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# New guidelines set to reduce bush fire risk

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REGIONAL guidelines which consider fire management regimes across 20 regional landscapes are the aim of a new joint initiative being undertaken by the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG).

Partnering with the Condamine Alliance, Fitzroy Basin Association, South West Natural Resource Management and Reef Catchments, BMRG will carry out the project which aims to achieve conservation of threatened species and ecosystems, overall reduction of wildfire risk to these species and ecosystems, production of a regional fire guideline and continued planning, prioritisation and field assessment.

The guidelines will provide a simple but balanced prescription for burning for wildfire risk reduction, delivered by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and used by Fire Wardens and Rural Fire Brigades.

The guideline divides the landscape into land and fire management units and then

defines the best ways to balance risk, productivity and biodiversity.

QFES North Coast Region manager Peter Hollier said the new guide to fire management would work in conjunction with Operation Cool Burn – guidelines aimed at preparing fire-prone areas before bushfire season.

“This guide will enhance the impact of Operation Cool Burn and contribute to the effectiveness of the local fire management group and regional fire management practices,” he said.

“The guide will be a useful tool for Fire Wardens and Rural Fire Brigades when undertaking hazard reduction burns and mitigation planning prior to bushfire season each year,” he said.

BMRG chief executive officer Penny Hall said she hoped the guidelines would help build regional capacity in delivering landscape appropriate fire management.

She hoped it would provide a foundation for extension activities.

Both science and practice will be taken into consideration.



**FIRE SAFETY:** Better guidelines are the aim of a new joint initiative.

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