

TWO WAY FIRE SAFETY OUTCOMES



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

On 26th October 2020, the City commenced community engagement on the Two-Way Fire Safety project. We asked the communities of Anakie and Breamlea what their concerns and challenges were with regards to bushfire preparation. Residents of Anakie and Breamlea responded with the following concerns and challenges:

Anakie

- Anakie residents are concerned with the timing of slashing along Anakie roads
- Poor internet and phone reception in Anakie
- Concerns raised over the amount of roadside vegetation in Anakie and line of site issues
- Anakie residents concerned about the fuel loads in the Brisbane Ranges National Park
- Anakie residents concerned with the state of De Motts Rd, a designated Fire Access road
- Unsure what vegetation can be removed without requiring a permit
- Some Anakie residents are still reliant on a call from the fire brigade to tell them what to do when a fire starts
- Some Anakie residents think property preparation is not required because they have insurance

Breamlea

- Breamlea residents concerned about illegal burn offs in Breamlea
- Breamlea residents concerned with the number of visitors illegally parking and making access for residents and emergency vehicles difficult
- Concerns raised with the monitoring and maintenance of fire plugs in Breamlea
- Concerns raised that visitors to Breamlea are unaware of the fire risk in Breamlea

Both Anakie and Breamlea residents raised the following:

- Anakie and Breamlea residents unsure of where to get reliable information
- Anakie and Breamlea residents unsure who to contact in council for certain issues
- Many residents are unsure where to start when it comes to planning for fire or other hazards.

OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

In response to the communities feedback the following information and outcomes have been delivered:

Anakie

- A clearer understanding of the slashing program for Anakie with roadsides slashed closer to Christmas to limit regrowth to provide the best protection for the community over summer.
- Through this project, the City was able to advocate to have Satellite WIFI installed into the Anakie Community house. Installation is expected prior to Christmas.
- Land managers were taken on a tour of Anakie to highlight residents concerns with regards to the amount of vegetation in the Brisbane Ranges National Park, amount of vegetation along roadsides and line of sight issues. Land managers have since removed noxious weeds from the roadside and reserves, cut back vegetation and trees to increase visibility, inspected all rural roads for dangerous trees and worked in partnership to maintain strategic fuel breaks while maintaining the important ecological value of the roadsides and the national park.
- The road shoulders of De Motts road were repaired to level the shoulders with the road and increase road user safety.
- Both Anakie and Breamlea are subject to numerous planning overlays with some overlays having specific exemptions where a permit to remove vegetation is not required. To determine if an exemption is applicable to your property, landowners should contact Golden Plains Statutory Planning team on 5220 7111 or City of Greater Geelong Planning unit on 5272 5272.
- Through the virtual workshops, property clean- up days and the bushfire safety guides, residents of Anakie have been advised to not wait for a call from the fire brigade to activate their fire plan. Anakie and Maude CFA brigades have only 4 fire fighting tankers to service over 300 properties. Residents should not expect a call or a truck at their property.
- It is important for residents to ensure they have the right level of insurance cover for their property. The insurance recovery process can take time. The better prepared your property is, the better chance you have of minimising damage from bushfire.

Breamlea

- Three new Fire Prohibition signs were installed in Breamlea to advise visitors to Breamlea that NO fire can be lit without a permit from the City's Fire Prevention team.
- During summer, visitors frequent Breamlea for its protected beaches. To overcome visitors illegally parking, new unbroken yellow painted lines were placed to indicate no stopping zones along Horwood Drive. Parking Inspectors also conduct patrols during the summer including on weekends.
- The City conducts annual Fire Plug inspections with Breamlea serviced each December. Residents can report a fire plug issue at any time through the Geelong App or by calling Customer Service on 5272 5272.
- A Fire Safety brochure was developed with input from the community to provide information and advice to visitors regarding the fire risk in Breamlea, parking, use of BBQ's and where to get reliable information regarding warnings. This was delivered to every property in Breamlea with extra copies going to the Caravan Park and temporary accommodation properties.

A Fire Safety reference guide was developed for both Anakie and Breamlea residents and visitors. Through this guide, the virtual workshops and property clean-up days, agencies have discussed with residents where to get reliable information, the use of the Vic Emergency App and website and the importance of having a written plan. The upcoming property preparation days will provide a further opportunity for residents to discuss their planning with CFA and Councils Fire Prevention Officers.

Throughout this project, the community has had access to a single officer to discuss concerns and raise issues. This officer has been the liaison between the community and the agencies and has provided information to the community on which department within council to contact and which agency is responsible for a certain issue. This has been well received and successful in helping residents to navigate the many agencies and council departments involved in fire safety.