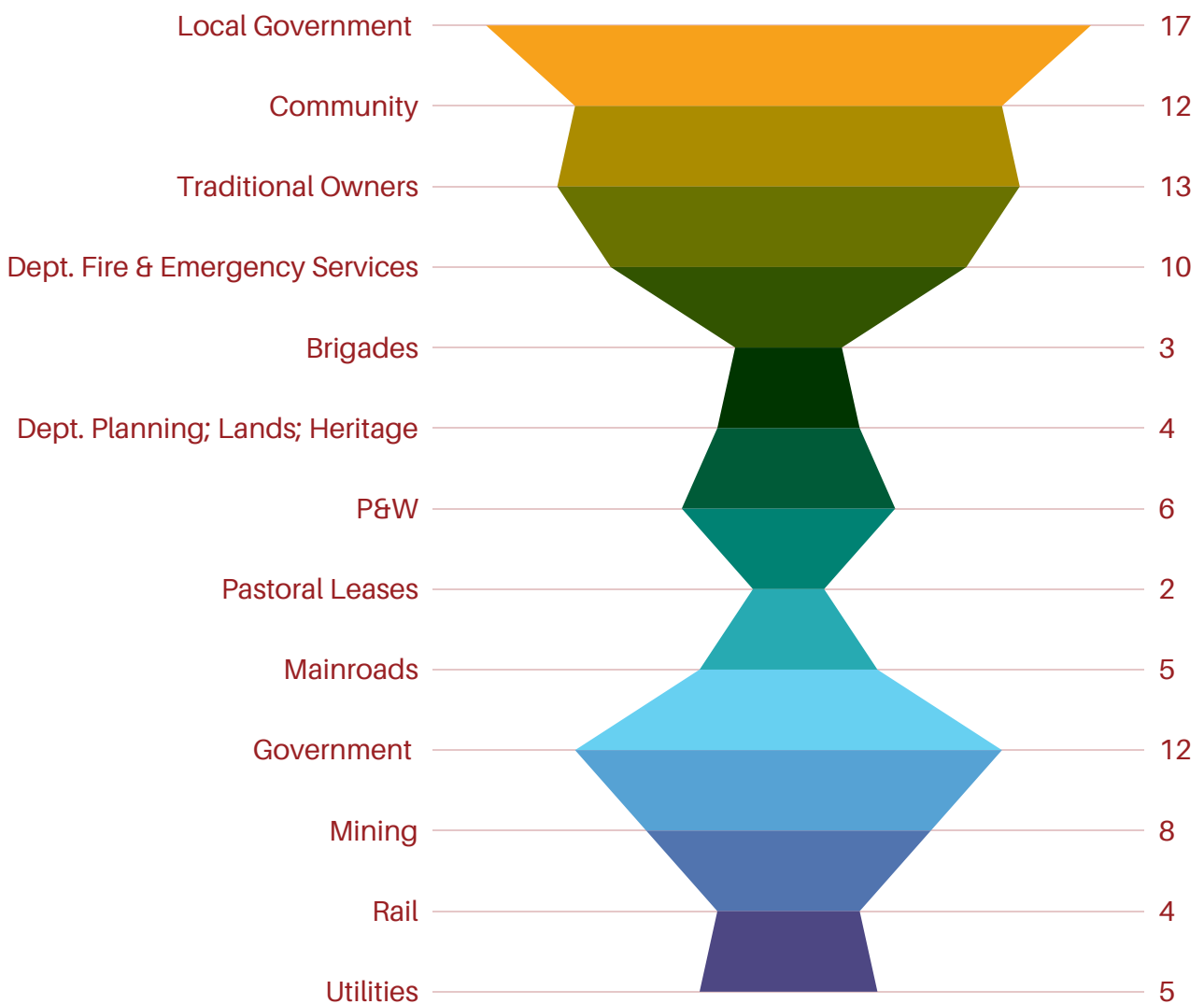


Figure 2 Organisations involvement in the Bush Fire Risk Management Planning



# The Plan

To reduce the impact of bush fires we have established three objectives

Readers appreciate accurate information

reduce



the number of manmade ignitions

reduce



the size of bush fires

reduce



the consequence of bush fires on assets and values

to achieve our objectives

# we must improve

how we manage fire through:



**collaboration and coordination**

between the emergency services, landowners, and occupiers



**increase capacity**

and capability of the response network



**safe access**

to the high fire risk landscape of the Great Western Woodlands



**cultural burning**

ongoing to protect cultural assets



**strategic fuel reduction**

in high volatile shrub landscapes



**tactical fuel reduction**

to protect critical assets and communities

**increasing resilience**

of built asset with high bush fire exposures



**Increasing community capability**

and awareness through education



**business and industry resilience**

through supply chain and business continuity planning

**update of lease regulators assurance practices**

**coordinated regulation activity**

**improving preparedness through response planning**

# bush fire risk management plans

# action plans

	ORGANISATION	ACTION
1	Shire of Dundas	Improve safety of fire fighters through single training standards and fire ground access arrangements for level 1 and 2 bush fires for Council Staff, Bushfire Brigades, Mine Site Emergency Response Teams, Fire Control Officers and Pastoral Lease Staff.
2	Shire of Dundas	Seek funding for a green waste chipper to reduce risk of tip green waste ignition, and support community/business disposal of high-risk vegetation.
3	Shire of Dundas	Establish a program of maintenance and improvement to increase asset resilience of its building stock.
4	Shire of Dundas	Shire of Dundas in association with traditional owners, create asset protection zones on visitor nodes of the Granite and Woodlands trails (Hyden Rd) through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fuel reduction through targeted traditional burning of woodland and shrub communities.</li> <li>• fuel reduction through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li> </ul>
5	Shire of Dundas	Shire of Dundas develop shelter in place plans with residents of Norseman pensioner units.
6	Partnership	Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, in collaboration with traditional owners and Parks and Wildlife and occupiers to enable a safe fire response to state and Aboriginal Lands by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building on existing routes and ways establish a safe network of bush fire access routes for first responders in the Great Western Woodlands</li> <li>• Signposting and mapping such routes.</li> <li>• Maintaining accurate records and data of fire history and fire fuel conditions.</li> <li>• Establish and maintain a mechanism to share with first responders and occupiers.</li> </ul>

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

ORGANISATION	ACTION
<p><b>7</b> Partnership</p>	<p>DFES in association with traditional owners, Shire of Dundas, Parks, and Wildlife, Dundas and Pastoral Brigades and Pastoral FCO's, Mine Emergency Management Teams establish clear bushfire response protocol, guidelines and priority zones to guide response activation to minimize fire spread or unnecessary damage to assets and values for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Places of congregation - Camp sites, transport routes, towns, mines, service centres.</li> <li>• Essential infrastructure - Communication towers, fibre optic, highways, power supply, water supply, railway lines.</li> <li>• Culturally important places.</li> <li>• Environmentally sensitive places - Mallee fowl habitat, old growth woodland, woodlands regrowth &lt; 20 years, Lake Johnstone, and Fraser Range environmental areas.</li> <li>• Economic drivers and infrastructure - Pastoral leases, tourist routes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8</b> Partnership</p>	<p>The Shire of Dundas work with DFES, Parks and Wildlife, Pantoro Mine and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to establish and maintain settlement ring fire breaks at Norseman, Eucla and Red Rocks.</p>
<p><b>9</b> Partnership</p>	<p>DFES, Shire of Dundas, neighbouring councils, Parks and Wildlife, Main Roads, DMIRS, regional tourism bodies, freight and logistics council work together for a consistent and targeted bushfire regulation and education program for road and rail users.</p>
<p><b>10</b> Partnership</p>	<p>DFES, Shire of Dundas and employers enable fire fighters and Chief, deputy, and fire control officers to acquire and maintain appropriate training and accreditation for their roles.</p>

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

ORGANISATION	ACTION
<p><b>11</b> Partnership</p>	<p>DFES and Shire of Dundas build community capability at Norseman, Eucla, Red Rocks and Nullarbor Service Centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the bushfire risk in Shire of Dundas.</li> <li>• Maintain fire resilient properties.</li> <li>• Develop personal resilience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12</b> Partnership</p>	<p>DFES, Department of Planning Land and Heritage and Shire of Dundas work with residents of Red Rocks and Wanteen to establish evacuation plans.</p>
<p><b>13</b> Partnership</p>	<p>Shire of Dundas and Shire of Kondinin create and exercise evacuation plans for visitor sites on the Hyden Norseman Road.</p>
<p><b>14</b> Partnership</p>	<p>ARTC, Shire of Dundas, Main Roads and the Freight and Logistics Council advocate for resources and investment in high priority locations of potential supply chain disruption.</p>
<p><b>15</b> Partnership</p>	<p>The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in association with traditional owners, DFES undertake vegetation management on hazard separation zones on township unmanaged reserves and UCL at Norseman;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fuel reduction through mechanical means of house blocks prior to the restricted period;</li> <li>• fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities; and</li> <li>• fuel reduction through targeted traditional burning of woodland and hummock grass communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>16</b> Partnership</p>	<p>Shire of Dundas in association with traditional owners, undertake vegetation management on asset management and hazard separation zones abutting the tip and cemetery at Norseman, areas abutting Norseman town fire break, Telegraph Track (west of lake), Dundas Rocks Track through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fuel reduction through targeted traditional burning of woodland communities</li> <li>• fuel reduction through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li> </ul>

# bush fire risk management plans action plans continued

## ORGANISATION ACTION

### 17 Partnership

Small Business Development Corp and DFES build business and industry capability in the Shire to;

- Understand the bush fire risk in Shire of Dundas.
- Understand the fire management responsibilities of occupiers, asset and business owners.
- Maintain fire resilient properties.
- Develop business continuity plans.

### 18 Partnership

Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, in collaboration with traditional owners and Parks and Wildlife and occupiers reduce the risk of large landscape wildfires impacting values and assets by develop and implement an ongoing landscape fuel reduction program that targets highly volatile Scrub lands in the west of the Shire and Mallee landscapes in the east and the south.

### 19 Advocacy

Homeowners and landlords to establish a program of maintenance and improvement to increase asset resilience of its building stock.



# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

### ORGANISATION ACTION

20

Advocacy

Main Roads work with the Federal Government to improve bushfire safety on the Eyre Highway corridor through

- limiting camping to the reserve area,
- regulate campfire use
- establishing unique parking site identifiers (similar to Beach Emergency Network (BEN) system)
- establishing clearly identified turnaround points suitable for heavy vehicles up to Class 12 (triple trailers) west of Balladonia
- Create asset protection zone
  - ➔ Removing fine fuels from road side shoulders to 5 meters.
  - ➔ Fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities.
  - ➔ Fuel reduction through shrubland communities
    - Identify and remove hazardous trees within 2 tree length of highway.
- Establish and maintain fire danger rating signage
- In association with WAPoI, DFES and Shire of Dundas establish a Bushfire response protocol, diversion and evacuation plan.

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued



### 21 Advocacy

Main Roads work with the State Government to improve bushfire safety on the Coolgardie -Esperance Highway corridor through;

- limiting camping to the reserve area;
- regulate campfire use;
- establishing unique parking site identifiers (similar to Beach Emergency Network (BEN) system);
- establishing clearly identified turnaround points suitable for heavy vehicles up to Class 12 (triple trailers);
- Create asset protection zone
  - ➔ Removing fine fuels from road side shoulders to 5 meters.
  - ➔ Fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities.
  - ➔ Fuel reduction through shrubland communities.
  - ➔ Identify and remove hazardous trees within 2 tree length of highway.
- Establish and maintain fire danger rating signage.
- In association with WAPoI, DFES and Shires of Dundas, Coolgardie and Esperance establish a Bushfire response protocol, diversion and evacuation plan

### 22 Advocacy

Department of Fire and Emergency Services provide assurance to Bush fire first responders and the Shire of Dundas as to the resilience of essential emergency radio assets and their mitigation and maintenance programs in place that support response of the Shire of Dundas brigades.



# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

ORGANISATION	ACTION
23 Advocacy	Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to enable fire management by establishing an ongoing funding stream and mechanism for planning, coordination, mitigation, response, and recovery activities on State lands they administer.
24 Advocacy	NBN, Telstra and Optus work together to build resilience of shared / independent mobile phone tower facilities, through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site hardening, based on the OPTUS CSIRO site hardening study</li><li>• Create asset protection zone. Working with neighbours to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Establish fuel reduction through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li><li>➤ Establish fuel reduction through targeted traditional burning of woodland communities.</li><li>➤ Fuel reduction through shrubland communities.</li></ul></li><li>• Establishing and applying fuel management and site maintenance standards for assets prior to restricted period.</li></ul>
25 Advocacy	State Gov and local business develop business continuity plans for essential services, food, water, fuel .
26 Advocacy	Traditional owners undertake vegetation management fuel reduction in asset, hazard and land management zones on Aboriginal lands near Norseman through targeted traditional burning of woodland and hummock grass communities.

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

ORGANISATION	ACTION
27 Advocacy	Horizon Power enhances the resilience of critical infrastructure, businesses and homes through establishing and applying fuel, pole, and insulator management maintenance program prior to the restricted period.
28 Advocacy	Horizon Power work with neighbours to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure site Communication tower 6443002 Norseman through <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain asset protection zone of power supply.</li><li>• Fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li></ul>
29 Advocacy	DMIRS to include bushfire within its scope of considerations for Mine project plans and exploration plans approvals and facilitate the incorporation of land occupier bushfire management responsibilities and EMT training requirements.
30 Advocacy	WA Police and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development work together to build resilience of WA/SA border facilities, through <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site hardening.</li><li>• Working with neighbours to establish fuel reduction through mechanical means of mallee, woodland communities.</li><li>• Establishing and applying fuel management maintenance standards for assets prior to restricted period.</li></ul>

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

ORGANISATION	ACTION
<b>31</b> Advocacy	<p>Proprietors of Madura, Balladonia, and Eucla Service Centres create asset protection zone and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• undertake fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li><li>• Establish and apply fuel management maintenance standards for assets prior to bush fire season.</li></ul>
<b>32</b> Advocacy	<p>ARTC work with railway easement neighbours to build resilience of their West Kalgoorlie Esperance rail assets, through creating asset protection zone;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removing fine fuels from rail side shoulders to 5m.</li><li>• Fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li><li>• Fuel reduction through shrubland communities</li><li>• Replace wooden sleepers with fire resilient alternatives in forested environment.</li></ul>
<b>33</b> Advocacy	<p>ARTC to build resilience of communications and signaling facilities and other safety assets on the rail easement through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create asset protection zones<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ Fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities</li><li>➔ Fuel reduction through shrubland communities.</li><li>➔ Site hardening of communication and signaling facilities.</li><li>➔ Establishing and applying fuel management maintenance standards for assets.</li></ul></li></ul>

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued



### 34 Advocacy

- Main Roads in partnership with Regional Development and the Shire of Dundas investigate the feasibility of major traffic diversion routes along the Cocklebiddy - Rawlinna Trans Access Rd, Hyden Rd, and Balladonia Esperance

### 35 Advocacy

Esperance Pipeline Company to build resilience of its gas pipe delivery system, infrastructure and controls on the Kambalda Esperance Gas easement through;

- Site hardening of communication and valve facilities
- Create asset protection zone for valve station, and work with neighbours to undertake fuel reduction through mechanical means of woodland, heath and shrubland communities.
- Establishing and applying fuel management maintenance standards for assets prior to bushfire season.
- Develop pipeline easement access protocols for bushfire response.

### 36 Advocacy

Mining enterprise at Nova IGO build resilience of infrastructure by ;

- Site hardening camp, mine, and processing assets to fire impact
- Create asset protection zones
  - ➔ Fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities.
  - ➔ Fuel reduction through shrubland communities.
- Establishing and applying fuel management and site maintenance standards for assets prior to restricted period.

### 37 Advocacy

RAM's establish a program of maintenance and improvement to increase asset resilience of its building stock.

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

ORGANISATION	ACTION
<b>38</b> Advocacy	<p>Department of Health at Norseman Hospital build resilience of infrastructure by site hardening of hospital infrastructure to fire impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create asset protection zones<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fuel reduction and strata management through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li><li>Fuel reduction through shrubland communities.</li></ul></li><li>• Establishing and applying fuel management and site maintenance standards for assets prior to restricted period.</li><li>• In association with WAPol, St John Ambulance the Department of Health and the Shire of Dundas LEMC Review and exercise hospital evacuation plan.</li></ul>
<b>39</b> Advocacy	<p>Insurance of people's homes and businesses.</p>
<b>40</b> Advocacy	<p>The Department of Minerals and Industry Regulation work with lease holders and land managers to identify legacy unsafe and contaminated mine sites that are a hazard to first responders and the community and make them safe.</p>
<b>41</b> Advocacy	<p>Parks and Wildlife to update and exercise evacuation plans for remote and coastal visitor sites including Eyre Bird Observatory.</p>
<b>42</b> Advocacy	<p>Health sector work with clients on personal preparedness plans to shelter in place in times of bush fire.</p>

# bush fire risk management plans

## action plans continued

ORGANISATION	ACTION
43 Advocacy	<p>NBN, Telstra and Optus work together and with neighbours to build resilience of their long-haul fibre backbone assets, (Fibre Optic) relay stations through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create asset protection zones;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ Fuel reduction and strata management. through mechanical means of woodland communities.</li><li>➔ Fuel reduction through targeted traditional burning of woodland communities</li><li>➔ Fuel reduction through shrubland communities.</li></ul></li></ul>
44 Advocacy	<p>Businesses to establish a program of maintenance and improvement to increase asset resilience of its building stock.</p>
45 Advocacy	<p>State Emergency Management Committee work with the Freight and Logistics Council to improve supply chain resilience.</p>
46 Advocacy	<p>Traditional owners undertake vegetation management to protect culturally important places through hand clearing and targeted traditional burning of woodland and hummock grass communities.</p>
47	<p>Parks and Wildlife and traditional owners consider the needs of environmentally sensitive places by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Balanced fuel ages for Mallee fowl habitat &lt;10 and &gt;40.</li><li>• Protect old growth woodland.</li><li>• Protect woodlands regrowth &lt; 20 years.</li><li>• Manage balanced fuel ages for Lake Johnstone and Fraser Range environmental areas in landscape fire programs.</li></ul>



# Conclusion

**The Shire of Dundas simply lacks the resources to take on this task, nor is it its responsibility.**

**Council has now have identified the need, proposed the solution and laid a platform for risk reduction investment and collaboration by all parties. With the necessary support of Governments Council will seek to work through the emergency management processes to reduce the risk to Local, State and National values in the Shire of Dundas.**



*The lived and professional experience and knowledge of Community, Traditional Owners, emergency services and Council have contributed to the development of this Bush Fire Risk Management Plan. The Shire of Dundas thank all who have shared their experiences and expertise.*

