KING ISLAND

MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION PLAN

ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2011

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Background

Historically wildfires have occurred over much of the island. Fires in vegetated areas, including coastal areas is almost certain each summer and likely to develop into a wildfire from time to time. This is supported by recent events of major wildfires in 2001 and 2007, when fires have occurred on King Island that have burnt out a significant area on the north east of the Island.

A lightning strike in 2001 saw approximately 6,000 ha of the Lavinia State Reserve burnt. This was an unusual occurrence in that since European settlement, the vast majority of fires have been man-made; naturally occurring fires have been all but non-existent.

On 18 February 2007 a fire was ignited on King Island, which subsequently burnt approximately 12,500 ha from the Sea Elephant estuary, through to Penny's Lagoon in the north of the Island. It is estimated that up to 70% of the island's native vegetation was burnt during the fire, including small areas of internationally recognised RAMSAR wetlands and orange bellied parrot feeding grounds within Lavinia State Reserve and significant tracts of remnant vegetation and pasture on private property.

When fire occurs within a small community, such as King Island, its impacts are felt across the entire width and breadth in various ways. Many people are involved or affected by the fire both directly and indirectly. It is fair to say that King Islanders' feel a great deal of ownership of not only fire management on the Island, but also of public assets that have been burnt such as Penny's Lagoon and the Lavinia State Reserve.

The repeated damage to the Island's natural assets has disheartened and frustrated many within the local community. This has translated to a strong desire to ensure that bushfires on King Island in the future are either prevented or contained to a minimum in order to protect both the natural and productive environments of the Island. Following debriefs from the 2007 fire, there was a strong appeal from the King Island community to see the development of a "Whole of Island Fire Plan" that addresses fire risk across the extent of the Island regardless of land tenure.

In response to this King Island Council provided support to the King Island Fire Management Area Committee to lead the development of the King Island Wildfire Management Plan (KIWMP) in collaboration with the King Island community. The KIWMP was written in accordance with the Australian Standard for Risk Management AS/NZ 4360:2004 and Emergency Management Australia's Emergency Risk Management Application Guide. The KIWMP was adopted by Council on the 17 March 2009. The Municipal Fire Prevention Plan outlines the key risks and actions identified within the KIWMP for inclusion in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan. For full details of the risk analysis and evaluation of treatment options please refer to the KIWMP.

Authority

This Fire Prevention Plan is associated with the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, which is issued under the authority of the State Controller in accordance with the requirements of Section 34 of the Emergency Management Act 2006 and is maintained by King Island Council.

Aim

The aim of the plan is to describe the Fire Prevention arrangements for the Municipality of King Island.
The Plan outlines what works are to be taken, and who is responsible.

Objective

"To prepare for the risk of fire, in order to protect life, property and the natural environment"

The guiding principles of this objective are that:

- Protection of life and property are fundamental.
- Fire management for lands should consider community values, biodiversity/environmental assets and economic objectives.
- All fires should be managed for suppression or containment.
- All lands, regardless of land tenure, should have appropriate fire management coverage and plans.
- Capacity building, including data and information provision, should be seen as assisting landowners and managers to play positive and constructive roles if or when a bushfire occurs in their local area.
- King Island community members with appropriate skills, knowledge and competencies should be utilised to undertake IMT and fire ground roles during wildfire suppression operations.
- The level of integration between agencies and service providers should be optimised.

Council's Role

Council is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, which includes this chapter on Municipal Fire Prevention. Council will coordinate the plan, and its implementation.

Role of King Island Fire Management Area Committee (KIFMAC)

The role of the King Island Fire Management Area Committee is:

- To advise the appropriate authorities as to the existence of and steps to be taken for the treatment of fire hazards within the area, taking into consideration the environmental issues.
- To advise and make recommendations to Council in the preparation of its municipal fire prevention plan.
- To recommend to the appropriate authorities any action which the committee deems necessary or expedient to be taken for reducing the risk of an outbreak of fire or for suppressing fire.
- To monitor the implementation of the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan.

The KIFMAC has statutory obligations under Section 20 (1) (a) of the Fire Services Act 1979. In addition members of the KIFMAC also have statutory requirements under the;

- Crown Lands Act 1976
- National Parks and Wildlife Service and Reserves Management Act 2002
- Tasmanian Reserves Management Code of Practice 2003.

Membership of KIFMAC

Membership of KIFMAC consists of representatives from:

- Each of the Fire Brigades on King Island; North, Currie, Naracoopa and Grassy.
- District Officer, Tasmania Fire Service (TFS).
- Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania (PWS).
- King Island Council.
- Forestry Tasmania.

The KIFMAC will meet at a minimum of twice yearly to review timelines and actions and oversee the implementation of The Plan. This will also incorporate pre-season and post-season reviews and updating of information such as contact and resource lists.

Municipal Fire Prevention Plan Review

- Actions - At least once per year, prior to the fire season the KIKMAC will review actions completed and update actions to be completed.
- Plan - A major review and update of the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan will be conducted as part of the regular review of the MEMP.

Key Asset Types

King Island has four key assets types to protect. These are areas where people or property is vulnerable to fire, and where risk can be removed, or reduced. The priority risk environments were identified through consultation with the community, TFS, PWS, Forestry Tasmania, Council and a review of historical fire data.

The following describes each priority risk environment, and a strategic objective, which describes the intent of how the risk will be managed and identifies the outcomes sought. The strategic approach to managing each risk environment is also discussed.

Finally, within each risk environment, the responsibilities are directed at the owners & occupiers of each risk environment. The role of agencies such as Council, TFS and communities is discussed in the programs designed to support and assist owners and occupiers. Each year, the KIFMAC in developing its annual fire prevention program, will examine the approaches, programs & responsibilities and set priorities for action. (Note: these Priority Risks are not in any order of priority.)

Townships & Public Buildings

Incorporating homes and services within the townships such as shops, recreation facilities, churches, school and health care facilities.

Objective: That all residents have the appropriate knowledge, fire protection equipment and an agreed fire survival plan. Owners and managers to be aware of their obligations and responsibilities to be prepared for fire. Users of communal facilities to be aware of what to do in the event of fire.

Responsibility for fire preparedness of residential dwellings and public buildings remains with the owner/occupier at all times.

Others Involved in Program Implementation: TFS, Community Groups and King Island Council.

Strategic Approach: Education, Regulation, Planning, Fuel Management and Community involvement.

Rural Homes & Farming

Incorporating Agricultural land and assets and rural residential dwellings.

Objective: Residents and farmers in rural areas to reduce the incidence and impact of fire using responsible land management practices.

Responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of agricultural and farming properties as a refuge remains with the owner/occupier at all times.

Others Involved in Program Implementation: TFS, TFGA, MFPO and King Island Council.

Strategic Approach: Education, Fuel Management and Fire Safe Management Practises.

Natural Environment

Incorporating Native Forests, Grasslands and Woodlands, indigenous fauna and cultural values such as Penny's Lagoon and the Calcified Forest on both private and public land.

Objective: Land managers to reduce unplanned or negative impact of wildfire on the natural environment.

Responsibility for managing fire protection and prevention in natural ecosystems remains with the land manager or owner/occupier at all times.

Others Involved in Program Implementation: Parks and Wildlife Service and TFS

Strategic Approach: Fuel management, Education and Regulation

Infrastructure

Incorporating Ports, Power Supplies, Airport Roads and Bridges.

Objective: Statutory Authorities and utility managers to develop and implement risk management programs that reduce the likelihood and consequences of fire occurring on or spreading from public utilities and essential services.

Responsibility for managing fire protection and prevention of utilities and essential services remains with the owner/occupier at all times.

Others Involved in Program Implementation: TFS, King Island Council, Police and DIER

Strategic Approach: Fuel management, Communication

Action Plan

The Parties, who sign below, give their commitment to delivering the Actions identified in the attached plan.

The following Action Plan identifies what activities are to take place, who is responsible and when the activities should be completed. It is the role of KIFMAC to coordinate and monitor progress of this Action Plan.

The Action Plan is organised by Key Activity Type. These are:

- Access Trails
- Fuel Reduction
- Water for Fire Fighting
- Public Awareness
- Regulation
- Planning
- Operational Training
- Infrastructure

Signed by:

King Island Fire Management Area Committee, Chair – Mr Rod McGarvey _____

King Island Council, Mayor – Mr Charles Arnold _____

Tasmania Fire Service, District Officer – Mr Jodi Armstrong _____

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Fire Management Officer – Mr Eddie Staier _____

Date …….

Last reviewed and agreed by Parties

Date ……..

Distribution to:

- Forestry Tasmania
- Forest Practices Authority
- King Island Ports
- Aurora / Hydro Tasmania
- Telstra

Action Plan by Action Type and Responsible Agency

Type	*Action*	*Location (asset or risk)*	*Responsibility*	*When*	*Fund source*	*Status*
Access Trails	Upgrade - Widening of Red Hut Road to be used as a fire access trail 3	Red Hut Road	KIC	Dec-10	BMP	Complete
Access Trails	Upgrade - Widening of South Road, Pearshape to Seal Rocks Road -fire access trail 5	South Road	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Maintenance of fire access trail 6.	Seal River Road	KIC			Complete
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 10	Back of housing in Lighthouse St, Currie	KIC		BMP	Complete
Access Trails	Maintain fire access trial 12	Bell Hill, Currie	KIC			Complete
Access Trails	Upgrade of fire access trail 1	Grassy	KIC	Annually	KIC	
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 2, along powerlines to water catchment.	Grassy	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	New fire access trail 4.	Red Hut Road to Sandblow beach	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Maintain South Road as fire access trail 6.	South Road	KIC			
Access Trails	New fire access trail 7.	Big Lake to Millers Road.	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 11 to defend from & to provide access to water point	Charles St, Devils Gap, Currie	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 13	South Road to Badger Box Creek	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 14.	Netherby Rd to Huxley Hill, Currie	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 17	Sea Elephant Rd to Fraser Beach	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Upgrade Sea Elephant Road to be used as fire access trail 18.	Sea Elephant Rd	KIC			
Access Trails	Upgrade Fraser Rd to be used as fire access trail 19.	Fraser Rd	KIC			
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 20	Pegarah Rd to Esplanade, Naracoopa	KIC		BMP	
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 34	North Rd to coast - the springs	KIC			
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 33	North - Boulder Point	KIC			
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 35	North - Phoques Bay	KIC			
Access Trails	Upgrade - Widening of Seal Rocks Road to be used as fire trail 8.	Seal Rocks Rd	PWS			Complete
Access Trails	Upgrade - fire access trail 16 defend from & provide access to water point	Sea Elephant River	PWS			

Type	*Action*	*Location (asset or risk)*	*Responsibility*	*Timelines*	*Fund source*	*Status*
Access Trails	Upgrade and maintain fire trails as nominated in the King Island Reserves and Crown Land Fire Management Plan (PWS 2002). Includes fire access trails 24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,37 &38 within KIWMP.	Lavinia State Reserve, Seal Rocks State Reserve & adjoining public reserves	PWS			
Access Trails	Maintain fire access trail 9	Cataraquai point	PWS			
Access Trails	Upgrade fire access trail 15	Bicentennial Link Rd & Sea Elephant Rd	PWS & KIC		BMP & PWS	
Access Trails	Maintain fire access trail 15	Bicentennial Link Rd & Sea Elephant Rd	PWS & KIC			
Fuel Reduction	Abatement notice by council on landholder to maintain cleared area of approximately 50 metres surrounding the communications tower.	Counsel Hill	KIC	Annually	KIC	
Fuel Reduction	Abatement notice by Council on landholder to maintain cleared area of approximately 50 metres surrounding the communications tower.	Naracoopa Hill	KIC	Annually	KIC	
Fuel Reduction	Establish maintenance agreements between PWS and adjoining landholder(s) for the management of joint boundaries.	Island wide - adjoining reserves	PWS		PWS	
Water	Install hydrant fittings and negotiate with landholder.	Old Kibuka dam to Fraser Rd, Naracoopa	Naracoopa TFS		BMP	
Water	Identify and map water points. Place maps in fire vehicles.	N/A	TFS		TFS	
Water	Investigate water points	Red Hut Rd (Frerk's)	Grassy TFS			
Water	Review water points	Island wide	TFS Brigades / MEMP			
Water	Installation of 3 new fire hydrants - request by TFS to CMW	Lighthouse St (1) & Wharf Rd (2), Currie	TFS		TFS	

Summary of Annual Maintenance Program and Responsible Agency

Action number	*Location (asset or risk)*	*Specifications – Standard of maintenance / fuel reduction*	*Responsibility*
		Currie Township	
1	Bell Hill	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
2	Back of Lighthouse St housing	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
3	Charles St Transfer Station	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
4	Stock route, from North Rd to Grassy Rd	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
5	Wetlands / foreshore paddock	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
6	Golf course / housing buffer	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
7	Riffle Range Road – southern end	Note: initial vegetation control to the boundary (ie clear to fenceline), then annually as per specifications.	KIC
		Naracoopa Township	
8	Lovers Lane	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
9	Road reserve behind foreshore housing	Maintain vegetative cover by slashing &/or discing to a height of between 75-100mm.	KIC
		Grassy Township	
10	Northern town boundary	Discuss maintenance program with landholders and draw up plan of action.	Grassy TFS brigade
11	Southern town boundary	Discuss maintenance program with landholders and draw up plan of action.	Grassy TFS brigade
		Island wide actions / management	
13	Roadside program	Map roadsides that have been previously cleared and develop an associated maintenance program.	KIC

Appendix – Maps

Figure 1: Overview of King Island Fire Trails

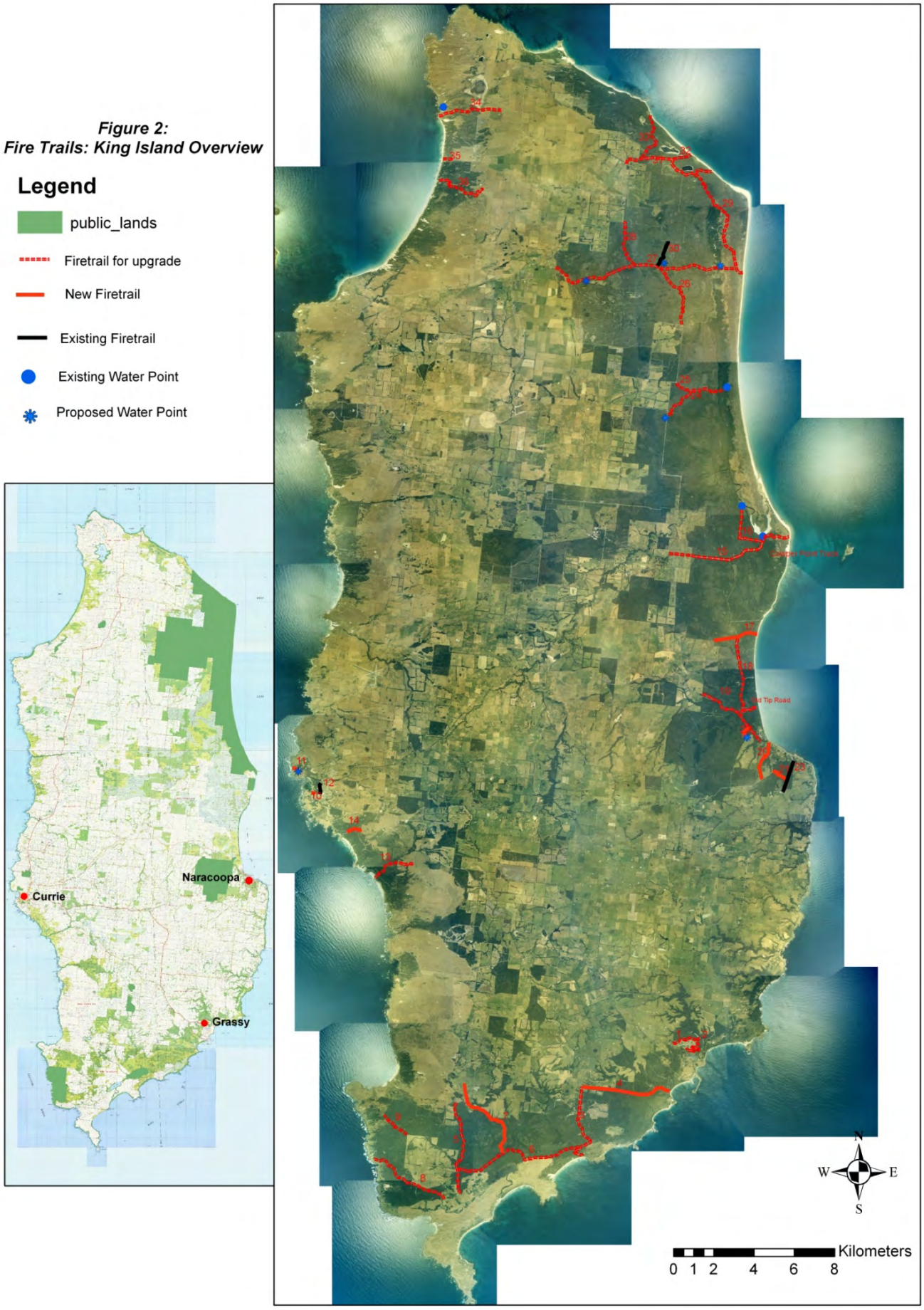

Figure 2: Fire Prevention Works - Currie

Figure 3: Fire Prevention Works – Naracoopa

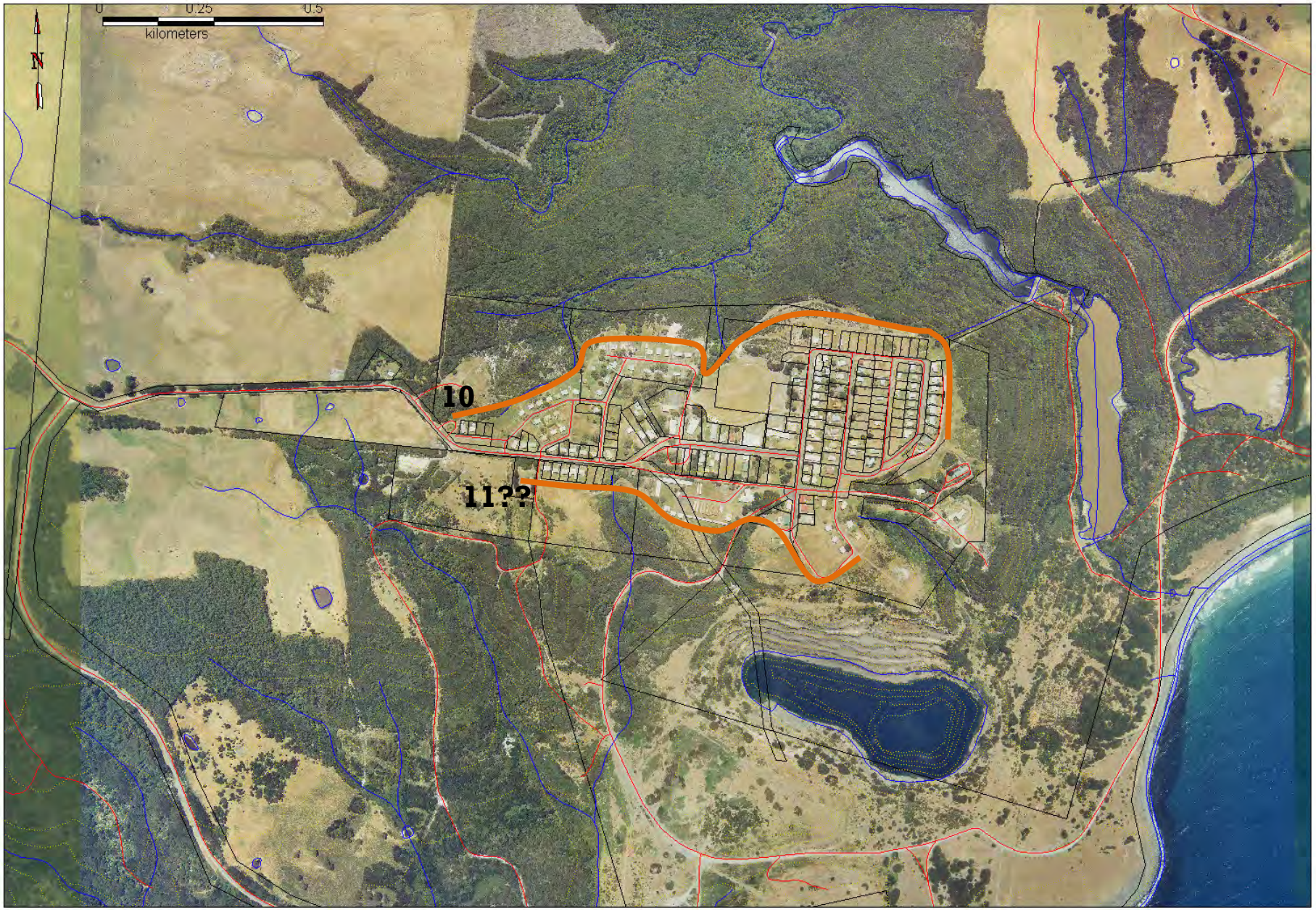

Figure 4: Fire Prevention Works – Grassy

Appendix - Acronyms

BMP	Bushfire Mitigation Program
FT	Forestry Tasmania
KIC	King Island Council
KIFMAC	King Island Fire Management Area Committee
KIWMP	King Island Wildfire Management Plan
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MFPO	Municipal Fire Protection Officer
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania
TFGA	Tasmania Farmers and Graziers Association
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service sporadically