



KENTISH AQUATIC CLUB Inc
P.O. Box 296 Devonport 7310
www.kentishaquaticclub.org.au

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019

1. BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Bushfires have occurred in the district infrequently.

The behaviour of bushfires is significantly affected by weather conditions and they burn more aggressively when high temperatures combine with low humidity and strong winds. These conditions do occur at the club site.

The KAC Fire Use Policy appropriately observes fire bans. Lit fires are contained in protected areas and in controlled conditions to mitigate the risk from bushfire. Authorised club members will take control in an emergency and follow procedures as per this document.

2. FIRE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

2.1 Siting of club

The Kentish Aquatic Club site is situated in an area of undisturbed native bushland on a lake-front (attach map).

The site has power, a fuel-powered pump and unlimited water access.

To leave the site by road requires travel along an access road through bushland, which takes 10 minutes to travel.

The site has pontoons and boats.

The site has a boat fuel shed located in a central area.

There are varying numbers of vehicles and persons at the club at any time. It is mostly vacant on weekdays. An average weekend would see 12 vehicles and 25 persons present.

2.2 Persons in authority in a fire emergency

Persons who will act in the capacity of fire wardens are:

- Graeme Sturzaker
- Simon Carins
- Gavin Stebbeings

These persons will act in the capacity KAC fire wardens in the case of a fire. These persons may also appoint additional wardens to assist in an emergency.

2.3 The role of KAC Fire Wardens

Key duties include:

- Implementing emergency procedures in the case of fire
- Helping prevent fire emergencies by monitoring the adequacy of fire risk control measures
- Checking on a regular basis that fire exits and evacuation pathways are clear
- Raising awareness with other members about the fire hazards that exist at the club
- Instructing members how to respond in an emergency
- Being familiar with all escape routes
- Leading fire drills and real evacuation procedures
- Ensuring all members and guests are accounted for during an evacuation
- Assisting all people in the event of a fire emergency, including people with special needs.

2.4 Asset Protection Zone

One of the most important fire protection measures, influencing the safety of people and property, is to create an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around buildings and caravans. In this low fuel zone, buildings or caravans or tents should not be located under trees or within 30 meters of bushland. Fuel loads should be reduced by removing leaf litter and accumulated vegetation. A clear zone of 30m should separate the APZ from surrounding bushland. Non-flammable features such as irrigated landscapes, mown and slashed grasslands, waterways, driveways and roads form part of the KAC APZ.

The aim of the KAC APZ is to:

- reduce direct flame contact and radiant heat from igniting the building during the passage of a fire front.
- reduce ember attack and provide a safer space for people to defend (if required) before, during and after a fire front passes.

2.4 Boat fuel protection and storage

Foliage is to be kept clear around the fuel shed. A sprinkler system is to be installed to douse embers on the roof and in the vicinity.

2.5 Kentish Aquatic Club Fire Use Policy

All members and guests are to observe fire bans and light fires only in designated areas. Marshalling locations and fire warden contact names are to be clearly displayed at the site.

KAC fire wardens have full authority to conduct an evacuation and all club members must be aware of this authority.

3. FIRE FIGHTING STRATEGIES

3.0 Water access and use

- Pump to be accessible and in good working order.
- Club emergency fire drill and pump use sessions.
- Ensure a maximum number of members are familiar with access and use.

3.1 Fire Extinguisher

- A portable fire extinguisher is to be mounted in an accessible area in porch area adjacent to the club house.
- Ensure a maximum number of members are familiar with access and use.

3.3 In the event of fire danger being identified:

KAC fire wardens will:

- Alert all persons at the club to imminent danger
- Liaise with emergency services
- Direct firefighting and ember control
- Activate club sprinklers if power is available.
- Supervise pump assembly to provide water to hose buildings, caravans and embers.
- Marshall members to the foreshore in case of potential evacuation
- Call an evacuation if required.

4. FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE

4.1 Marshalling area

In the event of a bushfire evacuation of the site, club members are to marshall on the foreshore and follow the instructions from the fire wardens.

4.2 Vehicular evacuation

Given the bushland location, the access road will be a last resort method of evacuation. The club road must be left unencumbered for access by fire service and emergency services during evacuation.

4.3 Boat evacuation

Evacuation by boat is the preferred method. All persons on site are to follow the instruction of the fire wardens. On Evacuation, club members are encouraged to calmly maximise numbers of occupants in boats to speed departure. The warden will direct the destination of the boats.

4.4 Fire shelter area if evacuation impossible

The equipment shed is the designated a fire shelter area to afford protection from ember and smoke attack from fire, should evacuation be impossible.

4.5 In the event of an emergency evacuation fire wardens need to:

- guide everyone to the assembly area and assist in checking that everyone has arrived safely
- direct everyone to leave the club site in a safe manner by boat If possible
- check all accessible spaces including the accommodation units, amenities block and club rooms to make sure everyone has evacuated – this should be done on the way to the foreshore, so that the fire warden isn't put at risk by re-entering an evacuated area.