

The Far South Coast is a landscape of great natural beauty, characterised by small towns and villages along a rocky coastline, interspersed by numerous beaches and lakes. To the east is the coastline of the Pacific Ocean, to the west, the Princes Highway, beyond which is rolling farmlands, remote rural communities and villages, within and adjacent to forested bushland.

Encompassing approximately 973,089 hectares, the area serves as a crucial habitat for a diverse array of Australian flora and fauna, including numerous threatened species and ecological communities, such as:

- 94 threatened fauna species, including five critically endangered species
- 57 threatened flora species, including seven critically endangered species
- Habitat for one threatened freshwater species or community
- 23 threatened ecological communities
- Approximately 6,499 hectares of coastal wetlands and 3.01 hectares of Littoral Rainforest
- Ten Assets of Intergenerational Significance protecting habitat for nine threatened species
- 60 Saving our Species priority management sites

With a population of approximately 69,308, the community faced significant challenges during the summer of 2019/20, with fire events profoundly impacting both the community and the ecosystem. Over 60% of vegetation was burnt at high to severe severity. As a result, the fuel loads across the areas burnt are variable, however the risk will increase over the next five years if and as the vegetation recovers.

The Far South Coast BFMC recognises the trauma and impact of these fire events on community and the environment. The majority of the Bush Fire Management Committee members are also members of communities that were impacted by these fires in the Far South Coast.

Fires of the kind experienced during Black Summer are hard to suppress and the community needs to be physically and mentally prepared. Hazard reduction alone does not eliminate the risk of fire affecting properties and the environment.

A key BFMC objective is to increase and improve community awareness of risk and improved preparedness activities to reduce risk. Specific operational response strategies will be addressed under the BFMC Plan of Operations.

The key Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Objectives and Treatment Strategies for community in the Far South Coast are:

- **Private Property Community Preparedness Objectives and Strategies** addressed under the District Community Engagement Plan
- **Commercial and Tourism Community Preparedness Objectives and Strategies** addressed under the District Community Engagement Plan
- **Asset Protection Zones** around the interface of villages and townships
- **Transport Corridor Firebreaks** that provide access and egress options for community prior to fire occurring, and for firefighters to enter communities prior, during and post a fire event
- **Vegetation Management** along strategic fire trails and fire breaks across the area
- **Vegetation Management** within power line easements
- **Asset Protection Zones** around critical communications and other essential infrastructure
- **Strategic Burning** in vegetation under appropriate fire regimes
- **Strategic Vegetation Management** of the native invasive weed species Black Wattle
- Identify areas that do not have a **Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP)** and upgrade RFS stations to meet NSP guidelines
- Sufficient redundancy options available to supply **power to telecommunication infrastructure** will be addressed under the BFMC Plan of Operations