

Upper Beaconsfield ‘Our Say’ Feedback Summary

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Overview

The Upper Beaconsfield ‘Our Say’ forum was designed to allow community members to share their ideas in regard to bushfire fuel management. This online forum was open for 1 month from the 17th of February to 17th March 2019. The forum was launched with a drop in stall at the Upper Beaconsfield Festival. 44 Ideas were added to the site on this day.

Forum Data

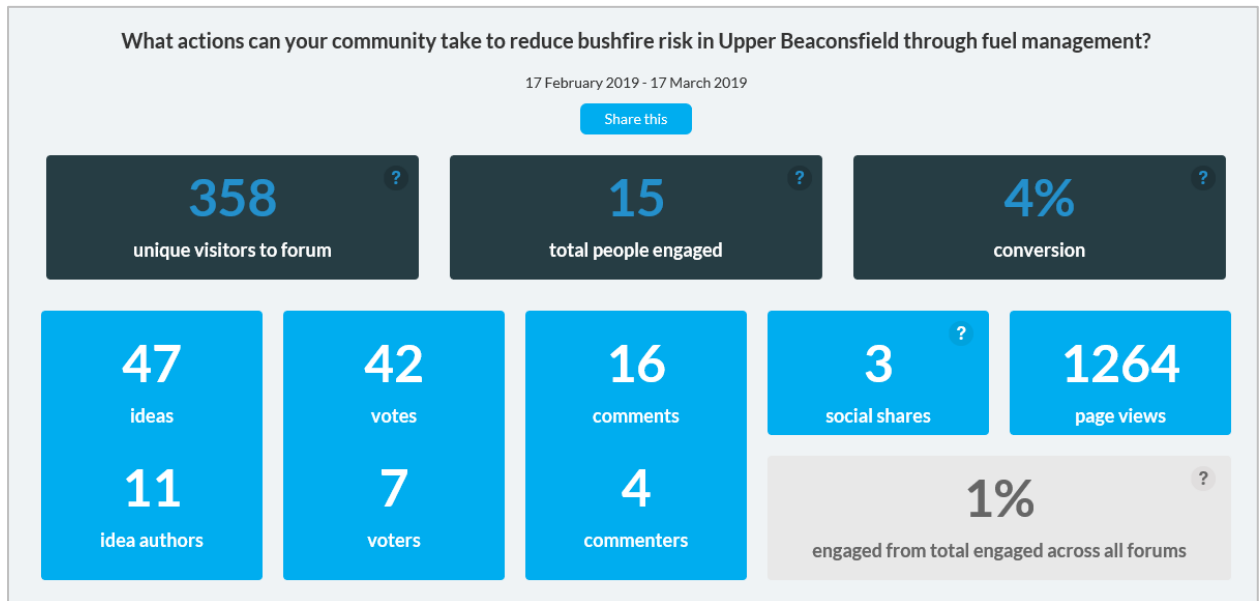


Figure 1 – Forum Statistics

The forum received a large number of interactions. The Upper Beaconsfield and District has an estimated population of 4,589 in 2017 with 3,436 people over 15. An estimated 10% of the population over 15 were reached via this forum.

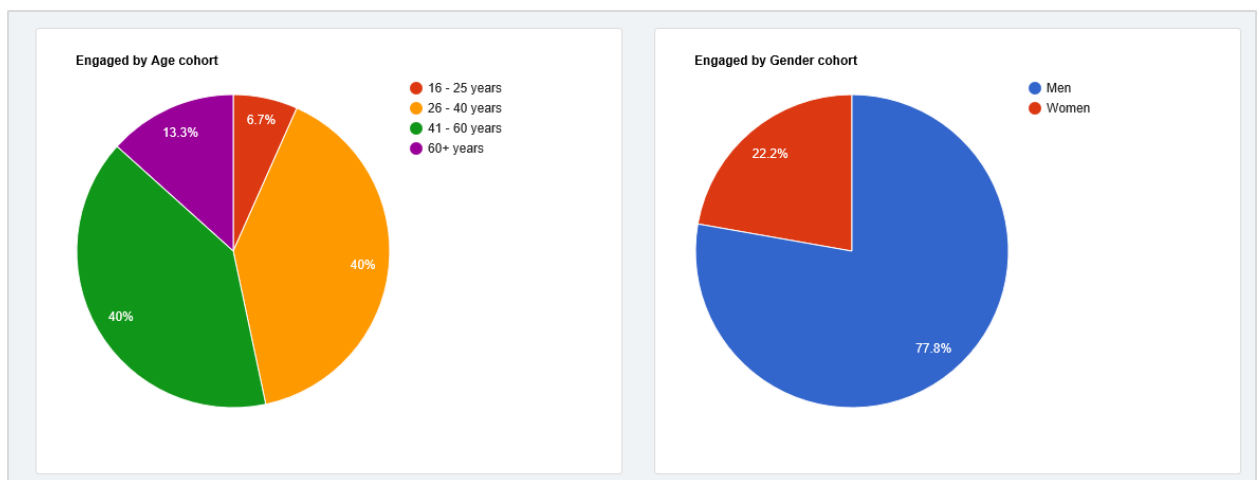


Figure 2 – Demographic Data

The majority of people reached via this forum were between 26 and 60.

Daily visitors per week							
Period	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
16/02/2019 - 17/02/2019	-	-	-	-	-	3	13
18/02/2019 - 24/02/2019	1	6	3	19	19	6	2
25/02/2019 - 03/03/2019	86	10	21	49	21	4	2
04/03/2019 - 10/03/2019	4	20	43	4	4	15	6
15/03/2019 - 17/03/2019	12	15	9	14	4	-	-

Figure 3 – Daily Forum Visitors

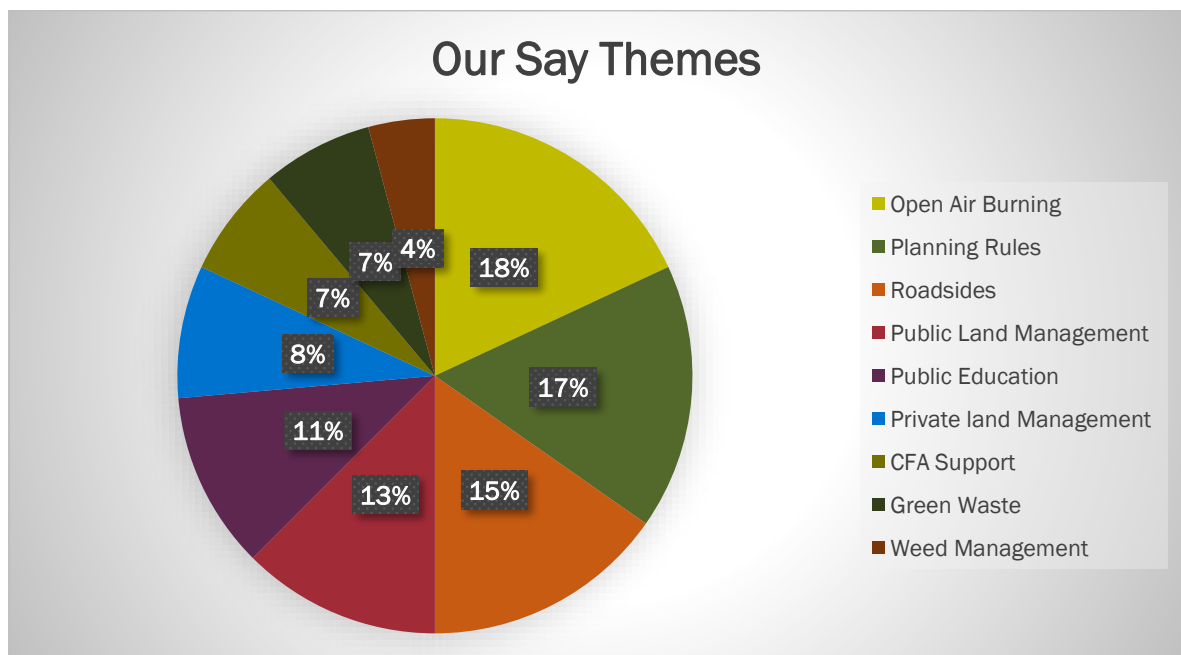
Visitation to the online forum was consistent across the consultation period with significant spikes correlating with advertisement via social media and community project team.

Forum Idea Themes

Ideas and votes from the online forum can be summarised in the following categories.

Theme	Number of Ideas/Votes	Theme	Number of Ideas/Votes
Open Air Burning	13	Private land Management	6
Planning Rules	12	CFA Support	5
Roadsides	11	Green Waste	5
Public Land Management	9	Weed Management	3
Public Education	8		

Table 1 – Idea Themes



Forum Ideas

Please note – The ideas were placed in the following themes to aid their interpretation. This was not completed by the submitter.

Planning Rules (12)	Public Land Management (9)	Private land Management (6)	CFA support – planning (5)
Clarity for private land holders on managing vegetation and the balance between environment and fuel reduction. 4 Votes	More controlled burning 3 Votes	More work on private land. Parks and tracks are managed	New property owners need some point of contact to find out more information on what they can and cannot do: providing a new owners pack would be a great idea. Need to promote local CFA reps in the local area. 3 Votes
More information on planning rules and fuel management implications. 2 votes	Allow resident to collect fallen trees. More controlled burns on public and private land. Greater enforcement on private land for fire breaks. Council to purchase goats to manage fuel on roadside and in reserves.	Fuel management in the scout camp and reservoir is important. Fuel management on private land need to be enforced.	Fuel reduction help from services. We are moving to a larger block and our management knowledge and needs are changing.
More information/clarification in regard to 30/10 Planning laws.	Fire breaks around the perimeter of the beaconsfield nature reserve are only slashed once a year, and more often than not is done towards the end of the season. Needs to be slashed twice a year at a minimum or allow residents who abutt the reserve to manage themselves	Reduce the risk in Brennan Reserve. Allow residents to clear their property.	
New property development: problems building a new house and meeting bushfire management overlay. Potential to work with Green Circle Nursery in planting offsets on the new sites.	Residents move to the area for the natural environment. Community working bees for residents to come together and help one another manage their property. More information on open air burning and the ability to apply for permits. Happy with the management of the scout camp.	Great management of unoccupied blocks and roadside vegetation. Control the weather. Enforcement on residents who don't maintain properties.	
Clarification around weed removal on private land (bush blocks) . Rules for residents	More burns on public and private land with the support of all levels of government. It's been to long since land has been effectively managed. Open air burning period is getting shorter.	More burns on public and private land with the support of all levels of government. It's been to long since land has been effectively managed. Open air burning period is getting shorter.	
People need to take more action on private blocks. Provide information to residents to support this.	Council assistance to help clear debris in Hamilton reserve (Berglund/Yackatoon rd) Until it is cleared it is a hazard to locals.	There are only 2 possible ways to reduce fuel load to limit the impact of inevitable uncontrollable bush fires in our area. One is to slash the undergrowth and the other is to do a cool weather burn-off. Slashing of grasslands is fine, but slashing of native bush destroys all the native species and allows grasses and weeds to thrive. Burning reduces the fuel and regenerates the native plants. The council could also create a fuel reduction plan to designate which areas should be burned, slashed or left alone and follow-up to ensure this is done.	

OAB (13)	Roadsides (11)	Public education (8)	Green Waste (5)	Weed Management (3)
Easier ability to burn off on larger blocks. Greater requirement for people who want to have an environmental block to have a fuel break maintained. 3 votes	Remove excess growth on roadsides 3 votes	Better signage on roads to improve egress. Community doesn't have good exit plans. Information and education is more important than vegetation management. Manage the risk around infrastructure. Planning requirement to include better arrangements for fire prevention including requiring owners to have plans. 2 Votes	More green waste options for residents. 2 votes	Weed management: what can be done to remove evasive weeds on private property?
More flexible open air burning. Ability to burn more regularly if property is greater than 1acre. Greater balance between the environment and fuel reduction. Greater planning controls to reduce inappropriate development and risk to community. 2 votes	Greater clearing of the nature strips and road reserve by resident and clarity on what can be done. 2 Votes	More education for residents about fire risk and what can and should be done.	During the declared fire danger period, provide a central location where residents can dispose of green waste. Most residents on acreage do not have access to a regular green waste collection service and therefore it accumulates on properties during the fire danger period	Would really like more work done along the perimeter of the BNCR. It seems they get to a certain point and fail to get closer to the fence which with the condition of our nature strip in particular could result in major problems. As we have only been here for 1 year and the property was severely neglected prior to us moving here we have and will continue to do all we can. We also have a massive weed tree problem here From the minimal research I have done I believe that is a highly flammable weed. So also any assistance and advice to remove these would be appreciated. There are also a number of them along council nature strip.
More flexible burning off arrangements required. As someone who works every weekday and Saturday mornings it is very difficult to comply with the current restrictions. We need to be able to burn mid week as this is often when my RDO will be. Also I can plan to burn on a gazetted day , only to find that the weather is totally unsuitable- it then could be another month before I have a chance to burn again 2 Votes	Great fuel management on the nature strip and road reserve especially Payne road.	More management of roadside vegetation. Allow resident to clear up the growth. Great education to new residents about risk.	Could we please have a second green waste bin subsidised by the council. This would help reduce some of the fuel load on properties during fire restrictions.	Fuel disposal area required in townships to allow drop off of fuel during the Fire Ban Period. Pakenham Transit Waste Station is too far requiring greater than one hour round trip which residents don't have time for, especially when they have numerous trailer loads to deal with.
Allow residents on larger properties (not just >20ha) to burn off on more than just Saturday, Monday, Friday. I work full time and this effectively means I only have one day a week I can attempt to reduce the fuel in the 4 acres of native bush land on my block.	More management of roadside vegetation. Allow resident to clear up the growth. Great education to new residents about risk.	Improve awareness of residents, land managers and agencies on assessing bushfire risk through a series of actions including education, demonstrations and social events. Define the difference between fuel management and vegetation management and resource the two strategies appropriately to ensure outcomes do actually reduce risk rather than increase it. Improve the level of expertise within agencies on the various options available when mitigating risk and to further improve decisions through an evidence based approach rather than opinions and assumptions. Engage the community in effective decision making rather than just informing.		
More information about open air burning permits	Clearing of naturestrips/tidying of trees for access around school and stoney creek rd	More residential fuel reduction around homes. Information for new residents in regard to cleaning up around their houses.		
Residents move to the area for the natural environment. Community working bees for residents to come together and help one another manage their property. More information on open air burning and the ability to apply for permits. Happy with the management of the scout camp.	Cut branches off Split Rock road and keep it neat. Too much overgrowth	clearing roadside areas more often or a schedule saying when they are being cleared. The area on corner of Split rock rd and sailsbury is out of control. More education around what trees are good around fire areas. Greater ability to get rid of gum leaves the green waste bin is not enough in fire restriction time		