

Bushfire Management Plan – Queensland College of Wine Tourism



University of
Southern
Queensland

1 Scope

The purpose of this Bushfire Management Plan is to ensure risk to persons and facilities due to bushfire is minimised as much as possible.

The plan is subordinate to the Emergency Procedures Manual and applies to all staff, students and contractors attending Queensland College of Wine Tourism (QCWT).

2 Site Information

The Queensland College of Wine Tourism is a joint venture between the University of Southern Queensland and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. It is located in Stanthorpe, approximately 136km south of the Toowoomba Campus.

QCWT is located on a 17.0Ha site on the corner of New England Highway and Caves Road (Figure 1 - Lot 230 on SP173926). A significant number of trees and vegetation exists immediately to the West of the site and presents the most significant bushfire threat to the site.

A local Fire and Rescue service operates from Stanthorpe, however response capacity is likely to be limited during significant or widespread fire events or other emergencies.

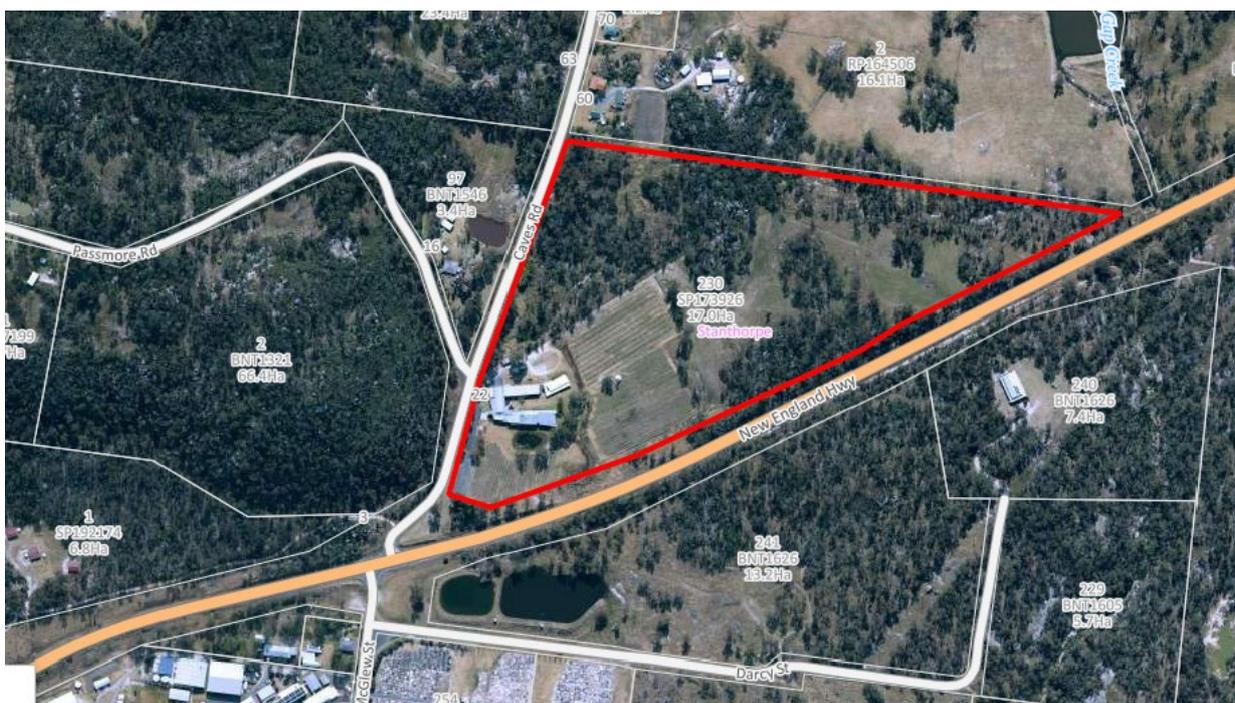


Figure 1 - Lot 230 on SP173926

3 Procedures

3.1 Smoke Free Site

In accordance with the University's Smoke-Free Procedure, smoking is not permitted at QCWT.

3.2 Risk

A Safety Risk Assessment has been completed on the site which notes the residual risk of harm as a result bushfire as **medium**. This is due to its proximity to an area that could be at risk of a dangerous fire.

There is a risk to life, property and the environment should a bushfire break out in the vicinity of the site. Bushfires are dynamic and conditions can change very quickly.

3.3 Controls

Controls for the risk include site maintenance and management. The major control will be **closure of the site** if it is the subject of a QFES bushfire warning of "Watch & Act", or "Emergency Warning". Since this is a site with staff members present, the most senior staff member on-site at any given time will assume the role of leading and overseeing the site closure.

Extra vigilance is required during bushfire season or if Fire Danger Ratings are at "Extreme", or greater to ensure fire fuel load is minimised and/or stored appropriately and that active monitoring and planning is being undertaken.

Site users should be aware of and be familiar with the Approaching Fire Procedure (Schedule 1 attached) to ensure appropriate steps are undertaken to minimise fire risk and damage.

A safety risk assessment that addresses bushfire risk and controls should be undertaken annually (prior to the bushfire season).

Elements to consider when undertaking the risk assessment:

- Evaluate the bushfire risk and warning in the area, considering factors like long range weather forecasts, fuel load, and historical fire data. Continue to monitor the risk.
- Identify the types and extent of potential fire hazards within and around the facility.
- Monitor local weather conditions and bushfire alerts and establish a system for receiving warnings from local authorities.
- Fire briefing for visitors on arrival at the site (based on this Plan).
- Smoking on the facility grounds is prohibited and should not occur in its proximity.

Other Controls

Emergency Contact Information

An up-to-date list of relevant emergency contact numbers for local fire services, law enforcement, and medical services will be available on site. Emergency evacuation routes and assembly point signage will be displayed on site.

Fire Weather Information

Queensland Fire Danger Ratings (*Figure 2 - Fire Danger Ratings*) are published on the Bureau of Meteorology website and can be accessed at <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/forecasts/fire-danger-ratings.shtml>.

QCWT is located within the **Darling Downs and Granite Belt** weather district.

Fire Danger Rating	Site Specific Action
Moderate	Active monitoring
High	Active monitoring
Extreme	Extra vigilance, reduce fire fuel load if safe to do so
Catastrophic	Extra vigilance, reduce fire fuel load if safe to do so

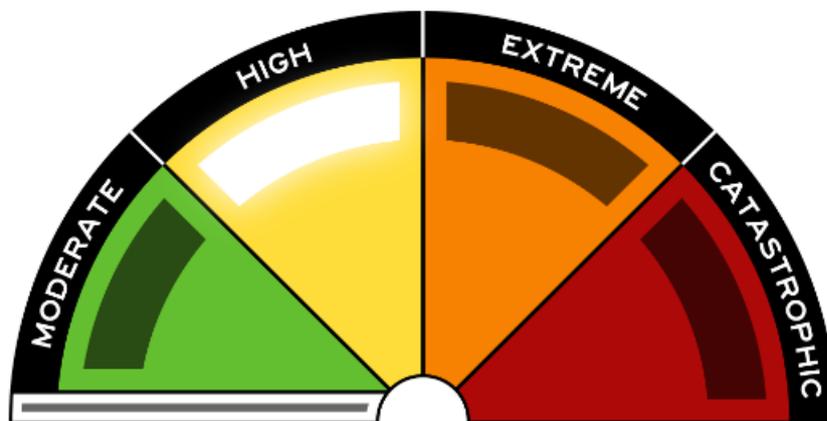


Figure 2 - Fire Danger Ratings

Bushfire Warnings

All site users should be familiar with the official Bushfire Warning system (*Figure 3 - Bushfire Warning System*). When there's a bushfire in the area, it's up to all users to take notice, stay informed, make decisions and act. Current bushfire warnings and incidents can be found at <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/Current-Incidents>.

Bushfire Season

Typically, in Southern Queensland, the bushfire season begins in spring, lasting through until end of summer (September – February). However, from time to time the season may be extended, with bushfire threats existing either earlier or later in the season.



Figure 3 - Bushfire Warning System

3.4 Site Management

Firebreaks and vegetation on site will be maintained to reduce fuel load.

Firefighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, will be available on site and be maintained by Facilities Management. Staff, students and contractors are not to fight bushfires unless evacuation from the facility is impossible or they have appropriate training, the fire is small and is safely and easily contained and they are not alone.

Staff/students are not to stay in the area to preserve equipment and or facilities if there is a fire.

4 Emergency Plan Information

Responsible Officer	Director (Estate Services)
Accountable Officer	Executive Director (Facilities Management)
Subordinate Schedules	Schedule 1 - QCWT Approaching Fire Procedure
Effective Date	01/08/2024
Review Date	12-months from Effective Date