



## **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

13 October 2009

<b>DR6</b>	<b>SPADCO AGM &amp; PRESENTATION OF DRAFT EMERGENCY BUSHFIRE ASSEMBLY PLAN FILE: 71                      KEO                      { FOLIO NO. * }</b>
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### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting to council on my attendance as the mayoral representative, to the Stuarts Point and District Community Organisation (SPADCO) 2009 annual general meeting held 10 September at the Stuarts Point community hall.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

This report will be mainly concentrating on the public presentation of the bushfire assembly area plan for Stuarts Point that was held at the closure of the annual general meeting.

At the commencement of the AGM, SPADCO Chairman Greg Coleman thanked the outgoing committee for their endeavours over the last 12 months, and stood aside, as all committee positions were declared vacant and elections for office bearers held.

The elected office bearers for 2009/10 are:

Chairman: Greg Coleman	Vice-Chairman: Nicky Smith
Secretary: Adrienne Smith	Treasurer: Caterina Cooper

Committee members: Kevin Wilson, Dave Jones, Gillian Nicholson, Ken Pritchard, Ian Tolson, David Bales, Susan Reed, Kosta Delimiharis, Kay Morrison, Tia Newsham.

At the closure of the AGM, a joint power point presentation of the draft emergency bushfire area assembly plan for Stuarts Point was given by Belinda Devine of the Rural Fire Service and Brendon Barrow of the Local Emergency Management Committee.

The assembly area plan is being developed by SPADCO along with the local rural fire brigade, as a direct result of a demonstrated community need following the recent Victorian bushfire disaster.

The first part of the plan is a map of Stuarts Point clearly indicating the AA (assembly area) point. At this stage, it is proposed to use the community hall.

Information – The proposed method of alerting the community to an extreme bushfire impact will be by siren, mounted in the Stuarts Point fire station. Information is also to be broadcast on local radio, particularly the ABC radio network.

The assembly plan is a plan which will make available to the community of Stuarts Point:

- A refuge for residents who self evacuate too late, and require immediate shelter.
- A refuge area that is well resourced. The community hall can offer a safe location for large groups requiring shelter, amenities and food handling facilities.
- A trigger for the community to act appropriately in an extreme fire event.
- A communication plan and channels for information flow before, during and after an extreme fire event.

Consideration in the plan is being given to have a co-coordinator responsible for registering all people who assemble at the community hall.

Following community consultation, any feedback will be submitted to the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) with a view to them adopting the plan. It has been proposed that after it has been endorsed by the LEMC that information packs be delivered to each household in Stuarts Point, including a copy of the plan and bushfire awareness information (RFS).

In addition, an information sharing meeting will be called to inform residents on how to properly prepare their property for bushfire season.

The plan will be supported by the new bushfire risk management plan developed under s52 of the Rural Fires Act by the bushfire management committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environment:***

*Nil*

- ***Social:***

*The adoption of the emergency bushfire assembly plan will ensure the community is adequately informed of steps to be taken in case of an emergency fire.*

- ***Financial/economic;***

*Nil*

- ***Policy or Statutory:***

*Nil*

**General Managers Note:**

*Councillors need to be aware that there are still issues to be resolved in relation to the successful execution of the Bushfire Assembly Plan, such as determining whether the Council would have insurance coverage for such an activity in a council owned building and the works required to achieve a safe location for evacuees. Should the plan be able to be put into practice it would provide a model that a number of other communities in the local government area are keen to also follow.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the information be noted and that SPADCO be congratulated on their initiative in preparing a bushfire assembly plan for Stuarts Point residents.**

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**COUNCILLOR D F SAUL**