

# Bushfire Review Stakeholder Briefing

Friday 8 February 2013

This Briefing details the progress made on the implementation of the 55 recommendations of the 2011 Perth Hills Bushfire Review and the 10 recommendations of the 2012 Margaret River Bushfire Review, both conducted by Mr Mick Keelty AO. A number of additional initiatives have also been implemented by the State Government. Progress with the implementation of these initiatives is detailed below:

## Building Protection Zone Initiative

The State Government, together with the WA Local Government Association, has asked all State public sector agencies, trading enterprises, local governments and private property owners to establish or improve existing Building Protection Zones (BPZ) around their critical assets, infrastructure and homes. This is particularly important in high bushfire risk areas. Evidence has shown that BPZs can reduce the exposure of these assets to bushfire and therefore assist in fire fighting efforts.

State agencies have been progressing with the establishment of and improvements in BPZs. For example, the Department of Education has spent an additional \$3.8m in 2012/13 on BPZs as well as other bushfire risk mitigation measures, including the installation of ember screens on evaporative air conditioners and the installation of firebreaks.

Further information about BPZs is available at this webpage:

<http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/Pages/BushfireProtectionZones.aspx>.

## Office of Bushfire Risk Management

The Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) was created in May 2012 as part of the State Government's response to the findings of the Keelty report into the Margaret River Bushfire. OBRM is an independent office within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) reporting directly to the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.

OBRM's mission is *'To enhance the efficient and effective management of bushfire related risk in Western Australia in order to protect people, assets and other things valuable to communities.'* OBRM oversees changes to Western Australia's prescribed burns program and will:

- regulate prescribed burning state-wide;
- advise stakeholders, such as local governments, in relation to policy, responsibilities, best practice and standards in the context of bushfire related risk;
- liaise with agencies, volunteer fire brigades and community groups to exchange information;
- promote community understanding of bushfire risk, as well as the role of prescribed burns and other land management methods; and
- establish minimum standards for relevant accredited qualifications.

OBRM requires agencies such as DFES and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to report on bushfire related risk and prescribed burning and will be working with local government to the same end.

OBRM will work with agencies to make sure that the risk of state-wide prescribed burning is managed in accordance with the Australian and New Zealand standard *ISO 31 000: Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines*. It will implement an audit program of selected prescribed burns state-wide to ensure stakeholders are complying with OBRM standards and report the outcome of those audits to the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.

The Office will also establish a single data standard for mapping bushfire prone areas to be adopted by State Government agencies and local governments.

In its first six months of operation, OBRM worked with DEC to implement ISO 31 000 for the spring/summer burn process and will continue to help roll out changes to the burn process.

**Contact:** Mal Cronstedt, OBRM (9395 9463)

### **Additional Gazetted of Fire Districts**

In a statement to Parliament on 23 February 2012, the Premier announced that a number of additional fire districts would be gazetted, particularly in the South West Capes region. DFES developed an innovative approach to achieve the goals expressed in the Premier's Ministerial Statement. This process was managed within DFES and regional DFES staff have undertaken extensive consultation with local governments, volunteers and DEC personnel.

Four new fire districts were gazetted in the South West Capes region on 14 December 2012 covering the areas noted by the Premier in his Ministerial Statement. 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. This will minimise the likelihood of significant loss of life and major damage to property in this high risk area.

**Contact:** Chris Arnol, DFES (9395 9440)

### **State Emergency Management Committee**

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is the peak emergency management body in Western Australia. The Committee, appointed by the Minister, includes senior representation (Directors General and CEO's) from key State Government agencies and organisations essential to the State's emergency management arrangements.

The SEMC has been reconstituted to provide for independent membership, including the appointment of Ms Kerry Sanderson AO as Chair, Ms Sue Ash as Deputy Chair and Mr Frank Edwards as a member. These independent appointments will assist in addressing the views expressed by Mr Keelty in his Perth Hills Bushfire Review that the SEMC should have increased independence and a whole of government focus. The revitalised Committee will ensure a much stronger focus on preparedness for large-scale emergencies, as recommended by the 2009 Auditor General report "*Coming, Ready or Not: Preparing for Large-Scale Emergencies*".

The Committee is supported by the SEMC Secretariat. Ms Michelle Reynolds, CEO of WorkCover, acted as the Executive Director for six months to December 2012 and oversaw the preliminary development of the independent Secretariat from its original structure as Emergency Management Western Australia. Ms Reynolds prepared the inaugural Emergency Preparedness Report for consideration by the SEMC.

Ms Noelene Jennings, an Executive Director with the Department of Planning, has been appointed as the Secretariat's acting Executive Director from January 2013. Amongst her key tasks is further restructuring of the Secretariat and its establishment as a sub-department of DFES. In this vein, a range of senior management recruitments have already taken place, including the appointments of Manager Community Emergency Management, Manager Policy and Legislation, and Manager of Business Services.

### **State Emergency Preparedness Report**

The SEMC has completed its inaugural report on Western Australia's preparedness for emergencies. This report is to be prepared annually for the Minister for Emergency Services and provides a broad view of the State's capacity to deal with large-scale emergencies. It will continue to report progress in the emergency management sector and highlight work underway to enhance capability.

The Minister for Emergency Services tabled this report in Parliament on Thursday 14 November 2012. The report can be found at the following link: <http://dpc.web.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/Pages/BushfireReviews.aspx>.

## Natural Disaster Relief Program

Under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA), Western Australia receives annual funding from the Commonwealth through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) to implement activities to help build resilience to natural disasters. The NDRP funding round has closed for 2012/13 and the successful grant applicants will be notified shortly.

The actual NPA funding agreement expires at the end of the 2012/13 financial year. However it is anticipated that a new agreement will be in place for coming years. The State is currently awaiting advice from the Commonwealth regarding any future NDRP funding and the details of this funding, should it be available, will be published on the DFES website in 2013.

**Contact:** Noelene Jennings, SEMC Secretariat (6552 5190)

## **Review of Margaret River and Nannup Bushfires**

In March 2012 the Western Australian Government engaged Noetic Solutions Pty Ltd to prepare reports on the Margaret River and Nannup bushfires which occurred in November 2011. The Margaret River report deals with the suppression of the fire, building on the work previously completed by Mr Mick Keelty on the causes of the escape of a prescribed burn detailed in his 2012 report 'Appreciating the Risk'. The Nannup report deals with matters relating to the escape of the prescribed burn and the suppression of the resulting fire.

The final reports were referred by Government to the SEMC for advice. The reports, along with the SEMC advice, were tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Emergency Services on 15 December 2012. They can be accessed at the following link: [Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Bushfire Reviews](#)

## **Status of Recommendations**

The recommendations in this Briefing have been classified according to status of implementation. The categories of implementation are as follows:

	<b>Signed Off/Implementation Group Action Complete</b> These recommendations have been signed off by the Bushfire Review Implementation Group as no longer requiring oversight. The recommendations are either complete or residual work to complete them has been integrated into the routine business of the responsible agency.
	<b>In Progress</b> These recommendations are being progressed by the nominated responsible agency with oversight by the Bushfire Review Implementation Group or the State Emergency Management Committee.
	<b>Not Progressed</b> These recommendations have not been progressed.

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### Recommendations of the 2012 Margaret River Bushfire Review

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>1.</b> <i>The Department of Environment and Conservation review its current policies and operational guidelines in particular by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>strengthening the governance of operations by ensuring the Guidelines are relevant and practical;</i></li> <li>• <i>ensuring the processes that are implemented for prescribed burns are:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) value adding to the decisions and approvals required</i></li> <li><i>(b) informed by substantive input</i></li> <li><i>(c) focussed on outcome rather than process;</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>completing the draft management plan for the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Capes Area Parks and Reserves in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation and Land Management Act [1984];</i></li> <li>• <i>exploring the possibility of automating and streamlining the various processes for formulating a prescription for prescribed burns for ease of access and updating; and</i></li> <li>• <i>clarifying the guidance provided to decision makers as to the ‘edging’ and security of prescribed burns.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>DEC</b></p>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risk management governance documents for the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (DEC) prescribed burning activities are being reviewed with significant progress made to date (see Recommendation 2).</li> <li>• The guidance on burn security has now been reviewed and the guidance on edging is in progress.</li> <li>• Other guiding documents are also being reviewed as part of a prioritised approach to fully satisfy this Recommendation.</li> <li>• DEC has consulted with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Authority (DFES) and local governments to discuss the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Capes Area Parks and Reserves Management Plan.</li> <li>• The plan was endorsed by the Minister for Environment on 4 November 2012.</li> <li>• DEC is currently finalising the analysis of the public submissions.</li> <li>• The automation and streamlining of the prescribed burn planning process was commenced in early 2011.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC will complete the review and rationalisation of governance processes and guidance documents for prescribed burning activities.</li> <li>• The public submissions for the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Capes Area Parks and Reserves Management Plan are being analysed and will be available for release in mid-2013.</li> <li>• DEC is developing a web-based/online prescribed burn planning, approval and reporting system.</li> <li>• The system will align with new risk management business processes, allow burns to be approved online and facilitate engagement with the Office of</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p>Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current production schedule will have it operational State-wide by the end of the third quarter of 2013.</li> <li>Further post-implementation development and subsequent development phases will include GIS-based components for master burn planning.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>2.</b> <i>The Department of Environment and Conservation urgently undertake a review of its risk management practices as they relate to prescribed burns including but not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>reviewing risk management practices to ensure that they are in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009;</i></li> <li><i>finalising and implementing the new complexity model developed in house by the DEC;</i></li> <li><i>considering a broader set of parameters of risk by conducting an environmental scan or similar tool for areas under consideration for a prescribed burn;</i></li> <li><i>updating the prescribed fire plans to reflect the broader risk considerations discovered through environmental scanning;</i></li> <li><i>better informing the risk considerations by updating the 'Red Book' to reflect current research on burning in coastal heath; and</i></li> <li><i>reconsidering the utility of the 'Red Flag Burn' notification on files and either adopting it as a policy across the State or removing it as a consideration.</i></li> </ul>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEC engaged independent risk management experts through the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC).</li> <li>The consultants undertook a full review of all risk assessment and management arrangements related to prescribed burning to ensure DEC's processes are AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 compliant.</li> <li>The Stage 1 report of the review recommended that compliance be addressed in three phases based on priority.</li> <li>First phase actions have been completed, the second phase is well advanced and planned for completion in early 2013, and the third phase is scheduled for completion during 2013.</li> <li>Refinements of the risk management processes for application during the spring 2012 prescribed burning program were endorsed by OBRM.</li> <li>The enhanced processes which resulted from the review include various tools and methods to take into account a broader set of risk parameters in burn planning. This includes measures that will effectively take the place of Red Flag burn notifications.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEC will finalise the new Prescribed Burning Manual which incorporates the advice and recommendations of the consultants.</li> <li>The manual will be finalised early in 2013.</li> <li>Fire behaviour guidelines to cover coastal heath will be developed on the basis of the research recommended in Recommendation 4.</li> </ul>		

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<p><b>3.</b> <i>The Department of Environment and Conservation review its implementation of the findings of the Ferguson Review conducted in 2010.</i></p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC has reviewed its implementation of the Ferguson findings.</li> <li>• Of 17 observations from the Ferguson review, 10 are considered to have been satisfactorily addressed whilst seven have been partially addressed or are in train.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progression of observation 2 has commenced to review and update DEC's fire management policy. This includes the completion of a new policy statement on prescribed burning activities.</li> <li>• A fire management staff succession strategy (observation 16) has been prepared and implementation is underway as a result of the additional funding provided through the 2012/13 Budget.</li> <li>• Work on a staff recognition and reward framework (observation 17) continues in consultation with the Department of Commerce.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>4.</b> The Department of Environment and Conservation be supported to conduct further research into the fuel management of coastal heath in the south west of Western Australia exploring alternatives to burning as well as best practice for burning.</p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC is developing a four-year bushfire research proposal to gain knowledge and understanding of fire behaviour in coastal heath vegetation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC is working in partnership with scientists in the Bushfire CRC and other states to develop an improved heathland fire spread model.</li> <li>• Research will be conducted by a dedicated DEC research scientist with input from other experienced fire scientists and the Bushfire CRC.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that a provisional fire behaviour prediction system for coastal shrublands will be available for operational validation by June 2015.</li> </ul>		

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<p><b>5. The Department of Environment and Conservation explore human resourcing models that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>make succession planning a priority;</i></li> <li>• <i>look at options for the attraction and retention of staff; and</i></li> <li>• <i>review how the salary levels of staff matches the decision making required in major activities such as prescribed burns.</i></li> </ul>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC commissioned and received a report on succession planning for fire management staff which also highlights issues related to attraction and retention of staff.</li> <li>• It is recognised that staff attraction and retention includes a number of factors including remuneration, occupational health and safety, welfare of staff including indemnity associated with decision-making processes, and support from Government.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fire management staff succession strategy has been prepared and implementation is underway as a result of the additional funding provided through the 2012/13 Budget.</li> <li>• DEC will engage with the Department of Commerce, the Public Sector Commission, the Department of Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in the review of the salary levels of fire management staff and also attraction and retention.</li> <li>• This will include a review of remuneration for comparable job roles in DFES and in like agencies in other Australian jurisdictions.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6. The Department of Environment and Conservation review its practices and procedures in the undertaking of prescribed burns so as to fully utilise the skills available to it in a seamless way including but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>volunteer bushfire brigades, especially in regard to use as a source of local advice; and</i></li> <li>• <i>staff of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia.</i></li> </ul>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC amended procedures for the spring 2011 prescribed burning season to give local governments, volunteer bushfire brigades and DFES officers the opportunity to participate in prescribed burns.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC will seek further advice from DFES, local government and the Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades of WA on further developing the relationships inherent in this recommendation.</li> </ul>		

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<p><i>7. The Department of Environment and Conservation review the utility of its current regional model in terms of the capability of operational centres such as Kirup to service major fire activity on land proximate to the rural urban area (this recommendation should also be considered in the context of Recommendation 5).</i></p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEC is investigating the re-establishment of an operational Capes District in recognition of the region's expanding population and high bushfire risk.</li> <li>A proposal outlining several models has been prepared for the Minister for Environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal will be considered by the Minister for Environment for endorsement of a preferred model.</li> </ul>		
<p><i>8. The Department of Environment and Conservation develop and implement a strategy to better inform the community about the complexities and decisions surrounding prescribed burns when they are undertaken in the rural urban area.</i></p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <p>DEC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>worked closely with DFES, OBRM and the community to develop a communications strategy which will build and maintain community awareness and understanding of prescribed burning, smoke management, as well as the complexities and decisions surrounding prescribed burning in the rural-urban interface area.</li> <li>identified existing regional communication activities with a view to building greater State-wide consistency and complementary opportunities with external organisations that will assist with the strategy.</li> <li>rolled out the regional media activities focussed on the spring 2012 prescribed burning program; and</li> <li>made recent improvements to the DEC website providing better access and clearer information about prescribed burns.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEC will continue to implement the communications strategy including further updates to the DEC website with information on prescribed burning activities.</li> </ul>		
<p><i>9. The response operation to the Margaret River bushfire in November 2011 be the subject of a review with independent oversight.</i></p>	<b>DPC</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In March 2012 the Western Australian Government engaged Noetic Solutions Pty Ltd to prepare reports on the Margaret River and Nannup bushfires which occurred in November 2011. The Margaret River report deals with the suppression of the fire, building on the work previously completed by Mr</li> </ul>		

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<p>Mick Keelty AO detailed in his 2012 report 'Appreciating the Risk'. The Nannup report deals with matters relating to the escape of the prescribed burn and the suppression of the resulting fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the reports, Noetic considers the actions and decisions of the key agencies involved in responding to the fires, including DEC, DFES, the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River and the Shire of Nannup.</li> <li>The reports were received by Government and referred to the State Emergency Management Committee for advice. On Thursday 14 November 2012, the Minister for Emergency Services tabled the reports and the advice of the State Emergency Management Committee in Parliament.</li> </ul>		
<p><i>10. The Government consider enacting legislation to facilitate the review of all future major incidents, including but not limited to fire, earthquake, storm and marine inundation, and the emergency response to them.</i></p>	<b>DPC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government has considered this recommendation and decided not to enact legislation to facilitate the review of all future major incidents.</li> <li>Instead, SEMCs functions will specifically refer to its role in reviewing and reporting on the implementation of past reviews and investigations of emergencies.</li> <li>The Government has also required DEC to provide regular reports to SEMC on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Keelty Report into the Margaret River Bushfire.</li> </ul> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government has considered this recommendation and decided not to enact legislation to facilitate the review of all future major incidents.</li> <li>Instead, SEMCs functions will specifically refer to its role in reviewing and reporting on the implementation of past reviews and investigations of emergencies.</li> <li>In this regard, the Government has referred the Noetic Reports on the Margaret River and Nannup bushfires to SEMC for advice.</li> <li>The Government has also required DEC to provide regular reports to SEMC on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Keelty Report into the Margaret River Bushfire.</li> </ul>		

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### Recommendations of the 2011 Perth Hills Bushfire Review

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>1.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation develop and finalise their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and commit to working in partnership.</i></p>	<p><b>DFES</b></p>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An MOU was signed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) on 4 November 2011.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>2.</b> <i>Emergency Management Western Australia establish an inter-agency working group to continue the development of the new single emergency services Act.</i></p>	<p><b>DFES</b></p>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Working Group has been formed with the Terms of Reference agreed by all parties. Membership consists of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation RiskCover, WA Police, the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and a volunteer representative</li> <li>Two Working Group meetings have been held, with further meetings to be held on an ongoing basis and subject to demand.</li> <li>DFES has established a separate internal project to progress the consolidation of the Emergency Services Act.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Working Group will provide input into the Legislation and Departmental Structure Working Group of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC).</li> <li>The interagency working group is meeting as required. A project has been established within DFES which will oversee the amalgamation of the bushfire legislation. This project is currently in the initial consultation phase which will conclude 31 March 2013. Further consultation will be undertaken after the development of an options paper.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>3.</b> <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A study tour group examined and reported on interstate processes and best practices in place to assess bushfire prone areas and fire risk management processes.</li> <li>A Bushfire Prone Area methodology has been given in principle support by the Bushfire Review Implementation Group. Development work to provide</li> </ul>		

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<p>for a statutory basis and practical application of a bushfire prone map is underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Planning met with the State Solicitor’s Office (SSO) to discuss the legislative changes required to provide the WAPC with the power for declaring bushfire prone areas. SSO advice confirms that legislative change would be required to provide the WAPC the power to declare areas bushfire prone.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to consider the options for legislative change and declaring and assessing bushfire prone areas.</li> <li>Investigate which public sector agency is most appropriate to be empowered to assess and declare bushfire prone areas. The outcome of this will directly impact upon the technical expertise, resources and legislation required for the WAPC to give effect to this recommendation.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>4. The State Government give legislative effect to the Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines.</b></p>	<b>Planning</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WAPC and the Minister for Planning have approved the preparation of a new bushfire focussed State Planning Policy (SPP) and the review and updating of the Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines (Ed 2). These policies will provide a rigorous policy framework for decision-making across the State that is founded on a risk based approach to ensure future land use planning decisions adequately consider bushfire risk.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WAPC to prepare a SPP to address bushfire issues.</li> <li>WAPC to review and update the <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines</i> (Ed 2).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>5. Local Government recognise the work of the Gas Technical Regulatory Council and ensure any amendments to the Australian Standard are enforced.</b></p> <p><i>Local Government provide information to residents on any changes to the Australian Standard relating to tethering gas tanks and encourage property owners to take action to comply with the Standard.</i></p>	<b>DPC</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Prepare.Act.Survive</i> and other relevant DFES publications have been amended to include references to tethering.</li> <li>A voluntary guideline on tethering gas cylinders has been developed by EnergySafety WA. The booklet – LP Gas cylinder safety in bushfire-prone areas – aims to help residents reduce the risks associated with LPG cylinders should a fire approach, by providing information on where and how to position gas cylinders and safety valves, install support structures, actions to take during a bushfire and gas cylinder maintenance.</li> <li>EnergySafety has completed the process of designing an improved tethering system for voluntary use for inclusion in the guideline and a prototype has successfully been installed.</li> </ul>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commerce has consulted with the LP Gas Industry which supported the concept of a voluntary guideline.</li> <li>• The guideline has been released, and has been promoted to all local governments who have been encouraged to provide it to property owners with other fire prevention information.</li> <li>• Although EnergySafety has recommended changes to the Australian Standard to make support or tethering of LPG cylinders mandatory, this is a lengthy process and would only apply to new installations.</li> <li>• Energy Safety WA will continue to liaise with the Gas Technical Regulatory Council regarding amendments to the relevant Australian Standard.</li> <li>• WALGA will continue to provide advice to support this work and promote new information to member Councils accordingly.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, in partnership with local governments, conduct more focused pre-season bushfire education, which emphasises:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Water supply is not guaranteed during a bushfire</i></li> <li>• <i>Power supply is not guaranteed during a bushfire</i></li> <li>• <i>Saving life will be a priority over saving property so expect to be evacuated</i></li> <li>• <i>Once evacuated, access to affected areas may not be possible for several days</i></li> <li>• <i>Water ‘bombing’ by aircraft cannot be guaranteed in bushfire</i></li> <li>• <i>SMS warnings are advice only and may not be timely.</i></li> </ul>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>7a.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) review its distribution of information material, including Prepare. Act. Survive (PAS).</i></p>		
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The <i>Prepare.Act.Survive.</i> publication has been revised with 94,500 copies delivered to high risk bushfire locations.</li> <li>2. A new Urban Bushfire publication has been produced.</li> <li>3. The DFES Web page content has been reviewed and updated to include information on water requirements and availability.</li> <li>4. Local government bushfire information packs were distributed to 38 local governments.</li> <li>5. A bushfire strategy has been produced, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high risk locations approved and endorsed with priority locations and secondary locations for engagement;</li> <li>• all bushfire safety publications reviewed;</li> <li>• 7,500 invitations were issued for three Absentee Landowner forums to discuss bushfire preparedness for vacant or short term accommodation properties;</li> <li>• three additional contract staff were appointed as Community Safety Officers (CSO), bringing the total number of CSOs to six. The officers have been assisting with the increased engagement of high risk bushfire locations, working with local brigades and volunteers. Thanks to the increased</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		

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<p>numbers of Community Safety Officers, the number of priority locations has increased from 32 in 2010, to 77 in 2011/12;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the appointment of a dedicated Bushfire Ready Coordinator, who is working on increasing bushfire ready capacity in high risk locations. Bushfire Ready training has been undertaken; and</li> <li>targeted information was sent to over 6,500 owners of holiday and short term stay accommodation in regional areas.</li> </ul> <p>6. A report on the effectiveness of the distribution of DFES's publications has also been produced.</p>		
<p><b>7b.</b> FESA should also consider including the community in pre-season exercising, in consultation with the Department for Child Protection and local governments.</p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultation with the Department for Child Protection was documented and accepted.</li> <li>A letter was sent to Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) requesting they consider involving the community in exercising through LEMC based exercises.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>8.</b> Local governments continue to include information on bushfire risk and preparedness with rates notices.</p>	<b>WALGA</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WALGA has determined that most local governments currently include fire break and fuel load reduction notices to residents as part of their rates notices. However, while the issuing of rates notices allows for preparations to reduce fuel loads, it is well before the actual start of the bushfire season and consequently is not the most effective timing to communicate messages critical to bushfire risk and preparedness. Many local governments also mail out bushfire information closer to when burning can commence as this has proven to be more effective.</li> <li>WALGA encourages local governments to continue to include information on bushfire risk and preparedness with rates notices and other existing mechanisms, including local publications.</li> <li>WALGA has raised awareness of bushfire risk with its members, in particular those with considerable bushfire risk (in the Perth Hills and the South West) through normal communications mechanisms. Presentations have been made to all WALGA Zones regarding the importance of community involvement in bushfire risk mitigation and the raising of awareness through community information. The WALGA State Council has also been apprised of the importance of community information through the timely use of mediums available to Local Government, particularly the distribution of bushfire safety messages included in rates notices post outs.</li> <li>Through these efforts, WALGA is satisfied that Local Government in Western Australia is well aware of the risk to the community that bushfires pose and their responsibility in relation to providing their communities with a heightened awareness. Local government authorities will select the communication method that is most appropriate for their communities.</li> </ul>		

## Bushfire Review Stakeholder Briefing

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WALGA will continue to ensure that Bushfire risk and preparedness information be disseminated to residents in bushfire prone areas.</li> </ul>		
<p><i>9. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority work in partnership with the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA) to develop a package of information for new residents moving into bushfire prone areas, and a process to ensure this information is provided through real estate agents.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copies of Bushfire Safety materials have been sent to agents in high bushfire risk locations, for distribution to new home owners.</li> <li>Copies of the Rental Fact Sheet have been sent to over 10,000 tenants in high bushfire risk locations.</li> <li>Fact sheets (Rental Tenants and Owners of Rental Properties) have been finalised and posted on both REIWA and DFES websites.</li> <li>An Industry article was produced by DFES, and used by REIWA in their December industry Journal which is available on DFES's website.</li> <li>Further information was also distributed directly to tenants via the Department of Commerce's Tenancy Database.</li> </ul>		
<p><i>10. The Department of Education oversee the provision of bushfire education in schools that are located in bushfire prone areas, ensuring that all schools in these areas incorporate key bushfire messages in their curriculum.</i></p>		<b>Education</b>
<b>Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An updated version of the "Principal's Guide to Bushfires" was placed on Department of Education's policies website in December 2011. Key messages include bushfire education and materials to be included in the school curriculum.</li> <li>Schools in bushfire prone areas have incorporated bushfire education into their school's curriculum plan.</li> <li>Compliance to Business Continuity Management Plan (school risk reference list) are completed by Principals each year and are submitted annually to the Education Department.</li> <li>The Education Department's internal and external communication plans have been reinforced.</li> <li>To further strengthen the Education Department's response to Recommendation 10, a curriculum officer from the Department is now on the Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness Interagency Reference Group.</li> <li>In addition, a Departmental representative has communicated with DFES in developing additional educational materials to support Overarching Learning Outcome 7 – 'that students understand and appreciate the physical, biological and technological world in which they live and work' (this will include material relating to bushfire, developed in conjunction with DFES that will be put into schools as an adjunct to the teaching of the programs). The materials will be referenced to the latest research on bushfire education and appropriate disaster pedagogical approaches.</li> <li>The Department, through its representation on the Australian Curriculum advisory panel for Geography, has ensured that bushfire education is included</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p>as a mandated teaching component in the latest draft curriculum documentation. All schools on the Bushfire Zone Register have been verified by the DFES. All regional education offices have been notified of schools within their region that are on the Bushfire Zone Register. Regions have been asked to notify all affected schools of their presence on the Register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department has engaged Building Management and Works to install ember screen protection on evaporative air-coolers in schools listed on the Departments Bushfire Zone Register. The ember screen program was planned to be completed by 2012.</li> <li>• The Department of Education has signed a joint MOU with DFES. The MOU will enable DFES to address the reduction of bushfire risk around public schools listed on the Bushfire Zone Register through fuel load measurement, mapping, risk assessment, hazard reduction burning and physical mitigation works. The MOU will remain in place for a period of three years commencing 1 July 2012.</li> <li>• An Ed-email was sent to all schools providing a link to DFES materials, including <i>Prepare. Act. Survive</i>, to assist schools further in bushfire preparedness.</li> <li>• The Department of Education ran a workshop in August 2012 to discuss bushfire preparedness. The workshop included representation by several school principals and officers from DFES.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>11.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority consider alternative wording to Total Fire Ban that ensures people gain a more complete understanding of what actions are prohibited.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A letter was sent to the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) requesting information and advice, including the policies of other states, on the terminology of 'Total Fire Ban (TFB)'. DFES received advice to retain the existing wording to ensure consistency across Australia.</li> <li>2. As a consequence of the requirement to retain the existing terminology a communication strategy was developed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• educate people about what a TFB is and why they are necessary;</li> <li>• educate people about what they can and cannot do when a TFB has been declared;</li> <li>• encourage people to check if a ban is in place during bushfire season;</li> <li>• encourage people to make informed decisions about actions they take on days where a TFB is in place;</li> <li>• educate the agricultural community about the changes that have been made to the TFB process; and</li> <li>• educate the agricultural community about the distinction between a TFB and a Vehicle and Harvest Movement Ban.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>12.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority work in partnership with Main Roads Western Australia and local governments to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the use of mobile variable message boards to alert the community to the declaration of a total fire ban and what it means.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of the capacity of other agencies in regard to mobile message boards has been completed.</li> <li>• The review and other investigation demonstrated that the use of mobile message boards to alert the community about the declaration of a total fire ban is not a viable option. An alternative communication strategy has been developed as part of Recommendation 11, which includes the use of fixed message boards to notify when a total fire ban is in place.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>13.</b> <i>The State Government consider resourcing the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments to develop and administer a comprehensive prescribed burning program in Perth's urban/rural interface to complement DEC's existing landscape-scale program.</i></p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC concluded a very successful spring 2011 prescribed burning program in the Perth urban interface. More favourable winter and spring conditions in 2011 than those present in 2010 greatly assisted in this regard. Community Fire Manager and Community and Emergency Services Managers (CESM) positions in some local governments and DFES Bushfire Mitigation Officers provided increased capacity in this area in 2011.</li> <li>• DEC achieved a total burn area of 103,165 hectares in the south-west for the 2011/12 season.</li> <li>• In response to the release of the Report of the Margaret River Bushfire Special Inquiry on 23 February 2012, all DEC prescribed burning within five km of townsites and rural subdivisions was suspended. This moratorium has now been lifted</li> <li>• DEC's prescribed burning processes have been reviewed and brought into compliance with the latest International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standard.</li> <li>• DEC engaged, through the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, highly qualified consultants to assist with and guide the process of complying with the ISO standard.</li> <li>• DEC was allocated \$32.9M in additional funding over four years which includes \$6.3M capital in the 2012-13 Budget.</li> <li>• DFES, DEC and Local Government have continued to work closely to plan and undertake more collaborative hazard reduction measures as opportunities and approvals permit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC to document its specific program for fire mitigation on DEC-managed lands around the Perth urban interface and integrate into its overall master burn plan.</li> <li>• DEC will now brief DFES and WALGA on the results of this project and its intentions for targeted reporting of the program versus achievements in this</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p>area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFES and local governments will develop a strategy for the planning and implementation of prescribed burning programs on non-DEC-managed lands, and resources required to implement this strategy.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>14.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments take proactive steps to conduct their prescribed burning programs as joint exercises. This will give effect to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Reducing fuel load</i></li> <li><i>Improving inter-operability</i></li> <li><i>A mutual understanding of the fire fighting techniques of each agency.</i></li> </ul>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEC has reinforced the need to communicate with DFES and local governments regarding opportunities for joint operations on DEC burns.</li> <li>DEC has completed a review of burn approval process to embed these communications routinely.</li> <li>The daily approval process will now include a formal recording of district and regional efforts to invite DFES and/or local government to assist with implementation of prescribed burns.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are plans for DFES and local governments to develop a reciprocal process with DEC on this matter.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>15.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local governments ensure that the ability to:</i></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>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <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> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>Current competencies of volunteers and career staff and for future recruitments have been mapped.</li> <li>Work is continuing on the development of competencies and training for CBFCOs through DFES and their responsible local governments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>Curriculum for these competencies has been identified in other jurisdictions. DFES will develop a project plan to support the implementation of this recommendation.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>16. The State Government give its full support to the Western Australian Local Government Associations Send to Solve initiative.</b></p>	<b>WALGA</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WALGA has completed development the pin2fix application.</li> <li>The launch of pin2fix has been postponed due to uncertainty over full integration with Local Government systems. Integration will require working across the numerous systems used by Local Governments and will require significant investment which is impacted by having clarity as to the outcomes of the Metropolitan Review of Local Government. An alternate platform that does not require full integration is being explored and for the purposes of this reporting would deliver the capacity for agencies to target specific messages by geographic segments (for example issue fire bans to select regions). However this evolution is yet to be fully presented and endorsed by the WALGA President.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>17. Local governments consider increasing the number of green waste collections carried out each year to encourage a more proactive approach to property (and vegetation) maintenance by residents.</b></p>	<b>WALGA</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of roadside collections has been completed and meetings were held between WALGA and the Perth Hills local governments. Hills local governments have undertaken a review of their green waste and tip pass program, and many have increased entitlements to rate payers for the cost free disposal of green waste in the lead up to bushfire season. The City of Armadale has instituted additional collections.</li> <li>All local governments have been encouraged by WALGA to consider increasing their green waste collections. This encouragement will be an ongoing process undertaken by WALGA in the lead up to bushfire season annually. However, compliance with any advice issued by WALGA remains a decision for individual local governments.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>18.</b> <i>The Western Australian Local Government Association explore the feasibility of local governments utilising aerial and satellite imagery to monitor firebreaks and fuel loads on private property.</i></p>	<b>WALGA</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A key issue with this recommendation is that the technology referred to in the recommendation is as yet not available. Local governments currently utilise the best available GIS tools which best serve their business requirements. The evidence available to WALGA through the canvassing of its members is that while current systems are utilised to maintain scrutiny of public and private land, the systems are vulnerable with regard to updates available and the cost of obtaining more regular passes. While Landgate has indicated that it is investigating other methodologies, this will take some time. Our information tells us that all local governments with high bushfire risk are currently using satellite imagery where available but have determined that it must be backed up by on the ground inspections. While not every property is inspected, recalcitrant property owners are subject to ongoing scrutiny and our research would indicate that comprehensive records are currently kept by local governments in these high risk areas.</li> <li>The Bushfire Risk Identification and Mitigation Project examined methods to improve the tools available for bushfire risk management including the appropriateness of data sets to address this matter. The Project has examined the range of methods and processes available to monitor fuel on all property. Recommendations for a way forward are being developed for Government consideration.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>19.</b> <i>The State Government reaffirm its 2009 decision to approve DEC exercising greater flexibility in managing smoke within national guidelines, in order to achieve its prescribed burn program.</i></p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister for Environment issued a media statement on 18 November 2011 reiterating that that the Liberal-National Government supports DEC's prescribed burning program and approved DEC exercising greater flexibility applying smoke management guidelines.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>20.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments closely monitor the research and development of alternative fuel reduction techniques to ensure that the most efficient and effective programs are adopted.</i></p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEC, DFES and local governments already use alternative mitigation techniques as part of fuel management programs.</li> <li>The program developed for fire mitigation on DEC-managed lands around the Perth urban interface includes the use of alternative techniques where appropriate.</li> <li>A Bushfire Research Forum was held in Western Australia in October 2011. While the program did not include any sessions dealing with hazard reduction techniques other than the use of planned fire, the final session at the forum focussed on future research needs. Alternative risk mitigation techniques were discussed.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>21.</b> <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.</i>  <i>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>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Progress</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 to meet inter-agency needs. User needs and resource requirements for an enhanced IBRMS are to be assessed and documented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government has agreed a standardised approach to developing 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>		
<p><b>22.</b> <i>The State Government ensure that the continued development of the Fire and Emergency Service Authority's Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System (IBRMS) is dependent on an independent comparative assessment of its functionality and cost effectiveness against the Spatial Support System (SSS) used by the Department of Environment and Conservation.</i></p>	<b>DEC</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) through its subcommittee structure has closely examined the respective capabilities and uses of the IBRMS and the SSS and concluded that the systems were designed for different purposes, both currently fulfil differing business requirements and there is no unnecessary duplication or overlap. It has been determined that there is no requirement for an independent assessment of these tools.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>23.</b> <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</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>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel load mapping is being conducted throughout the Perth Hills rural urban interface area. Whilst a 3 year rolling mitigation works program has not been developed as yet, there is a 5 year program in place in some high risk areas.</li> <li>Works programs by DFES staff and local government-based Community Emergency Services Managers is on-going. This includes conducting mitigation</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p>works, inspections and mapping on a weekly basis throughout the Perth Hills area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEC has also developed a complimentary burning program in conjunction with affected local governments and DFES. The subsequent application of planned fire will be progressed, with DFES and local government assistance where applicable.</li> <li>It has been recommended that the joint DFES/DEC developed Bushfire Threat Analysis (BFTA) be the basis for bushfire risk analysis and prioritisation and that the IBRMS be the support system. As with Recommendation 21, development will be required to ensure full functionality and costs for this development are currently being assessed. 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><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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>		
<p><b>24.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority convene a facilitated debriefing session between the families who remained behind to protect their properties, and the incident controllers.</i></p> <p><i>This session should include open discussion and explain the decisions of all parties</i></p> <p><i>– including how the incident controllers determined priorities, and why residents chose not follow their advice to evacuate.</i></p> <p><i>The learning outcomes should be promulgated across all agencies and incorporated in future level 3 incident controller training programs.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFES participated in the University of Western Australia’s Perth Hills Bushfire Research, which recommended DFES to engage advice from professionals in regards to addressing the risk of trauma amongst residents and other stakeholders.</li> <li>A session was held on 11 October 2011 with 17 persons who stayed and defended their properties during the Roleystone-Kelmscott bushfire. DFES, DEC and the Department for Child Protection were also present.</li> <li>The session was conducted with clear 2-way communication between DFES Incident Controllers and the residents with an independent facilitator. Significant positive feedback was received from participants who appreciated the opportunity.</li> <li>DFES has sought responses to issues raised from the specific entities responsible (DFES, affected local governments, Water Corporation).</li> <li>A second debrief session with families was held in December 2011.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>25.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority immediately comply with the provisions of WESTPLAN BUSHFIRE and formally declare incidents at their appropriate level and document and communicate those decisions in a similar way to the systems used by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Western Australian Police.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>26.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority develop formal procedures for mandating the completion of Incident Action Plans, ensuring the documents are detailed and that they record critical decision making.</i></p>		
<p><b>29.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation ensure that their Incident Controllers identify critical infrastructure as part of their initial assessment and preparation of Incident Action Plans when attending major incidents.</i></p>		
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timelines for the completion of Incident Action Plan (IAP) documents have been completed.</li> <li>• A new position of Public Information Officer was created to manage information delivered to the media and the community.</li> <li>• New, updated and standardised incident level declaration forms have been created and agreed by all agencies.</li> <li>• New processes, procedures, work instructions and business rules have been inserted into DFES operational procedures.</li> <li>• Changes were made to State Emergency Management Policies (SEMP) 4.1.</li> <li>• Major Emergency Management Coordination Guidelines (MEMCG) have been updated and re-named 'Operational Procedures for the Command, Control and Coordination of Major Incidents'.</li> <li>• WESTPLAN-BUSHFIRE has been updated to include relevant changes.</li> <li>• The Incident Management Toolbox has been revised to incorporate critical infrastructure. An AIIMS toolkit DVD has been produced with copies provided to local governments and DEC.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>27.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority review its use of the Australian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) to ensure that the most appropriate resources (including aerial resources) are used to respond to an incident. If resources are rejected during an incident either through the decision making process or other grounds, the reason for the decision should be documented.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>Updated work practices and information tools have been developed which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in the Personal Incident Diary;</li> <li>• A review of Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) with structural changes as defined by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC); and</li> <li>• The Zone 2 &amp; 2A Operational Protocols were reviewed and amended in consultation with DEC.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>28.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) review its program to decommission vehicles and ensure that when such vehicles are offered during an incident that FESA staff adhere to FESA's own policy of 'Use of Private Vehicles in Fires'</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Disposal of Fleet Assets (Owned and Returned)</i> procedure has been uploaded onto the DFES Intranet under the Seasonal Changes 2011/12 portal for general access by DFES staff.</li> <li>• The <i>Direct Purchase Guidelines</i> and <i>Disposal of Fleet Assets (Owned and Returned)</i> has been revised, formally approved and distributed to the relevant DFES District Managers and Fleet personnel.</li> <li>• 4500 copies of <i>Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires</i> with <i>Vehicle Identifier</i> stickers have been distributed to participating local governments.</li> <li>• An operational circular has been issued about the new <i>Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires</i>.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>30.</b> <i>Main Roads Western Australia undertake more frequent examinations of its bridges located in areas prone to bushfire and ensure that the risk posed to loss of infrastructure in a fire is understood by local authorities.</i></p>	<b>Main Roads</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge inspections have been accelerated and vegetation clearing has been undertaken in the South West region.</li> <li>• Bridge inspection currency and status of bridge clearance envelopes have been assessed.</li> <li>• A Streamlined Fire Risk Inspection process that looks exclusively at vegetation clearances has been developed.</li> <li>• Main Roads has identified that the greatest risk of loss by fire occurred at timber bridges. All timber and timber hybrid bridges in the State were inspected. This process was completed in December 2011.</li> <li>• Main Roads produced a report on the vegetation levels at timber bridges.</li> <li>• This report and further information on bridges at risk has been disseminated to local governments for their information.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The identification of bridges within bushfire prone areas and development of an overall accelerated bridge inspection program.</li> <li>• Continuing the accelerated bridge inspection program in the South West.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>31.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Western Australian Police ensure they receive all necessary legal clarification in relation to Bushfire Responsibilities of Police Officers – Powers Used in Assisting Fire Authorities in Responding to Bushfires, to be promulgated across FESA and WAPOL.</i></p>	<p><b>WAPOL</b></p>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal clarity around this issue has been provided.</li> <li>• As an interim measure, DFES signed a standing appointment for all police officers responding to an emergency where DFES is the Hazard Management Authority (HMA) and as such have declared an emergency situation to act as Hazard Management Officers. It is intended that in the future, a legislative solution will be introduced.</li> <li>• The Emergency Management Act review "green paper" has been circulated to the members of the Emergency Management Act Review Working Group for comment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Green Paper has been finalised and from this a ministerial report has been developed and will be presented to the Working Group for endorsement in February 2013. Following endorsement, the Report will be presented to SEMC at the March 2013 meeting for noting prior to being submitted to the DFES Commissioner for endorsement. The report will then be presented to the Minister for tabling in Parliament.</li> <li>• Proposed amendments to the Bush Fires Act will be discussed as part of the review of the emergency services Acts.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>32.</b> <i>The Western Australian Police and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority jointly examine the Traffic Management System developed in response to the 2009 Victorian bushfires and seek its adaptation to use in WA with additional attention to the access and egress by bona fide residents to areas that are evacuated.</i></p>	<p><b>SEMC Secretariat</b></p>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Traffic Management Working Group was established to examine and report on this issue.</li> <li>• The final report to the SEMC that examined the Traffic Management System utilised in Victoria was considered at the SEMC meeting of 13 March 2012 (resolution number 27/2012 refers). The report recommended that Western Australia should not adopt the Victorian Traffic Management model as it is considered cumbersome.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEMC endorsed (resolution number 28/2012) that the Emergency Services Subcommittee, in consultation with the Interagency Bushfire Management Committee, establish a project for developing appropriate operational procedures for the implementation of response and recovery phase 'Restricted Access Permits' for bushfire and, subsequently, across all hazards.</li> </ul>		

## Bushfire Review Stakeholder Briefing

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>33.</b> <i>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the ABC commence a thorough review of emergency warning messages. This review should give consideration to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The content, structure and presentation of emergency warning messages</i></li> <li>• <i>Media access to the Incident Management Team and State Operations Centre.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This review should be expanded to include other media organisations should they demonstrate a willingness and capacity to contribute.</i></p>	<b>WAPOL</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DFES has had an ongoing liaison with Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) management in Perth since the release of the Perth Hills Bushfire Review. Considerable and detailed work has gone into enhancing the structure, content, presentation and timeliness of emergency warning messages. There is a strong willingness on the part of both parties to make the emergency broadcaster interaction with DFES as effective as possible.</li> <li>2. While not a comprehensive list, the ABC and DFES have agreed or undertaken the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be more specific in communicating the need for warning for long-duration events;</li> <li>• DFES Media and Public Affairs (MPA) will continue to encourage the Incident Controller to issue an appropriate level of alert as soon as there is a change in the incident threat level. However, Incident Controllers will always issue the alert appropriate to the known level of threat to the community, regardless of whether the warning has been in place for some time or not;</li> <li>• To apply a numbering system to DFES alerts and warnings, for greater clarity;</li> <li>• DFES has reviewed its standard operating procedures for activating ABC emergency broadcasting and how they are put into practice by MPA staff. Revised draft standard operating procedures have been approved internally by DFES and sent to the ABC;</li> <li>• DFES has clarified for the ABC the process for clearance of information. DFES will continue to review the technologies it uses to increase the speed at which it issues emergency alerts via various communication mediums; and</li> <li>• The parties have reached a common understanding on emergency messaging vs. editorial/program needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. In December 2011, the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator wrote to other Western Australia media outlets requesting their input into the same issues.</li> <li>4. The SEMC's Public Information Sub-Committee (PING) is to revise the existing MOU between ABC and the SEMC to ensure that the document remains consistent with changes implemented post-Perth Hills Bushfire Review and to also capture any references to new technology developments.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>34.</b> <i>FESA develop in partnership with other emergency service agencies a 'one source: one message' multi layered system similar to that recommended by the Victoria Bushfire royal Commission.</i></p>	<b>WAPOL</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Public Information Group (a sub-committee of the State Emergency Management Committee) through WA Police has confirmed the viability of a</li> </ul>		

## Bushfire Review Stakeholder Briefing

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p>system concept that would satisfy this recommendation. This assessment was conducted via an Invitation to Register Interest (ITRI) which generated a large response from the commercial sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WA Police and DFES are in discussion regarding funding issues and the formation of a business case for consideration by the Bushfire Review Implementation Group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following a decision on which agency would host <i>'one source: one message'</i>, that agency should manage system acquisition and continue to liaise with the Public Information Group.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>35. FESA and local governments jointly review radio communications capability prior to the 2011/12 bushfire season with a view to improving the current delivery of service to firefighters.</b></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of metropolitan WAERN radios have been installed and 90% have been installed for the metropolitan Emergency Services Levy vehicles.</li> <li>Training Resources have been developed and are now available. The Communications folder has been developed and rolled out to the regional offices for distribution to operational crews (CFRS, VFRS, BFS and DEC). The Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) appointed have been attending incidents.</li> <li>Zone and Zone Communications plan is available on volunteer portal. 2000 were printed and distributed for each appliance within the metro area. A number of copies were distributed to regional and county officers in case a strike team is deployed in to the metro area.</li> <li>A revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was published by DFES in January 2013. The SOP (SOP 3.2.4 – Incident Communications V1.1_Jan 13) includes details concerning WAERN and general communications protocols statewide, including metropolitan coverage and channel selection. The SOP is available on the volunteer portal.</li> <li>SMEs have been appointed and included in the Turnout Structure.</li> <li>DFES has, jointly with local government, developed a documented process by which a communications feedback and/or fault form is centrally logged, an investigation carried out, the issue solved where possible, the person or organisation that raised the issue is involved and consulted, and informed of the outcome.</li> </ul> <p>Extra note: Radio communications for the 2011/12 fire season are on both mid and high band radios. The 2012/13 season will be on high band only. In anticipation of this change, meetings have been requested with external agencies which use the DFES network, to inform them of the change and that new radios will be required for the 2012/13 season.</p> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFES to consult regularly with end-users, volunteer associations, local governments and other key stakeholders, about communications needs and issues.</li> <li>SEMC be requested to undertake whole of government oversight of radio communications with a long-term perspective.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>36.</b> <i>The Department for Child Protection, the Western Australian Police and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority develop improved arrangements for communicating the loss of home and possessions to persons gathered at evacuation centres with a view to increasing privacy.</i></p>	<b>WAPOL</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation by WA Police with DFES, DPC and the chair of SEMCs PING sub-committee have taken place and resulted in a general agreement that common procedures can, and should, be adopted by all HMAs, as part of their standing procedures for the above issue.</li> <li>• A common protocol was endorsed by the PING sub-committee on 4 October 2011. All HMAs were advised to incorporate standing procedures addressing Recommendation 36, into their Standard Operating Procedures for managing public information during an emergency.</li> <li>• At the Margaret River Bushfire procedures were implemented in accordance with Recommendation 36. Residents could attend an evacuation centre and subsequently be directed to an area set aside for this purpose or leave their contact details with an official at public meetings. The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River managed a process whereby concerned residents were contacted by a Damage Assessment Team member and informed that their property was undamaged or invited to a private meeting at the council chambers. All residents were given details regarding their property and provided with welfare support. Affected residents were all escorted through the fire zone prior to the area being opened to the public or media. No details about property loss were provided to media until residents were informed.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>37.</b> <i>Hazard Management Agencies overseeing the response to incidents on the urban fringe select evacuation centres that are well within the urban environment and unlikely to be impacted by the incident.</i></p>	<b>WAPOL</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Child Protection (DCP) has collated a spread sheet of State-wide welfare centres for the majority of localities, including map references and geospatial coordinates, along with other useful information such as capacity, facilities, contact phone numbers, etc.</li> <li>• This geocoded spread sheet has been submitted for publishing through the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP) portal to enable any emergency management agency able to access the portal and with a Geographic Information System (GIS) capability to incorporate these welfare centres in mapping systems as required. The spread sheet has also been provided to the wider emergency management community through members of the Emergency Services Sub-Committee of the SEMC for internal dissemination to any other relevant persons.</li> <li>• WA Police has facilitated the initial publication of the data as DCP is not part of the SLIP program. However, a process has been implemented to facilitate future updates to be provided directly to SLIP.</li> <li>• DCP has confirmed that the process for enabling use of urban welfare centres for emergency events on the urban fringe can now be facilitated, subject to Hazard Management Agencies/Controlling Agencies consulting with DCP as set out in established Westplans, policy and procedural documents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates will be provided on a 3-6 monthly basis by DCP as part of core agency business.</li> </ul>		

## Bushfire Review Stakeholder Briefing

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>38.</b> 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. This program should be implemented and managed under the Bush Fires Act 1954 in a manner similar to the fire break inspection program.</p>	<b>WALGA</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This recommendation is in two distinct parts: the assessment of fuel loads on private lands and, building protection zones (BPZ).</li> <li>The first part is linked to Recommendation 18 but tends to lean more towards BPZs. The DFES/Department of Planning document, <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection</i> Edition 2, has been widely accepted across local government as a guiding tool for new land developments.</li> <li>DFES, through its network of regional staff, in particular the partnered Community Emergency Service Officers, have been assisting local governments in these areas. Ongoing fuel assessment and risk treatment programs have been developed in collaboration with local government and state agencies and other landholders on a risk priority basis.</li> <li>In relation to the second point of the recommendation, a Premier’s Circular has been promulgated throughout government strongly promoting the value of BPZs and asking State agencies to show leadership. This renewed focus has also been promoted to local government, urging them to implement and promote BPZs around critical assets and homes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government has agreed a standardised approach to developing an ISO 31000 compliant methodology for measuring and recording fuel loads.</li> <li>Appropriate training to assist with the implementation of this recommendation is being identified. Consideration is also being given to the levels and nature of support required by local government.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>39.</b> State and locals governments:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>b) urge residents in these areas to retrofit their homes and evaporative air conditioners in compliance with AS 3959 - 2009;</p> <p>c) examine options to retrospectively bring these areas into compliance with <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines</i>.</p>	<b>WALGA</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></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 (through brochures / community information events) about bushfire risk and mitigation measures that homeowners can undertake.</li> <li>The Department of Commerce has published a new booklet on bushfires (Building for Better Protection Bushfire areas – a Homeowner’s Guide). It includes advice for both new houses and retrofitting existing houses and makes specific reference to ember-protection screens for evaporative air-conditioners. There has been strong demand for the booklet, which was distributed through local governments and has gone into a second edition.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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. The decision to proceed was made following research and a trial undertaken by Building Management and Works at two public schools.</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.</li> <li>DFES, as part of its ongoing community engagement strategy is also promoting the retrofitting of building features (such as screens for evaporative air conditioners and closing gaps &gt;3mm) to make buildings more bushfire resistant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Options for retrofitting existing land development and assets to be better compliant with contemporary standards such as the AS3959 and WAPC/DFES planning guidelines are being developed.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>40.</b> <i>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>	<b>Landgate</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions have taken place with the Department of Planning and the WAPC to consider options for addressing this recommendation. Several options are being considered.</li> <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.</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. Once a bushfire prone area database is developed, the information can be made available via Interest Enquiry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landgate will be included in the deliberations relating to this matter as an approach to the identification of bushfire prone areas is developed.</li> <li>An initial assessment of the work and resources required to implement this option will be undertaken once the approach is agreed to.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>41.</b> <i>Western Power and the Water Corporation continue to work collaboratively to assess options to better protect the power supply to water pumping stations in bushfire prone areas.</i></p>	<p><b>Water Corporation</b></p>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFES, together with Western Power and Water Corporation, have reinforced the existing interagency incident early notification processes, to assist with the proactive identification of potential risks to essential services, and initiate the early deployment of incident resources, and preventative strategies.</li> <li>• Water Corporation continues to maintain and review the interagency Darling Escarpment Water Supply plan (DEWS), to coordinate interagency awareness and protection of water supplies in the high bushfire risk areas.</li> <li>• Water Corporation continues to maintain trailer mounted bulk water containers configured for DFES/DEC fast hose connect standard fittings, to support fire ground water resupply as well as post incident potable water resupply, for incident callout by DFES/DEC.</li> <li>• Western Power and Water Corporation have reviewed and reaffirmed their existing interagency incident communication and coordination processes.</li> <li>• Western Power and Water Corporation actively participate in interagency emergency planning at the regional, district and State level, which include the interagency awareness of interdependent essential services infrastructure.</li> <li>• The annual interagency DEWS fire season briefing was held on 22 November 2011.</li> <li>• Western Power and Water Corporation held the South West Region fire season interagency planning and briefing session in October 2011.</li> <li>• The identification of essential Water Corporation assets on the Western Power distribution management system occurred on 30 September 2011.</li> <li>• Water Corporation have received an amended DEC environmental clearance permit, allowing Water Corporation to determine fire fuel load asset clearances under DEC licence as of November 2011.</li> <li>• Water Corporation risk assessments and essential infrastructure clearances are ongoing.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>42.</b> <i>The State Government recognise the projected changes in climate and potential impact on future fire events.</i></p>	<p><b>DFES</b></p>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is planned that DFES's Office of Bushfire Risk Management will factor in climate change effects when developing bushfire risk-related standards for application across the State.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>43.</b> <i>The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) amend State Emergency Management Policy 4.1 (Operational Management) to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>give clear and explicit direction about when and how an incident should be declared</i></li> <li>• <i>clearly articulate the actions to be taken</i></li> <li>• <i>clearly define accountabilities</i></li> <li>• <i>provide detailed criteria for elevating issues and engaging other agencies.</i></li> </ul>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendments to the State Emergency Management Policy 4.1 – Operational Management and Westplan Bushfire were approved by the State Emergency Management Committee at its meeting on 7 November 2011 to ensure that it provides clear direction about when and how incidents should be declared. Marketing and training have been completed. Westplan Bushfire amendments were exercised in November 2011.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>44.</b> <i>The State Government amend section 50 of the Emergency Management Act 2005 to allow the Chair of the State Emergency Coordination Group to declare an emergency situation.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative amendment to allow the Chair of the SECG to declare an emergency has been passed by Parliament with proclamation imminent.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>45.</b> <i>Emergency Management Western Australia and the State Emergency Management Committee amend WESTPLAN-BUSHFIRE to require State Emergency Coordination Group meetings to be held at the State Coordination Centre in West Leederville.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendments to the State Emergency Management Policy 4.1 – Operational Management and Westplan Bushfire were approved by the SEMC at its meeting on 7 November 2011. SEMP 4.1 now requires State Emergency Coordination Group meetings to be held at the State Coordination Centre in West Leederville unless otherwise directed.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>46.</b> <i>The State Government restructure the Fire and Emergency Services Authority as a department. As part of this restructure, Emergency Management Western Australia should either be:</i></p> <p>a) <i>clearly separated from the fire and emergency services response function (see figure 2); or</i></p> <p>b) <i>moved to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (see figures 3 and 4); or</i></p> <p>c) <i>moved to the Attorney-General's department (see figures 3 and 5).</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Fire and Emergency Services was established on 1 November 2012.</li> <li>• Legislation to give effect to the restructure of FESA as a department has been passed by Parliament.</li> <li>• EMWA has been restructured as the SEMC Secretariat. It has been housed separately to DFES.</li> <li>• The structure of the SEMC has been changed and now includes an independent chair (Ms Kerry Sanderson) and two further independent members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual and Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEMC Secretariat is to formally become a sub-department of DFES.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>47.</b> <i>Emergency Management Western Australia (EMWA) develop mechanisms to calculate the estimated total cost of a fire to the community.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Interagency Working Group has been established.</li> <li>• The SEMC Secretariat has undertaken initial research and held initial discussions with the Insurance Council of Australia.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Recommendation will be further considered by the SEMC Secretariat.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>48.</b> <i>The State Government move the responsibility for the management and distribution of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) to the Department of Finance.</i></p>	<b>SEMC Secretariat</b>	
<p><b>Progress</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>• A 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> <li>• It has been determined that there is no major benefit evident in transferring the assessment and collection of the ESL to Department of Finance.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Legislation and Departmental Structure Working Group will consider the administration and responsibility for the ESL.</li> <li>A review of the Emergency Services Levy grants application and allocation process is to be conducted.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>49.</b> <i>Emergency service agencies undertake more consultation and joint exercising involving the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment, the Western Australian Police, the Department for Child Protection, local governments and volunteers – including Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.</i></p> <p><i>This should include field exercises which test:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Evacuation centres</i></li> <li><i>Critical infrastructure (including at the local level)</i></li> <li><i>Traffic management, including road blocks.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Consideration should also be given to involving the community in exercising (see Recommendation 7) and using prescribed burns as exercises (see Recommendation 14).</i></p> <p><i>More detailed planning for exercises should be included in a revised WESTPLAN BUSHFIRE to be endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee.</i></p>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WESTPLAN-BUSHFIRE has been updated to reflect the need for multi-agency exercises that test evacuations centres, critical infrastructure and traffic management.</li> <li>A State Bushfire Exercise Plan produced in conjunction with DEC, WAPOL, Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC), local governments and Department for Child Protection.</li> <li>A State Bushfire exercise (including regional centres) was completed on 8 November 2011 and a report was subsequently delivered.</li> <li>A further State exercise was held on 23 October 2012.</li> </ul>		

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Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<i>50. The State Government transfer responsibility for the installation, removal, maintenance of fire hydrants to the Water Corporation, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2006 CDJSC Inquiry into Fire and Emergency Services Legislation.</i>	<b>DPC</b>	
<i>51. The Water Corporation immediately review the outstanding orders for hydrant repairs and develop strategies to reduce the backlog.</i>		
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government of Western Australia endorsed the transfer of street fire hydrants from DFES and Local Government to the water utilities, i.e. Water Corporation, AqWest, and Busselton Water.</li> <li>• The relevant legislation was passed in Parliament on 22 August 2012 which transferred ownership of the hydrants to the water utilities backdated from 1 July 2012.</li> <li>• The responsibility for payment of invoices for fire hydrant maintenance in areas connected to the reticulated mains managed by AqWest and Busselton Water will remain with DFES and Local Government until the legislative process has been finalised.</li> <li>• The Water Corporation has confirmed that from 1 July 2012 they have taken full responsibility for the repair and maintenance of all fire hydrants connected to their reticulated network within DFES controlled areas.</li> <li>• The maintenance backlog has been significantly reduced, and an audit jointly undertaken by the Water Corporation and DFES of all outstanding maintenance orders and of missing hydrants.</li> <li>• DFES and the Water Corporation have been working closely to reduce the number of outstanding fire hydrant faults in gazetted fire districts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual or Ongoing Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options for prescribing the responsibilities and key performance indicators for the completion of hydrant repairs for the water providers, DFES and local government are being examined.</li> <li>• The Joint Interagency Working Party consisting of DFES, Water Corporation, AQWEST and Busselton Water staff will be tasked with developing a business plan(s) for the remediation of Local Government fire hydrant deficiencies.</li> <li>• Proclamation of the amended legislation is progressing.</li> <li>• AqWest and Busselton Water to take responsibility for hydrants connected to their network from 1 July 2013.</li> </ul>		
<i>52. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local governments ensure that Community Emergency Service Managers are physically based in local government.</i>	<b>DFES</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The locations of all CESMs have been documented.</li> <li>• The CESM MOU has been reviewed to note that where the CESM is not located within local government, it is at local government's request.</li> </ul>		

## Bushfire Review Stakeholder Briefing

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 28 CESM's based in local governments (representing 40 local governments). The number of CESM's based in DFES Regional offices is two, and those positions are with the express agreement of their local governments.</li> <li>Therefore, all CESM positions (except for the 2 described above) were based in Local Governments.</li> <li>Of the 28 positions, 8 positions have been created after the "Keelty Report" with all of these being located in local governments, as a condition of the MOU.</li> <li>There is a plan to move one of the two DFES based CESM's back into a local government facility, upon the construction of an Emergency Coordination Centre in the near future. The other CESM position is based in a DFES Regional office (a short distance from the local government office) at the request of the local government.</li> </ul>		
<p><i>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:</i></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</i></li> <li><i>building effective working relationships with all relevant stakeholders.</i></li> </ul>	DFES	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFES has carried out training with all current CESM and regional staff on the Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System (IBRMS). IBRMS is a database to record fuel loads and which actions are taken when mitigating them. This training and the database have also been made available to local government staff and volunteers in high risk areas with training being carried out upon request.</li> <li>A review of current CBFCO competencies from the DFES training database has been conducted and reveals that most have completed Fire Control Officer training and about a third have completed advanced bushfire suppression and behaviour courses. A few CBFCOs have been recorded in the training database as having completed the prescribed burning or prescription course with DEC.</li> <li>It needs to be recognised that CBFCOs are not necessarily the appropriate person to manage fuel loads as most are volunteers that have their own work and family commitments which do not allow for the timely process of conducting this type of program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of the current training resource kits available to staff, CESMs and volunteers is being completed to ensure the importance of fuel load assessments and maintaining them at safe levels is understood. Information to be provided in training materials where required.</li> <li>Curriculum for these competencies has been identified in other jurisdictions. DFES will develop a project plan to support the implementation of this recommendation.</li> </ul>		

### Bushfire Review Stakeholder Briefing

Recommendation	Responsible Agency	Rec Status
<p><b>54.</b> <i>The Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) develop a consistent program of education, training (including media), testing and review of Level 3 Incident Controllers.</i></p> <p><i>This should include provision for a formal review of the performance of individual Level 3 Incident Controllers after <b>every</b> incident.</i></p>	DEC	
<p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IBMC considered a “pathways” model for the development, accreditation and maintenance of currency of all Level 3 Incident Controllers who operate on bushfires in Western Australia.</li> <li>• IBMC endorsed a Level 3 Accreditation Pathway Process was endorsed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathway Process is being implemented by DFES and DEC.</li> </ul>		