

Firebreak Management System

Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale



Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale: Situated 45 kilometres south of Perth, Serpentine Jarrahdale is predominantly a rural area covering 904 square km. The shire includes the towns of Byford, Serpentine, Jarrahdale and Mundijong. In the 1830s the first settlers farmed cattle, sheep, horses, crops and harvested native timber. Today the shire still contains a large percentage of farm land as well as large areas of forest and remnant bush. This means compliance for

Background: The Bush Fires Act empowers the Council to issue firebreak notices with which residents must comply. Each year on December 1st a firebreak inspection is conducted on all 8,500+ properties within the Shire. The latest Variation to Firebreak Orders (VFO) data is uploaded into the Firebreak systems database by the field officers. Properties not conforming with the Act are then identified and either issued with a work order or an infringement notice. Photograph/s of the property are merged with this correspondence. To ensure compliance up to four subsequent visits are then made using the data collected. All data provided is in chronological order, is robust and easily able to be used in court if required.

THE BRIEF

Prior to 2008 an in-house designed firebreak system based on rates data was in use. This system used a notebook computer powered in a council vehicle by a 240volt inverter; MapInfo Professional 9.5 (3Z) with Blue Marble Geographic Tracker coupled to a Magellan Marine GPS; and a digital camera. Information was fed manually into Access databases for the VFO system and the Firebreak system.

Zoodata was tasked with producing a system to:

- Import extracted Property Owner details into the existing Access System
- Import matched data into Access System
- Mail Merge capability to generate reports

- Automates work previously duplicated manually by office staff
- Data will no longer be lost in the transfer from field staff to office staff
- Mail merge system improved and simplified
- Increased revenue gained as a result of improved data integrity
- Offenders receive infringement notices with attached photographs of their properties

TECHNICAL DATA

The existing systems was developed primarily in Microsoft Access, and integrated with HP TRIM, and accounting systems.

CLIENT BENEFITS

- Improvements to safety for the community through increased productivity and organisational efficiency