



THE ENTRANCE COMMUNITY
PRECINCT COMMITTEE

**David Lemcke of Wyong Council presentation on 19 May 2009 on
Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (RMP)**

David was assisted by Kevin Martin and Lindsay Denton of Wyong's RFS.

David explained that he was a member of Wyong's **Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC)**. It was established under the Rural Fires Act 1997 (S.50) to plan for bush fire prevention and coordinate bush fire fighting. He advised it was not a Council committee or a Rural Fire Service (RFS) committee. It is responsible to the State government Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC)

Wyong's **Bush** Fire Management Committee (BFMC) is required to prepare a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan under S.52 of the act. The Wyong BFMC consists of representatives from; NSW Department of Lands; NSW Fire Brigades; Forests NSW; Aboriginal Land Councils; Rural Fire Service (staff and volunteers); Wyong Council (Councillor and staff); Nature Conservation Council; NSW Farmers Association; Electricity supply bodies (Delta, Transgrid, Energy Australia); Police; RTA; railways and others as required

It was explained that the reasons to coordinate where that bush fires don't take into account land ownership; more effective bushfire protection; more realistic prioritisation of works; more "bang for buck" from funding; manage environmental impacts and other related matters better.

The underlying principles of the BFMC is that ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) must guide and balance all decision making involving the Economic, Social and Environmental considerations.

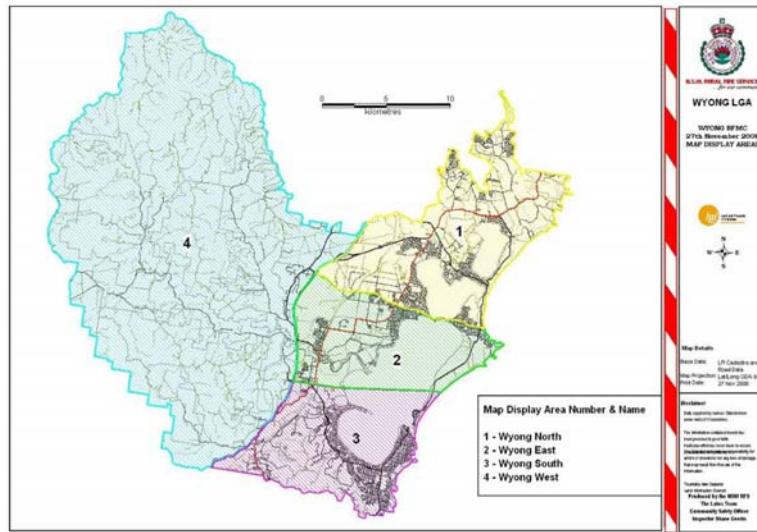
Hazard reduction works generally require approval from either: RFS (Hazard Reduction Certificate) or Council (Development Application) and residents should contact RFS for further details.

David also advise residents to prepare their property saying that the work an individual does to prepare their property is a critical component of bush fire management. Strategic measures must be backed up by property preparation. People need to consider maintenance of your house and outbuildings and maintaining an Asset Protection Zone (APZ). Those in risk should develop a Bush Firewise Action Plan.

The BFMC is developing a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan that is a systematic and analytical exercise to map and describe local bushfire hazards and issues. To do this BFMC map and describe assets at risk, such as human settlement, economic, environmental and cultural assets. They analyse the risk to each asset in a consistent way across the state. Develop treatment strategies to mitigate the risk, prioritise treatment strategies to mitigate the risk across the Shire and guide development of detailed works and operational plans.

The Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is establish in context, and consideration is given to current Risk Management Plans; local climate and bush fire seasons; ignition history; bush fire history; vegetation and fire thresholds.

David advised that Wyong was divided into four areas for the purpose of mapping at a landscape scale and for the display of assets and treatments.



It identifies and groups assets to allow a risk assessment of the assets



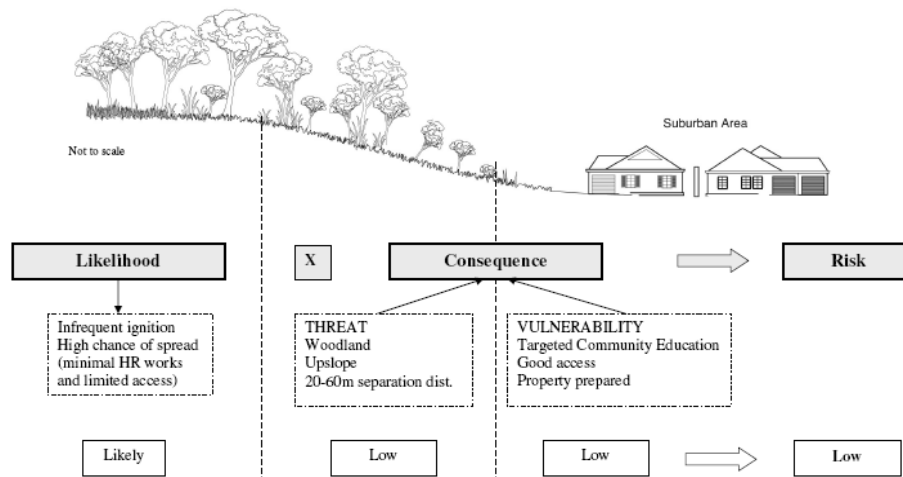
Consequence \ Likelihood	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost certain	High	Very High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Medium	High	Very High	Extreme
Possible	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High

gives risk

Table 4.3 Determining the Level of Bush Fire Risk

In the assessment of human settlement local issues have been considered to confirm risk levels in analysis are appropriate.

Figure 5.4 An Example of the Assessment Process for Human Settlement Assets



In concluding David asked residents to let the BPMC know: what are your bush fire management issues and concerns and which significant places, buildings or environments in your local area do you think are at risk from bush fires? What bush fire treatment strategy should be in place for those assets?

Wyong Shire Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC)

Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (RMP)

Stage 1 Community consultation

Presenter: David Lemcke (Wyong Council)

Wyong BFMC

A photograph of a bush fire with thick smoke rising from a forested hillside. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames visible through the smoke. The smoke is thick and billowing, partially obscuring the sky. The foreground shows the dark silhouette of a forested hillside.

What is the BFMC?

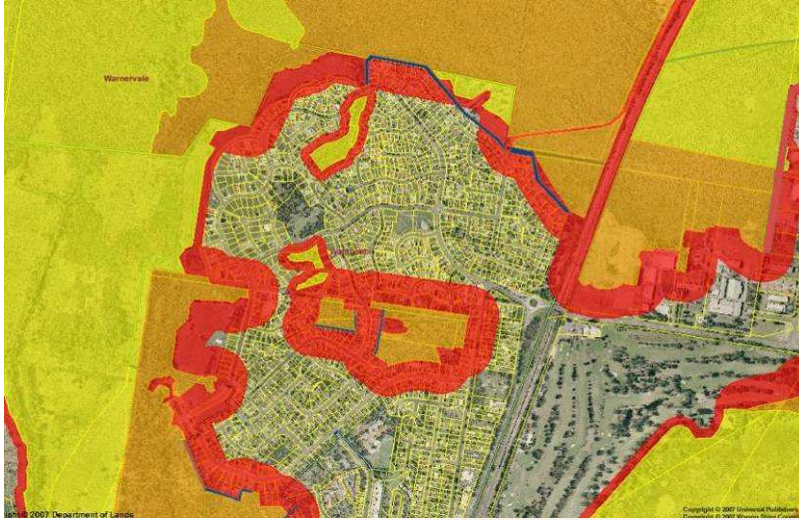
Established under the Rural Fires Act 1997 (S.50) to plan for bush fire prevention and coordinate bush fire fighting.

- Not a Council committee
- Not an RFS committee
- Responsible to the State government Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC)
- Required to prepare a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan under S.52

Who is on the Wyong BFMC?

- NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC)
- NSW Department of Lands
- NSW Fire Brigades
- Forests NSW
- Aboriginal Land Councils
- Rural Fire Service (staff and volunteers)
- Wyong Council (Councillor and staff)
- Nature Conservation Council
- NSW Farmers Association
- Electricity supply bodies (Delta, Transgrid, Energy Australia)
- Police, RTA, railways and others as required

Some reasons to coordinate



- Bush fires don't take into account land ownership!
- More effective bushfire protection
- More realistic prioritisation of works
- More “bang for buck” from funding
- Manage environmental impacts and other related matters better

Underlying principles

- Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) must guide and balance all decision making:
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Environmental
- Hazard reduction works generally require approval from either:
 - RFS (Hazard Reduction Certificate)
 - Council (Development Application)
 - contact RFS for further detail
- The committee is made up of many stakeholders – not a Council or RFS entity

Prepare your property!

- The work an individual does to prepare their property is a critical component of bush fire management.
- Strategic measures must be backed up by property preparation.
- Consider:
 - Maintenance of your house and outbuildings
 - Maintaining an APZ
 - Developing a Bush Firewise Action Plan



What is the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan?

The Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is a systematic and analytical exercise to:

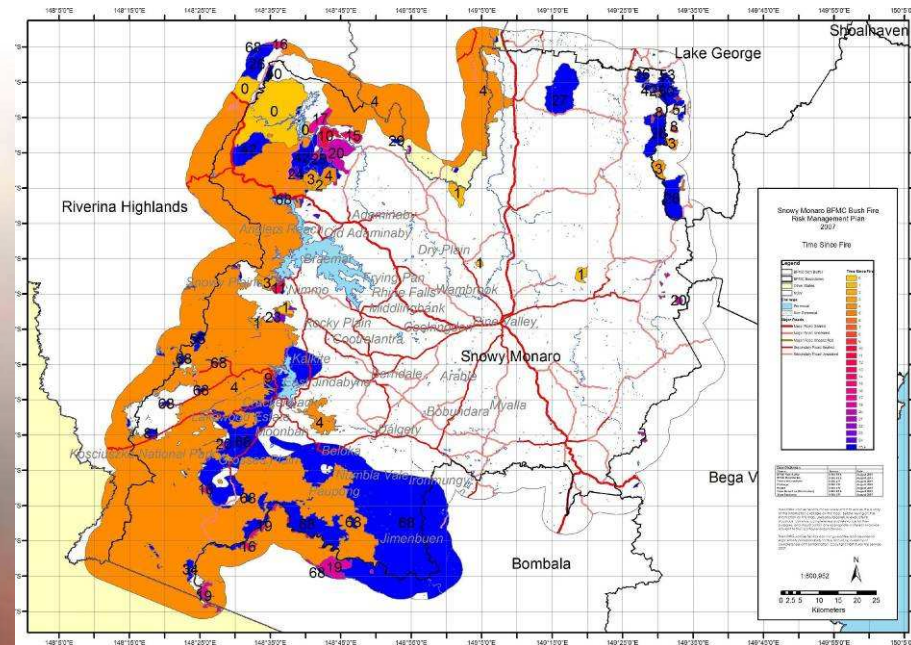
1. Map and describe local bushfire hazards and issues
2. Map and describe assets at risk
 - a. Human settlement
 - b. Economic
 - c. Environmental
 - d. Cultural

What is the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan? (2)

3. Analyse the risk to each asset in a consistent way (across the state)
4. Develop treatment strategies to mitigate the risk
5. Prioritise treatment strategies to mitigate the risk across the Shire
6. Guide development of detailed works and operational plans

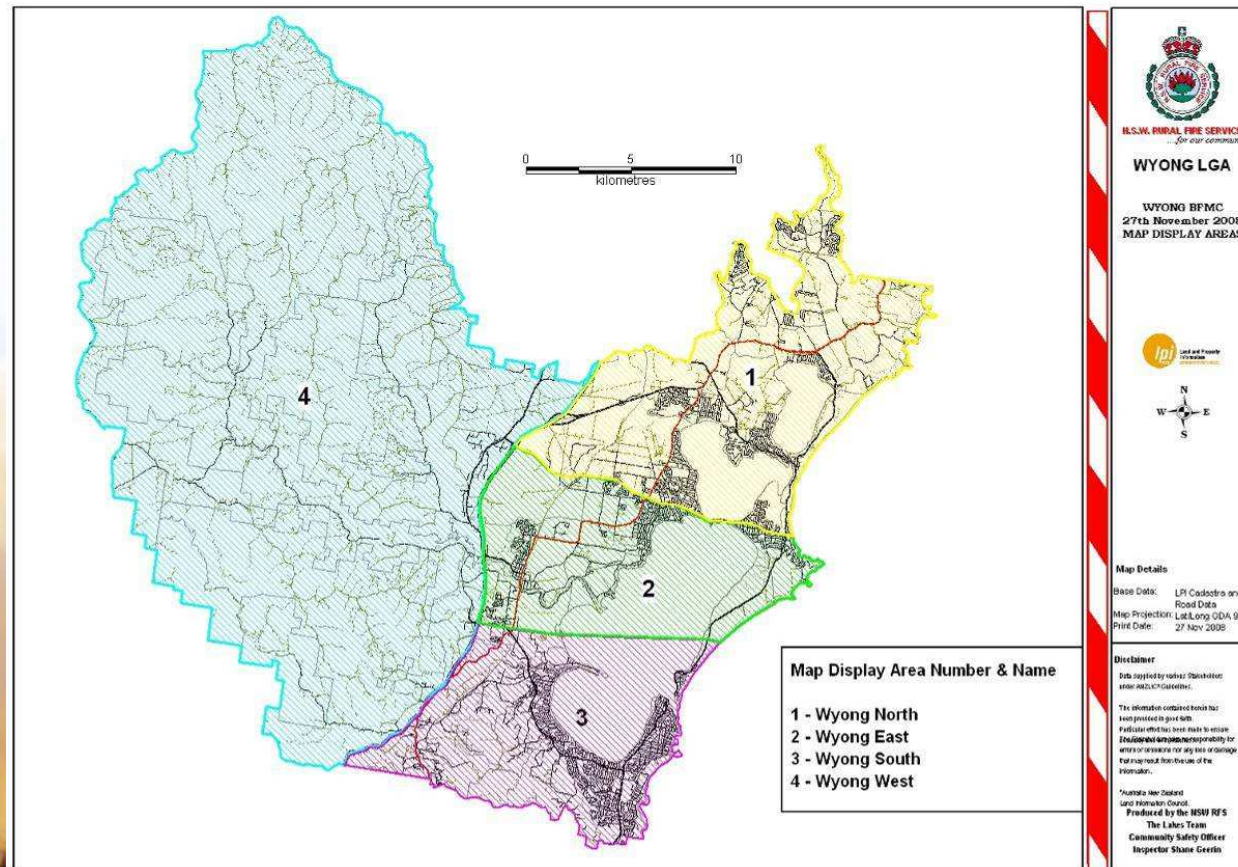
Establish the Context

- Consider
 - Current RMP
 - Local climate and bush fire season
 - Ignition history
 - Bush fire history
 - Vegetation
 - Fire thresholds



Map Display Areas – 4 in Wyong

- BFMC to divide area into smaller areas for the purpose of mapping at a landscape scale and for the display of assets and treatments.



Wyong BFMC

Identify and group Assets



Figure 4.1 Assets identified in groups for risk assessment

Risk assessment of the Assets



Likelihood \ Consequence	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost certain	High	Very High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Medium	High	Very High	Extreme
Possible	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High

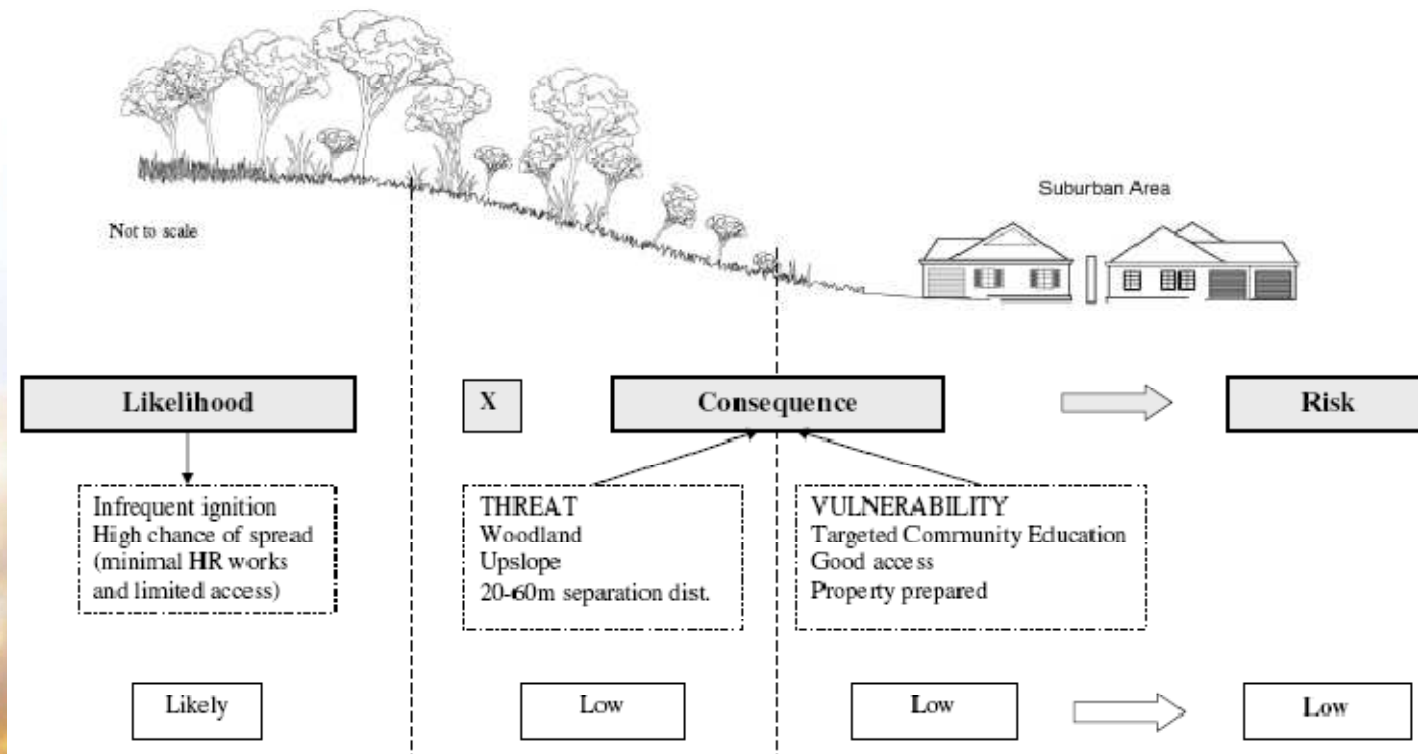
gives risk

Table 4.3 Determining the Level of Bush Fire Risk

Example of Assessment – Human Settlement

Confirm risk levels in analysis are appropriate – local issues have been considered

Figure 5.4 An Example of the Assessment Process for Human Settlement Assets



Select treatments

- Treatments are Asset specific (large number of activities occur anyway as RFS/agency activities)

Strategy	Example
Ignition Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire tower and patrol activities.• Limit, restrict or manage access to potential ignition areas.• Restrict access to land on days of high fire potential.
Hazard Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APZ, SFAZ and LMZ hazard reduction burning.• APZ, SFAZ and LMZ hazard reduction mechanical work.• APZ, SFAZ and LMZ hazard reduction grazing.
Community Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct community education programmes (e.g. targeted street meetings, schools).
Property Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop emergency fire relocation plans.• Develop village protection plans.• Develop plantation fire protection plans.• Establish community fireguard groups.• Retrofit structures.
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct or maintain fire trails.
Other	

Table 10.4 Examples of Asset Specific Treatments

Risk treatment priorities

- No organisation has unlimited funding or resources
- Not everything can be done at once

Consequence \ Likelihood	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost certain	3D	2C	1C	1A
Likely	4	3A	2A	1B
Possible	5	4	3B	2B
Unlikely	5	5	4	3C

gives priority

Table 9.1 Treatment Priorities

Public participation opportunities

- Stage 1 – Introduction to topic and general concerns/issues/assets raised with BFMC (via website)
- Stage 2 – Formal meetings on draft maps and technical analysis (2 per Map area)
- Stage 3 – Formal exhibition

Remember:

- The RMP will not solve all problems.
- Public participation supports and informs the required technical analysis.

Summary

- Preparing the RMP is a systematic and analytical exercise
- Submissions inform and support technical analysis
- The BFMC is made up of many members – it is not a Council or RFS entity
- The BFMC seeks coordinated submissions – via website preferably

How can I be involved?

Let the BFMC know:

- What are your bush fire management issues and concerns?
- Which significant places, buildings or environments in your local area do you think are at risk from bush fires?
- What bush fire treatment strategy should be in place for those assets?

Prepare your property!

- Think about bushfire protection for your family and property
- Talk to your neighbours
- Talk to the RFS about resources to help you make up a Bush Firewise Action Plan
- Check if you need permission for works (RFS or Council)
- Join your local RFS brigade
- Get involved in community events and planning

Questions ?



Wyong BFMC