



Bushfire Risk Management Plan - Review

2022 – 2027

Two Year Review – Completed 2026



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Document Endorsements

This Bushfire Risk Management Plan has been endorsed by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management as consistent with the standards detailed in the *Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2024*.

The approval of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan by Shire of Kent Council signifies support of the plan’s implementation and commitment to working with risk owners to manage bushfire risk. Approval does not signify acceptance of responsibility for risk, treatments or outcomes on land that is not managed by the Shire of Kent.

Local Government	Representative	Signature	Date
Shire of Kent	Ms Christie Smith Chief Executive Officer		

Record of Amendments

Version	Date	Author	Section
1.2	18/02/2025	R. Sutherland	Document review: change of logo, amendment to referenced documents; grammatical amendments, and change of process regarding communication of HVMB
2.0	Feb 2026	Derek Jones t/as The Emergency Management Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferred to new template • Deleted Legislation and Policy and Related Documents – external document referenced • Deleted risk management process diagram • Updated roles and responsibilities to reflect new template • Removed proposed Shire of Kent structure • Reviewed and updated stakeholder BRM role/interest. Table 2 • Reviewed the context and updated details and rationalized surplus information • Added reference to soil moisture levels and the effect they have on fire • Included Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage details

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed cause of ignition data and addressed pole top fires and escaped fires in fire history summary • Included reference to powers under Section 46 of Bush Fires Act 1954.
2.1	7/03/2026	Derek Jones t/as The Emergency Management Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated table of contents • Changed Newdegate to Nyabing • Minor detail updates • Table re-formatting • Updated table 9 after BRMS updated • Confirmed acceptable risk ratings after meeting 4/3/2026 in Nyabing
2.2	1/04/2026	Derek Jones t/as The Emergency Management Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added justification for risk acceptance ratings • Refined threat of impact of fire on agricultural activities

Publication Information

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

This Bushfire Risk Management (BRM) Plan provides contextual information to inform a structured approach to identifying, assessing, prioritising, monitoring and treating bushfire risk. The BRM Plan has been prepared by Shire of Kent, encompasses all land within the Shire of Kent and has been written on behalf of all stakeholders within that area. The BRM Plan is informed by consultation and communication with land and asset managers that has occurred throughout its development to ensure an informed and collaborative approach to managing bushfire risk.

The BRM plan has been prepared with due consideration of the requirements stated in the *Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (the Guidelines) published by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM), including the principles described in *ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management*.

1.2. Objective of the Bushfire Risk Management Planning Program

The BRM planning program supports local governments to reduce the threat posed by bushfire. The Shire of Kent BRM Plan will contribute to achieving the objective of the BRM program by:

- Guiding and coordinating a cross-tenure, multi-stakeholder approach to BRM planning.
- Facilitating the effective use of the financial and physical resources available for BRM activities.
- Supporting integration between risk owners, strategic objectives and tactical outcomes.
- Documenting processes used to monitor and review the implementation of treatments to ensure risk is managed to an acceptable level.

1.3. Legislation, Policy and Standards

Legislation, policy and standards that were applied in the development of this BRM Plan can be found in the *Bushfire Risk Management Planning Handbook – Appendix 1 – Summary of Related Legislation, Policy and Guidelines*.

CHAPTER 2: THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The BRM planning process is a cycle of understanding the context and assessing and treating risks. Each of these steps is informed by communication and consultation, and supported by monitoring and review. The three products produced during the BRM planning process are the BRM Plan, Asset Risk Register and Treatment Schedule.

2.1. Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders involved in the development of the BRM Plan are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Roles and responsibilities in the Bushfire Risk Management (BRM) planning process

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Custodian of the BRM Plan ● Coordinate the development and ongoing review of the BRM Plan ● Undertake bushfire risk assessment of local government area ● Submit the draft BRM Plan to OBRM for review and endorsement ● Develop and implement a Treatment Schedule for local government managed land ● Encourage risk owners to treat identified risks ● Communicate the plan to the community
DFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribute to the development and implementation of the BRM Plan ● Facilitate involvement of state and federal government agencies in the BRM planning process ● Undertake treatments on unmanaged reserves and Unallocated Crown land within gazetted town sites ● By agreement, implement treatment strategies for other land managers ● Endorse BRM Plans as consist with the Guidelines, BRM Program and dynamic risk environment ● Administer the Mitigation Activity Fund Grants Program
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribute to the development of the BRM Plan ● Implement their treatment program on DBCA managed land ● Provide advice on environmental assets and appropriate treatment strategies for their protection
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify managed assets ● Provide advice on management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
Other State and Commonwealth Government agencies and public utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify managed assets • Provide advice on current risk treatment programs • Contribute to the development of BRM Plans • Undertake treatments on lands they manage
Corporations and private landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify managed assets • Provide advice on current risk treatment programs • Undertake treatments on lands they manage

2.2. Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders during the development, implementation and review of the BRM Plan ensures planning is based on comprehensive information and considers the values and objectives of the entire community.

The following table identifies key stakeholders in the BRM planning process. These are stakeholders that are identified as having a significant role or interest in the planning process or are likely to be significantly impacted by the outcomes.

Table 2 Key stakeholders identified in the BRM planning process for the Shire of Kent.

Stakeholder	Role or interest	Level of impact of outcomes	Level of engagement
Shire of Kent Executive Management Team, Council, LEMC, and BFAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the adoption of the BRM plan • Subject to adequate State Government finance and resourcing, major role in the development, management and review of the plan. • Responsible for treatments on land they own/manage 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and consultation to support decision making, be informed of progress made towards implementation of BRM and Treatment schedule.

Stakeholder	Role or interest	Level of impact of outcomes	Level of engagement
DFES Bush Fire Risk Management Officer Narrogin Regional Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice in relation to Shire mitigation activities. • Provide guidance on MAF funding application processes and operation. • Contact for mitigation works on UCL/UMR within gazette townsites. • Training and guidance and advice on BRM Plan development and BRMS. • Review the draft BRM Plan prior to presentation to council for approval. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and consultation during development and implementation of BRMP.
DFES Office of Bushfire Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the draft BRM Plan prior to presentation for Council endorsement. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult to ensure plan meets guidelines for quality assurance.
DBCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major role as land and asset owner/ managers. Support with treatment implementation. • Interested party 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation sought • Advice on flora and fauna matters during Environmental Impact Assessments for during mitigation planning considerations.
Department of Planning Lands and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager of areas of Crown Land with the Shire. • Provision of landowner approvals for mitigation works on UCL/UMR. • Provide advice to support the identification of heritage assets and in planning appropriate treatments for their protection 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation sought • Discussion with DFES/DBCA re UCL/UMR mitigation works proposals.

Stakeholder	Role or interest	Level of impact of outcomes	Level of engagement
Public utilities: Western Power, Water Corporation, Telecommunications, Main Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and maintain critical infrastructure. • Provide advice on their assets to support asset identification. • Address significant bushfire risks that exist on their land. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation sought • Consult/collaborate – Provision of information regarding assets and risks, and level of protection required to permit relevant treatments.
Private Land Holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with requirements of the Shire annual S33 Notice. • Carry out strategies on their own land in accordance with the BRM Plan as agreed. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shire is to inform and, if required, consult on risk assessments and treatment schedules for effective application of the BRM process. • Negotiate an agreement with landowners in regard to any treatments identified on private land.
ARC Infrastructure Agricultural Industry Cooperative Bulk Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for mitigation of their own economic assets or addressing significant risks that exist on lands they manage. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation sought • Consult with the Shire on the BRM Plan to implement mitigation programs for protection of significant assets. • Consultation to ensure relationships are maintained or enhanced regarding bushfire risk and refinement of treatment schedules.
Other Govt Departments; Dept of Education Dept of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for risks on lands they manage. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation sought • Continued consultation between Shire and, stakeholders and agencies to understand risks and responsibilities of risk management. • Shire assistance in education programs regarding bushfire risk.

Stakeholder	Role or interest	Level of impact of outcomes	Level of engagement
Shire of Kent Bushfire Brigades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of 'at risk' areas of the community and contributing information to support risk assessment, make recommendations and provide advice to support planning and implementation of suitable treatment options. • Support planning and implementation of treatments as resources permit 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular consultation with senior brigade personnel, meetings and discussions.
Traditional Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest/role in management of local areas and the protection of culturally significant locations and artefacts. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult/collaborate as planning/works progresses
Local environmental groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in management of local reserves potential to deliver or supplement treatment activities in areas they have an interest. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation sought • Consult – engage stakeholders in treatment planning and implementation.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General interest/awareness of the BRM Plan and treatments planned to address risk across their community. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform – provide information to increase awareness of bushfire risk and treatments planned.

CHAPTER 3: ESTABLISHING THE CONTEXT

Strategic and Corporate Framework

The Shire of Kent Community Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032 outlines the Shire’s commitment to themes of social, economic, environment, and civic leadership. These are reflected in the shire’s values and mission:

Our Vision: “A community that places a high value on essential services; communications and technology infrastructure, improved social connectedness; community involvement and participation, a need to retain and grow the population, and to strengthen economic prosperity through the diversification of the local economy.”

The Shire in the future is described as:

- a place with a sense of community, one that is thriving, vibrant, engaging and connected.
- a place that nurtures its youth and aging population.
- a place that has a range of services and facilities meeting our needs.
- a place that is growing and has employment opportunities, through local industry, which is based on the shires local comparative advantages.

Our Mission: Provide leadership, direction, and opportunities for the community

Key Principles: In achieving the Vision and Mission, we will set achievable goals and work with the community to maintain a reputation of openness, honesty, and accountability. In doing so, we will:

- respect the points of view of individuals and groups.
- build on existing community involvement.
- encourage community leadership; promote resilience, self-reliance and initiative.
- recognise and celebrate achievement.
- support the principles of social justice; and
- acknowledge the value of staff and volunteers.

The Shire’s commitment to these values is reflected in the BRM planning process and is closely linked to the key principals above. On review of the Shire’s Strategic Community Plan, the objectives of this BRM Plan will be included.

The Shire of Kent shares a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) with the Shire of Lake Grace and Dumbleyung. Mitigation/fire prevention works forms part of the works a CESM is responsible for. Community liaison regarding mitigation works and supporting volunteer brigades, including training, also forms part of the CESM’s role. This plan will therefore be actioned by the CESM to prioritise works in the Shire, based on the risk profiles. The CESM will work in with the Shire’s Works Manager and relevant agencies and parties to

undertake works. Additionally, the CESM is well placed for community liaison in working with property owners in managing their relevant risks on properties.

The Shire’s Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) are identified as key stakeholders in the development, implementation, and review of the BRM Plan. Their input and advice are critical to the bushfire risk management process and will provide an important forum for consultation, joint-agency partnerships and the resolution of local issues affecting bushfire risk management.

The BRM Plan will assist in improving the community’s awareness of bushfire risk and treatment activities planned in their area. Identification of treatment priorities will inform the shire’s forward planning and budgeting for treatment activities within the BRM Plan area.

The following challenges have been identified for the shire, from matters raised through corporate governance processes such as Council, Local Emergency Management Committee, Bush Fire Advisory Committee, and local knowledge all of which have the potential to impact the objectives of this BRM Plan. Consequently, special consideration should be given to these matters during the life of this plan. These include:

- Changes to agricultural practices.
- Aging population and attraction and retention of volunteers impacting succession planning within the emergency services volunteer brigades.
- Vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, itinerant workers and recreational visitors.
- Telecommunications network and phone coverage *limitations*.
- Management of unallocated crown land (UCL) and unmanaged reserves (UMR) both within and outside town boundaries.
- Vegetation in and around telecommunications and public utility infrastructure such as communications towers, water pipeline, pumping stations and the railway.

Key Strategic Objectives

Table 3 – Shire of Kent Key Strategic Objectives

Outcome from Strategic plan	BRM Plan links
<p>Economic: Support growth and progress, locally and regionally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effective well-maintained transport network • Increased tourism activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush fire mitigation is important in achieving accessibility along roads by reducing the likely impacts to roads and lengthy closures. This will ensure roads are open and safe for all community and agricultural activities • Mitigation around key communication and other important infrastructure will reduce impacts to community and tourism ventures

Outcome from Strategic plan	BRM Plan links
<p>Social: To provide community facilities and promote social interaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining a healthy and safe community • Existing strong community spirit and pride to be fostered, promoted and encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRM planning ensures community are well protected and that all parties can work on a common operating system, working towards tenure-blind mitigation works
<p>Environment: Protect and enhance our natural and built environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preserved natural environment • A well-maintained built environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire and mitigation can have a harmful effect on the environments • BRM planning identifies this risk and works towards identifying high risk areas and mitigating against the harmful effects of bushfires
<p>Civic Leadership: Continually enhance the shire's organisational capacity to service the needs of a growing community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An efficient and effective organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BRM plan aims towards community and stakeholder engagement in mitigation works • With good communications and effective governance, bushfire risks can be targeted and tenure blind

Table 4 reflects functions and positions within the Shire and their relation to bushfire mitigation.

Table 4 – Shire of Kent roles & responsibilities

Function	Roles
Shire Leadership Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of the implementation, monitoring and review of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan • Sourcing and approving funding and expenditure • Monitoring the implementation of agreed treatments • Liaison with key stakeholders • Participation on Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) • Management of the release of BRM Plan and BRMS data
Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop practices for fire management on Local Government Land • In consultation, planning annual schedule of works • Build knowledge and understanding of fire management practices within the community • Participation on Bushfire Advisory Committee (BFAC) • Support bushfire meetings and committees • Oversee burning programs and support from local brigades • Contributing to treatment planning • Negotiating with stakeholders
Works Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to treatment planning • Undertake planned work
Person/s Tasked with Emergency Management within the Shire Administration Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In consultation, planning annual schedule of works • Build knowledge and understanding of fire management practices within the community • Participation on Bushfire Advisory Committee (BFAC) • Support bushfire meetings and committees
Chief Bushfire Control Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee burning programs and support from brigades • Contributing to treatment planning • Negotiating with stakeholders • Fire break inspection and enforcement
Town Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adherence to building codes and planning scheme • Bushfire Prone Area Mapping
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing and managing grants and funding

Land Use and Tenure

The townsites of Nyabing and Pingrup are both considered vulnerable to the risk of bushfire. Each town is in close proximity to tracts of remnant bush which, in turn is further surrounded by farm land. A fast-moving grass fire is likely to impact the bush in close proximity to the townsite.

73% of the Shire is privately owned. Much of this land is devoted to agriculture, particularly to the growing of mixed cereal crops within the Shire.

The Shire's S33 Notice addresses the need for private land owners to manage their risk of fire on their property. A combination of the Shire's S33 notice, widespread access to private fire fighting appliances and commercial self-interest has resulted in the Shire's private landowners adopting largely effective mitigation strategies on their own land.

After private landowners DBCA is the next largest manager of land within the Shire of Kent. Nature Reserves amount to almost 21% of the total Shire land mass. Land management, including mitigation work within declared nature reserves outside gazetted fire districts is the responsibility of DBCA.

There are 35 declared nature reserves within the Shire. The four largest nature reserves in the Shire are, Magenta NR (1080km²), Lake Chinocup NR (198km²) and Lake Bryde NR (16km²). DBCA maintain a mitigation program for the land they manage.

Further remnants of isolated bush can be found in, and around, lakes and creeks and elevated granite hills, often on private land holdings. The proximity of farmland to bushlands can result in an ingress of weeds. Without ongoing and planned management of weed infestations any reduction to long term fire risk can be short term due to encroachment.

The remaining land (circa ~7%) within the Shire is managed by a combination of local government and state government agencies. This land can be found in and around gazette townsites. Given the identified risks to the communities of Nyabing and Pingrup a strategic approach to management of this land is advantageous.

Table 5 Summary of land management responsibilities within the Shire of Kent.

Land Manager	Local Government Area (%)
Local Government	1.9%
Private	73.1%
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	20.8%
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	0.2%
Other Govt/Utilities	0.4%
Not identified - UCL/UMR/Crown Reserve	3.4%
Total	100%

Source: Landgate Tenure data, (2021)

Community Demographics and Values

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021 Census) reports the Shire of Kent population as being 491 people. This is a decrease from the 2001 Census which recorded a population of 625 people in the Shire.

The remaining people live on isolated or semi-isolated farm houses distributed across the Shire.

The 2021 Census also identified the following special interest, and/or vulnerable groups.

- 27.9% were 18 years or under
- A further 9.7% were 65 years+
- 12.2% self-declared as being diagnosed with long term health conditions; asthma, heart disease and/or an undefined lung condition
- English is the dominant language within the Shire. Only 6.3% of the population reported a second language being used at home
- A total of 0.6% of the population declared as being Indigenous

Relatively small population numbers in the Shire means the catchment of potential volunteers, including bushfire volunteers, is reduced. Despite this, the bushfire brigades in the Shire maintain a high level of vigilance in their community.

Declining population numbers, and the challenge of attracting and retaining volunteers, is further complicated due to a gradual aging of the population. The 2001 Census recorded 5.8% of the population over the age of 65years. The 2021 Census reported this figure had risen to 9.7% of the Shire's population. Interestingly, in 2016 14.6% of the population were over the age of 65yrs.

The declining population numbers in the Shire means the catchment of potential volunteers, including bushfire volunteers, is reduced. Despite this, the bushfire brigades in the Shire maintain a high level of vigilance in their community.

Increasing general demands on an individual's time will increase the challenges of undertaking a prescribed burning program in the Shire. The magnitude of the challenge increases as Autumn/Spring seasons often coincides with seeding and/or harvest preparations.

While the Shire's core population remains relatively low, casual employees do assist with harvest activities. This influx of itinerant workers coincides with peak fire season. It means the level of risk resulting from a lack of awareness to weather conditions, knowledge of ingress and egress routes and limited connection within the wider community also increases.

Nyabing and Pingrup Primary Schools are considered extremely important to the community. Any loss of, or disruption to, these facilities could result in dis-location of families seeking education elsewhere. Both of these schools have fire plans in place. These are regularly reviewed and communicated to the Local Emergency Management Committee.

The Shire promotes key messages regarding community awareness and resilience through local media and the Shire website leading up to fire season. The Shire pro-actively shares information with the community surrounding preparing your property for fire season. Information distributed includes; asset protection zones, low fuel loads and perimeter fire break guidelines.

Many of the Shire’s population are familiar with bushfire, either through direct brigade involvement or as a result of living in a rural community for an extended period. This means community engagement activities are sometimes considered a lower priority by the community.

Cultural Heritage

The Shire is subject to two Aboriginal Lands Indigenous Land Use Agreements;

- Ballardong People Indigenous Land Use Agreement (NNTT No WI2017/012), and
- Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Indigenous Land Use Agreement (NNT No WI2017/014).

Engagement with the two corporations will be undertaken as required.

The implementation of the BRMP provides the Shire with another opportunity to meaningfully engage with local custodians of cultural knowledge. The determination of the two ILUAs has resulted in certainty surrounding who, amongst the Traditional Owners, is the most suitable custodian of that knowledge.

This opportunity can enhance the sharing of information during a wildfire response – thus, further building upon, and strengthening, local relationships.

Registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites and Protected Areas are shown in the [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System \(ACHIS\)](#). This system will be consulted and appropriate approvals obtained when planning bushfire mitigation activities.

ACHIS currently identifies a total of 52 registered/lodged sites with the Shire.

Registered Sites (18 Total)

Table 6 – Registered Cultural Heritage Sites in Shire of Kent – Source DPLH ACHIS database

Description/Location	Id No	Place Type
Holland Rocks	4963	Artefacts/Scatter
Minelup Creek	5073	Artefacts/Scatter
Badger’s Road	5074	Artefacts/Scatter
Chookrun Lake	5078	Artefacts/Scatter
Gingerbeer Soak	5085	Artefacts/Scatter
Skipseys	5088	Artefacts/Scatter
Hicks 1	5091	Artefacts/Scatter
Wattle Soak East	5094	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Joy	5096	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Pingarnup 1	5097	Artefacts/Scatter
Willcocks Soak	5099	Artefacts/Scatter
Solly’s Soak	5100	Artefacts/Scatter
Featherstone’s	5101	Artefacts/Scatter
Menota 1	5103	Artefacts/Scatter
Menota 2	5104	Artefacts/Scatter

Description/Location	Id No	Place Type
Menota 4	5106	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Pingrup Lunette	5468	Artefacts/Scatter
Chinocup	5790	Artefacts/Scatter; Traditional Structure

Lodged Sites (34 Total)

Table 7 –Lodged Cultural Heritage Sites in Shire of Kent – Source DPLH ACHIS database

Description/Location	Id No	Place Type
Nyanda Downs	4950	Artefacts/Scatter
Menota 6	5045	Artefacts/Scatter
Chinocup 1	5053	Artefacts/Scatter
Chinocup 2	5054	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Chinocup	5055	Artefacts/Scatter
Yaalup 2	5072	Artefacts/Scatter
Duncombe Road	5075	Artefacts/Scatter
Cairlocup	5076	Artefacts/Scatter
Shiners Soak	5084	Artefacts/Scatter
Pingrup 1	5086	Artefacts/Scatter
Pingrup 2	5087	Artefacts/Scatter
Hicks 2	5092	Artefacts/Scatter
Wattle Soak	5093	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Pingarnup 2	5098	Artefacts/Scatter
Dixon Soak	5102	Artefacts/Scatter
Menota 3	5105	Artefacts/Scatter
Menota 5	5107	Artefacts/Scatter
Rock Dam Hill	5108	Artefacts/Scatter
Yaalup 1	5109	Artefacts/Scatter
Willoughby Soak	5131	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Pingrup West	5132	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Altham South	5133	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Cairlocup East	5172	Artefacts/Scatter; Traditional Structure
Moornaming	5469	Artefacts/Scatter
Kuringup Soak	5471	Artefacts/Scatter
Lake Pingrup	5618	Artefacts/Scatter

Yelanup (Yellingup) Reserve	21171	Burial; Historical; Water Source
Wallacup	22352	Camp; Historical; Water Source
Dyliabing	22355	Camp; Historical
Nyabing – Mindaribin Farm	22356	Birthplace; Camp; Historical; Hunting Place
Moornaming	22357	Camp; Historical; Hunting Place
Kwobrup	22358	Birthplace; Camp; Historical; Hunting Place; Meeting Place
Nyabing	33258	Camp; Historical

Economic Activities and Industry

Agriculture is the single most significant form of economic activity undertaken within the Shire. Beyond agriculture (56.6%) the next largest employers of people are education (8.1%) and public administration (6.6%) sectors. (ABS Census 2021).

Supporting the agricultural sector are a variety of local light industries, Cooperative Bulk Handling, and local retail agencies. Each of these are a key contributor to the local economic community.

Within the Shire there has been a steady shift away from livestock raising to crop growing. This has seen a decrease in the quantity of acreage devoted to pasture for livestock and an increase in acreage devoted to crop growing. This change in farming activity now sees greater connection of homogenous grass fuels between farms and extends across larger areas of the Shire.

More recently 'crop growing' has extended to include some large-scale hay production for export and local markets.

The shift in agricultural focus away from livestock to cropping is seeing an increased number of large capacity water tanks being installed on farms to support their spraying operations. So, while the number of less critical dams may diminish over an extended period of time it is likely bulk water, in many instances, will be more readily available to support fire fighting operations.

Fire records indicate that vehicle activities contribute approximately 19.3% of all reported fire in the Shire. Most of these can be attributed to 'header fires'. Anecdotally, local bushfire fighters indicate the number of pole top fires is more significant than statistics indicate. A focus on improving reporting over the life of this plan will confirm this.

A large fire event occurring early during harvest, and confined to crops, would have a significant short-term impact on individual farmers directly affected. Any impact of fire on critical farm assets and infrastructure would have a longer-term impact to farm operations. Of greater concern is the potential loss of valuable top soil through exposure to the winds, and the loss of critical farm infrastructure.

The Shire of Kent has been investigating and working on increasing tourism to the Shire with considered upgrades to caravan parks and camping grounds. Increasing tourism also increases number of people with reduced local knowledge, and in some case, limited understanding of bushfire and the factors that affect fire behaviour. The local community is currently working on a project to educate visitors to the Shire about the fire risks in the landscape.

There are two issues linked with this activity – the prospect of tourist being adversely affected by mitigation activities or a wildfire event either through damage to, or destruction of, valuable flora and the potential impact of smoke or flames into well frequented locations.

Key transport routes traverse the Shire of Kent. Not only do these routes provide key business and tourism links between local and further afield communities, but they also connect fuels across larger areas. In light of this, Main Roads and the Shire of Kent, maintain a road side fuel maintenance program in an effort to reduce risk of fire.

The man-made landscape includes significant critical infrastructure assets vital to the local area and also to the wider region;

- Telecommunications play an integral part in society. Mobile coverage in the area is best described as ‘patchy’. It is observed that key telecommunication nodes within the Shire are located adjacent to parcels of vegetation. Mitigating these fuel loads is of significant importance to the Shire of Kent. Any loss of mobile phone towers, temporary or permanent, will further reduce the coverage currently experienced.

- Key transport routes within the Shire include;

Katanning – Nyabing – Pingrup – Lake Grace Rd which bisects the Shire of Kent in a west to east direction.

Albany – Lake Grace Rd which bisects the Shire of Kent in a south to north direction.

- ARC Infrastructure maintain a non-operational rail line between Katanning – Badgebup – Nyabing which terminates in Nyabing.

This railway line runs through large tracts of farm land and presents an obstacle for vehicles attempting to cross from one side to the other. This can delay any bushfire response.

Topography and Landscape Features

The dominant topographical feature in the Shire of Kent is the lake system that runs through the middle of the Shire loosely in a south to north direction. The lake system is dominated by Lake Chinocup and Lake Bryde with smaller lakes in the vicinity feeding into it. The lake system is surrounded by relatively large nature reserves which, in turn, are surrounded by farm land.

The extent of remnant vegetation along these water systems does vary and is largely dependent upon any previous declaration of nature reserves or the environmental focus of individual nearby farmers. The lake system is held in large shallow depressions making for slow drainage during normal rainfall events and seasons. The slow drainage of the lake systems often results in the lake’s edge being difficult to access by machinery and fire appliances thus delaying any effort to suppress a bushfire in the area.

While the lakes do create access challenges and difficulties, they can also provide a natural barrier which can be used when conditions allow to help suppress a bushfire.

While the Shire has a moderately flat landscape it does possess some hills and granite outcrops. Red Hill is the highest point in the Shire of Kent and is approximately 385m above sea level. The nature of the landscape does provide challenges in the areas of granite outcrops and smaller hills. Construction and maintenance of any firebreaks or undertaking effective mitigation works in these areas does pose some challenges. These rocky outcrops

are often accompanied by pockets of remnant vegetation and, given the landscape, can reasonably be associated with Aboriginal Heritage sites.

Nonetheless the most significant portion of the Shire is devoted to the growing of cereal crops; wheat, barley, oats, canola and legumes.

The combination of a largely undulating landscape, pockets of remnant vegetation and the extensive cropping areas means the Shire is largely exposed to the possibility of fast-moving wind driven grass fires.

Climate and Weather

Shire of Kent restricted and prohibited burning seasons loosely extends from mid-September to end of April. During this time the Shire uses powers embedded in the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to control burning and activities likely to cause fire.

The Lake Fire Weather District, which includes the Shire of Kent, has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

The nearest Bureau of Meteorology site is located at Lake Grace which is 77km to the east. A similar analysis of data from Wagin and Newdegate stations resulted in similar records.

There will be some slight variation to figures stated below.

- Annual rainfall average is 428mm with most of this falling in the May to August period (avg 182.8mm).
- Long term humidity levels during summer, and recorded at 1500hrs, average 30% - 33% during the summer months.
- Mean maximum temperatures range from a high in January (31.2 deg C) to a July low of 15.4 deg.
- An analysis of Bureau of Meteorology sites at Newdegate Research Station, Wagin, Katanning Research Station and Jacup shows a history of Keech Byram Drought Index and/or Soil Dryness Index measurements consistently showing 'dryness' levels exceeding measurements at which extreme fires are likely to be encountered. This issue is particularly evident during peak fire season.

Figure 1 - Average maximum and minimum temperature from Lake Grace Weather Station.

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	Years	Plot	Map
Temperature																
Mean maximum temperature (°C)	31.2	30.5	27.7	23.7	19.5	16.5	15.4	16.1	18.4	22.1	25.9	29.5	23.0	52	1970 2026	
Mean minimum temperature (°C)	14.6	14.9	13.5	10.9	8.0	6.3	5.7	5.7	6.3	7.9	10.7	13.0	9.8	52	1970 2026	
Rainfall																
Mean rainfall (mm)	12.6	16.1	20.7	28.2	53.1	70.1	69.9	57.0	40.5	28.8	18.0	12.9	428.1	135	1891 2025	
Decile 5 (median) rainfall (mm)	3.4	5.1	11.5	20.7	50.0	61.5	62.8	55.9	37.2	23.4	12.6	7.6		135	n/a n/a	
Mean number of days of rain ≥ 1 mm	1.5	1.6	2.3	3.6	6.6	8.8	9.5	8.6	6.6	4.8	2.9	1.6	58.4	119	1891 2026	
Other daily elements																
Mean daily sunshine (hours)																
Mean number of clear days	14.3	11.5	10.2	7.0	5.6	5.0	4.9	4.5	5.0	6.0	7.6	12.2	93.8	38	1970 2010	
Mean number of cloudy days	5.3	6.2	8.8	11.0	13.7	12.3	12.9	12.9	12.3	11.6	10.6	6.7	124.3	38	1970 2010	
9 am conditions																
Mean 9am temperature (°C)	20.9	20.4	18.8	15.9	12.5	9.9	9.1	9.9	12.1	14.8	17.7	20.0	15.2	38	1970 2022	
Mean 9am relative humidity (%)	56	59	63	71	80	85	85	82	75	64	56	54	69	23	1977 2022	
Mean 9am wind speed (km/h)	11.7	11.4	10.2	7.8	7.1	6.6	7.0	7.9	9.4	11.3	11.6	11.2	9.4	38	1970 2022	
9am wind speed vs direction plot																
3 pm conditions																
Mean 3pm temperature (°C)	29.7	29.2	26.8	22.7	18.6	15.5	14.5	15.1	17.2	20.6	24.4	28.0	21.9	38	1970 2010	
Mean 3pm relative humidity (%)	30	31	36	43	53	60	62	59	53	43	34	29	44	23	1977 2010	
Mean 3pm wind speed (km/h)	11.3	11.1	10.3	9.6	10.7	10.5	10.6	11.6	12.0	11.6	11.8	11.2	11.0	38	1970 2010	
3pm wind speed vs direction plot																

Source Bureau of Meteorology

Hydrants are available in the townsites of Nyabing and Pingrup.

Outside townsites water is sourced from dams and tanks. Seasonal conditions can affect the amount and location of available water sources.

Summer troughs are a regular feature of Western Australian weather patterns between November to March (inc).

The Shire experiences surges is the number of pole top fires when weather conducive to such incident is observed.

They are often accompanied by dry thunderstorms which can bring with them erratic wind patterns and, with regularity, dry lightning. It is not unusual for this weather influence to cause a number of, almost concurrent, ignitions in localised and wide spread parts of the state.

Under these conditions the combination of a fast-moving grass fire and significant wind change can provide for challenging and dangerous fire fighting conditions.

Vegetation and Fuel

The Bureau of Meteorology has identified 72% of the Lake Fire Weather District, which includes Shire of Kent, as being Grassland fuel.

Grassland fuels in the Shire prove a significant risk as there are broad areas of homogeneous fuels with consistent, fuel loads, arrangement, elevations and moisture content levels. As harvest progresses, and up until harvest is completed, this elevates the threat of grass fire in the landscape.

The Shire of Kent retains 26.8% remnant vegetation coverage. While this figure is higher than many surrounding localities much of the recorded vegetation is retained within the Lake

Magenta and Lake Chinocup Nature Reserves. Outside of these two reserves remnant vegetation is largely found along road reserves and in isolated pockets on private property.

Outside of grassland fuels the Shire's remaining vegetative fuels comprise Woodlands, Shrubland- Heath and Mallee. Apart from DBCA managed land any remaining remnant vegetation largely remain in areas deemed unsuitable for agriculture; granite and rocky outcrops, breakaway country, saline areas or in road/rail reserves.

The undulating landforms prevalent within the Shire result in fires being exposed to largely unimpeded wind systems.

Woodlands typically see surface fuels in the leaf fall zone of trees. There is limited connection between surface fuels between trees and between the ground and the leaf canopy. This often results in a discontinuous arrangement of surface fuels and can impede the progress of fire without the influence of strong winds.

Of particular note the Eastern Wheatbelt Woodlands is adversely affected by minimal scorch and is identified as a Threatened Ecological Community. Any consideration of work in Woodland areas of the Shire will require professional guidance and Federal level clearance.

Mallee vegetation varies in height from shrub to small tree height. It is often more densely arranged than Woodlands and often includes layer of bark and leaf litter on the ground surface fuel.

Shrubland typically includes fuel laying on the surface which is overlaid by near surface fuels made up of low shrubs. Above this is often a continuous vertical arrangement of fuels found linking taller shrubs and scattered mallee. This vegetation is well aerated and moderate conditions are generally sufficient to sustain a bushfire. In severe conditions intense fires can result.

The management of invasive species of weeds and sheoak post any mitigation works or during recovery from a wildfire event will require thoughtful planning and implementation to ensure encroachment of invasive species is minimized and/or avoided.

Important species and communities

Legislation including the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* provide protection for the important and threatened species.

Important species and communities are listed on the [Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(DBCA\) website](#). This website will be consulted with due diligence practiced to protect identified species and communities when planning and conducting bushfire mitigation activities.

A search of Matters of National Environmental Significance database identifies:

- The Eucalypt Woodlands of the Wheatbelt of Western Australia, is endemic to the area, and is critically endangered. It is classified as a Threatened Ecological Community
- The Proteaceae Dominated Kwongan Shrublands of the Southeast Coastal Floristic Province of Western Australia is considered endangered and likely to occur within the Shire
- 15 species of Fauna determined to be vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered in the Shire
- 21 Flora species determined to be vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered

- A further 11 migratory species that may be intermittently present in the Shire were identified as being vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered

Careful planning and implementation of suitable mitigation measures will ensure impact to threatened species is avoided or minimized. Before undertaking any planned works specific advice relative to the area of interest will assist the achievement of this goal.

The Department of Biodiversity and Cultural Attractions (Wheatbelt Region) has Nature Conservation Officers able to provide flora and fauna guidance and assistance to ensure planned mitigation works will not have a detrimental effect on threatened species within the Shire.

Historical Bushfire Occurrence

Analysis of Department of Fire and Emergency statistics between 1/7/2015 to 30/6/2025 show a total of 76 fires were reported to DFES Communication Centre 000.

The number of incidents is likely to be higher as not all local fires are reported via 000.

Figure 2 Summary of Ignition Report Shire of Kent 1/7/2015 – 30/6/2025 – Source DFES Reports

Leading causes only

Source of Ignition	Total	%
Vehicle	23	30.3%
Cause undetermined	21	27.6%
Lightning	15	19.7%
Power poles/lines	8	10.5%
Burn off	3	3.9%
Other	6	7.9%

30.3% of all fires reported in the Shire were determined as being caused by vehicle. Without further information it is likely the great majority of these could be classified as ‘header fires.’ Header fires are not uncommon in crop growing areas and sometimes it simply comes down to the luck of the draw as to whether or not header fires occur in any given location.

Reducing the risk and effect of vehicle related fires is currently part managed through the use of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans and S33 Notice requiring 600l of water accompany each operating harvester.

27.6% (28/152) of bushfires in Kent Shire were recorded as cause unreported. For the purposes of the BRM Plan it is recommended a concerted attempt be made to identify and report a cause of ignition. There may be strategies that can be applied to address common causal factors.

19.7% of all reported fires in Shire of Kent resulted from lightning ignitions. Combining extra vigilance with the widespread application of effective mitigation strategies across the Shire, may limit the size of any ignition caused by lightning.

3.9% of all reported fires resulted from escaped burns. A combination of community education, a review of the process for issuing permits and the application of Section 46 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* may alleviate some of these escaped fires thus reducing the risk to community.

A thorough review of the process for managing the issuing of permits is recommended. This could look at the number of permits issued at any one time, conditions stipulated on the permit, community understanding of *Bush Fire Regulations 1954* surrounding permits, training being made available to Fire Control Officers issuing permits, the role of a Gazetted Fire Weather Officer, and responsibility of permit holders when undertaking permitted burns.

A combination of community education and the application of S46 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* may alleviate some of these escaped fires thus reducing the risk to community.

Shire bushfire volunteers are supported by 2 ESL supplied fire appliances. Farmer response appliances provide a significant portion of responding appliances used to combat fire within the Shire of Kent.

The Shire of Kent bushfire network has further identified key locations which are often used for the early detection of lightning caused fires. Additionally, the forecast of dry lightning/thunderstorms sees heightened levels of readiness from the network.

Bushfire Risk Controls

Table 8 Current bushfire risk controls in the Shire of Kent

Control	Action or activity description	Lead agency	Notes and comments
Fuel reduction in townsites of Nyabing and Pingrup	Annual grass slashing program	Shire of Kent with assistance from landowners and/or managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces grass fuel loads in gazette townsites
Direct private landowners to undertake mitigation measures on their land	Annual review, publication and distribution of S33 notices	Shire of Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs private landowners to undertake mitigation measures on their land Compliance required from 1 November until 30 April Annual inspections by Ranger Services
Restricting vehicle and harvester movement over vegetated ground	Impose Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban	Shire of Kent Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bush Fires Regulations S38A Harvest Ban hotline available to residents
Restriction of activities likely to start a fire in extreme weather conditions	Impose Total Fire Ban	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bush Fires Act 1954 S22A, S22B and S22C

Control	Action or activity description	Lead agency	Notes and comments
Restriction of certain activities in extreme fire weather conditions	Issue Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban in conjunction with Total Fire Ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Fire and Emergency Services Shire of Kent Chief Bush Fire Control Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bush Fire Regulations S22A, S22B and S22c in association with S24C
Reduce risk of fire at times volunteer numbers are reduced	Annual issuance of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban on Christmas Day and New Years Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire of Kent Chief Bush Fire Control Officer 	
Control the number and type of fire in the landscape through issuing of burning permits	Restricted period identified as being from 19 th September to 25 th April	Shire of Kent Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loosely aligns with 'Spring' and 'Autumn' period Can adjust dates due to seasonal variations
Prohibition of most burning within the Shire	Declaration of prohibited burning season from 1 st November to 31 st January	Shire of Kent Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loosely aligns with 'Summer season.' Can adjust dates due to seasonal variations
MOU between DFES and Shires of Kent, Lake Grace and Dumbleyung	Funding provision for, and role statements, for combined CESM	DFES Commissioner and Kent Chief Executive Officer	
Annual bushfire seasonal review and preview. Opportunity to exchange ideas and refine existing procedures	Bi-annual Bush Fire Advisory Group meetings	Shire of Kent and its Bush Fire Brigade Leaders	
DBCA Fuel Reduction Program and Burn Plan	Fuel reduction and reserve management on DBCA managed lands	DBCA	
Development and review of emergency response plans for at-risk group in Shire of Kent	Annual review of School Stand Alone Bushfire Plans	Nyabing PS Pingrup PS Combined Lakes LEMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses agency provided templates

Control	Action or activity description	Lead agency	Notes and comments
Western Power Vegetation Management	Cyclical planning and implementation of mitigation works in and around Western Power infrastructure	Western Power	• Ongoing maintenance
Western Power – Pole Maintenance inc insulators	Cyclical planning and implementation of mitigation works on power poles	Western Power	• Ongoing maintenance
Main Roads – Roadside Vegetation Management Program	Mitigation planning and works in road corridors and adjacent to MRWA infrastructure	Main Roads	• Ongoing maintenance
Australian Rail Commission (ARC) Mitigation Program	Mitigation works in rail corridor	Australian Rail Commission	• Ongoing maintenance
Monitoring of Shire for early detection of lightning strikes during storms	BFS volunteers use technology to remotely monitor area for lightning strikes. Will follow up with ground truthing as required	Kent Bushfire volunteers	• Early detection strategies
Widespread alerts to raise awareness of elevated risk	Distribution of BOM Fire Weather Warnings to BFS network	CESM and CBFCO	• Preparatory actions

CHAPTER 4: ASSET IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Assets at risk from bushfire in Shire of Kent are recorded in the *Asset Risk Register* in the BRMS.

Assets are divided into four categories:

- human settlement
- economic
- environmental
- cultural.

Each asset has been assigned a bushfire risk rating between low and extreme based on the risk assessment methodology described in the Guidelines and Handbook.

4.1. Identifying and Assessing Cascading Risk

Cascading risk refers to the impacts of a bushfire on the interconnected systems and networks that sustain communities. The concept recognises that a bushfire event can set off a chain reaction with impacts that extend beyond the fire's location. These may affect the social fabric, economy, and environment of the district and can persist long after the fire has been extinguished.

Due to time constraints a Cascading Risk Assessment for the Shire of Kent was not considered at this time.

4.2. Local Government Asset Risk Profile

A summary of the risks assessed in Shire of Kent is shown in Table 9. This table shows the proportion of assets at risk from bushfire in each risk category at the time the BRM Plan was endorsed. This table was correct at the time of publication but may become outdated as risks are treated or additional risks are identified and assessed. A report may be generated from the BRMS to provide the most current risk profile.

Table 9 Shire of Kent - Local Government Asset Risk Summary (At 8/03/2026)

Asset Category	Risk Rating				
	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Extreme
Human Settlement	0.3%	1.9%	21.7%	18.8%	35.3%
Economic	1.6%	1.0%	2.8%	2.8%	1.9%
Environmental	6.4%	2.5%	0.6%	NR	NR
Cultural	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%

N.B. Figures rounded to first decimal place.

CHAPTER 5: RISK EVALUATION

5.1. Risk Acceptance Criteria

The acceptable level of risk for each asset category is shown in Table 10. A risk that is assessed as exceeding these limits will be considered for treatment.

Table 10 Risk acceptance criteria for bushfire risk in Shire of Kent.

	Asset category			
	Human settlement	Economic	Environmental	Cultural
Acceptable risk level	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

Risks above the acceptable level will be progressively addressed as funds and opportunities arise.

The levels were set based on a detailed understanding of the local fire environment and conditions typically experienced in the local area during 'fire season'. This knowledge was integral to the alignment of stated risk ratings with the locally determined priority of protecting human settlement within the Shire of Kent.

The focus of this BRMP is on mitigating risks adjacent to human settlement as this aspect of the community was determined to be most critical in providing a level of protection deemed necessary by stakeholders.

Risks below the acceptable level do not require treatment during the life of this BRM Plan. They will be managed by routine bushfire risk controls and monitored to detect any increase in their risk rating.

Over the life of this BRM Plan the Shire of Kent will endeavour to ground-truth the desktop ratings to ensure accuracy of risk ratings. This will provide greater quality assurance to this BRMP.

CHAPTER 6: RISK TREATMENT

The purpose of risk treatment is to reduce the potential impact of bushfire on the community, economy and environment. This is achieved by implementing treatments that modify the characteristics of the hazard, the community or the environment to make bushfires less likely or less harmful.

6.1. Treatment Strategy

The Treatment Strategy describes the overall approach to managing bushfire risk in the medium to long term in Shire of Kent. The strategy is shaped by factors such as the distribution of risk in the landscape, the community's values and objectives, stakeholders' mitigation programs and constraints on treatment options. The Treatment strategy helps guide the development of integrated annual treatment schedules.

The Shire of Kent prioritises the protection of life as its primary focus. This goal is the key driver of mitigation decision making.

Treatment order of priority, if limited resources dictate, is as follows;

1. Human Settlement

The population in the Shire of Kent is largely concentrated in the towns of Nyabing and Pingrup. Maintaining a consistent population base is fundamentally important in smaller communities. The effect of any sudden departure from an locality by a cohort of people can reverberate throughout the community.

In all instances the towns are located in close proximity to vegetation material and exposed to potential for fire risk. the townsites. The proximity of these towns to adjoining bushland elevates the level of risk to these communities. Mitigating this risk in, and around, townsites becomes the over-arching priority for the Shire of Kent.

The Nyabing and Pingrup communities value the remaining remnant Woodland bush areas that are adjacent to its communities. Equally these same Woodlands are recognized as threatened environmental communities and any disturbance to them must be minimized. As such any mitigation measures undertaken will be planned to minimize any long-term damage to significant trees in these locations. Typically, the focus will be on surface and near-surface fuels and could include; stick raking and burning of raked up heaps, slashing and spraying of annual grasses and the installation and/or reinforcement of strategic perimeter fire breaks.

Supporting this intent are the following secondary priorities.

2. Infrastructure Supporting Community Well-Being

Any loss of valuable community assets and/or critical infrastructure can have a significant impact on the day-to-day function of the community. Mitigation priority, after human settlement above, will be given to the local schools, key sporting and social facilities identified as being central to community well-being.

Critical infrastructure supporting community connectedness forms a key consideration for all mitigation planning. Asset managers will be actively encouraged to undertake mitigation works

around community life lines; water infrastructure, telecommunication infrastructure, emergency communication towers and the major traffic thoroughfares traversing the Shire.

A proposed coordinated, multi-agency approach to mitigation within the Shire can help alleviate resourcing shortfalls.

3. Commercial Operations Supporting Local Economy

Commercial operations within the Shire of Kent provide critical services and employment opportunities to, and in, the community. Any loss of, or reduction to, these services and/or suppliers will result in a deterioration of services to that locality.

The concentrated nature of the Shire communities means key economic drivers are generally within the five townsites. Mitigating the risk to them is largely achieved through strategic and targeted mitigation in and around the local communities.

4. Heritage Assets; environmental, cultural and historical

While considered of a lesser importance within the framework of the BRMP these assets remain an integral component of community heritage. If resources are limited it will be necessary to consider their relative importance at time of bi- annual planning.

Outside of the local town sites, expectations will be placed upon individual landowners to fulfil their obligations outlined within the Shire of Kent S33 Notice issued under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

6.2. Treatment Schedule

The Treatment Schedule is a list of bushfire risk treatments recorded in the BRMS. It is developed regarding the outcome of the risk assessment process and Treatment Strategy and in consultation with stakeholders.

A treatment schedule for the Shire of Kent covering the 12 months has been entered to BRMS. This is a live document and will be regularly updated throughout the life of the BRM Plan.

Land managers are responsible for implementing agreed treatments on their own land. This includes costs associated with the treatment and obtaining the relevant approvals, permits or licences to undertake an activity. Where agreed, another agency may manage a treatment on behalf of a land manager.

6.3. Cascading Risk Treatment

Due to time constraints a Cascading Risk Assessment for the Shire of Kent was not considered at this time.

CHAPTER 7: MONITORING AND REVIEW

Monitoring and review processes are in place to ensure that the BRM Plan remains current and considers the best available information.

7.1. Monitoring and Review

Shire of Kent will monitor the BRM Plan and BRMS data to identify any need for change. The Plan and BRMS data will be reviewed at least every two years to ensure they continue to reflect the local context, assets at risk, level of risk and treatment priorities.

7.2. Reporting

The Shire of Kent CEO or their delegate will provide to OBRM the outcomes of the two-year review of the BRM Plan. This is required to maintain OBRM endorsement of the Plan.

The Shire of Kent will contribute information about their BRM Program to the annual OBRM *Fuel Management Activity Report*.