

**7.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE – BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT – DESIGNATION OF HARLEY HAMMOND RESERVE**

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**Attachments:** Nil

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**SUMMARY**

Mitchell Shire has seven (7) Neighbourhood Safer Place – Bushfire Place of Last Resort (NSP-BPLR) locations which have been assessed and designated in accordance with the guidelines and assessment criteria pursuant to the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958, Part IIIA, Section 50E*.

The Harley Hammond Reserve oval was assessed and approved as an NSP-BPLR November 2014. Annual assessments have confirmed it as an NSP-BPLR. The oval is the designated area of the NSP-BPLR and is identified accordingly.

Mitchell Shire Council (MSC) undertook a major refurbishment of the Harley Hammond Reserve oval, between November 2016 and March 2017. The work included erecting a temporary fence around the oval, effectively preventing its use as an NSP-BPLR. To ensure that an NSP-BPLR was available to the Broadford community, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) assessed the carpark area around the oval as an NSP-BPLR which was deemed as compliant with the CFA NSP Assessment Criteria. Council Designated the carpark as an NSP-BPLR April 2017.

Harley Hammond Reserve has two designated NSP-BPLR areas – oval and car park. This has created an administrative anomaly and potential confusion when two (2) NSP-BPLR are located together. Public accessing the NSP-BPLR would assume that the car park and oval are one NSP-BPLR. CFA advised that this anomaly needs to be corrected.

The annual assessment of the Harley Hammond Reserve conducted in August 2017 confirmed that the Harley Hammond Reserve oval and carpark are compliant as NSP-BPLR.

It was proposed that during the 2018 assessment, the Harley Hammond Reserve be reassessed to have one designated NSP-BPLR instead of two separate designations in the same area – the oval and carpark.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE – BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT – DESIGNATION OF HARLEY HAMMOND RESERVE (CONT.)

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** Council:

1. Approves the decommissioning of the Harley Hammond Reserve oval and carpark designated as separate NSP-BPLR areas.
2. Approves the Designation of the Harley Hammond Reserve oval and carpark as a single NSP-BPLR.
3. Note the actions and implementation required once council approval is given for the site to be established as NSP-BPLR.
4. Informs the Country Fire Authority that Harley Hammond Reserve oval and carpark has been decommissioned as separate NSP-BPLR areas, and Harley Hammond Reserve oval and carpark is now Designated as a single NSP-BPLR.

## BACKGROUND

Existing designated NSP-BPLR within Mitchell Shire Council district, are:

- CWA Park, Tallarook
- Chittick Park, Seymour
- Hadfield Park, Wallan
- Harley Hammond Reserve, Broadford
- Bitumen car park adjacent to the Kilmore Trackside Function Centre, Kilmore
- Open space car park opposite the Kilmore Trackside Function Centre, Kilmore
- J Kelly Pavilion, Kilmore Trackside, Kilmore
- Pyalong Recreation Reserve Hall, Pyalong
- Tooborac Recreation Reserve Public Hall, Tooborac

Council is required to undertake an annual review of all designated NSP's within the municipality. CFA perform the assessment against the CFA NSP Assessment Guidelines. The annual assessments conducted in August 2018, determined that all NSPs in Mitchell Shire were deemed as compliant.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Harley Hammond Reserve has two designated NSP-BPLR located within the reserve – oval and carpark around the oval.

Community accessing the reserve to use the NSP-BPLR will naturally assume that when you drive through the gates into the reserve, you are located in the NSP-BPLR.

Having the two (2) NSP-BPLR within the reserve adjacent to each other has created an administrative anomaly which can be corrected by decommissioning both NSP-BPLR's and commissioning a single NSP-BPLR within the reserve.

The CFA NSP-BPLR Guidelines and the Mitchell Shire Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan provides for the process to assess, commission, review and decommission an NSP-BPLR. This process is being used to correct the administrative anomaly created by the two NSP-BPLR within Harley Hammond Reserve.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE – BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT – DESIGNATION OF HARLEY HAMMOND RESERVE (CONT.)

Reports to the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMP) 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018, and the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018 endorsed the recommendation for Council to formally decommission the two (2) designated NSP-BPLR at Harley Hammond Reserve and designate the Harley Hammond Reserve oval and car park as a single NSP-BPLR.

**Actions required when Council approval granted:**

- Notify CFA of the approval to Decommission and Designate
- Publish location of the NSP-BPLR on the MSC website
- Update signage on site as necessary to include a map of the designated NSP-BPLR area

**CONSULTATION**

Council officers and CFA representatives have met as part of the reassessment process, and the assessment of Harley Hammond Reserve oval and car park area. Council officers will continue to meet with stakeholders until the process is complete.

Community has not been engaged as part of the process to decommission and designate the Harley Hammond Reserve oval and car park area as an NSP-BPLR.

**FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

No maintenance works are required as current management regimes are adequate for their use as NSP-BPLR.

Some signage costs are the only predicted costs.

**POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Liability for injury or death at an NSP-BPLR is a Council responsibility (under division 4, s50M and s50O of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*).

Neighbourhood Safer Place – Bushfire Place of Last Resort may only be decommissioned and designated by a resolution of Council.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)**

There are no environmental sustainability implications to be considered.

**CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE – BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT – DESIGNATION OF HARLEY HAMMOND RESERVE (CONT.)

**OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

**CONCLUSION**

The decommissioning and designation of the oval and car park area of the Harley Hammond Reserve will correct the administrative anomaly of two (2) separate NSP-BPLR in the same location, to create one (1) designated NSP-BLPR.