

DESCRIPTION OF BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT ZONES IN THE CANOBOLAS ZONE BFRMP

This document expands on the standard Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) definitions for Bush Fire Management Zones and provides more detailed information on characteristics of the different Zones identified in the Canobolas Zone BFRMP. It is intended that the information provided will assist land managers and members of our community in better understanding the management approach associated with each Zone.

Asset Protection Zones (APZ)

Description	A fuel reduced area surrounding an asset that creates a buffer from the bush fire prone vegetation and provides a defensible space for fire fighting operations.
Purpose	The main purpose of an APZ is to protect human life, (including residents, community members and fire fighters), property and highly valued public assets (such as human settlement, economic, environmental and cultural items) from the direct impacts of bush fire.
Community Education Objectives	Increase community awareness and understanding of bush fire risk as well as their vulnerability and the role of APZ's in mitigating the impacts of bush fire.
Locations	APZs are generally implemented immediately adjacent assets at risk of bush fire to provide separation from bush fire prone vegetation.
Tactics	Undertake slashing, mowing, trittering and grading Herbicide application Grazing Implement frequent prescribed burning Carry out selective hand clearing
Management Intensity	Vegetation within the APZ is managed at a high intensity to minimise the fuel available to a bush fire. As a minimum, APZs are to be treated on an annual basis.

Impacts	The intensive management of APZs has potential to have negative impacts on natural and cultural values. However, these impacts will be managed and addressed through the existing environmental assessment process with each situation assessed on its merits.
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Strategic Fire Advantage Zones (SFAZ)

Description	An area mapped or described in the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan that is managed to provide a strategic advantage for the management of bush fires.
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Purpose	<p>The main purposes of an SFAZ is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the speed and intensity of bush fire. • Reduce the spotting distance and potential for spot fire development which will assist in the strategic control and containment of bush fires. • To reduce the likelihood of the development of landscape scale fires and limits the spread of bush fires across the landscape. • To complement asset protection zones and strengthen existing fire control advantages, particularly along fire trails. • To break up large continuous areas of high bush fire potential. • To reduce the probability of bush fire starting in areas of high ignition probability.
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Community Education Objectives	To increase community understanding of the benefits strategic hazard reduction burning for bush fire protection and environment processes.
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	<p>SFAZs are generally located in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within large continuous areas of high bush fire potential. • In areas with that are historic fire paths or high probability of bush fire ignitions, for example high use road corridors or rail lines. • Along the bush land interface and adjacent to asset protection zones. • To create a link between other fuel reduced areas which together will assist in controlling the spread of bush fires. <p>The width of the SFAZ is variable depending on location of appropriated containment lines (e.g. fire trail, roads and creeks).</p>
<p>Locations</p>	<p>Implement prescribed burning</p> <p>Undertake slashing and mowing</p> <p>Carryout vegetation under-scrubbing</p>
<p>Tactics</p>	<p>Linear SFAZs located along road corridors and railway lines are managed at a high intensity and are typically treated twice each year.</p> <p>SFAZs located along the bush land interface or within the landscape are managed in line with the biodiversity thresholds identified in Table 3.3 of the Canobolas Zone BFRMP.</p> <p>Management practices aim to achieve a mosaic fuel reduction pattern so the majority of the SFAZ has an Overall Fuel Hazard of less than high (i.e. approximately 10 ton per hectare). Fuel loads in forest vegetation throughout the central west take approximately 10 year to accumulate to this level. Therefore, SFAZs across the Canobolas Zone BFMC area are typically treated on a 10 year cycle.</p>
<p>Management Intensity</p>	<p>The strategies implemented for SFAZs have potential to cause minor impacts on broad natural and cultural values. However, these will impacts managed and addressed through the existing environmental approval process.</p>

Land Management Zones

In the Canobolas Zone BFMC area, Land Management Zones have been classified into three separate categories which includes:

1. LMZ General
2. LMZ Agricultural
3. LMZ Pine

More information on the characteristic of each of the LMZs are outlined below.

LMZ General

Definition	An area mapped or described in the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan that is managed to meet the land management objectives of the area.
Purpose	<p>The main purposes of LMZ General is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply appropriate fire regimes will produce a mosaic, discontinuous fuel loads that reduce the likelihood of spread of fires which will complement APZ's and SFAZ's• Utilise ecological sustainable development principles in managing fire in the landscape• Maintain, and where possible enhance, natural and cultural values of the landscape through the application of appropriate fire regimes
Community Education Objectives	Increase community awareness and understanding of appropriate fire regimes along with the resulting environmental and community protection benefits.
Locations	LMZ General consists of timbered fire prone areas across the Canobolas Zone BFMC area that are not otherwise identified as another type of Bush Fire Management Zone.
Tactics	As appropriate to conserve biodiversity and cultural heritage and in line with land owner / agency management guidelines. Tactics can generally include mosaic prescribed burning and grazing practices.

Management Intensity	<p>The management intensity within LMZ General is typically low with management practices designed to conserve environmental and cultural values.</p> <p>Treatment cycle of LMZ General is guided by the biodiversity thresholds identified in Table 3.3 of the Canobolas Zone BFRMP. As a general rule, the selected treatment cycle for the vegetation types within the Canobolas BFMC area will be 20 years. However, this is subject to amendment on a case by case basis depending on seasonal influences and fuel loads..</p>
Impacts	<p>The strategies implemented in this zone are designed to have minimal impact on environmental and cultural values as well as complementing the other management objectives of the land owner / agency</p>

LMZ Agricultural

Definition	<p>Land across the Canobolas Zone BFMC area that is used for primary production and is not otherwise identified as an APZ or SFAZ.</p>
Purpose	<p>The main purposes of LMZ Agricultural is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the economic values of agricultural land throughout the BFMC area. • Incorporate suitable mitigation strategies that compliment the land management objectives. • Recognise the benefit of appropriately managed agricultural lands in reducing the impacts of bush fire on the broader community.
Community Education Objectives	<p>Increase the awareness and knowledge of bush fire risk and the range of suitable treatment options available to protect agricultural assets. Enhance community understanding of the benefits of appropriately managed agricultural lands in reducing the impacts of bush fire.</p>
Locations	<p>All agricultural land that is not timbered and fire prone</p>
Standards	<p>Mitigation activities can be applied where they do not interfere with the primary objective</p>

	Fuel breaks
	Fast initial attack on fire outbreaks
	Prevention
Tactics	APZ's around assets by spraying and mowing
	Grazing
	Mosaic agricultural practices (i.e. fallows, lucerne, vegetable crops, spraying,

Management Intensity	Low to moderate
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Impacts	The strategies implemented in this zone will not interfere with the primary management objective
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LMZ Pine

Definition	Land throughout the Canobolas Zone BFMC area that is used for commercial pine plantations and is not otherwise identified as an APZ or SFAZ.
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Purpose	<p>The main purposes of LMZ Pine is to protect the economic values of commercial pine forests by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing the spread and impact of bush fire on cypress pine production forests within the Canobolas Zone BFMC area. • Preventing the spread and impact of bush fire on softwood pine plantations within the Canobolas Zone BFMC area.
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Community Education Objectives	Increase the awareness and knowledge of bush fire risk as well as the importance of protecting the economic viability of the pine forest industry in Canobolas Zone BFMC area.
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Locations	<p>Land that is used for softwood pine plantations which occur in the eastern half of the Canobolas Zone BFMC area.</p> <p>Land that is used for cypress pine production forests which occur in the western half of the Canobolas Zone BFMC area.</p>
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Tactics	Maintenance of fuel breaks, APZs and SFAZs Extensive fire crew and equipment standby Fast initial attack on bush fire outbreaks Ignition management activities including the monitoring from fire tower network during the fire danger period Maintain access to water points
Management Intensity	Vegetation within close proximity to assets is generally managed at a high intensity to minimise the fuel availability and restrict the spread of bush fire. These areas are typically managed on an ongoing basis.
Impacts	The strategies implemented in this Zone are based on fire exclusion and cannot interfere with the land management objective (i.e. timber production). Areas that are intensely managed have potential to impact on natural and cultural values. However, these impacts will be managed and addressed through the existing environmental assessment process.
