



Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes – General Meeting
18th of March 2021 – 1730hrs
Kalamunda State Emergency Services
20 Raymond Road, Walliston

1.0 Opening of Meeting

Chairperson – Cr. John Giardina welcomed attendees.

2.0 Members:

Cr. John Giardina – City of Kalamunda, Councillor – South East Ward
Mike Ward – Kalamunda Community Emergency Services Manager
Sean Winter – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Tony Moiler – Captain, Kalamunda Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
David Stewart – Captain, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

City Staff:

Michael Hall – City of Kalamunda, Senior Fire Mitigation Officer
Grant Howatson – City of Kalamunda, Fire and Emergency Management Officer

Visitors:

Michael Pasotti – DBCA – Fire Coordinator
Paul Southam – DFES District Officer, South East
Bianka Williams – Training Manager, State Emergency Service
Steve Lake – Fire Control Officer, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
David Carroll – Fire Control Officer, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Apologies:

Warwick Martindale – Local Manager State Emergency Service
Brian McGinley – Foreman, Kalamunda Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
James Wickens – Manager Environmental Health and Community Safety
Cr. Lesley Boyd – City of Kalamunda, Councillor – South West Ward
Peter Varelis – City of Kalamunda, Director, Development Services
John Idland – First Lieutenant, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Minutes – Andrew Haselden

3.0 Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting

Moved: Steve Lake
Seconded: Tony Moiler

4.0 Matters arising from previous minutes

Nil.

5.0 Correspondence In/Out

Nil,



**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes – General Meeting
18th of March 2021 – 1730hrs
Kalamunda State Emergency Services
20 Raymond Road, Walliston**

6.0 General Business

6.1 Season update on Fire Hazard Reduction Assessments 20/21 season – Jamie Hunter / Grant Howatson.

Grant Howatson provides a presentation on the City statistics on the local fire season from October to May 21 – See attachment 1.

6.2 Hawkesvale Reserve and Wooroloo Fire presentations – Mike Ward.

Mike Ward provides a presentation to BFAC with regards to the response to the Hawkesvale Rd reserve fire on the 15th of January 2021 and the Wooroloo Fire response between the 1st of February and the 6th of February 2021. See attachments 2 and 3.

6.3 Mike Ward advises that regarding the Pickering Brook fire station, there has been some interest from a couple of companies to complete a feasibility study around the proposal. These costs will be presented to the City for the study around the need for a brigade, station, and the proposed location. Mike Ward advises that he is looking to complete this process in the next financial year

6.4 The restricted burning season commences from the 1st of April although the issuing of permits will be tempered by prevailing weather conditions.

6.5 The City Fire Hazard notice is being reviewed and Mike Ward asks if there is any feedback on this year's notice.

- David Carrol notes that the minimum rate of 8 tonnes per hectare on the current notice is hard to police and proposes that this could cause issues in the City for insurance claims. In particular, post incident where an insurer may assess a claimant's property of being in excess of this rate. Mike Ward notes that the intent is that this rate is applied as an average across the block. David Carrol asks whether this could be handled with the use of language like "remove all flammable material from the site"
- Sean Winter proposes that a better gauge would be to reference fuel age rather than tonnage as another way to make an assessment. Sean Winter asserts that using tonnes is very hard to assess and police.
- Cr. John Giardina discusses that the City may open discussions with Insurers around insurance limitations and property preparation.
- Mike Ward asks with anticipated increases in serious fire weather and behaviour, whether there is an opinion that the rules should be made more rigid. Sean Winter and David Carroll agree that this is the case and note that there are already discussions being made in this respect in the Eastern states. David Carroll notes that some local governments are discussing increasing fire standards for existing properties to current regulations, although there is currently little apparent appetite to enforce retrospective changes.



**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes – General Meeting
18th of March 2021 – 1730hrs
Kalamunda State Emergency Services
20 Raymond Road, Walliston**

M Ward asks that any further changes are directed to the City via himself.

- 6.6** Mike Pasotti provides an update on Parks and Wildlife's burns for the next session. Areas around Pickering Brook and Karragullen are their main focus, as well as tying into and extending the burn from last year between Schipp Road and Jorgensen Park.

Mike Ward asks about the advertised Canning Road burn near the rifle club. Mike Pasotti advises that this will likely be scheduled for completion in spring. Sean Winter notes that the back of Gooseberry Hill needs burning as there have been several high intensity fires around Graham Road in the past year. Mike Pasotti advises that this area is planned to be addressed as a winter burn. Mike Pasotti advises that there is an open invitation for local volunteer fire fighters to attend and assist with DPAW burns, via the Chief. He notes that DPAW prefer assistance from members with a few years active firefighting experience

Mike Ward asks if the new "BiLock" padlock keys have been issued, throughout Parks and Wildlife land throughout the City. Mike Pasotti advises that these locks are still being rolled out but that keys have now been issued to the Kalamunda Brigades. Steve Lake notes that the City fire water tanks have the old 41 key padlocks on them and proposes that these locks may benefit from being updated to the new keying system so that the resources can be shared with Parks and Wildlife.

**7.0 Agency Update
Department of Fire & Emergency Services - DFES**

Paul Southam advises BFAC on the record that 96% of the KVBFB members attended the Wooroloo incident over the 5 days as well as a large contribution from the KVFRS members at the same incident and commends the efforts put in by the members.

Paul Southam also notes the commitment from Kalamunda's volunteers at the Thomas Road and Oakford incidents earlier in the year.

Paul Southam acknowledges appointment to Rhys Whitby as the new emergency services minister.



**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes – General Meeting
18th of March 2021 – 1730hrs
Kalamunda State Emergency Services
20 Raymond Road, Walliston**

8.0 Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting commencement, 1730hrs Thursday the 15th of July 2021, Derek Fletcher Training Room, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade / State Emergency Service, 20 Raymond Road, Walliston.

Future General Meeting commencement, 1730hrs Thursday the 16th of September 2021, Derek Fletcher Training Room, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade / State Emergency Service, 20 Raymond Road, Walliston.

9.0 Closure

Meeting Closed 1822hrs



**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes – General Meeting
18th of March 2021 – 1730hrs
Kalamunda State Emergency Services
20 Raymond Road, Walliston**

Attachment 1:



Bushfire Advisory Committee

18 March 2021

Presentation by Grant Howatson



Local Fire Season – October to May

TFBs declared

2019/2020 = 18
2020/2021 = 16

Emergency SMS registration requests

2019/2020 = 21
2020/2021 = 71

Permits to burn issued

2019/2020 = 97
2020/2021 = 114

Illegal Fires

2019/2020
City response = 50
+ Brigade response = 125

2020/2021
City response = 20
+ Brigade response = 21

Bushfire Emergencies

2019/2020 = 2
[Lesmurdie/Forrestfield]

2020/2021 = 1
[High Wycombe]



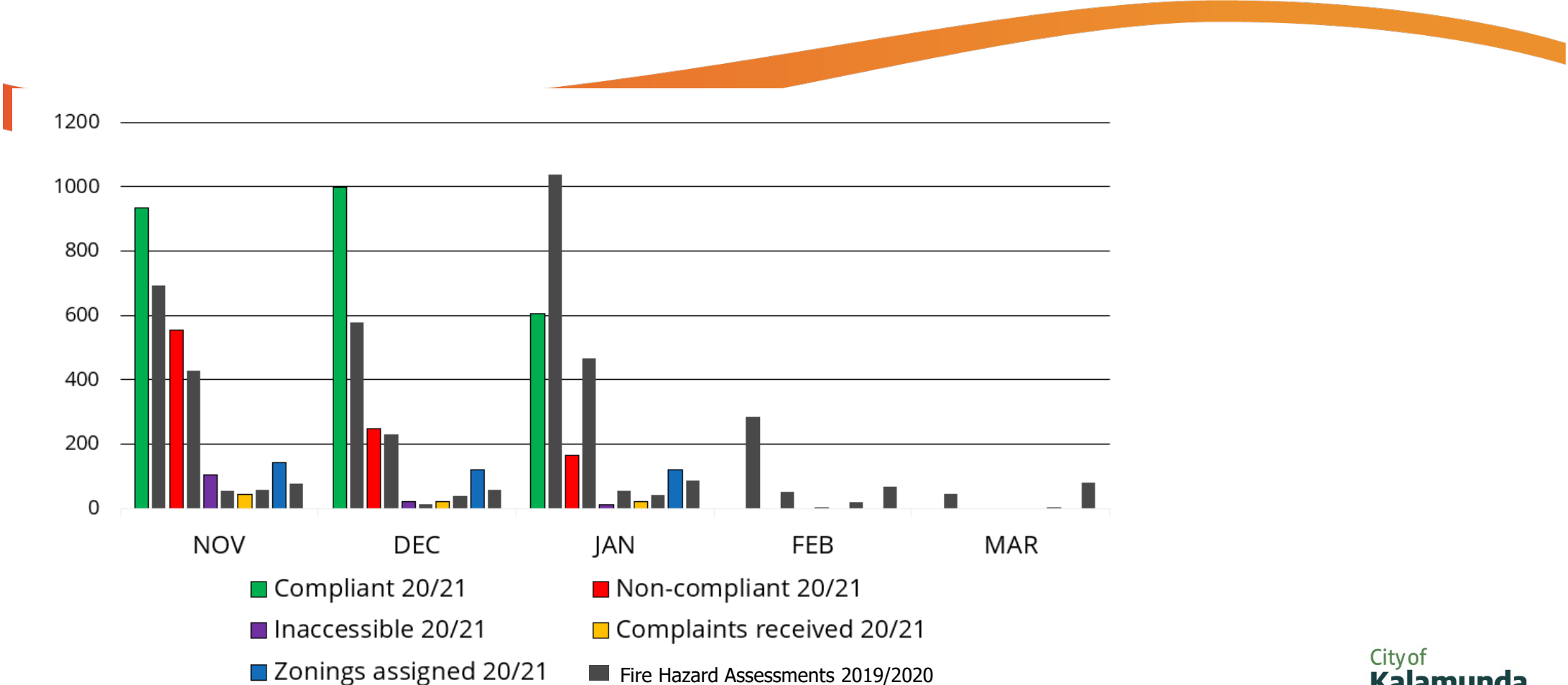
Bushfire threatens homes in High Wycombe – January 2021 (ABC News)



Fire Hazard Assessments – November to March

Total Assessments 2019/2020 = 4150 2020/2021 = 3944	Total Work orders issued 2019/2020 = 1196 2020/2021 = 1024	Total infringements issued 2019/2020 = 39 2020/2021 = 81	Total Compliant 2019/2020 = 2664 2020/2021 = 2629
Total Zonings 2019/2020 = 373 2020/2021 = 469	Total Complaints 2019/2020 = 98 2020/2021 = 93	Total contractors engaged to complete works 2019/2020 = 0 2020/2021 = 1	Variation Applications 2019/2020 = 114 2020/2021 = 134

Title





**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes – General Meeting
18th of March 2021 – 1730hrs
Kalamunda State Emergency Services
20 Raymond Road, Walliston**

Attachment 2:



Mike Ward



FOR A SAFER STATE





FOR A SAFER STATE

Over View

Initial call & Response

11:37am – 15 January - 000 call reporting smoke coming from Hawkesvale Road, High Wycombe.

11:49am – Midland Fire & Rescue arrived on site, significant plume of smoke, confirmed 3rd alarm bush fire

11:49am – Midland requested air support for asset protection.

11:55am – Multiple properties under ember attack.

12:00pm – Air support assisted ground crews with fire suppression activities.

5:00pm next day the incident was closed.





Final Fire Shape





FOR A SAFER STATE

Incident Statistics

- 40km/h Easterly winds.
- Rate of spread of fire was 780m per hour.
- Fire was spotting 280m ahead of fire front.
- Final fire size was 5.61 ha .
- 65 career and volunteer fire appliances attended including Kalamunda BFB.
- 20 community alerts and warning were issued over the duration of the Incident.





FOR A SAFER STATE

Incident Statistics

- Fire was considered suspicious..
- Hundreds of metres of wire fencing was damaged by the fire or cut for access to fire.
- Only a few houses received damage by radiant heat and or dead vegetation around the property igniting.





FOR A SAFER STATE

Post -Incident

- **Parks & Wildlife has reinstated all wire fencing.**
- **Dangerous trees damaged in the fire area have been removed.**
- **Trees and shrubs cut back from properties along Lambertia Crescent.**
- **Constructed fire breaks have been restored to pre-fire state.**
- **Community bush fire safety Information session was planned for February, but has been postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions.**





**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes – General Meeting
18th of March 2021 – 1730hrs
Kalamunda State Emergency Services
20 Raymond Road, Walliston**

Attachment 3:



FOR A SAFER STATE





FOR A SAFER STATE

Over View

Initial call & Response

12:04pm – 1 February - Structure fire started.

12:05pm - Bush Fire Started as a result of structure fire.

1:57pm - DFES took control of incident from Local Government.

1:58pm – Declared a level 2 incident.

2:30pm – Fire size 230ha.

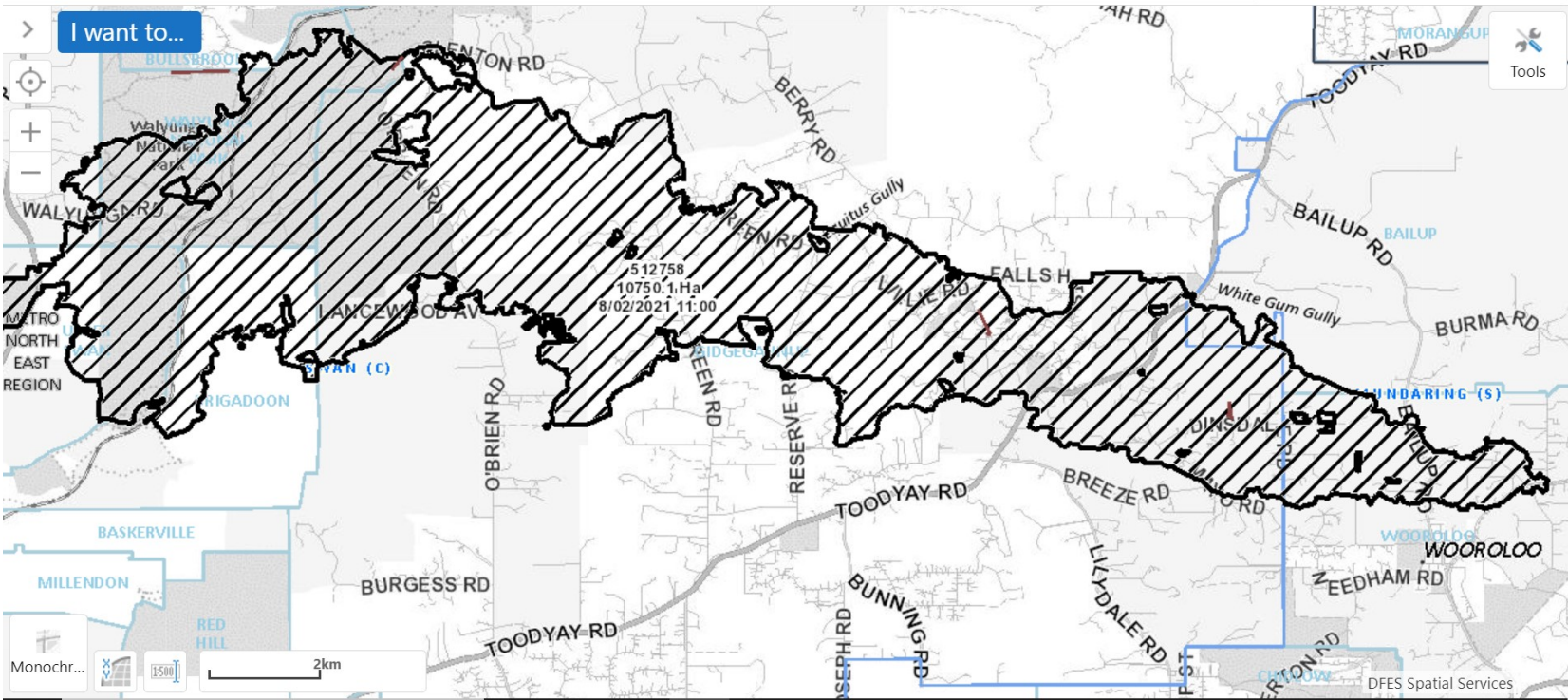
4:44pm – Report of homes damaged by fire, now a level 3 incident

6:20pm Lillie Road, Gidgegannup Properties under threat





Final Fire Shape

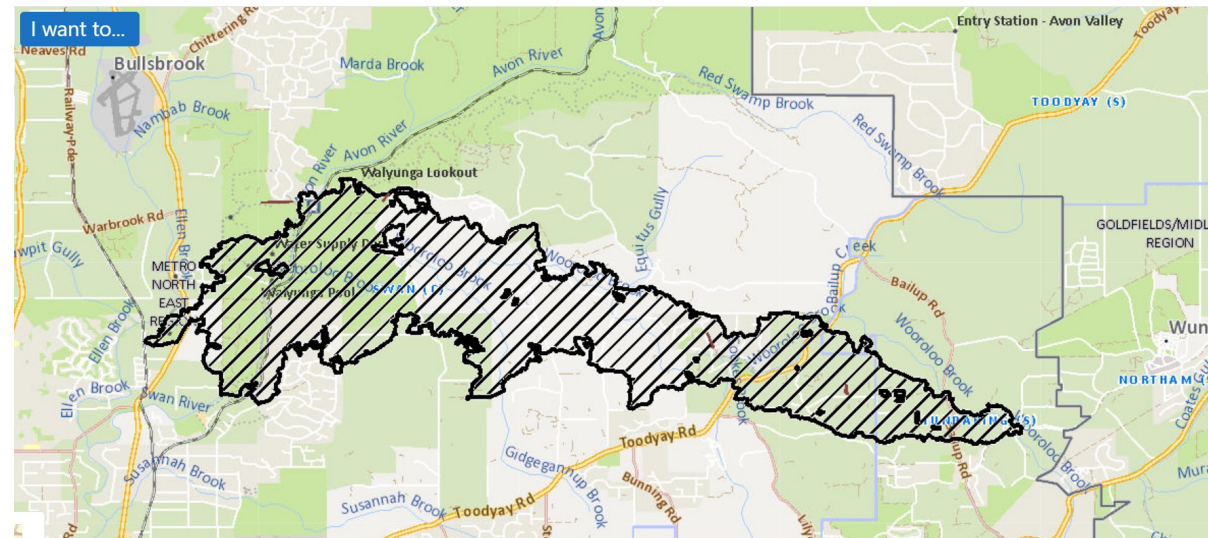




FOR A SAFER STATE

Incident Statistics

- **Size 10750 ha – perimeter of 156Km and 26km in length.**
- **Over two local governments – Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan**
- **200 appliances**
- **350 personnel from Bush Fire Brigades, Career & Volunteer Fire & Rescue and Parks & Wildlife from both metropolitan and country**
- **1269 community alerts and warning were issued over the duration of the Incident**
- **Was a campaign fire with the fire uncontrolled and not contained for 5 days with patrols and call out continuing.**





FOR A SAFER STATE

Incident Statistics

- During the fires peak, rate of spread was 3km/h
- Spotting was 500m ahead of the fire.
- Dew point of - 4.7, strong East/South East winds with 50km/h gust, high temperature and low RH.
- Fuels loads were grass and woodlands up to 25 tonnes per hectare.
- Fire intensity was 14000 kilowatts of heat.
- Over 550 Western Power poles require replacing, over 300 customers without power.
- 86 confirmed houses destroyed and 195 saved.





Driving Into Hell





FOR A SAFER STATE

Metro Task Force – Tilden Estate

- Strike Team Leader with 11 appliances.
- Sent straight to property protection in Tilden Park, Gidgegannup.
- Extreme fire behavior.
- Fire on both sides of the roads.
- Heavy smoke making visibility near impossible.
- Falling powerlines.
- Falling trees





FOR A SAFER STATE

Property Triage

- Rapid property assessment to establish what could be saved/defended and what couldn't be.
- Ensuring all residents had evacuated.
- Extinguishing spot fires and properties impacted by fire.
- Protection of critical infrastructure i.e bridges and mobile phone towers.
- Many properties lost/destroyed by fire in a very short time







FOR A SAFER STATE

Properties that could be saved





FOR A SAFER STATE

Properties that did survived

- Good asset protection zones around the property.
- Clear, good standard fire breaks.
- Clear, open driveways for easy access.
- Low fuel loads around the property.





FOR A SAFER STATE

Properties that didn't survive or increased their risk

- Poor asset protection zones around the property.
- Poor fire breaks with high fuels along side.
- Driveways with narrow, high fuels loads along side.
- Medium to heavy fuel loads around the property.
- Clutter and flammable material close to houses and other buildings.





FOR A SAFER STATE

Old vs newer planning requirements

- Older areas of Gidgegannup with old planning requirements in regards to fire hazard management fared worst with significant property loss.
- Newer areas of Brigadoon fared better due to newer bush fire planning guidelines.





FOR A SAFER STATE

Could this happen in kalamunda?

- The hills escapement of Kalamunda was built around old bush fire planning guidelines (if any).
- Kalamunda doesn't have any "new estates" in the hills to date that would have to comply with the newer standards under the Planning for bush fire risk management.
- The only method of ensuring properties are meeting some of the newer standards is the City of Kalamunda Annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.

