

## Bushfire Review Implementation Group: Stakeholder Briefing

### 2011 Perth Hills Bushfire Review

As at May 2014, 48 of the 55 recommendations of *A Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011* have been signed off by the Bushfire Review Implementation Group (BRIG) as complete. The BRIG has requested the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) to continue the oversight of the remaining recommendations.

For further information on those recommendations which are complete, please refer to previous stakeholder briefings, which can be found at <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/Pages/BushfireReviews.aspx>

or

<http://www.semc.wa.gov.au/publicationsandresources/Pages/BushfireReviewImplementationGroup.aspx>

The 1st table below lists those recommendations which are still in progress and overseen by the SEMC. The 2<sup>nd</sup> table shows the recommendations signed off by BRIG and monitored by the SEMC.

Many of the remaining recommendations are interrelated, and as such several current projects upon completion will fulfil more than one recommendation. To demonstrate this, primary recommendations are listed in **bold**, with supporting recommendations listed underneath.

**Table 1**

Recommendation	Lead agency	Progress as at May 2014	Next Steps
<p><b>15. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local governments ensure that the ability to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>measure and map fuel loads</i></li> <li>• <i>maintain fuel load databases</i></li> <li>• <i>draw up prescriptions for, and oversee controlled burns</i></li> </ul> <p><i>are included as key competencies in any future recruitment of Chief Bushfire Control</i></p>	DFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFES has adjusted the key competencies required for any future CESM positions that are negotiated with local government.</li> <li>• All current CESMs have been trained by the bushland mitigation section on how to measure fuel loads and maintain this data in the Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System database. This process includes the preparation of burn prescriptions and assisting local bush</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFES is developing a project plan to support the implementation of the remaining parts of recommendations 15 and 53</li> <li>• Prescribed burning TRK</li> <li>• Agreement between DFES and DPaW for prescribed burning training delivery</li> <li>• Completion of BRMP pilot project</li> <li>• Completion of BRMS</li> </ul>

Recommendation	Lead agency	Progress as at May 2014	Next Steps
<p><b>Officers (CBFCO) and Community and Emergency Services Managers (CESM).</b></p> <p>53. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local governments examine the current competencies of Chief Bushfire Control Officers (CBFCO) and Community Emergency Services Managers (CESM) or Community Fire Managers (CFM) and consider what further development is needed to ensure these staff are capable of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measuring and mapping fuel loads</li> <li>• maintaining fuel load databases</li> <li>• drawing up prescriptions for, and overseeing controlled burns; and</li> <li>• building effective working relationships with all relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>	DFES	<p>fire brigade volunteers in the burning of the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All mitigation works are also captured on the Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System database for future planning use.</li> <li>• A Volunteer Training Advisory Group is also a contributor to the development of competencies and training for CBFCOs and they will be a key stakeholder in this initiative.</li> <li>• The prescribed burning course has been identified as a new requirement along with the need to review and update the Chief Bushfire Control Officers course.</li> <li>• The prescribed burning course TRK is in development</li> <li>• Four LG's are currently conducting the pilot of the BRMP process (Augusta-Margaret River, Nannup, Boyup Brook &amp; Collie) that is running from March – July 2014</li> <li>• Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS) – a web-based tool that will support LG's and other state agencies in the development of a BRMP – is in development phase.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>38. Local governments institute a comprehensive program to assess fuel loads and bushfire preparedness on private properties. The program should give reference to the creation and maintenance of a Building Protection Zone, in line with FESA guidelines.</b></p> <p><b>This program should be implemented and managed under the Bush Fires Act 1954 in a manner similar to the fire break inspection program.</b></p>	DFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 2013 the Minister for Emergency Services wrote to Local Governments identified as falling within high risk bushfire zones to advise them that Government is development a Bushfire Risk Management Planning (BRMP) process to complete tenure blind assessments of bushfire risks</li> <li>• The SEMC Secretariat has undertaken consultation with 43 local governments</li> <li>• A Premier's Circular has been promulgated throughout government strongly promoting the value of BPZs.</li> <li>• Four LG's are currently conducting the pilot of the BRMP process (Augusta-Margaret River,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing fuel assessment and risk treatment programs will be developed in collaboration with local government and state agencies and other landholders on a risk priority basis through the BRMP process</li> <li>• The guidelines, templates and functional requirements may require amendment after consideration of the outcomes from the SEMC consultation with local governments.</li> <li>• A phased implementation of systems and process in support of an integrated approach to bushfire risk management is being developed over the next six months.</li> <li>• DFES is developing a project plan to support the</li> </ul>

Recommendation	Lead agency	Progress as at May 2014	Next Steps
<p>21. <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments jointly develop a single, integrated system for fuel load assessment and management. The system should enable public access to allow members of the community to access information about the fuel load in a given locality.</i></p>	DFES	<p><b>Nannup, Boyup Brook &amp; Collie) that is running from March – July 2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Joint Mitigation Working Group has recommended that the current system utilised by DFES, the Integrated Bushfire Risk Mitigation System (IBRMS), is appropriate to address this recommendation, though it will require updating and modification.</li> <li>• DFES has finalised draft functional requirements for an end to end integrated software system to support the BRMP process.</li> <li>• a standardised approach to developing an ISO 31000 compliant methodology for measuring and recording fuel loads is targeted.</li> <li>• Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS) – a web-based tool that will support LG’s and other state agencies in the development of a BRMP – is in development phase.</li> </ul>	<p><b>implementation of the remaining parts of recommendations 38, 21 and 23 through the BRMP process. Progress will depend on available funding.</b></p>
<p>23. <i>The Interagency Bushfire Management committee develop and oversee a work program to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>conduct site specific assessments to assess current fuel loads</i></li> <li>• <i>assess, analyse and prioritise bushfire risk on land within and adjacent to communities; and</i></li> <li>• <i>develop a three year rolling mitigation works program with annual implementation and review.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This work should commence independently of any decision on the most effective online integrated system. All data collected should be uploaded to the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP).</i></p>	DFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works programs by DFES staff and local government-based Community Emergency Services Managers is on-going. This includes conducting mitigation works, inspections and mapping on a weekly basis throughout the Perth Hills area.</li> <li>• It has been recommended that the joint DFES/DEC developed Bushfire Threat Analysis (BFTA) be the basis for bushfire risk. Government has agreed the need for an ISO 31000 compliant methodology for measuring and recording fuel loads. DFES will develop a project plan to support the implementation this recommendation.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>48. The State Government move the responsibility for the management and distribution of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) to the Department of Finance.</b></p>	<p><b>DFES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Finance has reviewed papers from the report on Recommendation 48.</li> <li>• The Department of Finance has also reviewed the 2006 report by the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the Parliament.</li> <li>• An initial meeting was held between Department of Finance and DFES representatives to understand the current application and approval process for grant applications lodged by local governments, with DFES, for funding allocations.</li> </ul>	<p>Further discussions between relevant agencies will be held in respect of progressing this recommendation.</p>

Table 2

Recommendation	Lead agency	Progress as at May 2014	Next Steps
<p><b>3. The State Government transfer responsibility for declaring bushfire prone areas from local government to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). The Western Australian Planning Commission should urgently assess those areas that should be declared bushfire prone.</b></p>	<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A draft standard for bushfire prone area mapping has been developed by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management in consultation with the Department of Planning and Landgate;</li> <li>• Draft maps are expected to be available for the South-West in late 2014;</li> <li>• DFES is progressing changes to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998 to provide for the FES Commissioner to be the designating authority for declaring bushfire prone areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Bulletin relating to Planning for Bushfire released in December 2013;</li> <li>• Identification of BFPA in the short term through policy measures to be implemented without legislative change;</li> <li>• The DoP is progressing the preparation of bushfire regulations under the Planning and Development Act 2005 that will designate bushfire-prone areas through local planning schemes via reference to the new state maps;</li> <li>• Targeted stakeholder consultation on the draft new State Planning Policy to be undertaken May 2014;</li> <li>• WAPC to receive the final State Planning Policy.</li> <li>• Signed off by BRIG for monitoring by SEMC.</li> </ul>
<p>39. State and locals governments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) recognise that regardless of future declarations of bushfire prone areas, the existing planning and building problems in the Perth Hills related to bushfire risk will persist;</li> <li>b) urge residents in these areas to retrofit their homes and evaporative air conditioners in compliance with AS 3959 - 2009;</li> <li>c) examine options to retrospectively bring these areas into compliance with Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines.</li> </ol>	<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Information Sheet on AS3959 has been developed and local governments have updated and increased community information;</li> <li>• The Department of Commerce has published a booklet on bushfires (Building for Better Protection Bushfire areas – a Homeowner’s Guide);</li> <li>• The Department of Commerce has written to the manufacturers of evaporative air conditioners and asked them to provide screens and information. This has been backed up by a request to other jurisdictions to make similar contact and for it to be coordinated by the Australian Building Codes Board;</li> <li>• The Department of Education installed ember screens on evaporative cooling units at schools listed on the Department’s Bushfire Zone register by the end of 2012;</li> <li>• The Building Commission of Western Australia has</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government will consider options for encouraging and facilitating the retrofitting of fire risk reduction features to existing land development and assets to be better compliant with contemporary standards such as the AS3959 and the WAPC/DFES <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection</i>.</li> <li>• Signed off by BRIG for monitoring by SEMC.</li> </ul>

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		<p>written to manufacturers of evaporative air conditioners to ask that they (1) ensure that new evaporative air conditioning units are sold to customers in bushfire prone areas with appropriate screens for protection against ember attack and (2) provide retrofitting options to customers seeking ember screens for their units; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFES, as part of its ongoing community engagement strategy is also promoting the retrofitting of building features to make buildings more bushfire resistant.</li> </ul>	
<p>40. The State Government mandate that the title deeds for relevant properties be amended to indicate if the property is in a declared bushfire prone area.</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landgate has determined that the declared bushfire prone areas should become a registered interest and the use of Landgate's Interest Enquiry service is the preferred approach; and</li> <li>• Landgate is engaged in ongoing discussions with Department of Commerce regarding the issuing of a directive recommending interest disclosure for all property sales, and the Interest Enquiry service as a suggested means to obtain interest information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 1 November 2013, The Department of Commerce has advised licensed real estate agents that a prudent agent should purchase and provide copies of Property Interest Report to prospective buyers for all property sales in order to satisfy the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Agents and Sales Representatives 2011 (the Code). A copy of the PI report must be provided to all potential buyers who are considering making an offer. Once a bushfire prone area database is developed, the information can be made available via Interest Enquiry.</li> <li>• The WAPC will introduce a model subdivision condition requiring a notification on title for lots in bushfire-prone areas, to alert prospective owners. This will not be retrospectively applied.</li> <li>• Signed off by BRIG for oversight by SEMC.</li> </ul>