

What you need to know about fire management on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island)

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority is partnering with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) to develop township bushfire management plans for Minjerribah.

The bushfire management plans will complement the fire management strategy prepared for Naree Budjong Djara (Our Mother Earth) National Park. The plans will focus on the management of fire in areas outside the national park that adjoin the three townships of Mooloomba (Point Lookout), Goompi (Dunwich) and One Mile, and Pulan Pulan (Amity Point).

The shared objectives of the bushfire management plans are to:

1. Improve community safety and protect life and property
2. Realise the aspirations of the Quandamooka People
3. Protect and maintain natural and cultural heritage and cultural landscape values.

Fire and Minjerribah

Fire has always been part of Minjerribah. The distribution and structure of the island's vegetation has been influenced by the history, scale, regularity and intensity of planned burning and wildfire.

In recent decades large and intense wildfires have had a major influence on the structure of the island's vegetation. Changes in vegetation structure due to high intensity wildfire have included a decline in native grass cover, increase in the dominance of shrubs, tree canopy decline and mortality of many very old large trees including cypress pines and hollow bearing eucalypts.

The decline in native grass cover makes planned low-intensity burning under moist conditions difficult to implement. Burning areas with high shrub abundance under drier conditions can increase fire intensity and scorch height, cause further damage to grasses and tree crowns and inadvertently burn down hollow bearing trees.

Minjerribah has several examples of remnant cultural landscapes that have survived the impacts of wildfire. These remnant cultural landscapes include areas of forest with very old, large cypress and eucalypt trees in an open structure that coexist with sites rich in Aboriginal cultural resources and evidence of occupation. The presence and persistence of these areas and age of older trees indicates the long-term traditional practice of planned regular low intensity burning by Quandamooka People over many hundreds of years.



Striking fire to ground (Jarlo Jargu Boma)

Fire Ecologists and Traditional Owners are working together to develop the bushfire management plans for Mooloomba, Goompi and One Mile, and Pulan Pulan.

The bushfire management plans will apply fire management concepts based on contemporary and traditional knowledge to achieve the shared objectives. A key concept to be applied will be the reinstatement of planned regular low intensity burning around the townships by Quandamooka People.

Within Naree Budjong Djara (Our Mother Earth) National Park, QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service are working together to undertake preparatory works and reinstate planned regular low-intensity burning to protect and maintain remnant cultural landscapes.

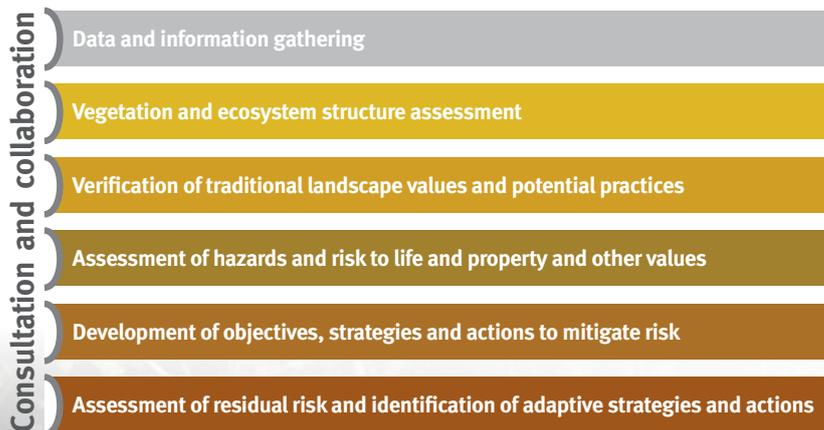
Best management practices being established in Naree Budjong Djara National Park can be applied to improving community safety around the townships.

Development of the bushfire management plans

The bushfire management plans will provide risk mitigation, planned burning, hazard reduction and wildfire suppression strategies for lands adjoining Point Lookout, Dunwich and One Mile, and Amity.

The plans will complement the fire management strategy for Naree Budjong Djara (Our Mother Earth) National Park, which aims to greatly reduce the risk of an island-wide wildfire.

The bushfire management plans will be prepared from late 2017 to early 2018 in the following phases.



Stakeholder collaboration

This approach to making Minjerribah more resilient to wildfire is ground-breaking. For this initiative to be successful, engagement with the community and other stakeholders is crucial.

Responsibility for implementation of the hazard and risk mitigation actions identified in the bushfire management plans will be shared by the Queensland Government, Redland City Council, QYAC and other land owners.

The Quandamooka Aboriginal Land and Sea Management Agency (QALSMA) is the unit within QYAC responsible for the planning, management and protection of the Quandamooka Estate. QALSMA works in collaboration with local, state and federal agencies to implement a range of natural and cultural resource management programs including fire management.



This project is a partnership between the Queensland Government and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation.

Find out more



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Visit the project website
www.qldra.org.au