



City of  
**Greater Geraldton**  
a vibrant future



## LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

# BUSH FIRE

**Approved by LEMC meeting: 3/2012**

**Date of Approval: Sept 2012**

**Review Date: Sept 2019**

## FOWARD

The City of Greater Geraldton (CGG) was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 out of the amalgamation of the City of Geraldton-Greenough with the Shire of Mullewa.

The City of Greater Geraldton (CGG) local government area covers 9,926km<sup>2</sup> located approximately 450kms north of Perth. It is bound by the shires of Irwin and Mingenew to the south, Yalgoo to the east, and Chapman Valley to the north.

The CGG incorporates the town sites of Geraldton, a major regional centre and Mullewa, a rural town centre servicing farming and pastoral communities.

CGG population is estimated at around 40,000 residents supported by a diverse and thriving economy with a high growth rate, with sufficient critical mass for established health and education facilities and services as well as social and recreational amenities. Geraldton is a multi-modal transport hub for the region located on the North West Coastal Hwy approximately 450kms from Perth and the most northern limit of the state's rail system. Geraldton has an established port which in addition to mineral exports is also the largest wheat export port in WA. Geraldton is also serviced by the regional airport that is serviced by Skywest and QANTAS.

Geraldton lies in the transition zone between a Medi Mediterranean and a semi-arid climate. In the winter, the temperature is mild, averaging around 25°C, with most of the yearly rainfall falling in this period. In the summer months, Geraldton averages around 32°C, with some days over 40°C.

The landscape of the City of Geraldton area is coastal plains vegetated by Coastal heath and farming land along the western boundary but is predominately cleared pastoral land 83.4% with pockets of remnant natural bush 16.6% that is considered of significant environmental value, of which 4.2% of the remnant bush is in protected DEC tenure. A major fire consideration for the City of Geraldton Bush Fire Response is the abundance of Coastal Wattle which is a recovery plant species and is prolific throughout the regions that were previously cleared. It creates highly volatile fire behaviour when impacted by severe fire.

## AMENDMENT RECORD

### Contact Officer

For copies of this plan, or to provide comment, contact:

City of Greater Geraldton  
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer  
PO Box 101  
GERALDTON WA 6531

### Amendment List

<b>Amendment #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amended By;</b>
1	December 2012	Complete rewrite of previous BFRP reflecting amalgamation of City of Geraldton Greenough and Shire of Mullewa and relevant changes in legislation.	A. Ciric
2	October 2014	Review	K. Seidl
3	February 2017	Reviewed for applicability	B. Wilson
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

# CONTENTS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOWARD .....	1
AMENDMENT RECORD .....	2
Contact Officer .....	2
Amendment List .....	2
CONTENTS .....	3
Part 1 INTRODUCTION.....	5
1.1 Aim and Objectives .....	5
1.2 Scope .....	5
1.3 Hazard Definition.....	5
1.4 Related Documents.....	5
1.5 Authority to Plan.....	6
1.6 Plan Responsibilities .....	6
1.7 Exercise and Review Periods.....	6
1.7.1 Exercising.....	6
1.7.2 Review .....	6
1.8 Organisational Roles and Responsibilities .....	6
Part 2 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION .....	8
2.1 Responsibility for Prevention and Mitigation.....	8
2.2 Legislation .....	8
2.3 Prevention Strategies .....	8
Part 3 PREPAREDNESS.....	10
3.1 Responsibility for Preparedness.....	10
3.2 Preparedness Planning .....	10
3.2.1 Fire Weather Forecasting .....	10
3.2.2 Harvest Bans.....	10
3.2.3 Resources and Personnel .....	11
3.2.4 Facilities and Services for Incident Management and Support.....	11
3.2.5 Critical Infrastructure .....	11
3.2.6 Special Needs and at Risk Groups .....	13
3.2.7 Community Education .....	13
3.3 Evacuation Arrangements .....	13
3.4 Higher Level Assistance.....	13
Part 4 RESPONSE .....	15
4.1 Response .....	15

4.2	Notification .....	15
4.2.1	Public Information and Media Management .....	15
4.3	Levels of Response.....	15
4.3.1	Appointment of Incident Controller.....	16
4.3.2	Transfer of Control .....	17
4.4	Activation.....	17
4.5	Incident Management System.....	17
4.6	Hazard Management Structure and Arrangements.....	17
4.7	Conducting Evacuations.....	17
4.8	Traffic Management .....	18
4.9	Functional Support Plans .....	18
4.10	Financial Arrangements for Response .....	18
Part 5	RECOVERY .....	19
5.1	Responsibility for Recovery .....	19
5.2	Transition to Recovery .....	19
5.3	Stand Down and Debriefs .....	19
5.4	Post Incident Analysis (PIA) and Review .....	19
Part 6	APPENDIXES .....	21
6.1	Appendix A Distribution List .....	21
6.2	Appendix B Glossary of Terms.....	22
6.3	Appendix C Key Contacts .....	25
6.4	Appendix D Emergency Control Centre Layout.....	26
6.6	Appendix F Communications Plan .....	28
6.7	Appendix G Brigade Area Map.....	29
6.8	Appendix H Map - Areas of Conservational Value .....	30
6.9	Appendix I Bush Fire Threat Analysis Maps.....	31
6.9.1	Bush Fire Threat.....	31
6.9.2	Fire Behaviour.....	32
6.9.3	Ignition Risk .....	33
6.9.4	Response Times.....	34
6.9.5	Values at Risk.....	35

## PART 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this plan is to prescribe the management and coordination arrangements, responsibilities and procedures for the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades under the control of the City of Greater Geraldton (CGG), and related emergency management agencies involved in bushfire Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

The objectives of this *Local Bush Fire Response Plan* are:

- To promote a safer, sustainable community in the CGG.
- To foster a sound working relationship between all parties and agencies contributing towards the effectiveness of this plan;
- To provide a bushfire management plan that is consistent of the overall State, agency, CGG objectives for fire suppression, coordination, control and command in the local government area.
- To identify key infrastructure and elements at risk to bushfire in the community;
- To provide a coordinated and effective communications strategy;
- To provide procedures for the coordination of support functions and transition to recovery in the event of a bush fire impacting the city.

### 1.2 Scope

This plan covers all lands within the boundaries of the CGG located outside the Gazetted Fire District of Geraldton and Greenough as prescribed by the *Fire Brigades Act 1949*.

### 1.3 Hazard Definition

A bushfire is an unplanned or uncontrolled fire in the bush. Bush is defined in section 7 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

### 1.4 Related Documents

This plan is to be read in conjunction with the following documents that impact on fire management processes:

- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- *Fire Brigades Act 1942*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*
- *Emergency Management Act 2005*
- *Emergency Management Regulations 2011*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *State Emergency Management Committee Policy Statements*

- *WESTPLAN - Bushfire*
- *City of Greater Geraldton Fire Control Officers Directory*
- *City of Greater Geraldton Local Emergency Management Arrangements*
- *City of Greater Geraldton Local Emergency Risk Management Plan*
- *City of Greater Geraldton Local Recovery Plan*
- *City of Greater Geraldton Local Law – Bush Fire Brigade 2011*
- *Traffic Management During Emergencies Guide 2010*

## **1.5 Authority to Plan**

Local Government has the responsibility through *SEMP 2.5 Emergency Management in Local Government Districts* to develop Emergency Management Arrangements for its district. Within this document The CGG is identified as the Hazard Management Agency for Bushfire outside the gazetted fire districts of Geraldton and Mullewa and has the responsibility to plan for the Bushfire hazard in that area.

## **1.6 Plan Responsibilities**

The development, implementation and review of this plan are the responsibility of CGG in consultation with DFES, DEC and the LEMC.

## **1.7 Exercise and Review Periods**

### **1.7.1 Exercising**

This plan will be subject to a biannual emergency exercise in accordance with *SEMP 3.1 Emergency Management Exercises* and Guidelines developed by Emergency Management Australia *Handbook 3, Managing Exercises*.

### **1.7.2 Review**

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis prior to each bushfire season which commences in October each year. In addition this plan will be reviewed on request by the CBFCA post any major incident impacting the City based on the recommendations of a Post Incident Analysis (PIA).

## **1.8 Organisational Roles and Responsibilities**

The provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* are used for the prevention, preparedness and Response phases for Bushfires. Recovery in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, is managed by Local Government and is detailed in the *Local Recovery Plan*. It should be noted that all landowners have a statutory and common law obligations to prepare for, prevent and manage bushfires on their land.

Responsibilities are allocated as follows:

- Prevention

- The CGG will liaise with land owners each year to comply with the *Fire Break Notice*.
  - The CGG will on a risk management approach, mitigate the risk of Bush Fire on land under its control
  - The CGG will liaise with DEC, MRWA for the mitigation of Bush Fire on land under their control and any other relevant agencies that have a responsibility for land management.
  - The CGG will declare through the *Fire Break Notice*, outlining the necessary prevention necessary by land owners and the restricted and prohibited burning times as well as relevant approvals of suspensions and exemptions for the local government area
  - The issue of permits to use fire
  - The CGG will issue Harvest and/or Vehicle movement bans based on inclement weather patterns, typically a Fire Danger Index of 35 and above or these bans may be based on response capabilities.
  - The CGG in conjunction with DFES promote community preparedness through community engagement and awareness programs
  - DFES is responsible for the prevention and mitigation strategies on unallocated crown land (UCL) and other unmanaged reserves (UMR) within town sites
  - DFES will declare of Total Fire bans in accordance with state requirements
  - DEC is responsible for the management of such lands as State Forrest, Timber Reserves, National Parks, conservation parks and Nature reserves. Major reserves in the general CGG area can be identified in attached maps appendix
- Preparedness and response
    - The CGG is responsible for all land outside DEC managed land and DFES controlled areas and for UMR & UCL within town sites and regional centre of Geraldton
    - DEC is responsible for the prevention and mitigation strategies on UCL and other UMR outside and regional centres and town sites
    - The CGG may in writing, authorise a bush fire liaison officer or DFES or DEC to take control of all operations of a fire incident
    - DFES is responsible for the response for the gazetted fire districts of Geraldton and Mullewa
    - CGG will be responsible for the dissemination of public information and warnings
- Recovery
    - The CGG has the responsibility of management of recovery at the local level accordance with the *Local Recovery Plan*. In a major incident the Local recovery may also activate state recovery arrangements.



## PART 2 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

### 2.1 Responsibility for Prevention and Mitigation

The CGG will adopt a risk management approach underpinned by ISO3100 *Risk Management Principles and Guidelines* with an emergency management context, as described in *Emergency Management Australia Manual 5 Emergency Risk Management Applications Guide*. The *Local Emergency Risk Management Plan* and *Local Emergency Management Arrangements* are a result of this process that determines the need for bush fire response planning.

A Bush Fire Advisory Committee BFAC is established under s67 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and as mentioned in CGG *Bush Fire Brigades Local Law* as an advisory committee to Council on Bush Fire matters. In addition the CGG participates in a District Operations Advisory Committee (DOAC) established to discuss operational matters at a district level.

In accordance with the *Emergency Management Act, 2005*, the CGG has established a Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and participates in a District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC).

The CGG currently does not have any declared bush fire prone areas reflected in the town planning schemes that require construction with national building and development standards.

### 2.2 Legislation

*The Bush Fires Act 1954* is the predominate legislation to provide for the prevention and mitigation of Bushfires in Western Australia. The *FESA Act 1998*, the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, the *Emergency Services Levy Act 2002*, the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, and the *Emergency Management Act 2005* also contain relevant provisions to the administration of the *Bush Fire Response Plan* and administration of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.

### 2.3 Prevention Strategies

DEC and DFES have developed Bush Fire Threat Analysis maps for the CGG contained in Appendix 6.8.

These maps identify:

1. Combined likelihood and consequence
2. Fire behaviour
3. Ignition risk
4. Response Times
5. Values at risk

Based on this information on a risk management approach the CGG takes the following actions:

- Requires the occupier of land to plough or clear fire break in accordance with the annual Fire Break Notice as provided in the Bush Fires Act 1954
- Integrated hazard reduction programs for fuel removal by manual and prescribed burning methods.
- In partnership with DFES conducts regular public education and awareness campaigns through direct mail, media campaigns, signage and enforcement.
- In partnership with the Western Australian Police Service and local crime prevention committees targets prevention of arson

## **PART 3 PREPAREDNESS**

### **3.1 Responsibility for Preparedness**

The CGG is responsible for the following preparedness activities for land that falls under CGG responsibility.

- Pre Incident planning to address response arrangements including
  - suitable access for suppression resources, through enforcement of the *Fire Break Notice*
  - communications, incident notification and dispatch through the communications plan (appendix 6.6)
  - control and command facility location
- Training of Bush Fire Brigade volunteers and support personnel will be conducted in partnership with DFES and accordance with the fire fighting training pathways
- CGG support and promotion of community engagement programs such as Bush Fire Ready Action Groups, local media and development of emergency warning and information systems including public access to a local SMS alert system.

### **3.2 Preparedness Planning**

This plan forms the local level bush fire response plan for the CGG local government area. In addition all volunteer bush fire brigades are encouraged to develop localised response plans for their district with the support of the Local Government.

#### **3.2.1 Fire Weather Forecasting**

The CGG has identified a fire weather officer position that routinely monitors weather condition and forecast Fire Danger Index (FDI) rating that is calculated on the consideration of temperature, wind speed, relative humidity and curing. During significant events CGG with the assistance from DFES can obtain specific area 'spot forecasts' from the Bureau of Meteorology to assist in incident management.

#### **3.2.2 Harvest Bans**

Harvest and vehicle movement bans are issued by a Fire Control Officer under the Bushfires Act 1954 s 38a & 24c when the Fire control Officers opinion is that the use of engines, vehicles plant or machinery including the use of motorbikes is likely to cause or contribute to the spread of a bushfire.

Water carting and feed for animal welfare is permitted provided it is accompanied by a mobile fire fighting unit that meets the minimum specification including the retention of at least 400 litres of water.

Generally when a FDI is above 35 the CGG will consider the implementation of a Harvest Ban and subsequently issue a Vehicle Movement Ban once the FDI reaches 60.

The CGG will communicate harvest and vehicle movement bans on ABC local radio when possible and through a subscribed SMS listing. The Public may also contact the CGG at any time during normal business hours to ascertain if a Harvest or Vehicle Movement ban has been issued.

### 3.2.3 Resources and Personnel

The CGG through the Emergency Services Levy provides and maintains fire fighting appliances and equipment for Bush Fire Brigades. The CGG is also responsible for the attraction, administration, support, retention and training of volunteers for bush fire brigades.

During a major bushfire incident the CGG may call on members of the LEMC committee in an operational capacity to form a multiagency incident management team or provide operational support.

### 3.2.4 Facilities and Services for Incident Management and Support

The CGG has identified South Wing Conference Room as the primary Emergency coordination centre for incident management and support. A suggested layout of the facility is contained in Appendix 6.4.

### 3.2.5 Critical Infrastructure

#### **Solar farm (First Solar Australia)**

The Greenough River Solar Farm is located in the Walkaway BFB district and produces DC (Direct Current) energy via Solar panels. Which will produce power whenever there is solar irradiance (sunlight)

The site contains High – Medium & Low Voltages (22Kv AC, 1000VDC, 324VAC. 230VAC). This energy **CANNOT** be turned off during daylight hours therefore it must always be assumed that the network is **LIVE** and producing power, therefore no fire suppression action is possible within the security compound amongst the Solar panels.

In the event of a fire within the solar farm security fenced area seek advice from GRSF staff as to what action can be taken to contain the fire within the compound.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SPRAY OR APPLY WATER ON OR NEAR THE SOLAR PANELS OR ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

The Solar farm has developed *Solar Farm Fire Suppression Guidelines* and communicated these guidelines with adjacent property owners and bush fire brigades. This communication should be encouraged on an annual basis.

### **Mumbida Wind Farm (Mumbida Wind Farm P/L / Verve Energy / Leighton Contractors)**

The Mumbida Wind Farm is a renewable energy project under development by a joint venture of Verve Energy and Mumbida Wind Farm Pty Ltd. The construction phase of the project was awarded to Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.

Located approximately 40km southeast of Geraldton, the site consists of two adjoining lots on both the Mumbida and Marloo properties (2465 ha) immediately south of the Walkaway wind farm. It is situated in a grassland bush fire prone area with a low to medium fire hazard rating.

The project will deliver 55MW power generation facility which will supply renewable energy via Western Power into the South West Interconnection Network.

The project has developed a *Mumbida Wind Farm\_Fire Management Plan* which encourages site familiarity to local Bush Fire Brigades. The site has a bore and availability of a quick fill pump with water storage tanks at strategic locations within the site. Mumbida Wind Farm currently holds an exemption to work on Total Fire Ban Days based on the available fire response capabilities and hot works permit system as outlined in the fire management plan.

### **Australian Defence Satellite Communications Facility (Department of Defence)**

The Department of Defence has established an Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station (ADSCS) is situated at Kojarena, north of the Geraldton – Mount Magnet Rd approximately 30km east of Geraldton.

The site is managed by the Australian Department of Defence, but also host a number of United States of America communications for the protection of Australia and its interest. ADSCS has an emergency management plan and conducts exercises; however it has limited response capacity to the threat of Bush Fire. The facility is able to provide assistance to Bush Fire response in the area by access to hydrants at the site.

### **Gas turbines (Verve Energy)**

Geraldton has two Gas Turbine Stations operated by Verve Energy. The first (Geraldton GTS) is located approximately 4 kilometres east of Geraldton, in a semi-rural area. This station is located in the Gazetted Fire District managed by FRS. The site was constructed in 1972 and consists of one Frame 5 gas turbine unit and has a total generating capacity of 20.8 Megawatts (MW). Geraldton GTS is currently used to

provide emergency backup power for Western Power's South West Interconnected Grid, which supports the major load requirements for southern Western Australia. As such, the Geraldton GTS only operates for a few hours each year.

The second Gas Turbine Station is approximately 60 south east located on the DBNG gas pipeline corridor immediately south Nangetty/Walkaway Rd in the Walkaway BFB district. The asset is well protected by a very clear vegetation compound.

### 3.2.6 Special Needs and at Risk Groups

Special needs and at Risk Groups will be identified in the *Local Emergency Risk Management Plan* including contact details and any special considerations regarding these facilities.

### 3.2.7 Community Education

Each year the CGG will conduct community education to targeted audiences. This may include:

- Fire Break Notice awareness and compliance programs
- General community information in Prepare. Act. Survive.
- Bush Fire Brigade attendance at community events
- Community Fire Guard program

## 3.3 Evacuation Arrangements

The need and planning for evacuation of residents impacted by bushfires will be the responsibility of the Incident Controller in consultation with the Western Australia Police. The City has identified buildings suitable for use as welfare centres and information regarding these can be found in the CGG Welfare Centres Register. The Department of Child Protection (DCP) is the agency responsible for assisting the community under evacuation and any servicing requirements of the established welfare centres.

## 3.4 Higher Level Assistance

Under section 13 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* higher level assistance may be sought by allowing DFES to assume control of a fire(s) when:

- (a) A bushfire has assumed or is likely to assume such proportions as to be incapable of control or suppression by CGG
- (b) DFES is of the view that a bushfire(s) is not being effectively suppressed by CGG
- (c) Where a fire(s) require multiagency or are multijurisdictional or may require the coordination of resources or public information above the level able to be provided by CGG

CGG is to advise DFES regional duty coordinator who will advise DFES State Operations Officer when it is considered that this situation may exist based on one or more of the following triggers

- There is not a clear plan or objectives established within 4 hours and the fire is continuing to burn uncontrolled
- An urban settlement is in the direct path of the fire
- The incident controller believes that the fire is not likely to be contained using the existing available resources
- The nature and extent of the bushfire requires state level coordination of resources or public information

## PART 4 RESPONSE

### 4.1 Response

CGG is responsible for developing and implementing rapid, effective and complimentary response for its area of responsibility as outlined in item 1.8 of this plan.

CGG Bush Fire Brigade response arrangements are managed at the local level by the CBFCO & DCBFCO and a network of Captains, and FCO's.

### 4.2 Notification

All fires reported by the public will be to the 000 Emergency number but many are channelled through the Local Government office.

Any request for response by CGG Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades should come via DFES Communications Centre (COMCEN) who will in turn contact the CBFCO who has primary responsibility for activating Bush Fire Brigades and the DCBFCO for information and for activating Brigades in the case that the CBFCO is unavailable.

In the event that an incident is reported by anyone other than DFES Commcen, the details of the call are to be communicated DFES as soon as practicable.

#### 4.2.1 Public Information and Media Management

The CGG employs a Public Relations Officer that would work with the Mayor and CBFCO / Incident Management Team to release media statements throughout an emergency bush fire situation.

Any prevention preparedness media campaigns are also conducted in consultation with the CGG Public Relations Officer.

### 4.3 Levels of Response

The CGG will adopt an incident level structure as detailed in *SEMP 4.1 Operational Management* which details the levels of response are broadly defined as outlined in the following table:

<i>Incident Levels</i>	<i>DESCRIPTORS AND ACTION</i>
<b>LEVEL 1 (Routine)</b>	<p>A level 1 incident is characterised by being able to be resolved through the use of local or initial response within a few hours. Being relatively minor, all functions of incident management are undertaken by one person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• local response/resources required;</li><li>• no significant issues;</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• single or limited multi agency response (day to day business);</li> <li>• minimal impact on community;</li> <li>• managed by a Controlling Agency Incident Management Team (IMT) only; and/or</li> <li>• low risk of incident escalation.</li> </ul>
<b>LEVEL 2 (Extended)</b>	<p>Level 2 incidents are more complex either in size, resources, risk or community impact. They may be characterised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires multi agency response;</li> <li>• has a protracted duration;</li> <li>• requires coordination of multi-agency resources;</li> <li>• requires resources from outside the local area;</li> <li>• some impact on critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• has a medium level of complexity;</li> <li>• has a medium impact on the routine functioning of the community;</li> <li>• has potential to be declared an 'Emergency Situation'; and/or consists of multiple hazards</li> </ul>
<b>LEVEL 3 (Major / complex)</b>	<p>Level 3 incidents are protracted, large and resource intensive. They may affect the community and/or public infrastructure, and may be characterised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requirement for significant multi agency response;</li> <li>• protracted response duration;</li> <li>• significant impact on critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• significant coordination of multi-agency resources;</li> <li>• State or National resources required;</li> <li>• high level of complexity;</li> <li>• significant impact on the routine functioning of the community;</li> <li>• multiple incident areas;</li> <li>• evacuation and/or relocation of community;</li> <li>• actual or potential loss of life or multiple, serious injuries; and/or declaration of an 'Emergency Situation' or 'State of Emergency'</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Incident Controller has a responsibility to assess the level of the incident and, if deemed to be a Level 2 or 3 incident, must make an incident level declaration, the level of the incident will be continually monitored and reviewed.</b></p> <p><b>At the declaration of a Level 3 incident, CGG must contact the State Emergency Coordinator to advise of the Level 3 declaration, request activation of the SECG and discuss the potential for an emergency situation declaration</b></p>	

#### 4.3.1 Appointment of Incident Controller

All fires requiring suppression will have an Incident Controller (IC) appointed by the CGG; this may be either an employee of the CGG, a Bush Fire Brigade volunteer or person delegated to be IC by the transfer of control arrangements. The appointment will be immediately communicated to the relevant combat and support personnel involved.

The CBFCO or delegated officer shall be the Incident Controller of all major fires requiring a coordinated response, where transfer of control has not taken place.

The IC has the responsibility for the safety and welfare of all people and resources during the management of the incident. This task may be delegated to a Safety Officer to oversee the occupational health and safety considerations.

#### 4.3.2 Transfer of Control

The agency that is best placed in terms of location, resources and expertise, whether that is DFES, DEC or Local Government is to deal with bushfire incidents. Transfer of control will be affected under Section 45A and 45 of the *Bushfires Act 1954* where required.

DFES COMCEN must be kept informed of a bush fire incidence and any developing situation where there is a potential for multi-agency involvement or impact on more than one agency area, lifeline infrastructure or on community safety.

#### 4.4 Activation

The activation of this plan will be by the response to bushfire on land under the control of CGG and any bushfire reported to the CBFCO, DCBFCO, or FCO of CGG.

#### 4.5 Incident Management System

AIIMS is to be used by all parties to this plan.

#### 4.6 Hazard Management Structure and Arrangements

CGG will base incident structure and arrangements on *SEMP 4.1 Operational management* in line with state policy and this plan.

#### 4.7 Conducting Evacuations

For any incident in which CGG is the controlling agency, CGG will be responsible for conducting evacuations and the return of the community. It is imperative that the *Local Recovery Plan* is activated when the need for community evacuation is identified.

The objective of maintaining community safety and minimising the exposure of people to a bushfire is a priority. Any decision to evacuate should be conducted with an appropriate understanding of risk and wide consultation with incident support organisations including reference to existing plans and arrangements.

The early identification of vulnerable locations, facilities and groups is important in ensuring that the evacuation effort and objectives are implemented on a priority basis.

The CGG may call on the assistance of Police, DCP or support organisations in the conduct of a community evacuation.

The incident controller responsibilities include:

- coordination of the transport of evacuees
- identification of safe egress routes
- identification and reception at designated Welfare Centres
- security of locations evacuated
- provision of timely information to those evacuated
- the return of the community to a safe and risk free environment with the assistance of the Local Recovery Coordination Committee.

#### **4.8 Traffic Management**

Traffic management will be conducted by the CGG with assistance from Police and Main Roads as required. The *Traffic Management During Emergencies Guide* will be the basis for conducting traffic management during any bushfire incident. In the event that access is to be restricted a Vehicle Control Point will be established and manned until the incident controller determines that there is no longer a need for restricted access, although general traffic management may still be required and in place such as reduced speed zones.

#### **4.9 Functional Support Plans**

The following plans provide support functions to this Bush Fire Response Plan.

- *Local Emergency Management Arrangements*
- *Local Recovery Plan*
- *Local Welfare Plan*
- *Local Emergency Risk Management Plan*
- *SEMC Policy*

#### **4.10 Financial Arrangements for Response**

The CGG will meet the financial obligations for response in level one incident's. When an incident escalates to a level two, CGG may seek assistance from DFES in the incident management and financial obligations. When a level three incident is declared it has reached a level that is protracted, large and resource intensive and likely that State arrangements will be activated including *SEMP 4.1 Funding for Emergencies*.

## **PART 5 RECOVERY**

### **5.1 Responsibility for Recovery**

The recovery from bushfires impacting on the community of Greater Geraldton is assigned by *Emergency Management Act 2005* to the Local Government. Recovery will be dealt with as per the *City of Greater Geraldton Local Recovery Plan*. Where recovery activities are beyond the capacity of CGG, support may be provided through the activation of State Recovery Arrangements and provisions of *SEMP 4.4 State Recovery Coordination*.

### **5.2 Transition to Recovery**

As part of the incident, the Incident Controller will arrange for affected land manager(s) to assess and report on damage to infrastructure and environmental damage, and make recommendations for rehabilitation and restoration. Assistance may be sought through Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA). Combat agencies and support organisations are required to participate and assist with the environmental assessment.

Site clean ups will only commence once the associated risks are reduced to a point considered acceptable to the Incident Controller. The Incident Controller may, on the advice of technical or local advisory groups, permit recognised contractors to commence clean-up operations. However, preservation of evidence must be considered prior to any restoration work commencing. The controlling agency remains the custodian of property until the owners or the Police arrive to take responsibility

### **5.3 Stand Down and Debriefs**

The Incident Controller will determine when the bushfire has been declared safe so that stand down procedures may commence. Stand down of incident personnel should not occur until recovery arrangements are in place. Prior to stand down, the Incident Controller may conduct a 'hot debrief' of all the participating agencies and brigades to explain the situation, address outstanding issues, answer questions and handover recovery operations to the responsible agency.

### **5.4 Post Incident Analysis (PIA) and Review**

Post Incident Analysis (PIA) is the reconstruction of an incident to assess the chain of events that took place, the methods used to control the incident, and how the actions of emergency personnel contributed to the eventual outcome. It is focused on identifying on how response operational and management may be improved.

It is imperative that the PIA is based upon the following principles:

**No blame.** The lessons learnt process does not apportion blame to organisations or individuals.

**Identify all lessons.** The intent of the process is to identify what was done well and what could be done better. It includes identifying the systemic issues that might not be readily apparent.

**The future.** The aim of the process is to enhance the future performance of all agencies involved in response in order to ensure that good processes are retained and mistakes are not repeated

A post incident analysis should be conducted in accordance with SAP 15 any level two or level three incidents to review the incident based on:

- What happened?
- What action was taken?
- How CGG performed?
- What was identified and considered for future use?
- What needs to be re-examined and improved?

Items for consideration in the PIA process include but not limited to communication, mobilisation, tactics and strategies, resources media liaison, welfare and support functions, the debrief process, preparedness and training. Following the PIA process the relevant plans including the *Bush Fire Response Plan*, *Welfare Plan*, and *Recovery Plan* should be reviewed accommodating recommendations of the PIA.

The PIA should be conducted within two weeks of the stand down and a final report produced within six weeks.

## PART 6 APPENDIXES

### 6.1 Appendix A Distribution List

Organization	Title
City of Greater Geraldton	Chief Executive Officer Manager Community Law & Safety Senior Fire Officer Media & Public Relations Officer
Department of Fire & Emergency Services	Regional Director District & Area Managers
Department of Environment & Conservation	Regional Director
Western Australian Police Service	Officer In Charge
Bush Fire Brigades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cape Burney OMS 6754</li> <li>- Casurinas OMS 6132</li> <li>- Eradu OMS 6010</li> <li>- Moonyoonooka OMS 6426</li> <li>- Mullewa Central OMS 6447</li> <li>- Mullewa South OMS 6446</li> <li>- Pinda Tardun</li> <li>- Tenindewa North OMS 6605</li> <li>- Tenindewa South</li> <li>- Walkaway OMS 6645</li> <li>- Waggrakine OMS 6637</li> </ul>	Captain
Local Emergency Management Committee	Chair, for circulation to members
District Emergency Management Committee	Chair, for circulation to members
Mumbida Wind farm	For information
Walkaway Wind Farm	For information

## 6.2 Appendix B Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
AIIMS; Australian Inter Service Incident Management System	The nationally recognized system of incident management for the nations fire and emergency services agencies. Organisational principals and structure used to manage Bushfire and other large emergencies based on the principles of management objectives, functional management and span of control
Bush Fire	A bushfire is an unplanned or uncontrolled fire in the bush. Bush is defined in section 7 of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>
CBFCO; Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	The CBFCO is the most senior position in the Bush Fire service. This person is responsible for making decisions concerning the direction of Bush Fire Brigades. The CBFCO provides a link between CGG; DFES and Bush Fire Brigades
CGG; City of Greater Geraldton	The Local Government Authority responsible for the development and review of this plan
Coordination	The bringing together of agencies and elements to ensure an effective response, primarily concerned with the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisation, manpower and equipment) in accordance with the requirements imposed by the threat or impact of an emergency. Coordination relates primarily to resources, and operates, vertically, within an agency, as a function of the authority to command, and horizontally, across agencies, as a function of the authority to control
Control	The overall direction of emergency management activities in an emergency situation. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency plan, and carries with it the responsibility for tasking and coordinating other agencies in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across agencies
Critical infrastructure	A service, facility, or a group of services or facilities, the loss of which will have severe adverse effects on the physical, social, economic or environmental wellbeing or safety of the community.
DCBFCO; Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Deputises the CBFCO
DEC; Department for Environment and Conservation	The department has the lead responsibility for protecting and conserving the State's environment on behalf of the people of Western Australia. This includes managing the State's national parks, marine parks, conservation parks, State forests and timber reserves, nature reserves, marine nature reserves and marine management areas
DFES; Department for Fire & Emergency Services	As Western Australia's leading hazard management agency, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) (formerly the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA) performs a critical role coordinating emergency services for a range of natural disasters and emergency incidents threatening life and property. DFES was established to improve the coordination and planning of emergency services in Western Australia.
FDI; Fire Danger Index	Measures the degree of Fire Danger combining elements of curing (dryness), temperature, Relative Humidity (RH) and wind speed. FDI ratings were developed by the CSIRO by scientist AG McArthur.
Gazetted Fire District	Area gazetted by the Minister (as shown on Brigade map) for which DFES, Fire & Rescue Service is responsible for fire incidents under the <i>Fire Brigades Act 1942 S2(a)</i>

Harvest Ban	Based on FDI (usually >35) or may be based on response capabilities. Issued by FCO under <i>Bushfires Act 1954</i> s38a &24c when a Bushfire Control Officer is of the opinion that the use of harvesting machinery is likely to cause a fire or contribute to the spread of a bushfire.
HMA; Hazard Management Agency	An agency prescribed due to its knowledge, expertise and resources responsible for emergency management for a prescribed hazard. At the local level HMA's are identified in the Local Emergency Management Arrangements
LEMC; Local Emergency Management Committee	The LEMC is established for CGG in accordance with <i>SEMP 2.5 Emergency Management in Local Government Districts</i> to advise and assist the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district; to liaise with public authorities and other persons in the development, review and testing of local emergency management arrangements; and to carry out other emergency management arrangement activities as directed by the SEMC or prescribed by the regulations. <b>Note:</b> LEMCs are an emergency planning body and although they will often incorporate members from operational (HMA, combat and support) agencies their role is not operational or one of response
Multi agency	Involving more than one Government agency
MWGR; Mid-West Gascoyne Region	The DFES District in which CGG is included as outlined in <i>SEMP 2.4 District Emergency Management Arrangements</i>
PIA; Post Incident Analysis	The reconstruction of an incident to assess the chain of events that took place, the methods used to control the incident, and how the actions of emergency personnel contributed to the eventual outcome
SEMP; State Emergency Management Policy	State Emergency Management Policies and Procedures are prepared by the Policy and Coordination Division of the SEMC Secretariat to support the Emergency Management Act, 2005 (the Act). Policies are reviewed and approved by the SEMC. Emergency Management policies and procedures fall within the categories of: Administration; Training; and Operations.
TFB; Total Fire Ban	TFB's are declared by the Minister for Emergency Services (DFES) – State Level based on weather forecasts when there is a potential of adverse fire weather or when widespread fires are seriously stretching resources. They are declared on days when fires are most likely to be difficult to control and should they occur they will threaten lives and property. They are declared for the whole day (24hours) and for the whole of local government, including town sites. When a total Fire Ban is declared it prohibits the lighting of any fires in the open air and other activities that may start a fire - including use of welders, grinders or gas cutting.
UCL; Unallocated Crown Land	Crown land (a) in which no interest is known to exist, but in which native title within the meaning of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> of the Commonwealth may or may not exist; and (b) which is not reserved, declared or otherwise dedicated the <i>Land Administration Act 1997</i> or any other written law;
UMR; Unmanaged Reserves	A reserve the care, control and management of which are not placed with a management body.
VCP; Vehicle Control Point (VCP)	A full or partial road closure through which all vehicle access is controlled. All VCPs are permanently staffed. Vehicles or persons (or classes of vehicles or persons) explicitly authorised by the Incident Controller may proceed after validation by the Traffic Controller. Persons requesting access permission who are not specifically authorised by the IC are held at the VCP pending permission / exclusion to enter the incident area.
Vehicle Movement Ban	Based on FDI (usually >60) or may be based on response capabilities. Issued by FCO under <i>Bushfires Act 1954</i> s38a &24c this is a higher level of



	<p>ban than a Harvest Ban and issued when Bushfire Control Officer is of the opinion that the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery including the operation of motorbikes is likely to cause a fire or contribute to the spread of a bushfire with the exception of the movement of vehicles and machinery on gazetted roads, laneways/roadways, and yards. Water carting for stock and domestic purposes is permitted provided it is accompanied by a mobile firefighting unit, or alternatively the water carting vehicle acts as the mobile firefighting unit and meets the minimum specifications (this also requires the retention of 400L of water at all times)</p>
--	---

### 6.3 Appendix C Key Contacts

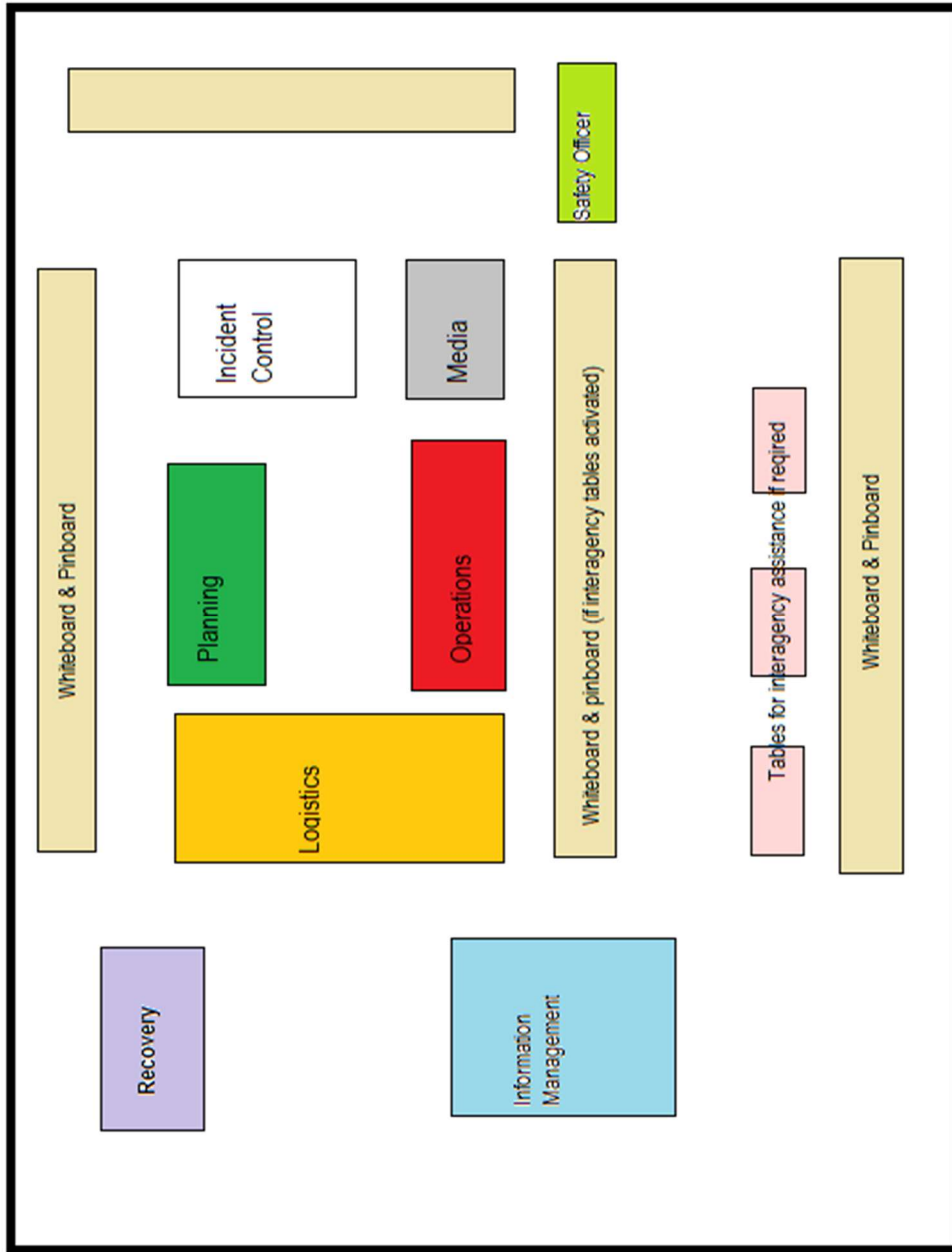
A list of key contacts is provided for information below.

This plan is to be read in conjunction with the *City of Greater Geraldton Fire Control Officers Directory*, which provides a substantive list of brigade personnel and emergency contacts. For 'Permit to Burn' and local 'Fire Control Officer's' contact details, please contact CGG for advice.

Organisation	Contact	Telephone
Alinta Gas	Faults & Emergencies	131352
Bureau of Meteorology	Geraldton Office	9923 3671
City of Greater Geraldton	Coordinator Emergency Management	0428 670 320
<b>City of Greater Geraldton</b>	<b>CBFCO</b>	<b>0427 176 386</b>
City of Greater Geraldton	Senior Fire Officer/DBFCO	0439 939 810
Defence Satellite Communications Facility	Gatehouse Defence Switchboard	08 9956 2536 or 1800 333 3623 (1800 Defence)
Department of Fire & Emergency Services MWGR	Duty Officer	08 9956 6000
Department of Communities	Welfare Officer	0429 102 148
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions	Duty Officer	0429 640 916
Fire Station	Station Manager	08 9921 2222
First Solar	Site Supervisor	0419 552 552
Geraldton Regional Hospital	Administration	08 9956 2222
Geraldton Regional Prison	Administration	08 9923 3606
Mumbida Wind Farm	Site Forman/Manager	0419 586 396 0409 723 853
Main Roads Western Australia	Administration A/H diverts to 24hr call centre	08 9956 1200
Police Service Geraldton	General Enquiries Traffic Management	08 9923 4555 08 9923 4584
Shire of Chapman Valley	Administration CBFCO	08 9920 5011 0427 205 144
Shire of Irwin	Administration CBFCO	08 9927 0000 0429 086 270
Shire of Northampton CBFCO	Administration CBFCO	08 9934 1202 0458 341 200
St John of God Hospital	Administration	08 9921 1233
Western Power	Faults & emergencies A/H local contact	131351 08 9964 7099

6.4 Appendix D

Emergency Control Centre Layout



Suggested ECC layout for Level 1 or 2 incident

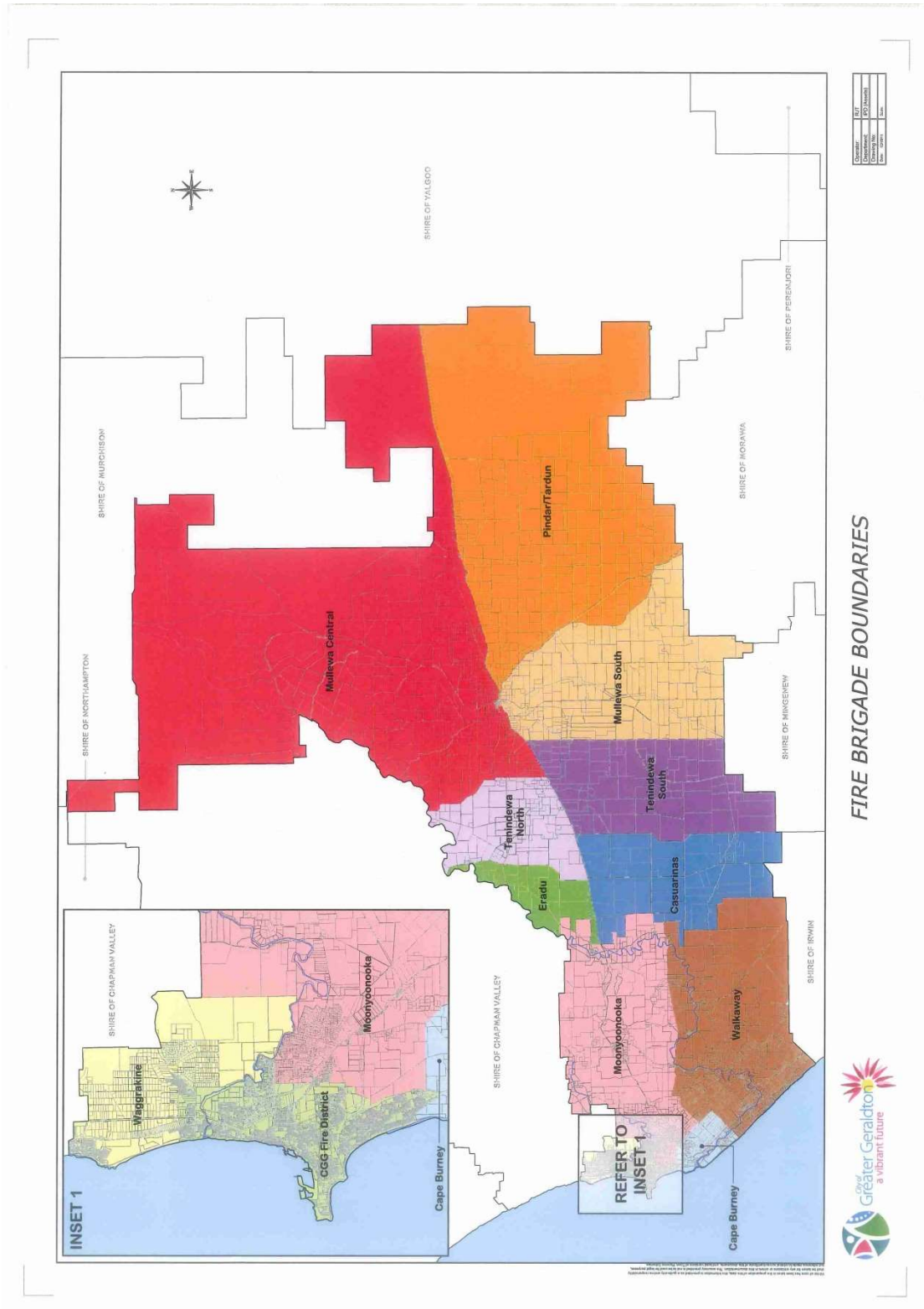
## 6.5 Appendix E

## Appliances & Sell call

REGO	Vehicle / Role	BRIGADE	SELCALL
GNG-083C	2.4	Cape Burney	393019
GNG-075C	Cat Loader 40	City of Greater Geraldton	393082
<b>GNG-3938</b>	<b>CBFCO/CESO</b>	<b>City of Greater Geraldton</b>	<b>393009</b>
<b>093-BFS</b>	<b>DBFCO/SFO</b>	<b>City of Greater Geraldton</b>	<b>393024</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>DBFCO/SFO</b>	<b>City of Greater Geraldton</b>	<b>393025</b>
	Grader	City of Greater Geraldton	393083
GNG-076C	JCB Loader 416	City of Greater Geraldton	393081
GNG-054C	Loader	City of Greater Geraldton	393088
GNG-058C	Loader	City of Greater Geraldton	393087
CDD-955	Ranger	City of Greater Geraldton	393091
CGG-233	Ute	City of Greater Geraldton	393090
CGG-494	Ute	City of Greater Geraldton	393089
CGG-962	Ute	City of Greater Geraldton	393092
GNG-137C	Water Truck 137	City of Greater Geraldton	393086
1DQA-798	Water Truck 139	City of Greater Geraldton	393084
1DPX-375	2.4	Coomberdale BFB	270051
		Defence Satellite Comms Facility	393053
1CUE-867	Holden Rodeo	Geraldton FRS	804014
1QBH-185	CP10	Geraldton VFRS	818031
1QAG-914	Light Tanker	Geraldton VFRS	816056
GNG-084C	3.4	Moonyoonooka	393023
Base	FCO	Moonyoonooka	393029
GNG-082C	Light Tanker	Moonyoonooka	393022
1CDE-201	DCBFCO	Moonyoonooka - Private Vehicle	393026
G-1270	FCO	Moonyoonooka - Private Vehicle	393025
23-TFC	FCO	Moonyoonooka - Private Vehicle	393027
G-08	FCO	Moonyoonooka - Private Vehicle	393028
MW-99	FCO	Mullewa	393052
MW-40	FCO	Mullewa	393051
1DVK-836	Appliance	SES Geraldton	102316
GNG-090C	3.4	Waggrakine	393039
GNG-093C	Light Tanker	Waggrakine	393032
GNG-080C	3.4	Walkaway	393049
G76	FCO	Walkaway - Private Vehicle	393044
INFIGEN	FCO	Walkaway - Private Vehicle	393046
G-13520	FCO	Walkaway - Private Vehicle	393047
G-188	FCO	Walkaway - Private Vehicle	393041
G-189	FCO	Walkaway - Private Vehicle	393042
G65	FCO		393048
G72	FCO		393047

## 6.6 Appendix F Communications Plan

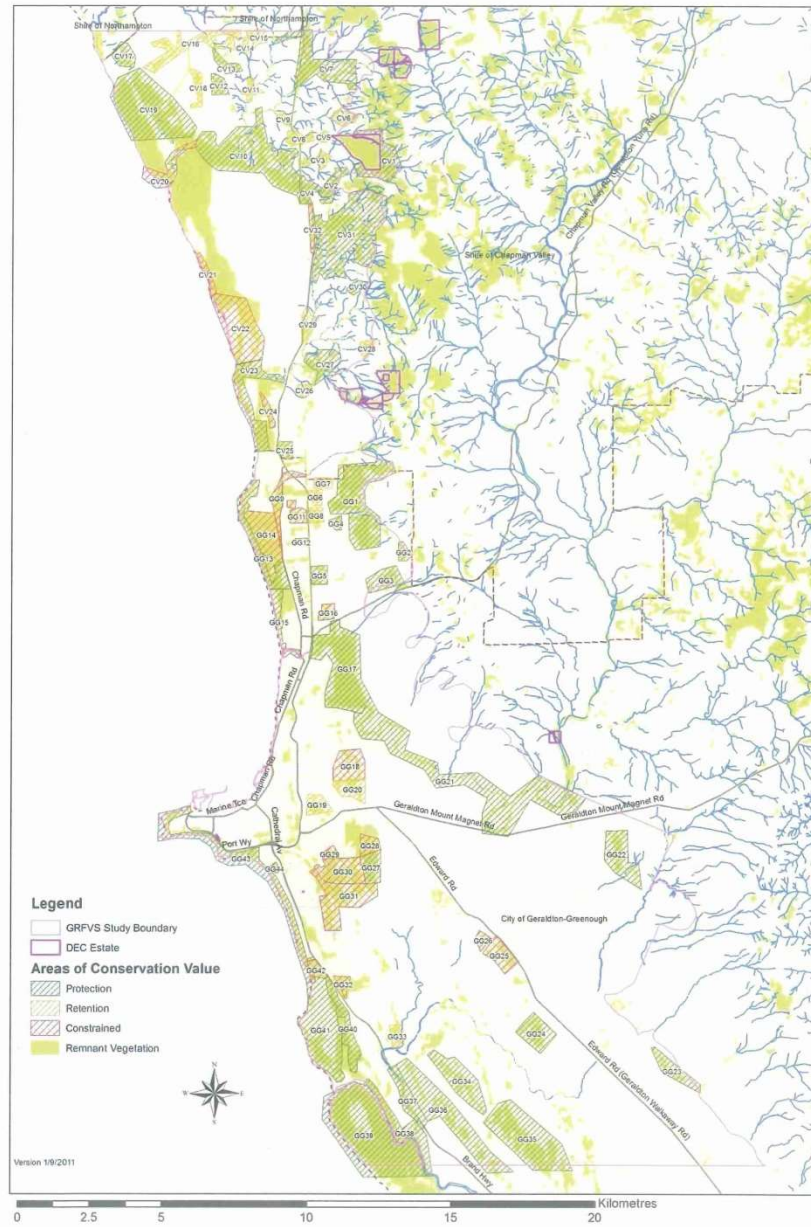
## 6.7 Appendix G Brigade Area Map



NOTE: Individual Brigade boundary maps with a higher level of resolution available on request from CGG

## 6.8 Appendix H Map - Areas of Conservational Value

DRAFT Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy (October 2012)



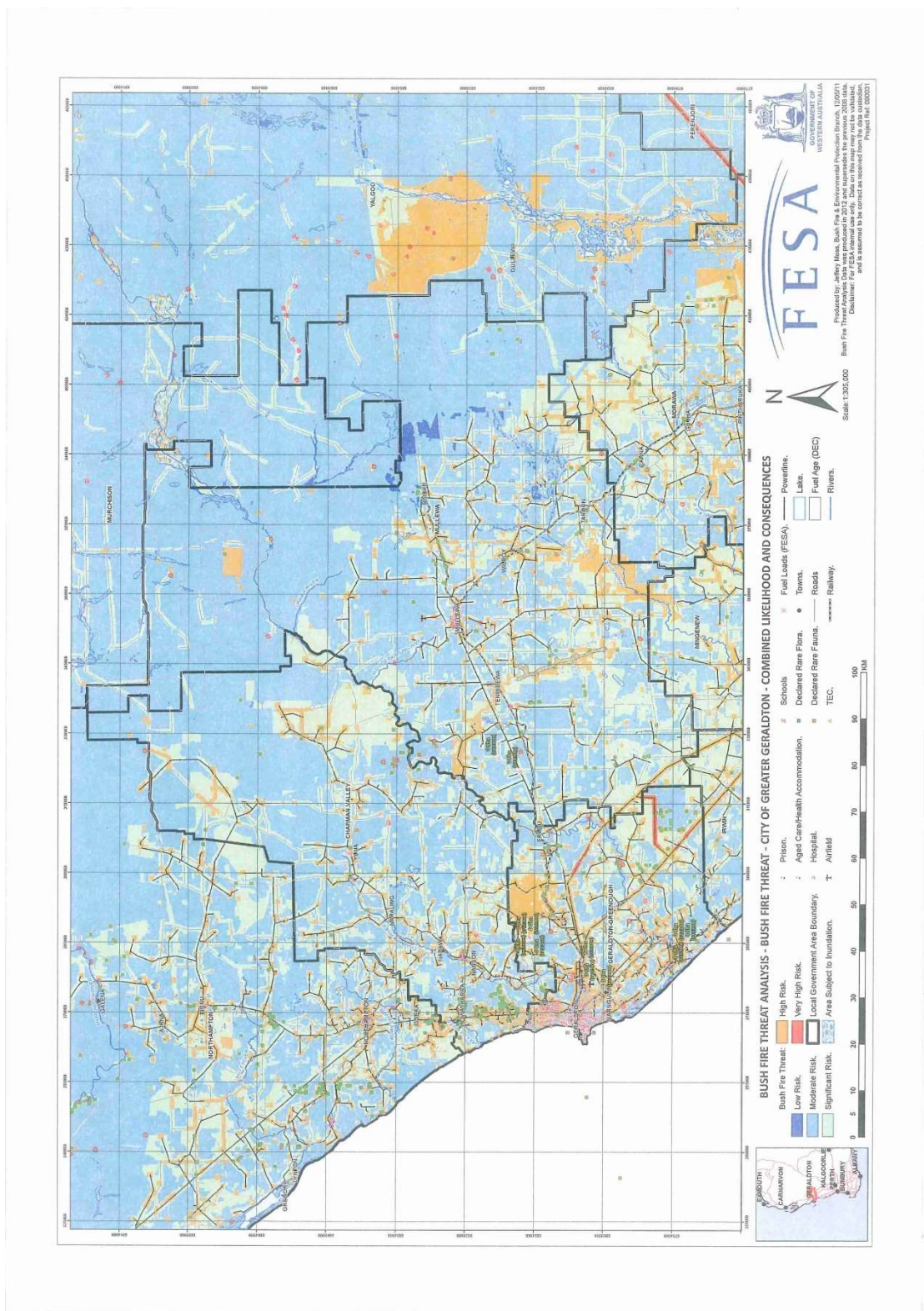
Draft Areas of Conservation Value in City of Greater Geraldton and Shire of Chapman Valley.

NOTE: The original image with a higher level of resolution may be obtained on request from CGG



## 6.9 Appendix I Bush Fire Threat Analysis Maps

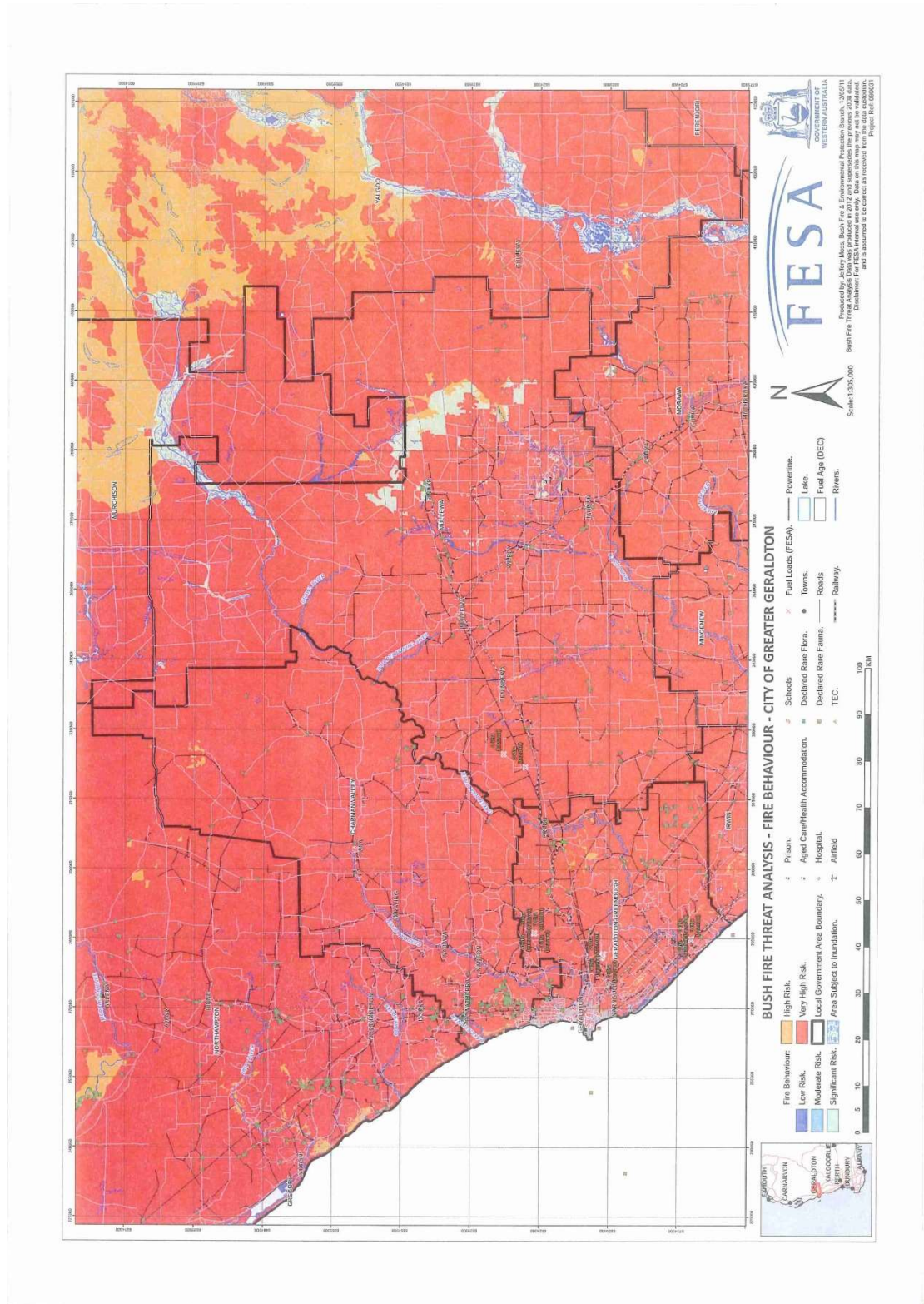
### 6.9.1 Bush Fire Threat



NOTE: The original image with a higher level of resolution may be obtained on request from CGG



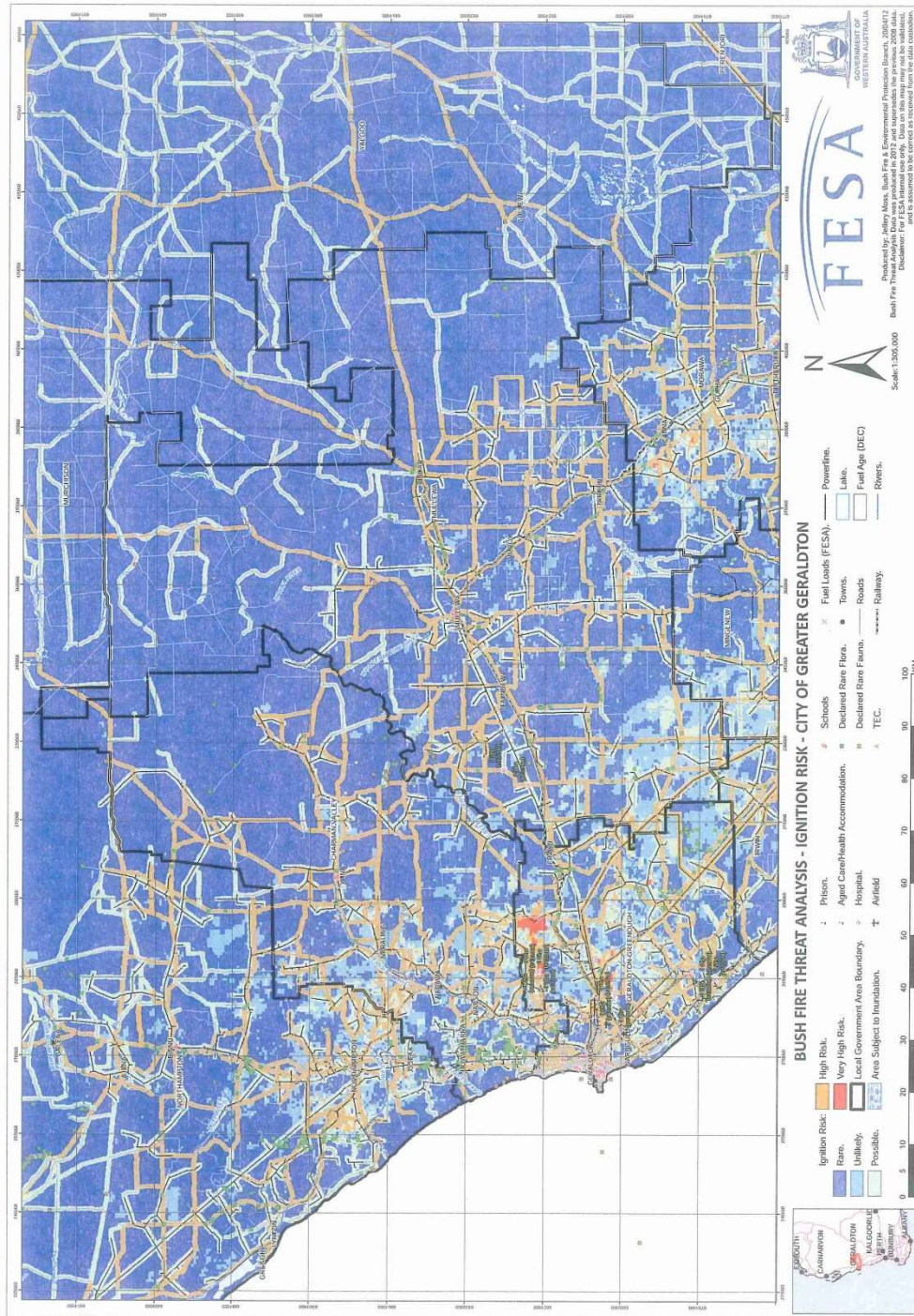
## 6.9.2 Fire Behaviour



NOTE: The original image with a higher level of resolution may be obtained on request from CGG



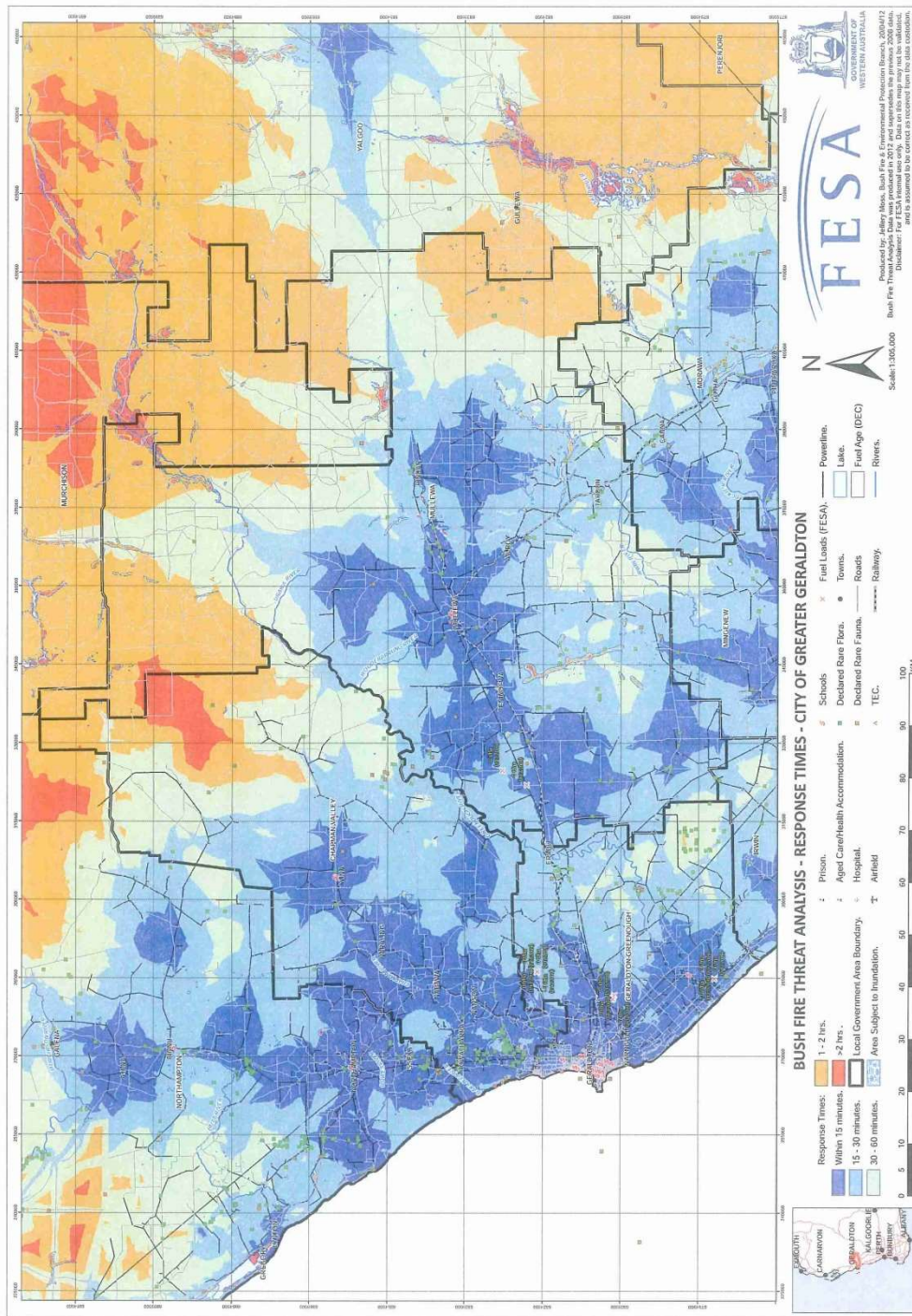
### 6.9.3 Ignition Risk



NOTE: The original image with a higher level of resolution may be obtained on request from CGG



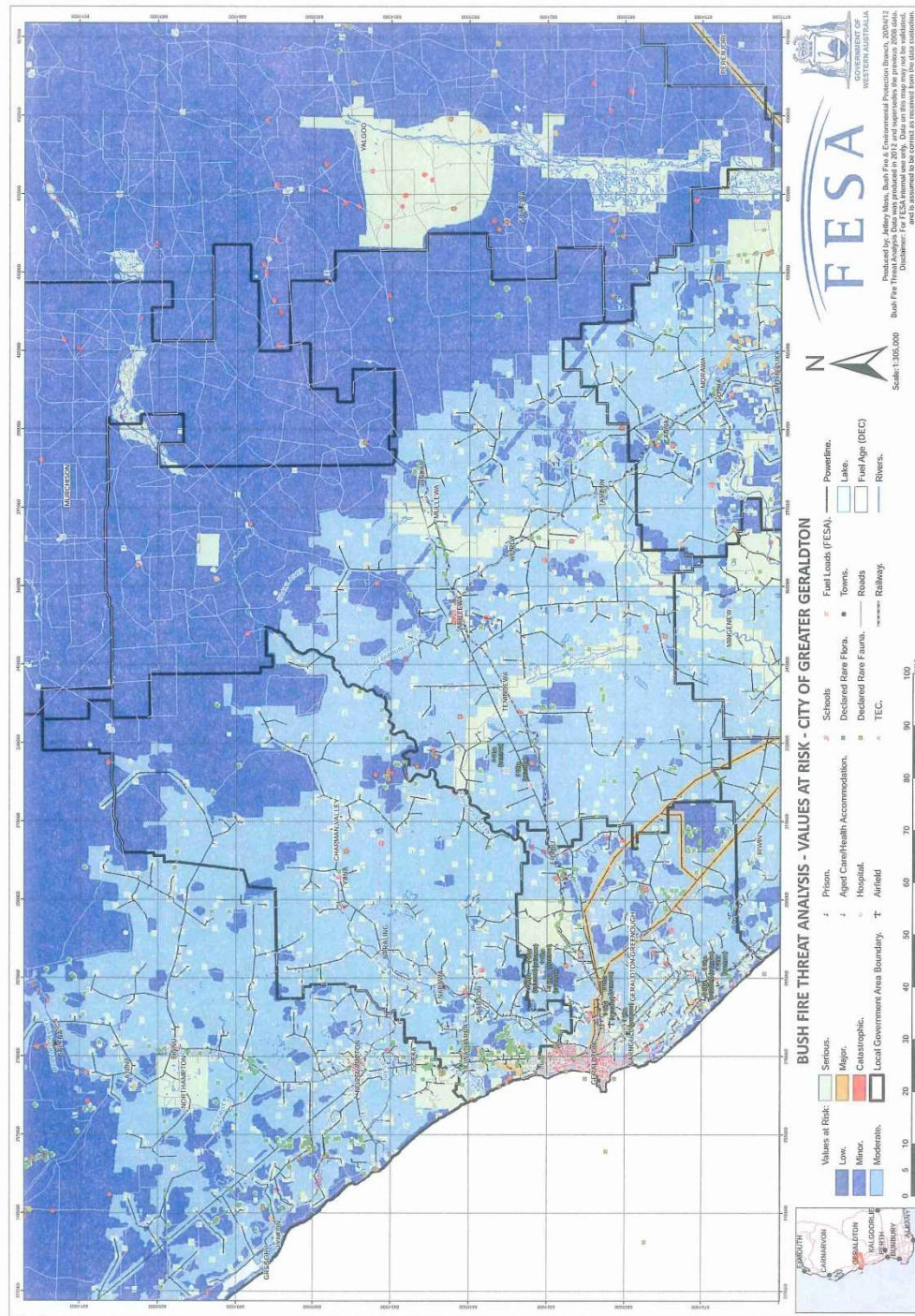
## 6.9.4 Response Times



NOTE: The original image with a higher level of resolution may be obtained on request from CGG



## 6.9.5 Values at Risk



NOTE: The original image with a higher level of resolution may be obtained on request from CGG