



MEMORANDUM

To: North Arm Cove Community
From: Ian Cook, Community Protection Planning Officer. Customer Service Centre (North)
Subject: North Arm Cove Community Protection Plan
Date: December, 2015 **File No.** NAC CPP 2015 / 5

Dear all

Firstly my sincere apologies for not being able to attend the general meeting. It would of been lovely to catch up with everybody. The past few weeks have been a little busy with a number of policy documents requiring review combined with a review of Asset Protections Zones along the Arakwal Urban Interface (Byron Bay) for OEH (National Parks). I can assure you that North Arm Cove and implementation of the Community Protection Plan has not been forgotten and is included with the above activities. Lots happening in the background.

I would like to maintain a positive focus on what has been achieved both in and by the community so far. To date we have been successful in putting an APZ around the hall, and listing it as a Neighbourhood Safer Place. Yes the hall is now officially part of the Neighbourhood Safer Place program and is listed on the NSW Rural Fire Service website.

Work is progressing for the installation of the ember screening and a dedicated fire fighting tank/water supply pump and hose reel for the community hall, together with a backup generator.

The NSW RFS State Mitigation Support Services have been busy in and around the community for some time now strengthening control lines and fire trails in preparation for hazard reduction activities, and the local brigade has been provided with assistance in reducing vegetation around the station. Hazard reduction work is still planned to go ahead to protect the village when weather conditions allow. On the subject of control lines and fire trails I must make mention of the potential for illegal dumping of rubbish and household waste that can unfortunately occur as a result of clearing bush tracks. There are those that see this as an opportunistic option to save driving to the tip. I would ask that if any one witnesses illegal dumping to remember the number plate and contact council immediately. These grubs are not only adding to the available fuel for a fire, but also damaging the environment as well as destroying the natural beauty of the community, and increasing the risk to fire fighters.

For those of you that enjoy an afternoon or early morning stroll I would recommend a walk around Inland Way, Inverell Circuit & Maitland Street to see firsthand the work SMSS have done. These guys really have done a great job. While the APZ for the hall is very visual for all to see, the work that is going on unseen is increasing the communities resilience to bush fire in many ways.

Most importantly of all, it is hoped that residents now have an enhanced understanding of the bush fire threat to their properties and community, and that they have prepared their properties and completed a Bush Fire Survival plan for their family.

I would encourage any resident who feels that they qualify for assistance under the AIDER program to contact the AIDER Coordinator on 02 87414955 or email : aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au. This program provides a one-off assistance for people who are Infirm, Disabled or Elderly to reduce bush fire hazards around their home. The SMSS really are a great bunch and very committed in providing assistance to vulnerable residents.

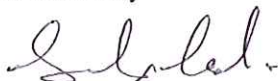
As always I would like to recognise the assistance being provided by Great Lakes Council and the Great Lakes RFS District Office. Without this assistance and project management from council and DTZ staff, we would certainly not be where we are today.

The local brigade Captain and members should be acknowledged for their commitment at providing a vital service to the community. Mark has always made time to provide advice and accompany me around the community when needed.

Last but certainly not least, the tireless work and commitment of certain community members must be acknowledged. To those that have assisted me, you know who you are, thank you. These people really do have the best interest of the community at heart.

Finally with Christmas approaching faster than Santa on a downhill run, I would like to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas & New Year.

Yours sincerely



Ian



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