



Fire Mitigation Policy

Policy Statement

This policy sets out clear and consistent principles for the Shire to plan, prioritise, carry out, and report on bushfire-mitigation work across its land. All actions should be based on risk, follow recognised standards, be transparent to the community, and support the work of volunteer brigades. The policy also recognises that prescribed burning is only one tool, but often the most debated, so clear guidance and communication are essential.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to activity undertaken by Bushfire Brigades within the Shire of Denmark.

Policy

Risk-Based and Consistent Decision-Making - All mitigation and response activities will be prioritised according to Council-endorsed Shire’s Bushfire Risk Management Plan and BFAC advice, ensuring decisions are consistent, transparent, and not influenced by individual requests aimed at achieving personal benefits such as lower BAL ratings, reduced insurance costs, or addressing perceived threats that fall outside the Shire’s risk-based priorities.

Alignment with Standards and Best Practice – Council supports prescribed burning and mitigation planning to follow DFES Prescribed Fire Plan Guidelines and Templates, as well as relevant legislative requirements, to ensure safe, coordinated, and evidence-based implementation.

Transparent Reporting and Community Engagement – Through the Bushfire Mitigation Program, Council supports prescribed burning activities and the importance of reporting these activities to the community to maintain trust and understanding of bushfire risk management.

Support for Volunteer Brigades and Safe Training – Council supports local brigades in carrying out hazard-reduction burning on private property where appropriate, recognising the importance of providing safe training environments and responsible cost-recovery opportunities that enhance brigade capability.

Continuous Improvement and Evidence-Based Practice - The Shire will stay informed about the latest science, research, and best practice relating to prescribed burning and other mitigation methods, and officers will make recommendations to BFAC and Council when updates to policy or practice are warranted.

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