

Barkly Regional Bushfire Management Plan

2022-23



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1.0	October 2022	Natalie Chester	Version 1

Acronym	Full form
BFNT	Bushfires NT
DEPWS	Department of Environment, Parks & Water Security
JSA	Job Safety Analysis
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TNRM	Territory Natural Resource Management Limited
NTG	Northern Territory Government



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1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this plan is to support community wide fire management within the Barkly Fire Management Zone in accordance with the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*. This fire management plan applies to the land and people within the Barkly Fire Management Zone as of October 2022. This plan was prepared by Bushfires NT (BFNT) in consultation with the Barkly Regional Bushfires Committee and with input from a range of stakeholders. This “Draft” plan has been revised in September 2022 in readiness for the endorsement of the new Committee. It will be reviewed annually by the Barkly Regional Bushfires Committee.

Arrangements for the management of fire in the region are based on risk management principles and guidelines that will direct and evaluate these activities.

The risks identified in the 2022-23 Barkly Regional Bushfire Plan arise from the first meeting held in early 2022 with the newly-formed Barkly Regional Bushfires Committee.

A number of issues were identified by the Regional Committee as posing a current or emerging risk to achieving regional bushfire management objectives and two of these were assessed to be “High”:

1. Limited training and experience of land managers in fire management within the region due to long lag time between fire incidents and turnover.
2. Reduction in regional fire management capacity as a result of turnover of experienced fire managers and decreased prioritisation of fire management needs in the region.

Risk Rating	Risk	Detail
HIGH	Reduction in regional fire management capacity as a result of turnover of experienced fire managers, decreased local knowledge and prioritisation of fire management needs in the region due to longer time periods between significant fire events.	Capacity and capability in the region is critical in sustaining good fire management practices. There is a loss of fire management knowledge, networks and depth of experience of which underpin the success of fire programs. This challenge is coupled with a decreased focus on regional fire management needs by governments. Agencies are focused on major population centres and as a result the region is not well considered with regard to the development of resources and tools to assist with fire management planning, preparedness and response. An example of this is the lack of a formal Bushfire Management Committee within the Barkly Region since 2016, due to the resignation of committee members, low fuel loads at the time.
HIGH	Limited training of fire ground personnel Limited FF1 training of fire ground personnel (Volunteers, land managers, Aboriginal stakeholders) due to lag time between major fire events.	Provision of training opportunities for fire managers, volunteers and landholders is somewhat challenging, due to the remote vicinity of the Barkly region. Additionally, major fire events tend to occur every 7 - 10 years or so, meaning that new and existing fire managers can be limited in on-ground experience when it comes to fire suppression. Preparedness in fire management practices across the Barkly region is limited in comparison to other regions due to the time between large fire events.

Table 1 - A summary of strategic regional bushfire risks identified by the Barkly Regional Bushfire Committee. These risks are considered of most concern to the region in achieving strategic bushfire management objectives.

2. Regional Bushfires Committee Recommendations

With a reduced risk of major annual fire events due to climatic and topographic factors, the above risks identified need to be addressed and reviewed by the Regional Committee on an annual basis. This can assist towards ensuring capacity to manage fire across the region remains satisfactory and landholders are able to remain engaged and continue building relationships through awareness and collaboration.

The risk register in Section 5 identifies a number of strategies (existing and potential controls) to manage the 2 highest risks. These include:

1. Increased understanding of roles and responsibilities of landowners, Ranger groups, other stakeholders and Government agencies (Local, NTG and Commonwealth).
2. Landowners, pastoralists, and stakeholders to continue strengthening a safe work culture and increased capability across the region by undergoing continued training in fire management and continual engagement with BFNT staff in Central Australia.

3. Endorsement and Approval

Prepared by BFNT	DATE: 03/10/2022
Submission to Regional Bushfire Committee for endorsement	DATE: 20/10/2022
Notice of endorsement to Executive Director BFNT	DATE: 12/12/2022
Public notice of Regional Bushfire Management Plan	DATE:
Version valid until	DATE: November 2023

Signed:



Chairperson - Barkly Regional Bushfire Committee

DATE: 8/12/2022



Executive Director, Bushfires NT

DATE: 23/01/2023

4. Background

The Northern Territory is large (1,355,235 km²) and sparsely populated (233,000 in 2021) with the majority of people living around Darwin and in a few larger rural centres. It spans climate zones and features vegetation communities from desert to tropical forests.

Across this spectrum, landowners are an essential part of the fire management process. Communication, co-operation and shared responsibility within the community, matched by a capacity to undertake self-protective measures, form the basis of successful fire management throughout the Northern Territory. Equally, this plan acknowledges the autonomy of land managers in harnessing fire as a tool to achieve their land management objectives, tempered by their responsibilities under the *Bushfires Management Act* and principles of good land stewardship.

The Barkly Fire Management Zone (FPZ) covers an area of approximately 276,428 km², spanning from just north of Elliott to just south of Alpururulam. The Barkly FPZ adjoins the Alice Springs Fire Management Zone to the south and the Savanna Fire Protection Zone to the north and stretches east to the QLD/NT border (Figure 1).

The population of the Barkly region is based largely across pastoral stations, regional centres (Tennant Creek, Elliott) smaller communities and homelands/ outstations throughout the region.

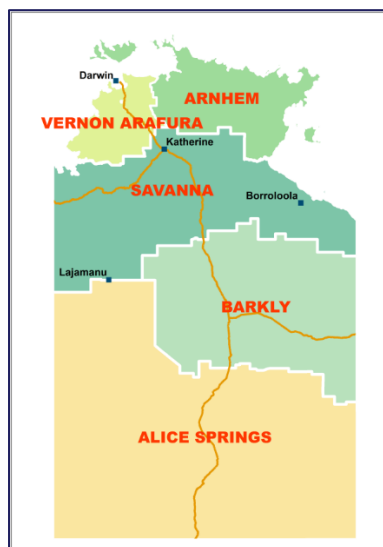


Figure 1: Location of the Barkly Fire Management Zone within the Northern Territory.

The annual growth of flammable vegetation across a large and sparsely populated area and the changing nature of fire management in northern Australia suggest that the Barkly Regional Bushfire Management Plan should be reviewed every 12 months. The Barkly region lies within a transitional zone where the climate and land forms change from semi-arid to sub-tropical.

This fire management plan applies to the land and people within the Barkly Fire Management Zone as of November 2022. It will be reviewed annually by the Barkly Regional Committee.

Regional plans are designed to:

- Identify and categorise risk at a regional level *and*
- Enable the optimal allocation of resources and specific controls in the risk management process.

Figures 2 and 3 below display where the regional plan aligns relative to other types of fire management planning in the NT. This document relates to tactical level planning. Because of the sporadic nature of above average fire seasons in central Australia and the Barkly region it is possible that risks do not change over the annual cycle.

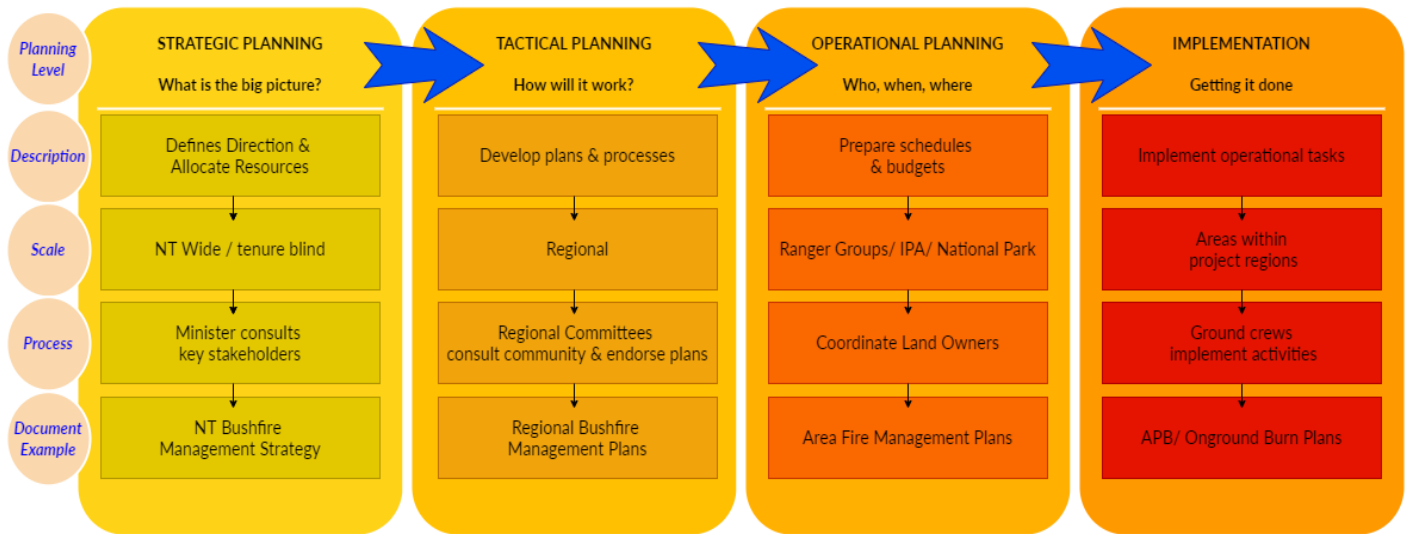


Figure 2: Northern Territory Bushfire Management Framework

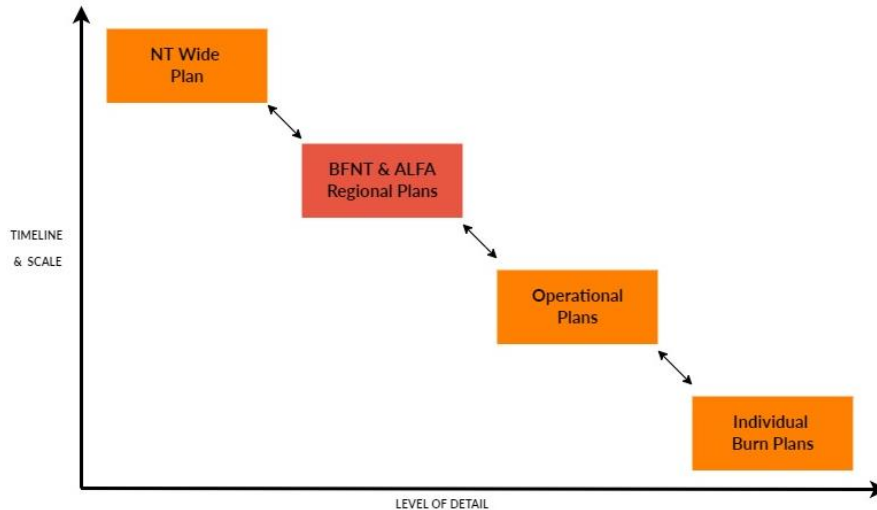


Figure 3: The Planning Perspective. Displaying the relative timeline, scale and detail of various fire management plans.

5. Land Use

Table 2. Summary of land use in the Barkly Fire Management Zone

Land Use Tenures	Land Use
Freehold Portions	Remote Communities/ Rural Properties
Perpetual Pastoral Leases	Customary/ Traditional use (cultural)
National Parks and Reserves	Pastoral
Land Councils	Horticulture/ Agriculture
Aboriginal Communities and Outstations	Conservation
Aboriginal Land Trusts	Crown land
Indigenous Protected Areas	Defence
Aboriginal Ranger Groups	Tourism
Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	Corridors (Roads, Pipelines, Power & Water, Rail)
Local Government Areas	
Northern Territory Government Electorates	
Defence Areas	
Fire and Rescue Service ERA	

Within the Barkly Fire Management Zone (Figure A1) there are a range of land uses. The fire management objectives for each land use have been summarised in the above table. This list is finite and aims at recognising all values as equally important. These should be updated as new land uses emerge.

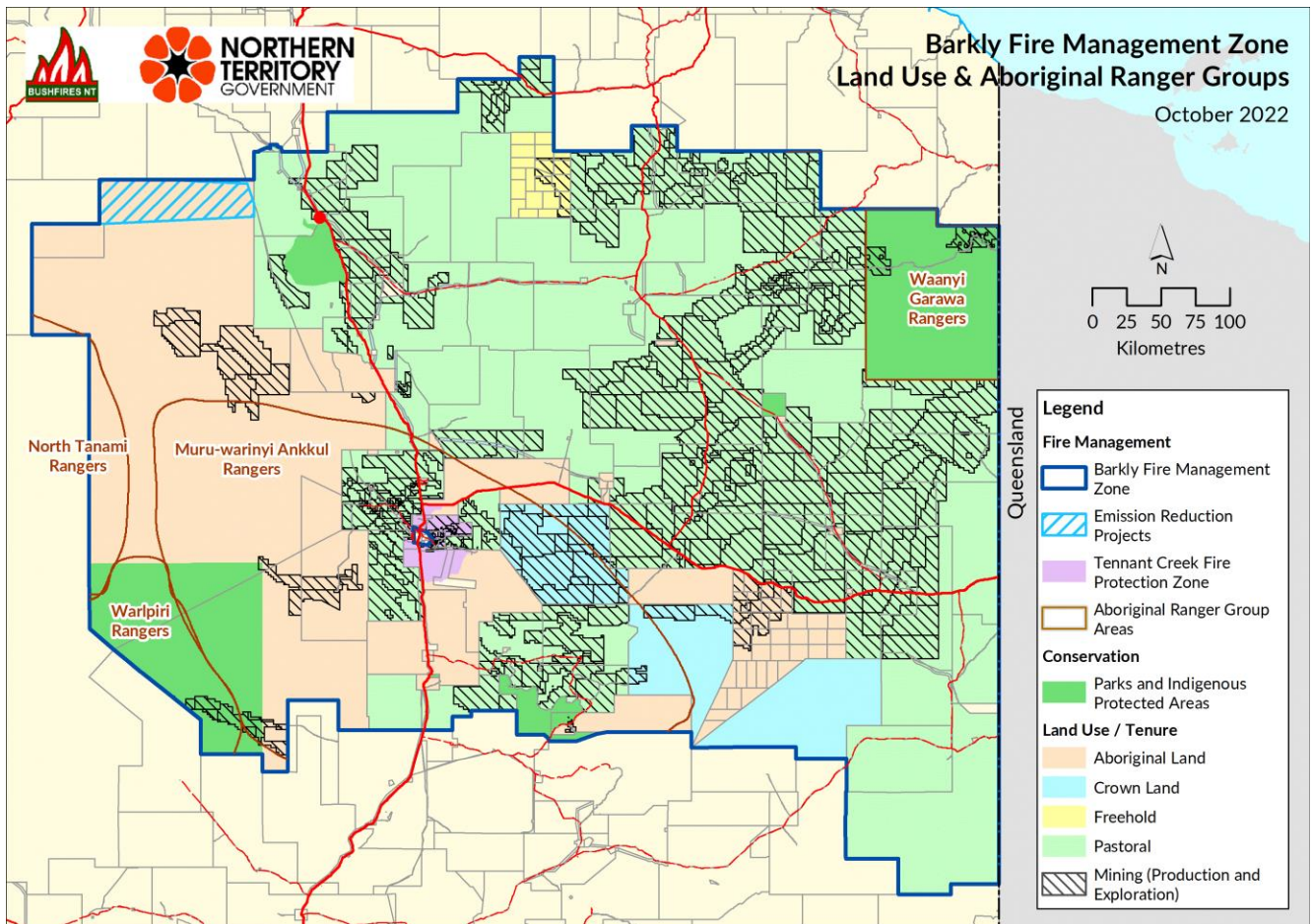


Figure A1: Land use map with operational areas for Aboriginal Ranger Groups within the Barkly Fire Management Zone.

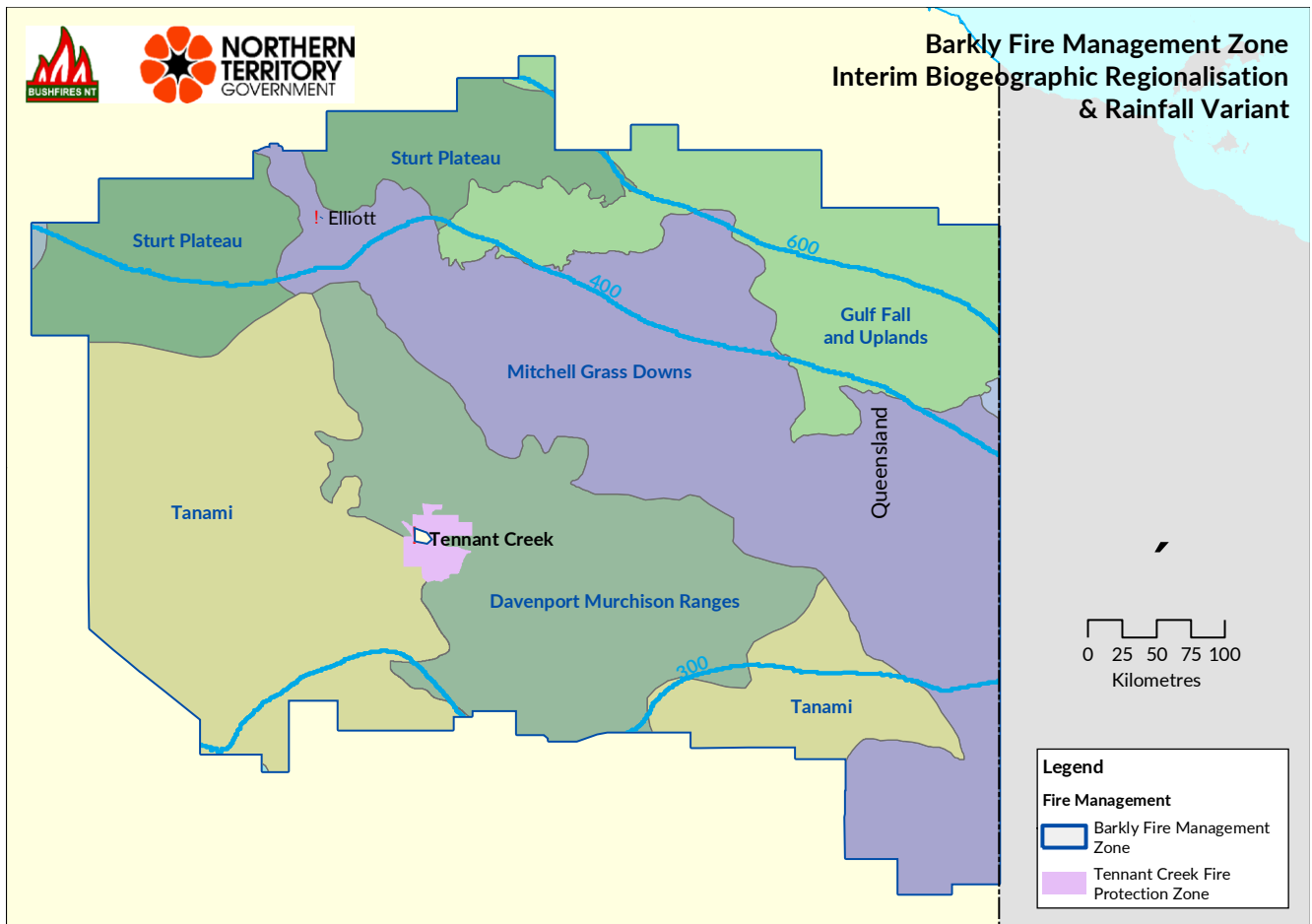


Figure A2: Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia bioregions, including rainfall variants in the Barkly Fire Management Region.

6. Purpose

A Regional Bushfire Management Plan is established as a provision of the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*, section 78 as follows:

- (1) The Executive Director may, by written notice:
 - (a) Direct Bushfires NT to prepare within a specified period, in consultation with the regional committee for a fire management zone, a draft regional bushfire management plan for the zone; and
 - (b) Specify matters to be addressed by the plan.
- (2) As soon as practicable after preparing a draft regional bushfire management plan, Bushfires NT must submit it to the regional committee for endorsement.
- (3) On endorsement by the regional committee, the plan has effect as a regional bushfire management plan for the fire management zone.
- (4) As soon as practicable after endorsing a regional bushfire management plan, the regional committee must give written notice of the endorsement to the Executive Director.
- (5) As soon as practicable after being given notice under subsection (4), the executive director must give public notice of the plan.

The purpose of this Plan is to support community wide fire management with the Barkly Fire Management Zone, in line with the above provision. Of priority, the Plan aims to manage bushfire hazard by reducing the risk of its impact to assets and values within the region.

7. Fire Management Objectives

<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Fire Management Objectives</i>
Remote Communities & Rural Properties Communities, Aboriginal outstations/ homesteads, rural properties, work camps, tourist accommodation.	<u>Safety</u> - Protection of life and property. <u>Asset Protection</u> - Utilise fire and strategic breaks to protect assets.
Customary Use Managing land and resources utilising indigenous knowledge and cultural practices.	<u>Resource Management</u> - Use of fire to manage native flora and fauna resources. <u>Improve Land Value</u> - Use of fire to remove vegetation, increase access to country and improve biodiversity and hunting values. <u>Protection</u> - Use of fire to protect sites of cultural significance from unplanned fire. <u>Hunting</u> - Use of fire in hunting practices. <u>Cultural Obligations</u> - Manage fire according to traditional customs and beliefs.
Conservation Managing natural resources.	<u>Biodiversity Enrichment</u> - Use fire to increase species diversity or as protection around fire sensitive species. <u>Research Activity</u> - Provide an opportunity for researchers to observe the effect of different fire regimes in different vegetation communities. <u>Habitat Protection</u> - Manage fire to protect native plant and animal habitat. <u>Exclusion</u> - Exclude fire from specific areas to conserve natural features. <u>Safety</u> - Manage fuel loads to ensure a safe environment in which people can live and work. <u>Structural Asset Protection</u> - Utilise fire to protect assets. <u>Bushfire Suppression</u> - Utilise fire as part of bushfire suppression practices. <u>Cultural Protection</u> - Utilise fire in the practice and preservation of cultural heritage.

Land Use	Fire Management Objectives
	<p><u>Weed Management</u> - Use fire to manage weed burdens.</p> <p><u>Skills and Knowledge</u> - Improve skills and knowledge in the application and management of fire associated with conservation.</p>
<p>Pastoralism, Horticulture & Agriculture Protect livelihoods and maintain protection of grazing areas/ produce crops, livestock.</p>	<p><u>Safety</u> - Protection of life and property.</p> <p><u>Asset Protection</u> - Utilise fire to protect assets.</p> <p><u>Access Tracks</u> – Maintain existing strategic breaks across pastoral lands.</p> <p><u>Weed Management</u> - Use fire to manage weed incursion.</p> <p><u>Pasture Improvement</u> – Use fire to “freshen up” country to provide better grasses for livestock.</p>
<p>Corridors (Road, Power, Water, Gas, Rail, Riverine Corridors) & Crown Land Edge burns to protect essential infrastructure and provide a buffer from fire for adjoining properties.</p>	<p><u>Safety</u> - Protection of life and property.</p> <p><u>Asset Protection</u> - Utilise fire to protect assets and infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Weed Management</u> - Use fire to manage weed incursion.</p> <p><u>Access</u> – Maintenance of access tracks to service corridor facilities.</p>
<p>Tourism Protect people and tourist attraction areas.</p>	<p><u>Safety</u> - Protection of life and property.</p> <p><u>Asset Protection</u> - Utilise fire to protect assets and infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Exclusion</u> - Exclude fire from specific areas to conserve natural features.</p> <p><u>Education</u> – Provide educational opportunities to tourists and tourism operators’ e.g. use of fire in the landscape.</p>
<p>Defence Protect assets and infrastructure.</p>	<p><u>Safety</u> - Protection of life and property.</p> <p><u>Asset Protection</u> - Utilise fire to protect assets and infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Strategic Breaks</u> – maintain strategic breaks around facilities and across the land tenure.</p>

Table 3. Land use and corresponding fire management objectives within the Barkly Fire Management Zone

8. Bushfire Risk Management

The central component of the Barkly Regional Bushfire Management Plan is the evaluation of regional scale risks by the regional committee. It examines risk to achieving bushfire management aims and objectives, existing controls and possible treatment actions to reduce the level of risk. The DEPWS Risk Matrix prioritises each risk as shown below (Table 3).

Specifically, the risk register:

- Records risks;
- Classifies them in terms of consequence and likelihood of occurring;
- Documents existing and potential controls / treatments to mitigate each risk;
- Identifies who is responsible for implementing those controls; and
- Suggests criterion by which to evaluate the efficacy of the control methods.

Information used to develop the risk register was collected during the inaugural meeting with the Barkly Regional Bushfires committee (April 2022). Regional scale risks were identified at this meeting and were grouped and tabulated (Table C1). Table 3 shows the DEPWS risk matrix, under which risks were categorised and rated. For each risk a number of controls were suggested by both Regional Committee and Bushfires NT staff. Risks are prioritised and ordered by scale in the following section.

Any reviews of this plan should incorporate the principles and guidelines of risk management outlined in International Standard ISO 31000.

		Consequences				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Likelihood	Almost Certain	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
	Likely	Medium	Medium	High	High	Extreme
	Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High

Table 3. DEPWS Risk Matrix

9. Regional Risk Register

9.1. Capacity and Capability

HIGH RISK: Reduction in regional fire management capacity as a result of turnover of experienced fire managers, decreased local knowledge and prioritisation of fire management needs in the region due to longer time periods between significant fire events.	
RISK RATING What level of threat does this risk present?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likelihood that it will occur was considered: ALMOST CERTAIN The outcome of an occurrence was considered: MODERATE This risk was rated: HIGH
CONTROLS IN PLACE NOW How this risk is currently managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customised program of fire management training and mentoring delivered in the region through Bushfires NT. Compliance and awareness of roles and responsibilities of landowners under Bushfire Management Act 2016. Engagement with landowners by Bushfires NT staff.
POSSIBLE RISK TREATMENT ACTIONS Additional actions that should be applied to manage this risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop skills and knowledge within the community, including raising community awareness in the importance of fire management. Maintain property fire management plans. Continue to identify and manage high risk areas, including the installation of strategic fire breaks. Maintain high levels of consultation amongst landowners particularly when considering new land uses. Provide adequate training and controlled exposure to gain competency in higher skilled and/or risk activities. Develop processes to encourage succession planning, invest in engagement of long-term residents. Support from relevant agencies.

HIGH RISK: Reduction in regional fire management capacity as a result of turnover of experienced fire managers, decreased local knowledge and prioritisation of fire management needs in the region due to longer time periods between significant fire events.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate consultation between DEPWS, AFAC and region for relevant programs, projects and development initiatives. Recruitment drive to fill positions within Bushfires NT in Central Australia.
RISK OWNER Who is responsible for managing the risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoralists; Local councils; Aboriginal corporations; Ranger organisations; Bushfires NT
EVALUATION How will we know if we have managed this risk effectively?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfires NT establish a support role in the region and provide consistency to deliver fire management programs to a minimum standard. Landholders, pastoralists in region have current fire management plans, tailored to a range of land use. Stations and properties have enough staff with sufficient knowledge, skills and resources to mitigate against and manage bushfires. Communication and co-operation across boundaries works well. <p>Bushfires NT (Alice Springs) has a full complement of staff to attend to the Barkly region on a regular basis.</p>
DUE DATE When should evaluation occur?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review before every fire season and at start of year Regional Bushfires Committee meeting.

9.2. Regional Training Capacity

HIGH RISK: Limited training of fire ground personnel (Volunteers, land managers, Aboriginal stakeholders) due to lack of staff and lag time between major fire events.	
RISK RATING What level of threat does this risk present?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likelihood that it will occur was considered: ALMOST CERTAIN The outcome of an occurrence was considered: MAJOR This risk was rated: HIGH
CONTROLS IN PLACE NOW How this risk is currently managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical training through Bushfires NT for volunteers and landholders in fire preparedness and response. This involves the following units of competency: Fire Fighter Level 1 accreditation including the units PUAFIR210 Prevent Injury and PAUFIR204 Respond to wildfire. External Training – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUAFIR210 Prevent injury and PUAFIR204 Respond to Wildfire RPL PUAFIR303 Suppress Wildfire
POSSIBLE RISK TREATMENT ACTIONS Additional actions that should be applied to manage this risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage building of relationships between inexperienced landholders and experienced, long-term landholders for mentoring opportunities. Training initiatives continue through BFNT and are accessible to volunteers and land managers within the region.
RISK OWNER Who is responsible for managing the risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfires NT, Landholders, Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
EVALUATION How will we know if we have managed this risk effectively?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land managers are confident in conducting fire management on their property. Training capacity has increased for the region.
DUE DATE When should evaluation occur?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually - Regional Bushfire Management Committee meetings.

10. Controls and Actions to Reduce Risk – BFNT Operational Programs

Bushfires NT operational programs are designed to help reduce risk to life, property and the environment through strategic initiatives, enabling landowners to conduct best practice fire management on their property in a strategic manner. The following strategic programs are conducted with the aim of educating and empowering landowners in achieving their chosen fire management objectives and reducing the risk of wildfire across multiple land tenures.

- **Small and Large Property Fire Management plans (Pastoral & peri-urban scale)**

Property fire management plans are designed to cover off on a variety of fire management parameters for specific landholdings for consideration by the landowner. Fire history, fire frequency, climatic history (rainfall), annual actions and fire management objectives for the property are displayed in a simple one page format, for ease of reference for the landowner. These plans are developed in consultation with the landowner, encouraging accountability and enabling consideration of all aspects to consider when using fire as a management tool.

- **Volunteer Bushfire Brigade prescribed burning programs**

Volunteer Bushfire Brigades reduce risk of wildfire by conducting early dry season fire management through prescribed burning on individual properties, as well as on Vacant Crown Land (VCL) and road corridors within their Brigade Areas. These programs help to decrease the risk of wildfire for entire communities, as well as individual properties which may be susceptible to late dry season wildfire. Brigades assist landowners through the provision of specialist advice, assistance for landowners who need extra help and by conducting wildfire suppression late in the season to protect life, assets and the wider community. Brigade members can have a statutory authority through the provision of powers under the Bushfires Management Act 2016 as Fire Wardens, with some members being given the ability to write burn permits for landowners. All Brigade members who participate in prescribed burns and fire suppression activities are authorised to do so under the Act as Authorised Bushfire Volunteers.

- **Roadside Mitigation Program**

Bushfires NT work alongside the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) to reduce fuel loads and therefore lower the risk of human-enabled ignitions along road corridors. This program is aimed to ensure further protection of urban and peri-urban development, as well as rail corridors and vacant crown land. Often this program compliments strategic preparedness programs conducted by the NT Fire and Rescue Service to reduce wildfire risk across large swathes of land.

- **Compliance and Enforcement**

Bushfires NT has a dedicated Compliance unit who follow up on statutory requirements for landowners under the Bushfires Management Act 2016. This includes property visits, firebreak inspection and enforcement, investigative procedures/ follow up of suspicious fires and education initiatives (Fire Ready Week, vulnerable land holder assistance programs).

- **Aerial Prescribed Burning (APB) Program**

Bushfires NT operational staff work closely with landholders to initiate aerial burning to reduce fuel loads and create a mosaic style of fire scars to reduce the spread of wildfire. This program is also conducted on vacant crown land where landholdings are too large to conduct an on ground prescribed burn and/ or to compliment on ground burning where required.

11. Appendices

11.1. Appendix A - Planning, Review & Reporting

i. Regional Bushfire Management Plan

The Regional Bushfire Management Plan identifies risks that may impede good fire management in the Barkly region and makes provisions for their control.

ii. Individual Property Fire Management Plans

Landowners have the opportunity to approach Bushfires NT to produce a property fire management plan, specifically tailored to their property, land use and topography. Using an integrated approach, these fire management plans aim to provide a step-by-step process in how to manage fire on one's own property, detailing values, aims and objectives for appropriate preparedness and therefore mitigation of risk.

iii. Regional Planning (Bushfire Committee) Meetings

The Barkly Regional Bushfire Committee meets on average twice per year and is in place to ensure guidance, collaboration and the opportunity to allow for a diversity of landholders and stakeholders to meet and discuss fire management throughout the region.

iv. Central Australia Fire Strategy 2022- 2024

The strategy focusses on governance arrangements and actions to establish a mitigation, readiness and response plans for the fire season in Central Australia.

v. Property Fire Management Plans

Property Fire Management Plans focus on developing a fire strategy at a local level for landholders who experience issues with annual late season wildfire, as well as those who wish to take a proactive approach in fire management on their land.

vi. Community Fire Management Plans

Similarly to Property Fire Management Plans, these plans focus on developing a fire strategy at a local level for Aboriginal Communities who experience issues with annual late season wildfire, as well as those who wish to take a proactive approach in fire management on their land.

vii. Wildfire Risk Management Framework

The Wildfire Risk Management Framework is designed to enable fire managers to practice informed decision making when evaluating the risk involved in managing fire on their land. This is another tool to utilise in trying to increase knowledge and awareness for fire managers and landholders, especially when it comes down to determining factors such as fire behaviour, fuel loads, fire weed incursion, weather and topography.

11.2. Appendix B - Fuel Hazard Management

i. Aerial Burning

Aerial burning is the method for large scale fire hazard reduction applied across large tracts of land at a time. It uses rotary wing aircraft to strategically reduce fuel loads and install burnt fire breaks. The great majority of aerial burning is conducted by land managers with small contributions from BFNT. A permit under the Bushfires Management Act (2016) is required to undertake aerial burning at all times.

ii. Roadside Fuel Reduction

Land managers can conduct roadside burning. The objective is to reduce fuel loads in strategic areas to decrease the risk of ignition and the potential for fires to carry across the landscape in the late dry season.

iii. Asset Protection

Land managers conduct asset protection around communities, outstations / homelands and pastoral station assets. The objective is to protect these areas from unmanaged fire and also reduce the potential for fires to carry away from these areas in the late dry season.

iv. Strategic Breaks

Land managers maintain strategic break networks across their properties. This includes firebreaks as directed under the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*.

v. Bushfire Suppression

Fire suppression is a management response to unplanned fires. The range of fire suppression capacity and experience across the Barkly region varies, dependent on the skills and experience of the fire manager. Neighbouring pastoralists are known to work together during wildfire suppression campaigns, in order to reduce the loss of natural pasture, livestock and assets. There is a local volunteer bushfire brigade located in Tennant Creek that may be able to provide limited assistance in fire suppression in the region, though their main focus is in the Fire Protection Zone surrounding Tennant Creek.

11.3. Appendix C - Administration

i. *Bushfires Management Act 2016*

An Act to provide for the protection of life, property and the environment through the mitigation, management and suppression of bushfires, and for related purposes.

ii. Bushfires Council

The function of the Bushfires Council is to advise the Minister on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires in the territory.

The minister must ensure that at least one member of each regional committee is appointed as a member of the Council.

iii. Regional Committee

The function of the Regional Bushfires Committee is:

- to make recommendations to the Bushfires Council on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires in its fire management zone and;
- to endorse a regional bushfire management plan prepared by Bushfires NT for its fire management zone.

Typically, the committee will meet up to four times per year.

11.4 Appendix D - Tools and Resources

NAME	DETAIL	LINK
North Australia Fire Information	Provides information on up to date fire location, fire scar from this year and previous years and summaries of fire histories across the Northern Territory.	NAFI 3
NRM Infonet	NRM InfoNet uses the NAFI base map to generate reports threatened species, weed and pest species lists, fire frequency since 2000 and profiles of climate, vegetation and soils.	Infonet
Bureau of Meteorology	Provides weather data: 4 and 7 day forecasts, fire weather warning, current observations, past weather and outlooks. The dynamic user friendly Meteye provides in depth data in a map format.	BOM
Australian Fire Danger Rating System	National fire danger forecasting tool developed by state, territory and the Commonwealth Government.	AFDRS
Long Paddock	Queensland Primary industries site that monitors pasture biomass, pasture growth over various periods of time, curing index and relative rainfall.	Long Paddock
LandSat and MODIS, Sentinel 2	Websites providing satellite images that are taken on a regular occurrence. The MODIS satellite provides a 250m pixel image daily; LandSat provides 25m pixels image every 14 days; Sentinel 2 provides 15m pixels image every 7 days. This imagery allows us to analyse fire scar in greater detail than NAFI for evaluation purposes. GIS is an essential tool for utilising this information.	NASA Worldview EOSDA
IBRA Assessment	A regular assessment tool for during the fire season to judge fuel loads, mitigation efforts, response capability and previous history to assess whether geographical regions are above average, average or below average fire potential. Feeds into Bushfires and Natural Hazards CRC working Group and the North Australian Fire Managers Forum databases.	IBRA Assessment
NR Maps	NR Maps is a NT Department of Natural Resources and Environment data visualiser for: Bushfires NT, Flora and Fauna, significant biodiversity areas, Parks and Reserves, Vegetation Resources, Land Resources, water inundation, Water Resources, Surface Water Drainage, Land Administration, Topographic Map Index, Mining Titles Register, Geology and Geophysics.	NR Maps
Secure NT	SecureNT brings together social media alerts and warnings from the Northern Territory Government emergency services and agencies. Members of the public can access information to prepare, respond and recover from all types of emergencies.	Secure NT
NT Fire and Rescue Service/ Bushfires NT Incident Map	The Northern Territory Fire Incident Map provides real-time information to the public regarding fire incidents across the Northern Territory.	NT Incident Map
NT Legislation Database	A database for all Northern Territory Legislative Assembly Legislation and Regulations.	Legislation Database

NAME	DETAIL	LINK
Google Earth	Google Earth is a 3D data visualiser which is either web or desktop based. The desktop version has basic mapping functions and can import other data such as hot spots or fire scars from NAFI.	Google Earth
Department of Environment Parks & Water Security	Provides information on Department Divisions including Bushfires NT, Weeds Branch, Rangelands, Flora and Fauna, Parks and Wildlife and Water Resources.	DEPWS Homepage

11.5 Appendix E - DEPWS Risk Register – Definition Tables

Likelihood Criteria

This table is used to estimate the likelihood of the risk occurring. It follows your estimate of the risk's impact on your objective(s) should the risk occur. To use this table, start at the top 'Rare' and ask yourself "how likely is the risk to occur?": using the rating and descriptions to guide your answer. If the answer is "yes"; then ask the same question for the next row down. When the answer is "no" the likelihood is that in the previous row.

NB: It is likely that the 'Time Period' scale will be appropriate in most assessments. However an alternative scale 'Incidence Rate' has been included, particularly for repetitive activities, and/or where the 'Time Period' scale does not provide a reasonable assessment.

Expected occurrence of risk		
Rating	Time Period	Incidence Rate
Rare	Likely to occur only every 20 years or more	< 1:10000
Unlikely	Likely to occur only every 5 – 20 years	1:1000 – 1:10000
Possible	Likely to occur only every 1 – 5 years	1:100 – 1:1000
Likely	Likely to occur at least annually	1:10 – 1:100
Almost Certain	Likely to occur at least monthly	> 1:10

Risk Tolerance Thresholds

Risk assessment also involves evaluating the risk. This is done by comparing the level of risk with the department's risk tolerance (or acceptability) thresholds. Each level of risk places certain obligations on the 'Risk Owner' to prudently manage the risk. The table below sets out the actions required and is designed to ensure that the majority of effort is focused on treating the risks which have the largest potential impact on the achievement of your objective(s).

Level of Risk	Action Required
Low	RISK IS ACCEPTABLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum annual assessment of risks recommended, as low level risks are identified. No specific treatment action required but consideration may be given to streamlining excessive or redundant controls. Manage through routine processes/procedures. Consider the implementation of additional controls, only if they are a clearly quantifiable cost benefit.
Medium	RISK IS TOLERABLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum annual assessment of risk required, as medium level risks are identified. Risk Treatment Plan is optional. Consider the implementation of any practicable controls that are cost effective in reducing the risk and planned within a reasonable timeframe.
High	RISK REQUIRES ATTENTION (UNACCEPTABLE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk assessment data entered into the Risk Register. Risk Treatment Plan developed and implemented within 4 weeks of assessment. Risk treatment actions linked to the appropriate Business Plan to ensure reporting and monitoring and the allocation of resources (e.g. person, time and dollars). Treatment Actions – Status Report on Progress of Risk Treatment Action column updated in the Risk Register at a minimum by the 'Due Date'. Minimum quarterly re-assessment of risk required, or when causes change or treatment actions implemented – controls change. Regular (at least quarterly) ongoing performance monitoring by the Management Team overseeing the Risk Register. Quarterly report to the department's management body responsible for audit and risk management on the management of high and extreme risks - prepared by the department's Audit and Risk Management Secretariat.
Extreme	RISK REQUIRES ATTENTION (UNACCEPTABLE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk assessment data entered into the Risk Register. Risk Treatment Plan developed and implemented within 4 weeks of assessment. Risk treatment actions linked to the appropriate Business Plan to ensure reporting and monitoring and the allocation of resources (e.g. person, time and dollars). Treatment Actions – Status Report on Progress of Risk Treatment Action column updated in the Risk Register at a minimum by the 'Due Date'. Minimum quarterly re-assessment of risk required, or when causes change or treatment actions implemented – controls change. Regular (at least quarterly) ongoing performance monitoring by the Management Team overseeing the Risk Register. Quarterly report to the department's management body responsible for audit and risk management on the management of high and extreme risks - prepared by the department's Audit and Risk Management Secretariat.