



Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change
8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria

SE Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Recovery Project
BirdLife Australia
PO Box 392
Port MacDonnell SA 5291

18 February 2014

1800 262 062
redtail@birdlife.org.au
www.redtail.com.au

Dear Minister

The South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (SERTBC) Recovery Team has written previously on the issue of planned burns, their impact on this species and our belief that DELWP (and previously DEPI) should refer itself under the EPBC Act. To summarise;

- SERTBC are Nationally Endangered under the EPBC Act
- DELWP guideline's state the amount of SERTBC habitat scorched within a 10 year period should not exceed 15%
- The amount of habitat scorched is now over 24.3% and DELWP plan for this to increase in the execution of the Fire Operation Plan this autumn.
- Current DELWP actions have a significant impact on the species and should be referred under the EPBC Act

The Recovery Team was very pleased to hear the Victorian Government has announced a Review of its Bushfire Fuel Management Approach, as the current regime has resulted in percentage scorch reaching a level almost twice that acceptable within just a few years. . However, the Inspector-General for Emergency Management will not deliver a report until the end of March 2015 and the review will not affect the Department's planned burning program for 2014-2015.

At the Recovery Team meeting (17-2-15) it was reported that the stringybark fruit available is in the shortest supply in seven years of surveying, birds have been feeding in buloke earlier than usual, there has been a rare sighting of the species near Cavendish (well outside the normal range) and that no new nests were found over the recent breeding season. All of these are indicators of an endangered species in trouble. We cannot increase this burden by deliberately burning habitat.

The Recovery Team recognise the need for planned burns in strategic sites that protect communities. What we ask, at this stage, is that DELWP cease any non-essential (all burns other than those in Bushfire Management Zones) planned burns in SERTBC habitat, at least until the Review of Bushfire Fuel Management Approach findings are implemented.

I am also very disappointed to raise another issue where we believe DELWP must refer itself under the EPBC Act. This is over the preparation for planned burns and actions taken under the Hazardous Trees Policy. We have only just become aware of the practice by DELWP to clear 'hazardous trees' from tracks around and within planned burn areas. 'Hazardous Trees' are being cleared 30 meters beside a track and on both sides for internal tracks. We measured the native vegetation removal for one section of one planned burn (map attached). A summary of our findings are;

- A total of 226 trees were removed (chainsawn or pushed over) on this 1.75km stretch of the Casterton-Dartmoor Rd.
- 142 were live Stringybark DBH ranging from 8 cm – 95 cm. Ave 34.0 cm
- 59 were live stringybark greater than 35cm
- 46 dead Stringybark DBH ranging from 10 cm – 80 cm. Ave 29.1 cm



- 138 other live native species trees destroyed with 10-40 cm DBH
- At least one destroyed Stringybark (80cm DBH) had a hollow suitable for the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (20cm diam).
- All destroyed trees were 'edge' trees and thus highest value feed trees to SERTBCs.
- Largest destroyed tree found was 130cm DBH, largest Stringybark was 110cm DBH.
- This work has been carried out for a planned fire in the 2016-17 plan (2 years away)

We have no doubt that DELWP will justify these works under the Hazardous Trees Policy, however this does not alter the fact that the actions have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance and thus require approval from the Australian Government Minister for the Environment.

I have been asked by the SERTBC Recovery Team to urge **DELWP to cease planned burns outside BMZs in the SERTBC range until the review findings can be implemented** and immediately **review the Hazardous trees policy**. We also believe that DELWP must refer itself to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment as required under the EPBC Act.

The planned burns for this autumn are set to begin in just a week or two. We must act with a high degree of urgency.

Yours sincerely

s11C(1)(a)

Chair of the SE Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team

CC.

s11C(1)(a) Compliance Unit Department of the Environment, Australian Government
Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister of the Environment, Australian Government
Gregory Andrews, Threatened Species Commissioner





Map of 357ha planned *burn* Dartmoor, Spencers Track 2016-17



- 59 live stringybark over 35 cm DBH removed in the stretch marked in blue.
- Perimeter is worked mostly on just one side
- Many internal tracks treated both sides
- This one area is 323 Ha
- This area is included in the 2016-17 FOP
- The total area in just the Barwon South West 2016-17 FOP is 30,519 Ha

Previous advice from DELWP re burn intensity

From: s47F [redacted] @depi.vic.gov.au s47F [redacted] @depi.vic.gov.au

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 06:44 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time

To: Gaddes, Shane

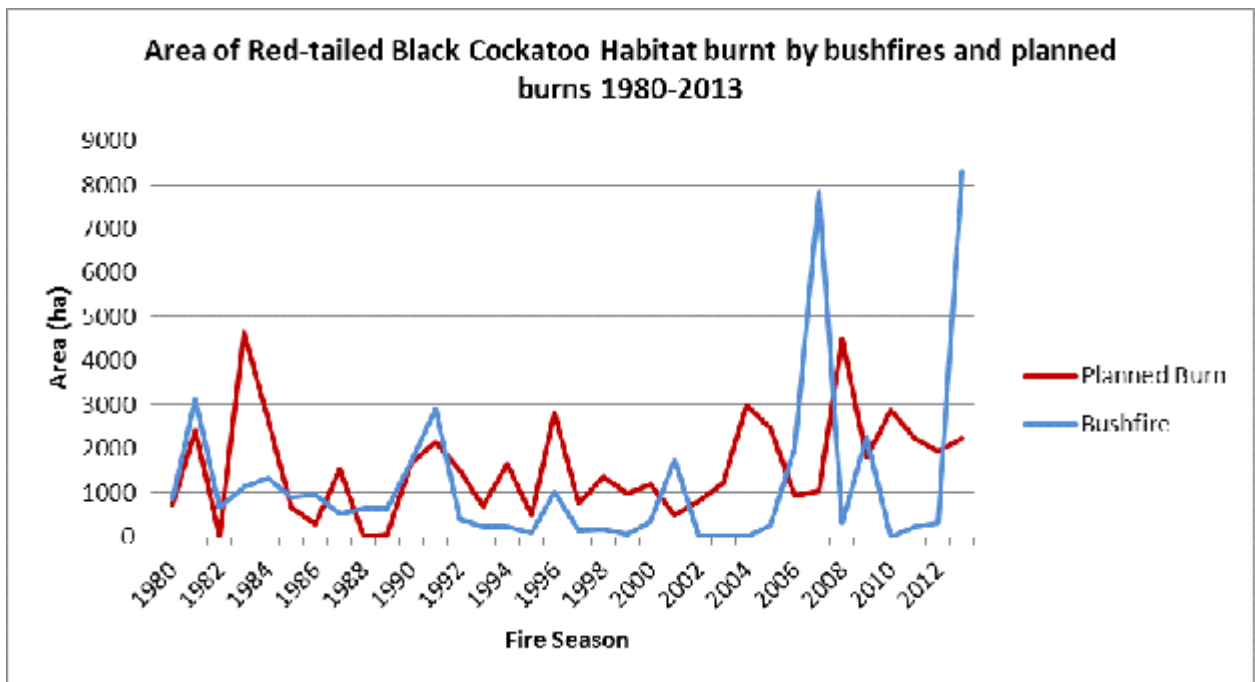
Subject: RE: Re Bannockburn Workshop [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Crown scorch

There has been no significant change to the fire management regime used by DEPI. There has been a significant increase in the amount of area impacted by bushfires since 2006.

Bushfires are a natural part of the landscape in Victoria and DEPI has always used fuel management to manage the risk of major bushfires impacting human life and the environment.

The level of planned burning undertaken by DEPI in South Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (SERTBC) habitat has fluctuated on an annual basis dependent largely upon weather conditions. Since 2006, there has been a substantial increase in the amount of area impacted by bushfire.



"Maximum 15% Crown Scorch" was developed over a decade ago as interim guide for local planning teams. This was to maintain a minimum of 85% area at 10 years or more since the last crown scorch event on public land within the defined area of SERTBC Stringybark feeding habitat. This figure is not based on science but the historical level of scorch from bushfire and planned burning in the preceding decade.

Strategic bushfire risk landscape planning is in the process of optimising fire management strategies in these areas and is already providing guidance during the development the current fire operations plan.

Context

DEPI has systems and processes in place to ensure compliance with legislation and policy

including the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwth). These processes include:

- a framework to assist fuel management decision-making,
- identifying the location and distribution of values (including the threatened species) during fire operations planning processes,
- recovery plans, agreed with the Commonwealth, to assist with recovery of specific species.

DEPI uses strategic bushfire management planning to deliver multiple outcomes including the protection of human life and ecosystem resilience.

Strategic planning has identified that fuel management in areas occupied by the SERTBC reduce the risk of major bushfires impacting human life, property and the environment.

Where possible, when delivering planned burning in SERTBC habitat, DEPI uses operational strategies designed to minimise impact on the species. This includes tailored lighting patterns to reduce fire intensity, and scheduling burns at times least likely to impact feeding habitat. All these techniques are consistent with the SERTBC National Recovery Plan 2007 agreed with the Commonwealth Government.

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2014 1:30 PM
To: Shane Gaddes
Subject: FW: Contact for south-eastern red-tailed black Cockatoo issue [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

FYI

Looks like DEPI is getting challenged by a third party for the prescribed burns? I'll keep you posted when I know more.

s22

From: s22 |
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2014 12:21 PM
To: s47F@depi.vic.gov.au'
Cc: s22; s22
Subject: Contact for south-eastern red-tailed black Cockatoo issue [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s47F,

Following our recent discussion, I understand you are seeking a point of contact within the Department with whom you can discuss an issue regarding some potential legal proceedings that are being taken against you for an alleged breach of your EPBC obligations regarding impacts on habitat of the south-eastern red-tailed black cockatoo.

The correct area within the Department is our Compliance section, headed up by Acting Director s22 (copied). s22 can also be contacted on (02) s22

I am sure you will be able to fill s22 in when you speak with him but from my understanding, Environment East Gippsland with assistance from the former EDO - Environment Justice Australia, have written to DEPI on 29 October 2014 indicating that they have brought, or are intending to bring, proceedings against DEPI for planned burning activities that they consider you should have referred to us under the EPBC Act. You indicated that DEPI responded back to EJA on 24 November 2014 but do not believe at this time that any of this correspondence has been made available to this Department.

I wish you well with your ongoing enquiries.

Regards

s22

Strategic Approaches East

South-Eastern Australia Environment Assessment Branch | *Environment Assessment and Compliance Division*

Department of the Environment

Email s22@environment.gov.au | Direct: (02) [s22](tel:(02) s22) | www.environment.gov.au

s22

Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2015 2:33 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: Fwd: Tree clearing in preparation for planned burns [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: 1.jpg; 3.jpg; Dartmoor Spencers Track Google Earth.jpg

s22

Please have a look at this matter. It would appear the DELWP have done significant clearing of Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat. The site is about to be subjected to a control burn.

This one will need some close and immediate attention as the potential to impact on the species appears high.

This information comes from a source that is well placed to have an informed opinion as to the potential of the action to impact on MNES. The informant is s11C(1)(a) of the RTBC Recovery Team and assisted in preparing the RTBC recovery plan . He is able to provide additional details upon request.

s11C(1)(a) advised this morning when he called that the Environment Justice Australia (formally EDO) is preparing to launch a case in the Federal Court (possible as early as next week) seeking to stop the proposed burns because of the potential for them to significantly impact on MNES.

Regards

s22 | **Assistant Director** |
EPBC Act Compliance Section
Compliance & Enforcement Branch |
Department of Environment
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601
T: s22 | M: s22
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

From: s11C(1)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2015 11:58 AM

To: s22

Subject: Fwd: Fwd: Tree clearing in preparation for planned burns

Hi s22

The email below probably sums up the issue. s47F is DELWP regional manager Land & Fire.

One stat I didn't include is that 59 live stringybarks were over 35cm and that all trees were 'edge' trees...thus highest value feed trees to RtBC. Note that all tracks are treated for 30m from track, internal tracks are also worked (both sides of track). My understanding is that the Hazardous Trees Policy has come into effect following the death of two fire personal from a falling tree (maybe a year ago)

I can supply my data sheets if need be.

Happy to supply more specific info, just name it

Cheers

s11C(1)(a)

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Fwd: Tree clearing in preparation for planned burns

Date: Mon, 16 Feb 2015 09:10:02 +1100

From: s11C(1)(a)

To: s47F@depi.vic.gov.au

CC: s47F [@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@minstaff.vic.gov.au)

Hi s47F

I am writing to inform you of our great concern with the clearing of trees in preparation for planned burns. I have only just become aware of the great damage caused by this work. I believe that implementation of this work has to be considered a significant action under EPBC.

On 15-2-15 I undertook a survey of the trees removed in the Red Hill (Casterton-Dartmoor Rd) fire preparation by DEWLP in preparation for fire on the 2016-17 FOP

Summary

I drove around the perimeter of the preparation works where possible. A section was taped off to the public. The bit I could drive around totaled 6.5 km. There were numerous tracks within the perimeter that I didn't drive. Rough estimate that the total length of track works was about twice the perimeter; say 13km.

While driving the perimeter I took some measurements of what looked like the extremes; Largest tree found was 130cm DBH, largest Stringybark was 110cm DBH, furthest from the road was about 30m.

I measured 226 trees (all over 6m length) that had been removed (chainsawn or pushed over). This stretch (along the Casterton-Dartmoor Rd) was 1.75 km. Of these;

142 were live Stringybark DBH ranging from 8 cm – 95 cm. Ave 34.0 cm

46 dead Stringybark DBH ranging from 10 cm – 80 cm. Ave 29.1 cm

138 Blackwood, Black Wattle, Red Gum, Swamp(?) Gum live trees from 10-40 cm DBH

At least one Stringybark (80cm DBH) had a hollow suitable for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (20cm diam).

I'm sure that all of this work can be justified under the Hazardous Trees policy however if this is the outcome then it reinforces the need to cease planned burns in these remote areas.

Regards

s11C(1)(a)

s22

Compliance Officer
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

tel - (622) fax - (02) 6274 1607

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s11C(1)(a)





s11C(1)(a)





DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PDR: CAS2079

To: Assistant Secretary Shane Gaddes (for decision)

Through: Director s22

BRIEF_AS_150527 TO SHANE GADDES

Timing: 29 May 2015 - to allow for coordination between federal and state officers to occur in a timely manner

Recommendation/s:

1. Please note and sign the letter to s47F **(Attachment A)**.

Signed / Not signed

Assistant Secretary Shane Gaddes:

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

2. The Department is currently examining information regarding vegetation clearing conducted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on Casterton-Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor, Victoria in preparation for prescribed burns.
3. The clearing may have the potential to significantly impact on listed endangered species Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) and the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*)
4. You previously wrote to s47F, Land and Fire Regional Manager of Barwon South West, on 1 April 2015 **(Attachment B)** requesting advice about DELWP's decision process and the reason the proposal was not referred to the Department of assessment and approval.
5. To date, the Department has not received a response to your request. Recent information has become available to officers that suggests further clearing of 'edge' trees has occurred. Edge trees are the highest value feed trees to Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.
6. Officers intend to conduct a site visit in June 2015 and would like to invite DELWP officers to attend. Please sign the letter of request.

s22

a/g Director

CEB

Ph: 02 s22

Mob: s22

[/ /2019]

Contact Officer: s22

Compliance

Ph: 02 s22

ATTACHMENTS

A: Letter to s47F [REDACTED] May 2015

B: Letter to s47F [REDACTED] 1 April 2015



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Contact Officer: s22

Telephone: (02) s22

Reference: CAS 2079

Email: s22 @environment.gov.au

Mr s47F

Land and Fire Regional Manager
Barwon South West Region
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
35 Ascot Street
DARTMOOR VIC 3304

Dear Mr s47F

In April 2015 I wrote to you regarding the Department of the Environment's (the Department) concerns that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) had cleared habitat for listed threatened species on the Casterton-Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor. The correspondence also raised concerns about a proposal to conduct a prescribed burn at the same location, which is known as 5FDA0596. A copy of my previous correspondence is attached.

The Department considers that the recent clearing and proposed burn has the potential to significantly impact on listed endangered species, specifically the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) and the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), due to impacts on the stringybark woodlands which provide habitat for the species.

The Department has received information claiming that there has been additional clearing along the Casterton-Dartmoor Road. Officers from the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Branch will be in Victoria in the week commencing 22 June 2015 and intend to visit the site to ascertain whether actions to date may have contravened section 18A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Compliance officers would welcome the opportunity to meet with DELWP officers and undertake a joint site inspection.

Please contact our case officer s22 on s22 or by email at s22 @environment.gov.au in order to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Gaddes".

Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch

27 May 2015



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Contact Officer: s22

Telephone: s22

Reference: CAS 2079

Email: s22@environment.gov.au

Mr s47F

Land and Fire Regional Manager
Barwon South West Region
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
35 Ascot Street
DARTMOOR VIC 3304

Dear Mr s47F

The Department of the Environment recently became aware of a clearing on the Casterton-Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor, and a proposal by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to conduct a 323 hectare prescribed burn at the same location, which is known as 5FDA0596. I am writing to you to provide information about how the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) could apply to the clearing and burning.

As you may be aware, the EPBC Act protects matters of national environmental significance. Matters on national environmental significance in the Dartmoor area include the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) and the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) both of which are listed as endangered under the EPBC Act. Habitat for both of these species is known to occur within the Dartmoor area.

The Department acknowledges that state governments have primary responsibility for the implementation of bushfire prevention activities. As per the Department's factsheet about Bushfire Management and National Environment Law, which is available on the Department's website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/factsheet-bushfire-management-and-national-environment-law>, national environmental law does not generally regulate fire prevention measures taken by the state unless they are likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

I understand that officers from the Department are currently liaising with the Victorian Government about a possible strategic assessment of current fire management policies and procedures in Victoria, to ensure matters of national environmental significance are protected during planned burns.

The Department is concerned about the potential for the recent clearing and proposed burn to have a significant impact on the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, due to impacts on the stringybark woodlands which provide habitat for the species. The Department understands that the recent clearing included the removal of approximately 142 live stringybarks, with a diameter at breast height up to 95 cm. I note that the Victorian Government's Action Statement for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo states that these large trees provide feeding habitat for the species. The Action Statement also states that most fires can scorch or remove the stringybark canopy, producing a significant reduction in fruit production for 9-11 years after burning.

In the interim, given the potential for this action to impact on a matter of national environmental significance, I would appreciate your advice about DELWP's decision process and the reason this proposal was not referred to the Department for assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

Should you have any queries about the matters raised in this letter please call the contact officer, s22 [REDACTED] on s22 [REDACTED] or by email at s22 [REDACTED]@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
/ April 2015

s22

From: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2015 2:12 PM
To: s22
Subject: Additional contact details

Hi s22

Here are some additional contact details that you might find useful in relation to your investigation down south.

s47F Manager is...

s47F
Operations Director, Barwon South West
Directs: 5 Total Reports: 157

Work Details

P: s47F
M: s47F
F:

s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

Geelong Office, Cnr Fenwick & Little Malop St,
Geelong 3220

Additional Information

Department: Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Division: Barwon South West Region
Branch:
Section:
DX Number: 216048

And would be the most appropriate person to escalate any correspondence to. s47F used to work within the Fire and Land (the same program as s47F).

I hope this helps.

Cheers

s47F

§47F | Senior Biodiversity Officer | Environment and Natural Resources

(Mon - Fri 9:00am - 3:00pm)

Regional Services | Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

110 Natimuk Road, Horsham, Victoria 3400

T: §47F M: §47F | E: §47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



RECORD OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

With: s47F DELWP

Subject: Correspondence

Time & Date: 6/7/15 12:16

Phone #: s47F

Completed By: s22

Title	150716 RTC s47F
Notes	s47F from DELWP called to let me know that he had only just received the corro from Shane Gaddes AS (letters dated 27/5 and 1/4. s47F's officer is now located in Geelong Vic and not @ 35 Ascott Dartmoor. There was confusion at the local office in Dartmoor and the corro was not passed on. I informed s47F that as no response had been received the investigation was ongoing and a site inspection had been conducted. s47F informed me that he would respond by next week to the corro and that it was a shame he wasn't able to accompany me on site. s47F went on to verbally provide an explanation and I asked him to please put it in his formal response to the Department. s47F contact details are now s47F s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au The Department now expects a response to the show cause by COB 17/7/15
Created On	16/07/2015 9:37:55 AM

s22

From: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2015 12:36 PM
To: s22
Subject: CAS 2079 - Letters of 1/4/15 & 27/5/15 - Casterton-Dartmoor Rd

Hi s22,

Further to our phone conversation earlier today, I would like to acknowledge receipt of letters received by myself today 6th July 2015 at our Geelong regional office, as sent by the Department of Environment on 1st April 2015 & 27th May 2015.

The letters were sent addressed to our Dartmoor office, which is shared between Hancock Victorian Plantations (HVP) and DELWP.

I followed up with the District manager today as to the delay in forwarding the letters to the Regional office in Geelong.

He advised that the letters were handed to DELWP staff at Dartmoor only last week, and had apparently been muddled up in HVP mail. Once received they were sent on to the correct address in Geelong.

I am disappointed that we did not have opportunity to meet with you during your recent visit, and undertake a joint site inspection of planned burn preparation works on the Casterton-Dartmoor Rd.

As discussed we will endeavour to provide a prompt response to your letters.

regards,
s47F

s47F | **Regional Manager, Fire & Land | Barwon South West Region**

Regional Services | Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

30-34 Lt Malop St, Geelong 3220.

T: s47F | M: s47F | E: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PDR: CAS2079

To: Assistant Secretary Shane Gaddes (for decision)

Through: Director s22

VIC / RED HILL / DELWP / CONTROLLED BURN VEGETATION CLEARING

Timing: 10 July 2015

Recommendation/s:

- 1. Agree to contact s47F by phone to discuss the Department's upcoming request.

Agreed / Not agreed

- 2. Please sign the letter to s47F (**Attachment A**).

Signed / Not signed

Assistant Secretary Shane Gaddes:

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

- 3. The Department is currently examining information regarding vegetation clearing conducted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on Casterton-Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor, Victoria in preparation for a prescribed burn.
- 4. The clearing may have the potential to significantly impact on listed endangered species Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) and the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*)
- 5. You previously wrote to s47F, Land and Fire Regional Manager of Barwon South West, on 1 April 2015 (**Attachment B**) requesting advice about DELWP's decision process and the reason the proposal was not referred to the Department for assessment and approval and on 27 May 2015 (**Attachment C**) inviting DELWP to accompany compliance officers to inspect the site.
- 6. To date, the Department has not received a response to your requests. Recent information has become available to officers that suggest further clearing of 'edge' trees has occurred. Edge trees are the highest value feed trees to Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.
- 7. On 22 June 2015 compliance officers inspected the site and observed the removal of a large number of significant foraging trees, some containing hollow with signs of occupancy by bird species. Officers were accompanied by s11C(1)(a) the Red Tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Team. The Field Trip Report for the inspection is at **Attachment D**.
- 8. The recommendation by compliance officers is to contact Mr s47F Operations Director, Barwon South West, DELWP on s47F or on s47F to discuss the

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Department's proposed escalation of the investigation by requesting DELWP provide information in response to a show cause letter.

s47F
Director
Compliance
Ph: s47F
[/ /2019]

Contact Officer: s22
Compliance
Ph: s47F

ATTACHMENTS

- A: Show cause letter to s47F
- B: Letter to s47F 1 April 2015
- C: Letter to s47F 27 May 2015
- D: Field Trip Report Victoria June 2015



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Contact Officer: s22

Telephone: (02) s22

Reference: CAS 2079

Email: s22@environment.gov.au

s47F

Operations Director Barwon South West Region
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Geelong Office, Cnr Fenwick & Little Malop St
Geelong VIC 3220

Dear s47F

On Monday 22 June 2015, Compliance and Enforcement officers from the Department of the Environment (the Department) inspected a property on the Casterton-Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor. This inspection examined an area in which a prescribed burn is planned (5FDA0596).

As per the Department's previous correspondence (please see attached), I understand that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, or an agent working on its behalf, has conducted native vegetation clearing at the site. To date there has been no response to the Department's correspondence.

The Department is concerned that this clearing has, will or is likely to, impact on the endangered species the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) as the native vegetation cleared appears to be stringybark woodlands which provide feeding habitat for the species.

The Department invites you to provide any information or advice that you believe may be helpful to our enquiries into this matter. Please be aware that the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) places a duty upon persons to provide accurate information to an authorised officer performing a function under the EPBC Act (section 491). This advice should consider, but not be limited to, the following matters:

- The nature and extent of native vegetation damaged or destroyed by the alleged action and the source of any information/advice available to the responsible party that described the vegetation prior to this action.
- State approval documentation relevant to the alleged clearing.
- Any other information you deem relevant to the Department's enquiries including copies of any Environmental Impact Statements which relate to this project.

As the Department has a responsibility to respond to alleged breaches of the EPBC Act in a timely manner, please provide a written response to the matters raised in this letter to the undersigned by close of business on 7 August 2015. You may choose not to supply information to the Department.

For further information relating to this enquiry, please contact the case officer, s22 on (02)s22 or s22 @environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch

17 July 2015

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2015 3:38 PM
To: RMAP Secretariat
Cc: s22 s22 Shane Gaddes
Subject: RAP paper -CAS2079 Dartmoor VIC [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: RAP_150720_request for expert DARTMOOR VIC.docx; RAP_150720_Attachment A Chronology.docx; RAP_150720_Attachment B_Corro 150401 to DELWP.pdf; RAP_150720_Attachment C_corro 150527 to DELWP.pdf; RAP_150720_Attachment D_VIC_SA Field Trip Report June 2015.pdf

Good afternoon

Please find attached a paper (and relevant attachments) for the next RAP meeting.

The item is:

To endorse delegate approval to engage an expert to determine whether native vegetation clearing has resulted in an impact on the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (south eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*).

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or s22 if you require anything further.

Thanks

s22

Director
Compliance
Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA, ACT 2601
T s22 F 02 6274 2966 s22
s22 @environment.gov.au

For information on the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/environment-assessments>

For information on the **Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981**:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/marine/marine-pollution/sea-dumping/sea-dumping-act>

For information on the **Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000**:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/environment-protection/fuel-quality>

For information on the **Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989:**
<http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone>

s22

From: RAP Secretariat
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2015 10:16 AM
To: s22
Cc: RAP Secretariat; Gaddes, Shane; s22
Subject: RAP Meeting 30 July - Signed Brief [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: 9798- VIC RED HILL-DELWP- CONTROLLED BURN AND VEG CLEARING CAS2079-signed.pdf

Dear s22

Attached please find a copy of the signed RAP brief for – 9798- VIC RED HILL-DELWP- CONTROLLED BURN AND VEG CLEARING CAS2079.

RAP advises:

1. s42

Kind Regards,

s22

Paralegal | Litigation & Enforcement Section | General Counsel Branch
Department of the Environment
a: GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2600
s22
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

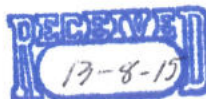
Please note I only work Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Barwon South West

30-38 Little Malop Street
Geelong Victoria 3220
PO Box 103
Geelong Victoria 3220
Telephone: +61 3 5226 4667
www.delwp.vic.gov.au
DX 216048



6 August 2015

Mr Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Gaddes

Thank you for your letters dated 27 May 2015 and 17 July 2015 regarding tree removal along the Casterton-Dartmoor Road that was undertaken as preparation for planned burn 5FDA0596. I apologise for the delay in responding, however, due to an incorrect postal address being placed on the initial letter, it was not received by The Department on Environment, Land, Water and Planning in a timely manner.

I am writing to you to acknowledge the receipt of the letters and I will provide you with a comprehensive response in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

s47F

s47F

Operations Director, Barwon South West Region

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s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2015 12:14 PM
To: s47F
Subject: CAS2079 Dartmoor - Work Order and Confidentiality Deed [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Procurement_150825 Work order - Ecology and Heritage Partners signed copy.pdf; Procurement_150820 Confidentiality Deed.doc

Hi s47F

I have attached the work order for you to address and confidentiality deed for you to sign. As discussed, we would like to go on site next week, either Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Once we have confirmation I will send you the mapping and information I have regarding the clearing at Dartmoor. Please call me on s22 if you need any further information.

Cheers

s22

Compliance Officer
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

s22 fax - (02) 6274 1607

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2015 3:35 PM
To: s47F
Cc: s22
Subject: CAS2079 controlled burn veg clearing Dartmoor VIC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s47F

As discussed, the Department is currently examining information regarding a clearing that has occurred at the Dartmoor Reserve on Casterton-Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor Victoria. The Department understands that approximately 226 trees have been removed in preparation for a prescribed burn by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

On 22 June 2015 my colleague s22 and I inspected the site where we observed areas that had been subject to the removal of a large number of significant stringybark foraging trees. We also observed some with hollows.

The Department requires that you attend the site on Wednesday 2 September 2015 with s22 to make observations.

Please call me on s22 if you need further mapping or information.

Cheers

s22

Compliance Officer
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

s22 fax - (02) 6274 1607

s22

s22

From: s22
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2015 10:13 AM
To: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au'
Cc: s22 s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au'; s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au'
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor VIC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Mr s47F

As previously advised in correspondence of 27 May and 17 July 2015, the Department of the Environment (the Department) is examining the native vegetation clearing that occurred on the Casterton Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor to ascertain whether it is likely to have had a significant impact on habitat for the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*), a threatened species listed endangered under *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

To inform the Department as to potential impacts compliance officers, accompanied by a suitably qualified ecologist, will undertake a inspection of the property on Wednesday 2 September 2015.

During the visit, the Department would welcome the presence of you or your representative.

Should you, or other representatives of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning wish to attend this inspection please contact me on s22 or by email at s22 @environment.gov.au . Following your advice I will forward additional information about the upcoming inspection.

Yours sincerely

s22

Compliance Officer
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

s22 fax - (02) 6274 1607

s22 @environment.gov.au

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2015 4:48 PM
To: Shane Gaddes
Subject: Dartmoor (also known as Red Hill) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: s42 RAP_150720_Attachment D_VIC_SA Field Trip
Report June 2015.pdf

Shane

Info attached. Note field trip report also s22 which is where s22 s22 are today.

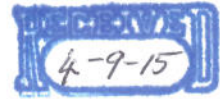
s22

s22 | Assistant Director | Compliance Section | Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601 | s22 | Fax (02) 6274 1607 | s22@environment.gov.au

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Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning



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DX 216048

Mr Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Gaddes

PRESCRIBED BURN 5FDA0596

Thank you for your letters dated 1 April 2015, 27 May 2015 and 17 July 2015 regarding tree removal along the Casterton-Dartmoor Road. I apologise for the delay in responding. As you are aware, the work described in your letters has been undertaken as preparation for prescribed burn 5FDA0596 and has therefore been assessed within our fuel management planning framework outlined below. The planning framework includes consideration of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requirements.

I acknowledge your department's position in seeking an explanation on these works and the concerns raised regarding potential impacts on the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (south eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksia graptogyne*).

In Victoria, management practices for bushfire management activities on public land are set out in the *Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land 2012*, for the purposes of the *Conservation, Forests & Lands Act 1987* and the *Forests Act 1958*. The Code's key objectives are to minimise the impact of major bushfires on human life, and to maintain or improve ecosystem resilience.

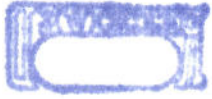
To support the delivery of these objectives, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning undertakes works for the prevention of bushfire, which is guided by a rigorous planning framework developed as a result of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires. This framework includes:

- **Strategic planning** using sophisticated bushfire modelling to provide a landscape approach based on long term strategic outcomes to minimise the impact of major bushfires on communities and enhance ecosystem resilience. This planning includes identification of significant environmental values in the landscape such as the *Calyptorhynchus banksia graptogyne* for protection from major bushfires.
- **Operational planning** to establish a three year schedule of works to be delivered. A key part of this process is the assessment of environmental values that are potentially impacted by the operations, and mitigation measures to be undertaken.

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- **Tactical planning** which includes individual burn plans that identify environmental values and mitigation measures to be used to protect the environmental value. This planning identifies the works required to provide a safe workplace, including the assessment and treatment of hazardous trees.

Prescribed burn 5FDA0596 followed the DELWP planning process outlined above and environmental values were checked and managed accordingly. The values assessment for burn 5FDA0596 provided guidance and was built into the operational works schedule and burn plan, to ensure that the values identified were considered and protected where applicable.

I am advised that single trees or small groups of trees have been removed *along the perimeter* of the burn area as these trees were determined by appropriately trained staff to pose an unacceptable risk to staff undertaking the burning operations. The practice of removing dangerous trees prior to undertaking burning operations stems from a significant number of injuries (including recent deaths) that have occurred where staff have been undertaking burning operations and is supported by the requirements under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.

The Victorian Government is committed to working with environmental groups to ensure environmental values are protected. With regards to burn 5FDA0596 DELWP has worked with many groups including the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Committee and the Portland and Hamilton Field Naturalists clubs. DELWP staff have worked with local environmental groups to minimise tree removal while not compromising on the need for DELWP to provide a safe working environment to its staff.

Managing bushfire risk to human life, supporting healthy and resilient ecosystems and keeping our staff safe is a challenging balancing act. DELWP is continually working to improve the planning and delivery of the planned burn program and works closely with local communities, stakeholders and research partners to achieve this, including the National Recovery Team for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-cockatoo.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me and for any future correspondence can you please provide a copy to s47F Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management. If you wish to discuss this matter in more detail please contact me on (03) s47F

Yours sincerely

s47F

s47F

Regional Director, Barwon South West

1 / 9 / 2015

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 24 September 2015 8:52 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: Letter & Attachments re Planned Burn - Dartmoor-Spencers Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Ltr to Shane Gaddes-Prescribed Burn 5FDA0596_23092015.pdf.pdf; BURN PLAN - Dartmoor Spencers Track FOPS values checks.jpg; BURN PLAN - Dartmoor Spencers Track.pdf; DELWP hazard tree pictorial guide print version.pdf; DELWP PB haz trees field guide 2013.pdf; DELWP PB haz trees field guide 2015 update.pdf; EMV SOP-J08.03 hazard trees.pdf; FOP Manual burns and works values checks process.jpg; FOP Manual Guideline document.pdf; FOP Manual values checking tool template.xls; Pre Burn seed crop assessment process.xlsx; Pre Burn seed crop assessment site form.pdf

From: Gaddes, Shane
Sent: Thursday, 24 September 2015 8:51 AM
To: s22 ; s22
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: Letter & Attachments re Planned Burn - Dartmoor-Spencers Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s22 and s22

Attached is the response from DELWP. Note the request to meet at an Exec level. Grateful for advice on when/how this should occur.

Shane Gaddes | Assistant Secretary | Compliance & Enforcement Branch | Ph s22 |

From: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au [mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
Sent: September 2015 5:46 PM
To: Gaddes, Shane
Subject: Fw: Letter & Attachments re Planned Burn - Dartmoor-Spencers Track

Apologies. I had an incorrect email address.

Regards
s47F

----- Forwarded by s47F /DSE/VICGOV1 on 23/09/2015 05:43 PM -----

From: s47F /DSE/VICGOV1

To: s47F
Cc: s47F DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1, s47F /DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1, s47F /DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1
Date: 23/09/2015 05:40 PM
Subject: Letter & Attachments re Planned Burn - Dartmoor-Spencers Track
Sent by: s47F

Dear Shane

Please find attached a letter and requested documents from s47F regarding the Inspection of Planned Burn 5FDA0596 Dartmoor-Spencers Track.

Regards
s47F for

s47F | **Regional Director Barwon South West**
Regional Services | Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
Level 4 State Government Offices, 30-38 Little Malop Street
Geelong, Victoria, 3220
s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

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Barwon South West

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DX 216048

Ref: CAS2079 DARTMOOR

23 September 2015

Mr Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch of Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Gaddes

REQUESTED DOCUMENTS FROM 2/9/2015 ON SITE INSPECTION PLANNED BURN 5FDA0596

I am writing to provide documentation requested by your staff during their inspection of Planned Burn 5FDA0596 Dartmoor – Spencers Track on 2 September 2015. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) staff appreciated the opportunity to meet and participate in the inspection as this provided an opening for building relationships between agencies.

During the site visit your team requested three documents relating to the hazard tree removal works carried out by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP):

1. Environmental Assessments

BURN PLAN – Dartmoor Spencers Track FOPS values check.jpg

BURN PLAN – Dartmoor Spencers Track.pdf

These two documents contain ecological information, planned burn information, and values check responses from DELWP businesses who have policy ownership for those values.

FOP Manual burns and works values checks process.jpg

FOP Manual Guideline document.pdf

FOP Manual values checking tool template.xls

These documents describe the process and tools used to conduct values checks for a burn to be included on the Fire Operations Plan (FOP).

Pre Burn seed crop assessment process.xls

Pre Burn seed crop assessment site form.xls

Documents describing the seed crop assessments and deferment of burns with higher seed crops. This is a key mitigation method for reducing the impact of planned burning on the food source for the South-Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo (RTBC).

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2. Hazard Tree Guidelines

EMV SOP-J08.03 hazard trees.pdf

Emergency Management Victoria SOP describing the approach to hazard tree management required for emergency response, which is also applied to planned burning.

DELWP hazard tree pictorial guide print version.pdf

This is the DELWP field guide which provides overarching guidance in relation to dealing with hazard trees in emergency response.

DELWP PB haz trees field guide 2013.pdf

DELWP PB haz trees field guide 2015 update.pdf

This is the Regional standard for hazard tree assessment and treatment which has been implemented to ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety obligations. The 2015 version incorporates stakeholder feedback and learnings from reviews carried out in previous years.

3. Tree Count Records

In regards to Document 3 , DELWP does not record tree removal numbers. One of the main reasons for this is the scale of the planned burning program and the size of the high value RTBC habitat which is over 143,086 hectares in Victoria (117,114 hectares on public land). At this burn, approximately 36 hectares has been treated for hazardous trees which constitutes less than 0.03% of the total area of high value habitat for RTBCs. Within this 0.03% only a small percentage of trees, which present a safety hazard, have been removed.

It is important for DELWP to receive feedback in order to continue to improve our processes concerning Victoria's Bushfire Fuel Management program. Staff and I look forward to discussing this specific matter further with you if more detail is sought.

I also propose that we meet at an executive level as well as an operational level to discuss our state-wide program and our roles, responsibilities and views. This would assist in forming a better relationship.

For further information relating to these documents, please contact s47F [redacted] Manager Planned Burning, Barwon South West region, on s47F [redacted] . He can also be contacted by email at s47F [redacted] @delwp.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

s47F [redacted]

s47F [redacted]

Regional Director, Barwon South West Region

Hazardous Tree Marking for Planned Burning

Land & Fire - Barwon South West & Grampians Regions

Hazard tree marking protocols for planned burning

1. Trees presenting a clear and present danger.
2. Trees that will impact on fire fighter safety during ignition.
3. Trees that do not pose an immediate threat but may become hazardous if affected by fire.
4. Trees that require protection due to their documented cultural or environmental values.

X Mark with a yellow cross;

- All 'clear and present danger' trees must be marked if safe to do so and an exclusion zone placed around the tree.
- All widow makers that have the ability to impact safety of crew on or near the control line.
- All dry spars that may reach the control line once affected by fire.
- Any tree within 1 tree length of the control line that could impact safety on that control line when subjected to fire.
- This includes dry stags, trees with hollow butts, dry sides, pipes, dead crowns, 3 or less pronged footings and trees hung up.
- Include any large hazard trees within two tree lengths that have an obvious ability to create a domino effect into other trees and impact safety on the control line.

Note: The above is a minimum requirement. If there is a high chance of crew entering the burn area following ignition (e.g. for blacking out or patching out) then marking up to 2 tree lengths from the control line is recommended).

Examples



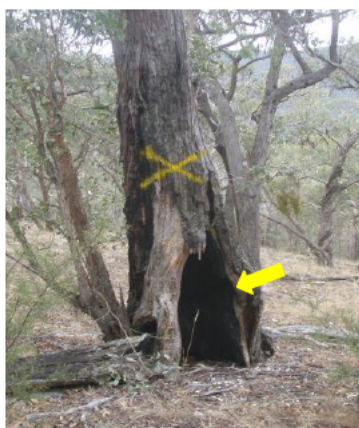
Dry Stag



Widow Maker



Dry Spar



Hollow Butt



3 pronged footing



Dry Side

Hazardous Tree Marking for Planned Burning

● Mark with a yellow dot;

Trees should be protected when there are specific, documented requirements for protecting trees (e.g. Aboriginal scar trees), and should be identified in the planning process. If a potential tree of significance is found or if uncertain seek further advice from your supervisor.

Trees with defects that have the potential to become hazardous trees, however in their current state do not pose a high risk, and can meet all of the following conditions;

- The tree can be easily and safely protected or extinguished from the control line.
- Sufficient work is carried out to protect the tree from fire.
- The tree can be easily felled without risk to the faller / operator if required.
- The planned burn is suitably resourced to protect dot trees.

If any of these conditions cannot be met then mark with a yellow cross.

Examples:



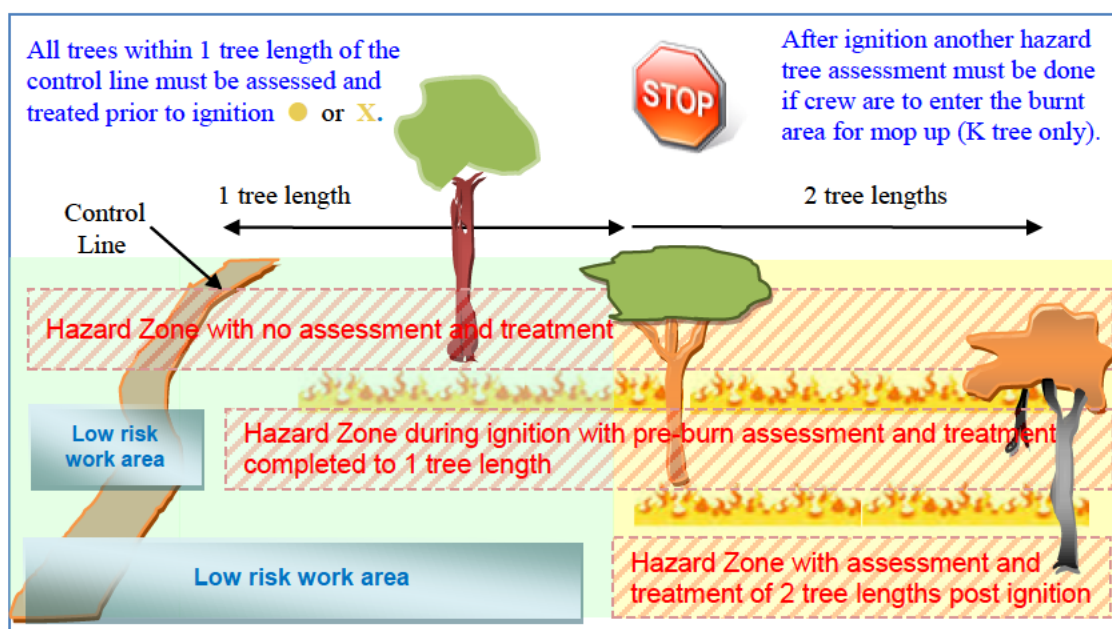
Hollow butt beside control line, easy to protect.



Scar tree – must be protected



Sufficient protection works



Notes

- 'Clear and Present Danger' trees on the non-burn side of a control line should be marked and treated.
- Trees are NOT to be marked with a dot if only presenting fire control issues
- This guide is aimed at increasing safety for fire fighters at planned burns by improving the standard of identification and level of consistency of hazardous trees.

CHAPTER 3. DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS

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3 DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS

3.1 BURNING AND OTHER NON BURN FUEL MANAGEMENT WORKS COMMENCED PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 30TH

FOP approval is for twelve months and as FOP approval does not occur until late September or early October, burning activities may commence prior to 30 September, provided the Burns and Works have appeared in the Approved FOP from the previous year.

Stakeholders' endorsement of significant preparedness works of long duration eg air strip construction, fire tower construction remains current unless an amendment is sought.

See Chapter 4 on types of amendments and the amendment process.

3.2 FOP PREPARATION AND INTERNAL CONSULTATION

3.2.1 Targets and Priorities

Statewide targets and priorities are set by Chief Fire Officer, FEM.

3.2.2 District Planning Teams

The District Manager must ensure that District Planning Teams are established for all LaF Districts and maintained. Parks Victoria in particular is a crucial member of these teams.

Expertise of a District Planning Team should encompass the following, including delivery partner representatives:

- Fire Management
- Land Management
- Biodiversity
- Soil/Water
- Fire Ecology/Fire Ecology Program Officer (PV)

The roles of the Teams are to:

- provide advice on the strategic context for the selection of planned burn areas;
- provide advice on the strategic context on existing and new burn nominations;
- review planned burns in line with State priorities, risk advice and updated planning considerations;
- review performance from last season, both in terms of planning and meeting of burn operations objectives;
- consider latest Bushfire Risk Landscapes mapping when identifying new areas to nominate;
- consider latest Township Protection Plans when identifying new areas to nominate;
- review small isolated burns near communities, and increase the size of these burns if possible;
- identify, nominate and prioritise burns and works and coordinate District nominations in line with State priorities;
- consider ecological assessment data (use Statewide data if local information not available);
- consider fuel level data;
- produces a Draft District FOP for consideration by Area Planning Team;
- resolves issues at District Level. Defer unresolved issues to the Area Planning Team;
- ensure values checks are completed and recorded in FireWeb;
- undertake community engagement activities;
- finalise FOP incorporating relevant comments received during FOP consultation period.

3.2.3 Burn Nomination

Nomination for Burns and non burn fuel management works must be forwarded to the District Manager for discussion and review by the District Planning Team. **Nominations will be accepted at any time of the year, although deadline for inclusion in a FOP is the start of May each year.**

For details of burn nomination, see Guideline 2.1.1 ‘*Step by Step Guide to Developing a Fire Operations Plan and Timeline*’.

See Guideline 2.1.3 ‘*Format and Standard Templates*’ for a sample of Invitation Letter to Nominate Burns/Works and Burn Nomination Form.

3.2.4 Values Checking

Members of the District Planning Team will undertake checks to identify significant values within and adjacent to planned burns and non-burn fuel management works. Advice provided should include consideration of the sensitivity of the value to burning or mechanical disturbance.

Values to be checked for each burn are listed in Section 3.2.5 ‘*Land Managers and Delivery Partners – Business Checks*’.

Those values to be protected from burning or mechanical works should be listed in the “FOPS” section of the Burn Plan (Burns and Works). Any prescriptions to be implemented in the operational phase of the burn must be listed in the ‘Significant Values’ section of the Burn Plan.

Feedback on how the value will be managed within the burn or works site should be provided to the relevant business.

3.2.5 Land Managers and Delivery Partners Checks

The following businesses are to be consulted prior to Draft FOP release to the public. They are to provide comment on the area of expertise within their business as listed below and ensuring that there is no cross over into other businesses checks. This is not an endorsement process, simply a provision of expert data assessment. Guideline 2.1.2 ‘*Relationships Involved in the FOP Development and Endorsement Process*’ demonstrates the relationships between different groups in the FOP development and endorsement process.

Business	Checks to be completed
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened Flora • Threatened Fauna • BioSites • Fire sensitive EVC/EVD that has bioregional significance • Locally specific projects • Animal Release Sites • Pest, Weed Infestations • Native Vegetation Management Framework consistency • Flora and Fauna Guarantee

Crown Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licences • Leases
DSE - Land Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Plan consistency • Research Plots • Old Growth EVC / Significant Trees • Assets / Recreation Sites • Logging History • Reference Areas • Wood Utilisation Plan/District Action Plan • Regeneration/Thinning Coupes • Special Water Supply Catchments • Non-aboriginal Cultural Heritage • Plantations • Soil Erosion Hazard
Parks Victoria- Land Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Management Plan Consistency • Research Plots • Reference Areas • Old Growth Forests / Significant Trees • Assets / Recreation Sites • Special Water Supply Catchments • Non-aboriginal Cultural Heritage • Plantations • Soil Erosion Hazard
Parks Victoria - Fire Environment Program Officers / Fire Ecology Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Ecology Strategies • Tolerable Fire Intervals • Fire History
VicForests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Coupes on Timber Release Plan • General Management Zone • Regeneration/Thinning Coupes
Water Authority (eg Melbourne Water, EG Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Assets • Sensitive Catchments • Catchments

3.2.6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

State and Commonwealth laws require that aboriginal heritage, archaeological and cultural issues are considered during FOP development.

Guideline 2.1.5 '*Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values during Fire Operations Planning on Public Land*' must be used in the management of cultural heritage values.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 commenced operation on 28 May 2007, the purpose of the Act includes the introduction of an Aboriginal Heritage Council of 11 Victorian Traditional Owners, a list of 'Registered Aboriginal Parties'. The Act also details when the preparation of Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required, and a new procedure for Cultural Heritage Permits and Agreements. The Act and subsequent regulations are primarily concerned with permanent changes and impacts to the landscape that may affect aboriginal cultural values, which are similar in nature to the triggers, described in Section 3.2.7 '*Native Title Assessment*'.

3.2.7 Native Title Assessment

State and Commonwealth laws require that aboriginal heritage, archaeological and cultural issues are considered during FOP development.

The FOP must be submitted for native title assessment. Native Title legislation requires a minimum of 28 days to respond to works proposals that can trigger provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993*. These triggers are essentially any earth works such as road and track widening or realignment, construction of control lines (except where they are temporary surface disturbance to create mineral earth and will be restored within twelve months), dam construction, helipad construction or any other significant soil disturbance.

3.3 DRAFT FOP ENDORSEMENT

The Draft FOP must be prepared in accordance with the format and standards as set out in Guideline 2.1.3 '*Format and Standard Templates*' and Guideline 2.1.4 '*Burn Mapping Standards*'.

The District Planning Team must seek endorsement of the Land Managers and Delivery Partners before the Draft FOP can be released for the formal public information /consultation period. See Guideline 2.1.3 '*Format and Standard Templates*' for a sample of the Draft FOP approval for public release letter which shows the format and signatures required.

3.4 DRAFT FOP APPROVAL

The Draft FOP must have LaF Area Manager's approval before it may be released during the formal public consultation period.

Prior to submission of the FOP to the LaF Area Manager for approval, the District Manager should consider the following when endorsing the FOP:

- the FOP has been developed in line with relevant legislation and Departmental policies and guidelines (Chapter 1);
- the FOP meets minimum hectare requirements in each year of the three years;
- all burns and works have received appropriate endorsement from Land managers and Delivery Partners;
- community engagement has been to an appropriate level for the relevant (targeted) communities;
- outcomes of community engagement have been appropriately considered;
- written feedback from the relevant Land Managers and Delivery Partners (if appropriate) has been considered.
- a broad range of stakeholders have had opportunity for input.

Once satisfied the FOP meets all obligations and has been prepared to appropriate standards, the District Manager is to certify to the LaF Area Manager that all requirements have been met and consultation has been sufficient. **Where there are unresolved issues, the District Manager must notify the LaF Area Manager for final decision.**

See Guideline 2.1.3 '*Format and Standard Templates*' for a sample of the Draft FOP approval letter. It provides the format and signatures required.

3.5 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

It is important to include the community in the FOP development and endorsement process. Different levels of community engagement are required depending on the level of interest in the FOP of the stakeholder group.

3.5.1 Communications Register or Engagement Log

All engagement activities, phone calls, correspondence etc should be recorded into a relevant database, managed at the District or Area level. As a minimum the following information is to be recorded:

- Date
- Name/Organisation
- Method of Contact
- Issue
- Action
- Action Person
- Action Date.

The District Manager must acknowledge receipt of written public comments on the FOP and provide feedback to comments received. See Guideline 2.1.3 'Format and Standard Templates'.

3.5.2 Community Engagement Plan

A FOP Community Engagement Plan should be developed for each LaF District or Area. The Plan outlines the different methods of engagement for stakeholders group.

It is important to target members of the public and key stakeholders that are known to have an interest in the FOP. This provides a number of important benefits, including:

- (i) Informing targeted community members and stakeholders of proposed burns and works, the rationales behind them and the effects that the treatments will have.
- (ii) Identifying potential issues and opportunities for planned burns and works.
- (iii) Gathering local knowledge to help refine plans and operational details.
- (iv) Improving communications and notifications around planning and operations.
- (v) Reducing community and stakeholder concerns about proposed burns and works.

'Targeted community members and stakeholders' means those that will have a specific interest in the proposed burns and works. This may include:

- (i) People who live, work or own property in close proximity to the proposed works.
- (ii) Business operators who may be affected by the proposed works.
- (iii) Vulnerable groups such as the elderly or disabled.
- (iv) Interest/friends groups which may have a particular concern.

3.5.3 Draft FOP Availability

The FOP must be made available at the following:

- relevant DSE District Offices;
- DSE Area Offices;
- DSE external website.

The Draft FOP is to be made available for public viewing and comment for a **minimum period of 28 days** during August.

Notification that the Draft FOP is available for public comment will be advertised in major and local newspapers. This notification will include the locations to view the FOP and details of any public meetings.

3.6 FINALISATION OF THE FOP

All three years of the Approved FOP may be burnt or treated in the first year, therefore Land Managers and Delivery Partners must consider this when the FOP is endorsed.

FOP endorsement by Land Managers and Delivery Partners should consider the possibility that a contingency area may ultimately be included in the burn. See Section 2.4.3 for more details on contingency area.

The Approved FOP approval process is similar to that of the Draft.

3.6.1 Dispute Resolution

Disagreements with Land Managers and Delivery Partners should be resolved at the lowest level possible.

In any dispute the DSE LaF Area Manager will be the final arbiter, in consultation with in consultation with the Group Manager or Director of the relevant Land Managers and Delivery Partners.

3.6.2 Approved FOP Endorsement

The District Planning Team must seek endorsement of the Approved FOP from the Land Managers and Delivery Partners.

See Guideline 2.1.3 '*Format and Standard Templates*' for a sample of the Approved FOP Endorsement letter. It provides the format and signatures required.

3.6.3 FOP Approval

FOP must be approved by **September 30th each year**. The FOP must have LaF Area Manager's approval.

Prior to submission of the FOP to the LaF Area Manager for approval, the, District Manager should take the following considerations into account when endorsing the FOP:

- the FOP has been developed in line with relevant legislation and Departmental policies and guidelines (Section 1.2);
- the FOP meets minimum hectare requirements in each year of the three years;
- all burns and works have received appropriate endorsement from Land Managers and Delivery Partners;
- community engagement has been to an appropriate level for the relevant (targeted) communities;
- outcomes of community engagement have been appropriately considered;
- written feedback from the relevant Land Managers and Delivery Partners (if appropriate) has been considered;

- a broad range of stakeholders have had opportunity for input.

Once satisfied the FOP meets all obligations and has been prepared to appropriate standards, the District Manager is to certify to the LaF Area Manager that all requirements have been met and consultation has been sufficient.

See Guideline 2.1.3 '*Format and Standard Templates*' for a sample of the Approved FOP approval letter. It provides the format and signatures required.

Once approved by the LaF Area Manager, the Approved FOP is ready for distribution.

3.6.4 FOP Availability and Distribution

Once the FOP is approved, it must be made available on the external website and distributed and held at the following locations:

- Relevant DSE LaF District and Area Offices, DPI and PV Offices.

The following people should retain a copy of the Approved FOP:

- LaF Area Manager;
- LaF District Manager;
- Fire Prevention Coordinator/Area Planning Officer.

3.7 FOP FILING REQUIREMENTS

A hard copy of the FOP must be filed. Departmental TRIM file to be created at an Area and District Level:

FM/20/XXXX – Fire Operations Plan 20XX/XX – 20XX/XX

DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK - PLANNED

◀◀ First ◀ Prev Next ▶▶ Last ▶▶ Resources

Preview

Burn Type:	ECOLOGICAL	Planned Area:	322 ha	Location:	9KM NTH OF DARTMOOR
Burn Number:	5FDA0596	District:	FAR SOUTH WEST	Attachments:	9
Grid Reference:	WD259103	Time of Year:	AUTUMN	FOPS Year:	2017/2018
Nominated By:	s47F	Nominating Business:	FIRE MANAGEMENT	Burn Record Year:	2015/2016 ▼

Burn Initiative Reporting:

Implementation Site Attributes Schedule Record Map Authorisation Checklist FOPS

Stake Holder	Response	Comment	Attachments
AC			
BIO	✓	Exclude burning operations from the Floodplain Riparian Woodland EVC unless ENRF staff determine fire ecologically beneficial. Exclude earthworks & mechanical disturbance from other EVC & ensure adjacent works don't alter current drainage.	1
CLM			
CAS			
LS	✓	WUP: Pine Wilding removal. Need to undertake to compliment burn objective. Liaise with Forest Officer.	
PV			
Pub			
Res			
VF			
MW			
Fire			

* Legend	
✓	No further comment
✗	Further comment required
N/A	Not applicable
	Attachments

* Stake Holders	
AC	ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
BIO	BIODIVERSITY
CLM	CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT
CAS	DPI - CAS
LS	LAND STEWARDSHIP
PV	PARKS VICTORIA
Pub	PUBLIC
Res	RESEARCH
VF	VICFORESTS
MW	MELB WATER

FIELD GUIDE: Hazard Tree marking for Planned Burn Preparation

Grampians & Barwon South West Regions

Hazard tree marking protocols for planned burning, look for

1. Trees presenting a hazard to crews now (ie. before ignition).
2. Trees that will impact on fire-fighter safety during ignition.
3. Trees that do not pose an immediate threat, but may become hazardous if affected by fire.

X Mark with a yellow cross

- All trees that are hazardous now, such as a large dead tree dropping limbs or widow-makers.
- All widow-makers that have the ability to impact safety of crew on or near the control line.
- All dry spars that may reach the control line once affected by fire.
- Any tree within ONE tree length (increase depth on side slopes as required) of the control line that could impact safety on control line when subjected to fire. This includes dry stags, hollow butts, dry sides, pipes, dead crowns, three or less pronged footings and hang-ups. Local species characteristics should be considered.
- Include any trees within TWO tree lengths that have an obvious ability to create a domino effect or slide and impact safety on the control line once affected by fire.



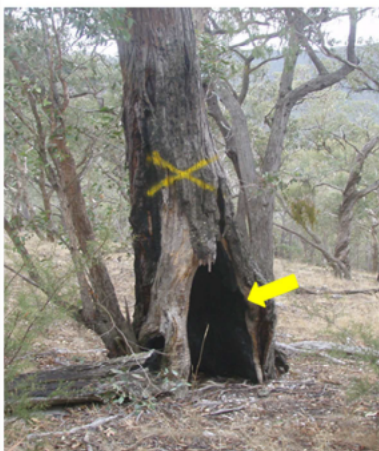
dry stag



widow-maker



dry spar



hollow butt



three pronged footing



dry side

Note 1: A follow-up K tree assessment must be carried out prior to mop up. Rule of thumb is assess to TWO tree lengths from control line to have a low risk work area of ONE tree length depth for mopping up.

Note 2: Dynamic Risk Assessments must be conducted for crews re-entering previously ignited areas to conduct further ignition or patching out. Eg. Ignition Crew Leader walks ahead of lighters to identify hazards.

Hazardous Trees – marking for Planned Burning

● Mark with a yellow dot

Trees with defects that have the potential to become hazardous trees, however in their current state do not pose a high risk, and can meet all of the following conditions;

- The tree can be easily and safely protected or extinguished from the control line.
- Sufficient work is carried out to protect the tree from fire.

If any of these conditions cannot be met then mark with a yellow cross for removal

Reminder: protection of dot trees must be a realistic task for the resources expected at the burn, consider requesting additional resources or alternative burn boundaries if required.

EXCEPTIONS: Do not use this marking system for

- ☒ Aboriginal scarred trees, no paint - tape only as per local arrangements.
- ☒ Other trees with natural or cultural values, seek further advice from your supervisor.
- ☒ Trees with fire control issues, unless they are also hazardous.



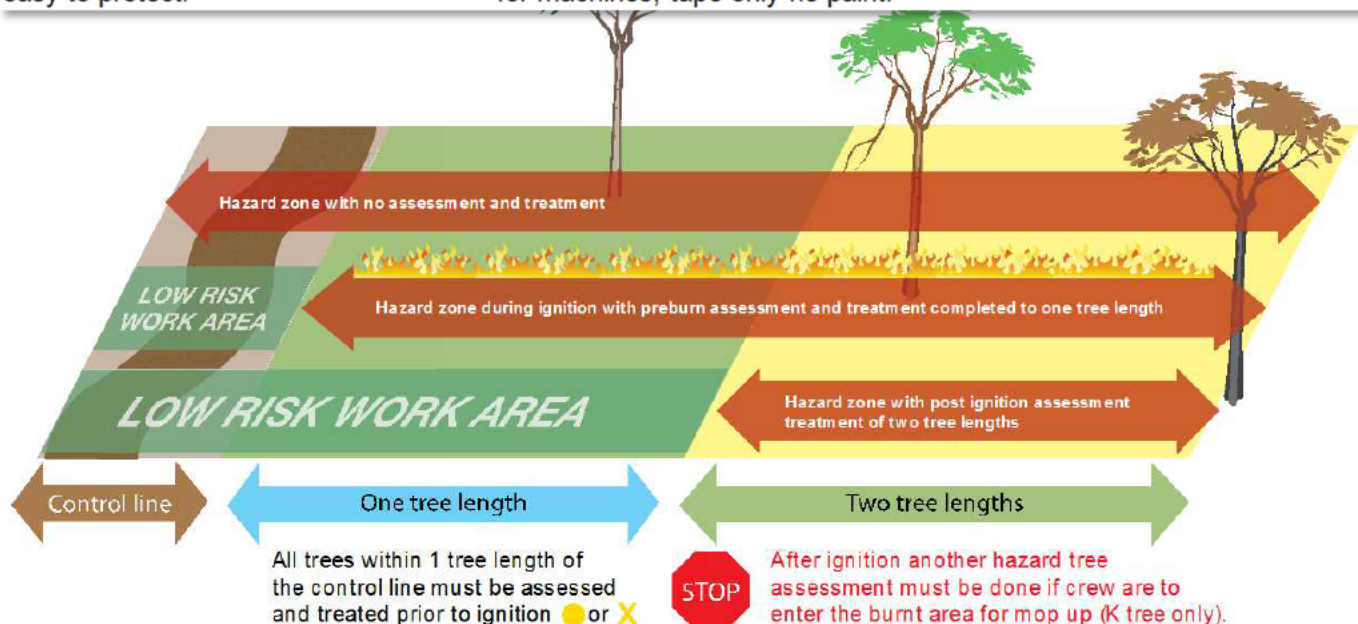
Hollow butt beside control line, easy to protect.



Aboriginal scarred tree: 50m buffer for machines, tape only no paint.



Sufficient protection works.



Note 3: Non-burn side of a control line, assess and treat trees that are hazardous now eg. a large dead tree dropping limbs on windy days.

Note 4: This marking system is for managing safety only, not trees with fire control issues, natural or cultural values.

Note 5: This guide is aimed at increasing safety for fire-fighters at planned burns by improving the standard of identification and level of consistency when dealing with hazardous trees.

Environment and Water - Assessment of Proposed Burn

Burn Name: Dartmoor - Spencers Track
 Burn District: Far South West
 Date Assessed: 7/10/2014

Burn Number:
 Assessor Name and Position: S47F Biodiversity Officer
 Contact Number: S47F

Fire Zone	Value	Type	Location Details	Status- Victoria	Status- National	FFG Listed	Potential Source of Threat	Potential Impact of Threat	Mitigation Measure	Potential Source of Threat	Potential Impact of Threat	Mitigation Measure	Potential Source of Threat	Potential Impact of Threat	Mitigation Measure	Overall Complex
	Floodplain Riparian Woodland			Vulnerable			Fire	Alteration to floristic community/loss of floristic diversity	EVC is fire sensitive, however, may require fire for ecological reasons. Exclude from burning operations unless discussions are held with Biodiversity staff to ensure fire is ecologically beneficial.							
	Plains Grassy Woodland/Plains Swampy Woodland Mosaic			Endangered			Earthworks/ Machinery	Alteration to floristic community/loss of floristic diversity	This EVC is considered endangered within the bioregion. Exclude earthworks and mechanical disturbance from this EVC and ensure any adjacent works do not alter the current drainage patterns near the EVC.							
<p>Note: Values with a National Status are listed under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Information provided by Environment and Water during the FOP review identifies values of national significance (nationally threatened species and ecological communities) that may be affected by the proposed activities. Any burns or works where EPBC listed values are identified should be considered for referral to the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Further information can be found at http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/bushfire.html</p>										<p>Mitigation Recommendation Exclude burning operations from the Floodplain Riparian Woodland EVC unless discussions are held with Biodiversity staff to ensure fire is ecologically beneficial. Exclude earthworks and mechanical disturbance from the Plains Grassy Woodland/Plains Swampy Woodland Mosaic EVC and ensure any adjacent works do not alter the current drainage patterns near the EVC.</p>						
<p>Note: The Priority Ranking Category field is determined by a process drawing on elements such as State and Federal threatened listing and status, proportion of known records within burns, etc. This ranking process aims to categorise values based on the consequence of compromising that value in terms of the physical site, known population or from the legislative status of the value. The priority ranking category is not a measure of emphasis that should be placed on protecting the value. Prescriptions for each value in the template should be considered independently from the Priority Ranking Category assigned to the value. For more detail see the Priority Ranking practitioners note.</p>																

Burn Plan	
DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK - PLANNED	
Situation	
Burn	
Burn Type:	ECOLOGICAL
Burn Number:	5FDA0596
Grid Reference:	WD259103
Nominated Burn OIC:	s47F
Planned Area:	322
District:	FAR SOUTH WEST
Time of Year:	AUTUMN
Location:	9KM NTH OF DARTMOOR
FOPS Year:	2017/2018
Land Management Information	
Land Category:	STATE FOREST
Land Manager:	DEPI
Land Management Zone:	
Fire Management Zone:	Landscape Management Zone
Proclaimed Water Supply Catchment:	
Leases and Licences:	
Assets	
Nearest Private Asset:	CROP
Distance To Asset:	501 m
Significant Values:	Apiary Site-H105 Max Cane 0427501551.
Fuel	
Fuel Hazard Bark:	
Fuel Hazard Elevated:	
Fuel Hazard Surface:	
Fuel Hazard Overall:	<input type="text"/>
Dominant Overstory Vegetation Species:	Eucalyptus baxteri
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Heathy Woodland
Structural Vegetation Type:	OPEN FOREST
Fire History (Year):	1981,1983,1988,1990,1993
Topography	
Slope:	0
Elevation:	60
Aspect:	22
Erosion Class - Mass:	nil
Erosion Class - Water:	Nil
Erosion Class - Wind:	Low

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Mission

Land Management Objectives: To develop a fuel reduced corridor North to South to assist with protection of private property and assets to the South.

Burn Operation Objective: To burn at a High intensity over 50% of the burn plan area and reduce the overall fuel hazard to below very high.

Execution

Burn Coverage: 50-69%

Burn Prescription: DRY SCLEROPHYLL FOREST (MATURE, WITHOUT WIREGRASS) - FDI <10, Day 2 <12. Temp 18-27. RH 35-70%. Wind <20kph (<10kph @ 1.5m in forest). KBDI <50, or <120 (if fallen =>30 from summer max). FFMC FRB: surface 9-16%, Slash: inside <14%, outside >16%.

Ignition Method Perimeter:

- Hand
- Flame Thrower
- Aerial Drip Torch

Ignition Method Internal:

- Hand
- Aerial Drip Torch
- Aerial Incendiary
- Electrical Detonation

Control Lines:

- Trafficable Break
- Non Trafficable Break
- Handtrail
- Green Vegetation
- Fuel Moisture Differential
- Low Fuel Area

Burn Plan Prepared: 2 Dec 2013

Site Preparation Completed: 29 Jan 2015

Planning Risk Consequence:

Operational Risk Consequence:

Planning Risk Likelihood:

Operational Risk Likelihood:

Planning Risk:

Operational Risk:

Constraints: Wood coupe will need to be closed, underground Telecom Cable within burn area on northern edge of burn, between Points D-F, Traffic management required.

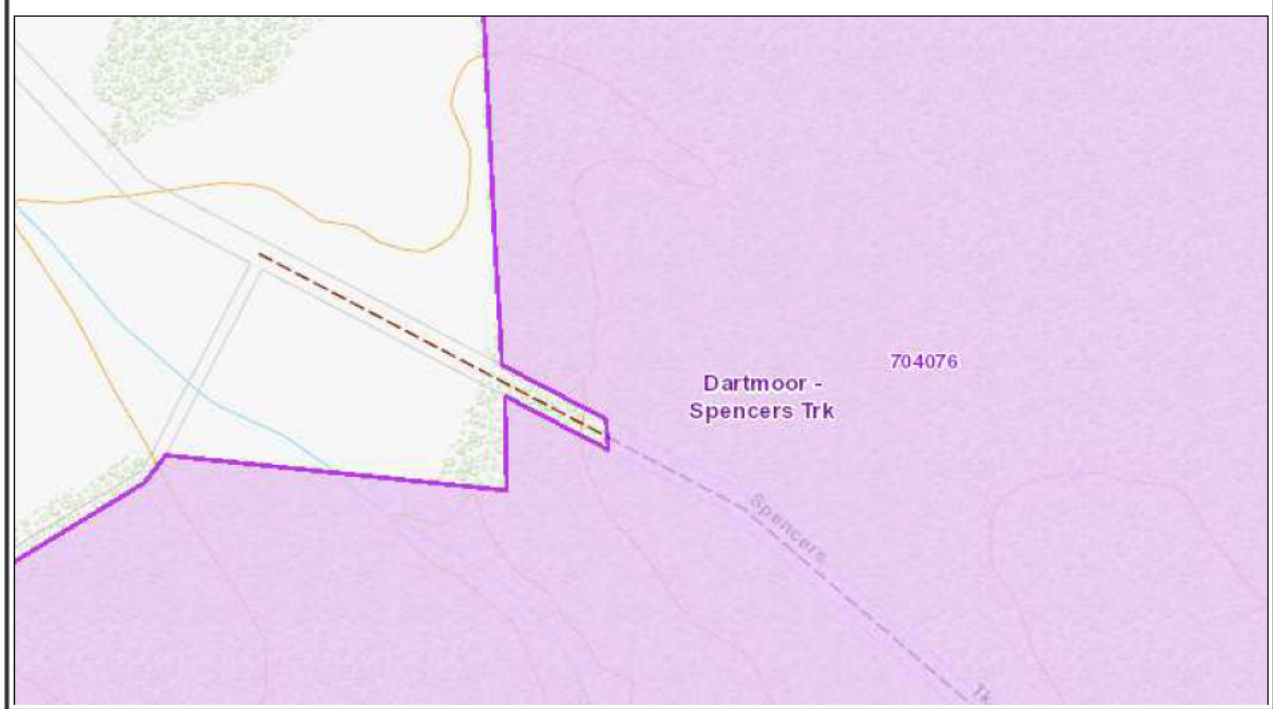
Mapping

1:25,000: DARTMOOR NORTH, 7122-2-N

1:100,000: CASTERTON-COLERAINE, 7122-7222

Longitude: 141.2944

Latitude: -37 8544





DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Quality Assurance

From	Required	Authorised	Expires (time/date)	Comment	Name
L&FA Mgr	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
FMO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Conditions of Authority:

Stake Holder	Response	Comment	Attachments
AC			
BIO	✓	Exclude burning operations from the Floodplain Riparian Woodland EVC unless ENRF staff determine fire ecologically beneficial. Exclude earthworks & mechanical disturbance from other EVC & ensure adjacent works don't alter current drainage.	 1
CLM			
CAS			
LS	✓	WUP: Pine Wilding removal. Need to undertake to compliment burn objective. Liaise with Forest Officer.	
PV			
Pub			
Res			
VF			
MW			
Fire			

* Legend	
✓	No further comment
✗	Further comment required
N/A	Not applicable
	Attachments

* Stake Holders	
AC	ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
BIO	BIODIVERSITY
CLM	CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT
CAS	DPI - CAS
LS	LAND STEWARDSHIP
PV	PARKS VICTORIA
Pub	PUBLIC
Res	RESEARCH
VF	VICFORESTS
MW	MELB WATER
Fire	FIRE

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

GUIDELINE 10.1.13: CHECKLIST FOR PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF PLANNED BURNS

Reference: FM10.1/Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

These checklists must be completed for every planned burn on public land and stored as part of the burn record unless advised otherwise.

Staff can use the checklists for:

- planning and/or conducting planned burns; or
- investigating an escape from a planned burn as required under Guideline 10.1.11: Classification and Investigation of Escapes from planned Burns. The completed checklist forms part of the planned Burn Analysis Proforma.
- "High Risk" burns defined as:
 - - a burn to be conducted outside standard prescriptions and constraints; or
 - - a burn identified by the BRMP as "High" risk;
 - - a burn within 500m of a significant asset (BRAT).

Checklists 1 and 4 are the responsibility of the District Manager but may be delegated as required within the District structure (eg. to a Fire Management Officer/Fire Manager).

If Yes or N/A cannot be completed in any of the fields in a checklist the Program Manager Fire is to be notified and a suitable investigation conducted.

BURN DETAILS:	NAME:	DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER:	5FDA0596
	DISTRICT:	FAR SOUTH WEST		
CHECKLIST COMPILED BY:	District Manager:			
	Burns Controller:			
	Burn OIC:			
DATE OF:	Ignition:			
	Completion:			

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
FMO:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Checklist 1: Burn Planning - District Manager

1.1 Burn on an approved FOP		<i>Tick (✓) the appropriate box</i>	
		YES	NA
1.1.1	If burn is additional to / altered from the approved FOP, an amendment procedure has been followed and relevant approval(s) obtained	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1.2	Fire Operations Plan feedback / functional comments recorded on Fireweb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Burn Plan Requirements (see Chapter 3: Burn Plan)			
1.2.1	Issues from Fire Operations Plan feedback identified and addressed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2	Pre-burn works completed with control lines to the required standard, consistent with Guideline for fire control lines and management of hazardous trees (protection of significant trees/cultural sites and ID/treatment of potentially hazardous trees).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.3	Resource requirements identified and recorded in Burn Operations Resource Estimates on FireWeb.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.4	Expected fire behaviour (based on prescriptions) considered and fuel loads confirmed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.5	Burn Risk Assessment (ie. BRMP or BRAT) completed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.6	Potential control problems, hazards and risks on public land and adjoining private property clearly identified and addressed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.7	Appropriate map/s prepared including:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burn Area and Contingency Areas • Control and Fall-back Lines (including adjoining FRB areas approved in the current FOP) • Fire History (of Burning Unit & surrounding land) • Escape Routes & Refuge Areas • Water Points • Exclusion Zones (Fire / Machinery / Safety) • Assets and Values Requiring Protection • Tracks and Roads within and adjoining the burn area • Ignition Method and Lighting Patterns 		
1.2.8	Smoke management considered, as per Guideline 10.1.19 Guidelines on the Management of Smoke from Planned Burning and Bushfire Control Operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.9	Traffic Management plan prepared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.10	Rehabilitation works been adequately identified (if appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Notifications (see Chapter 4: Prior to the Day of Ignition)			
1.3.1	Notification List completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3.2	'Notice of Intent to Conduct a Planned Burn' issued to stakeholders.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3.3	'Notice of Intent to Conduct a Planned Burn' posted at burn site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3.4	Check for active licences (eg. apiary sites) within the burn area been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Approvals (see Chapter 2: Delegations and Competencies)			
1.4.1	Nominated Burn OIC is an accredited DEPI Burn OIC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.2	Burn endorsed by Land Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.3	Burn Plan approved on Fireweb by the appropriate, authorised persons:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Manager • Program Manager Fire (*'High Risk' burns). • LaF Regional Manager (within period December 15 to February 28). 		
1.5 Fireweb Requirements			
1.5.1	FireWeb status been updated to 'Ready', when burn is moved onto the 7 day schedule.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
Burns Controller:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Checklist 2: Operations - Burns Controller

2.1 Fireweb (see Chapter 4: Prior to the Day of Ignition)		<i>Tick (✓) the appropriate box</i>	
		YES	NA
2.1.1	Burn status updated on Fireweb to 'Ignition Authorised' (preferably before 1600 hrs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1.2	The State Air Desk has been advised with sufficient notice via the Regional Aircraft Coordinator of any aircraft requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Authorisation and Notification (see Chapter 5: On the Day of Ignition)			
2.2.1	A weather forecast is obtained from BOM prior to ignition and communicated to the Burn OIC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.2	Future weather predictions assessed and suitable to go ahead with the burn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.3	Day of Burn notifications as per Burn Plan issued:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Manager • All neighbours and stakeholders • Local Municipality • CFA Regions, Groups and Brigades, as appropriate • Victoria Police • Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) • DEPI Call Centre and the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 		
2.2.4	Burn OIC completed section 3.1 (Pre-ignition) of Checklist 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.5	Burn OIC authorised to ignite by Burns Controller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 After Ignition			
2.3.1	Burn status updated on Fireweb to 'Ignited' once confirmation of ignition received from Burn OIC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Post Burn			
2.4.1	Arrangements in place to provide adequate patrols of the planned burn until it is completed and declared safe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4.2	Burn status updated on Fireweb to 'Under Control 1' once confirmation that perimeter is secured is received	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4.3	Treated area recorded on the 'Burn Operations Results' Section (on the 'Record' tab in FireWeb).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
Burns OIC:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Checklist 3: Operations - Burn OIC

3.1 Pre-ignition (see Chapter 5: On the Day of Ignition)		<i>Tick (✓) the appropriate box</i>	
		YES	NA
3.1.1	Adequate resources available for the task and notified of assembly time and staging area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.2	Pre-burn weather and fuel moisture monitoring undertaken	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.3	Burn OIC is in possession of approved Burn Plan or other permit as required in accordance with organisational procedures during burn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.4	On-site weather and fuel moisture checked prior to ignition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.5	Burns Controller advised of weather and fuel conditions prior to ignition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.6	Burn site checked to ensure no members of public / private assets within the Burning Unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.7	Factors identified on-site and assessed as suitable:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusion Zones (fire and machine) • Traffic management (including signage and Road / Track Closures) • Control and fall-back lines (including adjoining FRB areas approved in the current FOP) • Potentially hazardous trees have been assessed and treated. • Ignition method and lighting pattern. • Access and egress routes • Water points • Escape routes and refuge areas • Protection of critical assets and values (including significant trees and cultural sites) 		
3.1.8	Burn OIC has authorisation to ignite from Burns Controller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.9	SMEACSQ Briefing prepared & delivered (to all crews involved), including:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All resources present, appropriately attired with PPE, with suitable deployments and tasking • All factors listed in 3.1.7 above explained • Safety (ensure all crews have read the Safe Work Procedure for Planned Burning and a Site Safety Survey has been completed), Contingencies, Weather, Command and Communications, Possible Containment Issues, Aircraft, Maps. 		
3.2 Following Ignition			
3.2.1	Burns Controller advised of ignition time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.2	Hazardous trees assessed and treated following ignition before crews re-enter for systematic mop-up or re-ignition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.3	Record weather and fire behaviour information every two hours.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.4	Burns Controller provided with regular updates during the operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.5	Burn brought out to control lines on day or 'Part Completed' as per Burn Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.6	Burn area secured against escape with follow up patrols and reporting process arranged	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Concluding Burn Operations (see Chapter 6: After the Burn)			
3.3.1	Debrief conducted, with any issues followed up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3.2	Personnel work times recorded and forwarded to timekeeper/Burns Controller.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3.3	Rehabilitation requirements put in place and communicated to Burns Controller.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3.4	Planned Burn Operations Record completed, signed and provided to Burns Controller.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
FMO:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Checklist 4: Recording - District Manager

4.1 Post Burn (see Chapter 6: After the Burn)		<i>Tick (✓) the appropriate box</i>	
		YES	N/A
4.1.1	The Planned Burn Operations Record and other relevant documents completed and filed with other burn records.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.2	All relevant fields of the FireWeb Planned Burn Operations Record completed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.3	Rehabilitation works recorded as completed or plans made for rehabilitation activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.4	Outcomes assessed against stated burn objectives and recorded in Fireweb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.5	Burn outcomes reviewed and recommendations made for further action if necessary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.6	Variations from the Burn Plan are reported in accordance with procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.7	Fireweb changed to reflect the post-burn status (Complete or Part Complete)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.8	The burn area and intensity mapped and recorded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.9	Fireweb checked to ensure record of Burn is complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

GUIDELINE 10.1.12: PRESCRIBED BURN OPERATIONS RECORD

Reference: FM10.1/Chapters 5 and 6

Burn No: _____ Part: _____ Name: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Fire District: _____ Work Centre: _____

Block: _____ Comp: _____ Burning Unit: _____

FORECAST CONDITIONS (Enter estimates adjusted for burn location/elevation)

LOCATION	Temp (max)	RH (min)	WIND		WIND CHANGE		
			Direction	(km/h)	Direction	(km/h)	hrs
Forecast Site							
Burn Site							

Stability: _____ Inversion (m a.s.l.): _____

Outlook: _____

Last rain (mm): _____ Rain when? (days ago): _____ CD.I.: _____ Max FDI: _____

RECORD

Op & Safety Brief: _____ Ignition start (hrs): _____ Ignition finish (hrs): _____

Distance between lines (m): _____ Distance(s) between spots (m): _____

Lighting Pattern: _____

Record the following information at least every two hours:

Time (hrs)	FMC (%)	Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Wind direction	Wind (km/h)	FDI	FROS (m/h)	Flame Ht (m)	Comments on location of FMC sample, lighting, pattern, fire intensity, spotting, etc

Max number of Personnel: _____ Tankers: _____ Slippers: _____ Dozers: _____

Aircraft: _____ Operator: _____ Flight duration (hours:min): _____

Navigator: _____ Bombadier: _____ No capsules used: _____

Other resources: _____

Patrol requirements: _____

RESULT OF OPERATIONS

Area Burned (ha): _____ Length (km): _____ Width (m): _____ Perimeter (km): _____

Burn coverage (% of area burned): _____ Fine fuel reduced to an average of (t/ha): _____

Estimated scorch (%): _____ Objectives were met – This day: _____ Whole operation: _____

Comments (and show results on map): _____

Follow-up actions: _____

_____ Follow up actions completed: _____

Name of OIC of the Burn: _____ Signature: _____

Last update: ___/___/___

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Site Safety Survey

Onsite supervisor is to facilitate completion with workers. Must be completed each day before commencing the job or if the conditions change

Job: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Facilitated by: _____

PART 1 - UNDERSTAND THE TASK

	Answer the following questions	Yes	No	Next step to correct the situation
1	Do you have a completed job safety plan?			If no, contact your supervisor to discuss the job and obtain authorisation. If yes, go to 2.
2	Have you discussed it with your work crew?			If no, discuss with crew. If yes, go to Part 2.

PART 2 - Check for additional hazards at the work site not covered by the SWP/SWMS. Identify the hazard/s and list the additional controls to be applied below.

	Hazard	Yes	No	Additional control or steps taken
1	Hazards from the weather conditions (i.e. heat, cold, storms and UV exposure)?			
2	Can I slip, trip or fall on/from anything?			
3	Can I fall from height?			
4	Can something fall on or strike me?			
5	Can contractors or the public access the work area or be affected by the works?			
7	Can I strain or overexert myself?			
8	Can I be exposed to a harmful substance through inhalation, ingestion, contact with skin, injection?			
9	Is there a risk of fire, reaction or explosion from substances/materials I'm working with?			
10	Can I be exposed to electrical sources (static, overhead or underground wires)?			
11	Can I be exposed to loud noise or vibrations?			
12	Can I be exposed to high pressure fluids?			
13	Do I need additional training or permits e.g. confined spaces?			
14	Am I or others fatigued, stressed or dehydrated?			
15	Is there adequate communication between workers, plant or vehicles?			
16	Could I be exposed to animal/insect bites or infectious diseases?			
17	Are all workers competent and experienced?			
18	Are the site conditions suitable? (access/egress/terrain/dusty/wet/slippery)			
19	Other?			
	Have all of the hazards identified been appropriately controlled?			If no, stop and contact supervisor If yes, sign and continue with job.

Sign off by Onsite supervisor _____ Date: ____/____/____

PART 3 - IMMEDIATE POST- JOB SAFETY REVIEW

Answer the following questions	Yes	No	Required actions
Did any incidents or near-misses occur?			If yes , report to supervisor/manager as soon as possible, complete incident card (if required) and record on POSSUM.
Can the Safe Work Procedure be improved?			If yes , inform your supervisor/manager.
Does a SWMS need to be converted to a SWP?			If yes , inform your supervisor/manager.
Other Issues:			

Sign off by Onsite supervisor _____ Date: ___/___/___

DISTRICT: FAR SOUTH WEST	BURN NAME: DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	NUMBER: 5FDA0596
NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

Appendix 1

Nearest Fire Tower:	BALROOK
Bearing From Fire Tower:	1
State:	
Local Government Area:	Gleneig
Parish:	MYARING
Allotment:	16E
Section:	C
Government Act:	CROWN LAND (UNRESERVED)
CFA Region:	South West
PV Divison:	
PV District:	South West
Forest Management Block:	
Forest Compartment:	

Joint Standard Operating Procedure



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



JOINT SOP	
Title	Tree hazard - bushfire response
Purpose	To mitigate the risk to emergency service personnel of injury or death from falling trees and branches during bushfire response.
Scope	<p>This Joint SOP applies to all emergency services personnel (including emergency service agencies and contractors) involved with bushfire response operations. Specifically in relation to the identification of tree hazard in the forested/treed environment and mitigating the risk of consequent injury, or damage to equipment while accessing or being on the fire ground.</p> <p>This Joint SOP does not apply to planned burning or operations arising from flood, storms or other events.</p>
Content	<p>The procedural contents of this SOP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Identify the potential existence of tree hazard during bushfire response. • Step 2: Mitigate the risk arising from tree hazard during access to bushfire incidents • Step 3: Mitigate the risk arising from tree hazard on the fire ground. • Step 4: Mitigate the risk of unidentified hazard trees on the fire ground. • Step 5: Complete operations.
Responsibilities	<p>All emergency service personnel involved in bushfire response, including Incident Controllers, Operations Officers, Sector Commanders, Crew Leaders, crew members, and all others entering a fire ground are responsible for following this procedure.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incident Controllers are to ensure tree hazard is considered along the route(s) used to enter/leave the fire ground. 2. Incident Controllers are to ensure that known areas of high tree hazard are identified during the development of the Incident Action Plan, particularly in relation to deployment orders and safety messaging. 3. Incident Controllers are to ensure that crews are briefed at shift commencement on known areas of high tree hazard. 4. Incident Controllers are to ensure that mop-up/blacking out or patrol does not commence until a hazard tree assessment has been completed for that portion of the fire control line or mitigation controls are in place.

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	<p>5. Incident Controllers are to ensure Clear and Present Danger trees that remain standing on the fire ground after the passage of fire are treated.</p>
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>For the purposes of this procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced or Intermediate Faller: A tree faller meeting the requirements of the relevant Public Safety Training Package Unit of Competency <i>Fall trees manually (advanced)</i> or <i>Fall trees manually (intermediate)</i> or successor(s). • Assess (tree hazard): To locate and evaluate the extent of tree hazard by appropriately <u>qualified</u> and/or <u>experienced</u> personnel. • Bushfire: Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective. • Clear and Present Danger tree (CPD): A tree or branch that is likely to fall within the expected timeframe of the current operation and impact personnel in its potential impact zone. • Dispatching Officer: The agency or other authorised person initiating the act of ordering attack crews and/or support units to respond to a fire, or from one place to another. • Going Fire: Any bushfire which is expanding and suppression actions have not yet contained the fire. • Hazard tree: The collective term for Hazardous trees and Clear and Present Danger trees. • Hazardous tree: A tree or branch which in its current state may in part or wholly fall and impact personnel in its potential impact zone (but not considered likely to do so during the expected timeframe of the current operation). • Identify (tree hazard): The ability to recognize stands of, or individual trees that present an increased risk to personnel safety (as included in basic bushfire hazard recognition training). • Initial attack: The first suppression work on a fire. • Mop up/blacking out: The process of extinguishing or removing burning material along or near the fire control line, felling stags, trenching logs to prevent rolling and the like, in order to make the fire safe. • Potential Clear and Present Danger tree: A tree which in its current state does not appear hazardous, but may become a Clear and Present Danger tree if it catches alight or is impacted by wind or other disturbance. • Tree hazard: The overall combined safety risk to personnel from hazard trees within an area. <i>For example, an area of fire-killed trees.</i> Refer to Schedule 4 for supporting detail.

PROCEDURE

1. Step 1: Identify the potential existence of tree hazard during fire response.
 - 1.1 Local Mutual Aid Plans (LMAPS) are to contain, where relevant, map(s) indicating geographic areas with known and/or predicted high concentrations of tree hazard (eg. tree species, fire history including fire intensity overlays, stand history and health including disease, wind/snow damage and/or silvicultural treatments) overlaid with the fire access roads and tracks.
 - 1.2 LMAPS are also to contain details and/or maps of those fire access routes on which tree hazard has been assessed and treated.
2. Step 2: Mitigate the risk arising from tree hazard during access to bushfire incidents.
 - 2.1 Where the preferred access route to a fire ground is through known and/or predicted areas of high tree hazard which have not had tree hazard assessment and treatment, resources may only be deployed via this route if the risk factors are considered acceptable under the current conditions; eg. relevant weather factors such as wind speed (refer Schedule 3).
 - 2.2 Once deployed, personnel need to maintain awareness of hazard trees while commuting through or working in these areas and any identified unacceptable risks mitigated.
 - 2.3 Where personnel consider the risk of injury from tree hazard significant, the Incident Controller needs to be advised and acceptable lower risk alternative implemented.
 - 2.4 LMAPS are to include arrangements for the accessing the appropriately resources for the assessment and treatment of hazard trees (including appropriately equipped chainsaw and plant operators).
 - 2.5 Incident Action Plans are to clearly identify areas where access is restricted in response to the risk arising from tree hazard.
3. Step 3: Mitigate the risk arising from tree hazard on the fire ground.
 - 3.1 General Principles:
 - 3.1.1 Awareness and identification of trees which present a hazard must form part of the ongoing dynamic risk assessment performed by all personnel on the fire ground at all times.

Refer to the Hazardous Tree Management Pictorial Guide, DEPI 2013 for more information on tree hazard identification.
 - 3.1.2 Safety from hazard trees during fire emergencies will take priority over other considerations (such as the conservation of biological values) consistent with the State Strategic Control Priorities. When in doubt or dispute over either the risk associated with a tree or its values, the decision will favour safety.
 - 3.1.3 Where alternative effective fire control options are available, relocate control lines and temporary access roads and tracks away from known tree hazard areas and/or establish exclusion zones.

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- 3.1.4 Where a fire has impacted or otherwise damaged trees, access/control lines and other work areas in or near the impacted area, hazard trees will be assessed, marked and treated. Refer to Schedule 3 for details on the assessment area.
- 3.1.5 Crew Leaders/Sector/Division Commanders are to ensure appropriately qualified or experienced personnel assess, mark and treat hazard trees on the fire ground (including staging/briefing/assembly points), where practicable. Refer to Schedule 1 for a description of qualified and experienced personnel.

3.2 Pre-fire

- 3.2.1 Any planned retention of CPD, Hazardous, or Potential CPD trees where protection is not reliably assured, should be avoided where possible.

3.3 Initial attack/going fire

- 3.3.1 Awareness and identification of trees which present a hazard must form part of the ongoing dynamic risk assessment performed by all personnel on the fire ground at all times.
- 3.3.2 During attack on a going fire (ie. prior to mop-up/blacking out), personnel need to be particularly vigilant regarding identification of hazard trees and treat any identified unacceptable risks.
- 3.3.3 Any hazardous or potential CPD trees assessed are to be marked and CPD trees isolated in accordance with this procedure.
- 3.3.4 Where personnel consider the risk of injury from tree hazard significant, the Incident Controller needs to be advised and alternative lower risk alternatives considered. This consideration will balance the priorities placed on responder safety and any community members known to require assistance.

3.4 Following the passage of fire

- 3.4.1 As soon as practicable after the passage of fire, hazard trees within striking distance of access/control lines will be assessed, marked and treated (including possible isolation). Refer to Schedule 3 for details on the assessment area. In exceptional circumstances where this requirement is impracticable, the Incident Controller must approve and record alternative actions.
- 3.4.2 Before the commencement of any mop-up/blacking out/patrol of areas where fire has affected trees, hazard trees within striking distance of access/control lines will be assessed, marked and treated (including possible isolation). Refer to Schedule 3 for details on the assessment area. In exceptional circumstances where this requirement is impracticable, the Incident Controller must approve and record alternative actions.

3.5 Mark hazard trees on incident ground.

- 3.5.1 The agreed marking system for hazard trees will be used at all times, to ensure consistency and protect responder safety. Refer to Schedule 2 for details of the hazard tree marking system.

3.6 Treat hazard trees on the fire ground.

3.6.1 Treat hazard trees before and after the passage of fire on access routes, assembly areas, and control lines in accordance with the hierarchy of risk controls. Refer to Schedule 3 for details of hazard tree treatment.

3.6.2 Consider evacuation of treed areas when conditions such as wind speed, tree-fall, or other factors become unfavourable.

Refer to Schedule 4 for an overview of hazard tree identification, assessment, marking and treatment.

4. Step 4: Mitigate the risk of unidentified hazard trees on the fire ground.

4.1 Where Crew Leaders/Sector/Division Commanders believe that the residual risk from unmarked hazard trees on the fire ground requires vigilance, awareness is to be maintained by reference in fire ground briefings and close supervision.

5. Step 5: Complete operations.

5.1 Incident Controllers are to ensure removal of all marked CPD trees prior to transition to recovery, so far as is reasonably practicable.

5.2 Where marked CPD trees remain at the conclusion of the response phase, the Incident Controller will ensure the location of these trees forms part of the handover to recovery agencies and/or land manager.

REFERENCE

Related Documents	<p>Booklet: Guideline for fire control lines and management of hazardous trees (DSE/CFA 2011)</p> <p>Booklet: Hazardous Tree Management – Pictorial Guide (DEPI 2013)</p> <p>SOPJ 8.02: Dynamic Risk Assessment</p> <p>VICSES SOP019 Operations Involving Trees (SES 2012)</p> <p>Training manual: Bushfire Firefighter Reference Manual (CFA/DSE 2011)</p> <p>Video - Hazardous Tree Management During Fire Operations (DSE 2011)</p>
Safety	<p>CFA Safety Alert No 31 <i>Hazardous Trees</i> (8 January 2014)</p> <p>DSE Safety Alert Number 08/11 <i>Use of Plant and Equipment in the vicinity of Hazardous Trees</i> (13 December 2011)</p> <p>MFB Advisory Notice 7/2012 <i>Hazardous Tree Identification</i>.</p>
Environment	<p>Nil</p>

REVIEW		
Date Issue	24 August 2015	
Date Effective	1 October 2015	
Date to be Reviewed	August 2017	
Date to Cease		
AUTHORITY		
The Emergency Management Commissioner has issued this SOP under section 50 of the Emergency Management Act 2013.		
Approved	Signature	Date
s47F Emergency Management Commissioner		
Endorsed	Signature	Date
s47F Chief Officer, CFA		
s47F Chief Fire Officer, DELWP		
s47F Acting Chief Officer, MFB		
s47F Chief Officer Operations, VICSES		

SCHEDULE 1

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE FOR HAZARD TREE ASSESSMENT

1. Only appropriately, qualified or experienced personnel can carry out a hazard tree assessment. This does not preclude any other personnel from identifying a hazard tree and treating it appropriately (e.g. exclusion).
2. Appropriate qualification to carry out hazard tree assessment is:
 - 2.1 Formal timber industry endorsement as a tree faller in native forest with (or accompanied by a person with) (22023VIC) *Basic Wildfire Awareness* training OR (PUAOHS002B) *Maintain Safety at an Incident Scene* Unit of Competency; or
 - 2.2 Arborist with (or accompanied by a person with) (22023VIC) *Basic Wildfire Awareness* training OR (PUAOHS002B) *Maintain Safety at an Incident Scene* Unit of Competency.
3. Appropriate experience to carry out hazard tree assessment is:
 - 3.1 Operations Officer or Crew Leader with extensive experience in forest firefighting and/or forest harvesting; or
 - 3.2 Responder with extensive experience in suppression/ forest firefighting activities involving similar assessment of tree soundness.

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SCHEDULE 2

HAZARD TREE MARKING SYSTEM

The system for marking hazard trees is described below and must be read in conjunction with SOP J8.03 Tree hazard - bushfire response.

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1. Pre-fire and Pre-ignition for Backburning and Burning Out

1.1 **Yellow cross “X”** on hazardous trees (not yet CPD), or potential CPD trees which cannot be reliably protected, are accordingly marked for removal. These will normally be pushed over or felled as part of access/line construction.

1.2 **Yellow dot “●”** on (as yet) non-hazard trees to be protected (ie hand raked or machine cleared around and/or fire suppressant applied) prior to the fire.

1.3 Although uncommon pre-fire or pre-ignition, **Yellow “K”** trees (see below) if identified, should be managed as outlined below.

NB: Potential CPD trees marked for retention (and thus protection from fire), must have a high probability of surviving the fire intact based on the proposed protection measures and likely response resources available. If this is not reasonably assured, these trees are otherwise likely to become CPD trees post-fire and add unnecessary complexity to the fire response and should be pre-emptively removed.

2. Initial Attack/ First Response and Post-fire

2.1 **Yellow “K”**: Where it is considered by those qualified or experienced (SOP J8.03 Schedule 1) that in the circumstances it is safe to mark the tree, a yellow “K” identifies a tree which presents a “Clear and Present Danger”. This is painted on two sides with non-flammable spray yellow paint in >30cm capital, and an exclusion zone is established (SOP J8.03 Schedule 3).

2.2 Where it is not safe to approach a CPD tree, it is left unmarked and an exclusion zone is established (SOP J8.03 Schedule 3).

2.3 If at all practicable, the mapped location of “K” (i.e CPD) trees is to be made available to fire ground personnel as soon as possible after marking.

2.4 Although **Yellow “X”** trees are primarily identified and removed pre-fire it is not uncommon for new ones to be identified during and post fire. These should be removed as soon as practical after marking.

2.5 **Yellow dot “●”** trees should be adequately resourced and patrolled to ensure they do not catch alight.

2.6 If protection of a **Yellow dot “●”** tree has failed and the tree catches alight, extinguishment should be attempted as soon as possible provided it is safe to do so. If the tree cannot be reliably and effectively extinguished and threatens the work space/control line, it then becomes a CPD (“K”) tree and treated as per paras 2.1 and 2.2 above.

Refer to the Hazardous Tree Management Pictorial Guide, DEPI 2013 for more information on the Identification and Marking System.

SCHEDULE 3

HAZARD TREE TREATMENT

ASSESSMENT AREA

The work area

Hazard trees or branches situated inside or immediately adjacent to the area where ground crew may be working. This area could be the road itself if no mop up/blacking out is planned, or may include the blacking out depth where planned.

Outside the work area

The area beyond the work area where Clear and Present Danger trees present a risk by falling into or sliding downhill into the work area.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

1. ELIMINATE

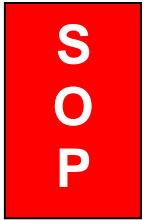
- 1.1 **Removal** of the hazard by downing trees is the preferred method of treating the hazard. Hazard trees should be machine felled where ever possible. Hand falling of hazard trees should be avoided unless it is both essential and safe and in accordance with dynamic risk assessment. Both intermediate and advanced fallers may hand fall hazard trees within the range limits of their competency..
- 1.2 **Extinguishment** in-situ by water, fire suppressant and/or retardant, if safe to do so. If a tree is assessed to be a hazard tree it should be removed after extinguishment.

2. SUBSTITUTE

- 2.1 **Move** or **abandon** the control line if CPD trees cannot be eliminated. Construct or select an alternative location for a control line.

3. ISOLATE

- 3.1 **Isolate** CPD trees by locally re-aligning the control line (to provide at least a 2 tree length separation) or by establishing an exclusion zone.
- 3.2 Generally, an **exclusion zone** shall be a distance of at least 2 tree lengths around a tree hazard. The actual distance in each instance is determined by site factors such as slope and may be larger (or in some rare instances smaller) than 2 tree lengths.
- 3.3 The perimeter of an exclusion zone is marked using yellow and black hazard tape on sufficient individual trees to indicate its extent.
- 3.4 Exclusion zones should only be entered by plant or vehicles with falling object protection canopies or appropriately skilled crew tasked to remove the CPD tree.



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- 3.5 When an exclusion zone is established over a control line relevant incident personnel should be advised of its location.
- 3.6 Where an exclusion zone extends across a track that exclusion needs to be effective and actively managed to ensure crew do not drive through the zone.
- 3.6.1 Traffic control needs to be established to warn others and prevent personnel entering the area while the hazard remains until it is removed or burns down.
- 3.6.2 If for some exceptional reason traffic control is not implementable, the existence of the exclusion zone must be marked with hazard tape on a piece of wood (or similar) across the middle of the track/control line.
- 3.7 Consider **evacuation** of treed areas on the fire ground when tree-top wind-speed triggers are exceeded. This will vary depending on circumstances but will generally be triggered by an observation or forecast of Gale force winds/wind gusts (ie Beaufort Wind Scale = 8, 63-75km/hr), or greater.
- 3.7.1 The Incident Controller will determine the level and type of response based on the risk and operational environment. In general, deployment of personnel into areas where the level of tree hazard is unacceptably high, will only be considered if there is an imminent threat to life.
- 3.7.2 Operations staff need to be prepared for rapid crew withdrawal if trees are falling, forecast become unfavourable, or weather actually deteriorates.
- 3.7.3 Where an area is dominated by hazard trees and the opportunity for safe work is severely restricted, crew levels should be reduced to essential tasks only and where possible only purpose-built (for falling object protection) vehicles should be used.

Note: To maintain its effectiveness as an alert, yellow and black hazard tape is only to be used to mark the location/exclusion zone of CPD trees.

SCHEDULE 4

TREE HAZARD MITIGATION MATRIX: Identification, Assessment, Marking and Treatment

Assessment status	Not Assessed In Fire Affected Area (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed And Deemed To Be Sound (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed (pre fire)	Assessed (mostly pre-, occasionally during or post- fire)	Assessed (during or post fire)
Tree Type	Not assessed	Appears sound	Potential Clear and Present danger (CPD): protection reliably assured.	HAZARD TREE	Clear & Present Danger (CPD)
				Potential Clear and Present Danger (CPD): protection NOT reliably assured. OR Hazardous Tree	
Hazard Status	Unknown	Low	Currently low but vulnerable to rapid increase if affected by the fire or associated operations	Deemed to have, or presents evidence of increased hazard	Extreme
Marking Symbol	No mark	Sound, no mark	Yellow Dot (•)	Yellow Cross (X)	Yellow "K" and/or hazard tape exclusion area.

Assessment status	Not Assessed In Fire Affected Area (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed And Deemed To Be Sound (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed (pre fire)	Assessed (mostly pre-, occasionally during or post- fire)	Assessed (during or post fire)
Definition	Tree yet to be assessed	An assessed sound tree that is not currently hazardous and is not likely to become a CPD tree when exposed to fire or other disturbance associated with the incident (eg. wind gusts, machine damage).	A tree which in its current state does not appear hazardous, but may become a CPD tree if it catches alight or is impacted by wind or other fire-related disturbance. It has a high probability of surviving the fire intact based on the proposed protection measures and likely response resources available.	<p>A tree which in its current state does not appear hazardous, but may become a CPD tree if it catches alight or is impacted by wind or other operational disturbance. It does NOT have a high probability of surviving the fire intact based on the proposed protection measures and likely response resources available.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A tree which in its current state may in part or wholly fall and impact personnel in its potential impact zone (but is not considered likely to do so during the expected time frame of the current operation).</p>	A tree or branch that is likely to fall within the expected timeframe of the current operation and impact personnel in its potential impact zone.

Assessment status	Not Assessed In Fire Affected Area (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed And Deemed To Be Sound (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed (pre fire)	Assessed (mostly pre-, occasionally during or post- fire)	Assessed (during or post fire)
Description		<p>Tree appears 'sound', ie - no obvious defects which would significantly weaken the trunk or allow the entry of fire.</p> <p>No large dead branches or widow makers present.</p>	<p>Tree has:</p> <p>Exposed butt scars,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Hard to reach elevated hollows,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Small diameter and surrounded by accumulated heavy fuel.</p>	<p>Trees with a stem or branch diameter greater than 10cm above shoulder height and are assessed to be at increased risk of total or partial collapse based on (but not limited to) one or more of the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead and/or decaying; • Suspended loose or broken branches; • Significant lean with a recent cause or indicators of failure; • >50% decrease in sound and solid cross section at any point in bole or major branch; • Evidence of longitudinal cracking, or a weak fork; • Evidence of its roots lifting, or an under cut or disturbed root system; • Tree cannot be effectively protected from catching alight and becoming subsequently weakened; • Other indicators of serious weakness based on local knowledge and conditions. 	<p>Tree is on fire, not able to be safely and reliably extinguished and will be weakened to failure point by fire,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Tree has incurred severe structural damage from recently extinguished fire and appears very unstable,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Tree has been impacted on by some other factor and appears likely to fail within the timeframe of the current operation (eg. backed into by bulldozer, damaged by nearby tree fall).</p>

Assessment status	Not Assessed In Fire Affected Area (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed And Deemed To Be Sound (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed (pre fire)	Assessed (mostly pre-, occasionally during or post- fire)	Assessed (during or post fire)
Instruction to HT assessment crew	Tree has not been assessed and its condition is unknown. For avoidance of doubt, during or post fire all trees in this category should be considered potential CPD ("K") trees.	Carefully check trees from both sides against criteria for hazardous and CPD trees. If in doubt regarding its soundness or ability to survive the fire, err on the side of fire fighter safety.	Mark with a Yellow Dot (*) provided the tree can reliably be protected from fire by measures and resources available (otherwise tree is to be considered as a potential CPD tree and marked accordingly). Tree may be worked under.	Mark with a yellow "X" for removal. If there is doubt regarding a tree being hazardous, err on the side of safety and mark for removal. Note: Small trees may burn out quickly. Trees may occasionally fall uphill particularly under the influence of strong winds.	Only mark if the tree is safe to approach, always establish an exclusion zone or reroute the control line.
Instruction to fire crew	Approach trees with caution. If approaching tree to assess presents hazard to personnel, use the tape mark off system to identify as a CPD tree (ie "K" tree) and isolate as per DEPI pictorial guide. Assessments must be conducted on foot, not 'drive by'.	Normal precautions, tree may be worked under.	Pre-fire: Clear around and protect from fire, normal precautions, ensure tree does not catch fire, tree may be worked under. Additional actions such as ground applied retardant or wetting down, pre-fire candling under controlled conditions, and intensive patrol may be requested. Post-fire: If protection fails and the tree catches alight, it should be fully extinguished as soon as possible, if safe to do so. If the tree cannot be reliably and effectively extinguished, and it threatens the work space/control line, it becomes a CPD tree and is treated accordingly.	Ensure tree removal as soon as practicable. Tree presents significant additional risks but is currently assessed as unlikely to fall during the current operation; may be worked under with caution following dynamic risk assessment during fire emergencies if necessary. Monitor condition to ensure tree has not caught alight or deteriorated to CPD. If tree has deteriorated reclassify to CPD and create exclusion.	Already too dangerous to work under, ensure taped-off exclusion zone for personnel and vehicles (unless specifically approved for this task) is established and maintained until tree falls or is removed.

Assessment status	Not Assessed In Fire Affected Area (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed And Deemed To Be Sound (pre, during or post fire)	Assessed (pre fire)	Assessed (mostly pre-, occasionally during or post- fire)	Assessed (during or post fire)
Instruction to plant operator or faller	Prohibit personnel entry into 'not assessed' areas for mop up/black out/patrol until hazard tree assessment and treatments have been implemented.	None (although tree removal may be required for other control line construction purposes).	Provide adequate width of mineral earth break around it to protect it from anticipated fire conditions. This must be achieved without damage to the tree (including its roots).	Remove provided the operator or faller deems it safe to do so.	Remove with extreme caution only when safety can be reliably assured. Wherever possible removal by machinery is preferred to hand falling.
General tree hazards	All trees present some degree of hazard, particular defects may be hard to see or identify so a degree of caution is always needed. Variable conditions such as increasing or gusty winds will change the overall level of risk and which trees are most dangerous.				

baxteri seed crop assessments made after 1 Nov 2014 and before 31 Oct 2015

District	BurnID	Burn Name	Date	BurnSeason	SeedCropSeason	Bud N	Bud L	Bud M	Bud D	Cap N	Cap L	Cap M	Cap D	CapScore	freshness	Burn size	Feeding habitat	% of Burn	Comments
	SFCA0666	NANGEELA - MCGAULEYS RD	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	17	36	7	0	5	38	13	4	76		1326	966	73	
	SFCA0619	CORNDALE - MCCOMBES TRACK	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	1	53	6	0	2	36	21	1	81	mostly brown	536	201	37	
	SFCA0703	ROSENEATH SF - TYLERS RD	16/17	Nov-15	Nov-15	5	37	12	6	18	32	9	1	53	mostly brown	362	269	74	
	P07-208	BIG HILL RD	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	0	58	2	0	19	41	0	0	41	mostly green	330	137	42	
	SFDA0722	RENNICK SF - PRINCES HIGHWAY	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	1	38	19	2	0	45	13	2	77	all brown	1935			
	SFDA0664	MUMBANNAR - SMITHS RD	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	0	48	12	0	19	41	0	0	41	all brown	310	190	61	
	P09-476	HAMILTON - DARTMOOR RD	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	3	54	3	0	13	47	0	0	47	all brown	1068	745	77	
	SFHE0652	ANNYA - MYAMYN RD	16/17	Nov-15	Nov-15	2	36	22	0	18	42	0	0	42	mostly brown	729	514	71	
	SFDA0748	NELSON - MOORES TRACK	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	0	34	26	0	16	44	0	0	44	all brown	153	104	68	
	SFDA0622	NELSON - NORTH NELSON RD	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	5	44	11	0	20	40	0	0	40	all brown	261	258	99	
	SFDA0575	LOWER GLENELG - SAUNDERS TRACK	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	4	41	15	0	9	41	0	0	41	mostly brown	145	127	88	
	P07-342	NORTH EAST BOUNDARY - MT RICHMOND	15/16	Nov-15	Nov-15	1	53	6	0	13	44	3	0	50	all brown	275	56	20	
	P09-527	MORTONS TRACK - MT RICHMOND	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	1	40	16	3	2	58	0	0	58	all brown	101	63	62	
	SFDA0746	DIGBY - ROCKYDEN RD SOUTH BLOCK	14/15	Nov-15	Nov-15	7	41	2	0	13	39	8	0	55	mostly brown	363	298	82	
	SFDA0596	DARTMOOR - SPENCERS TRK	16/17	Nov-15	Nov-15	16	43	1	0	0	53	7	0	67	mostly brown	322	259	80	
	SFCA0614	DERGHOLM - FORDS RD	15/16	Nov-15	Nov-15	5	49	6	0	7	50	3	0	56	mostly brown	629	465	74	
	SFCA0693	ROSENEATH SF - DORODONG/MORANS RD	15/16	Nov-15	Nov-15	7	48	5	0	3	46	11		68	mostly brown	399	297	74	
	SFCA0742	CORNDALE - OIL LINE TRACK	15/16	Nov-15	Nov-15	10	34	15	1	0	25	26	9	104	green/brown	362	263	73	
	SFCA0741	TOOLOY LAKE MUNDI - WEST BLOCK	15/16	Nov-15	Nov-15	3	50	7	0	2	49	8	1	68	mostly brown	271	107	39	
	SFDA0747	DIGBY - ROCKYDEN RD NORTH BLOCK	15/16	Nov-15	Nov-15	9	50	1	0	8	41	10	1	64	mostly green	363	298	82	

n 20
mean 58.65
sd 17.02096
top 25% 68
top 2.5% 92.69192
min 40
max 104

Recommendation:

Based on the analysis, there are 7 burns that fall within the top 25% and one burn that falls within the top 2.5% and therefore qualify for recommendation for deferral. These burns are: Nangeela - McGauleys Rd, Corndale - McCombes Tk, Rennick - Princes Hwy, Mumbannar - Smith's Rd, Dartmoor - Spencers Tk, Roseneath - Dorodong/Moran's Rd, Corndale-Oil Line Tk, Tooloy Lake Mundi - West Block. Corndale - Oil Line Track in particular is the highest seed crop recorded in this year and contains green capules. Deferral of this burn is therefore critical. One burn, Digby - Rockyden Rd North Block falls just outside the top 25% for seed crop quantity, however, is one of very few burns that carries a fresh seed crop. Given the high levels of habitat currently below 10 years of age, this burn should also be considered for deferral.

Hazardous tree management

Pictorial guide



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Hazardous tree management – pictorial guide

Aim

This guide aims to assist firefighters conducting hazardous tree risk assessments with visual indicators and descriptors of trees that:

- should be avoided when marking a fire control line
- need protecting from being further weakened by fire
- are to be marked as displaying ‘Clear and Present Danger;’ and
- wherever possible protected or extinguished due to their cultural or environmental significance

The guide also recommends treatment options and the marking system for managing the risk of hazardous trees before and during fire operations.

Background

The increased fire activity, particularly since the 2002–03 fire season, has resulted in many trees posing a potential threat to the public and firefighter safety and/or burn or bushfire security within fire control lines. During fire operations, firefighters need to make decisions on locating fire control lines and treating these trees. Priority trees for treatment will depend on the risk exposure to firefighters and others that need to enter the fire area and individual tree characteristics.

Scope

When firefighters are either planning a burning operation or responding to a bushfire they should use the ‘Hazardous Trees Treatment Options Flowcart’ as a guide for dealing with hazardous and potentially hazardous trees. The flowchart aims to provide a consistent approach in managing the risk of hazardous trees.

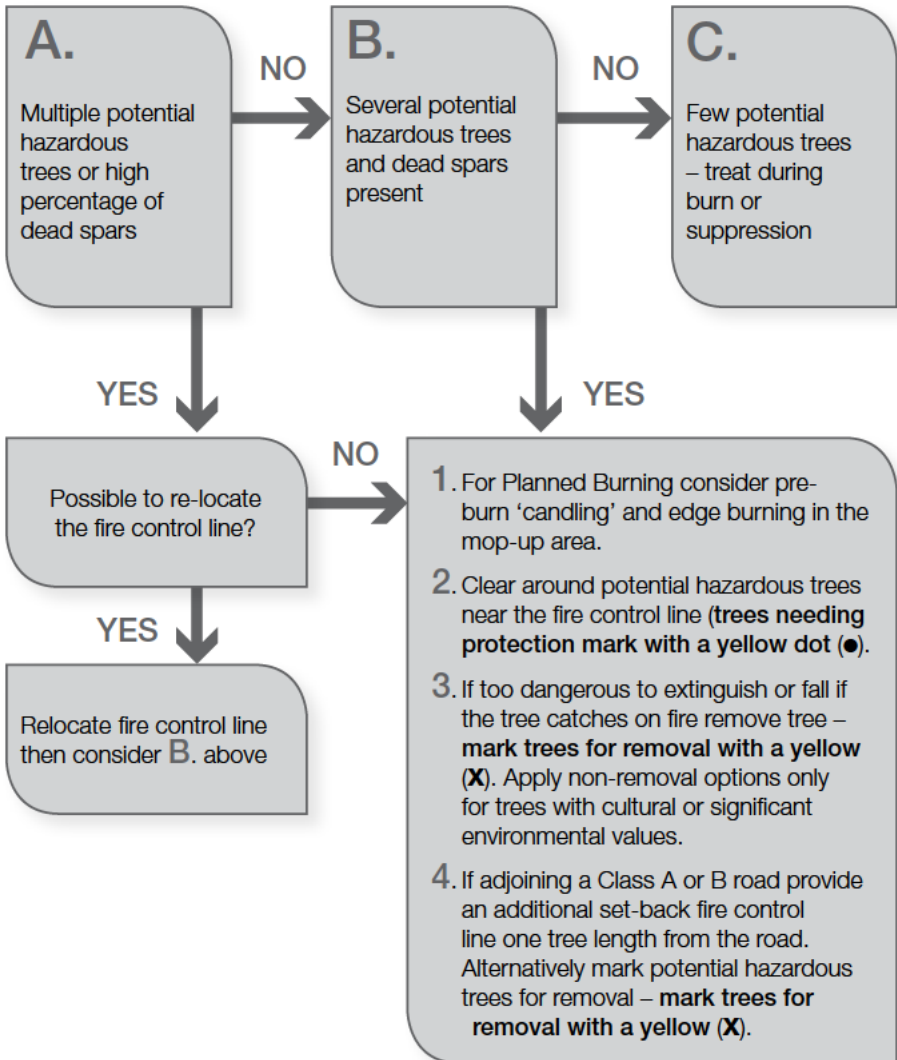
The guide identifies:

- stands of trees that pose a greater risk of falling branches and trees
- defects of potentially hazardous trees
- ‘Clear and Present Danger’ trees and hung up branches
- cultural heritage trees and trees that have high conservation value

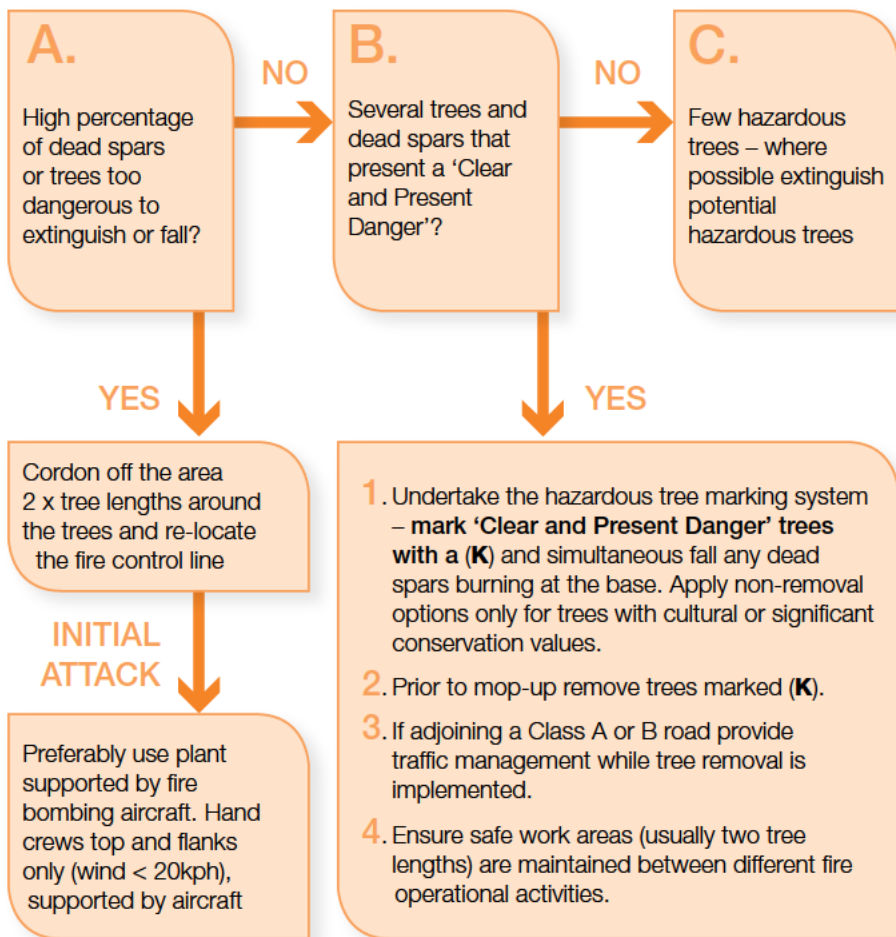
The guide provides information on some of the pre and post fire treatment options in eliminating or reducing the risk of the hazard. It also provides information on Aboriginal scarred trees and what to do if you find one.

Hazardous trees treatment options flowchart

Pre Fire – Fire Suppression (time permitting)
or Planned Burning



Post Fire – Fire Suppression or Planned Burning



Options to manage the risk

High risk stands

Firefighters need to be aware of stands of trees that have a high risk of falling branches and trees. These stands include fire killed (eg young fire killed ash species and snow gum), stands that are drought affected with a high percentage of dead spars and old growth stands that have many hollows, dead tops and hung-up branches. There are also forests with areas of significantly increased fuel hazard due to wind throw, snow damage, insect or pathogen attack and ring-barked trees (these are not individually covered in this guide). Wherever possible high risk stands and areas of increased fuel hazard need to be avoided or diverted around when establishing fire control lines.



Fire Killed Ash

Fire killed species

These stands are particularly hazardous as dead spars (poles) often burn off at the base and fall soon after a fire has passed and before a hazard assessment can be completed. On steep slopes dead spars are prone to spearing down hill without notice.

For initial fire attack it may only be safe to construct control lines above and down the sides of a fire in these areas. This is particularly the case on high wind days (>20kph) due to increased limb fall. Aerial applied retardant should be used to control the downhill side of these fires and ground crews should not go into or below the fire area until at least two days after the fire is no longer spreading. Areas where burning trees may fall or slide into need to be included in the area treated by fire retardant.



Red Gum Dead Spars

Drought affected species

As with fire killed species, drought affected stands have dead spars that burn off at the base soon after a fire has passed.

For initial attack in these stands, construct fire control lines with machines that have Falling Object Protection (FOP) and push over dead spars that have been impacted by the fire during that operation. Follow-up with an assessment and treatment of additional affected spars prior to mop-up.



Over Mature Forest

Old growth forests

These forests are hazardous to work in following a fire due to the higher likelihood of whole or part of trees and large branches falling.

Fires in these forests are often difficult to secure as large burning embers can be dropped across fire control lines for several days following the initial fire. Wherever possible divert the fire control line around or away from these stands.



Group of ring-barked dead trees

Trees killed by insect or pathogen attack or by ring-barking

These trees are usually in relatively smaller areas to stands that have been killed by fire. Wherever possible relocate fire control lines around these stands.

Tree defects of potential hazardous trees

These are trees that can have significant decay or rot but if not further weakened by fire they don't pose a high risk. Their location to areas frequently accessed by firefighters and the public and to key assets largely determines the treatment options employed. **Wherever possible prior to ignition (backburn or planned burn) these trees should be hand raked or cleared around with a machine and/or foam suppressant applied to protect them.** Following a fire early mop-up will help prevent further weakening of these trees and them becoming hazardous.



Pipe

Pipe

A pipe or chimney is formed up inside the trunk of a tree where fire is able to burn the decayed heart of a tree. The entry of fire can occur via burnt out roots, dry sides or hollowbutts. There may be a complete pipe in which flames and sparks will be visible out the top of the pipe, or may be incomplete with only smoke coming out of the crown.



Dry Side

Dry Side

This is a strip of dead wood on the trunk of a tree usually caused by a previous fire or other damage (eg another tree falling against it). In combination with decay or rot, dry side can result in hollowbutt.



Hollowbutt

Hollowbutt

A tree that has a hollow at the base due to disease or damage. It may have also been burnt away by bushfires or planned burns. There are often other faults such as significant rot or heart decay which can spread a surface fire higher up a tree.



Hollow

Hollows

These may be hollows in the stem (picture opposite) or hollow limbs and will vary in their shape, depth and difficulty to extinguish. They are formed by either rot or fire usually following structural damage of the tree (eg a limb breaking off).



Dead Crown

Dead Crowns

Trees which contain a significant amount of dead wood in their crowns (top of the tree) may cause safety issues or problems in containing a burn or bushfire. Dead crowns are often the result of a tree becoming over mature or from fire damage, insect attack or disease. Trees with dead or damaged crowns are a key concern on the fire line as they are likely to burn longer, shower burning embers and part or all of the crown fall.



'Widow-maker'

'Widow-makers'

These are limbs which are hooked up or tangled in other limbs and can be dislodged during falling or burning. Trees with 'widow makers' don't necessarily need to be felled but the hazard needs to be identified and marked off with hazard tape to reduce the likelihood of an accident during mop-up. 'Widow makers' in high use areas such as fill-up points, briefing areas and access routes need to be removed prior to ignition if possible or as a priority following the fire.



Dead Stag

Dead Stags and Spars

Large dead trees are known as stags while smaller dead regrowth are known as spars. Recent dead trees, including fire and drought killed species have hazards including burning off at the base. Other hazards include large sections of bark falling 1–2 years after a fire and larger branches (0.5–3cm) begin falling about four years after a fire. Where stags are large they pose a significant threat, both in duration of burning and the amount of burning material in the crown and are often difficult to extinguish.



'Hung-up' Dead Spar

'Hang-ups'

Occasionally a tree may fall and 'hang-up' on another tree. These are particularly dangerous if leaning across a road or track but can be just as dangerous to firefighters during mop-up. These are often very difficult to get down by falling or pushing and if not leaning across a key work area are best taped off with hazard tape as an area to avoid.

The dead 'hung-up' spar in the photo has burnt off at ground level but other 'hang-up' trees can be a result of burnt out roots, wind throw or ground heave.

‘Clear and Present Danger’ trees

In practical terms a ‘Clear and Present Danger’ tree is when a trained firefighter looks at a tree or limb and recognises ‘that will fall soon.’ As a minimum DEPI will ensure ‘Clear and Present Danger’ trees are assessed and treated within mop-up areas and along main roads prior to systematic mop-up. Systematic mop-up follows the initial patrol of the fire that ensures the fireline isn’t breached. It is the fire agency’s responsibility to treat ‘Clear and Present Danger’ trees prior to handing back control to the land manager or road authority.

The four images on page 13 (hollowbutt, pipe, stag and dead crown) are examples of ‘Clear and Present Danger’ trees where the tree is being impacted by fire and all or part of the tree could fall soon. An on-sight risk assessment is required to determine if these trees can be felled or whether an exclusion zone around the tree needs to be put in place until the tree falls. It is important to first restrict access into the area around a hazardous tree and only approach the tree **away** from the direction of fall.

There are other trees that are not as obvious but also fall soon after a fire. Having someone with knowledge of local trees and experience in the area of the fire to assist in assessing trees is a key requirement in identifying hazardous trees.

All firefighters however need to observe fallen trees on the fireline and identify the indicators as to why trees have fallen. The photos on page 14 show trees that have fallen due to hollowbutt (15–25% holding wood remaining) and hollows where a tree has fallen about half way up. Also dead spars (photo 4 on page 14) that burn off at the base are relatively easy to identify (small dead trees with smoke coming from the base) and preferably knocked over while assessing trees along the fireline.



Hollowbut



Pipe



Stag



Dead Crown



Hollowbutt trees that have failed with 25% and 15% of holding wood respectively



Hollow tree failed about 1/2 way up



Dead spar burnt off at the base

Aboriginal scarred trees and trees with high conservation value

It is recognised that trees provide essential habitat for native fauna, and it is the preferred option to protect and retain trees wherever possible. High conservation value trees include roosting trees of threatened species and those with nesting hollows. Scarred trees provide valuable clues about Aboriginal people and all Aboriginal cultural places and artefacts are protected.

What to do if you find a Scarred Tree

- Check the scar for key characteristics (scar is more-or-less regular, often with parallel sides and slightly pointed or rounded ends).
- Record the tree's location and its condition.
- Wherever possible prevent further disturbance; particularly from fire control line construction or fire suppression operations.
- Help to preserve Aboriginal cultural places by reporting their presence to Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria through the local Cultural Heritage Officer.



High Conservation Tree (nesting hollow)



Aboriginal Scarred Tree

The hazardous tree marking system

The hazardous tree marking system is mostly concerned with trees that present 'Clear and Present Danger' to firefighters, the public and/or assets. It is recognised however that prior to and during fire control line construction that potential hazardous trees either need to be felled or protected from being further weakened by fire.

System currently being used to protect or remove potential hazardous trees is:

- A yellow cross (**X**) on trees to be **pushed over or felled** as part of fire control line construction or planned burn preparation.
- A yellow dot (**●**) on trees to be **protected** (hand raked or machine cleared around and/or fire suppressant applied) prior to the fire.

(Note: hazard tape is not used to identify the location of potential hazardous trees as hazard tape purpose is to warn others of a hazard and restrict access to those treating the hazard).



Tree marked with an X (felled during Fire Control Line construction)



Tree marked with a ● (protected from being further weakened by fire)

System for assessing and marking 'Clear and Present Danger' trees:

- Ensure firefighters don't commence systematic mop-up until hazardous trees are assessed and treated.
- Where safe, mark the tree in yellow with **(K)** for killer tree and mark the nearest point on the fire control line with yellow and black hazard tape – one length of tape for one tree length from the control line and two lengths of tape for two tree lengths from the control line. If unsafe to mark the tree put length/s of tape beside the fire control line only.
- If it is unsafe to fall or push the tree, relocate the fire control line, at least two tree lengths from the hazardous tree, and block off access and/or establish traffic control to prevent firefighters entering the area.



Tree marked with K identifying 'Clear & Present Danger'



Flagging Tape beside Fire Control Line

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3.2.5 Land Managers and Delivery Partners Checks

The following businesses are to be consulted prior to Draft FOP release to the public. They are to provide comment on the area of expertise within their business as listed below and ensuring that there is no cross over into other businesses checks. This is not an endorsement process, simply a provision of expert data assessment. Guideline 2.1.2 *Relationships Involved in the FOP Development and Endorsement Process* demonstrates the relationships between different groups in the FOP development and endorsement process.

Business	Checks to be completed
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened Flora • Threatened Fauna • BioSites • Fire sensitive EVC/EVD that has bioregional significance • Locally specific projects • Animal Release Sites • Pest, Weed Infestations • Native Vegetation Management Framework consistency • Flora and Fauna Guarantee

Chapter 3: Development and Approval Process

Crown Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licences • Leases
DSE - Land Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Plan consistency • Research Plots • Old Growth EVC / Significant Trees • Assets / Recreation Sites • Logging History • Reference Areas • Wood Utilisation Plan/District Action Plan • Regeneration/Thinning Coupes • Special Water Supply Catchments • Non-aboriginal Cultural Heritage • Plantations • Soil Erosion Hazard
Parks Victoria- Land Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Management Plan Consistency • Research Plots • Reference Areas • Old Growth Forests / Significant Trees • Assets / Recreation Sites • Special Water Supply Catchments • Non-aboriginal Cultural Heritage • Plantations • Soil Erosion Hazard
Parks Victoria - Fire Environment Program Officers / Fire Ecology Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Ecology Strategies • Tolerable Fire Intervals

Stringybark Pre-burn Assessment

Date	Observer(s)	Burn Name	Burn Number
6/2	s47F	Daintree - Spencer's Tk	SFO# 0596

Habitat Description: What proportion of the burn area contains stringybark forest/woodland? _____%

Tree selection: randomly select five locations around the proposed burn perimeter. At each site count the nearest stringybark tree > 30cm DBH on the track edges. Then walk 50 paces off the track and select the nearest stringybark tree >30 cm DBH.

Branch selection: Select three branches from lower part of the crown and three from upper.

Capsule age: classify as majority green or brown.

Circle the appropriate score for Buds and Capsules for each branch, N=NIL, L=LOW, M=MEDIUM, D=DENSE

Tree	Canopy type	Branch	Buds	Capsules	Capsule age	Comments
1 EDGE	Lower	1	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/>	M D N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/>	M D	B
		2	<input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		3	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
	Upper	4	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		5	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		6	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
2 INNER	Lower	1	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		2	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		3	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
	Upper	4	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		5	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		6	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
3 EDGE	Lower	1	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		2	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		3	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
	Upper	4	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		5	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		6	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
4 INNER	Lower	1	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		2	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		3	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
	Upper	4	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		5	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B
		6	N <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	N <input type="radio"/> D <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> D	D	B

5 EDGE	Lower	1	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	
		2	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		3	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
	Upper	4	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		5	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		6	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
6 INNER	Lower	1	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	G
		2	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	G
		3	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	G
	Upper	4	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	G
		5	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	G
		6	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	G
7 EDGE	Lower	1	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		2	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		3	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
	Upper	4	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		5	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		6	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
8 INNER	Lower	1	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		2	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		3	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
	Upper	4	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		5	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		6	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
9 EDGE	Lower	1	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		2	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		3	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
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		5	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		6	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
10 INNER	Lower	1	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		2	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		3	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
	Upper	4	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		5	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U
		6	N	L	M	D	N	L	M	D	U

General Comments about this site:

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 24 September 2015 4:04 PM
To: s47F
Subject: RE: Dartmoor Assessment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Research 150902 Track log of expert assesment.jpg

Hi s47F

I'm sorry for the delay in getting this information to you. I have been out of the office for the last 2 weeks on site inspections. I have attached the Motion X track log as requested plus I am sending some additional information recently received from DEWLP in response to our show cause, in a separate email.

Please call me on s22 if you need any further info.

Cheers

s22

Compliance Officer
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

s22 fax - (02) 6274 1607

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2015 10:40 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: Dartmoor Assessment

Hi s22

I understand you are looking after the Dartmoor assessment. When available, can you please send through any relevant documentation supplied by DELWP and any additional data collected by s22 ?

Given the sporadic nature of clearing I am hoping DELWP have some record of what has occurred. I collected data from a number of sample sites along the access tracks, however it would good to compare this with their estimates. If you have any queries regarding the assessment please don't hesitate to give me a call tomorrow on my mobile.

Regards,

s47F

s47F

[Ecology and Heritage Partners](#)

230 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, VIC 3218

s47F

Melbourne | Adelaide | Brisbane | Canberra | Geelong

www.ehpartners.com.au | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



This email, including any attachments, is intended for the addressee named. It is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient you must not copy, use, disclose, distribute or rely on the information contained in it. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete this email from your computer. **Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.**

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2015 10:38 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Corro_151009 to s47F DELWP - CAS2079.pdf

fyi

From: s22 **On Behalf Of** Gaddes, Shane
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2015 10:38 AM
To: s47F delwp.vic.gov.au'
Cc: s47F delwp.vic.gov.au'; s47F delwp.vic.gov.au'
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s22 | **Executive Assistant to**
Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary, Compliance & Enforcement Branch
and **James Tregurtha** Assistant Secretary, Policy and Reform
Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment
s22 | Fax: 02 6274 1607
s22 environment.gov.au





Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Contact Officer: s22
Telephone: s22

Reference: CAS 2079
Email: s22 @environment.gov.au

s47F

Regional Director, Barwon South West
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 103
Geelong Victoria 3220

Dear Ms s47F

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Re: Dartmoor Track Prescribed Burn 5FDA0596

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 September and 23 September 2015 regarding the request from the Department of the Environment (Department) for information concerning the alleged native vegetation clearing that has occurred at the Dartmoor Track on the Casterton-Dartmoor Road, Dartmoor, Victoria.

The Department is currently reviewing all of the information that has been collected during the investigation into this matter, including the information you have provided, conversations with staff from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and observations from the site inspection. I expect to be able to provide you with further details, including an outcome of the investigation as soon as possible.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss Victoria's Bushfire Fuel Management program and the potential application of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

I will be on leave from the office from today and will return on Thursday 22 October. Perhaps your office could contact my executive assistant, s22 on s22 or by email at s22 @environment.gov.au to make suitable arrangements for when I return.

Yours sincerely

Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
9 October 2015

Cc s47F Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 15 October 2015 8:07 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

When and for how long do I need to make this meeting/teleconference please s22

From: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** s47F delwp.vic.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 4:24 PM
To: s22
Subject: Fw: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

H s22

As discussed, you will call s47F EA, on s47F to organise a teleconference.

Email addresses as requested:

DELWP Attendees:

- s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
- s47F delwp.vic.gov.au
- s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
- s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

and EA s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

Regards

s47F

----- Forwarded by s47F DSE/VICGOV1 on 14/10/2015 04:05 PM -----

From: s47F DSE/VICGOV1
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1
Date: 3:04 PM
Subject: Re: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear s22

Thank you for the attached letter regarding CAS2079 Dartmoor Track and agreement to meet to discuss the fuel management in Victoria.

s47F will give you a call to arrange a date and time.

Attendance from the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) will be

s47F ED Fire Management
s47F Director Policy and Planning
s47F Regional Manager Fire and Land Barwon South West
s47F Planned Burning Manager

Please confirm who will be attending from the Department of Environment along with Mr Gaddes.

Regards

s47F

s47F Regional Director Barwon South West
Regional Services | Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
Level 4 State Government Offices, 30-38 Little Malop Street
Geelong, Victoria, 3220

s47F delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



From: "Gaddes, Shane" s22 [redacted] [environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>
To: s47F [redacted] <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>; s47F [redacted] <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>;
Cc: s47F [redacted] <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>; s47F [redacted] <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>; s47F [redacted] <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>; s47F [redacted] <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Date: 12/10/2015 10:36 AM
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Sent by: s22 [redacted]

s22 [redacted] **Executive Assistant to**
Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary, Compliance & Enforcement Branch
and **James Tregurtha** Assistant Secretary, Policy and Reform
Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment
s22 [redacted] Fax: 02 6274 1607
s22 [redacted] [environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



[attachment "Corro_151009 to s47F [redacted] ELWP - CAS2079.pdf" deleted by s47F [redacted] DSE/VICGOV1]

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 26 October 2015 10:26 AM
To: Shane Gaddes
Subject: RE: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Will do

From: Gaddes, Shane
Sent: Monday, 26 October 2015 10:26 AM
To: s22
Subject: RE: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

My preference is a face to face. Please arrange for a day for s22 and I to travel to Melb.

Shane Gaddes | Assistant Secretary | Compliance & Enforcement Branch | s22 |

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 26 October 2015 9:26 AM
To: Gaddes, Shane
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Propose redaction to gov officers and details (s22) and third party name and details (s47F).

s22 thought you may prefer a face to face meeting in Melbourne or would you be happy for me to go ahead and organise a teleconference?

From: s47F <[delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)> [mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** s47F <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 4:24 PM
To: s22
Subject: Fw: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

As discussed, you will call s47F EA, on s47F to organise a teleconference.

Email addresses as requested:

DELWP Attendees:
s47F <s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au>

s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
s47F delwp.vic.gov.au
s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

and EA - s47F delwp.vic.gov.au

Regards

s47F

----- Forwarded by s47F DSE/MICGOV1 on 14/10/2015 04:05 PM -----

From: s47F DSE/MICGOV1
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F DSE/MICGOV1@VICGOV1
Date: 3:04 PM
Subject: Re: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear s22

Thank you for the attached letter regarding CAS2079 Dartmoor Track and agreement to meet to discuss the fuel management in Victoria.

s47F will give you a call to arrange a date and time.

Attendance from the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) will be

s47F ED Fire Management
s47F Director Policy and Planning
s47F Regional Manager Fire and Land Barwon South West
s47F Planned Burning Manager

Please confirm who will be attending from the Department of Environment along with Mr Gaddes.

Regards

s47F

s47F **Regional Director Barwon South West**
Regional Services | Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
Level 4 State Government Offices, 30-38 Little Malop Street
Geelong, Victoria, 3220
s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



From: "Gaddes, Shane" s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)
To: s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au),
Cc: s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au), s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)
Date: 12/10/2015 10:36 AM
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Sent by: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22 **Executive Assistant to**
Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary, Compliance & Enforcement Branch
and **James Tregurtha** Assistant Secretary, Policy and Reform
Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment
s22 | Fax: 02 6274 1607
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



[attachment "Corro_151009 to s47F ██████████ DELWP - CAS2079.pdf" deleted by s47F ██████████ /DSE/VICGOV1]

s22

From: s22
October 2015 11:43 AM
To: Shane Gaddes
Subject: FW: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Will this be ok with you Shane?

From: s47F delwp.vic.gov.au [mailto:s47F delwp.vic.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2015 11:42 AM
To: s22
Subject: Re: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. 8am on 18 November for all parties is fine to attend in person. Do you want to send out the invitation? s47F would be happy to have the meeting in his office.

Regards

s47F | Team Leader Project Support | Fire and Emergency Management Division
Land, Fire and Environment | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



Project Support to: s47F | Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management

From: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>
To: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@delwp.vic.gov.au>,
Date: 28/10/2015 09:46 AM
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning

Any luck with a time on the 18th November? As I explained on the phone Shane has a meeting in Melbourne from 10 am to 2 pm and could do any other time during the day.

Thank you s47F [redacted]

s22 [redacted]

From: s22 [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 26 October 2015 10:49 AM
To: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sorry about the confusion s47F [redacted]

Shane would prefer a face to face meeting please, I was phoning to see when would suit.

Kind Regards

s22 [redacted]

s22 [redacted] | **Executive Assistant to**
Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary, Compliance & Enforcement Branch
and **James Tregurtha** Assistant Secretary, Policy and Reform
Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment
s22 [redacted] | Fax: 02 6274 1607
s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>

 Think before printing

From: s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)] **On Behalf Of** s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 4:24 PM

To: s22 [redacted]

Subject: Fw: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22 [redacted]

As discussed, you will call s47F [redacted] EA, on s47F [redacted] to organise a teleconference.

Email addresses as requested:

DELWP Attendees:

s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

and EA s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Regards

s47F [redacted]

----- Forwarded by s47F [redacted] /DSE/VICGOV1 on 14/10/2015 04:05 PM -----

From: s47F [redacted] DSE/VICGOV1

To: s22 [redacted] [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au),

Cc: s47F [redacted] DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1

Date: 14/10/2015 03:04 PM

Subject: Re: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear s22 [redacted]

Thank you for the attached letter regarding CAS2079 Dartmoor Track and agreement to meet to discuss the fuel management in Victoria.

s47F [redacted] will give you a call to arrange a date and time.

Attendance from the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) will be

s47F ED Fire Management
s47F Director Policy and Planning
s47F Regional Manager Fire and Land Barwon South West
s47F, Planned Burning Manager

Please confirm who will be attending from the Department of Environment along with Mr Gaddes.

Regards

s47F

s47F | **Regional Director Barwon South West**
Regional Services | Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
Level 4 State Government Offices, 30-38 Little Malop Street
Geelong, Victoria, 3220
s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



From: "Gaddes, Shane" s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>
To: s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)>,
Cc: s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)>, s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)>
Date: 12/10/2015 10:36 AM
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Sent by: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>

s22 [redacted] **Executive Assistant to**

Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary, Compliance & Enforcement Branch
and **James Tregurtha** Assistant Secretary, Policy and Reform
Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment

s22 [redacted] | Fax: 02 6274 1607

s22 [redacted] [@environment.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@environment.gov.au)



Think before printing

[attachment "Corro_151009 to s47F [redacted] DELWP - CAS2079.pdf" deleted by s47F [redacted] /DSE/VICGOV1]

s22

From: s22
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2015 9:43 AM
To: Shane Gaddes
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

s47F is asking for an Agenda

From: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2015 9:20 AM
To: s22
Subject: RE: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sure, but as s47F is not leading this discussion, can you please send through an agenda?

s47F | **Team Leader Project Support | Fire and Emergency Management Division**
Land, Fire and Environment | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



Project Support to: s47F | Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management

From: s22 @environment.gov.au>
To: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au>,

Date: 30/10/2015 09:02 AM
Subject: RE: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning s47F

Shane is back. He said 8 am to 9 am is fine with him. Would you please send through the invite as the majority of people are from your Department and of course I would not know about meeting rooms etc.

Thank you

s22

From: s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2015 11:42 AM
To: s22 [redacted]
Subject: Re: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. 8am on 18 November for all parties is fine to attend in person. Do you want to send out the invitation? s47F would be happy to have the meeting in his office.

Regards

s47F [redacted] | **Team Leader Project Support | Fire and Emergency Management Division**
Land, Fire and Environment | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



Project Support to: s47F [redacted] | Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management

From: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>
To: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@delwp.vic.gov.au>,
Date: 28/10/2015 09:46 AM
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning

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Thank you s47F [redacted]

s22 [redacted]

From: s22 [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 26 October 2015 10:49 AM
To: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Subject: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sorry about the confusion s47F [redacted].

Shane would prefer a face to face meeting please, I was phoning to see when would suit.

Kind Regards

s22 [redacted]

s22 [redacted], JP | **Executive Assistant to**
Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary, Compliance & Enforcement Branch
and **James Tregurtha** Assistant Secretary, Policy and Reform
Environment Standards Division

Department of the Environment
s22 | Fax: 02 6274 1607
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



From: s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au) **On Behalf Of** s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 4:24 PM
To: s22
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Email addresses as requested:

DELWP Attendees:

s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)
s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)
s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)
s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

and EA s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Regards
s47F

----- Forwarded by s47F /DSE/VICGOV1 on 14/10/2015 04:05 PM -----

From: s47F /DSE/VICGOV1
To: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au),
Cc: s47F DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1
Date: 14/10/2015 03:04 PM
Subject: Re: FW: CAS2079 Dartmoor Track [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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s47F will give you a call to arrange a date and time.

Attendance from the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) will be

s47F ED Fire Management
s47F, Director Policy and Planning
s47F Regional Manager Fire and Land Barwon South West
s47F, Planned Burning Manager

Please confirm who will be attending from the Department of Environment along with Mr Gaddes.

Regards

s47F

s47F **Regional Director Barwon South West**
Regional Services | Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
Level 4 State Government Offices, 30-38 Little Malop Street
Geelong, Victoria, 3220
s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



From: "Gaddes, Shane" s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>
To: s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au),
Cc: s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au), s47F [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)>
Date: 12/10/2015 10:36 AM
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s22 | **Executive Assistant to**

Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary, Compliance & Enforcement Branch

and **James Tregurtha** Assistant Secretary, Policy and Reform

Environment Standards Division

Department of the Environment

s22 Fax: 02 6274 1607

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



Think before printing

[attachment "Corro_151009 to s47F DELWP - CAS2079.pdf" deleted by s47F /DSE/VICGOV1]

s22

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 11 November 2015 8:04 AM
To: Shane Gaddes
Cc: s22 s22
Subject: Agenda_151118_Melb meeting with DELWP - Dartmoor spencers track VIC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Agenda_151118_Melb meeting with DELWP - Dartmoor spencers track VIC.xps

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Shane

Attached is a draft agenda for the meeting next week with the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning regarding their bushfire management activities – specifically the Dartmoor-Spencers track matter – for your consideration.

s22



AGENDA

Meeting between Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Australian Government Department of the Environment

RE: Removal of native vegetation at Dartmoor-Spencers Track

Wednesday 18 November 2015

8:00am to 9:00am

Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002.

Contacts:

s47F EA for s47F

s22 EA for Shane Gaddes s22

Attendees:

Department of the Environment

Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary Compliance and Enforcement Branch

s22 Director Compliance

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

s47F Executive Director Fire and Emergency Management

s47F Director Policy and Planning

s47F Regional Manager Fire and Land Barwon South West

s47F Planned Burning Manager

Agenda Items

1. Introductions
2. Overview of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
 - Matters of national environmental significance
 - Significant impacts on matters of national environmental significance
3. Hazard Reduction burn preparations at Dartmoor-Spencers track
 - Update on investigation
 - Expert report
4. DELWP management practices for bushfire management activities
 - Preparations for bushfire management in other areas of Victoria
 - Strategic Assessment
5. Next steps

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 12 November 2015 5:04 PM
To: Shane Gaddes
Cc: s22; s22; s22
Subject: Agenda_151118_Melb meeting with DELWP - Dartmoor spencers track VIC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Agenda_151118_Melb meeting with DELWP - Dartmoor spencers track VIC.docx

Shane

Updated agenda for the meeting with the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning next week is attached.

s22



AGENDA

Meeting between Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Australian Government Department of the Environment

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Contacts:

§47F EA for §47F

§22 EA for Shane Gaddes §22

Attendees:

Department of the Environment

Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary Compliance and Enforcement Branch

§22 Director Compliance

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

§47F Executive Director Fire and Emergency Management

§47F Director Policy and Planning

§47F Regional Manager Fire and Land Barwon South West

§47F Planned Burning Manager

Agenda Items

1. Introductions
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 - Preparations for bushfire management in other areas of Victoria
 - Strategic Assessment
5. Next steps

s22

From: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au on behalf of s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 23 December 2015 5:27 PM
To: Shane Gaddes
Cc: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au s47F delwp.vic.gov.au s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
Subject: Dartmoor - Spencers track planned burn 5FDA0596
Attachments: Dartmoor - Spencers track planned burn 5FDA0596.pdf

Hi Shane

Attached is a response to your letter dated 30 November 2015, regarding Dartmoor-Spencers Track Prescribed Burn 5FDA0596.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

s47F | Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management | Fire and Emergency Management Division
[Land, Fire and Environment](#) | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
s47F F: 03 9637 8577 | s47F delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



Project Support: s47F



Department of Environment,
Land, Water & Planning

Barwon South West

State Government Offices
30-38 Little Malop Street
PO Box 103
Geelong Victoria 3220
Telephone: +61 3 5226 4667
www.delwp.vic.gov.au
DX 216048

Ref: CAS2079 DARTMOOR

23 December 2015

Mr Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch of Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Gaddes

DARTMOOR – SPENCERS TRACK PLANNED BURN 5FDA0596

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment regarding the Ecology & Heritage Partners (EHP) report prepared for the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, November 2015. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Given the complexity of the subject matter, and the current requirements of the fire season in Victoria, I am writing to request more time for DELWP to consider the EHP report.

This will give DELWP the opportunity to carefully consider and respond to the report, in particular the conclusions, with which DELWP does not necessarily agree. This will assist in ensuring that the Commonwealth Minister's delegate is able to make a properly informed decision.

I will contact you soon to discuss an acceptable timeframe for DELWP's response.

In the interests of fairness, I would request therefore that no decision be made until DELWP's response is provided. If this is not possible and the Minister's delegate is required to make a decision by a certain date, I would ask that DELWP is advised of this date and the reason for it.

Yours sincerely

s47F

Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management

23 / 12 / 2015

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Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Coordinator, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002



s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 24 December 2015 11:43 AM
To: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au'
Cc: Shane Gaddes; s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au; s22 ; s22
Subject: RE: Dartmoor - Spencers track planned burn 5FDA0596 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Morning s47F

A response in the New Year will be fine.

Thank you

From: s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 24 December 2015 11:31 AM
To: s22
Cc: Gaddes, Shane; s47F e@delwp.vic.gov.au
Subject: Fw: Dartmoor - Spencers track planned burn 5FDA0596

Hi s22

I am forwarding this email to you as I received an out of office notification for Shane Gaddes.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards

s47F | Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management | Fire and Emergency Management Division
Land, Fire and Environment | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
s47F | F: 03 9637 8577 | s47F delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



Project Support: s47F

----- Forwarded by s47F DEPI/VICGOV1 on 24/12/2015 11:28 AM -----

From: s47F DSE/VICGOV1
To: s22 @environment.gov.au.
Cc: s47F /DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1, s47F DPI/VICGOV1@VICGOV1, s47F /DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1, s47F /DSE/VICGOV1@VICGOV1
Date: 23/12/2015 05:27 PM
Subject: Dartmoor - Spencers track planned burn 5FDA0596
Sent by: s47F

Hi Shane

Attached is a response to your letter dated 30 November 2015, regarding Dartmoor-Spencers Track Prescribed Burn 5FDA0596.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

s47F | **Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management | Fire and Emergency Management Division**
Land, Fire and Environment | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
s47F | F: 03 9637 8577 | s47F @delwp.vic.gov.au

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



Project Support: s47F

s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2015 9:15 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22; Gaddes, Shane
Subject: FW: Agenda_151118_Melb meeting with DELWP - Dartmoor spencers track VIC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Corro_151130 to s47F - EHP Report.pdf; EHP Final Report_151105 Expert advice regarding alleged clearing of SERTBC habitat Dartmoor.pdf

Dear s22

Could you please forward the attached correspondence and report to s47F office and behalf of Shane? Please cc in s47F. I will send the hard copy today.

s47F [redacted] [delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)] On Behalf Of s47F [redacted] [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

s47F [redacted] [elwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Thank you
Cheers

s22

Compliance Officer
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

s22 [redacted] - (02) 6274 1607

s22 [redacted] [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

From: s22 [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 12 November 2015 10:02 AM
To: s22 [redacted]
Subject: RE: Agenda_151118_Melb meeting with DELWP - Dartmoor spencers track VIC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 12 November 2015 10:01 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22; Gaddes, Shane
Subject: Agenda_151118_Melb meeting with DELWP - Dartmoor spencers track VIC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22
Agenda as discussed.
Cheers

s22

Compliance Officer
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

s22 fax - (02) 6274 1607

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



Contact Officer: s22
Telephone: s22

Reference: CAS 2079
Email: s22@environment.gov.au

s47F

Regional Director, Barwon South West
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 103
Geelong Victoria 3220

Dear s47F

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Re: Dartmoor-Spencers Track Prescribed Burn 5FDA0596

Thank you for meeting with the Department of the Environment on 18 November 2015 to discuss the Department's investigation into the clearing of habitat for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) at Dartmoor, Victoria.

As discussed please find enclosed a copy of the report *Expert Advice Regarding Alleged Clearing of Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (South Eastern) Habitat November 2015* for your comment. The report will be used by the minister's delegate to form a view about whether a significant impact on Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern) is likely to have resulted.

If you wish to provide comment on the report, please respond by close of business on 11 December 2015 by email to s22@environment.gov.au or by post to:

Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

For further information relating to this matter, please contact s22 Director of the Compliance Section, by phone or s22 or email: s22@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch

30 November 2015

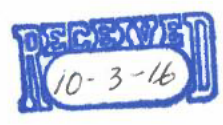
Cc: s47F Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management



Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VICTORIA 3002
PO Box 500
East Melbourne VICTORIA 8002
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Ref: CAS2079 DARTMOOR



22 February 2016

Mr Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch of Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Gaddes

VICTORIA'S BUSHFIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

I write further to our correspondence in December regarding the Commonwealth's investigation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) into potential impacts on the South-Eastern Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo at a site in Dartmoor, Victoria.

I have asked staff in our department to review and consider the report you provided late last year pertaining to your investigation into the Dartmoor site. The complexity of the subject matter and the demands of the current fire season in Victoria mean that we require further time to consider this matter. As in my previous letter, I would ask therefore that no decision be made by the Minister's delegate before DELWP is able to provide a response.

As discussed at our last meeting, the department is interested in exploring longer-term options for managing our EPBC Act obligations in the context of Victoria's bushfire fuel management program, such as the option of a strategic assessment of our fuel management program. This will be one of the matters discussed when Paul Smith, Deputy Secretary, Land, Fire and Environment (DELWP) meets with Malcolm Thompson from your department early in March.

To help progress this work, I propose a further meeting with yourself and other relevant officials from your department in the coming weeks. I will contact your office directly to arrange a suitable date.

I look forward to meeting with you.

s47F

Executive Director, Fire and Emergency Management

22 / 2 / 16.

Privacy Statement
Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Coordinator, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002







Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Mr Matt Cahill
First Assistant Secretary, Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Matt.Cahill@environment.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Cahill

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF VICTORIA'S BUSHFIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Further to recent meetings between our departments, I am writing to seek agreement to initiate a strategic assessment of Victoria's bushfire fuel management program (the program) under Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act).

The Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will work collaboratively with the Department of the Environment to draft and finalise an agreement of the program, which is undertaken to fulfil statutory obligations under the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic) to conduct proper and sufficient works for the planned prevention of fire on relevant public land.

Once finalised, Victoria's signatory to this agreement will be the Secretary to DELWP, as the office legally responsible for the program under the *Forests Act 1958*.

Through this agreement, DELWP seeks to obtain approval, pursuant to section 146B of the EPBC Act, of all actions undertaken for the planned prevention of fire pursuant to the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic). Such approval would provide regulatory certainty for the program in relation to the EPBC Act, and greater assurance for stakeholders that the program meets EPBC Act requirements.

The above objectives can best be achieved through a strategic assessment focusing on the processes used within DELWP's strategic and operational planning to manage risks to matters of national environment significance (MNES). The outcome will be a strategic assessment that ensures Victoria's bushfire fuel management program meets the objectives of the EPBC Act and is also able to deliver against DELWP's statutory obligation for planned prevention of fire on public land under the *Forests Act 1958*.

Approval will be sought for the bushfire fuel management program, including all supporting activities, in relation to consideration of MNES. This would include:

- planned burning and other treatments to reduce fuel hazards (such as mechanical fuel reduction).
- maintenance of access roads and tracks.
- construction or maintenance of fuel breaks.
- maintenance of bushfire management infrastructure (such as fire towers or communications assets).
- management of hazardous trees for firefighters and public safety.

The MNES to be considered in this process are national heritage places, wetlands of international importance (listed under the Ramsar convention), listed threatened species and ecological communities, and migratory species protected under international agreements.

DELWP will work with the Department of the Environment to conclude the strategic assessment process efficiently. To this end, DELWP proposes that both parties commit to timely turnaround of all outputs, and to develop and agree on a timeline for overall delivery of the strategic assessment. As previously discussed during a meeting with representatives of our departments on 28 April, both agencies will commit to using best endeavours to finalise the assessment by March 2017.

I look forward to working further with you on this important matter. DELWP's key contacts for this work will be:

Executive contact:
Officer contact:

s47F
s47F

Director Policy and Planning
Senior Policy Officer

s47F

Yours sincerely

s47F

Vivienne Clare

Executive Director, Strategy, Capability and Innovation Division
Forests, Fire and Regions

10 / 6 / 2016



Ms Vivienne Clare
Executive Director, Strategy, Capability and Innovation Division
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne Victoria 3002

Vivienne
Dear ~~Ms Clare~~

Thank you for your letter of 10 June 2016 seeking agreement to initiate a strategic assessment of Victoria's bushfire fuel management program under Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act).

The Department acknowledges the importance of bushfire fuel management in Victoria and will work with your Department to facilitate the strategic assessment of this program. The strategic assessment will provide for the transparent, efficient and effective management of the risks to matters of national environmental significance in accordance with the EPBC Act.

Activity is underway between officers in our divisions, on scoping terms of reference for the strategic assessment and preparing the draft strategic assessment agreement. The next step in the process is to finalise the terms of reference for public comment.

An agreed indicative timeline is being prepared at officer level, to ensure the strategic assessment proceeds efficiently, noting Victoria's aim to finalise the assessment by March 2017.

The primary contact for the Department of the Environment for this strategic assessment is:

Mr James Barker
Assistant Secretary
Assessments (Qld, Vic and Tas) and Policy Implementation Branch.
Phone: s22

I look forward to working with you on this process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MLCahill'.

Mr Matt Cahill
Acting Deputy Secretary
Environment Protection Group
5 July 2016