

K'GARI (FRASER ISLAND) BUSHFIRE REVIEW

IGEM acknowledges the Butchulla people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of K'gari. We recognise their connection to the land, sea and community.
We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Review themes and findings

Strategic value

- Review World Heritage agreement and funding arrangements
- Disaster management in World Heritage listed sites
- Significant environmental and cultural heritage sites

Planning and plans

- State bushfire plans regularly reviewed and exercised
- Hazard specific guidance
- Happy Valley community planning good practice
- Interagency Protocol for Fire Management
- Financial delegation and authority for Incident Controllers
- Improved planning for bushfires in national parks
- Incident management transfer of command and control
- Evacuation planning for bushfires on K'gari

Understanding risk

- Local bushfire risk mitigation plans, bushfire risk mapping and methodology available to community
- Prescribed burn program
- Collaborative review of firelines, tracks and trails
- Predictive products and services

Stakeholder engagement

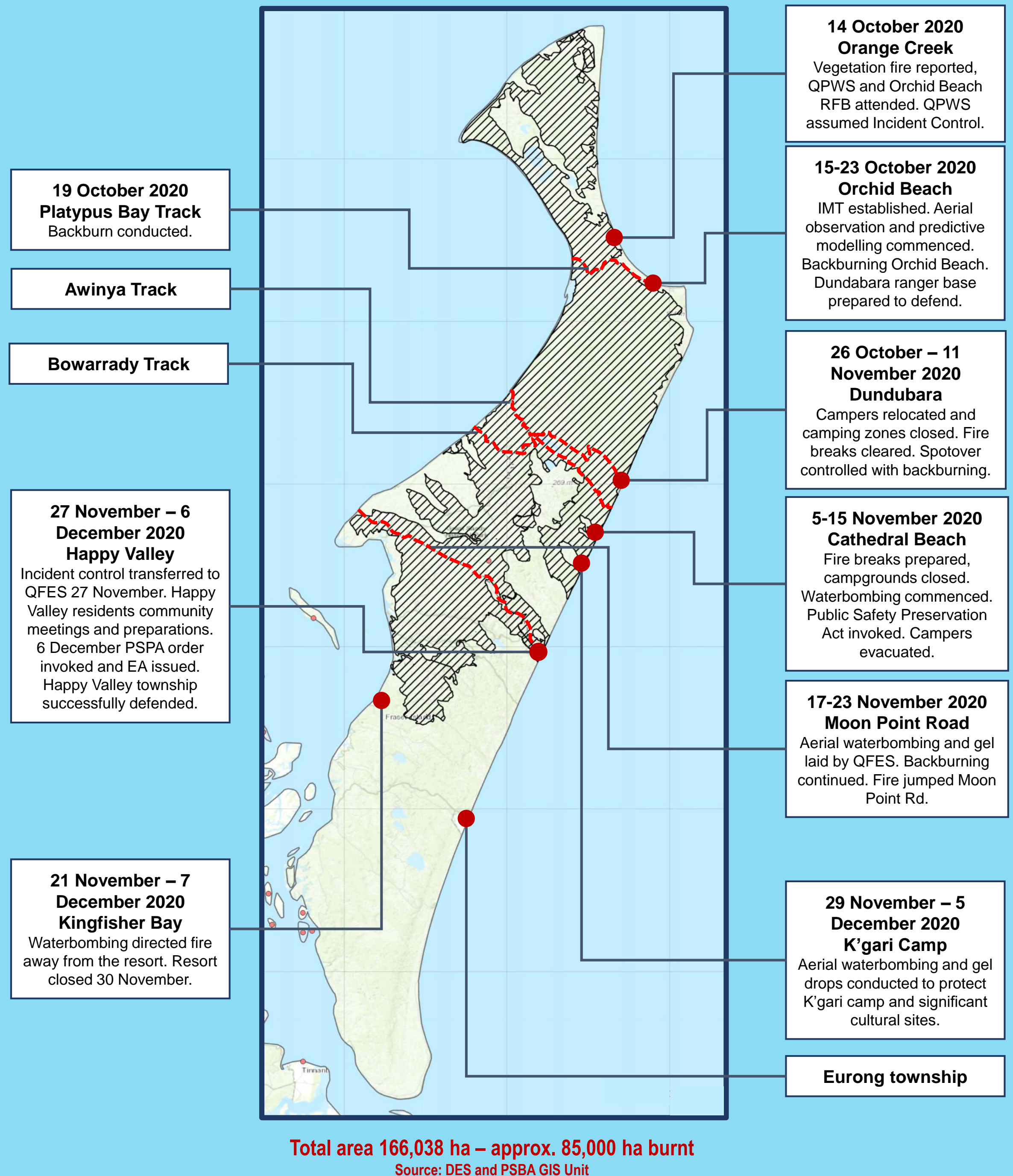
- Locality-specific fire management group for K'gari
- Increase Traditional Owners, community and business involvement
- Aerial asset public information resource
- Bushfire risk communications planning

Prevention and preparedness

- Enhanced training and exercising for rangers
- Visitor management
- Campfire compliance and awareness

Response capability

- Remote Area Firefighting Teams
- Traditional Owner incident management roles
- Resource model for firefighting in national parks
- Situational reporting and requests for assistance
- Clarify incident levels and arrangements



K'gari key facts

- UNESCO World Heritage site 1992
- Butchulla native title rights confirmed by Federal Court of Australia in 2014
- Name changed from Fraser Island to K'gari in 2017
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife manage 98% of the island (163,755 ha)
- 2016 census showed 182 residents, 201 private dwellings
- Over 300,000 visitors per year
- 600km of roads, more than 250km of walking tracks and 28 campsites

Response facts and figures

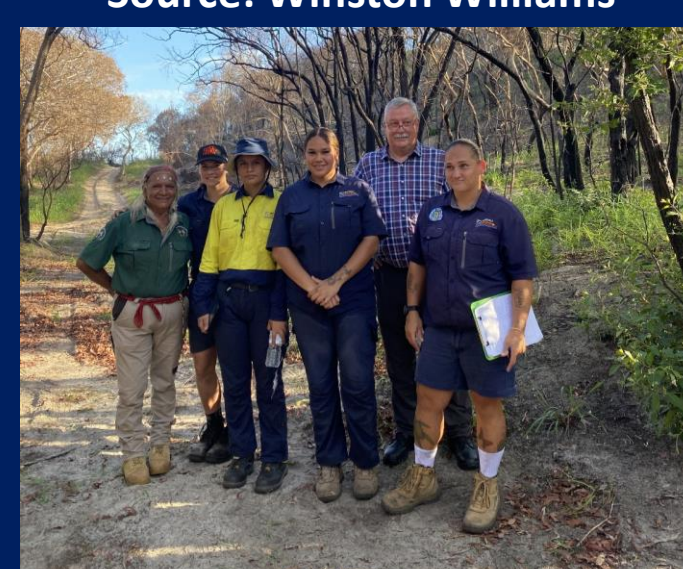
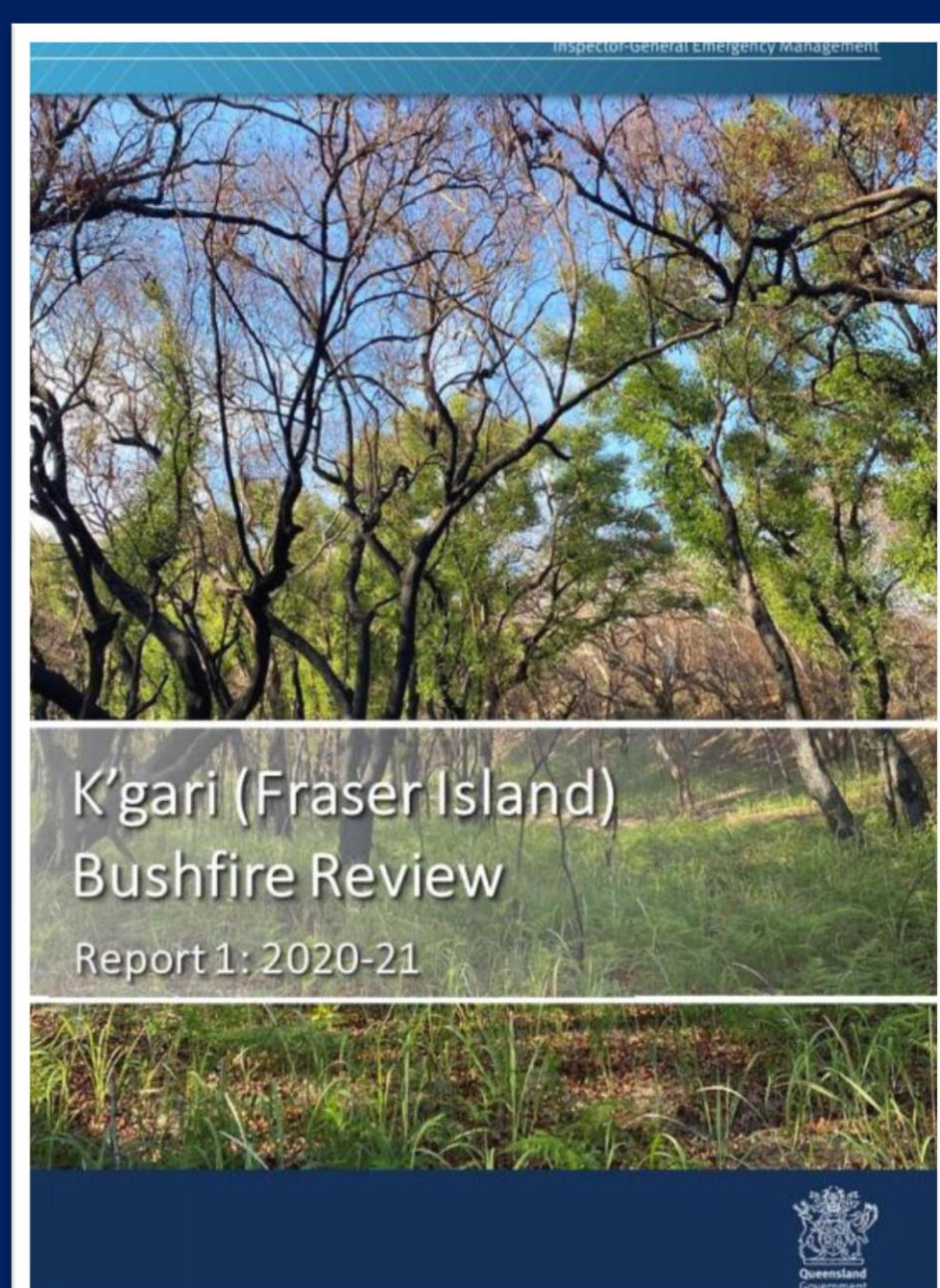
- Event timeframe 14 October to 16 December 2020 – total of 64 days
- Communities and facilities threatened
- 30 water bombing aircraft used
- 13.3 million litres of fresh water, salt water and gel additives dropped

Challenges:

- Balance cultural and conservation values with visitor numbers
- Access and transport restrictions and limitations
- Limited or no mobile and internet connectivity
- No mains power, town water supply or connected sewerage
- Dry and fire receptive vegetation, inaccessible terrain and narrow sand tracks

Review facts and figures

- Review timeframe 4 December 2020 to 31 March 2021
- 147 community members engaged
- 5 community and business forums
- 1 Traditional Owner forum
- 1 researcher forum
- 78 written public submissions
- 38 recommendations



To access the K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review Report, go to:

