

21.04

09/05/2019
C006Pt1fisi

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

21.04-1

Bushfire overview

French Island’s isolation, road network, lack of reticulated services and prominent natural environment make it highly susceptible to bushfire. The local community’s Country Fire Authority is organised to provide first attack protection to the residents and assets of the Island. Further, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Parks Victoria are involved in fire management and suppression activities for the Island.

Key issues

- Managing the susceptibility of significant stands of native vegetation, including heath land, woodland, open forests and scrub to bushfire, both in the French Island National Park and on private land holdings.

21.04-2

Objective

To minimise the fire risk on the Island.

21.04-3

Strategies

1. Ensure that applications for use and development have regard to potential fire hazards, particularly in areas abutting the National Park or areas of remnant stands of native vegetation.
2. Ensure development on land prone to bushfire is sited, designed and constructed to minimise the impact of emergency conditions arising from fire.
3. Encourage the location of accessways, fencing and dams to maximise fire fighting potential.
4. Consider fuel reduction burning and fuel breaks in the provision of land use and development.
5. Ensure the provision of satisfactory and accessible water supply for land use and development on the Island.

21.04-4

Climate change overview

Climate change is predicated to cause an increase in sea levels, a decrease in rainfall and more frequent and severe storm events. This will impact on coastal settlements, biodiversity, infrastructure and agricultural production.

As the coastal fringe of French Island is largely low-lying, below 10 metres in elevation, apart from the southern coast which rises up to heights of above 30 metres, the future impacts of climate change is a significant planning issue.

Key issues

- Managing the issues associated with climate change including potential sea level rise, storm surge, and increased fire risk and rain intensity, having regard to the Island’s relative isolation and infrastructure constraints.

21.04-5

Strategies

1. Ensure that new use and development proposals have regard to the impacts of climate change, where relevant.

21.04-7 Implementation

The objectives, strategies and policy guidelines arising from this Clause are implemented through the application of appropriate zones and overlays in Clause 74.01.