



Shire of Mundaring

Regional Planning and Bush Fires

2002 Fire in South-Western Australian Ecosystems: Impacts and Management

April 2002

Prepared by:

Mick McCarthy

**Executive Manager Environmental Services
Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council**

Bruce Telfer

**Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Shire of Mundaring**



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Existing System

- **Shire of Mundaring has a wide range of land uses**
- **Fire planning is approached from both a Regional perspective and on an individual property basis**
- **Regional approach adopted for:**
 - **education**
 - **community liaison**
 - **application of standards and regulations**



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Difficulties of Regional Fire Planning

- Multiplicity of land managers, ranging from residential properties to government agencies
- Varying objectives and available resources of land managers
- Different forecasting districts within the Shire



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Role of the Shire

- **Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**
 - Coordination of the VBFB
 - Preparation and distribution of information
 - Community liaison and education
 - Advice on subdivisions



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Fire and Subdivisions

- **Comment early in the subdivision process**
- **Multidiscipline team approach**
- **Strata developments through to major subdivisions**
- **Education and understanding of fire management throughout the team**
- **Balancing issues of fire management with bushland protection through a consultative process**



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Specific subdivision issues

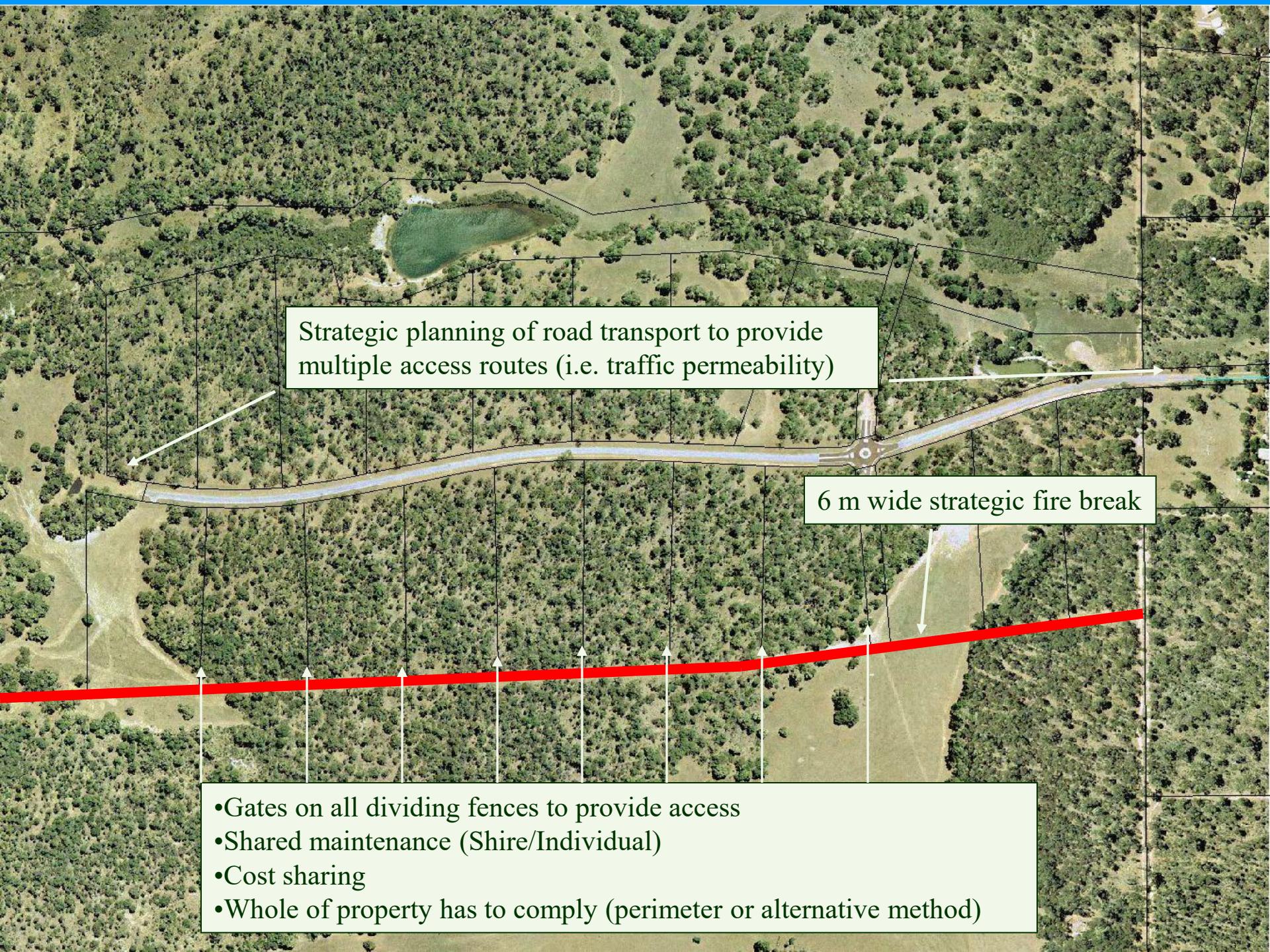
- **Strategic firebreaks on large subdivisions**
 - located in discussion with developer
 - integrated in the design of the development
 - management responsibilities determined
- **Property specific fire control measures still required**
- **Requirements placed on as conditions of development**



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Specific subdivision issues (cont'd)

- **Access in and out of development**
- **Fuel loads**
- **Strategic placement of building envelopes**
- **Access to water supply**
- **Fire breaks and fire access tracks**



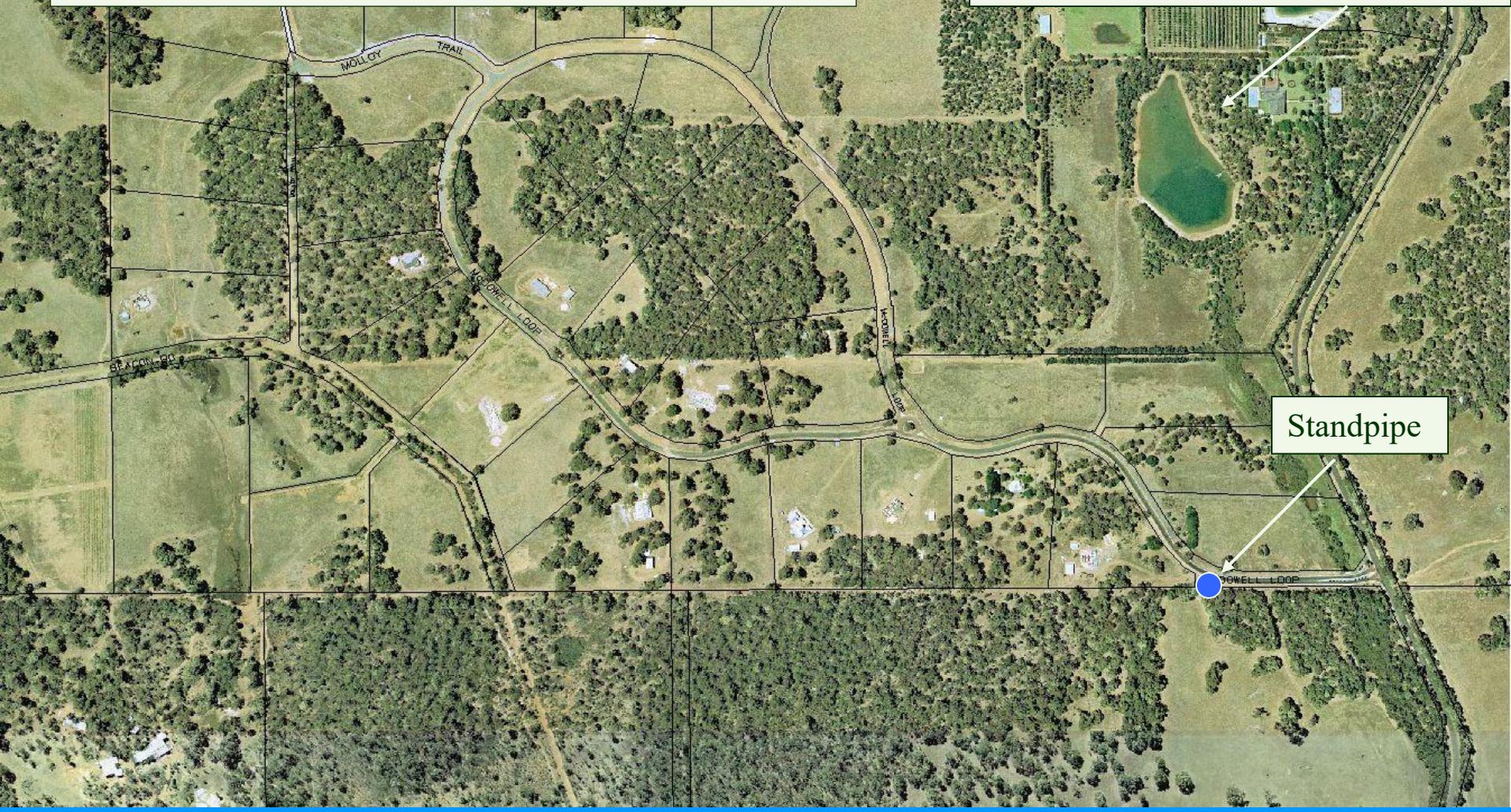
Strategic planning of road transport to provide multiple access routes (i.e. traffic permeability)

6 m wide strategic fire break

- Gates on all dividing fences to provide access
- Shared maintenance (Shire/Individual)
- Cost sharing
- Whole of property has to comply (perimeter or alternative method)

Self reliant management – low risk
Argument – building block approach to fire preparedness

Subsequent to subdivision approval
dams such as this would have a hard
stand and access via caveats





Regional Planning and Bushfires

Property Specific Controls

- **Critical aspect of fire preparedness**
- **Each land manager must be responsible**
- **Control measures can be customised to the individual property**
- **Costs are borne by all landowners**
- **Minimises the risk to whole of community**



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Fire Management and Bushland Protection

- Balance vegetation protection against fire control
- Legislative measures take priority
- Vegetation protected through:
 - firebreaks installed around significant vegetation
 - minimise size of building envelopes
 - locate access-ways appropriately
 - clear around buildings not whole building envelope



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Education, Liaison & Co-ordination

- **Most effective at a regional level**
- **Coordination of VBFB and links with FESA**
- **Sharing of resources and information**
- **Shire produces a range of educational material**
- **Summer 2002/03 - no burning of garden refuse during prohibited season**



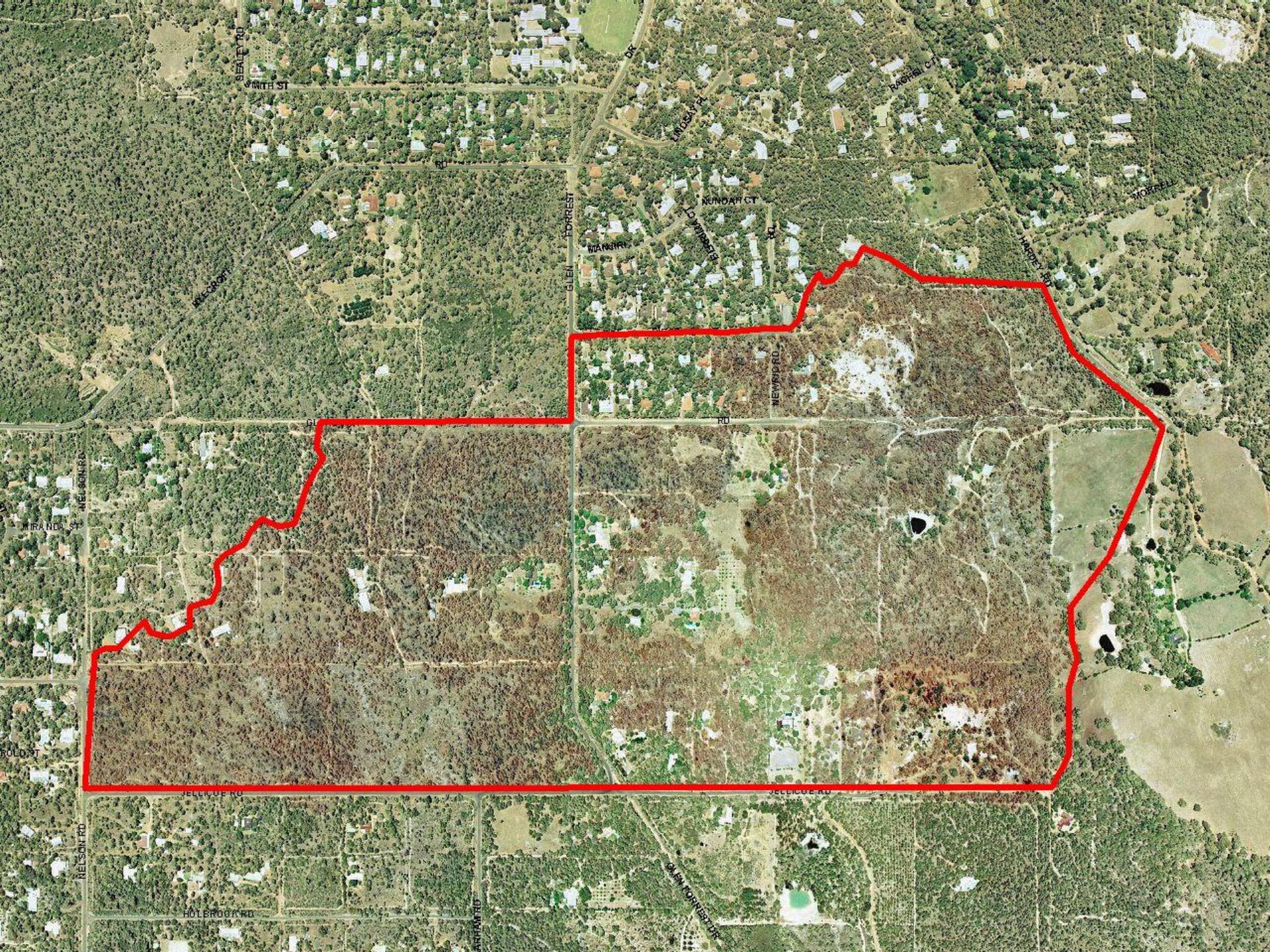
Regional Planning and Bushfires

Second Speaker

Bruce Telfer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer







Regional Planning and Bushfires

Firebreak Alternatives - Residential

- **Properties of less than 3000m²**
- **Substantially cleared**
- **Contain a dwelling**
- **Maintain grass on property at 5cm or less in lieu of firebreak**

TO ALL MUNDARING SHIRE
RATEPAYERS AND HOUSEHOLDERS
2001/2002

FIREBREAK NOTICE

FAILURE
TO MAINTAIN
A 3 METRE
FIREBREAK AS PER
FIREBREAK ORDER
WILL RESULT
IN A
\$100 PENALTY



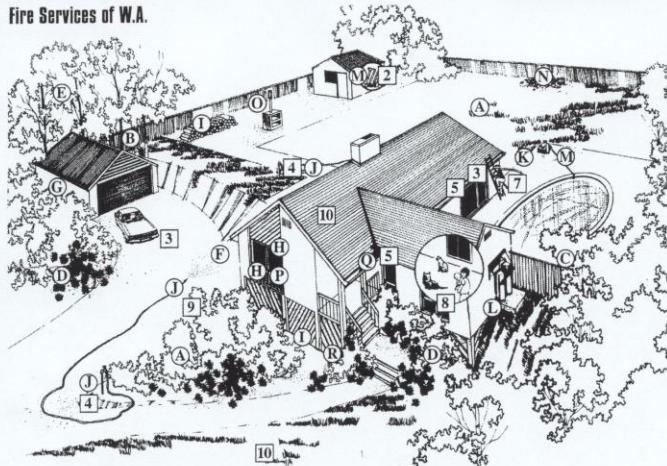
YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES
AND FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION INSIDE



Regional Planning and Bushfires

BUSH FIRE - are you prepared?

Fire Services of W.A.



Long term fire precautions

Have a plan.

If possible, create a 20 metre 'fuel free' zone around your property.

'Spark proof' your house.

- A. Reduce fuel by proper landscaping.
- B. Use smooth-barked trees and prune lower branches.
- C. Clear overhanging trees and shrubs from close to house.
- D. Plant low-flammability shrubs.
- E. Plant a wind-break.
- F. Enclose all eaves.
- G. Fill ends of corrugated roofing.
- H. Fit wire screens to doors, windows, roof vents.
- I. Enclose under-floor space; shift woodpile away from house.
- J. Install taps at strategic places, with long hoses.
- K. Have a stand-by water pump.
- L. Ensure LPG safety valves face away from building.

Pre-summer checklist

Check firefighting equipment (including standby pump).

N. Clear fences of rubbish and undergrowth.

- O. Check spark arrester on incinerator.
- P. Check all screens: doors, windows, roof vents.
- Q. Ensure roof is in good condition and gutters and gutters are cleared of leaves and rubbish.
- R. See that under-floor area is fully protected.

Dial 000 if a bush fire approaches.

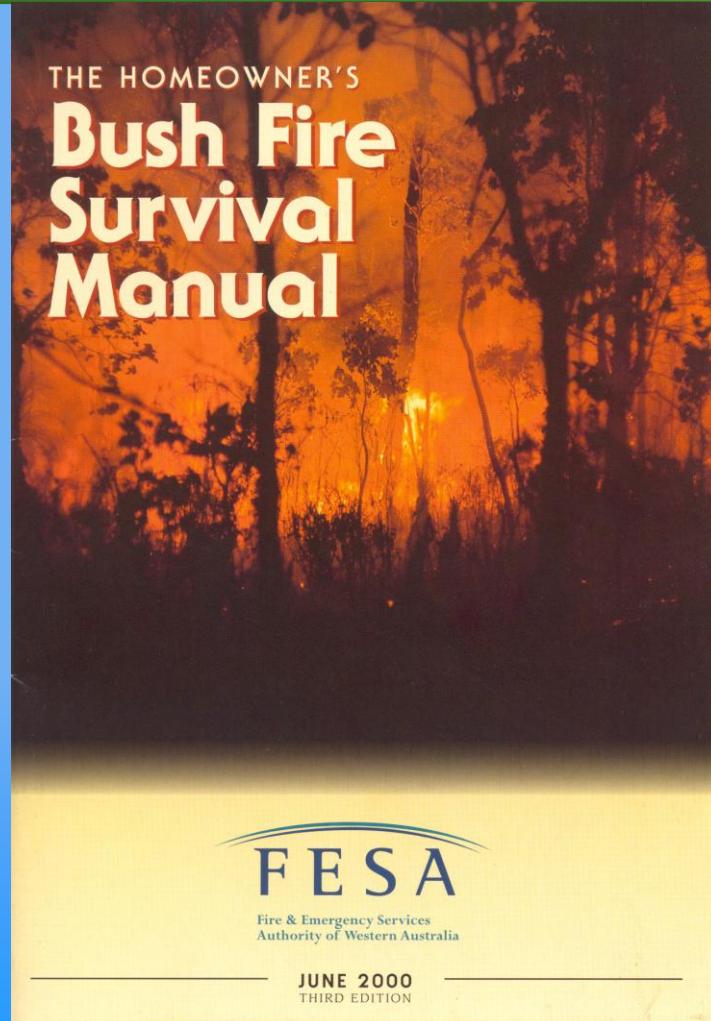
Hang this poster in a prominent place in your home or garage.

When a bush fire approaches

- 1. Dial 000.
- 2. Fill knapsack sprays and buckets; assemble firefighting equipment.
- 3. Place ladder and hose to protect roof; take car out of garage.
- 4. Attach hoses to taps; check standby pump.
- 5. Clear gutters of rubbish; fill with water.
- 6. Call roll; check children at school.
- 7. Dress in protective clothing.
- 8. Keep small children, nervous people and pets inside; responsible older children could help in some way.
- 9. Wet down house and nearby shrubbery; refill gutters.
- 10. Watch lawn and roof for small fires.
- 11. Follow fire officer's instructions.
- 12. Watch for heat stress.



Regional Planning and Bushfires





Regional Planning and Bushfires

Alternative Firebreaks

- Controlled burning
- Appropriate chemical treatment
- Grazing
- Physical material removal (maintained)
- Use of natural features
- Discrete zoning of vegetation
- Irrigation systems



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Compliance

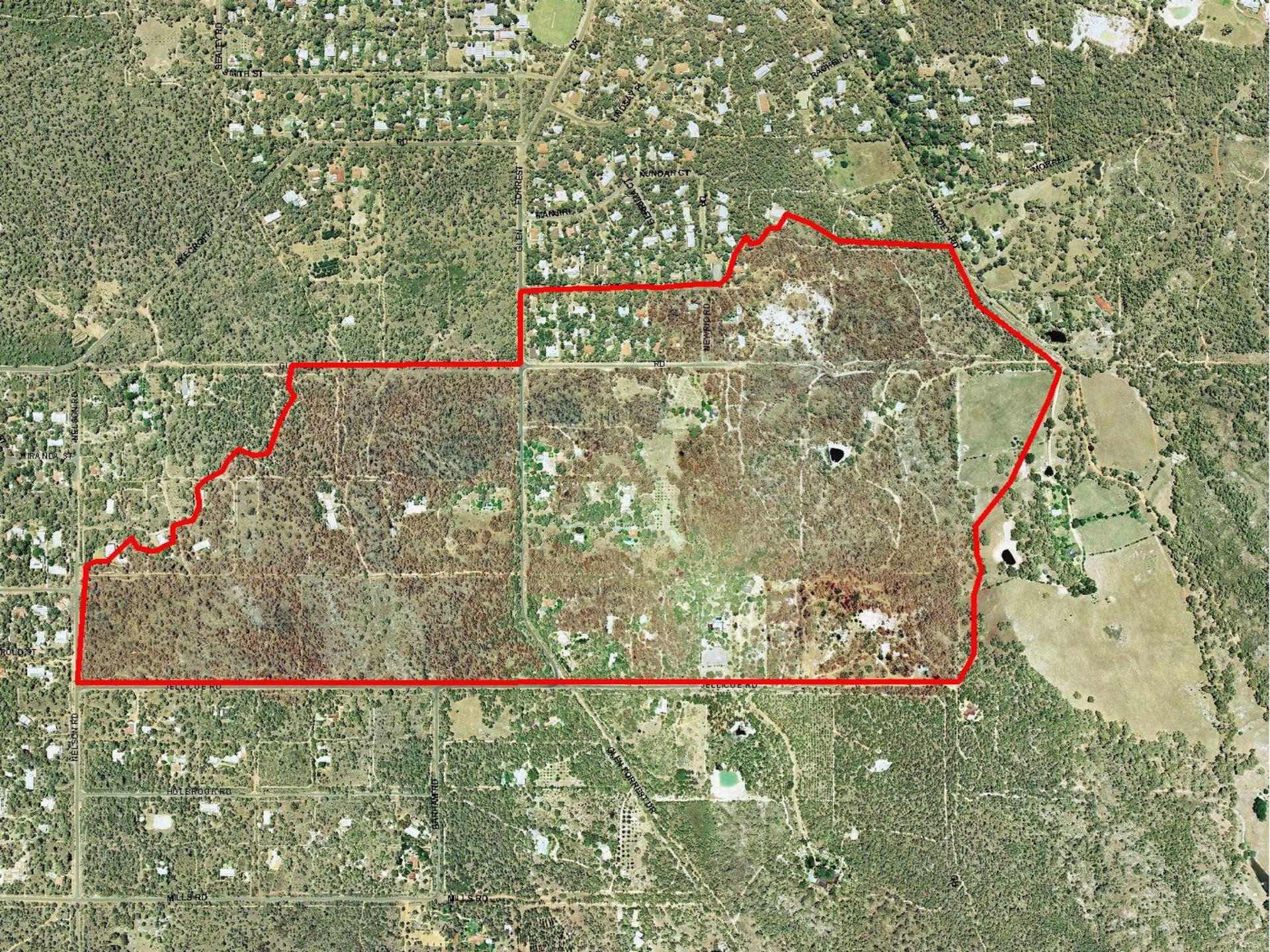
- **Approximately 13,500 rated properties in Mundaring**
- **Inspections (1st December 2001 to 8th March 2002)**
- **4033 properties inspected**
- **259 re-inspected**
- **174 ten day warning letters**
- **70 infringements**

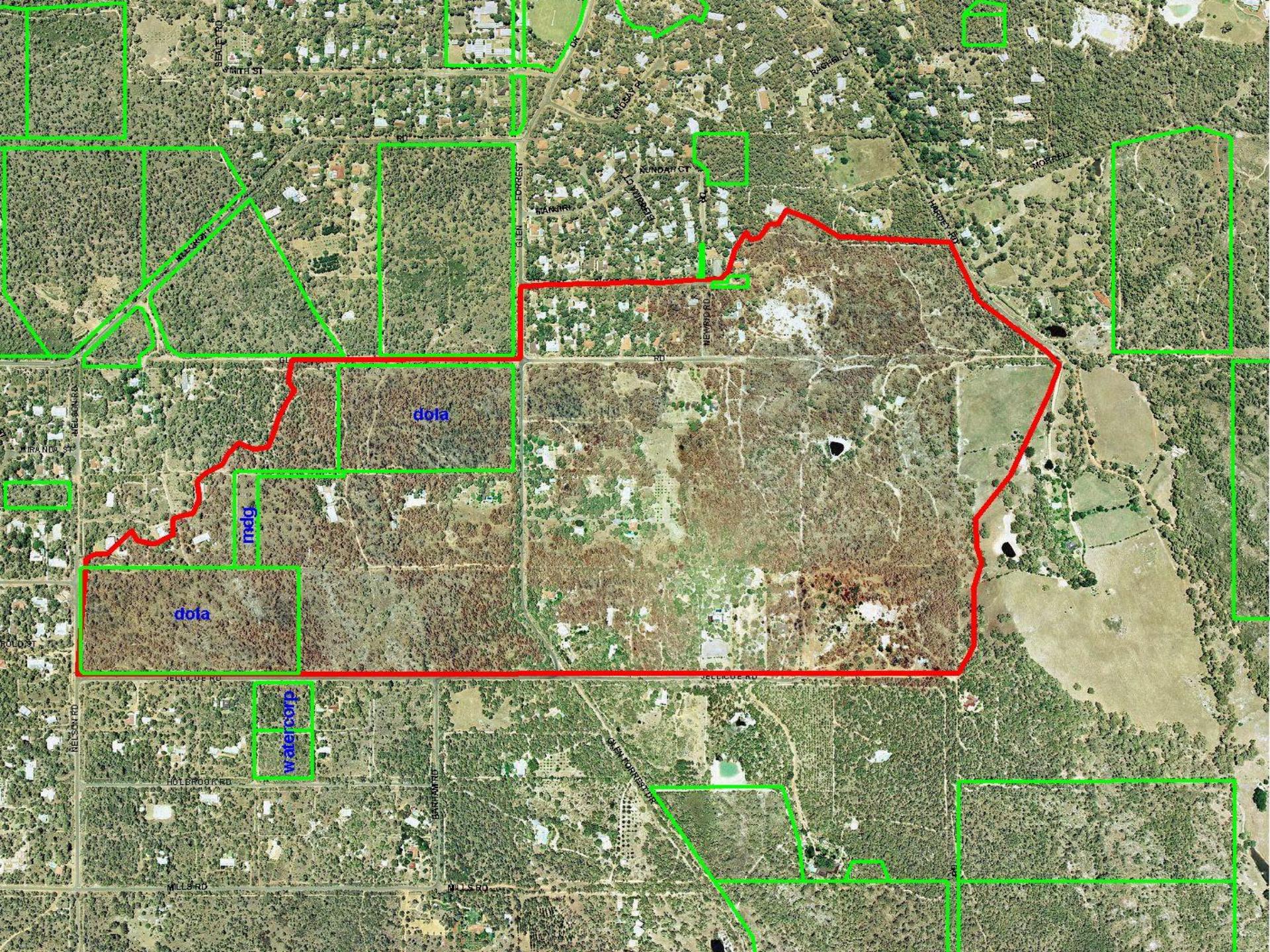




10 21 21

Lot 19
Bailup







Regional Planning and Bushfires

Rural/Urban Bushfire Threat Analysis

- For areas containing bush and communities
- Analyse hazards, risks and values to determine threat
- Community is a significant part of the process
- Weighting given to components
- Score out of 300



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Conclusions

- **The Shire is a diverse locality**
- **Regional fire planning is most suited to liaison, education, coordination and training**
- **Importance of placing appropriate conditions on subdivisions during planning stages**



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Conclusions (cont'd)

- **Fire preparedness is critical at the individual landholder level**
- **Strategic firebreaks are only part of the solution and should not be relied upon**
- **Mundaring is using areas previously burnt to create low hazard areas to reduce future threat**



Regional Planning and Bushfires

Conclusions (cont'd)

- **Low hazard areas used as “safe zones”**
- **Seek a balance between fire control and bush preservation**
- **Continue to work with the community**