

Acknowledgement of Country

"Kaya, Nala Maat Kaya Noonduk (Hello, Our Family Welcomes You) to Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People's Country) – we all come together on Boodja (Country). Whilst on Wadandi Boodja we ask that you respect the land by walking softly and take the time to listen to Boodja as she Wongi (Talks).

We respect the presence of the Demmala Goomala (Ancestors) whose Djanga (Spirits) reside on Boodja and whose Djenna (feet) walk the land and whose Djanga Korda (heart spirit) flows through all creation. Wooditjup (Margaret River) is the heart of Wadandi Boodja (country), a meeting place between land and sea, connecting us all with Wadandi Boodja.

The Wadandi Boodja (Motherland) reaches from Bunbury, along the coast of Geographe Bay, extending to Yallingup (Place of Holes) to Talinup, Augusta (Place of Reeds) inland to Nannup (The Stopping Place), taking in the region of Undalup (Busselton) The Wadan Boodja (Sea Country) is of great spiritual significance to the coastal Wadandi people. Boodja – Land, Country, Mother Earth – is our most important resource. No matter what culture or religion – all of us rely on Nala Boodja, Our Country.

It is up to all of us to listen to the land, understand the connection to Country that we all have and realise how urgent it is to work together to make better decisions on how we can create that balance, ensuring sustainability for the generations to come, in order to protect and preserve the beauty of Boodja.

Whilst living, travelling, visiting and holidaying on Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People's Country) we ask that you respect the area and walk softly on the country, taking the time to listen to Boodja (Country) as she Wongi (Talks) of the Season, and leave nothing but footprints".

Wadandi Traditional Cultural Custodian Wayne "Wonitji" Webb.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River acknowledges we are on Wadandi and Pibelmen Boodja, whose ancestors and their descendants are the traditional owners of this country.

We acknowledge the Wadandi and Pibelmen have been custodians since the land was soft (creation times) and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

The Shire is committed to Aboriginal Australians sharing fairly and equitably in the region's cultural, social, environmental and economic future.

Alignment to the **Strategic Community Plan** 2040



Environment

We will protect and enhance the unique natural environment and biodiversity of the region through climate action and informed decision making.

We will focus on:

Outcome EN.1: Ecology and biodiversity protection
Outcome EN.2: Healthy
waterways, foreshores and natura landscapes
Outcome EN.3: Collective climate action

People

We will support and strengthen our diverse resilient, welcoming, safe and connected community through our services and advocacy.

We will focus on:

Outcome PE.1: Diverse cultural values are respected and adopted Outcome PE.2: Equal opportunities for all Outcome PE.3: Active, healthy and fulfilling lifestyles Outcome PE.4: Safe and resilient communities

Place

We will responsibly develop vibrant, sustainable places which maintain their distinctive characters, and which supports a local economy that is resilient, equitable and sustainable.

We will focus on:

well-designed places
Outcome PL.2: Infrastructure which
caters to need
Outcome PL.3: Sustainable agriculture
and thriving rural community
Outcome PL.4: Resilient circular local

Performance

We will deliver quality governance, service and value with integrity and transparency.

We will focus on:

Outcome PF.1: Responsible planning and ownership of outcomes

Outcome PF.2: Community and customer focus Outcome PF.3: High performing and engaged people

Outcome PF.4: A culture of innovation, quality and continuous improvement



Shire of Augusta Margaret River

BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) has been endorsed by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) as consistent with the standards detailed in the *Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2023*.

The approval of the BRMP by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Council signifies support of the plan's implementation and commitment to working with risk owners to reduce bushfire risk where possible. Approval does not signify acceptance of responsibility for risk, treatments or outcomes on land that is not managed by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

Local Government	Representative	Signature	Date
Shire of Augusta Margaret River	J Jean-Rice Shire President	Jh-	27/08/2025

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Glossary of Terms

Something of value that may be adversely impacted by bushfire. This may include residential houses, infrastructure, commercial, agriculture, industry, environmental, cultural and heritage sites. Asset category There are four categories that classify the type of asset — Human Settlement, Economic, Environmental and Cultural. Asset risk register A component within the Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS) used to record the consequence, likelihood, risk rating and treatment priority for each asset identified in the BRMP. Bushfire Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective. Bushfire risk management A systematic process to coordinate, direct and control activities relating to bushfire fisk with the aim of limiting the adverse effects of bushfire on the community. Bushfire risk The chance of a bushfire igniting, spreading and causing damage to the community or the assets they value. Consequence The outcome or impact of a bushfire event. Landowner The owner of the land, as listed on the Certificate of Title; or leaser under a registered lease agreement, or other entity that has a vested responsibility to manage the land. Likelihood The chance of something occurring. In this instance, it is the potential of a bushfire igniting, spreading and impacting on an asset. Risk acceptance The informed decision to accept a risk, based on the knowledge gained during the risk assessment process. Risk analysis The application of consequence and likelihood to an event, to determine the level of risk. Risk assessment The systematic process of identifying, analysing and evaluating risk. Risk identification The process of comparing the outcomes of risk analysis to the risk criteria in order to determine whether a risk is acceptable or tolerable.		
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Risk identification The process of recognising, identifying and describing risks.	Risk evaluation	risk criteria in order to determine whether a risk is acceptable
	Risk identification	The process of recognising, identifying and describing risks.

Risk treatment	A process to select and implement appropriate measures undertaken to modify risk.
Systemic risk	The impacts of bushfire on the interconnected systems and networks that support community function. It is a product of the disruption caused by fire to the community and its effects may be felt far from the direct impacts of the fire in both time and space.
Treatment objective	The aim to be achieved by the treatment. Treatment objectives should be specific and measurable.
Treatment priority	The order, importance or urgency for allocation of funding, resources and opportunity to treatments associated with a particular asset. The treatment priority is based on an asset's risk rating.
Treatment schedule	A report produced within the BRMS that details the treatment priority of each asset identified in the BRMP, and the treatments scheduled.
Treatment strategy	The general approach that will be taken to manage bushfire risk, in consideration of the local government context and objectives.
Treatment type	The specific treatment activity that will be implemented to modify risk, for example a planned burn.

Common Abbreviations

AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council
BFAC	Bush Fire Advisory Committee
BRM	Bushfire Risk Management
BRM Branch	Bushfire Risk Management Branch (DFES)
BRMP	Bushfire Risk Management Plan
BRMS	Bushfire Risk Management System
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
OBRM	Office of Bushfire Risk Management (DFES)
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
UCL	Unallocated Crown Land
UMR	Unmanaged Reserve
WA	Western Australia

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) has been prepared with due consideration of the requirements stated in the *Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (Department of Fire and Emergency Services, n.d.)(the Guidelines) published by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) including the principles described in *ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management*.

The requirement for a local government to maintain a BRMP falls out of the responsibilities assigned to it by the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner through the State Hazard Plan – Fire as the Hazard Management Agency for the legislated hazard of fire (Department of Fire and Emergency Services, 2023). The Shire's BRMP was first developed and endorsed in 2017 with this version being the first major review undertaken on this document.

1.2 Aim

The overall aim of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, which is to be the cornerstone for this and all other bushfire specific policies and plans, is to:

Enhance the resilience of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River to bushfire by effectively managing bushfire risk through a comprehensive approach that integrates prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies to minimise the impact of bushfire on lives, property and the environment, ensuring the safety and sustainability of the Shire's communities and natural landscapes.

1.3 Objectives of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan

The objectives of this BRMP are targeted at the Prevention/Mitigation phase of the recognised prevention, preparedness, response and recovery Emergency Management model, and are to:

- Describe and document the various contextual factors that influence risk from the hazard of bushfire including, but not limited to, topography, climate, demographics and vegetation.
- Describe the risk assessment process utilised through the supporting Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS) to outline how risk ratings are assigned across the built environment.
- Document the level of risk assigned to the built environment through the BRMS process and make it publicly available.
- Describe and document the priorities of the Shire for future potential bushfire treatments.

1.4 Legislation, Policy and Standards

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

1.4.1 Legislation

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972	Provides for the recognition, protection and preservation of Aboriginal sites. Some treatment activities may require permission to disturb, or sites may need to be excluded from treatment areas. Assets protected under this Act may need to be included in the BRMP.
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016	Provides for the protection of biodiversity, particularly threatened species and threatened ecological communities. Some treatment activities may require environmental approval, or sites may need to be excluded from treatment areas, or specific mitigation treatment types may need to be utilised. Assets protected under this Act may need to be included in the BRMP.
Building Act 2011	Adopts the Building Code of Australia as the applicable building standard for new buildings. This includes bushfire construction requirements in areas designated as bushfire prone under a relevant power of legislation.
Bush Fires Act 1954	Provisions for declaration of Total Fire Bans, Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, and Prohibited and Restricted burning times, authority to burn, issue of firebreak notices and permits to burn. Covers burning and installation of firebreaks on other lands. Allows for establishment of Bush Fire Advisory Committees.
Conservation and Land Management Act 1984	Covers the management of lands falling under the Act. Allows for the control of forest diseases such as <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> (Phytophthora Dieback).
Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947	Covers the protection of water catchment areas. Identifies burning in catchment areas as a possible polluting activity. Assets protected under this Act may need to be included in the BRMP.
Emergency Management Act 2005	Provides for prompt and coordinated organisation of emergency management across the State. Articulates the function of state agencies and local government in State and local arrangements. Provides for additional powers during declared events. Allows for establishment of state, district and local committees and the development of State emergency management policy.
Environmental Protection Act 1986	Regulates the clearing of native vegetation and other activities that may cause environmental harm. Allows for declaration of environmentally sensitive areas. Assets protected under this Act may need to be included in the BRMP.
Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)	Federal legislation that provides a framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. Assets protected under this Act may need to be included in the BRMP.

Fire Brigades Act 1942	Covers the management of fire within the Gazetted Fire District.
Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998	Provides for functions relating to the provision and management of emergency services, including collection of the Emergency Services Levy.
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909	Covers the protection of water catchment areas. Identifies burning in catchment areas as a possible polluting activity. Assets protected under this Act may need to be included in the BRMP.

1.4.2 Regulations

Bush Fires Regulations 1954	Sets out conditions for burning and other activities during Restricted and Prohibited times.
Emergency Management Regulations 2006 State Emergency Management Policy	Covers the prescription of hazards and nomination of Hazard Management Agencies and Combat Agencies. Provides a strategic framework for emergency management. The policy identifies the role and responsibilities of emergency management agencies and other public authorities and organisations in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. The policy sets out the State's core objectives for emergency risk management planning.
Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015	Prescribes the procedures for preparing and adopting local planning strategies, local planning schemes and amendments. Recent amendments introduced allow for the designation of bushfire prone areas in WA by the FES Commissioner and the application of new state planning policy to such declared areas.

1.4.3 State Policies, Plans and Procedures

State Emergency Management Procedures	Support the State Emergency Management Policy. Sets out the roles and responsibilities for emergency risk management, identifies those local governments that are required to have a hazard specific plan for bushfire, and nominates the specialised guidelines and risk criteria to be used (BRM Planning Guidelines).
State Hazard Plan for Fire	Details the emergency management arrangements for fire emergencies throughout the state. Identifies organisational responsibilities for development and implementation of BRMPs.
State Planning Policy 3.7: Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas	Guiding policy to ensure bushfire risk management is adequately considered and addressed in land use planning and development. The policy applies to development proposed in any area designated as bushfire prone.

1.4.4 Standards, Guidelines and Documents

AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management - Guidelines	The Australian standard for managing risk. The BRM planning process is aligned to the principles, framework and process outlined in AS ISO 31000:2018.
AS 3959-2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas	The Australian standard for construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas. The Hazard Assessment used in the BRMP risk assessment process is based on the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) calculation presented in AS 3959:2018.
Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan	Provides a strategic overview of the BRM planning process to support local governments to undertake best practice risk management.
Bushfire Risk Management Template	Provides a fillable electronic document that includes guiding text and templated appendices.
Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas	These guidelines and associated appendices support application of State Planning Policy 3.7: Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas.
National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) Handbook	Provides a consistent method for use by Australian governments to assess emergency risks for priority hazards.
Guidelines for the Safe Use of Pesticides in Non-agricultural Workplaces	A practical and informative guide on how to comply with legislation relating to the use of pesticides (including herbicides) in Western Australia.
Guide for Applying the Bush Fire Risk Treatment Standards	A guide to the Bushfire Risk Treatment Standards including technical specifications on how to maintain Asset Protection Zones.
A Guide to the Management of Pesticides in Local Government Pest Control Programs in Western Australia	A guide to assist local government in developing a pesticide use policy.
A Guide to the Exemptions and Regulations for Clearing Native Vegetation	This guide explains what exemptions exist, the circumstances in which they apply and what is defined as intentionally planted vegetation.
A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation	This guide sets out the Department of Water and Environment Regulation's (DWER) approach for assessing an application to clear native vegetation under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> 1986. The document also includes links to a number of useful environmental and Aboriginal heritage resources.
A Guide to Burning Under the Native Vegetation Clearing Provisions	This guide briefly summarises fire ecology and management issues in Western Australia relevant to the native vegetation clearing provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> 1986.
A Guide to Constructing and Maintaining Firebreaks	Guidance and best practice for establishing firebreaks that meet the minimum requirements prescribed in the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> .
A Guide to Grazing of Native Vegetation	This guideline sets out the requirements of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> in relation to the grazing of native vegetation, including when grazing of native vegetation is clearing for the purposes of the Act. This guideline applies to all grazing of native vegetation on lands in Western Australia.
Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection	Provides local government and the plantation industry with a best practice standard for plantations that aims to protect

	human life and local community interests, while minimising fire risk to plantation assets.
A Guide to Preventing and Suppressing Bushfires on Organic and Acid Sulfate Soils	A guide explaining what organic and acid sulphate soils are, how they can be recognised, and providing advice on fire management to address the safety of firefighters and reduce impacts on the environment.
Managing Phytophthora Dieback in Bushland	The guide explains the disease and provides guidance for protecting bushland against the spread of the pathogen.
National Strategy for Disaster Resilience	Provides high level guidance on disaster management and presents the concept of 'shared responsibility'.
Public Service Circular No.88 Use of Herbicides in Water Catchment Areas	A best practice policy statement that applies to all government departments and their contractors.
Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia	Provides guidance to plantation managers so that plantation operations in Western Australia are conducted in a manner that is in accordance with accepted principles for good plantation management.
Western Australian Emergency Risk Management Guide	Provides guidance to support the development of Emergency Risk Management plans and the implementation of the risk management process.

2. THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The BRM planning process is a cycle of understanding the context and assessing and treating risks (Figure 1). 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 BRMP, Asset Risk Register and Treatment Schedule.

Further details on the guiding principles and process for the development of this plan can be found in Chapter 2 of the Guidelines.

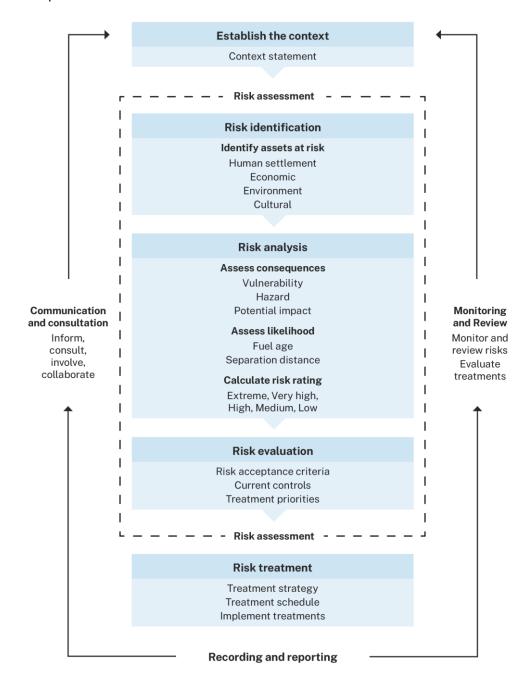


Figure 1. The Bushfire Risk Management planning process

2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders involved in the development of the BRMP are outlined in the table below.

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Local government	 Custodian of the BRMP. Coordinate the development and ongoing review of the BRMP. Undertake bushfire risk assessment of local government area. Submit the draft BRMP to OBRM for review and endorsement. Develop and implement a Treatment Schedule for local government managed land. Encourage risk owners to treat identified risks.
DFES	 Contribute to the development and implementation of the BRMP. 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 BRMPs as consistent with the Guidelines, BRM Program and dynamic risk environment. Administer the Mitigation Activity Fund Grants Program.
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	 Contribute to the development of the BRMP. Implement their treatment program on DBCA managed land. Provide advice on environmental assets and appropriate treatment strategies for their protection. Identify managed assets. Provide advice on management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
Other State and Commonwealth Government	 Identify managed assets. Provide advice on current risk treatment programs. Contribute to the development of BRMPs.

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
agencies and public utilities	Undertake treatments on lands they manage.
Corporations and private landowners	 Identify managed assets. Provide advice on current risk treatment programs. Undertake treatments on lands they manage.

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

2.2 Communication and Consultation

Consultation with regard to specific treatment sites will occur as the treatment schedule is finalised to inform affected parties of proposed works. The Shire will develop a communication process around proposed treatments with affected parties/residents for inclusion as an annexure to this document at a later date.

Communication and consultation around the larger level of risk across the Shire is beyond the scope of this BRMP, with the Shire's approach to a broader resilience-based approach to be documented in a separate but supporting plan. This plan will focus on identified at risk communities and will focus on raising resilience levels where the reduction of physical risk is beyond the ability of the Shire to influence.

3. ESTABLISHING THE CONTEXT

3.1 Strategic and corporate framework

The Shire's *Strategic Community Plan 2040* (Shire of Augusta Margaret River, n.d.) was adopted in 2019 (OCM2019/112) and represents the Shire's new approach to planning for the Shire's future. It builds on its past strategic planning work, addresses the challenges ahead and sets out what actions it will take in the next 20 years to work towards achieving the community's vision.

This BRMP aims to strengthen the Shire's capacity to achieve its overall corporate vision and goals as detailed in the *Strategic Community Plan 2040*. In particular, the two following Strategic outcomes:

- Strategy EN.1.4: Facilitate ecologically sound and culturally inclusive fire management practices on Shire land and work collaboratively with all stakeholders in a tenure blind process to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability of bushfire across the Shire.
- Strategy PE.4.1: Provide, regulate, and facilitate local community safety initiatives and animal management.

It should be noted that there are a number of competing strategies contained within the Strategic Community Plan focusing on environmental protection such as:

 Strategy EN. 2.3 Provide, regulate, facilitate and advocate for habitats, corridors and refugia to be identified and protected utilising land use planning incentives and community partnerships.

These competing strategies, combined with the extent of Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park, State Forests and other remnant vegetation, make successful management of bushfire risk a complex issue with many challenges.

The Shire's organisational structure¹ (Figure 2), identifies that the Directorate of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure is responsible for the BRMP processes, sustainability and continuity. Accepting that there are multiple stakeholders (outside of the LG) involved in the effective implementation of the BRMP process, it is important to note that the Shire's responsibility is to facilitate only the management of the risk of bushfires to the community as supported by the provision of this plan.

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¹ Image retrieved from Shire of Augusta Margaret River IT Services (internal intranet, August 2024).

Organisational Structure Augusta Margaret River Shire

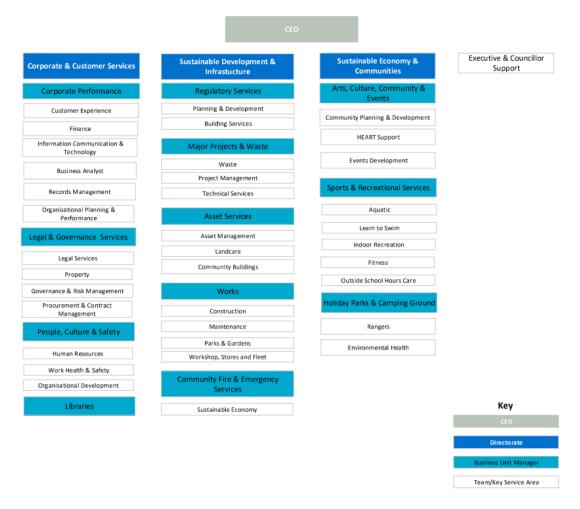


Figure 2: The Shire's Organisational Structure

Emergency Management is identified in the Shire's *Strategic Community Plan 2040* and *Corporate Business Plan 2023-2027* (Shire of Augusta Margaret River, n.n.) as a key service provided by the Shire. More specifically:

• Strategy PE.4.2: Provide, regulate, facilitate, and advocate for just and inclusive local emergency preparedness and response across all hazards.

With fire being identified as one of the 5 priority hazards in the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (Shire of Augusta Margaret River, 2022) this BRMP is a hazard specific plan that identifies significant bushfire risks within the LG. The outcomes of the BRMP will be used to inform LG when preparing and then implementing bushfire mitigation strategies for Shiremanaged land.

This is not without its challenges and with the Shire being wholly located within a recognised Global Biodiversity Hotspot there are a number of competing priorities within the Shire Strategic Community Plan around environmental protection that may hinder the intent of this document.

Where this occurs and priorities are identified as competing, the Shire should be guided by the State Core Objectives as set out in the State Emergency Management Policy of:

- People: protect lives and wellbeing of persons.
- **Economy**: maintain and grow the State's productive capacity, employment and government revenue.
- Social setting: ensure there is public order, under which people are housed and fed in a
 safe and sanitary manner and have access to social amenity including education and
 health services, and things of cultural importance are preserved.
- **Government**: ensure there is, at all times, an effective and functioning system of government and societal respect for rule of law.
- Infrastructure: maintain the functionality of infrastructure, particularly key transport infrastructure and utilities required for community health, economic production and effective management of emergencies.
- **Environment**: protect the ecosystem and biodiversity of the state (State Emergency Managmeent Committee, 2023, p. 86).

These objectives are further expanded upon within State Hazard Plan Fire where it explains that none of the above are hierarchical, however, the protection and preservation of life must be paramount including that of emergency services personnel, especially where there are competing priorities (Department of Fire and Emergency Services, 2023, p. 22).

3.2 Land Use and Tenure

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has an area of approximately 224,000 hectares and a coastline of 120 kilometres of beaches, bays and rocky points. The two Shires surrounding Augusta Margaret River are Nannup to the east and Busselton to the north. The western and southern boundaries are coastline.

Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup are the major towns in the Shire. Other settlements include Karridale, Witchcliffe, Rosa Brook, Prevelly/Gnarabup and Gracetown. The Shire extends for approximately 60 kilometres north to south, and 62 kilometres from the west coast to the western boundary of the Nannup Shire.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River contains large areas of forested estate (53.1%) managed by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). DBCA maintain a fuel management program with support from and in consultation with external stakeholders including the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

Private property is the other significant land holder with 42.04% of the total Shire land area under the control of an assortment of ownership structures. Fuel loads and types across this

tenure are a significant variable due to the inconsistencies that exist and differing levels of capabilities and resources to adequately manage. Fire control measures for private property are set out by the Shire through its Firebreak Notice in accordance with Section 33 of *The Bush Fires Act 1954*.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is responsible for the management of approximately 1.42% of tenure, predominantly in reserves and parks. It is this component of land ownership that this document seeks to address. Considering the small extent of total land tenure that falls under the direct management of the Shire, it is largely beyond the Shire's ability to meaningfully influence or reduce the physical level of risk across the majority of the Shire. This limitation requires the Shire to explore alternative methods focused on education and awareness to raise the general community understanding of the hazard of bushfire.

Land Manager	Local Government Area (%)
Local Government	1.42
Private	42.04
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	53.1
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	1.54
Other	1.9
Total	100

Table 2. Summary of land management responsibilities within the Shire

Source: OBRM, DFES 2024

3.3 Community Demographics and Values

A population of 16,791 resided within the Shire at the latest census date of 2021, with latest Australian Bureau of Statistics estimating that the residential population at the end of 2023 was 18,620 (idcommunity, 2023). Over 68% of those residents are reported as born in Australia, with this being reflected with English being the only language used in the home in 84.3% of all residences in the Shire (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

This population is forecast to increase significantly over the coming years, with the Shire's Local Planning Strategy estimating that by 2036 the Shire is expected to have a population of between 24,712 and 31,196. Much of this growth is forecast to occur in the townsites of Cowaramup, Margaret River, Witchcliffe and Augusta, although it must be recognised that there is an expected 47% increase expected in areas outside of the current recognised residential centres. This urban development is expected to continue in accordance with the outcomes published in the Local Planning Strategy, town site strategies, and endorsed urban structure plans.

This population draws its income from a diverse range of industries, primarily from the hospitality, accommodation and viticulture sectors that equate for approx. 14% of the total employed population. What also needs to be considered is that the mining industry employs 6% of the population (idcommunity, 2023) with approximately half of that number directly employed in the iron ore industry (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021) through the fly-in-fly-out process, creating a semi "transient" section of the regular community.

There will be varying levels of awareness across the broader community of the risk associated with the hazard of bushfire. There has been a significant demographic shift since the catastrophic 2011 fires with a large number of the population that were not residents at that time and do not have that shared experience. Whilst there is a general understanding across the community, that individual understanding will be affected by a number of issues, including but not limited to:

- Resident's own understanding of the level of risk associated with their individual locations.
- Resident's personal preparedness levels.
- Resident's own values that influence their risk acceptance levels.

In the latest figures accessed through Tourism WA and reviewed by the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, the Shire received 676,000 visitors to the Shire in 2024 with 89% of that number being domestic, which consists of both intra and interstate visitors. This number now reflects an increase in visitor numbers to the Shire that existed prior to the impacts of the global Covid pandemic in 2019. This equates to 2,305,000 of visitor nights and an estimated spend of \$526,000,000. With the expansion of services at the Busselton/Margaret River airport from the Eastern States and potentially overseas, this is expected to increase.

These visitor numbers are predominantly for the purposes of holidays and/or visiting friends or relatives. Anecdotally, these numbers are tied to the recognised WA school holiday periods, although current data capture methods are unable to verify this to any level of certainty. It is expected that these visitor nights will be spread across a variety of accommodation types ranging from high end resorts through to limited facility campgrounds. What is not considered in these figures is the issue of unauthorised camping, which could be a result of housing pressures, economic resources, or visitor choice.

What cannot be assessed through this plan is visitor awareness or knowledge of bushfire risk when visiting the Shire. It is assumed that visitors to the Shire, for either tourism or temporary employment opportunities, may have a lower level of awareness of bushfire, and actions that they may need to take to protect their own safety and well-being.

3.4 Cultural Heritage

The Wadandi People (Saltwater People) are the traditional owners of this part of the South West of Western Australia and live by the Six Seasons in harmony with their environment. Aboriginal heritage is a central element in Aboriginal spirituality and customary lore and is inseparable from the natural environment which is associated with dreaming stories and cultural learning that links Aboriginal people with who they are and where they belong. (Undalup Association, n.d.). The Shire already has established relationships and regular scheduled meetings with key stakeholder groups, including local First Nations groups. These will be utilised to initiate consultation about specific treatments and the appropriateness of traditional burning practices.

An analysis conducted through the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System maintained by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, shows 38 registered Aboriginal cultural sites within the Shire, of which 4 are believed to rest on Shire-managed land. Refer to Appendix B for a register and map locations of all sites within the Shire including the traditional knowledge holders.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River maintains a register of European heritage areas across the Shire which can be found at: https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/getmedia/084ef0a7-0719-4db3-ad73-e0a5a9c1d60/Heritage-List.pdf.

In 2011 the heritage site of Wallcliffe House was completely destroyed as a result of the Prevelly/Gnarabup Bushfire. A post incident analysis arrived at the conclusion that the site was lost as a direct result of ember attack ahead of the main fire front on the opposite side of the river (Smith, 2012). At this point in time the site remains unoccupied and unrepaired.

3.5 Economic Activities and Industry

Since the late 1800s the South West has been known for its forestry and agricultural activities. These sectors, along with viticulture and tourism, which now exist as the prominent industries in the region, form Margaret River's economic base. In recent years however, the region has significantly grown in popularity as a tourist destination. The tourism industry suffered significant interruption as a result of the 2021 Boranup Fire, which include infrastructure damage, negative messaging and loss of income due to visitors' plans being disrupted through road and attraction closures.

Employment of Shire residents is mostly in the construction, manufacturing, retail trade and accommodation/food industries. Education, training, health care, agriculture and administration also employ significant numbers of residents. The wine industry is prevalent throughout the region where vineyards and cellar doors are scattered across the entire LGA. Not only do the wineries employ a large number of people, they also attract many tourists to the region. The wine/grape products are supplied across Australia and world-wide. Production would be

significantly impacted in the event of a fire and/or heavy smoke event in the region. During the autumn months the vines carry mature grapes which may be susceptible to damage by prolonged exposure to smoke from nearby fires or prescribed burns. Careful consideration should be given to areas where vineyards are located.

Occupation, top responses Employed people aged 15 years and over	Augusta Margaret River	%	Western Australia	%	Australia	%
Professionals	1,489	17.9	287,009	22.0	2,886,921	24.0
Technicians and Trades Workers	1,431	17.2	199,379	15.3	1,554,313	12.9
Managers	1,310	15.8	160,687	12.3	1,645,769	13.7
Labourers	1,133	13.7	122,961	9.4	1,086,120	9.0
Community and Personal Service Workers	961	11.6	154,341	11.8	1,382,205	11.5
Clerical and Administrative Workers	692	8.3	157,610	12.1	1,525,311	12.7
Sales Workers	689	8.3	101,670	7.8	986,433	8.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	478	5.8	100,392	7.7	755,863	6.3
Industry of employment, top responses Employed people aged 15 years and over	Augusta Margaret River	%	Western Australia	%	Australia	%
Wine and Other Alcoholic Beverage Manufacturing	448	5.4	1,537	0.1	16,660	0.1
Accommodation	380	4.6	11,612	0.9	107,476	0.9
Cafes and Restaurants	359	4.3	29,831	2.3	268,005	2.2
Primary Education	293	3.5	33,954	2.6	265,249	2.2
Iron Ore Mining	246	3.0	38,038	2.9	42,728	0.4

Figure 3: Employment breakdown by industry

Source: ABS

Margaret River and surrounding towns are supplied with water by the Ten Mile Brook Dam (which is supplemented from a bore further east of Rosa Brook), with the Townsite Growth Plan (2012) identifying that future improvements to infrastructure and potentially additional sources of water will be required to keep up with population growth. Margaret River has a wastewater treatment plant that is located north of the townsite near the airport and has a licensed treatment capacity of 1,500KL/day. The highly treated wastewater is pumped during summer to irrigate a 60-hectare pine plantation operated by the Forest Products Commission (FPC) as well as various Shire reserves. It is estimated that an extended disruption to power supply (including as a result of bushfire impact) at Augusta will exhaust current capacity in 2 to 3 hours without Water Corporation staff physical intervention. Margaret River should have 20 hours from a full tank.

Power to Margaret River is supplied via a single 66kV transmission line which extends from the Busselton Zone Substation. The transmission line is overhead and terminates at the northern edge of the town boundary opposite Riverslea Drive and then extends underground into the Margaret River Zone Substation on Forrest Road. In the event of a major power outage reticulated water supplies might be lost, potentially hindering firefighting suppression activities.

3.6 Topography and Landscape Features

There is a diversity of topography throughout the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The east of the LGA is under the influence of lateritic and limestone escarpment with areas of steep slopes, some in excess of 25°, providing areas with severe limitations to vehicle access. The Margaret River townsite is situated on the Margaret River Plateau which undulates in elevation from 65 metres to 100 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD). The southern communities of the Shire differ from the north in that there are large areas of wetlands and coastal plain, especially surrounding East Augusta. Mechanical and Prescribed burning mitigation activities have a particularly small opportunity for success in areas such as this.

The dominant feature in the western portion of the Shire is a gently undulating, north-south elongated ridge, with some short steep valleys. This area contains a mixture of limestone outcrops, karst subterranean cave systems, and sandy beaches with dune systems reaching 200m in elevation, all of which can potentially hinder suppression activities. Careful consideration is required when determining bushfire suppression strategies and mitigation activities.

The principal soil type running from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin is predominantly gravelly, sandy/laterite loam that has formed directly from the underlying granite and gneissic rock and is highly permeable when moist, but moisture is quickly shed from sloping sites.

The Margaret and Blackwood Rivers are the only major river and valley systems within the LGA, however there are numerous smaller waterways that may be subject to seasonal rainfall. This network of rivers and tributaries and the associated riparian zones may carry higher fuel loads than the surrounding areas that they travel through and have the potential to act as wicks and accelerate bushfire rate of spread than what is being shown in other areas of larger fires.

The topography is undulating with steep slopes in the major Margaret River valley system. The coastal areas possess sandy beaches and associated steep dunes with fragile limestone cave systems. This provides severe limitations to vehicle access and will potentially hinder bushfire suppression activities due to collapsing ground. Careful consideration is required when determining bushfire suppression strategies and bushfire mitigation works for both environmental factors and safety to emergency responders.

3.7 Climate and Weather

The climate of the South West region is typically Mediterranean, with warm to hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The majority of rainfall occurs between May and September, with heaviest falls during the winter months from June to August. Rainfall in the Augusta Margaret River area is generally higher and more reliable than other areas of the South West, with between 850mm and 1,200mm annually. This annual rainfall has been declining, with Cape Leeuwin not receiving

in excess of 1,000mm since 1996 (Bureau of Meteorology, n.d.). This drying trend is expected to continue into the future with the South West rainfall reduction the largest rainfall decline in the country. This reduction of rainfall, combined with the forecast of increased numbers of dangerous fire weather days, has in recent years required seasonal variations to the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods to address and manage this changing climate.

The Indian and Southern Oceans moderate the effect of temperature in the Shire providing smaller diurnal and seasonal variations and a milder climate than inland areas. Mean daily maximum temperatures vary from around 16 degrees in August to 27 degrees in February.

Summers are very dry, with December to February receiving a monthly average of less than 25mm of rain. Summers are typically very warm and cloudless, although cooling afternoon sea breezes are common. The hot, dry summers and seasonal strong winds create an environment where there is always a significant risk of bushfire, therefore a high degree of caution is required by residents and visitors at all times.

The climate and weather of the region do influence the implementation of any prospective treatments. There are areas within the Shire that, due to winter and spring rainfall, do not dry sufficiently to allow the introduction of machinery, necessitating additional levels of support when undertaken through the high threat period. The Shire's burn program is heavily impacted by the availability of suitable weather windows that align with written burn prescriptions, with historically all burns achieved through small windows of opportunity in either spring or autumn.

The Cape Leeuwin and Witchcliffe Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) weather stations provide climatic data for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. It must be noted that in 2021 the site of the Witchcliffe station was moved due to a housing development and as such, the figures provided below are representative of the closed site only and must be treated with caution.

The Shire's Prohibited Burning Period applies from 22nd December to 13th March each year, while the Restricted Burning Period applies from 14th March to 12th May and from 9th November to 21st December². No restrictions apply during the remaining months. These timings are reviewed every year in consultation with Shire staff, the Shire's Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, DFES and DBCA.

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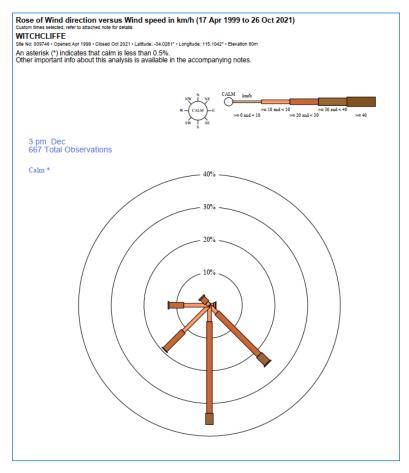
² Information found in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Firebreak Notice Requirements and Bushfire Information 2024-25 booklet. Dates subject to change following annual review.

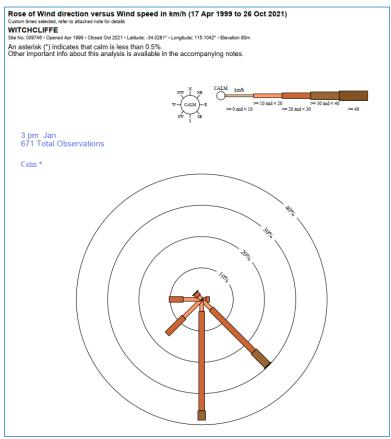
Month	Av Temp° (3pm)	Av RH (3pm) (%)	Av Monthly Rainfall Total (mm)	Av Wind speed 3pm (km/h)	Wind Direction 3pm (% of obs >15%)
Dec	22.3	52	18	22	S & SE
Jan	23.8	50	12	23	S & SE
Feb	24.8	48	12	22	S & SE
Mar	23.8	50	27	20	S & SE
Average	23.7	50	17	22	S & SE

Table 3. Summary of climatic variables (Witchcliffe)

Month	Av Temp° (3pm)	Av RH (3pm) (%)	Av Monthly Rainfall Total (mm)	Av Wind speed 3pm (km/h)	Wind Direction 3pm (% of obs >15%)
Dec	20.3	73	20	25	SE
Jan	21.6	72	16	25	SE
Feb	21.9	74	16	25	SE
Mar	21.2	74	28	23	SE
Average	21.25	73	20	24	SE

Table 4. Summary of climatic variables (Cape Leeuwin)





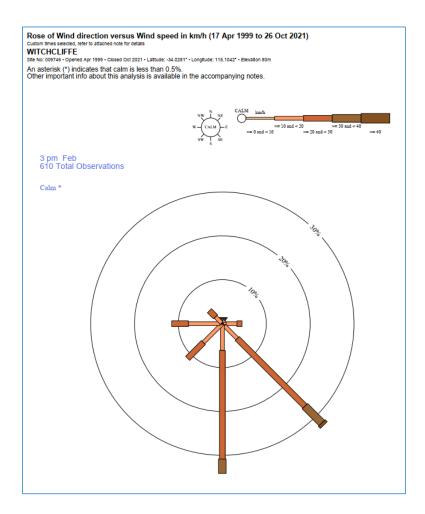


Figure 4. Wind roses for each of the summer months from December to February drawing on data from 1999 to 2021 for the Witchcliffe station at 15:00hrs

3.8 Vegetation and Fuel

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is known for its diverse and rich tapestry of vegetation types including forested areas, heathlands and grasslands. These vegetation types significantly influence bushfire behaviour in the region.

There are currently approx. 29 distinct vegetation types across the entirety of the Shire with the dominant (hectares) shown below:

Vegetation Type	Current Extent
Medium Forest – Jarrah/Marri	98,278.74
Shrublands – Acacia decipiens	7,593.85
Tall Forest – Karri	6,379.39
Shrublands - Peppermint scrub	4,064.08
Low Woodland – Paperbark	3,448.88

Vegetation Type	Current Extent
Sedgeland – Reed swamps	1,897.42
Low Forest – Peppermint	1,833.77
Medium Woodland – Blackbutt	1,798.03

Table 5. Dominant vegetation types across the Shire

3.8.1 Jarrah and Karri Forests

 Characteristics: These forests are dominated by eucalyptus species, such as Jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata) and Karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor). They are characterised by dense canopies and high amounts of dry leaf litter resting in a volatile understory that carries ground fires to the canopy.

• Impact on Bushfire Behaviour:

- Fuel Load: The accumulation of dead leaves and branches creates a high fuel load, which can lead to intense and fast-spreading fires.
- Crown Fires: The dense canopy can facilitate crown fires, where flames spread from treetop to treetop, making fires more challenging to control.
- Spotting: Eucalyptus trees are known for their high oil content, which can create embers (firebrands) that may start new fires far from the original blaze.

3.8.2 Heathlands

• Characteristics: Heathlands consist of low shrubs and small plants, such as banksias and other Australian native species.

• Impact on Bushfire Behaviour:

- Fire Intensity: Heathland vegetation can produce high-intensity fires, though generally less intense than forest fires. The low shrubs can burn quickly and intensely.
- Fire Spread: The relatively open canopy allows for faster horizontal spread of fires, but since the vegetation is less dense than forests, the fuel load is lower, which can limit fire intensity compared to forested areas.

3.8.3 Grasslands

- **Characteristics:** Grasslands in this region are often dominated by various types of native grasses, low-lying plants and agricultural crops.
- Impact on Bushfire Behaviour:

- Fire Speed: Grassfires can spread very quickly due to the continuous, fine fuel load.
 The low height of the vegetation means that fires typically remain close to the ground, but they can still be very fast-moving.
- Fire Intensity: While generally less intense than forest fires, grassfires can still be significant, particularly if the grass is dry and abundant.

3.9 Important Species and Communities

The Shire contains high flora and fauna species and is part of Australia's only listed global hotspot of biodiversity (34 localities were identified globally). The South West of Western Australia was identified internationally to acknowledge the region's exceptional concentration of diversity and endemism (that occur nowhere else) of species in these areas, but just as importantly, also highlights the threat levels to this biodiversity as a result of significant loss of habitat.

The Shire is home to five nationally registered Threatened Ecological Communities of which four are Aquatic Root Mat Communities, produced by the roots of mature Karri trees, located within cave systems in the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge (Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water, 2021). It is currently unknown what the effects of large-scale tree mortality from a severe bushfire on these communities would mean, and cascading events after a significant bushfire may also have additional impacts due to erosion and contaminated runoff as a result of larger landscape fires.

The Scott River Ironstone Association is a complex issue that is both contributing to the risk of the isolated settlement of East Augusta and is susceptible to the effects of fire. These complexities do limit mitigation opportunities, methods and suppression activities in this area and care must be taken when considering activities that may impact this community.

The Shire is currently developing a Local Biodiversity Strategy (currently in draft stage) that will contain full details of all threatened flora and fauna within the Shire. Upon completion of that document, this BRMP will be updated with relevant information and a link to the full listings.

3.10 Historical Bushfire Occurrence

Data provided by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services regarding bushfire occurrence within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River for the past five years is shown below.

Bushfire Type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Av. excl 2023/24	% Trend this year
Large	4	1	10	8	11	5.8	91.30%
Small	24	29	16	34	40	25.8	51.46%

Table 6. Fire Occurrence

Further data was provided that shows the ignition causes for the same period and is provided below.

Ignition cause	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Burn-off fires	14	9	5	10	10
Campfires/bonfires/outdoor cooking	2	2	1	1	0
Cigarette	0	0	1	1	0
Electrical distribution (excl. power lines)	0	0	0	0	1
Equipment – Mechanical or electrical fault	0	0	0	2	1
Fireworks/flares	0	1	0	0	0
Human error (left on, knocked over, unattended, etc.)	0	1	0	0	0
Improper Fuelling/Cleaning/Storage/Use of material ignited	0	0	0	1	0
Other open flames or fire	0	0	0	2	2
Power lines	0	2	2	3	2
Reignition of previous fire	1	0	2	1	3
Sleeping/Alcohol/Drugs/Physical- Mental impairment	0	0	0	1	0
Suspicious/Deliberate	4	9	6	11	6
Unreported	4	5	10	4	15
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	1	2	1	1	2
Weather Conditions – Lightning	2	0	0	2	5
Weather Conditions (high winds, natural combustion, etc. Excludes lightning	1	0	0	2	4

Table 7. Fire Cause

From the above, the leading cause of fire within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River for this 5-year period is Burn-offs, Suspicious/Deliberate and Unreported. Note some burn-off fires recorded may include calls made by concerned residents or bystanders to fire authorities for

investigation. The definition of "burn-off fires", in this report provided by DFES, means that a controlled burn of some kind has escaped. The burn-off may or may not be registered and can include private rubbish burns as well as local government or DBCA fuel reduction burns.

March 1961 saw ten significant fires occur within the Shire which were subject to review via a Royal Commission, with the largest of these known as the Forest Grove/Karridale fire, burning 60,400 acres (24,443 hectares or three times the size of the later Boranup fire of 2021), and destroying the townsite of Karridale.

In November 2011 almost 40 homes were destroyed and a further 26 damaged by impact of a bushfire that resulted from an escaped burn-off (prescribed burn) being conducted in Margaret River. The devastating result of the bushfire was reported as being one of the single biggest house losses in Western Australia³, until the Waroona/Yarloop fires in 2016.

In December 2021 human causes resulted in excess of 8,000 hectares of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park being impacted by bushfire, including the loss of significant tourism infrastructure associated with a number of cave sites in the Park, and having an economic impact on associated tourism businesses that relied on the Park.

This fire also resulted in the historic townsite of Augusta being isolated for a number of days due to the closure of Bussell Highway from smoke impact, the sole route into the townsite. Augusta was also isolated in 2018 due to the West Bay Creek fire which again forced the closure of Bussell Highway just north of town due to the impacts of that bushfire on the highway.

3.11 Current Bushfire Risk Management Controls

Local government-wide controls are activities that reduce the overall bushfire risk within the Shire. These types of treatments are not linked to specific assets and are applied across all or part of the local government as part of normal business or due to legislative requirements. The following controls are currently in place across the Shire of Augusta Margaret River:

- Bush Fires Act 1954 Section 33 notices (https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/residents-community/fire-and-emergency-management/firebreak-notice-and-requirements), including applicable fuel management requirements, firebreak standards and annual enforcement programs. Compliance is required between 1 December and 12 May each year.
- Declaration and management of Prohibited burn times (23 December to 14 March),
 Restricted burn times (9 November to 22 December and 15 March to 12 May), Total Fire
 Bans and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (as required) for the local government.

³ Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Investigation of the house losses in Margaret River bushfire 23rd November 2011 (2012).

- Support and centralisation of public education campaigns and the use of DBCA and DFES state-wide programs, (https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/residents-community/fire-and-emergency-management).
- State-wide arson prevention programs developed in conjunction with WA Police and DFES.
- State planning framework and local planning schemes, implementation of appropriate
 land subdivision and building standards in line with DFES, Department of Planning and
 Building Commission policies and standards e.g. Shire of Augusta Margaret River Local
 Planning Strategy (https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/shire-of-augusta-margaret-river-planning-information).
- Monitoring performance against the BRMP and reporting annually to the local government council and OBRM.
- The Shire of Augusta Margaret River manages eight Bush Fire Brigades (listed below), who are also supported by a State Emergency Service, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service (DFES-managed):
 - Alexandra Bridge
 - Cowaramup
 - East Augusta
 - Gracetown
 - Karridale
 - Kudardup
 - Molloy Island
 - Witchcliffe
- Other practices and programs undertaken by local government or state agencies that contribute to bushfire risk management within the local government, including controls in place under state government policies, agreements or memorandums of understanding.

A list of Local Government Wide Controls for reducing bushfire risk in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River is provided at Appendix A.

4. ASSET IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Assets at risk from bushfire in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River are recorded in the *Asset Risk Register* in the BRMS. Assets are divided into four categories: human settlement, economic, climate, and 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 Local Government Asset Risk Profile

A summary of the risks assessed in the Shire is shown in the below table. This table shows the number of assets at risk from bushfire in each risk category at the time the BRMP was produced. 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.

BRMS	BRMS Risk Rating Summary - Shire of Augusta Margaret River 2023/24							
		Low	Medium	High	Very High	Extreme		
2	Human Settlement	53	105	216	213	310		
Category	Economic	15	23	27	15	14		
et Ca	Environmental	1	1	10	1	0		
Asset	Cultural	1	0	0	6	5		
	TOTAL	70	129	253	235	329		
	% of Total Assets	6.88%	12.69%	24.93%	23.12%	32.38%		

Table 8. Local Government Asset Risk Summary

Note that the above is not an accurate representation of actual built assets exposed to bushfire risk, but rather individual properties grouped according to their similarity with other surrounding properties.



Table 9. Local Government owned or managed assets

5. RISK EVALUATION

5.1 Preferred Risk Criteria

The preferred level of risk for each asset category, that is either a Shire-owned/managed built asset or other built assets being directly impacted by Shire-managed vegetation, is shown in the table below. A risk that is assessed as exceeding these limits as a result of the proximity of the asset to Shire-managed land and vegetation will be considered for treatment under this plan.

Individual residents and other landowners/managers should undergo their own risk assessment process and assign their own level of risk acceptability, respecting their own values, capability and capacity to reduce risk to their own and surrounding assets. Residents are encouraged to utilise the BRMS data to assist this process.

	Risk Rating						
	Human Settlement	Economic	Environmental	Cultural			
Preferred Risk Level	High	High	High	High			

Table 10. Preferred Risk Criteria for bushfire risk in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River

5.2 Shire Treatment Priorities

Treatment Priority

- Reduce the impact of bushfire on life, critical infrastructure, community assets and private property that is being influenced by Shire managed vegetation where possible.
- Reduce the impact of bushfire on critical access/egress routes servicing high risk settlements where possible to ensure the earliest possible availability post event.
- Develop areas that are contributing to increased strategic risk (note strategic risk is currently unrated or defined) through large landscape fires in proximity to high-risk settlements for future treatment.

Table 11. Shire of Augusta Margaret River Treatment Priorities

6. RISK TREATMENT

The purpose of risk treatment is to reduce the potential impact of bushfire on the community, economy and environment. This may be 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 Shire Treatment Strategies

The Treatment Strategies listed in the table below correlate to the four Treatment Priorities outlined in section 5 above:

Tr	reatment Priority	Treatment Strategy
•	Reduce the impact of bushfire on life, critical infrastructure, community assets and private property that is being influenced by Shire managed vegetation where possible.	 Identify and document where Shire managed vegetation is influencing risk to life, critical infrastructure, community assets and private property above the preferred level Identify any appropriate physical risk treatments that may reduce risk to the preferred level Document, scope and seek funding for identified treatments through the Mitigation Activity Fund grant program. Deliver and monitor for ongoing effectiveness of treatments approved.
•	Reduce the impact of bushfire on critical access/egress routes servicing high risk settlements where possible to ensure the earliest possible availability post event.	 Review identified evacuation routes contained within the Local Emergency Management Arrangements for their appropriateness and currency. Identify and document identified access/egress routes that service at risk settlements that fall under the responsibility of the Shire Identify and document any appropriate physical risk treatments that may potentially reduce risk of prolonged closure because of bushfire. Document, approve and implement identified approved treatments within funding limitations. Review and monitor the effectiveness of treatments implemented.
•	Develop areas that are contributing to increased	With DBCA and DFES identify those Shire Reserves that in conjunction with other State land are driving strategic risk

Treatment Priority	Treatment Strategy
strategic risk (note strategic risk is currently unrated or defined) through large landscape fires in proximity to high-risk settlements for future treatment.	to high population at risk settlements. • Develop Reserve specific burn plans that reflect a coordinated approach to addressing strategic risk to high population at risk settlements.

Table 12. Shire of Augusta Margaret River Treatment Strategies

6.2 Treatment Schedule

The Treatment Schedule is a list of bushfire risk treatments recorded in the BRMS. It is developed with regard to the outcome of the risk assessment process and Treatment Strategies.

A treatment schedule for the Shire covering the current financial year addressing the priorities identified above has been entered into BRMS. This is a live document and will be regularly updated throughout the life of the BRMP.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEW

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

7.1 Monitoring and Review

The Shire will monitor the BRMP and BRMS data to identify any need for change. The written Plan will be reviewed every two years to ensure it continues to reflect the local context, demographic data, and treatment priorities.

The review of BRMS data is a continual and ongoing undertaking, with those assets with a higher level of rating subject to a more regular level of monitoring. The Shire will monitor their BRMS data and confirm biennially that; any significant new assets have been added and risk assessed, and assets have been reassessed if the risk rating is likely to have changed due to changes in the fuel hazard or the assets' exposure or vulnerability to bushfire.

7.2 Reporting

The Shire's CEO or their delegate will provide OBRM with the outcomes of biennial reviews of the BRMP. This is required to maintain OBRM's endorsement of the Plan.

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

References

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services. (2023). *State Hazard plan Fire*. Retrieved from Government of Western Australia: https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-hazard-plan-fire
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services. (n.d.). *Publications*. Retrieved from Department of Fire and Emergency Services: https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/
- Shire of Augusta Margaret River. (2022). *Local Emergency Management*. Retrieved from Shire of Augusta Margaret River: https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/residents-community/fire-and-emergency-management/local-emergency-management
- Shire of Augusta Margaret River. (n.d.). *Strategic Community Plan 2040*. Retrieved from Shire of Augusta Margaret River: https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/shire-and-council/leadership,-planning-and-reporting/strategic-community-plan
- Shire of Augusta Margaret River. (n.n.). *Corporate Business Plan and Strategies*. Retrieved from Shire of Augusta Margaret River: https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/shire-and-council/leadership,-planning-and-reporting/corporate-business-plan-and-strategies

Appendices

Appendix A	Local Government Wide Controls
Appendix B	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Map

Appendix A: Local Government Wide Controls

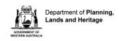
	Control	Action or Activity Description	Lead Agency	Other Stakeholder(s)	Notes and Comments
01	Shire of Augusta Margaret River, Local firebreak and hazard reduction laws (Bush Fires Act 1954)	Annual Firebreak and Fuel Reduction Notice	Local Government	FCOs, brigades and landowners	Local law established to ensure landowners understand and comply to firebreak specifications as well as appropriately reducing fuel load and risk on their properties. Firebreak Notice reviewed annually. Rangers inspect compliance to the notice and fines apply if non-compliant.
02	Shire of Augusta Margaret River Prohibited and Restricted burn times (Bush Fires Act 1954)	Annual Firebreak and Fuel Reduction Notice	Local Government	Chief BFCO, Rangers and the public.	Prohibited and Restricted burn times are designed to reduce the risk during very high to catastrophic fire danger rating days. Notice reviewed annually and dates can be subject to change as required by the Chief and Deputy FCOs.
03	Shire of Augusta Margaret River mitigation works	The Shire's Parks and Gardens team has annual works programs to reduce fuel load and remove hazards.	Local Government	Public (reporting hazards and concern of risk). The Shire's Emergency Services Team.	The Parks & Gardens team targets work on town sites with highest population and/or as identified by the BRMP process. Work includes, slashing, spraying, mulching, pruning and other mechanical treatments.

	Control	Action or Activity Description	Lead Agency	Other Stakeholder(s)	Notes and Comments
04	DFES UCL/UMR land management	Preparedness, mitigation work conducted on lands owned by DoL and managed by DFES under a MOU	DFES (Lower South West office)	PWS, LG, Local brigades	Annual budgeting has been completed to include mitigating risk on UCL/UMR. Lower South West BRMO's have these plans included in their scope of work.
05	Shire of Augusta Margaret River Burn Program (annual indicative plans)	Local Government has annual burn plans for Shire-owned land or vested/managed reserves.	Local Government	DFES, PWS, Local brigades, Public	The Emergency Services unit of the Shire is tasked with Bushfire Mitigation on Shire reserves. Annual burn plans are available. Treatment priorities have been outlined through this plan
06	Parks and Wildlife (PWS) Master Burn Plans	PWS have a 6 season burn program that is published on their website. Yearly plans are available.	PWS	Local brigades, DFES, LG	The plans can be accessed via their website, by sharing shape files (GIS) and are communicated at Local BFAC, ROAC and other various meetings.
07	Parks and Wildlife Service mitigation works	PWS conduct mulching and other mechanical treatments to reduce fuel load or provide fire access.	PWS	DFES, LG	No formal plan exists; however, works are completed as required, upon request or when identified.

	Control	Action or Activity Description	Lead Agency	Other Stakeholder(s)	Notes and Comments
08	Water Corporation Bushfire Risk Management Program	Bushfire Risk Management Plan.	Water Corporation	DFES, LG	A plan is being developed. High risk areas are identified and treatments planned then completed. Treatments and risk assessments are available through Water Corp BRMP department. Some high-risk areas have been identified in the Shire to date.
09	Western Power annual asset inspection and vegetation management program	Western Power Bushfire Plan	Western Power	DFES, LG, PWS	Annual vegetation management and asset inspections are completed to ensure risk is managed. Full asset inspections are completed every 4 years.
10	Land sub-division and building (WAPC)	Requirement for estate, sub-division, and other Fire Management Plans	Local Government	Local Brigades, contractors and FCOs	Land developers are required to implement a Fire Management Plan to ensure risk is managed and other controls implemented and monitored on an annual basis.
11	Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas	Planning in bushfire prone areas. E.g. State Planning Policy 3.7 and standards.	WAPC	LG, DFES, PWS, landowners	Foundation for land use planning. Directs how land use should address bushfire risk management in WA. It aims to preserve life and reduce impact on property and infrastructure. The Shire aligns its policy and standards with SPP 3.7. BAL assessments are required.

	Control	Action or Activity Description	Lead Agency	Other Stakeholder(s)	Notes and Comments
12	Pine Plantation Fire Management Plans	The Forest Product Commission (FPC) has implemented fire management plans for Shire of Augusta Margaret River plantations.	FPC	PWS, LG, DFES	Minimum requirements and controls have been committed to within the Plan.
13	State-wide arson prevention programs	Education and awareness campaigns exist across the state for arson.	WA Police	DFES, LG	Participation as required. The Shire participates in campaigns for arson prevention.
14	Bushfire Ready Groups	Public preparedness and education campaign	DFES	LG, local brigades	Two bushfire ready facilitator is in the Shire. Working together with DFES and LG community engagement teams to better prepare the community for bushfire events. Street meets and phone trees have been implemented as a result as well as safe winter burn demonstrations and workshops.

Appendix B: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Map



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System

List of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Register

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Search Criteria

38 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Register in LGA - AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER, SHIRE OF

Disclaimer

Aboriginal heritage holds significant value to Aboriginal people for their social, spiritual, historical, scientific, or aesthetic importance within Aboriginal traditions, and provides an essential link for Aboriginal people to their past, present and future. In Western Australia Aboriginal heritage is protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

All Aboriginal cultural heritage in Western Australia is protected, whether or not the ACH has been reported or exists on the Register.

The information provided is made available in good faith and is predominately based on the information provided to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage by third parties. The information is provided solely on the basis that readers will be responsible for making their own assessment as to the accuracy of the information. If you find any errors or omissions in our records, including our maps, it would be appreciated if you provide the details to the Department via https://achknowledge.dplh.wa.gov.au/ach-enquiry-form and we will make every effort to rectify it as soon as possible.

South West Settlement ILUA Disclaimer

Your heritage enquiry is on land within or adjacent to the following Indigenous Land Use Agreement(s): South West Bocjarah #2 Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

On 8 June 2015, six identical Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) were executed across the South West by the Western Australian Government and, respectively, the Yued, Whadjuk People, Gnaala Karla Booja, Ballardong People, South West Boojarah #2 and Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar groups, and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC).

The ILUAs bind the parties (including 'the State', which encompasses all State Government Departments and certain State Government agencies) to enter into a Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (INSHA) when conducting Aboriginal Heritage Surveys in the ILUA areas, unless they have an existing heritage agreement. It is also intended that other State agencies and instrumentalities enter into the NSHA when conducting Aboriginal Heritage Surveys in the ILUA areas. It is recommended a NSHA is entered into, and an 'Activity Notice' issued under the NSHA, if there is a risk that an activity will 'impact' (i.e. by excavating, damaging, destroying or altering in any way) an Aboriginal heritage site. The Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines, which are referenced by the NSHA, provide guidance on how to assess the potential risk to Aboriginal heritage.

Likewise, from 8 June 2015 the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) in granting Mineral, Petroleum and related Access Authority tenures within the South West Settlement ILUA areas, will place a condition on these tenures requiring a heritage agreement or a NSHA before any rights can be exercised.

If you are a State Government Department, Agency or Instrumentality, or have a heritage condition placed on your mineral or petroleum title by DEMIRS, you should seek advice as to the requirement to use the NSHA for your proposed activity. The full ILUA documents, maps of the ILUA areas and the NSHA template can be found at https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/south-west-native-title-settlement.

Further advice can also be sought from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage via https://achknowledge.dplh.wa.gov.au/ach-enquiry-form.

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Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System

List of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Register

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Terminology

D: ACH on the Register is assigned a unique ID by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage using the format: ACH-00000001. For ACH on the former Register the ID numbers remain unchanged and use the new format. For example the ACH ID of the place Swan River was previously '3536' and is now 'ACH-00003536'.

Access and Restrictions:

- Boundary Reliable (Yes/No): Indicates whether to the best knowledge of the Department, the location and extent of the ACH boundary is considered reliable.
- Boundary Restricted = No: Represents the actual location of the ACH as understood by the Department...
- Boundary Restricted = Yes: To preserve confidentiality the exact location and extent of the place is not displayed on the map. However, the shaded region (generally with an area of at least 4km²) provides a general indication of where the ACH is located. If you are a landowner and wish to find out more about the exact location of the place, please contact the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.
- Culturally Sensitive = No: Availability of information that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage holds in relation to the ACH is not restricted in any way.
- Culturally Sensitive = Yes: Some of the information that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage holds in relation to the ACH is restricted if it is considered culturally sensitive information. This information will only be made available if the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage receives written approval from the people who provided the information. To request access please contact via https://achknowledge.dplh.wa.gov.au/ach-enguiry-form.
- Culturally Sensitive Nature:
 - No Gender / Initiation Restrictions: Anyone can view the information.
 - Men only: Only males can view restricted information.
 - Women only: Only females can view restricted information.

Status:

- Register: Aboriginal cultural heritage places that are assessed as meeting Section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.
- Lodged: Information which has been received in relation to an Aboriginal cultural heritage place, but is yet to be assessed under Section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.
- Historic: Aboriginal heritage places assessed as not meeting the criteria of Section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Includes places that no longer exist as a result of land use activities with existing approvals.

Place Type: The type of Aboriginal cultural heritage place. For example an artefact scatter place or engravings place.

Legacy ID: This is the former unique number that the former Department of Aboriginal Sites assigned to the place.

Coordinates

Map coordinates are based on the GDA 2020 Datum.

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ID	Name	Boundary Restricted	Boundary Reliable	Culturally Sensitive	Culturally Sensitive Nature	Status	Place Type	Knowledge Holders	Legacy ID
635	WITCHCLIFFE ROCKSHELTER.	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter; Camp	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S02887
641	HAMELIN BAY BURIAL GROUND	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S02891
784	TUNNEL CAVE	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Sub surface cultural material; Artefacts / Scatter; Camp	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S02878
4495	MARGARET RIVER.	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Creation / Dreaming Narrative; Other	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S02614
4514	MEEKADARRIBEE CAVE	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Creation / Dreaming Narrative	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S02656
4803	OLD KUDARDUP CAVE	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter; Painting; Rock Shelter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S01942
5177	SKIPPY ROCKS	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S01345
5327	MAMMOTH CAVE	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Burial; Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00992
5334	BURNSIDE	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Burial; Camp; Historical; Mission	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00937
5709	BORANUP SAND, AUGUSTA	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00415
5762	DEVIL'S LAIR	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Sub surface cultural material; Artefacts / Scatter; Other	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00363
5764	HARDY INLET.	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Sub surface cultural material; Artefacts / Scatter; Camp	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00365
5765	ARUMVALE.	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Sub surface cultural material; Artefacts / Scatter; Camp	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00366
5768	RUSHY CREEK/McLEOD CREEK	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00369
5769	UPPER CHAPMAN BROOK	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00370
5770	SCOTT RIVER TRENCH 1.	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter; Camp	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00371
5771	BRENNAN FORD/SCOTT RIVER.	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter; Camp	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00372

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5792	MOUTH OF CALGARDUP BROOK	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00295
5794	DEEPDENE CLIFFS.	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter; Rock Shelter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00297
5847	COWARAMUP POINT	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Sub surface cultural material; Artefacts / Scatter; Camp; Midden; Shell	Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	800239
5848	CLIFFS AT WALLCLIFFE	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter; Creation / Dreaming Narrative; Rock Shelter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	S00240
15823	KUDARDUP 02	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Sub surface cultural material; Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
15992	RAINBOW CAVE / NG'LGARDUP	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter; Camp; Ritual / Ceremonial; Rock Shelter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
15998	COSY CORNER	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Water Source	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
17093	Gnamma Hole	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Water Source	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
17847	LAKE DAVIES	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Camp; Creation / Dreaming Narrative; Hunting Place; Water Source	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
20434	Blackwood River	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Creation / Dreaming Narrative	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
26177	Gracetown Midden 2	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Midden; Shell	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
26853	Wilyabrup 3	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
28185	Jewel Cave	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Creation / Dreaming Narrative	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
22718	Mokidup Site Complex.	No	No	No		Register	Sub surface cultural material; Artefacts / Scatter; Camp; Ritual / Ceremonial; Creation / Dreaming Narrative; Historical; Hunting Place; Meeting Place; Mission; Landscape / Seascape Feature; Plant Resource; Quarry; Water Source	Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
38770	Augusta Cave	Yes	Yes	Yes		Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	

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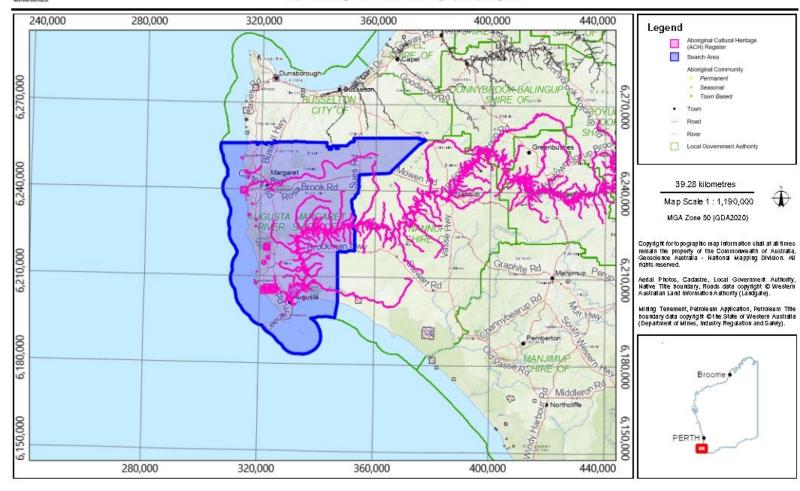
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38771	Bone Cave	Yes	Yes	Yes	·	Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	•
38772	Dingo Cave	Yes	Yes	Yes		Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
38773	Foundation Cave	Yes	Yes	Yes		Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
38775	Skull Cave	Yes	Yes	Yes		Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
38776	Strongs Cave	Yes	Yes	Yes		Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	
38777	Woodilj Dunes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Register	Burial	*Registered Knowledge Holder rames available from DPLH	

Map of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Register

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