



Ms Margaret Quirk MLA  
Chair  
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee  
laccdjsc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Attention: *Dr Sarah Palmer*  
*Principal Research Officer*

Dear Ms Quirk

I refer to your letter dated 14 November 2016 regarding the questions on notice from the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee hearing on 9 November 2016.

A breakdown has been requested of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's south-west forest regions' prescribed burning target according to factors such as high fuel load, areas that have not been burnt for a long time and proximity to property.

The nominal annual (financial year) prescribed burning target for the department's three south-west forest regions is 200,000 hectares. As at 22 November 2016, approximately 138,000 hectares (almost 70 per cent) of this has been achieved. Given the high number of rain days this winter, which meant that prescribed burning in these regions was not able to commence until October, this is an outstanding achievement, and compares to approximately 119,000 hectares (60 per cent) at the same point last financial year.

The department manages approximately 2.5 million hectares of land in the area bounded by its three forest regions, or around 45 per cent of all land in that area. A portion of the annual prescribed burning target has been allocated to each of three land management zones (LMZs), as depicted on Map 1, according to the proportion of all department-managed land that occurs in that zone. Accordingly, the annual prescribed burning target across the three zones is: LMZ 1 - 20,000 hectares (~10 per cent), LMZ 2 - 70,000 hectares (~35 per cent) and LMZ 3 - 110,000 hectares (~55 per cent). The three LMZs reflect proximity to urban development, with LMZ 1 extending 3.5 kilometres from the interface. This distance is based on a typical fire weather day and potential spotting distance for a bushfire burning in LMZ 2. This next zone extends beyond the first for a further 7.5 kilometres, and is based on a bushfire burning for four hours under typical conditions before it reaches LMZ 1. LMZ 3 is the remainder of the forested landscape. While more distant from populated areas, LMZ 3 is traversed by infrastructure corridors of economic and public safety significance (powerlines, highways, etc.) and contains important biodiversity, recreational, wood production, water catchment and other values.

Various factors are taken into account in planning the department's prescribed burning program, including an assessment of fuel loads and associated bushfire risk to a range of values, including people and assets, as well as consideration of various land management objectives. The annual program approved by the department's Corporate Executive typically includes more planned burns than can be achieved, which is necessary to allow sufficient flexibility to take advantage of suitable local conditions, which vary on a weekly and even daily basis, across the three regions. Accordingly, the approved 2016/17 program covers almost 787,000 hectares, as shown on Map 2, with the boundaries of individual planned burns overlain on fuel age information (noting that years

since last burnt (YSLB) is a proxy for fuel load). A summary of information about that program is included in the following table:

LMZ Area	Number of burns	Area (hectares)	Average Fuel Age
LMZ A, and LMZ A & other tenures	57	13,654	Each burn has an average fuel age of 6+ YSLB (see attached map for further details)
LMZ B, and LMZ B & other tenures	26	22,523	
LMZ C, and LMZ C & other tenures	33	144,212	
LMZ A & B, and LMZ A, B & other tenures	89	171,584	
LMZ B & C, and LMZ B, C & other tenures	50	262,873	
Across all areas (just other tenures, and LMZ A, B, C & other tenures)	22	171,770	
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>786,616</b>	
* Other tenures includes lands outside of UCL and P&W estate			
** Individual burns often straddle more than one LMZ and/or may include several tenure types			

I trust this information addresses your request.

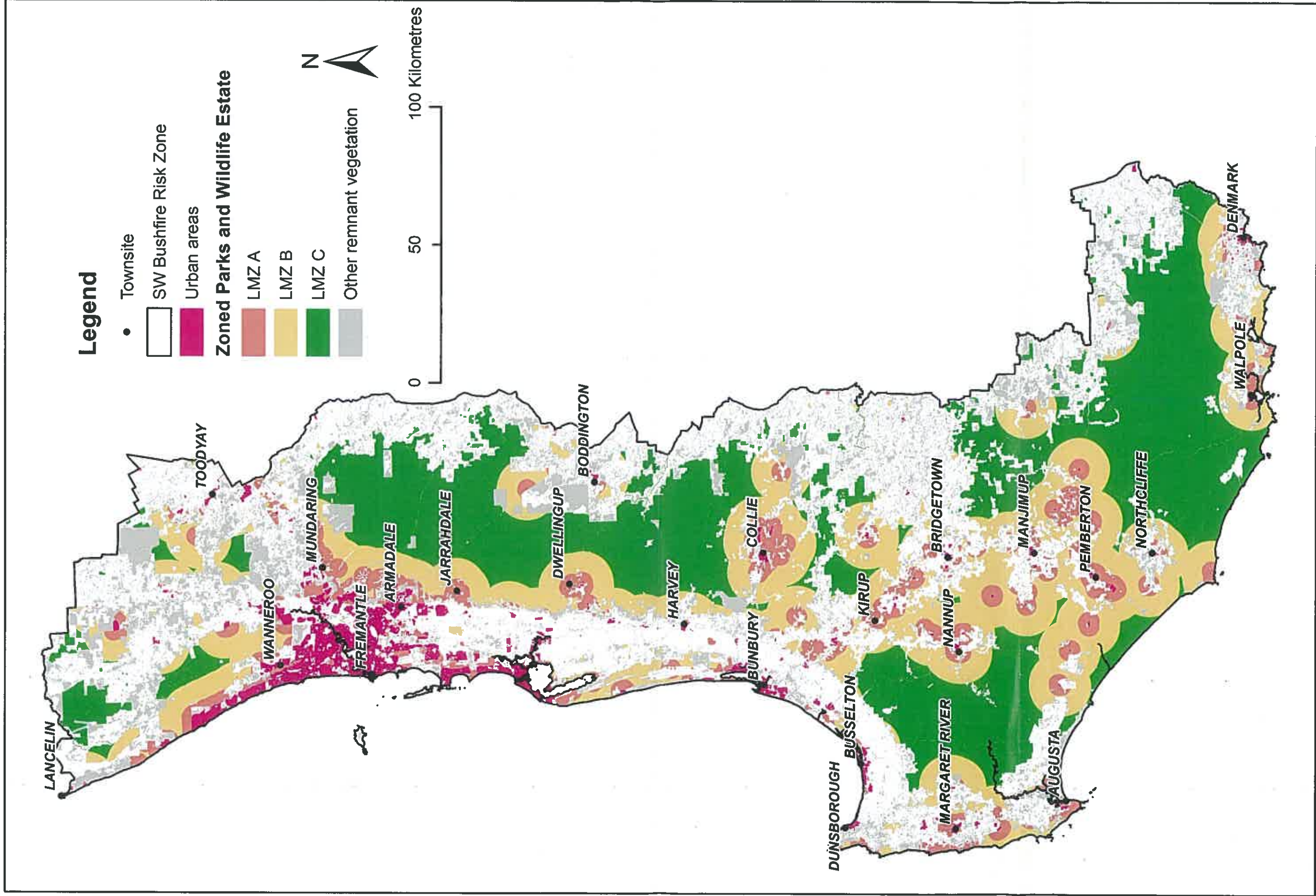
Yours sincerely



Jim Sharp  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

24 November 2016

Att



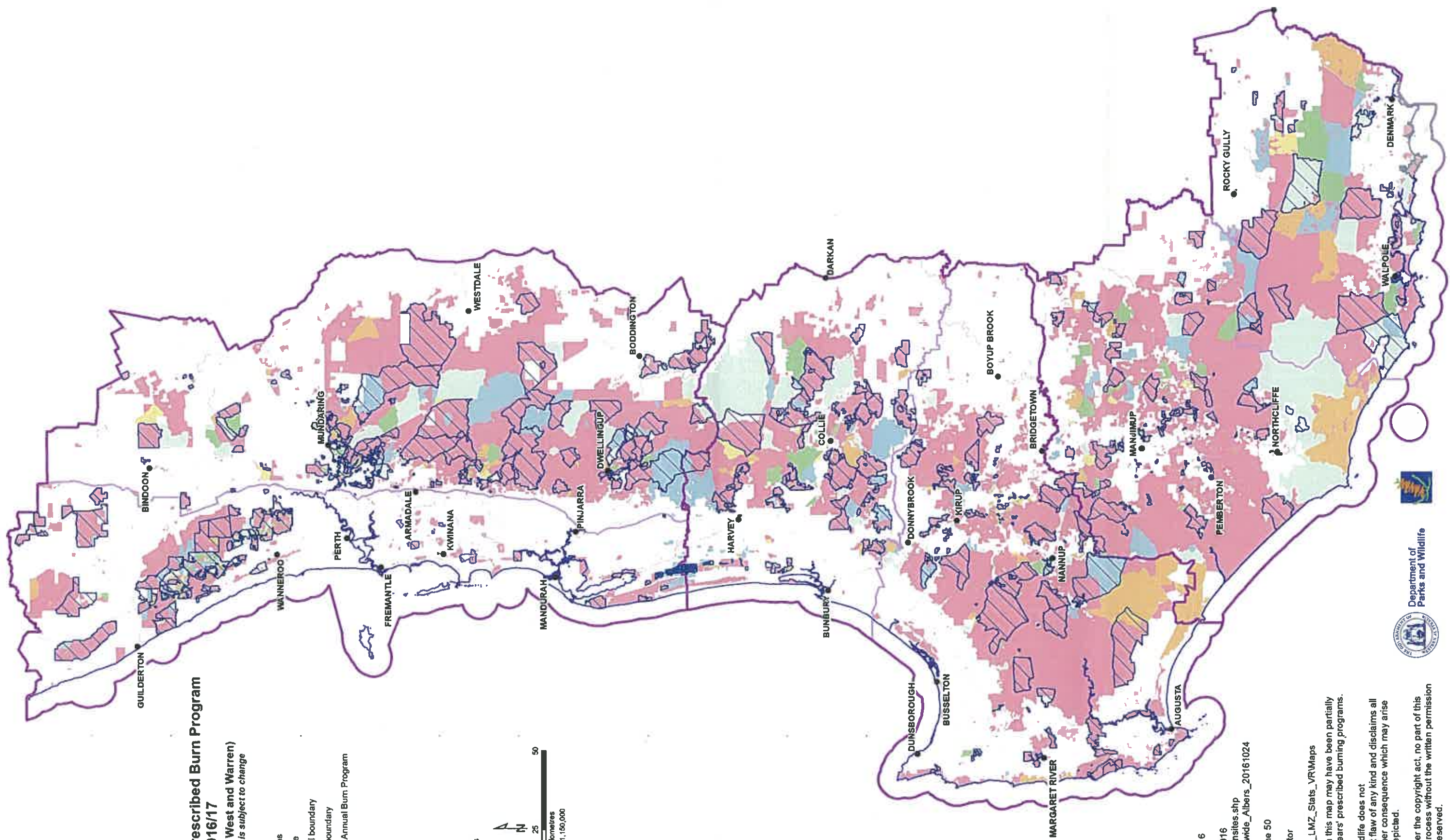
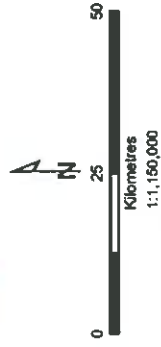
# Indicative Annual Prescribed Burn Program 2016/17

(Swan, South West and Warren)  
*Burn program is subject to change*

## Legend

- Townsites
- Coastline
- Regional boundary
- District boundary
- 2016/17 Annual Burn Program
- YSLB

- <1 Year
- 1 Year
- 2 Years
- 3 Years
- 4 Years
- 5 Years
- 6+ Years



Produced By: Fire Management Services Branch  
 Date: 17 November, 2016  
 Data Sources: Corporate Data 2016  
 Forest\_Major\_townsites.shp  
 BPP\_AN16\_Statewide\_Albers\_20161024  
 Datum: GDA 94, MGA Zone 50  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Path: K:\Jobs\20161109\_LMZ\_Stats\_VRM\Maps

Note that some burns depicted on this map may have been partially treated within previous financial years' prescribed burning programs.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife does not guarantee that this map is without flaw of any kind and disclaims all liability for any error, or loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information depicted.

Apart from any use permitted under the copyright act, no part of this map may be reproduced by any process without the written permission of the authors. Crown copyright reserved.

