

Planning for fire management in a near-urban national park

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Abstract

John Forrest National Park is located on the edge of the Darling Scarp 25 km from Perth. It is almost totally surrounded by residential areas. The major objective in planning for fire management is to protect life and property without compromising environmental and ecological values.

The fire plan proposed in the draft management plan for John Forrest National Park (Plan A on poster) was amended after considering submissions that indicated the draft proposal did not provide sufficient protection for the community from wildfire. A series of alternative suggestions was submitted during the public review process (Plans B, C and D on poster). A revised fire plan (Plan E) was developed, taking into consideration these options, in consultation with people who contributed submissions to the draft plan for the Park.

The fire management plan aims to provide the greatest diversity possible within the constraints of protection of life and property. Fuel Reduction areas will be reviewed annually in the light of additional scientific knowledge, and the effect of unplanned fires to determine whether or not they should be burned for ecological or protection purposes.