

## Bushfire Review Implementation Group: Stakeholder Briefing

### 2011 Perth Hills Bushfire Review

As at November 2013, 44 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.

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>.

The table below lists those recommendations which are still in progress, and overseen by the BRIG.

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.

Recommendation	Lead agency	Progress as at November 2013	Next Steps
<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>	Planning	<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;</li> <li>The Department of Planning is continuing to work closely with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Landgate to produce bushfire prone area maps throughout Western Australia, as well as supporting policies and processes including consideration of a State Planning Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification in the short term of policy measures to be implemented without legislative change;</li> <li>Investigating long term options for legislative change and declaring and assessing bushfire prone areas;</li> <li>Targeted stakeholder consultation on the draft new State Planning Policy to be undertaken;</li> <li>Planning Bulletin relating to Planning for Bushfire awaiting release.</li> </ul>
39. State and locals governments: a) recognise that regardless of future declarations of bushfire prone areas,	Planning	<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> </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</li> </ul>

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<p><i>the existing planning and building problems in the Perth Hills related to bushfire risk will persist;</i></p> <p><i>b) urge residents in these areas to retrofit their homes and evaporative air conditioners in compliance with AS 3959 - 2009;</i></p> <p><i>c) examine options to retrospectively bring these areas into compliance with Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 contacts 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 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</li> </ul> <p>DFES, as part of its ongoing community engagement strategy is also promoting the retrofitting of building features to make buildings more bushfire resistant.</p>	<p>development and assets to be better compliant with contemporary standards such as the AS3959 and the WAPC/DFES <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection</i></p>
<p><i>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.</i></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</li> </ul>

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			prone area database is developed, the information can be made available via Interest Enquiry.
<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 Officers (CBFCO) and Community and Emergency Services Managers (CESM).</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 fire brigade volunteers in the burning of the site.</li> <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> </ul>	DFES is developing a project plan to support the implementation of the remaining parts of recommendations 15 and 53
<p><b>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:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>measuring and mapping fuel loads</i></li> <li>• <i>maintaining fuel load databases</i></li> <li>• <i>drawing up prescriptions for, and overseeing controlled burns; and</i></li> <li>• <i>building effective working relationships with all relevant stakeholders.</i></li> </ul>	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)</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> </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</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)</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> </ul>

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<p><i>of a Building Protection Zone, in line with FESA guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>This program should be implemented and managed under the Bush Fires Act 1954 in a manner similar to the fire break inspection program.</i></p>		<p>process to complete tenure blind assessments of bushfire risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 and asking State agencies to show leadership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
<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	<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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFES is developing a project plan to support the implementation of the remaining parts of recommendations 38, 21 and 23 through the BRMP process</li> </ul>
<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</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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<i>be uploaded to the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP).</i>			
<b>47. Emergency Management Western Australia (EMWA) develop mechanisms to calculate the estimated total cost of a fire to the community.</b>	SEMC Secretariat	This issue is being considered at a national level. In June 2013, Deloitte produced the report <i>Building our Nation's Resilience to Natural Disasters</i> , which considered the both historic and forecast costs of natural disasters. The Perth Hills Bushfire was one of the disasters taken into account. This paper was considered by the Standing Council on Police and Emergency Management.	The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee has recommended that the Council of Australian Governments ask the Commonwealth Treasurer to commission a Productivity Commission review of the major contributions to, and benefits of disaster mitigation expenditure.
<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>	DFES	<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>	Further discussions between relevant agencies will be held in respect of progressing this recommendation.

## 2012 Margaret River Bushfire Review: Government commitments being overseen by the BRIG

Government Commitments	Responsible Agency	Progress as at February 2013	Progress as at November 2013
<p>New Fire Districts will be gazetted before next Summer for the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area bounded broadly from Bussleton to Vasse to Smiths Beach;</li> <li>• The area bounded broadly from Redgate to Witchcliffe to Cowaramup to Gracetown; and</li> <li>• August and a strip adjoining Bussell Highway north to Karridale</li> </ul>	DFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four new fire districts gazetted in South West Capes region on 14 December 2012, covering the areas noted by the Premier in his Ministerial Statement</li> <li>• Zone response arrangements have also been implemented in this region to ensure a rapid and coordinated interagency response from ground and aerial based suppression resources</li> </ul>	Implemented. No further action required
The Bunbury gazetted fire district to be expanded	DFES	A Regional Review by DFES has been undertaken with a view to expanding the Bunbury gazetted fire district.	Recommendations arising from this Review are forthcoming.
Within three years the new gazetted areas will be subsumed within a single gazetted fire district	DFES		The appropriateness of gazetted fire districts is being considered as part of the Emergency Services Act Review currently being undertaken.
Before next summer, Perth metropolitan fire districts will be extended to accommodate suburban expansion in areas such as Yanchep, Alkimos, Byford and Banjup	DFES	The northern boundaries of the metropolitan areas around Yanchep and Alkimos have been completed.	DFES is continuing discussions in relation to gazettal changes in Byford and Banjup.
A South West bushfire risk zone will be declared, within which a new Office of Bushfire Risk Management, will oversee and authorise all prescribed burns	DFES	ORBM created March 2012 to oversee changes to Western Australia's prescribed burns program.	<p>ORBM continue to play a key role in bushfire planning, including as part of the Bushfire Risk Management Planning Process, working with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to continue to help roll out changes to burn processes.</p> <p>No further action is required to implement this commitment.</p>