

Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire Fuel Management Project

Project Aims

With funding from the Victorian Government Safer Together Program, The Cardinia Shire Council worked with the community of Upper Beaconsfield to:

- Identify ways to improve fuel management in Upper Beaconsfield with the intention to reduce the incidence and impact of fire.
- Ascertain their priorities for fuel management in Upper Beaconsfield.
- Develop strategies to achieve fuel management priorities that will be sustainable.



Project Outcomes

Improved community capacity

- Development of a Community Fuel Management Committee made up of representatives of 12 community groups and 4 agency representatives
- Provision of community engagement training for four community committee members.

Improved knowledge of community risk

A Community Fuel Management Information Day was held for Upper Beaconsfield. This event provided residents and project members with expert information concerning fuel management strategies, 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.

- 81% of the attendees felt their knowledge of bushfire risk and fuel management had been improved.
- 65% of the attendees felt better prepared for the future in regard to bushfire risk and fuel management.



Greater understanding of community views and priorities

In-depth engagement took place with the community to ascertain their priorities for Upper Beaconsfield.

- 15 community groups were surveyed.
- 47 resident ideas were collected at a drop in stall and as part of an online forum created for the project.
- 358 residents engaged with the online forum.

Community fuel management actions developed

Using the feedback and ideas collected via the community engagement process and Information Day the Community Fuel Management Committee, selected three priorities to be developed to into community action strategies.

- **Promotion of Community Fireguard** - This action aims to support existing groups whilst supporting the creation of new groups throughout Upper Beaconsfield. A resource package will be created to support new groups and an advertisement campaign will be conducted to encourage residents to take part.
- **Open Air Burning Advocacy** - This action aims to support community in removing fuel on private property via open air burning. Outcomes of this action include an advocacy document to Council as well as a fridge magnet promoting safe best practice open air burning by residents.
- **Fuel Management Zoning** - Based on the experience of Monbulk, a community working group has been established with the aim of creating fuel management zones in Upper Beaconsfield using the Bushfire Fuel Management Guide.

Project Team and Methodology

Bob Taylor Recreation Reserve Committee	Adrian Hall UB Community House	Stewart Matulis Cardinia Shire Council
Pam Goode and Bev Sinclair Brennan Ave Fireguard	Ian Pinney UB Country Fire Authority	Dean Binstead Parks Victoria
Malcom Graham UB Festival Committee	Eric Bumpstead and Cam Roche UBA Resilience	Gareth George Country Fire Authority
Harry Jensen Hugdenson Rd Fireguard	Paul Higgott - Friends of BNCR	Veronica Foster Emergency Management Victoria
Geoff Lockwood Cardinia Environment Coalition	Michael Hill UBA Conservation	
Caroline Spencer Upper Beaconsfield Association	Glen Brooks-McMillan Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	

