



## ***Executive Summary***

### **Hobart Fire Management Area**

#### **Fire Protection Plan**

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## **This report summarises the findings contained in the Fire Protection Plan for the Hobart Fire Management Area 2019.**

The purpose of Fire Protection Plans is to identify and prioritise bushfire risks in the landscape and strategically identify work that can be done to mitigate that risk.

Fire Protection Plans have been prepared for each of the ten fire management areas in Tasmania in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Service Act 1979. These plans were developed for the first time in 2014 in a collaborative effort by members of Fire Management Area Committees made up of local stakeholders.

The objective of the Fire Protection Plan is to effectively manage bushfire related risk within the Hobart Fire Management Area in order to protect people, assets and other things valuable to the community.

In preparing the Fire Protection Plan, a tenure blind approach to strategic fuel management was taken. The identification of areas and communities at risk from bushfire together with the identification of areas of potential strategic value for undertaking risk mitigation activities was undertaken by Fire Management Area Committee members without regard to land tenure/ownership.

In taking this approach, Fire Management Area Committees have recognised that strategic fuel management needs to occur across public and private property boundaries in order to be effective.

The management of bushfire related risk is not the sole responsibility of any one land manager or agency. It is a shared responsibility of the whole community.

The tenure blind approach to bushfire risk mitigation planning as undertaken by Fire Management Area Committees creates opportunities for collaboration between public and private land managers and owners and promotes the development of a centrally coordinated bushfire risk mitigation program.

### ***Hobart Fire Management Area Background***

- The Hobart Fire Management Area is approximately 110,000 ha in size. It includes the local government areas of Hobart, Glenorchy, Clarence, Brighton and parts of Kingborough, Huon Valley and Derwent Valley.
- The Hobart Fire Management Area has two very distinct geographical features; firstly the area is bisected by the River Derwent, and secondly the Wellington Range borders many Hobart suburbs to the west, creating a long urban/bush interface.
- Tasmania's most extreme fire weather events often occur within, and in areas adjacent to, the Hobart Fire Management Area.
- Rainfall varies considerably over the area (1600mm per year on the summit of Mt Wellington to less than 500mm per year at the Hobart Airport) resulting in a highly variable fire season with some areas being able to sustain fire for many month of the year.

### *Key findings for the Hobart Fire Management Area*

- Within the Hobart Fire Management Area approximately 65% of land is private/freehold, 14% is the Wellington Park, 6% is managed by DPIPWE and 4% by Local Government. There a number of other smaller land managers that make the remaining 10%, notably Carlton and United Brewery
- The three major vegetation types within the Hobart Fire Management Area are; Agricultural, urban and exotic vegetation (41%), Eucalypt forest (39%), and Wet Eucalypt forest (8%)
- In terms of area suitable for fuel reduction burning within the Hobart Fire Management Area, 41% (45000 ha) of the area has been categorised as treatable while 54% (60,000 ha) of the area has been classified as untreatable. These are very broad figures and are based on TasVeg mapping and flammability attributes. Actual areas suitable for fuel reduction burning will need to be determined by field inspection.

### *Bushfire threat in the Hobart Fire Management Area*

- The average rainfall varies considerably across the Hobart Fire Management Area. Due to this the length of the fire season can range from October through to April in areas of lower rainfall and from December to March in areas of higher rainfall and wetter vegetation types.
- The Hobart Fire Management Area has a long history of significant bushfires. Most notable of these were the fires of February 7<sup>th</sup> 1967 which burned over a third of the Hobart Fire Management Area in a single day. More recently, the 1998 Ridgeway fire, 2006 Meehan Range fire and 2013 Glenlusk, Molesworth and Risdon Vale fires all burned significant areas.
- In relation to fire cause in the Hobart Fire Management Area the majority of fires are either undetermined or unknown (44%), followed by Arson (29%) and fire from recreation activities (8%).

### *Bushfire risk analysis for the Hobart Fire Management Area*

Computer modelling was used to conduct an initial broad scale assessment across the Hobart Fire Management Area to identify communities vulnerable to bushfire. A more detailed assessment using more locally specific processes was then conducted by members of the Fire Management Area Committee.

Tools that were used by the Fire Management Area Committee to identify communities vulnerable to bushfire include:

- Consultation of Local Government and Emergency Services risk registers
- Local knowledge from Tasmania Fire Service District Officers and Brigades
- Consultation with Tasmania Fire Service Community Protection Planners and Community Development Officers
- Expert opinion of fire practitioners
- Identification and consideration of existing and past fire management actions, plans and incidents

### *Identified high risk areas for bushfire within the Hobart Fire Management Area*

- The Wellington Range, particularly the eastern slopes of kunanyi/Mount Wellington
- The Meehan Range from Quoin Ridge to Lauderdale, particularly the Mount Rumney/Mount Canopus area
- Mount Faulkner
- Government Hills
- Goat Hills
- Mount Dromedary
- The Mount Nelson/Tolmans Hill/The Lea areas
- The Ridgeway and Summerleas Road areas
- The Albion Heights and Bonnet Hill areas

### *Community Risk Assessment*

Following group analysis and discussion of the preliminary risk assessment results (detailed above), together with input gathered from local knowledge, 'at risk' communities and areas were then prioritised by members of the Hobart Fire Management Committee in terms of requiring mitigation actions.

Mitigation activities may include:

- Increasing the resistance of built assets to bushfire attack
- Fuel reduction burning
- Fire trail and fire break construction/maintenance
- Mechanical fuel reduction through slashing, trittering and mulching
- Community education
- Other prescribed activities specific to community needs

Some of these activities can be implemented in a relatively short time frame whilst others will need careful planning and consultation with the relevant stakeholders which will need to be done over a longer time frame.

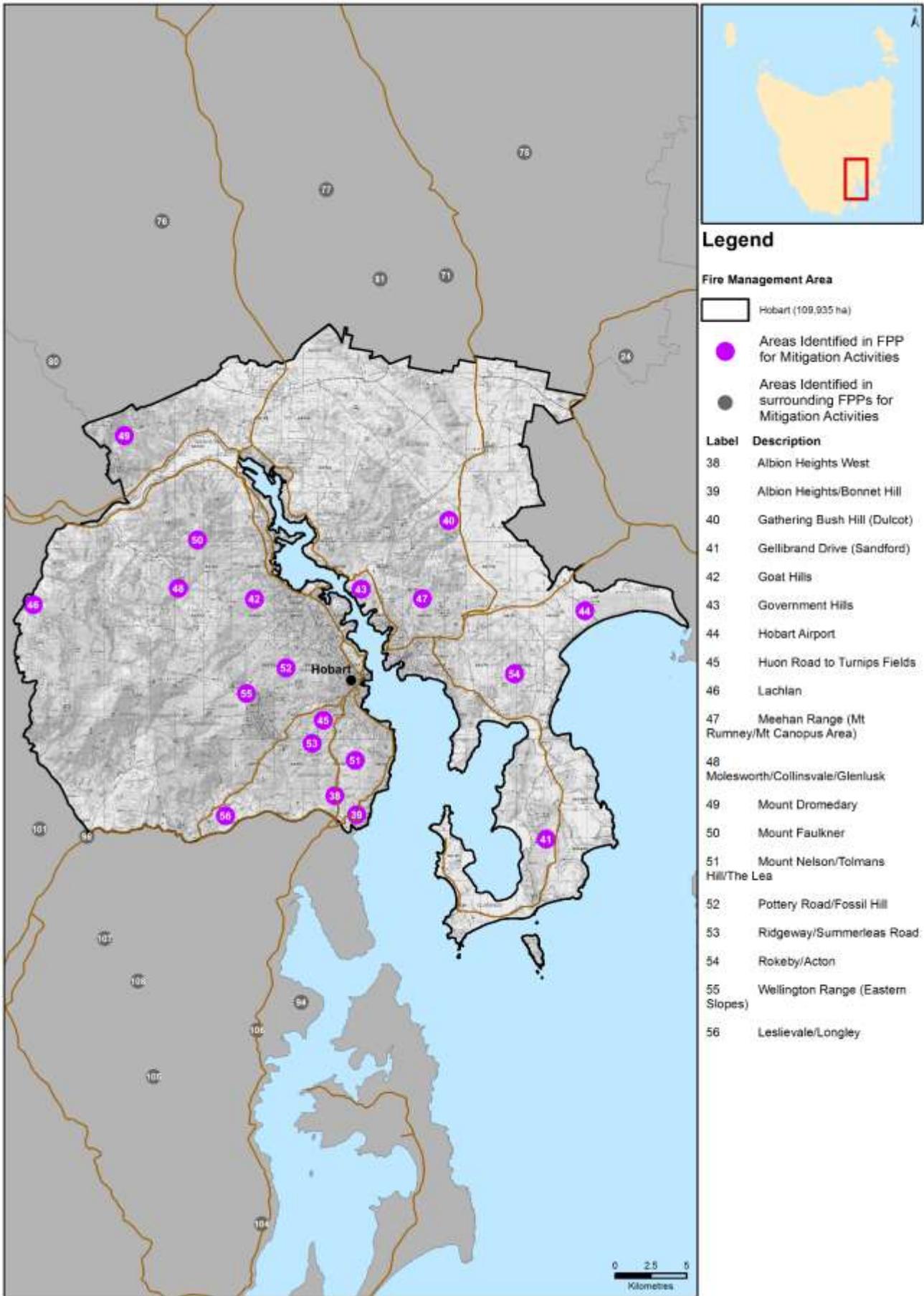
### *Community Risk Assessment results*

The following communities and areas immediately adjacent to communities were identified during the strategic assessment process as being at high risk and as having priority for mitigation actions:

- The Mount Rumney/Mount Canopus areas
- Molesworth/Collinsvale/Glenlusk area
- The south-eastern portion of the Mount Dromedary area
- Rokeby-Acton area
- Dulcot and Grass Tree Hill area
- The Airport and immediate surrounds
- Summerleas Road
- Albion Heights west facing slope along the Southern Outlet
- Government Hills
- Cascade's ridgetop block above Huon Road running south to the Turnip Fields area.
- Pottery Road/Fossil Hill area (includes Cascade Brewery land)
- Gellibrand Drive area at Sandford
- Lachlan area

A map showing the areas of potential strategic importance within the Hobart Fire Management Area is shown on the following page.

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**Map 1 - Areas identified in the Hobart Fire Protection Plan for mitigation activities**