

## Ferguson Report Recommendation Progress Table October 2017

| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Future work                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b>Recommendation 1:</b><br/>The State Government to explore options for streamlining the functions and the independence of the State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management with a view to including an inspectorate function, and appointing a person who is dedicated to that role. The purpose is to provide assurance and reporting, and to inquire into, monitor and report transparently on emergency management standards, preparedness, capability, service delivery and investment performance outcomes. Within two years of the establishment of this arrangement the State Government to review and assess whether it is meeting the desired outcomes.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>As of 1 December 2016 the SEMC Secretariat was rebranded as the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). A direct line of reporting has been established between OEM and the Minister for Emergency Services.</p> <p>The OEM has replaced the Department of the Premier and Cabinet as Chair of the Ferguson Report Implementation Working Group as at 5 July 2017.</p> <p>The OEM is developing an emergency management assurance framework for WA.</p>                                                                                                                                                        | <p>The emergency management assurance framework will be formalised.</p>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Recommendation 2:</b><br/>The Department of Parks and Wildlife to plan for the highest priority hazard reduction burning effort around settlements and critical assets in the South West and Perth Hills. The annual objective is to treat a total of 60,000 hectares of priority hazard reduction per annum, comprising 20,000 hectares per annum of Land Management Zone A and 40,000 hectares per year of Land Management Zone B.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>Note - the calculation of the size of Land Management Zones B and C has been amended since the Recommendation to address an error in a critical dataset. The annual objective is to treat 20,000 hectares per annum of Zone A and 70,000 hectares per annum of Zone B.</p> <p>The Parks and Wildlife Service's (P&amp;WS) annual burn plan is developed in accordance with the parameters/objectives in this recommendation.</p> <p>Prescribed burning for 2017/18 has started, with the year-to-date achievement for the three south-west forest regions totalling 38,393 hectares as at 25 October 2017.</p> | <p>Parks &amp; Wildlife Service (P&amp;WS)<sup>1</sup> will continue to address bushfire risk across Zones A and B.</p> <p>Achievement figures were reported in the 2016/17 Annual Report: Zone A: 12,290 ha and Zone B: 67,073 ha.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 3:</b><br/>The Department of Parks and Wildlife to continue emphasis on landscape hazard reduction burning with the annual objective of treating 140,000 hectares per annum in Land Management Zone C. In combination with</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>Note - the calculation of the size of Land Management Zones B and C has been amended since the Recommendation to address an error in a critical dataset. The annual objective is to treat 110,000 hectares per annum of Zone C.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>P&amp;WS will continue to address bushfire risk across Zone C.</p>                                                                                                                                                                   |

<sup>1</sup> The Parks and Wildlife Service is a division within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Future work                                                                                                                          |
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| <p>Recommendation 2 (above) the strategic objective will be that a fuel age of less than six years will be maintained across 45% of the landscape on State Forest, National Parks and other Parks and Wildlife managed lands in the South West and Perth Hills. This will address the current backlog (created from under achievements of the recent two decades of burn programs) by the end of the 2020-21 burning season (i.e. within the next 5 years).</p>                                                                                                                                | <p>The proposed annual burn program is approved by the Corporate Executive each year and has historically been provided to the Conservation and Parks Commission, OBRM and Interagency Bushfire Management Committee for information. Going forward, OBRM, in conjunction with the OEM, will monitor planning and implementation of prescribed burning against relevant KPIs. Results will be reported to the SEMC through the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (SBCC).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Recommendation 4:</b><br/>The Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Fire and Emergency Services to develop options for the expansion of the 'Bushfire Mitigation Grant Scheme' utilising both State and Commonwealth Government funding to enable the implementation of hazard reduction works identified through the Bushfire Risk Management Planning process. This will target hazard reduction projects on land owned by private landholders in rural-urban interface areas, critical infrastructure protection, local government land, roadsides and land managed by utilities.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>The recently formed State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (SBCC) has endorsed a proposed governance structure for the allocation of remaining Mitigation Activity Funds (MAF) allocated through the Royalties for Regions program to the Department of Lands. The SBCC will set the state-wide bushfire mitigation priorities and criteria for use of available MAF.</p> <p>Funding will be available to entities having responsibility for the care, control and management of, or otherwise holding, State lands located within and adjacent to regional townsites throughout Western Australia. Funds will be available for on-ground works which will mitigate higher priority risks posed by bushfire, on State-owned/controlled lands located within and adjacent to regional townsites throughout Western Australian.</p> <p>The P&amp;WS and DFES have submitted applications for MAF funding in the recent round.</p> <p>On 7 September 2017, the State Government confirmed that \$3.657M would be provided to continue the Bushfire Risk Management Planning program for the remainder of 2017/18.</p> | <p>The SBCC will review the effectiveness of the program and the allocation of future funding for prioritised treatment actions.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 5:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services, utilising the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, to develop a simplified and fast track hazard reduction burn (and other</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Completed for planning process – approvals process is unable to be fast tracked by the State and is a local government matter [see SEMC decision of 1 August 2017]</b><br/>The Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) has developed a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>OBRM will monitor the</p>                                                                                                         |

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| <p>fuel mitigation techniques) planning and approval process to ensure the timely conduct of township and asset protection burns by Bush Fire Brigades and individual property owners. The process is to be agile and adaptable for the range of stakeholders which may participate in low risk, small scale, low complexity burn planning and approvals.</p>                                                                                                                        | <p>model Basic Prescribed Fire Plan template and established recommended criterion for proponents to use, should they choose to do so.</p> <p>This model has been distributed to Local Government, DFES, P&amp;WS, the Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, the Emergency Services Volunteer Association and the WA Volunteer Fire &amp; Rescue Services Association. The templates are published on the OBRM website and, in addition to the above recipients, email notifications and an OBRM update have been sent to OBRM stakeholders.</p> <p>The template meets the requirements for planning however the State is unable to intervene in the local government approvals processes which will vary depending upon the nature of the burning operation.</p> | <p>implementation of the Basic Prescribed Fire Plan template.</p> <p>This work will be linked to the review of local government “Permits to Burn” and practitioners will be encouraged to adapt to the model template.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 6:</b><br/>The State Emergency Management Committee to adopt, across all hazards, the doctrine of:<br/>- the primacy of life;<br/>- the 'Strategic Control Priorities' (as documented by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services); and<br/>- community warnings that are timely, tailored and relevant.</p> <p>Agencies will reinforce amongst emergency management personnel the importance of the doctrine through briefings and intent statements.</p> | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>SEMC approved the Strategic Control Priorities applicable to all hazards on 3 October 2017.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>No further action required.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>Recommendation 7:</b><br/>The State Government to establish an arrangement to develop a ‘network’ of Western Australian State Government agency personnel who can be called upon for bushfire and emergency incident management capability within Western Australia. The arrangement will</p>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>Not yet progressed</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Project to be developed in consideration of outcomes from Recommendation 15.</p>                                                                                                                                        |

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| <p>be led by the State Emergency Management Committee and modelled on systems used by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Recommendation 8:</b><br/>The Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Fire and Emergency Services to adopt the policy that all bushfire Level 3 Incident Management Teams in the Perth Hills and the South West will be integrated and pre-formed from the start of the 2016/17 fire season with substantial involvement of both the Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Fire and Emergency Services personnel on all teams.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>Five 70 person Incident Management Teams (IMT), including a Level 3 structure and extended support roles within DFES' Regional and Metropolitan Operations Centres, were established for the 2016/17 fire season.</p> <p>The pre-formed teams (PFTs) were rostered but not required to deploy during the 2016/17 fire season.</p> <p>The PFTs are rostered for the 2017/18 southern bushfire season, available from 23 November 2017, and can be activated earlier as required.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Further development is proposed for 2018 ahead of the 2018/19 southern bushfire season.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 9:</b><br/>The State Emergency Management Committee, in consultation with Western Australian Farmers Federation, the Association of Bush Fire Brigades, the Contractors Association of WA, and the Forest Industries Federation of WA, to establish systems for the voluntary registration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- farmer firefighting units;</li> <li>- contractor firefighting resources; and</li> <li>- forestry industry brigades.</li> </ul> <p>The purpose of this arrangement is to facilitate the safe, efficient and effective recognition, organisation, deployment, management and coordination of farmer, contractor and forestry firefighter resources.</p> <p>The systems would include a process for enabling access through traffic management points during bushfires.</p> <p>Progress towards establishing these systems are to be reported by State Emergency Management Committee in its annual preparedness report.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>Aspects of this recommendation are also addressed through responses to Recommendation 10 (resources management system), Recommendation 13 (identification cards) and Recommendation 14 (traffic management).</p> <p>A consultation summary and issues paper regarding farmer firefighting units was considered by the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee(SBCC) on 23 August 2017. Further work is underway in relation to the options that will be considered by the SBCC in 2018.</p> <p>Work has commenced in relation to options for the contractor firefighting resources and forestry industry brigades. These will be considered by the SBCC in 2018, following broader stakeholder consultation.</p> | <p>Stakeholder consultation in relation to proposed options will continue.</p>                 |

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| <p><b>Recommendation 10:</b><br/>The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife to investigate and adopt an emergency services resource management system that will enable the registration, tasking, tracking, management and coordination of emergency management personnel, vehicles, plant and aircraft.</p>              | <p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>As of 10 October 2017, DFES has installed 1,452 Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) tracking and emergency distress capability units in vehicles across the southern half of the State and an additional 400 portable units have been deployed across DFES regions. AVL tracking devices have also been installed in all metropolitan vehicles to ensure that all vehicles responding to bushfires are visible to the AVL tracking system. The in-cab crew Emergency Distress Button function is now operational for vehicles that have the AVL equipment fitted.</p> <p>All P&amp;WS firefighting fleet continue to have AVL tracking systems.</p> <p>An interagency working group is developing an interagency incident resources management tool that enables the registration, tasking, management and coordination of emergency management personnel, vehicles, plant and aircraft, with the system able to fully service Level 3 incidents. Further work is required to make this tool sufficiently functional to service the needs of the various agencies involved in large, complex incidents.</p> <p>AVL data is in the process of being shared between DFES and P&amp;WS for testing prior to the commencement of the 2017/18 southern bushfire season.</p> | <p>An interagency working group will continue to pursue the integration of resource management systems.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 11:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to investigate and adopt a system that will allow the public to opt in, monitor, and receive, through a 'push mechanism', bushfire and other emergency warnings, maps and information using a wide variety of devices including personal hand held smart devices.</p> | <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>The <i>Emergency WA</i> website was launched on 23 October 2016. The website provides a critical messaging system that is capable of providing push notifications for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- warnings (DFES and P&amp;W);</li> <li>- incidents (from the DFES Communications Centre, which includes DFES, P&amp;W, Local Government incidents and private landowner burns);</li> <li>- fire danger ratings; and</li> <li>- total fire bans.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>No further action required.</p>                                                                          |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>The new website enables people to get critical public information during fire, flood, storm, earthquake, tsunami and emergencies involving hazardous materials. The new website allows people to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- see information on the website as soon as a triple zero call comes in to DFES;</li> <li>- link to other agencies' website information;</li> <li>- visit one site to find alerts and warnings from DFES, P&amp;W and local governments; and</li> <li>- look at mapping of incidents that are easier to read and understand, as well as search, filter and enlarge maps to find information that might affect their safety.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Recommendation 12:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to work with the Department of Planning and Local Governments to adopt a policy which enables Local Governments to identify, register and communicate 'Places of Bushfire Last Resort' in settlements and townsites where the life risk from bushfire is very high or greater.</p>                                                      | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>DFES has developed a draft discussion paper on Places of Bushfire Last Resort. The draft discussion paper is being reviewed by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and DFES.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Recommendations which have arisen from work previously undertaken on this issue will be considered and all relevant stakeholders will be consulted during 2017/18 as the project progresses.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 13:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to issue a photo identification card to DFES members, members of Bush Fire Brigades, volunteer emergency services, Incident Management Teams, forestry industry brigade members and Networked Government Emergency Agency members. DFES to also consider temporary windscreen signage to identify vehicles carrying such personnel.</p> | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>As at 3 October 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4,538 cards had been issued (58% to Bushfire Brigades, 18% to VFRS, 17% to SES, 4% to VFES, 3% to VMRS ).</li> <li>- The majority of volunteers who were likely to participate in operational firefighting during the 2016/17 bushfire season now have an ID Card.</li> <li>- Cards continue to be issued across all services.</li> <li>- Over 40% of Brigades, Groups and Units within the participating regions have accessed the ID Card Program.</li> <li>- The Volunteer ID Card has had a positive impact on volunteers many of whom actively display the cards while on station or while working in official capacities.</li> <li>- During October 2017 DFES will be following up with local</li> </ul> | <p>DFES will continue to issue volunteer ID cards as required, while a sustainable arrangement is developed</p>                                                                                     |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>governments who have not yet indicated if they would like to participate in the program or deferred their involvement. Currently 8 local governments have declined to participate, one has deferred their involvement and 10 are yet to indicate if they would like to be involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DFES has considered temporary windscreen signage to identify vehicles carrying such personnel, and determined that this has been covered through recommendations 9 (voluntary registration of farmer firefighting units, contractor firefighting resources and forestry industry brigades) and 14 (traffic management).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Recommendation 14:</b><br/>The State Emergency Management Committee to review the policy for traffic management at emergency incidents so it reflects national 'best practice'. This includes the production and issuing of an aide-memoire to guide traffic management, emergency and incident management personnel.</p> <p>The policy should provide a practical balance between risk to life and the public value of enabling the timely restoration of livelihoods and the movement of critical resources, (including essential services, critical business and livestock welfare services), through traffic management points.</p> <p>The review will involve a range of stakeholders including the Departments of Fire and Emergency Services, Parks and Wildlife, Agriculture and Food WA, Main Roads WA, WA Police, WA Farmers Federation, WA Local Government Association, Forest Industries Association, and the Transport Industry and ensure that the views of the community are considered.</p> | <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>While existing policy, plans, and guidelines did not require amendment the following work has been undertaken to implement and communicate the existing processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of a Traffic Management Aide-Memoire to help Vehicle Control Point staff differentiate between full and partial road closures and what that means (i.e. who is allowed through and who is not). The document was finalised in November 2016 and distributed to all stakeholders. The Aide-Memoire is available on the OEM website at <a href="http://www.oem.wa.gov.au">www.oem.wa.gov.au</a>.</li> <li>- A communications and marketing plan was implemented, including a news article on the OEM website.</li> <li>- An independent review of the WA traffic management policy has been completed. The report of the independent reviewer is being considered by OEM.</li> </ul> | <p>OEM will continue to monitor and adjust State EM Policy in accordance with existing protocols.</p> <p>The 2016/17 bushfire season did not provide opportunity to fully test the implemented traffic management policy. As such, traffic management and access protocols will be tested during the 2017/18 southern bushfire season.</p> |

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| <p><b>Recommendation 15:</b><br/>                     The State Government to create a Rural Fire Service to enhance the capability for rural fire management and bushfire risk management at a State, regional and local level. The proposed Rural Fire Service will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be established as a separate entity from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or, alternatively, be established as a sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;</li> <li>- have an independent budget;</li> <li>- be able to employ staff</li> <li>- have a leadership structure which to the greatest degree possible, is regionally based and runs the entity;</li> <li>- be led by a Chief Officer who reports to the responsible Minister on policy and administrative matters; and to the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Services during operational and emergency response;</li> <li>- have responsibilities and powers relating to bushfire prevention, preparedness and response; and</li> <li>- operate collaboratively with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Local Government and volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.</li> </ul> <p>In creating the Rural Fire Service, the State Government to consider whether back office and corporate support services could be effectively provided by an existing Department, such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or the Department of Parks and Wildlife.</p> <p>The State Government to review the creation of the Rural Fire Service two years after its establishment, to assess whether its structure and operations are achieving the intended outcome.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>                     The Government has fulfilled its commitment to hold a bushfire mitigation summit and a public submission process that included discussion around options for improving the delivery of bushfire management in the regions.</p> | <p>Under consideration by Government.</p> |

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| <p><b>Recommendation 16:</b><br/>The State Emergency Management Committee to establish a State Bushfire Coordinating Committee as a sub-committee of SEMC. The State Bushfire Coordinating Committee will be chaired by the Director of the Office of Bushfire Risk Management and will have the primary responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develop a State Bushfire Management Policy and set a long term bushfire risk management objective;</li> <li>- provide a forum for key bushfire risk management stakeholder agencies;</li> <li>- advise the SEMC on matters pertaining to bushfire, in particular, to report against the investment of, and achievement of the bushfire risk management objectives;</li> <li>- provide advice and support to the proposed Chief Officer of the Rural Fire Services on bushfire risk management matters; and</li> <li>- report to SEMC and to the community on bushfire risk management matters on at least an annual basis.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>A State Bushfire Coordinating Committee has been established.</p> <p>The SBCC has met on three occasions. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement on a mechanism to prioritise distribution of bushfire risk mitigation grant expenditures, inclusive of a proposed governance structure and criteria to guide decision-making; and</li> <li>• Establishment of a Working Group to develop a draft State Bushfire Management Policy for SEMC endorsement by 30 June 2018.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.</p> | <p>No further action is required.</p>                                                                        |
| <p><b>Recommendation 17:</b><br/>The Department of the Premier and Cabinet to conduct an independent review of the current arrangement for the management and distribution of the Emergency Services Levy. The review will have the specific purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeking input from key entities including the Departments of Treasury, Finance, Fire and Emergency Services, Lands, and Parks and Wildlife, WA Local Government Association, and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management.</li> <li>- Ensuring the arrangement has the flexibility and agility to deal with emerging bushfire risk priorities.</li> <li>- Establishing a budget process that enables a shift in</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>The ERA issued a draft report on 7 July 2017. Stakeholder feedback on the Report and its recommendations has been sought and received. The final report was provided to the Treasurer on 29 September 2017.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>The ERA will publish the final report on its website after the Treasurer has tabled it in Parliament.</p> |

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| investment towards prevention, mitigation and building community resilience and capability.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Opportunity 1:</b><br/>The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to engage with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre to investigate the predication of cloud to ground lightning occurrences.</p>                           | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>P&amp;WS and DFES are working with the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) which is investigating the relationships between fire activity and thunderstorm activity, including factors influencing dry-lightning ignition risk. The project commenced in July 2016.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Project will be ongoing to 2019.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>Opportunity 2:</b><br/>The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to engage with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre to investigate the causes of an effects of pyro-cumulus weather occurrences on bushfire behaviour.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has released a pamphlet entitled Atmospheric Instability and the C-Haines Index at <a href="http://www.reg.bom.gov.au/reguser/by_user/bomw0336/Instability_and_the_C_Haines_Index.pdf">www.reg.bom.gov.au/reguser/by_user/bomw0336/Instability_and_the_C_Haines_Index.pdf</a></p> <p>The Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC) released its report on Pyrocumulonimbus Forecasting: Needs and Issues.<br/><a href="http://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/bnh-3205">www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/bnh-3205</a></p>                                                                      | <p>A case study examining the associations between the meteorological observations and fire reconstruction (including pyro-cumulonimbus events) is being drafted by BOM and P&amp;WS and should be completed during 2017.</p>                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Opportunity 3:</b><br/>The Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Forest Products Commission to explore policy options for mechanical thinning of forest, including mining rehabilitation forest, for the purpose of bushfire mitigation.</p>                                                                                                               | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>A Commonwealth funded mechanical fuel reduction trial is underway under an initiative facilitated by the Department of Primary Industry NSW. The trial will be a time in motion study to assess the economics and efficiency of mechanical fuel reduction activities.</p> <p>P&amp;WS, in collaboration with the University of the Sunshine Coast, Department of Water, Forest Products Commission and Department of Fire and Emergency Services, are undertaking a mechanical fuel reduction trial using mechanical thinning and whole tree removal. As part of the trial a public information session was held in May 2017 to increase community awareness.</p> | <p>Results of the trial will be assessed. If successful, P&amp;WS will consider using mechanical fuel reduction as an option for managing fuel loads in critical fuel management zones.</p> <p>P&amp;WS is establishing protocols for the integration of mining rehabilitation forest back into regional prescribed fire plans.</p> |

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Future work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>As of October 2017, the treatments comprising no harvesting and harvesting have been applied. In spring 2017 or autumn 2018 the prescribed burn treatment will be applied. Fire intensity in harvested and unharvested treatments will be compared to determine the effect of harvesting with whole tree removal on fire intensity.</p> <p>If the results of the trial indicate that fuel loads can be sufficiently reduced to prevent or significantly reduce fire intensity, P&amp;WS and DFES will investigate the use of mechanical fuel reduction as a tool to protect high value assets such as communities and infrastructure.</p> <p>P&amp;WS continues to apply mechanical fuel modification (mulching and flattening of fuels) as a targeted application to assist in reducing fire risk.</p> <p>Forest Products Commission is investigating options to thin mining rehabilitation forest. A proposal has been received for the establishment of a charcoal production and biofuels plant co-located with a bauxite processing facility. This will provide a market for small material from mine rehabilitation thinning and help facilitate thinning and management of fuel loads in mine rehabilitation.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Opportunity 4:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services, in collaboration with the Departments of Planning, Parks and Wildlife, Environment Regulation and Water, to lead consideration of developing guidance to landholders with respect to bushfire ‘fuse breaks’ along lineal fuels such as roadsides and irrigation drainage channels.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>Proclamation of the <i>Bushfires Amendment Act 2016</i> occurred on 30 June 2017. This amendment enables the FES Commissioner to publish standards regarding bushfire risk treatments.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Before the 2018/19 Southern fire season, an information note will be developed in consultation with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The information note will provide guidance on the identification and</p> |

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Future work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>management of “Fuse Breaks”.</p> <p>Standards will be published to enable landholders to be prepared for the 2017/18 southern fire season.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Opportunity 5:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established the Rural Fire Service) to investigate options for improving aerial and satellite based bushfire intelligence gathering. In particular, to investigate the provision of Infra-Red Linescan capability.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>DFES has developed function and performance specifications for a strategic aerial intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) service that includes the provision of a pressurised fixed wing aircraft equipped with a wide area aerial surveillance mapping sensor such as an infrared linescanner.</p> <p>DFES has engaged the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) to test the market for strategic aerial ISR to be operational by the 2018/19 southern fire season. The service will be funded from efficiencies within the existing rotary wing aerial ISR contract.</p> | <p>Review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Doctrine related to aerial ISR;</li> <li>-Aerial intelligence officer job description;</li> <li>-Aircrew resource management (CRM) requirements; and</li> <li>-Training resource kits (TRKs).</li> </ul> <p>-Aerial ISR services procurement to be considered in the context of potential whole-of-government aviation service delivery.</p> |
| <p><b>Opportunity 6:</b><br/>The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife, in conjunction with the Australasian Fire &amp; Emergency Service Authorities Council, to explore the development of a standardised approach and content for an ‘initial (4 hour)’ Incident Action Plan.</p>                    | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>New Incident Action Plans (IAPs) have been developed and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal of the one and four hour timeframes and provide IC with discretion on IAP development depending on the operational tempo.</li> <li>- ‘IAP-Lite version for use during escalation/de-escalation.</li> </ul> <p>These will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>DFES will embed a range of IAP documentation into the WebEOC Incident Management system for operational use prior to the 2018/19 bushfire season</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Opportunity 7:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife to assess the merits and disadvantages of Incident Controller and Incident Management Team work cycle extending over a 24 hour period (but still allowing for individual rest times in line with fatigue policy).</p>             | <p><b>Not yet progressed</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>To be considered during 2017/18.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Future work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <p><b>Opportunity 8:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to review the policy of dispatching task force resources from Perth metropolitan and regional urban locations to bushfires to ensure that only vehicles that are fit for purpose and appropriate to the task are deployed.</p>                                   | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>The DFES Future Fleet project will consider the performance requirements of urban fleet and future functional specifications will reflect those considerations.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>The Future Fleet project is ongoing.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Opportunity 9:</b><br/>The State Emergency Management Committee to develop policy guidance for local governments regarding the installation of bushfire and emergency community warning sirens in 'at risk' communities.</p>                                                                                                          | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>Following research into policies, processes and guidelines a discussion paper and draft guidelines were considered and not supported by SBCC.<br/><br/>The SEMC supported the SBCC recommendation that WA not have a formal policy position in relation to community sirens</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>An information sheet will be developed by OEM for use by interested local governments.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>Opportunity 10:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to lead, in collaboration with the Department of Planning and the Building Commission, the development of a policy and guidance to landholders on a range of bushfire shelter options, including household bushfire refuges and community bushfire refuges.</p> | <p><b>Not yet progressed</b><br/>Performance standards for private bushfire shelters have been addressed in the 2016 version of the Building Codes of Australia - National Construction Code as a Class 10c building which provides for the performance requirements of private bushfire shelters.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Additional guidance on the location and use of private bushfire shelters would need to be considered following the consultation on the discussion paper - Places of Bushfire Last Resort.</p>                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Opportunity 11:</b><br/>The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services, Planning, and Environment Regulation to consider policy options with respect to the clearing of vegetation by landholders within a specified distance of an asset or dwelling, for the purposes of bushfire protection.</p>                                   | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>Asset Protection Criteria in the Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Protection has been updated to reflect current best practice.<br/><br/>Proclamation of the <i>Bushfires Amendment Act 2016</i> occurred on 30 June 2017. This amendment enables the FES Commissioner to publish standards regarding bushfire risk treatments.<br/><br/>DFES is updating the DFES Asset Protection Information note to replace the outdated terminology of the "Building Protection: information notes".</p> | <p>Drafting of the Commissioner's standard "Commissioners Voluntary Bushfire Risk Treatment Standard for Residential Buildings" prior to review by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) - is at an advanced stage. Consultation with significant key stakeholders is ongoing.</p> |

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Future work                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>Opportunity 12:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to engage with the WA Local Government Association to explore opportunities for Local Government personnel to be included in the make-up of Rapid Impact Assessment Teams.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>DFES has liaised with WALGA Emergency Management Coordinator and agreed in principle that the inclusion of a formal Local Government liaison position in Level 3 IMTs provides a central point for liaison with LG regarding their Rapid Damage Assessment (RDA) requirements and extent to which they have the capacity and capability to participate in the process.</p> | <p>DFES and WALGA will establish arrangements for the incorporation of local government and other parties with recovery responsibilities in RDA arrangements and teams.</p> |
| <p><b>Opportunity 13:</b><br/>The State Emergency Management Committee to develop an aide-memoire for Incident Controllers to guide the initial recovery considerations during an incident. The aide-memoire to include: triggers for the initiation of rapid impact assessment and the escalation of the recovery function; and immediate and likely future community health, welfare and safety considerations. These triggers will inform the Incident Controllers when considering the discretionary appointment of 'Deputy Incident Controller, Recovery' during an incident that impacts on the community. The role of the 'Deputy Incident Controller, Recovery' would be (with the Incident Controller) to consider the initiation of the recovery process and to manage the transition from incident response to the recovery phase.</p> | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>An aide-memoire has been developed that covers the nominated matters. The aide-memoire is available on the OEM website and all Hazard Management Agencies have been advised.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>The aide-memoire has been tailored to bushfire and cyclone emergencies and will be reviewed to make it applicable to all natural hazard incidents.</p>                   |
| <p><b>Opportunity 14:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services training for Fire and Rescue career staff (at LFF and S/O training courses) to include enhanced training in natural hazard incident management; hazard reduction burning; rural and forest fire behaviour and the Department of Parks and Wildlife use of fire as a management tool.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>DFES has included additional training into the Incident Control component of the Career Fire and Rescue Station Officer course.<br/><br/>The basic firefighter course now includes practical experience of bushfire behaviour and additional instruction in bushfire suppression operations.</p>                                                                             | <p>DFES will continue to review and where necessary include additional training specifically to address any identified deficiencies in bushfire management.</p>             |

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Future work                                                             |
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| <p><b>Opportunity 15:</b><br/>The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to agree on minimum targets for volunteer participation as Sector Commanders, and in Incident Management Team positions and develop strategies to meet those targets.</p>                                                                                                               | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>Nine positions for local government and volunteer firefighters have been included in the joint agency PFTs (Recommendation 8). This 'mix' can be adjusted after activation of the PFTs as required, and may be subject to change dependent upon guidance on a Rural Fire Service.</p>                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Further action pending outcome of the Rural Fire Service review.</p> |
| <p><b>Opportunity 16:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) and the Volunteer Associations to develop fatigue management guidelines for emergency service volunteers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>The implementation of a Fatigue Management Policy forms part of the <i>Department of Fire and Emergency Services Strategic Plan 2012-2024</i>.<br/><br/>As of 10 October 2017, 1,144 (65.9%) employees and 2,310 (8.449%) volunteers have completed Fatigue Management training.<br/><br/>The guidelines form part of the Fatigue Management Policy which has been released and the education package has been developed and rolled out.</p> | <p>No further action is required.</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Opportunity 17:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to measure and report annually on the volunteer fire and emergency service worker contribution.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>DFES has a system that can implement the intent of this opportunity. All reported volunteer emergency service activity is reported in the DFES Annual Report. All services are represented in the figures published with no individual service singled out.</p>                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                         |
| <p><b>Opportunity 18:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) in consultation with the Association of Bush Fire Brigade Volunteers, to review the policy for disposal of 'retired' firefighter vehicles to first make disposed vehicles available to landowners who are sponsored by the local Brigade. Such vehicles to be subject to a limited decommissioning process.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>This opportunity will be the subject of further investigation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                         |

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Future work                                                                    |
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| <p><b>Opportunity 19:</b><br/>The Department of Parks and Wildlife, in consultation with their workforce and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) and the Australian Workers Union (AWU), to carry out a workforce workload analysis of its fire program (covered by both the CPSU and the AWU workforce). The analysis to have a particular emphasis on the management of workload and fatigue in employees involved in the fire program.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>P&amp;WS has undertaken discussions with the Australian Workers' Union and the CSA/CPSU and terms of reference for the workforce workload analysis have been agreed to by both unions. P&amp;WS has appointed an independent consultant to undertake the workforce workload analysis.</p> <p>The independent consultant has provided the statistical analysis of the overtime and ordinary hours worked for a sample of AWU and CSA employees for the bushfire season 2015/16 and 2016/17. The full report is due late October 2017.</p> | <p>The report's findings will inform further consideration of this matter.</p> |
| <p><b>Opportunity 20:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to investigate, with the United Firefighters Union, an 'emergency roster' arrangement that enables the temporary adoption of extended firefighter shift arrangements to enable more career firefighters to be made available for duty during significant emergencies.</p>                                                                                                  | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>DFES has provision for Call Back of staff, has a surge staffing plan, and a crisis plan drafted for extended and significant absences, and will continue to explore more use of off-duty staff.</p> <p>Two "no notice" exercises have been conducted in 2017.</p> <p>A Standard Operating Procedure has been developed for activation where additional firefighters and officers are required for deployment.</p> <p>DFES is currently developing a concept SMS process to enhance the activation of the State Support Plan.</p>         | <p>DFES continues to consult with the United Firefighter's Union.</p>          |
| <p><b>Opportunity 21:</b><br/>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to implement (and act on) a volunteer emergency service worker consultation framework to promote effective and meaningful ongoing consultation with fire and emergency services volunteers on matters that affect volunteer systems of work, equipment and health, welfare and safety.</p>                                 | <p><b>Completed</b><br/>Implemented within DFES.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                |

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| Recommendation / Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Current status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Future work                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p><b>Opportunity 22:</b><br/>The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) in consultation with relevant stakeholders including the Public Sector Commission and the Volunteer Associations, to conduct (and act on) an annual culture survey amongst paid and career staff and volunteer emergency service workers.</p>                                                               | <p><b>Not yet progressed</b><br/>In August 2015 DFES invited staff, volunteers and stakeholders to participate in a survey to help the department understand the perceptions of DFES. This survey provided a baseline for the Volunteer Sustainability strategy and future survey comparison. The National Volunteer Perceptions Survey was also completed in 2016.</p> | <p>P&amp;WS will consider this issue further following consideration of the establishment of a Rural Fire Service.</p>                                             |
| <p><b>Opportunity 23:</b><br/>When established, the Rural Fire Service, in conjunction with the Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Fire and Emergency Services, to establish a Western Australian Centre for Excellence in Rural and Forest Fire Management. The Centre to include a networked capability for research, planned burning, lessons learned and facilitating training for rural firefighters, especially for members of volunteer Brigades.</p> | <p><b>Not yet progressed</b><br/>This opportunity will be considered based on outcomes from Recommendation 15.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>DFES will review its training of volunteers in anticipation of an opportunity to participate in a centre of excellence in rural and forest fire management.</p> |