

Hi Everyone

With another fire season ahead, we thought it would be helpful to give an update on the actions the Committee has been pursuing to reduce fire risk / impact in our area.

Since last year's devastating fire, the Committee has been lobbying government and agencies to undertake action to help prevent a repeat of December 2025.

In relation to the fire risk at Dolphin Sands, the Committee wants to achieve the following aims:

1. A reduction in the number of fires in the area;
2. When fires do occur, minimising the impact on people, infrastructure, flora and fauna;
3. Protection of people from the negative result of fires. This includes the personal and psychological effects on individuals as well as the significant impact on emergency service staff, particularly local volunteers;
4. A reduction in the cost to community members and to government and other agencies / stakeholders.

To meet these aims, we have been talking to government ministers, local members, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (GSBC) and relevant agencies.

Top of the agenda is to establish a collaborative working group headed by the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) to come up with a comprehensive fire mitigation plan. We have in-principle support from government on this. Formation of the plan has been slower than we hoped, appreciating that TFS have limited resources and a number of competing priorities. TFS have reported the following:

- TFS have commenced preliminary community-level planning to better understand local bushfire risk and fire behaviour dynamics;
- TFS are assessing a range of strategic prevention, community preparedness, and risk mitigation measures;
- TFS are in discussion with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) regarding the completion of relevant land surveys;
- TFS have employed strengthened firefighting response capability through the more proactive positioning of resources during periods of elevated local fire danger;
- Early fire detection capability is being enhanced through the installation of strategically located cameras providing coverage of Dolphin Sands and surrounding areas, enabling early identification if a fire starts.

These actions are obviously appreciated, however, from a DSCA perspective, we believe there needs to be a stronger community input and information focus. We are in further discussion on this.

As you may be aware, GSBC have now purchased a smaller portable mulcher to provide fuel reduction on site in the Dolphin Sands area. This was made possible with a Disaster Ready Fund grant from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) via the DSCA. Thanks to Steve Barrett and Robyn Moore for their significant effort in managing this.

The Council will be publishing information on the process for the use of the mulcher, but at this stage, the first service will be **17/18 November 2026**. We have been informed GSBC will be in touch with residents, and we will share relevant information as it comes to hand.

For the mulching, please note the following:

- For **green vegetation**, the maximum diameter of mulching material is **200mm**;
- For **dry / dead vegetation**, the maximum diameter for mulching is **150mm**;
- Any vegetation left for mulching must be **no longer than 3m in length**;
- GSBC advise that vegetation that exceeds this size limits will need to remain onsite and cannot be chipped.

The GSBC have also been working on the fire break near the entrance to Cambria Drive. This will improve access for emergency services when required.

We would like to thank the Council for their work on the mulcher and the fire break.

DSCA is also working to implement a recommendation from the local TFS to ensure property numbers are more visible. It is felt that painted numbers on the road are the best option but there is also investigation of reflective numbering. There is more information to come on this project.

So, in summary:

- We are working with state government and TFS to develop a strong fire mitigation plan;
- DSCA committee believe there is more work needed to ensure we have a process that takes into account all stakeholders and ensure we are working together;
- The GSBC will be implementing a program for on site mulching to reduce fuel load and have cleared the fire break near Cambria Drive;
- DSCA will be working with residents to help with better identification of property numbers.

In closing, the most important players in fire prevention are the individual land owners. Please make sure you are preparing your properties and using the resources available on the [TFS website](#).

We are all hoping for a much safer fire season this year, but that relies heavily on the collective action of all Dolphin Sands land owners and residents as well as the relevant agencies.

David Galloway

President, Dolphin Sands Community Association

www.dscommunity.org.au

We acknowledge Dolphin Sands as the land of the Paredarmerme nation

