

Rapid Assessment – Damage to Heritage Places

Wildfires/Bushfires 2019-2020

This rapid assessment form is designed for completion by Council heritage officers, not property owners.

Return this completed form to _____

Place name, address/GIS location			Date of Fire:		Date of Assessment:
			Name of Assessor: Organisation: Position:		
Property type (eg. public facility, private, business, residence, farm, etc)			Property owner: Contact name and number:		
Heritage Status					
National	State	Local	Acknowledged as significant locally, but not listed		
Cultural Heritage Values			Key Attributes – list/specify		
Historical	Historical Association	Aesthetic	Buildings	Archaeology	Landscape
Technological	Research / Scientific	Social	Infrastructure (eg. bridge, culvert, berm)	Industrial	Movable
Spiritual	Custom	Contributory to heritage precinct or conservation area	Aboriginal	Records	Collection
Is there a CMP or other record of the place?			Associated communities		Intangible
Heritage Place – describe briefly			Extent and nature of damage – describe briefly		
Building or building complex – construction (eg. timber, masonry, steel, roofing)			No damage – elements/attributes		
Natural or Aboriginal feature			Minor damage – elements/attributes affected		
Cultural Landscape			Major damage – elements/attributes affected		
Other			Totally destroyed – elements/attributes affected		

Impact on cultural heritage values	Impact on attributes
What cultural heritage values have been lost?	What attributes (buildings, structures, trees, artworks, fences, bridges, other significant elements, intangible attributes) are recoverable?
What cultural heritage values have been impacted?	
What cultural heritage values are recoverable?	
Hazards Present	Type of Damage
Hazardous materials present (eg. asbestos, lead, solar cell debris; broken glass)	Loss of structural integrity
Environmental hazards present (eg. unstable trees overhanging structure/site; gas bottles/chemicals/other fuel present)	Cracks in masonry
Fire retardant present	Disturbance of foundations from large quantities of water being dumped on site or mechanical methods used to create fire breaks
Exposure / vulnerability to other potential environmental hazards (eg. rain, wind, fire, dust, UV – as relevant to heritage item)	Loss of roof/roofing
Exposure to human hazards (eg vandalism, theft)	Loss of windows, doors and other elements
Potential contamination of water systems from runoff	Archaeological remains uncovered
Other	Smoke damage, water damage, charring (contents and structure)

Site Map and sketches	Show structures/elements that are damaged and hazards present Annotate as necessary to make situation clear

Photographs	

Emergency / priority needs	Insurance Cover/Financial Capacity
Security / safety measures required	None
Decontamination required	Likely to be insufficient to cover clean up and recovery
Structural stabilisation required	Replace new for old (unlikely to cover heritage repairs)
Salvage, inventory and dry storage of salvaged contents / movable heritage required	Replace like for like (enables costs of heritage repairs)
Salvage, inventory and dry storage of salvaged materials/building elements required (eg. elements for repair and future reinstatement or as reference for reconstruction, such as sample section/moulding)	Gap anticipated to cover upgrades to meet new standards for construction in bushfire prone areas
Clean up and sorting of other debris	Does owner want to repair/restore/reconstruct heritage?
Make place weathertight	Does owner have the resources or capacity to repair/restore/reconstruct heritage?
Measures required to protect place from further fire damage	Potential assistance available for clean up?
Contain runoff to prevent contamination issues	Potential assistance available for recovery?
Other	

Post-Emergency Planning for Recovery	
Document place more fully	– collect archival material – collect stories, memories – physical survey – photographic survey
Undertake more detailed damage assessment – Requires specialist heritage input	– condition of elements – investigate interventions required to meet current standards for construction in fire prone areas (building and landscape requirements) – investigate other hazards that must be addressed in recovery
Consult community	– What is important to them? – What should be recovered? – What has been lost, will be mourned and needs to be acknowledged in recovery?
Determine what is recoverable and form of recovery – Requires specialist heritage input	E.g. – Recovery of fabric – Recovery of values – Recovery of form – Recovery of use – Interpretation of what has been lost – Telling of stories
Approvals required for rebuilding – Note: these need to be expedited as far as possible – Heritage and planning authorities should assist by providing guidance to owners – ICOMOS members could provide technical support/advice to owners	– local government approvals – state government approvals – HIS to accompany applications