

Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire Fuel Management Information Day Feedback Summary

Prepared by Stewart Matulis
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Overview

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Fuel Management Information Day was held on Sunday 31st March at the Upper Beaconsfield Community House.

This event aimed to provide residents and project members with expert information in regard to fuel management strategies, the bushfire risk of Upper Beaconsfield and the effect fuel management could have on these risks. The day was well attended with 37 community members taking part.

Presentations

- Phoenix Fire Modelling for Upper Beaconsfield – Michael Storey, Risk Analyst DELWP
- CFA Support for Private Landowners – Jude Kennedy, Manager Community Safety CFA
- Bushfire Fuel Management Guide – Theo Pykoulas and Veronica Foster EMV
- Roadside Management – Cardinia Shire Council

Activity 1 - Upper Beaconsfield Fuel Management Project Actions

Residents in small groups (2 to 4 people) were asked to prioritise 14 actions in regard to fuel management in Upper Beaconsfield. 1 = most preferred 14 = least preferred. A space was also given for residents to suggest other ideas. 13 groups took part in the activity.

Action	Total Score/Rating
Increased community fireguard groups	59
Develop or promote process for fuel reduction burns on private land	69
Residential fuel management planning – CFA facilitated visits.	72
Create and action an advocacy plan for proposed changes to OAB local laws	74
Identify areas of private land appropriate for fuel reduction burns.	80
Community property preparedness day	81
Residential Fuel management planning – use of existing CFA Resources	89
Develop process for roadside burning	90
10/30 rule information sessions	95
Removal of weed species and replacement with native alternatives on private property	94
Use of the EMV Bushfire Fuel Management Guide to create land zoning	96
Create and action an advocacy plan for suggested green waste options.	101
Street working groups to remove weed species from road reserves	109
Create/reinvigorate community 'friends' groups for public reserves to support removal of weed species and replacement with native alternatives	113

Other suggested actions

- Box clearing for roads.
- More information sessions.
- Community member or independent chair for fuel management committee.

Activity 2 - Upper Beaconsfield Fuel Management Day Outcomes Feedback

Part 1

This activity consisted of two parts. The first was a pre and post bullseye activity. Residents were asked to rate the following questions on 2 charts;

- How prepared is the community for bushfire?
- Your understanding of the bushfire risk in Upper Beaconsfield

Pre Session

Question	Score - (0) Very High (4) Low	Number of Votes	Total Score
Understanding of risk	1.7	22	38
Perception of community preparedness	2.8	21	59

Post Session

Question	Score - (0) Very High (4) Low	Number of Votes	Total Score
Understanding of risk	1.7	26	46
Perception of community preparedness	3.3	23	75

Residents felt their understanding of the risk was the same after the information day. This is probably due to the fact the residents already had a high level of knowledge before the event. A score of 1.7 would place their knowledge in the high range.

However residents after information day did feel that their community was less prepared for bushfire. This points to the residents believing more could be done at a community level to reduce risk. A score of 3.3 places the perceived community preparedness level as low.

Part 2

The second activity asked residents to identify what they took from the day. This was in the following areas;

- I learnt something new
- I spread some of my own knowledge
- I expanded my community network
- I feel better prepared for the future

Outcome	Total Number of People	Percentage of Attendees
I learnt something new	30	81%
I spread some of my own knowledge	18	49%
I expanded my community network	22	59%
I feel better prepared for the future	24	65%

From the data received, the community information day can be considered a successful in these outcome areas.