



COMMUNIQUÉ

PARKERVILLE-STONEVILLE-MT HELENA

FIRE REVIEW

CONCLUSIONS

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) endorsed the [Parkerville-Stoneville-Mt Helena Fire](#) Report and presented it to the Minister for Emergency Services who tabled it in Parliament on 12 June 2014. The Report highlighted many positive initiatives that contributed to an improved response to this fire.

The conclusions from the Report on “what worked well” and “opportunities for improvement” are listed below:

WHAT WORKED WELL

In Section Two “what worked well” is discussed and it is clear these actions were built on previous learnings from reviews of previous incidents, improvements to operational firefighting doctrine, preparedness and updates to relevant Westplans and State Emergency Management Policies. The fact that this was evident was very positive.

Selected comments are listed below:

- Community responses frequently expressed appreciation of the efforts of firefighters, and the Report recognised the improvements which have been made in response to previous reviews.
- Evidence of a good level of risk awareness is reflected in residents’ submissions to the Review. This fact and an active volunteer bushfire fighting brigades contributed to building a level of preparedness, both physical and psychological, that has assisted the community both in response and recovery.
- The Shire of Mundaring had in place local emergency management arrangements and a recovery plan that were exercised and an active fuel mitigation program was in place. The recovery process was handled well.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), the Department of Child Protection and Family Services (CPFS) and the Shire of Mundaring

ensured that residents were informed of house losses while protecting the privacy and dignity of those who had to be told the bad news.

- The combined efforts of a range of active volunteer bushfire fighting brigades and the Department of Parks and Wildlife provided great assistance and support to DFES in the management of the fire.
- Many respondents commented on the work done by the essential service providers, especially Western Power, in restoring services or making temporary arrangements to minimise the impact of the event.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and the State Recovery Controller, aided by hard work and rapid decision making by the Shire of Mundaring, ensured the swift allocation and release of State and Commonwealth relief monies.
- The joint efforts of the State Recovery Controller and the Insurance Council of Australia sped up the claims assessment process and resolved a number of other insurance matters.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Section Three of the Report summarises the opportunities for better performance based on the continuous improvement, no-blame learning framework underpinning the review and provides the groundwork and motivation to implement change to improve effectiveness.

Selected opportunities for improvement are listed below:

- Several opportunities were identified to be included in the forthcoming review by the SEMC of the State Emergency Management Policy 4.4 Recovery Coordination and of the Westplan – Recovery Coordination and State Emergency Management Policy 4.1 Incident Management.
- DFES should increase and maintain urban interface bushfire skills and expertise.
- Standard Operating Procedure 1 (Mobilisation Zone 2, Perth Hills area) should be reviewed to ensure that appropriate escalation triggers and levels of operational readiness are in place for future periods when severe fire weather conditions are forecast.
- Radio infrastructure in the Perth Hills should be reviewed to assess whether it is practicable for radio and/or mobile phone coverage to be improved to achieve better coverage across the area.

- The role of the Ground Controller should be reaffirmed in operational doctrine and reinforced in Incident Management Team training. During incidents involving aircraft the appointment of a Ground Controller should be confirmed by the Incident Controller.
- A Standard Operating Procedure for the conduct of community meetings should be developed and include having readily available the appropriate audio visual and other equipment, to ensure that such meetings are able to fulfil their function in providing information and direction.
- A Restricted Access Permit system for the entry/ re-entry of residents should be finalised.
- A consultative process be undertaken to develop a procedure for the controlled entry and exit of volunteers to the fire ground.

The full report is available to download on the [SEMC website](#).

For any enquiries, please email semc.secretariat@semc.wa.gov.au.