



FIRE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

> **UPDATE**

August - September 2017

Work to reduce fuel loads on the Islands and at Mt Cotton, Sheldon and Redland Bay

Council's compliance and development control areas stepped up their focus on overgrown properties, fire hazards, illegal dumping and illegal camping on the islands.

Three controlled burns took place on Russell Island and one each at Redland Bay, Mount Cotton, Sheldon and Alexandra Hills.

Macleay and Russell Island waste transfer stations open 7 days a week

From 18.09.17, a trial period of extended hours of operation for the waste transfer stations on Russell and Macleay Islands was organised and will run until the end of January 2018. The intent is to encourage people to make better use of the waste transfer stations by making them more convenient to access.

Mapping of cultural heritage sites

Discussions were held with QYAC to improve Council's mapping of significant cultural heritage sites across the city. This mapping is essential to the planning and construction of fire access tracks and evacuation routes.

Identifying evacuation centres in case of a fire

Identifying evacuation centres across the city by installing electronic signage is being investigated, with the possibility of funding through the State Government Grants program.

Simplified Disaster Management Plans

Work is underway to simplify disaster management plans with a focus on updating the online version. Printed versions will still be available on request. The online version will include app-based mapping so residents can drill down to their suburb, street and property, and quickly identify local hazards (flood, fire and landslide) as well as evacuation and emergency service information.

Improving Council's mapping system

Improvements to Council's external mapping system are being made to enable residents to access data about areas specifically protected by a Vegetation Protection Order (VPO) and areas at risk of bushfire hazards.

Fire hydrant maintenance

The fire hydrant maintenance program for the SMBI was stepped up, with all lines tested and pressurised. This includes waterlines that were previously 'valved off' due to non-use and isolation.

Identifying vulnerable residents living rough on SMBI

Council is working with Department of Communities' staff to offer these residents services they may not be aware of to improve their level of safety.

Russell Island bus trip and briefing of key stakeholders on reducing fire risk on the SMBIs

Council is working with multiple government agencies to address issues raised in the review of the Council's Fire Management Plan around residents' welfare, resilience and telecommunications access on the islands.

Representatives who visited Russell Island on 12.09.17 included staff of the Department of Communities, QFES, Rural Fire, a Telecommunications company, Department of Local Government and Planning, Council's CEO, Queensland's Reconstruction Authority Chair and SMBI Community Champions.

The visit to the island with these key stakeholders was organised to promote a collaborative effort in offering assistance to SMBI residents.

Disaster Management and Communications and Engagement worked collaboratively with stakeholders to explain the approach being taken to address issues which make the islands vulnerable to fire.

Ongoing mitigation works

Because of heightened fire conditions across Queensland, QFES increased fire alert levels to 'Very high' on 22.09.17 and cancelled all prescribed mitigation burns until there is rain.

There was a local fire ban put in place on North Stradbroke Island and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands during the school holidays until 2.10.17.

A fire ban for the whole of the Redlands was declared from 28.09.17 to midnight on 30.09.17. All permits issued to light fires have been cancelled.

Council crews will continue to conduct mitigation activities including improvements and additions to Council's fire trail network.

300 hours of community engagement 'Street Speaks' delivered by Disaster Management staff in 2017, including fire preparedness information delivered at:

- Flinders Day, Coochiemudlo Island (23.07.17)
- Capalaba Shopping Centre (3.08.17)
- Mt Cotton Skate Park opening (5.08.17)
- Mayoral Prayer Breakfast, Wellington Point (18.08.17)
- Savvy Seniors Day, Russell Island (5.09.17)
- Redfest (8.09.17)
- Redland Bay shopping centre (23.09.17)
- Caravan, Camping, Boating and 4x4 Expo at the Redland Showgrounds (22-24.09.17)

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An awareness campaign was launched to encourage residents to help clean up the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and southern Redlands

The 'Spring clean ready for bushfire season' campaign was launched in August, with an overarching communications plan. Activities completed include:

- a letterbox drop of 3,700 leaflets on SMBIs (18.08.17)
- 18 A1-sized posters put up at the Weinam Creek ferry terminal and all island ferry terminals as well as Macleay Island's Spar and Russell Island's IGA (18.08.17)
- posters provided to and flyers distributed by the Lions Club at their Community market/garage sale on Macleay Island (2-3.09.17)
- media releases published by Redland City Bulletin and the Friendly Bay Islander:
 - 'Review of city's fire management to improve community safety' (26.07.17)
 - 'Raised fire alert level for Southern Moreton Bay Island residents' 21.08.17)
 - 'Council asks for residents' help to reduce fire risk in Redlands' (8.09.17)
- Council Facebook posts:
 - encouraging the clean-up and giving tips on how to clean up backyards (23.08.17)
 - new waste transfer station opening hours on Russell and Macleay Islands (19.09.17)
- advertising slide on all SMBI passenger ferries in September encouraging the 'Spring clean'
- an email to Community Champions on the SMBIs encouraging them to promote the campaign to family, friends and island residents (31.08.17)
- Cover and two page feature spread in the Friendly Bay Islander September issue:
 - Council advertisement and story on SMBI spring clean
 - Disaster Management advertisement - prepare for bushfire season
 - front cover – Deputy Mayor Wendy Boglary (as Acting Mayor), Cr Mark Edwards and two Community Champions
- ABC 612 Radio Drive interview with Local Disaster Controller Mike Lollback (14.09.17)
- a letter and flyer advising of new waste transfer station hours and the 'Spring clean' was mailed out to 5,988 absent land and property owners on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands (22.09.17)
- a letter and 'Spring clean' flyer for the southern Redlands was mailed to 8,079 ratepayers and residents in Redland Bay, Mount Cotton and Sheldon (26.09.17)
- Website update – a new page was created on the RCC website centralising useful information about fire risks and preventative actions. This includes how to apply for a fire permit and general messaging on fire preparedness.
- Spring Edition 'Our Redlands' magazine – two page fire safety feature.