

Successful Funding for Reducing Bushfire Risks

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup 18 January 2024



On Tuesday 19 December 2023, the State Government announced a \$4.45 million program to support 24 local governments in reducing bushfire risk near their local communities. We are pleased to advise that we are one of the local governments successful in the latest round of this Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF).

This funding supports the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup to reduce bushfire risk and protect both public and private assets by performing planned burns, mechanical mulching, weed treatment and firebreak creation/maintenance.

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup has received \$315,180 for 20 mitigation treatments:

FIRE ACCESS TRACKS x 3	TREATMENT OBJECTIVES:
Hetherington Road – ARGYLE	Construct fire access tracks for emergency vehicles, and divide the reserve into smaller sections for easier management.
Airstrip Road – BALINGUP	Upgrade emergency vehicle access, and create a buffer zone for dwellings. Also to create a bridge asset protection zone.
Cherrydale Way – BEELERUP	Maintain and create fire access tracks for emergency vehicles, and divide the reserve into small sections in preparation for future prescribed burning.

MECHANICAL WORKS x 11	TREATMENT OBJECTIVES:
Campbell Street – BALINGUP Bovell Street – BALINGUP Grimwade Road – BALINGUP	Maintain asset protection zone for dwellings and various agricultural assets in these particular areas.
Langridge Road – BROOKHAMPTON Wade Road – BROOKHAMPTON	Create an asset protection zone for dwellings and various agricultural assets in the area.
NOGGERUP TOWNSITE	Reduce fuel loads on Shire-managed reserves to less than eight (8) tonnes per hectare, and to create a buffer zone.
MULLALYUP TOWNSITE	Create an asset protection zone for dwellings and critical infrastructure (fire station), and to upgrade/maintain fire breaks.
Castle Street – KIRUP	Create hazard separation and buffer zones for assets.
South West Highway – NEWLANDS	Maintain asset protection zone near infrastructure (Newlands Hall).
Balingup Transfer Station	Create a buffer zone for critical infrastructure (Transfer Station, Highway and Cemetery).
Lowden Fire Station	Create an asset protection zone for critical infrastructure (Lowden Fire Station, Donnybrook Boyup Brook Road).

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CHEMICAL WORKS x 1	TREATMENT OBJECTIVES:
Wade Road – BROOKHAMPTON	Follow up treatment to target non-native species that may contribute to the spread of fire.
PLANNED BURNING x 4	TREATMENT OBJECTIVES:
Cherrydale Way – BEELERUP	Reduce fuel loads in Shire-managed reserves adjacent to commercial businesses and for asset protection.
Wattle Court – DONNYBROOK	Reduce fuel loads in Shire-managed reserve (old trotting track), and asset protection for dwellings and critical infrastructure (SES Building).
Balingup Transfer Station	Reduce fuel loads to protect critical infrastructure (Transfer Station, Highway and Cemetery).
Russells Road – BALINGUP	Reduce fuel loads in Shire-managed reserves and asset protection for dwellings and critical infrastructure (Highway).

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson has said:

“We are facing a long, hot and very dangerous fire season and the Cook Government continues to invest in a wide range of measures to keep our communities safe. Local governments understand the risks in their area better than anyone, so this fund is about empowering them to choose where bushfire mitigation activities are needed most. We can’t stop the bushfires from starting, but we can slow the speed and intensity at which they burn.

“Bushfires have always been a part of life in our vast State, but a changing climate continues to present new challenges. That’s why bushfire mitigation and management are becoming an increasingly important focus for our Government, and we will continue to invest in programs like the MAF that make WA a more resilient State.”

Vivienne MacCarthy, the President for the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup, has said:

“The Mitigation Activity Funding has been welcomed by the Shire, as we consider bushfire safety in our district to be a high priority. It ensures that we can provide a strong level of safeguarding for our local environment, as well as our cherished heritage and homes. The Shire will action the treatments listed in an effort to contribute significantly to building resilience to bushfires, and to ensure the safety of our community.”

ENDS.