

## T1. Bushfire Control Policy

### Policy Objective

To define the responsibilities for the control of fires on various lands, to assist with reporting, assessment and co-ordination of fires and to identify the resources that may be available for fire control.

### Policy Statement

#### Introduction

This policy was formulated by Shire, Bush Fire Control Officers, Pastoralists, and other interested persons and should be read in conjunction with response plans and policies issued by DFES.

#### Preparedness

Landowners/occupiers should ensure fire-fighting equipment; machinery, radios etc. are operational by the start of the fire season.

#### Responsibilities

##### Reporting of Fires

Anyone reporting a fire should ring 000. It is their job to notify the appropriate body.

The following information is required:

- location of fire (use a map and quote co-ordinates);
- size of fire;
- action being taken;
- assistance that may be required; and
- life and or property in danger.

DFES will issue an incident number for the fire, this is to be used in the Personal Incident Diary to record all conversations pertaining to personnel involved in the fire. DFES to be informed of any significant changes in the fire. (The local authority is to report to DFES, other relevant authorities and effected parties.

##### Control of Fires

###### *Pastoral Land*

The occupier of the land is responsible for fire suppression on their properties.

Bush Fire Control Officer Actions:

- Take charge of fire;
- Establish communications with others;
- Carry out assessment, determine priorities and decide tactics to suppress fire;
- Inform local authorities / DFES and advise of the assessment of the fire.

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### *Crown Land*

Bush Fire Control Officer, where fire is a threat to life or property otherwise the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer with DFES assistance.

### DBCA Land

DBCA Officer may take charge however if local fire control officer is present, and if agreeable, he should take control. DBCA will need to be notified and will commit resources to assist the Fire Control Officer to suppress the fire.

### Co-ordination of Fires

Fire Control Officers and DBCA Officers will be responsible for coordinating activities for their area and will keep the local authority updated with information on the fire.

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer will assume overall control of all fires in the first instance and hand over to DFES where appropriate.

### **Costs – Financial Assistance**

#### Pastoral Land

- The first response is a commitment by the occupier of the land to contain the fire. This will depend upon resources available, fuel loadings and other variables. If the scale of the fire indicates that assistance is required, notification must be made to the local authority who will then contact DFES.
- Assistance will be accordance with DFES Standard Operating Procedures.
- Approved hire equipment will be reimbursed at contractor hourly rates.

#### Vacant Crown Land

Costs for all equipment will be reimbursed at agreed hourly hire rates.

#### Other Land –DBCA

When approved by the Duty Officer, all costs will be reimbursed. (This can be organised over phone.)

Note: Shire equipment may be used depending on operational needs and availability as per the scheduled fees and charges.

### **Contractors**

A source of contractors in the area who are fully self-contained and can be called upon in emergencies is to be compiled

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### **Insurance**

#### Land Owners

All landowners must ensure that equipment and property is adequately covered by insurance.

#### Local Authority

Insurance cover is provided for all Shire employees, equipment and volunteers.

#### DBCA

Any machinery authorised for use by the DBCA Officer will be insured by cover via their insurer.

DBCA will need information on type, make, HP and approximate value.

#### Contractors

All contractors must have adequate insurance cover for their machinery and operators.

### **Communication**

DFES is to provide equipment in accordance with relevant policies. Support equipment may be provided by the Shire and appropriate government agencies.

### **Recovery and Evaluation**

It is important that at the end of fire suppression operations that a complete evaluation of the incident is carried out to identify problem areas and assist with improvements in processes and procedures.

***Policy Reviewed October 2020***