



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

20 FEBRUARY 2024

I certify that the minutes of the meeting of the Bush Fire
Advisory Committee held on Tuesday, 20 February 2024 were
confirmed on.

Presiding Person

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES
BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
20 FEBRUARY 2024**

ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this Committee Meeting is to discuss and make recommendations to Council about items appearing on the agenda and other matters for which the Committee is responsible. The Committee has no power to make any decisions which are binding on the Council or the Shire of Mundaring unless specific delegation of authority has been granted by Council. No person should rely on or act on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Committee Meeting.

The Shire of Mundaring expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or the content of any discussion occurring during the course of the Committee Meeting.

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**BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CIVIC AREA, SHIRE OF MUNDARING ADMINISTRATION CENTRE – 7.00PM**

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 7:00.

Acknowledgement of Country

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

1.1 Announcement of Visitors

NIL

1.2 Attendance/Apologies

Members	Ian Zlatnik	Presiding Person
	Steve Trlin	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
	Cr. Doug Jeans	A/ Director of Statutory Services
	Cr. John Daw	Central Ward
	Cr. Karen Beale	East Ward
	Andy Brock	West Ward
	Robin Preston	Chidlow VBFB 1 st LT
	Neil Inwood	Darling Range VBFB Captain
	Magnus Ohman	Darlington VBFB Captain
	Glen Stenton	Parkerville VBFB 1 st Lt
	Aaron Thredgold	Glen Forrest A/ Captain
	Adrian Woodley	Mt Helena Captain
	Jeff Bromilow	Sawyers Valley Captain
	Neil Hawkins	Stoneville Captain
	Murray McBride	Mundaring Fire School
	Jamie O'Neill	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
	Gary Rowles	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
	Nigel Morgan	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
	Tom Belger	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Staff	Adrian Dyson	Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management
	Craig Cuthbert	Coordinator Community Safety & Emergency Management
	Karen Dore	Bushfire Risk Management Officer
	Charlotte Jones	Secretary Emergency Management
Apologies	Mark Luzi	Director of Statutory Services
	Catriona McCarthy	Chidlow VBFB Captain
	Dan Wharton	Parkerville VBFB Captain
	Lesley Lynam	Wooroloo VBFB Captain
Guests	Steve Dryden	1 st Lt Darlington VBFB
	Lara Churton-Hughes	Fire Fighter Stoneville VBFB

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 Declaration of Financial Interest and Proximity Interests

Council Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting (*Part 5 Division 6 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting (*Sections 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

Nil

3.2 Declaration of Interest Affecting Impartiality

A Council Member or an employee who has an interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting must disclose that interest (*Shire of Mundaring Code of Conduct, Local Government (Admin) Reg. 34C*).

Nil

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 7 November 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.0 REPORTS OF EMPLOYEES

6.1 Update - CESM Mundaring/ Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

File Code	GV.MTG 6.5
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Attachments	Nil
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PURPOSE

CESM Mundaring update BFAC 20 February, 2024.

Prevention

- Currently in the prohibited season, DFES has declared 29 TFB's since last BFAC, Shire has declared 8 HVMB since last BFAC.

Preparedness

- The Shire of Mundaring has been actively engaged in regional taskforces, demonstrating a commitment to improved response throughout the region. The Shire of Mundaring continues to contribute effectively to regional taskforces.

Response

- Shire of Mundaring has two major incidents to date Parkerville fire 21/12/2023 and Storm event 16/01/2024.

Brigade Incidents 07/11/2023 – 13/02/2024

	2023/2024
<i>Total Number of Bushfires:</i>	46
Unreported	12
Power lines	7
Suspicious/Deliberate	6
Reignition of previous fire	6
Weather Conditions - Lightning	5
Burn off fires	2
Equipment - Mechanical or electrical fault	2
Electrical distribution (excl. power lines)	1
Undetermined	1
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	1
Sleeping/Alcohol/Drugs/Physical-Mental impairment	1
Cigarette	1
Yard maintenance, hand held equipment	1

Incident No	Date / Time	Suburb	Street	Ignition Cause	Size (hect)
646391	01/11/2023 21:18	STONEVILLE	TAMBLYN RILEY PL	Suspicious/Deliberate	< 1
646657	03/11/2023 00:19	DARLINGTON	NEWMAN RD	Burn off fires	< 1
646709	04/11/2023 41:01	SAWYERS VALLEY	DARKIN RIVER SAWYERS VALLEY	Weather Conditions - Lightning	5
646865	04/11/2023 34:16	MUNDARING	GREAT EASTERN HWY	Electrical distribution (excl. power lines)	< 1
647757	10/11/2023 27:16	GREENMOUNT	STUART ST	Suspicious/Deliberate	2
648065	13/11/2023 25:13	DARLINGTON	PADBURY RD	Undetermined	< 1
648356	16/11/2023 24:14	CHIDLOW	LIBERTON RD	Burn off fires	2
648567	18/11/2023 34:11	MOUNT HELENA	ELLIOTT RD	Unreported	< 1
648691	19/11/2023 07:15	DARLINGTON	NEWMAN RD	Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	1
648729	20/11/2023 03:02	SAWYERS VALLEY	GREAT EASTERN HWY	Power lines	< 1
648899	21/11/2023 51:14	PARKERVILLE	PEARTREE LANE	Suspicious/Deliberate	< 1
649268	24/11/2023 46:03	SAWYERS VALLEY	SEXTON ST	Power lines	< 1
650700	06/12/2023 30:19	PARKERVILLE	ROLAND RD	Sleeping/Alcohol/Drugs/Physical-Mental impairment	< 1
650718	07/12/2023 09:00	WOOROLOO	GOVERNMENT RD	Unreported	< 1
651175	11/12/2023 54:15	CHIDLOW	ROSEDALE RD	Equipment - Mechanical or electrical fault	< 1
651951	18/12/2023 54:23	MOUNT HELENA	SAWYERS RD	Power lines	< 1
652168	20/12/2023 06:22	MOUNT HELENA	ELLIOTT RD	Unreported	< 1
652204	21/12/2023 31:09	PARKERVILLE	GRANITE RD	Power lines	919
652469	23/12/2023 49:12	THE LAKES	GREAT SOUTHERN HWY	Suspicious/Deliberate	< 1
652959	28/12/2023 29:17	MOUNT HELENA	BUCKLAND GR	Unreported	< 1
653022	29/12/2023 32:08	MIDVALE	ORCHARD AV	Equipment - Mechanical or electrical fault	< 1
653691	05/01/2024 25:08	HELENA VALLEY	KATHARINE ST	Suspicious/Deliberate	< 1
653743	05/01/2024 02:18	PARKERVILLE	JOHNSTON RD	Reignition of previous fire	< 1
653791	06/01/2024 53:09	PARKERVILLE	JOHNSTON RD	Reignition of previous fire	< 1
653872	07/01/2024 20:11	PARKERVILLE	JOHNSTON RD	Reignition of previous fire	< 1
653894	07/01/2024 42:16	MIDVALE	VICTORIA PDE	Suspicious/Deliberate	< 1
653997	08/01/2024 44:14	PARKERVILLE	JOHNSTON RD	Reignition of previous fire	< 1
654139	10/01/2024 16:10	SAWYERS VALLEY	LOT 1877 GREAT EASTERN HWY	Cigarette	< 1
654190	10/01/2024 15:18	SAWYERS VALLEY	GREAT EASTERN HWY	Unreported	< 1
654206	10/01/2024 06:23	MUNDARING	MUNDARING WEIR RD	Unreported	< 1
654406	12/01/2024 19:20	CHIDLOW	THORNWICK CR	Weather Conditions - Lightning	< 1
654456	13/01/2024 13:01	CHIDLOW	OLD NORTHAM RD	Reignition of previous fire	< 1
654556	13/01/2024 27:18	MOUNT HELENA	ALICE RD	Unreported	< 1
654899	16/01/2024 10:13	STONEVILLE	JINDALEE PL	Unreported	< 1
654910	16/01/2024 29:13	WOOROLOO	OLD NORTHAM RD	Weather Conditions - Lightning	< 1
654962	16/01/2024 01:15	SAWYERS VALLEY		Weather Conditions - Lightning	< 1
654988	16/01/2024 19:16	MALMALLING	SMIT RD	Unreported	< 1
655297	19/01/2024 47:08	CHIDLOW	WALLABY WAY	Yard maintenance, hand held equipment	< 1
655453	20/01/2024 09:16	MOUNT HELENA	SIME RD	Weather Conditions - Lightning	< 1
655639	22/01/2024 34:18	SWAN VIEW	VIVEASH RD	Power lines	< 1
656141	28/01/2024 22:16	GLEN FORREST	BILGOMAN RD	Unreported	< 1
656538	01/02/2024 54:17	PARKERVILLE	JOHNSTON RD	Reignition of previous fire	< 1
656726	03/02/2024 06:20	MUNDARING	HALIFAX PL	Unreported	< 1
656902	05/02/2024 31:17	CHIDLOW	STONE ST	Power lines	< 1
656920	06/02/2024 48:00	DARLINGTON	PINE TCE	Power lines	< 1
657497	11/02/2024 58:13	GLEN FORREST	JELLCOE RD	Unreported	< 1

All Shire Incidents

Incident Type	2023/2024
Called Off - No Attendance	2
False Alarm - System Initiated	6
False Call - Good Intent	30
Fire - Bushfire (lge)	5
Fire - Bushfire (sml)	41
Fire - Other/Rubbish/Vehicle	10
Fire - Structure	2
Hazardous Situation	21
Natural Hazard	51
Not Reported	1
Rescue & Medical	5
Road Crash & Rescue	10
Search	1
Total	185

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the update provided by the CESM Mundaring/ Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 Update - Department of Parks and Wildlife

File Code	GV.MTG 6.5
Attachments	Nil

PURPOSE

Parks and Wildlife update provided by Sonja Vlaar whilst Jordan Cantelo on secondment.

Prescribed burning:

The Perth Hills District is in bushfire response season and planning the 2024 burn program.

Currently, no prescribed burning is planned in the Shire of Mundaring until Autumn 2024 when conditions allow.

Prescribed Fuel Reduction Burns that are coming onto the program this year in the Shire of Mundaring include:

- PHS_248 Sawyers 3 - 1628ha

Bushfire response:

Parks and Wildlife bushfire response since previous BFAC

- PH39 Greenmount NP (13/11/2023), 0.1ha in NP
- PH50 Fred Jacoby Park (09/12/2023), 0.01ha in NP
- PH55 Granite Road (21/12/2023), 16.7ha of private property & crown, 3 homes damaged.
- PH69 Gorrie Plantation (16/10/2024), 0.2ha of state forest plantation.
- PH70 Wellbucket (16/01/2024), 0.2ha of NP

Operational Capacity/Capability:

Parks and Wildlife – Perth Hills District Duty Officer and Fire Availability roster response capacity into May 2024.

Fire Detection

- Aerial spotter flights daily unless conditions prevent though the Perth Hills District
- Walyunga and Bickley Fire Detection Towers commenced 23rd November 2023

Training:

Training courses scheduled for 2024 to upskill current key fire staff.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the update provided by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 Update - Department of Fire and Emergency Services

File Code	GV.MTG 6.5
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Attachments	Nil
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PURPOSE

That an update to be provided from DFES – Murray McBride to advise at meeting.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the update provided by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 Update - Bush Fire Risk Management Report

File Code	GV.MTG 6.5
Attachments	1. BRMO Report

PURPOSE

To brief the Committee on Shire of Mundaring progress against its Bushfire Risk Management Plan as per the Bushfire Risk Management Officer (BRMO) Quarterly Update (with amendments as at 13 February 2024).

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes and provides feedback on the BRMO Quarterly update (with amendments as at 13 February 2024).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Bushfire Risk Management Officer (BRMO)

Quarterly Update, 31 Dec. 2023 13/02/24 for BFAC

Key
 Up-to-date ●
 In progress ●
 Overdue ●

1. Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Data updating and collation* continues.</i> <p>344 Human Settlement “assets” mapped within Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS). These range in size from a few adjacent properties to a subdivision (up to 300 properties).</p>				
Extreme	Very High	High	Medium	Low
86	77	99	47	35
<p>*The additional data being collated relates to Potential Entrapment Points and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shire of Mundaring, Bushfire Area Access Strategy (BAAS) ● Dept. Planning Lands and Heritage, Bushfire Area Vehicle Access Strategy (BAVAS) ● Main Roads WA, road classifications and traffic counts ● Bushfire Ready Group, resident and other local knowledge 				
2. Stakeholder Relations				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Stakeholder Relations Plan Summary available on request.</i> ● DBCA – 2024 Burn Program, meeting to be facilitated by DFES. ● DoE (DFES) – ongoing liaison with DFES Bushfire Risk Management Liaison Officer, collaborating via BRMS, including attendance at annual Principal’s Bushfire Forum. ● DPLH (DFES) – pre-season meeting held 23/06/23. ● MRWA – pre-season meeting held 24/08/23. ● WaterCorp – pre-season meeting held 11/07/23. <p><i>Other Agencies ‘as required’ and / or via Shire’s FHIO / FPO.</i></p>				
3. Community Engagement				
Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ProPer Prep (Inform & INSPIRE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short videos x 5: https://engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au/emergency-response-recovery ● Two additional short videos have been added to the above link in relation to Hazard Reduction Burning, these will be promoted prior to the next “open” season. ● Social media campaign: underway (weekly prepared posts, updated branding), including – this month – Brigade recruitment links. ● At Risk Communities (Involve) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Successful, Disability Inclusive Emergency Preparedness (DIEP) workshop held on 11/09/23. ● DFES At Risk Program – proposal to utilise outcomes of above to further engage with aged care facilities / senior groups in relation to preparedness. ● Person-Centred Emergency Planning short course completed by BRMO and the Shire’s Community Engagement Coordinator. ● Advocacy has commenced, including liaison with service providers (via Community Engagement) and ongoing collaboration with City of Rockingham / University of Sydney. 				

<p>● Volunteer Recruitment (facilitate to Empower)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Recruitment campaign prepared in collaboration with all Brigades. Resources shared with Brigades and promotion underway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listing (wording recently updated to assist with clarification around where potential volunteers need to be located) on DFES Volunteer / Seek platform. - Print advertising in the Darlington Review and Chidlow Chatter February 2024. - Social media posts. 		
<p>● Bush Fire Ready Groups (Collaborate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparedness advocate email list created (14 people). Preparedness advocate 'meet & greet' session hosted on 14/09/23. Preparedness advocate/Brigade stall facilitated at the Rotary Markets on 10/09/23. Attended Darlington Bushfire Ready Street Contact pre-season meeting. "Hello Neighbour" connection postcard promoted through a recent (06/02/24) mailout to 787 properties on 92 streets with limited egress (refer to Bushfire Area Access Strategy). Letter also included the opportunity to have a Red Cross / Shire facilitated "Disaster-ous Dinner", a catered meal run on / for a street with attendees completing their RediPlan (and also meeting / catching up with their neighbours). There have been seven responses to date. 		
4. Mitigation Activity Funding (MAF)		
● 23-24 \$740,000.00	● 22-23 \$499,146.12	● 21-22 \$499,968.54
● 20-21 \$331,596.00	● 19-20 \$182,914.00	● 18-19 \$258,000.00
<p>● MAF 23-24 Round 1, \$500k application, complete and acquitted</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Lake Leschenaultia (west), mechanical works \$97k/firebreaks \$99k, 35 days. 2: Old Northam Rd (Liberton to Jason), mechanical works \$142k, 18 days. 3: Stoneville Rd (Bentley to Cameron), mechanical works \$79k, 10 days. 4: Heritage Trail (Seaborne to Stoneville), mechanical works, \$83k, 15 days. 		
<p>● MAF 23-24 Round 2 \$240k application, successful</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Coothallie Road (Reserve 35396), mechanical works \$90k, quoted, works proposed between February and May 2024. 2: Cockatoo Drive (adjacent Yallambie), mechanical works, \$20k, await quote, TMP in progress, works proposed January 2024. 3: Wattle Court / Gray Court (Reserve 41670), mechanical works, \$50k, quoted, works proposed between February and May 2024. 4: Lake Leschenaultia (east) firebreaks, \$80k, final quote to be procured late January, works to be scheduled prior to 31 May 2024. 		
5. Other Funding Opportunities		
<p>● National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grants program 2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted 29/05/23 (Ref: NDRR2324-014). Awaiting outcome (mid-July 2023 delayed, January 2024). Requested further update. \$20,000 project, \$10,000 requested. Project: creation of a further ten informative localised property and personal preparation related videos, project plan underway. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grants program 2024-25<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitted 01/02/24 (NDRR2425-014).• \$160,000 project, \$80,000 requested.• Project: Static Water Supplies Support Community Safety – installation of three 60,000 litre static water tanks, with one featuring a mural sharing a preparedness and respect for community resources message which will be used as the basis for a community awareness campaign.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All West Australians Reducing Emergencies Aware (AWARE) program <i>successful</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ref: AWARE2324-018.• \$35,100 project, \$21,600 requested, \$13,500 in-kind contribution.• Formal BAL Assessor training for relevant staff (6) to assist with community engagement in relation to personal preparedness, including retro-fitting older homes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Round Two (2024)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closes 20 March, with funds available in July 2024.• Expression of Interest <i>complete</i>.• Grants from \$15,000, with 50% co-contribution.• Submissions underway: Evacuation Centre Power Redundancy Project (generator at The Arena), \$200,000 Static Water Tanks Supporting Community Safety, \$160,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Projects Under Discussion / Development<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bushfire Area Access Strategy works• Jane Brook and / or Wooroloo Brook management plan and works• Emergency Response Trailer – Animal Welfare (\$15,000)• Multi-layered video walk through of an incident (in collaboration with Shires of Toodyay and Chittering, to be led by DFES, liaison underway)

6.5 Infringements and Prosecutions

File Code	GV.MTG 6.5
Attachments	Nil

PURPOSE

That the Committee notes the updates provided by Craig Cuthbert.

Infringements.

14/11/2023	Bush Fires Act 1954	18(6)	Wooroloo	\$250
14/11/2023	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>	24 (F)	Wooroloo	\$250
17/11/2023	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>	22B(2)	Darlington	\$1,000
11/12/2023	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>	17(12)	Beechina	\$250
19/02/2024	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>	33(3)	Greenmount	\$250

Several referred to Fines Enforcement Registry & Final demands

Prosecutions

14/11/2023	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>	33(3)	Mundaring
02/02/2024	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>	(22B(2) & R38B3A	Mount Helena

Cautions

14/11/2023	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954 24F (3d)</i>	103095	Chidlow
16/02/2024	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954 22B(2) & R38B3A</i>		Mundaring

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the attached infringements and prosecutions report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.6 Community Engagement

File Code GV.MTG 6.5

Attachments Nil

PURPOSE

That the Committee notes the update below as advised.

1/11/2023	Shire of Mundaring	ProPer Prep social media campaign (weekly posts), incl. BFRG contact
3/11/2023	Mt Helena VBFB	Mount Helena Community Kindy & Playgroup - Incursion
4/11/2023	Darlington VBFB	Bushfire Ready stall all day at Darlington Arts Festival
4/11/2023	Darlington VBFB	Darlington Arts Festival - sausage sizzle and tent - all day
5/11/2023	Darlington VBFB	Bushfire Ready stall all day at Darlington Arts Festival
5/11/2023	Darlington VBFB	Darlington Arts Festival - sausage sizzle and tent - all day
15/11/2023	Mt Helena VBFB	Mundaring Christian College Kindy Visit
18/11/2023	Darlington VBFB	BRG street meet....Oxley Place.....14 attendees
21/11/2023	Shire of Mundaring	Active Ageing Network presentation
22/11/2023	Mt Helena VBFB	Mount Helena Community Kindy & Playgroup - Visit to Station
29/11/2023	Shire of Mundaring	Facebook post - support your local Brigade (recruitment)
1/12/2023	Shire of Mundaring	ProPer Prep social media campaign (weekly posts), incl. BFRG contact
4/12/2023	Shire of Mundaring	Celebrating Communities event presentation
10/12/2023	Darlington VBFB	Bushfire Ready street meet...Boya Cres
16/12/2023	Darlington VBFB	Santa Lolly Run
17/12/2023	Darlington VBFB	BRG street meet....Orange Road....16 attendees
17/12/2023	Darlington VBFB	Bushfire Ready talk to residents Glebe Road
17/12/2023	Sawyers Valley VBFB	Santa Lolly Run - 1st Leg
18/12/2023	Sawyers Valley VBFB	Santa Lolly Run - 2nd Leg
4/1/2024	Shire of Mundaring	Parkerville Hall Community Drop-in (post-incident)
5/1/2024	Shire of Mundaring	Parkerville Hall Community Drop-in (post-incident)
6/1/2024	Shire of Mundaring	Parkerville Hall Community Drop-in (post-incident)
1/2/2024	Shire of Mundaring	ProPer Prep social media campaign (weekly posts), incl. BFRG contact

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the attached community engagement report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.7 Schedule of Pending Items

File Code	GV.MTG 6.5
Attachments	1. AFAC Wooroloo Update

PURPOSE

This report item includes a range of actions identified by the BFAC for future action and report.

BACKGROUND

Pending actions are discussed at each meeting and relate to matters being investigated by committee members of officers prior to final consideration.

COMMENT

REF NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIME FRAME
1	Pre-Employment Medicals - Craig advised May next ops command meeting and will aim to come back to Captains in collaboration with CESM.	Craig Cuthbert	Ongoing
2	Wooroloo Bush Fire Enquiry Recommendations Update - Cr Jeans re Recommendation 11 suggested allocation of funds of grants towards communication improvement.	Adrian Dyson	Ongoing
3	Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Register of Cancer Incidents - Adrian Dyson and DFES, will reach out for update for next BFAC.	Adrian Dyson	Ongoing
4	Australian Fire Danger Rating System - Continuous review still in process with the AFDRS working group feeding information feedback into system calibrations. - Committee agreed to remove from schedule of pending items.	Adrian Dyson	Ongoing

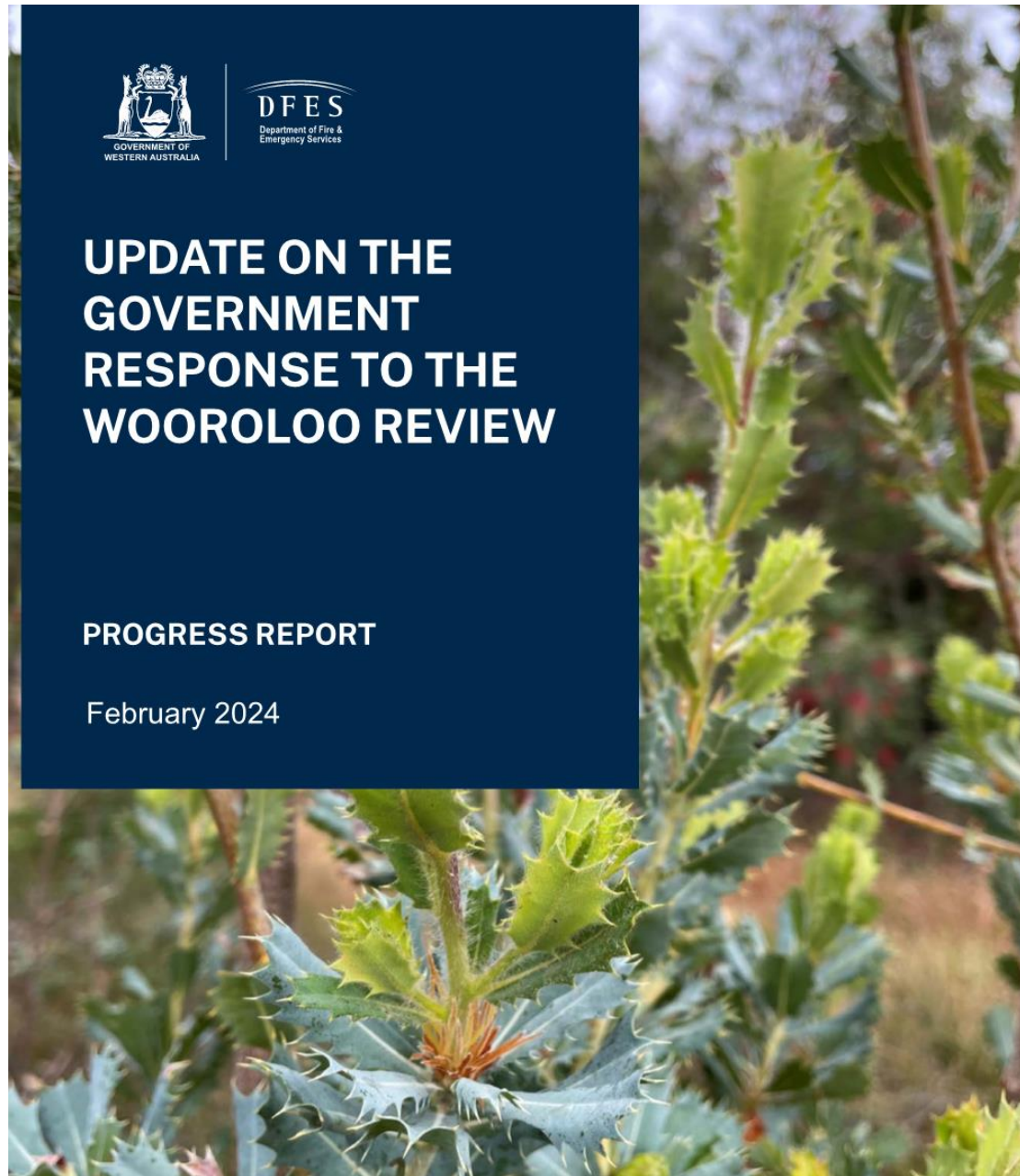
VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the items included in the schedule of pending items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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Appendix 1

Appendix 2

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third update on the WA Government response to the AFAC Independent Operational Review of the Wooroloo Bushfire.

In May 2022, DFES established the Wooroloo Implementation Coordination Group (WICG) to oversee the WA Government response to the review. The WICG has developed these public-facing reporting documents in direct response to stakeholder feedback to keep agency staff, bushfire sector stakeholders and the WA community informed and updated on progress.

Since the August 2023 update, significant milestones have been achieved for numerous Wooroloo projects. The DFES Office of Bushfire Risk Management has developed new and improved Bushfire Risk Management Guidelines (Rec 3), a DFES business case has been approved for the development of statewide bushfire mitigation capability (Rec 4) and funding has been sourced to develop a training package for Traffic Access and Management Officers (Rec 7). In a significant recent development, DFES has awarded the contract for the development of the upgraded Emergency WA platform to local public safety technology provider Genvis (Rec 12).

In addition to the above achievements, a further 3 Wooroloo recommendations have been closed; WA emergency management agencies have met their commitments to effectively address Recommendations 6, 10 and 11, in addition to Recommendations 9 and 13 which were closed previously. Projects against Recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 7 are also making good progress and are likely to be completed during the first half of 2024.

At the request of Minister for Emergency Services Hon. Stephen Dawson, the State Bushfire Advisory Committee (SBAC) continues to play a key role in providing oversight of Governments response to the Wooroloo review. Progress updates are provided to SBAC at quarterly meetings so that members can provide feedback on work undertaken, while also endorsing all project closures once works have been completed.

In addition to the working being undertaken by the DFES Bushfire Mitigation Branch to develop a business case for statewide bushfire mitigation capability (Rec 4), DFES Regional teams across all of WA also deliver a range of bushfire mitigation programs to achieve various outcomes. We've provided a Case Study showing recent examples of this work in Appendix 1.

It was an early and busy start to the southern bushfire season in WA with major bushfires including the Serpentine and Mundaring complexes and the Wanneroo fire all igniting prior to December 2023. Over the next few months, DFES, DBCA and local governments will have significant response commitments for bushfires and the Northern Australian cyclone season.

Murray Carter

Executive Director

DFES Rural Fire Division



Volunteers igniting a planned burn in the DFES Lower South West Region. For further information, see Appendix 1-Case Study: Delivering bushfire mitigation programs in regional WA.

Photo: Tim Hutton, DFES Bushfire Risk Management Officer.

Acronyms and abbreviations

DFES: Department of Fire & Emergency Services

DPLH: Department of Planning, Land & Heritage

SBAC: State Bushfire Advisory Council

DBCA: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

FPAA: Fire Protection Association of Australia

IBOC: Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee

ICC: Incident Control Centre

DEMIRS: Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

WaPol: WA Police

ACEF: Area of Community Engagement Focus

TM: Traffic Management

SEMC: State Emergency Management Committee

BRMP: Bushfire Risk Management Planning

TAMO: Traffic Access & Management Officer

WALGA: WA Local Government Association

TWS: Telephone Warning System

NHRP: Natural Hazards Resilience Program

SPP: State Planning Policy

SES: State Emergency Service

RAP: Restricted Access Permit

AFAC: Australasian Fire Authorities Council

IAP: Impact Assessment Process

NEMA: National Emergency Management Agency

RECOMMENDATION 1

Consideration of a dedicated Perth Hills Incident Management Facility

Project description

This recommendation was noted by the State Government – acknowledging the benefits of enhancing incident management capacity in the Perth Hills region yet recognising the significant analysis and consultation that would be required to enable such an investment.

DFES is leading the first stage of this analysis, comprising an evaluation of three shortlisted sites that could potentially meet requirements for the Perth Hills region. A final recommendation on the most suitable site, building and equipment configurations will then be made to Government.

This Options Analysis will be presented for consideration in budgetary processes, after which the State Government will determine the next level of detail required and any associated timeframes.

Contact: Executive Manager, Asset Planning and Services c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

Following the completion of Stage 2 of the Options Analysis, the construction of a new Incident Control Centre (ICC) in the Perth Hills area has been placed on the DFES Strategic Asset Plan. DFES will present this options analysis to State Government for consideration.

The scale and timing of any possible establishment of a new ICC will be entirely dependent on feedback received from State Government on the options analysis and the outcome of any future business case.

Work is also underway to improve existing mobile ICC functionality and resourcing. This work has been directly informed by Stage 1 of the Options Analysis.

Project progress

Establish project working group	Scope ICC requirements and analysis criteria	Stage 1 of Options Analysis to consider ICC configurations	Stage 2 of Options Analysis to consider possible ICC locations	Include ICC in DFES Strategic Asset Plan	Present final Options Analysis to WA Government	Next steps TBC based on WA Government feedback
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS	
Jul 2022	Sep 2022	Nov 2022	Mar 2023	Nov 2023	Mar 2024	TBC

RECOMMENDATION 2

Enhanced and integrated community engagement programs for bushfire

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government. The Review recommended increasing the focus on landowners in high bushfire-prone areas implementing risk mitigation strategies and ensuring they are prepared for an extended stay without support following a bushfire.

DFES aims to integrate its community engagement program with the bushfire risk-management planning program (Recommendation 3), as these programs are highly complementary and together improve local communities' understanding and involvement in local bushfire prevention.

The enhanced Areas of Community Engagement Focus (ACEF) program will be tested with a pilot community, concurrent with enhanced bushfire risk-management planning processes. Evaluation of the pilot will inform future directions for the ACEF program.

Contact: Director, Office of Bushfire Risk Management, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

Following the review of the ACEF program, DFES has developed an enhanced Natural Hazards Resilience Program (NHRP). Program guidelines and implementation templates have been drafted following stakeholder feedback.

The draft NHRP guidelines and implementation templates will be tested through delivery of a program pilot. It is anticipated that these drafts will be further refined following learnings drawn from the pilot.

The identification of a NHRP pilot community is well progressed. The pilot is planned to commence at the end of the current bushfire season in southern WA.

The updated Bushfire Risk Management Plan Guidelines (see Recommendation 3) refer to the new NHRP and include complimentary sections on building community resilience through implementation of the NHRP.

Project progress



RECOMMENDATION 3

Finalisation of enhanced DFES bushfire risk planning framework

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government and recognises the need to expedite the release of the enhanced Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP guidelines). These guidelines were originally developed in 2015, with minor updates undertaken in recent years.

DFES is undertaking an extensive evaluation of the guidelines to ensure a contemporary, best-practice approach. The updated guidelines will improve bushfire risk assessment and treatment processes to better integrate Government and community stakeholders. Increased community participation in planning processes will be a priority.

The updated guidelines will be implemented through local Government planning processes, through 2023 and beyond.

Contact: Director, Office of Bushfire Risk Management, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

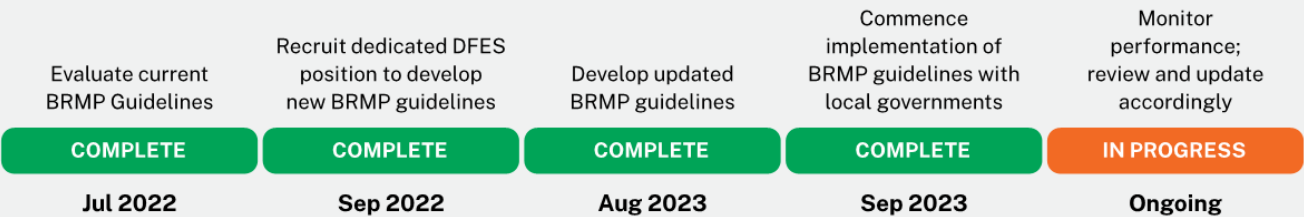
The updated BRMP guidelines have now been finalised following an extensive consultation process which all local governments in WA were invited to participate in.

The updated BRMP guidelines comprise numerous improvements including separation between strategic and tactical guidance, an increased focus on effective community engagement, inclusion of systemic risk, introduction of a treatment strategy component and an updated review process.

You can see the updated guidelines here:
<https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/guidelines-for-preparing-a-bush-fire-risk-management-plan-2023>

A staged roll out is commencing with local governments now that the updated guidelines are finalised. As such, this project will soon be recommended for closure with DFES Corporate Executive and SBAC.

Project progress



RECOMMENDATION 4

Establishment of bushfire mitigation crews

Project description

The Wooroloo Review recommended the establishment of dedicated bushfire mitigation crews to work with local bushfire brigades in implementing mitigation activities in highly bushfire prone areas of WA. This recommendation was accepted by the State Government in-principle, noting the significant complexity in its implementation.

DFES is working with local government to undertake comprehensive analysis and options-development and to consider a trial of arrangements. There is significant alignment between this recommendation and Recommendation 3, as priority mitigation treatments are identified through the BRMP process. Options analysis will be developed and presented to Government for consideration in budgetary processes.

Contact: Superintendent Bushfire Risk Management Branch, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

The most recent work on Recommendation 4 has focused on developing the business case to submit to state government that will seek funding to establish a state mitigation capability.

The business case is now complete and is progressing through internal DFES approvals. DFES intends to submit this to state government in January 2024 for consideration in the 2024/25 budget process.

This project will be recommended for closure with DFES Corporate Executive and SBAC once the budget submission process is complete.

The scale and pace of any possible roll out of a state mitigation capability program will be entirely dependent on the outcome of state budget allocations from the 2024/25 financial year onwards.

Project progress



RECOMMENDATION 5

DFES role in WA land-use planning

Project description

This recommendation was noted by the State Government, recognising the importance of the advice provided by DFES in land use planning processes.

DFES will work to ensure that its advice provided in land-use planning processes is given appropriate consideration in determination of planning applications.

This will be achieved by a range of initiatives that aim to clarify DFES' role as a referral agency, better understand how the advice DFES provides is used, improve internal policies, tools and templates to ensure consistency in the advice that DFES provides and building stronger working relationships with planning decision makers.

Contact: Director Land Use Planning, c/o:
ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

DFES continues to improve how we provide advice into land-use planning processes. Learnings through 2023 highlighted the need to prioritise allocation of resources to provide input into DPLH's revised State Planning Policy (SPP) and associated guidelines. This necessitated prioritisation of DFES' other guidance documents, with associated revision of project milestones.

DFES will continue to engage with stakeholders to understand the effectiveness of guidance produced.

To strengthen understanding of DFES' role in land-use planning and understand stakeholder needs and concerns, DFES delivered local government workshops and bushfire fundamentals training in 2023. Further sessions are planned for 2024.

Project progress

Clarify DFES role in planning system	Improve engagement with planning decision makers	Support DPLH revision of new SPP	Deliver local government workshops and bushfire training	Develop high priority DFES land-use planning guidance	Develop secondary priority DFES land-use planning guidance	Evaluate effectiveness of measures undertaken
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS		
Nov 2022	Dec 2022 ongoing	Nov 2023	Sep 2023	Mar 2024	Ongoing	Ongoing

RECOMMENDATION 6

Bushfire practitioner accreditation register
(PROJECT CLOSED)

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government. The Fire Protection Association of Australia (FPAA) currently maintains a register of bushfire practitioners. Bushfire practitioners deliver bushfire assessment, planning, design and advice services and are accredited to different levels under the WA Bushfire Accreditation Framework.

DFES will work collaboratively with Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage (DPLH), Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety (DEMIRS), FPAA and the industry to improve the reliability, consistency and quality of work undertaken by bushfire practitioners in WA.

This will include elements such as improved oversight, auditing and compliance arrangements and identifying skills, training and capacity building opportunities for practitioners.

Contact: Director Land Use Planning, c/o:
ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

The recruitment of ongoing staff in FPAA and DPLH enabled the fast tracking of project milestones and provides the necessary resourcing to ensure this multi-agency work continues as business as usual.

The WA Bushfire Accreditation Steering Committee continues to meet regularly and has developed a joint action plan, managed through regular committee meetings.

Tangible improvements in bushfire practitioner oversight include both new and improved training, a higher frequency of practitioner audits, increased investigations of performance complaints and issuing of penalties for non-compliant practitioners.

As such, this project was deemed suitable for closure, and this was approved by DFES Corporate Executive and endorsed by SBAC in September 2023.

Project progress

Establish cross agency collaborative arrangements and resourcing	Develop discussion paper outlining options for improvements	Seek feedback from the WA Government on discussion paper	Develop and implement action plan for improvements to bushfire practitioner register	Evaluate implementation of action plan
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE
Oct 2022	Mar 2023	Sep 2023	Sep 2023	Ongoing

RECOMMENDATION 7

Traffic management review

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government. DFES will lead a multi-agency review of traffic management (TM) arrangements at bushfires to determine steps for improvement.

The review will consider Vehicle Control Points, Restricted Access Permits, community messaging, the role of the Traffic Access & Management Officer (TAMO) in Incident Management Teams and arrangements for working with TM contractors.

The broad scope of this review across multiple facets of traffic management will result in a range of opportunities for improvement at major incidents. These improvements will be prioritised and delivered over stages in 2022 and 2023.

Contact: Chief Superintendent Metropolitan Operations, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

Work on Recommendation 7 has focused on developing a TAMO role statement and formal training course. Funding delays have been resolved, enabling appointment of a training developer for this course. Course development is well underway and is expected to be completed at the end of the southern WA current bushfire season.

New TAMOs have been placed on bushfire response rosters for the current bushfire season and were also deployed to the Serpentine complex and Wanneroo bushfires in November, building multi-agency capability in traffic management for major bushfires.

Into the future, potential opportunities to manage Restricted Access Permits (RAPs) through the new and improved Emergency WA platform will be explored with Genvis (see Rec 12 for further information).

Project progress

Undertake multi-agency workshop to scope improvements	Seek endorsement for priority improvements	Deliver phase 1 of TAMO training	Develop guidance to improve TM contractor management	Deliver improvements to RAP arrangements	Develop Phase 2 of TAMO training	Develop communications package for Traffic Management	Update doctrine and procedures as required
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS	
Jun 2022	Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Apr 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024

RECOMMENDATION 8

Road clearing capability

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government.

DFES will lead a cross-agency process to develop consistent road-clearing standards across fire and emergency agencies and build capacity to undertake road-clearing works for major incidents.

Similar to Recommendation 7, this work will involve identifying a broad range of potential improvements across areas such as common doctrine, procedures and standards, incident management arrangements, community messaging, working with contractors and cross-agency capability and data sharing. These improvements will be prioritised and delivered over stages in 2022 and 2023.

Contact: Chief Superintendent Country North, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

The development of a multi-agency Operating Principles document has commenced. This will further improve road clearing capability for major bushfires by identifying consistent standards for intelligence sharing, multi-agency coordination and community messaging.

The Operating Principles will be trialled during this southern bushfire season. Learnings arising from the trial will be used to update bushfire response doctrine and procedures related to road clearing and management. These updates will be completed soon after the current southern bushfire season and multi-agency endorsement sought.

Project progress

Establish cross-agency steering groups to scope approach	Identify and prioritise improvement opportunities	Establish cross-agency data sharing arrangements	Develop communications strategy to guide Incident Management Teams	Establish common doctrine for tree risks and road inspections	Identify heavy plant support options from industry and the private sector	Develop Operating Principles document outlining road clearing standards	Update bushfire response and road clearing doctrine
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS	
Jul 2022	Sep 2022	Dec 2022	Dec 2022	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Dec 2023	Apr 2024

RECOMMENDATION 9

Evaluation of ARENA HP module to contract, manage and deploy heavy plant (PROJECT CLOSED)

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government. This project will evaluate the suitability of the ARENA HP module in a multi-agency WA context.

A multi-agency working group will examine the capabilities of the ARENA HP system and provide recommendations to the State Government on the suitability of the ARENA HP module.

The project team will liaise with the Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee (IBOC) on project progress, findings of the evaluation and next steps.

Should the module be deemed fit for purpose in a WA context, the project team will scope implementation requirements and present a case to the State Government for consideration in budget processes.

Contact: Assistant Commissioner Operations Capability, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

As communicated in the August 2023 update, Recommendation 9 was approved for closure by DFES Corporate Executive and SBAC in June 2023, following the completion of the suitability analysis of Arena HP which deemed the product suitable for application in WA.

Since then, DFES and DBCA have co-funded a project to customise the Arena HP software product specifically to WA needs. The Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC), as the owner of Arena HP, are undertaking this customisation now in conjunction with DFES and DBCA. This will enable a trial of Arena HP to be undertaken in WA which is expected throughout 2024.

Project progress



RECOMMENDATION 10

Review Impact Assessment Process
(PROJECT CLOSED)

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government. The Impact Assessment Process (IAP) is an all-hazards process governed by the WA State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).

DFES will review the existing Impact Assessment Process in the context of the Wooroloo bushfire, drawing on input and knowledge from a range of agencies involved in the fire.

The review will consider the performance and efficiency of the current impact assessment process including associated tools and templates and multi-agency accessibility. Stakeholder input will be collated and developed into a report to be presented to the SEMC for consideration.

Contact: Chief Superintendent Country South, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

DFES presented the findings of the IAP review to SEMC in September 2023. SEMC referred the report to the SEMC Community Resilience and Recovery subcommittee to determine future improvements. As such, DFES have met their obligations to review the existing IAP and refer this to the product owner (SEMC). This project was approved for closure by DFES Corporate Executive and endorsed by SBAC in December 2023.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (2020) recommended consistent approaches to measuring, collecting and sharing natural hazard impact data across all levels of Australian government. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is implementing these recommendations, and the WA state government will be consulted during this process.

Project progress

Undertake stakeholder analysis	Collate and analyse stakeholder feedback	Develop report on existing impact assessment process	Seek internal DFES feedback on report	Provide report to SEMC as process owner	SEMC consider report provided by DFES
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS
Jun 2022	Aug 2022	Oct 2022	Dec 2022	Sep 2023	Ongoing

RECOMMENDATION 11

Backup power for telecommunications sites
(PROJECT CLOSED)

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government.

The independent review recommended that DFES and local government continue discussions with telecommunications providers to explore the adequacy of current arrangements for backup power at telecommunication towers in emergency incidents.

Contact: Executive Director, Corporate Services, c/o:
ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

As recommended in the Wooroloo review, DFES is continuing discussions with national telecommunication providers and WA infrastructure managers to advance WA requirements.

DFES are actively involved in numerous state and national committees and projects that seek to improve emergency management communications capability and reliability. A more detailed list of these initiatives can be found in Appendix 2.

Ongoing and active participation in these initiatives satisfies the requirements of Recommendation 11. As such, this project was deemed suitable for closure, and this was approved by DFES Corporate Executive and endorsed by SBAC in September 2023.

Project progress

Scan national telecommunications arrangements and fund sources	Identify strategic linkages with communications investment projects	Align opportunities to existing DFES resources and business programs	Continue cross-agency and national discussions on telecommunications resilience
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS
Sep 2022	Dec 2022	Mar 2023	Ongoing

RECOMMENDATION 12

Upgraded Emergency WA platform

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government. DFES is leading a multi-year project to redesign the State’s official emergency information source, Emergency WA, and enable full alignment with Australian Warning System standards.

The project will use new and emerging technologies along with improved data inputs from multiple agencies to deliver faster, more personalised warning information to people impacted by emergencies.

Extensive consultation with emergency management agencies and end users will help ensure the upgraded platform meets community needs. Improvements to the Emergency WA platform will be released in stages.

Contact: Manager Public Information, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

Over the last 9 months, the Next Gen Warnings Project team has been undertaking an extensive and robust procurement process.

DFES has awarded the contract for the development of the upgraded Emergency WA platform to local public safety technology provider Genvis

This collaboration will deliver innovative improvements to Emergency WA, including a faster, more responsive platform and include nationally consistent warnings through the Australian Warning System.

Later phases of the project will include an app, translated warnings, the ability to set watch zones, integration with in-home and wearable smart devices and new accessibility features.

Work will commence shortly on building the new core Emergency WA platform with Genvis.

Project progress

Develop project plan and secure funding	Establish the project team	Undertake needs analysis; sector and community	Design new platform architecture	Complete procurement for new Emergency WA platform	Replace the core Emergency WA platform	Refine and improve upgraded platform
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE		
Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2024	Jun 2024	Ongoing to 2026

RECOMMENDATION 13

Improved Telephone Warning System (TWS)
(PROJECT CLOSED)

Project description

This recommendation was accepted by the State Government.

DFES will undertake a review of current arrangements for issuing Emergency Alerts through the Telephone Warning System (TWS) to identify improvements to efficiency or effectiveness.

Procedural documentation will be updated and in place for the 2022-23 southern bushfire high-threat period. Further improvements will continue to be explored through possible alignments with the redesigned Emergency WA platform (see Recommendation 12) to achieve enhanced consistency and timeliness.

Contact: Manager Public Information, c/o: ruralfire@dfes.wa.gov.au

Summary and next steps

As communicated in the August 2023 Wooroloo update, the closure of Recommendation 13 was approved by DFES Corporate Executive and endorsed by SBAC June 2023.

Following changes to standard operating procedures made prior to the 2022/23 southern bushfire season, the issuing of TWS concurrent with new or escalating emergency warnings is now 'business as usual' when responding to major bushfires.

Discussions continue at a national level, led by DFES, to fully integrate TWS capability with state-based warning systems. The responsibility for this work has been formally transferred to Recommendation 12.

Project progress

Review existing TWS procedures and arrangements	Consult with key emergency operations roles	Update procedural documentation	Apply new TWS arrangements	Improve TWS alignment with Emergency WA (Rec 12)
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS
Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Nov 2022	Dec onwards	Ongoing

APPENDIX 1

Case Study: Delivering bushfire mitigation programs in regional WA

In addition to the work being undertaken by the DFES Bushfire Mitigation Branch (see Recommendation 4 update), DFES Regional teams across all of WA deliver a range of bushfire mitigation programs to achieve various outcomes. Mitigation programs are a core part of each region's preventative efforts to both reduce bushfire risk and actively involve the community in managing their risks. All DFES regions work around the year to deliver mitigation programs and a few recent examples are included on the following pages.



Volunteers from the DFES Midwest Gascoyne Region participate in mitigation deployments with DFES staff, local government and DBCA on a series of cross tenure burns in Kalbarri.

Part 1: Supporting volunteer involvement in regional mitigation programs

Facilitating volunteer involvement in delivering mitigation works is an important priority that reduces bushfire risk and builds volunteer capability. The DFES Lower South West and Midwest Gascoyne Regions have assembled volunteer teams capable of delivering bushfire mitigation activities through an Expression of Interest processes. These teams deliver planned burns and support other bushfire mitigation treatments both within their own regions, while also undertaking intrastate deployment to support other regions. The DFES Statewide Operational Support Fleet provide access to operational vehicles to enable the volunteers to undertake the work.

APPENDIX 1

LSW Superintendent Phil Brandrett said *“the volunteer mitigation deployments not only help deliver critical activities to reduce bushfire risk, but also build practical skills and understanding of fire behaviour which volunteers can apply when responding to bushfires.”*

Midwest Gascoyne Superintendent Mark Bowen said that *“in addition to bushfire risk reduction, volunteer involvement in planned burning provides an excellent training environment and an opportunity for DFES, local government, DBCA and community members to work together.”*



Volunteers from the DFES Lower South West Region participating in mitigation deployments to reduce bushfire risk in Yanmah (top) and Derby (bottom left).

Volunteers work alongside DFES staff in the Midwest Gascoyne Region to reduce risk around the Badgingarra primary school (bottom right).

APPENDIX 1

Part 2: The role of a planned burn at the Eaton (Bunbury) fire in December 2023.

In the DFES South West Region, a planned burn undertaken in Autumn 2023 by the Shire of Dardanup and local volunteer bushfire brigades played a critical role in minimising the impacts of the Eaton (Bunbury) bushfire in December 2023.

The Eaton fire posed a significant threat to the Forrest Highway (Australind Bypass) and adjacent houses and businesses. The lower fuels within the planned burn area significantly reduced the rate of spread, fire intensity and ember attack as the head fire reached the recently burnt area, while also creating a safe area for firefighters to work from.

This allowed both firefighters on the ground and water bombing aircraft to focus primarily on asset protection of the adjacent houses along Forrest Highway. This ensured no houses or built assets were lost and the fire was kept small, meaning community, infrastructure and environmental impacts were minimised.



The spread of the Eaton fire (left of the track) was stopped as it approached the recent planned burn (right of track).



The planned burn (black) was critical in minimising the impacts of the Eaton fire (red) on the local community.

APPENDIX 2

Supplementary information for Recommendation 11

The Wooroloo Review recommended that DFES and local government continue discussions with telecommunications providers to explore the adequacy of current arrangements for backup power at telecommunication towers in emergency incidents. DFES has been actively engaged in this work and has now built several initiatives and linkages into business as usual that enabled this recommendation to be closed, a summary of which is included below.

Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts

- DFES has been involved with a number of Commonwealth telecommunications initiatives including attending the Commonwealth House of Representatives Standing Communications and the Arts Committee, which covers a range of areas including Emergency Services.
- A broad range of stakeholder attended the Committee and DFES continues to liaise with these, and other stakeholders as needed.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband network (PSMB)

- The Commonwealth Public Safety Mobile Broadband network (PSMB) is specific to Emergency Management & Emergency Services (EMES).
- The Commonwealth announced at last budget they are now developing a formal agency called the National PSMB Entity (NPE) – States will opt in within 3 years maximum via an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). Much of these details are yet to be developed and DFES is actively involved in this work.
- There is still much work to be done at the telco level and DFES continues to work with both Telco and power providers, in terms of technology, costs, and commercial considerations. There are associated Commonwealth programs being considered such as a separate global roaming program, that may enable better Public Safety general use conditions. A separate global roaming program is also being considered for non-Public Safety general use conditions.
- The PSMB is intended to be a nationally consistent scheme.

DFES/DPIRD

- DFES and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) are collaborating with Telstra via a University of Melbourne study (DPIRD, DFES, Telstra, Western Power, UniMelb). This study intends to classify 500 Mobile Infrastructure sites in WA by typology, including telecommunications profile and energy profile. This study is not EMES specific, but regional and remote resilience during EMES incidents is a key focus area.
- DFES is also leading a separate NDRR funded project including DPIRD that will be looking at the EMES aspects of the entire WA picture, intended to work closely with the UniMelb team to develop synergies across these bodies of concurrent work.
- DFES continues to engage all levels of government in this area, including currently exploring the Commonwealth Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation (TDRI) Program Grants collaboratively with DPIRD.
- DFES is also continuing to lead changes across Western Australia in the telecommunications and power resilience areas by convening and chairing the Telecommunications Resilience Improvement Working Group (TRIWG) that brings together
- WA representatives from DFES, DPIRD, WALGA, NBN, Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, Western Power, and Horizon Power.

Next Steps – Technology and Investment

- The WA project called the Emergency Services Radio Network (ESRN) has now split into two components, one continuing urgent radio upgrades, and another morphed into the Public Safety Network Strategy (PSNS), that is reviewing longer term technology options, specifically in the EMES contexts.
- The PSNS includes concepts being trialled by WA Police known as the Vehicle as a Node (VaaN) concept, whereby emergency services vehicles become multi-functional telecommunications units. DFES is similarly trialling this concept via Incident Control Vehicles (ICVs) using Starlink and other technologies. Amazon will soon be releasing similar capabilities.
- Current tech development via Apple iPhone14 already provides triple zero direct to satellite capability, and rapid microchip development means Direct Multi-Modal Satellite Devices are likely to be operational within a few years (i.e. the smart phone connects via 5g mobile tower or direct to Satellite as required).
- SpaceX and Optus have recently announced mobile device direct to satellite will be launched across the Australian mainland by 2024 for SMS, and 2025 for full data and voice capability. Once this technology is realised, the power resilience of land-based towers becomes a moot issue in many, if not most contexts.
- It will be important to invest wisely over the years ahead to optimise public safety, and simultaneously avoid wastage and sunk costs based on these rapidly evolving technologies.

7.0 URGENT BUSINESS (LATE REPORTS)

7.1 Mundaring Fire School

Very busy with training, all courses booking up.

7.2 BFAC Meeting Date

Consideration for change of day to allow councillors to attend to Shire meetings or matters on a Tuesday.

Presiding person suggested to the committee that Third Wednesdays

Moved by Jeff Bromilow Seconded by Cr Daw

8.0 CLOSING PROCEDURES

8.1 Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 May 2024, 7:00pm at Shire of Mundaring Administration, CIVIC area.

8.2 Closure of the Meeting

8:28pm