



PART 3 Environment

3.1 Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Program

Local Government Act 1993 Section 428(2)(i1)

Council has continued to maintain effective membership of the Far North Coast Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) and has applied for funding through this Committee for the undertaking of works on authorised fire trails and Asset Protection Zones (APZs) on Byron Shire Council managed lands.

Funding, in particular, was received to undertake mechanical hazard reduction works in the areas of Flinders Way, North Ocean Shores; Lilli Pilli Drive in Byron Bay and Sunrise Boulevard in Byron Bay.

All works were successfully achieved with the exception of Sunrise Boulevard, which during the course of the 2010/2011 financial year had proven too wet to undertake required hazard reduction activities.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) has provided approval to carry over this essential hazard reduction works into the 2011/2012 financial year.

Funding has also been sought and approved to continue the mechanical hazard reduction works in the north of the Shire, with the completion of the lower end of Flinders Way. Hazard reduction works will also be undertaken in Matong Drive/Brunswick Valley Way APZ and the Yallakool Drive APZ; all located in Ocean Shores.

Council has liaised with other land management agencies within the Shire (Land and Property Management Authority, Department of Environment Climate Change and Water, and the Australian Rail Track Corporation) in co-operative planning and hazard

reduction programs, including the areas of Ocean Shores, West Byron, Suffolk Park and Broken Head. Council has also worked in conjunction with the RFS in the identification of areas of extreme and high fire risk through the Risk Management Sub-Committee of the BFMC.

Due to continuous and ongoing wet weather there was a significant decline in the number of events and hazard reduction burns. A total of 235 fire permits (excluding sugar cane harvesting) were issued and 10 hazard complaints inspected.

Council has continued to provide mechanical maintenance to APZs and fire trails identified in urban areas and responds to RFS notice of hazard education works.

Council and the RFS will actively engage with existing residents to minimise risk and will apply planning conditions on land that has not yet been developed to ensure that future developments do not expose life and property to unacceptable risk.

Council continues to work with land management agencies, NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB) and the RFS to ensure it meets its obligations under the provisions of the Local Government Act, the NSW Fire Brigades Act and the Rural Fires Act. Council continues to provide funding to the operations of both the RFS and the NSWFB through its compulsory contribution to the Bush Fire Fighting Fund and the NSW Fire Brigades Fund.

3.2 State of the Environment Supplementary Report

Local Government Act 1993 Section 428(2)(c)

State of the Environment (SoE) reporting is an annual legislative requirement for New South Wales local governments, coinciding with the preparation of Annual Reports each financial year. The SoE report provides a critical feedback link to the activities in Council's Management Plan and responds to its key objectives for a sustainable future.

The State of the Environment Report (SoE) provides a summary of the environmental attributes and condition of the local government area and the human impacts on the environment. It also provides a public record of Council, industry and community activities and achievements in responding to pressures on the environment. In summary, the SOE report is identified as a mechanism for reporting on progress towards Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) (DLG NSW 2009).

Local governments are required to provide, along with annual reports, a State of the Environment report under section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993.

State of the Environment reports must also be prepared having regard to any relevant guidelines that are issued. The Byron Shire State of the Environment Report 2011 has been prepared having regard to the Department of Local Government Environmental Guidelines State of the Environment Reporting by Local Government: Promoting Ecologically Sustainable Development, January 2000. The report has also been prepared in collaboration with other Council's in the Northern Rivers Region to provide a streamlined set of indicators that facilitate regional comparisons.

The Byron Shire SoE Report 2011 has been prepared in consultation with the Byron Shire community. The report has sought information from a range of community

groups, such as Landcare, regarding works undertaken in order to monitor the changes in structure and form of vegetation in the Shire and a number of other community-driven activities, such as the number of community gardens and farmers markets, as well as the number of energy and water saving rebates received in the Shire.

The information in the 2011 State of the Environment Report compares trends during the period of time since the last report, which was produced in 2010. The purpose of this report is to update environmental indicator information and trends from State of the Environment Comprehensive Report prepared in 2010. The chapters and environmental indicators in this report are consistent with the 2008, 2009 and 2010 reports, however, some revisions have been introduced that reflect changes in data availability and the growth in community-based sustainability. Please note, that data from earlier reporting years is available on Council's website www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

The Supplementary Report is provided at **Appendix 4**.

