

CONFIRMED MINUTES

STATE BUSHFIRE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, 11 December 2020
Time: 0900
Location: Level 1, U City Function Centre, 43 Franklin Street, Adelaide
Meeting Contact: Brett Loughlin, Acting SBCC Executive Officer – 8115 3300 – CFS.SBCC@sa.gov.au

ATTENDEES

Name	Agency/Organisation
Mark Jones	SA Country Fire Service (SACFS) – Chair
Brett Loughlin	SACFS – Acting Executive Officer
Peter White	Primary Producers SA (PPSA)
Fiona Gill	Department for Environment and Water (DEW)
Graeme Brown	Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)
Ali Walsh	SA Power Networks (SAPN)
Andrew Cadd	CFS Volunteers Association (CFSVA)
Emily Jenke	Native Vegetation Council (NVC)
John Moyle	Local Government Association (LGA)
Peter Button	SA Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS)
Mark Ashley (<i>remote</i>)	Conservation Council of SA (CCSA)
Justine Drew (<i>remote</i>)	Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA)

PROXIES

John Venditto	SA Police (SAPOL) – Deputy to Noel Bamford
Denise LeBlond	Attorney-General's Department (Planning and Land Use Services) – Deputy to Anita Allen
Mark Anolak	Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) – Deputy to Kylie Egan

APOLOGIES

Anita Allen	Attorney-General's Department (Planning and Land Use Services)
Kylie Egan	BOM
Noel Bamford	SAPOL
Monique Blason	Forestry SA
Peter Merry	Forestry SA – Deputy to Monique Blason
Bill McIntosh	Outback Communities Authority (OCA)
Mark Sutton	OCA – Deputy to Bill McIntosh

James Crocker	SA Water
Brooke Swaffer	SA Water – Deputy to James Crocker
Glenn Benham	SAMFS – Deputy to Peter Button
OBSERVERS	
Elena Petrenas	PIRSA – Deputy to Justine Drew
Danielle Kowalski	DIT – Deputy to Graeme Brown
Damon Ezis	DEW – Deputy to Fiona Gill
Frank Crisci	SAPN – Deputy to Ali Walsh
Don Gilbertson	PPSA – Deputy to Peter White
Merridie Martin	NVC – Deputy to Emily Jenke
Tammy Moffat (<i>remote</i>)	SACFS – Deputy to Brett Loughlin
Naomi Rea (<i>remote</i>)	CCSA – Deputy to Mark Ashley
David Lindner (<i>remote</i>)	CFSVA – Deputy to Andrew Cadd
Natalie Sommerville (<i>remote</i>)	NVC
Rachel Godoy (<i>remote</i>)	ForestrySA
David Loveder (<i>remote</i>)	SA Water
Clair Simcock (<i>remote</i>)	SACFS Regional Prevention Officer
GUESTS	
Jo Watson	<i>Emerg Group</i>
Graeme Taylor	<i>Emerg Group</i>
Mike Watson	<i>Emerg Group</i>
Brett Stephens	<i>Emerg Group</i>
Amy Riebe	SACFS
Andrew Patten	SACFS

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

Mark Jones welcomed everyone to the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) meeting, noting the uniqueness of this meeting of the newly convened SBCC, with members and deputies present. Brett Loughlin noted a number of apologies.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

An Acknowledgement of Country was done by Brett Loughlin.

3. SAFETY BRIEFING

The emergency evacuation procedures for the building, location of exit points, and facilities were explained.

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST/PROBITY

Mark Jones proposed that if any conflicts of interest/probity arose during the course of the Committee's

business, that they be raised with the committee at that time. None were declared.

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2020

The draft minutes of 16 October 2020 were considered for confirmation.

Key Points:	<p>Fiona Gill (DEW) noted a spelling error on page 2, in relation to Item 4 Confirmation of Previous Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text under the first point should be corrected to read '<i>Counsel Assisting</i>' rather than '<i>Council Assisting</i>'. <p>Fiona Gill (DEW) noted a correction on page 4, in relation to Item 5.1 Reports from all agencies, under the DEW report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text in the fourth point should read: <i>'Fiona referenced the Keelty Review and major injection of funding – \$13m over 5 years to expand burning on private land program, and \$24m over 5 years to expand burning on public land'</i>. <p>in lieu of: <i>'Fiona referenced the Keelty Review and major injection of funding (\$24m over 5 years) to expand burning on private land program'</i>.</p> <p>In relation to Item 5.1 Reports from all agencies, under the Attorney-General's Department report, Denise LeBlond (Attorney-General's Department) noted the following amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the first point, insertion of the text '<i>to allow for an additional consultation phase</i>' following the phrase '<i>are delayed until next year</i>'.
Resolution:	Subject to the corrections outlined about, the SBCC agreed that the minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting of 16 October 2020.

09:20 A short recess was taken while AV issues were resolved. Meeting resumed at 09:30.

6. OVERVIEW OF SBCC – INDUCTION FOR MEMBERS

Andrew Patten (SACFS) presented a brief overview of the history, structure, and role of the SBCC; and the reporting relationship with the subordinate Bushfire Management Committees (BMCs).

In response to questions, the Mark Jones noted that out-of-session communication between committee members regarding SBCC business is encouraged; as is the sharing and discussion of non-confidential SBCC business with members' and deputy members' organisations.

In response to questions, the EO noted that when the membership of the SBCC was legislated in 2009, several key sectors were not included in that framework; for example, representatives from Indigenous communities, and SA Health. He noted that to change this would require legislative change, which the SBCC can seek to change; however, there is also the opportunity at this stage to invite members of these key groups to attend SBCC meetings as observers.

7. ACTION LIST

7.1 BMC Membership Approvals

Key Points:	BMC Nominations received since the meeting of 16 October 2020 were included in the agenda for consideration of the SBCC.
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Resolution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SBCC confirmed that the requested appointments are from agencies prescribed by the SBCC in the composition of the BMCs; • The SBCC considered the nominations received and unanimously agreed to confirm all nominations for the remainder of the current 3-year terms.
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7.2 Update on Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Act amendments

Key Points:	<p>An update on the current status of the amendments to the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005</i> was circulated to SBCC members with the agenda.</p> <p>Brett Loughlin (CFS) briefed the SBCC on the three separate bodies of work that are ongoing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A further addition to the <i>FES (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill, 2018</i> was introduced into the House of Assembly 3 December 2020. The Minister has foreshadowed in Estimates hearings on 26 November 2020 that this will address proposed amendments from Keelty review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These changes relate to the reporting structure of the SBCC, as well as changes to the structure of SAFECOM and the Board that exists in that environment. 2. <i>FES (Miscellaneous) Variation Regulations, 2020</i> in support of the <i>FES (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill, 2018</i> are currently in draft form. SACFS is aware of the potential impacts and has commenced formulating an action plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some of that work was subject to a parliamentary select committee, that was looking at what was mooted to be Section 82.2 (the power to direct the cessation of activities such as harvesting, and other prescribed activities). The outcome of that select committee was that those powers rest with SAPOL. A body of work is currently being undertaken to get these regulations ready. - It also covered off on the formation of industry brigades, with Forestry Industry brigades being one of the main industries that will be affected. 3. Review of expiring FES Regulations under the <i>FES Act, 2005</i> is currently underway and is to be completed to enable them to be in force by 1 March 2021. This is the 10-year regulatory review of the Regulations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These will be shared with the SBCC once these are in a place that the Parliamentary Counsel's Office is happy for them to be shared. <p>In response to a question, Brett noted that exploration is occurring as to whether the introduction of a provision of Indigenous and other key stakeholder representation in the SBCC can be inserted as part of these changes; however, these current changes may have already progressed too far to allow for further such amendments.</p> <p>Mark Jones noted that in order to make this statutory adjustment, the SBCC would have to seek to make amendment to the <i>FES Act</i> itself.</p>
Resolution:	The SBCC notes these updates.
Action:	CFS will provide further updates to the SBCC as they arise.

7.3 Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Updates

<p>Key Points:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brett Loughlin noted recent changes to the AFDRS, which standardise the warning symbology and colour scheme across the whole country for fire. This replaces the current system, where almost every state and territory had their own variations. • These changes have gone live. • One main change is to the colour of ‘advice’ messages (previously blue); and ‘watch and act’ messages (previously yellow). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yellow has now been deemed as the colour for ‘advice’ messages; orange as the colour for ‘watch and act’ messages; and red for ‘emergency’ messages. • Brett requested the assistance of SBCC members and deputy members in promulgating these changes throughout their agencies. • He noted that this does not conclude the AFDRS review process; there is an ongoing body of work on how we forecast, predict, and interpret fire weather. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is changing some of the modelling and display parameters that are given to fire services and other agencies, which will change how information is communicated with communities; • Longer term, there is also work looking at the areas that the fire districts cover – given that this is being done on a national level, this is a very large body of work.
<p>Action:</p>	<p>Circulate the PDF of the changes to SBCC members, who will promulgate these changes in their organisations.</p>

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received has formed action items already listed.

Mark Jones noted that the Minister will be corresponding with former members of the SBCC thanking them for their time on the committee, and new members. It is unclear if the SBCC will receive copies of this correspondence.

Nil further correspondence of note.

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1 State Bushfire Management Plan Update

<p>Key Points:</p>	<p>The CFS State Bushfire Management Plan Review – Desktop Analysis & Stakeholder Engagement Summary (Desktop Analysis) document was included with the agenda for consideration.</p> <p>The draft South Australia State Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) was circulated to SBCC members for their consideration on Thursday 10 December 2020, as well as in hard copy to those present at the SBCC meeting on Friday 11 December 2020.</p> <p>Brett Loughlin presented a brief outline of the history of the State Bushfire Management plan. He noted that one of the outcomes of the Keelty review was that the current plan was too far out of date and needed to be updated. The <i>Emerg</i> Group have been engaged as consultants to update the plan on</p>
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behalf of the committee.

Brett Stephens (*Emerg Group*) reiterated that the SBCC own the SBMP. He shared an overview of the *Emerg Group's* process:

- They went through a desktop analysis, looking at all documents relevant to the SBCC and SACFS operations, including royal commission and Keelty review, and other background documents.
- They held extensive stakeholder engagement sessions with all identified stakeholders, allowing them to get a thorough picture of the operating environment in SA.
- This body of work was summarised and distributed to the SBCC.

He outlined a number of the issues identified through this process. For details refer to the CFS State Bushfire Management Plan Review – Desktop Analysis & Stakeholder Engagement Summary document.

With regard to the draft SBMP, Brett then noted that:

- *Emerg* have tried to produce a high level and strategic plan that clearly defines a mission of collaboration in coordinating and managing the business of fire management across the state.
 - He reiterated that operational matters can either be attached as an appendix or remain with the agency's doctrine.
- One the key aims was to increase acceptance of and accountability; therefore, they have introduced a number of recommendations regarding monitoring and reporting.
- *Emerg* have attempted to future-proof the plan; however, he noted that in order to do this, the plan needs to be reviewed every 4 years as per legislative requirement.

Mark Jones noted that the aim is to work towards a consultation draft that can subsequently be taken through the SA Government's normal consultation process, and expressed that each stakeholder has the chance to comment on the plan at that stage.

In response to a question, Brett Loughlin outlined the ongoing consultation process, including the length and approach.

- Following the circulation of the document, and the briefing of the SBCC at today's meeting, SBCC members are asked to consider the document and provide feedback on it, so that it can be released for widespread public consultation at the beginning of 2021 using the established SA government mechanisms through the *YourSAy* website to promote this, and would seek assistance from prescribed members of SBCC to help promote that through their agencies and programs.
- At the completion of the public consultation period, feedback would be collated and incorporated where appropriate.
- The updated document would be returned to the SBCC for endorsement, before going (as per the legislation) through the Chief Officers of the SACFS and SAMFS, and then to the Minister for formal sign-off.

Emily Jenke (NVC) noted that while *Emerg* has spoken to a variety of stakeholders separately, it appears unclear how the draft SBMP is an SBCC owned and developed document. She suggested that the SBCC could benefit greatly from a whole day workshop to discuss and work through any issues in the draft SBMP, to ensure that the SBCC has true ownership over

	<p>the document.</p> <p>Mark Jones noted the merit of this proposal; but suggested that this process could occur during the early part of the consultation phase, once the consultation draft was out in the public consultation sphere.</p> <p>A preference was expressed by a number of members that there be an opportunity to discuss both the issues arising in the Desktop Analysis and draft SBMP prior to the release of the draft SBMP for public consultation.</p> <p>Mark Jones proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SBCC convene a workshop in January 2021 in order to shape up a final consultation draft; • Prior to this workshop, SBCC members share the draft SBMP with their agencies to get it internalised with their own stakeholder groups, in order to bring those views back to the workshop. • In order to give members time to properly process the draft and discuss with their agencies, any further questions or comments regarding the details of the plan are to be deferred until this workshop or circulated out-of-session. • Member agencies' views are to be gathered in time to be put forth in the workshop, as opposed to during the public consultation period. • He noted the importance of having full diversity of views present at the workshop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each stakeholders views should be represented, regardless of whether members can attend the workshop in person on the day. • A time imperative is to have the SBMP launched by May 2021, so that it can be articulated and given life prior to the following bushfire season commences. <p>Clair Simcock (SACFS Regional Prevention Officer) asked whether comment from BMCs would be required prior to the workshop. Brett Loughlin reported that feedback from the BMCs would be requested during the public consultation process.</p>				
Resolution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SBCC will convene a workshop in January 2021 in order to produce a final consultation draft, which will then be released for public consultation as per the requirements for a state-level strategic plan. • Following the public consultation process and the incorporation of changes as appropriate, the plan will be returned to the SBCC for endorsement. • Subsequently, it will go to the Chief Officers of the SACFS and SAMFS, and then to the Minister for formal sign-off. • The SBCC aims to have the final plan released by May 2021. 				
Moved:	Graeme Brown	Seconded:	Peter Button	Motion:	Carried

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBCC members to circulate draft SBMP within their agencies, to get it internalised with their stakeholder groups; • Subject to extension of contractual agreement, <i>Emerg</i> to develop a pre-workshop survey to SBCC members for consideration and feedback; • Date and time to be set for an SBCC workshop in January 2021 in order to produce a final consultation draft of the SBMP; • Release final consultation draft of SBMP for public consultation period; • Release final SBMP by May 2021.
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9.2 Working Group Updates

Brett Loughlin (SACFS) noted that two business papers were circulated with the agenda, relating to the Governance Working Group and Property Preparedness Working Group.

He noted that these working groups were proposed in recent SBCC meetings by the previous SBCC membership. Given the changes in SBCC membership, it was deemed appropriate to pause proceedings of these working groups until the new SBCC membership was briefed.

9.2.1 Governance Working Group

Key Points:	<p>Brett Loughlin (SACFS) reported that Andrew Patten (SACFS B MPU) had undertaken an initial exploratory body of work to examine the newly drafted and reformatted SBCC/BMC Guidelines. Several issues were noted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-session voting protocols, and reciprocal reporting and information sharing, weren't clearly articulated; • BMCs were unaware of who the current SBCC members were. <p>A Governance Working Group (GWG) was proposed in order to address the issue of how to best facilitate the SBCC. See business paper circulated with agenda for further details.</p> <p>If the current SBCC is happy that the GWG continues, it will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept the draft Terms of Reference, if supported by the committee; • Accept the composition of the GWG, and seek any further nominations required. <p>Brett noted that members of working groups don't have to be members of the SBCC; however, the Chairperson role does have to be undertaken by a member of the SBCC in order to ensure proper reporting back to the SBCC; and provide leadership to the working group in that capacity.</p> <p>John Moyle (LGA) expressed willingness to be involved as a member of the Governance Working Group, and agreed to take on the role of Chairperson for the GWG.</p> <p>Naomi Rea (CCSA) had previously been nominated as a member. Naomi confirmed that she is happy to continue on the GWG.</p> <p>Emily Jenke (NVC) proposed Merridie Martin (NVC). Merridie declined this nomination (out-of-session).</p>
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<p>Resolution:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SBCC confirmed the continued establishment of a Governance Working Group, with membership to be confirmed out-of-session. Current proposed membership consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair: John Moyle (LGA); ○ Andrew Patten (SACFS BMPU); ○ Naomi Rea (CCSA) ○ Clair Simcock (BMC Executive Officer); ○ one (1) CFS Regional Commander; and ○ one (1) SBCC member. • The SBCC agreed that the draft Terms of Reference be considered by the Governance Working Group once membership is finalised.
<p>Action:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACFS to engage a CFS Regional Commander to be a member of the GWG. • Membership nominations to be circulated and considered out-of-session to fill the remaining current vacancy in the GWG. • Convene first meeting of the GWG prior to the next SBCC meeting on 12 February 2021.

9.2.2 Property Preparedness Working Group

<p>Key Points:</p>	<p>A business paper regarding the Property Preparedness Working Group (PPWG), and brief discussion paper regarding possible inclusions for a Code of Practice, were circulated with the agenda for consideration. Refer to these documents for detailed information.</p> <p>Brett Loughlin (SACFS) outlined the background of the PPWG and noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the legislation, SBCC can set codes of practice; • The current Codes of Practice include the Harvesting Code of Practice, which is one of the most successful codes of practice in South Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is making a tangible difference in the number of fires that we have each year associated with harvest; and it is strongly supported by industry, and well-publicised. • It was the intention of the previous SBCC that a PPWG be formed to provide advice to South Australians on steps they should take to mitigate and manage their fuel loads on private property, in order to meet their responsibilities and requirements under the <i>FES Act</i>, specifically, Section 105. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section 105 permits local government Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) to undertake inspections of private property; ○ Where they determine a fire hazard exists, they can prescribe works that must be undertaken by the property owner to prevent and prohibit the escape of fire across the landscape from that property. ○ A time period is set in the issue of notice; and if the works aren't done within that timeframe, expiation can occur.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If works still aren't done, contractors can be appointed by the local council, and costs sought to be recovered through the court process. ● This is a substantial body of work. It is proposed that the PPWG would develop this code of practice; and then a supporting document for FPOs, to act as a code of practice for how they can enact their powers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently each local government is required under the <i>FES Act</i> to have at least one FPO; ● SACFS developed the Fire Prevention Officers' training course, with support from the Fire Prevention Officers' Technical Reference Group. This is a nationally recognised week-long course, run each year at the State Training Centre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a standing invitation to SBCC members to undertake all or parts of this course. ● Formation of the PPWG was described and agreed upon by the previous SBCC; however, a nomination for Chair of the working group was never received; nor was a draft Terms of Reference able to be agreed upon. ● It was previously decided that the PPWG would consist of a Chair from the SBCC, and several members from SBCC member organisations; with a support person from the SACFS (Richard Wald) to provide secretariat support. <p>In response to a question, Brett noted that the legislation focuses on risk to an asset rather than landscape risk and treatment; however, the PPWG would determine if the code of practice will focus on assets or land, and report back to the SBCC.</p> <p>Emily Jenke (NVC) suggested that the NVC's technical branch knowledge could be a useful addition to the PPWG when developing the code of practice.</p> <p>Graeme Brown (DIT) noted that the organisations which have a keen interest or stake in this should be represented: for instance, agencies involved in land management; and the LGA. He suggested that a member from one of these organisations should take the lead.</p> <p>Naomi Rea (CCSA) noted that Tim Kelly (CCSA) had previously nominated to be a part of the PPWG. He will be contacted to determine his ongoing interest.</p> <p>Fiona Gill (DEW) noted that policy input from the CFS would be vital for the PPWG, and suggested the inclusion of a senior policy advisor from the BMPU.</p> <p>Brett Loughlin suggested that membership and Chair nominations be circulated and considered out-of-session.</p> <p>In response to a question from Andrew Cadd (CFSVA), Brett clarified that this is particularly related to preparedness of private property; however, the particular scope would be decided by the PPWG.</p>
Resolution:	The SBCC notes this briefing on the Property Preparedness Working Group.

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Tim Kelly (CCSA) to confirm ongoing interest in the PPWG. • Membership and Chair nominations to be circulated and considered out-of-session.
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11:15 Natalie Sommerville (NVC – remote) left the meeting.

9.3 Agency Reports

Key Points:	<p>PPSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter White reported that most of the state has had above average yields. There are considerable areas through the Mid North where frost had some impact, and a few hailstorms went through; however, despite that, the yields have been above average. <p>CFS VA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Cadd reported that they are glad that so far, the weather conditions have been more favourable, resulting in a more manageable workload. He expressed a hope that this holds. <p>SAPN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ali Walsh noted that following last fire season, SAPN commissioned a report from the CSIRO to look into disconnection procedures, and the procedures that they use to apply the more sensitive protections settings to their lines. They have been working through this with the CSIRO, who are still working on recommendations as to whether or not they modify their disconnection procedures. • She notes that since November they have taken a more risk-averse position in the application of more sensitive settings to their infrastructure. They apply settings that cause disconnections for faults faster, and remove reclosing on more days and under more risk conditions than they have historically done. • She notes that there were a few fire danger weather events in November that have been followed by storms. One of the things that they do very actively is monitor when they put the settings back; as they try to beat the lightning. This had a significant impact on the 15th November, when there was lightning in the morning as well as lightning in the afternoon. • SAPN will provide an update to the SBCC once information from CSIRO is received and incorporated, and disconnection procedures updated. <p>BOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Anolak reported that the BOM now has appointed Phillip Perkins to the position of South Australia Manager, Hazard Preparedness and Response. • As of Thursday 10th December, South Australian forecasters will not be routinely monitoring benign weather overnight, as the BOM have moved to a slightly different structure.
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- He wants to reassure all partners and stakeholders that should the weather necessitate, they will have South Australian forecasters forecasting overnight.

DIT:

- Danielle Kowalski reported that DIT have crews have been undertaking the usual vegetation clearance work.
- She noted that in a policy space, they have been working with the CFS, and expressed gratitude for this.
- Operationally, crews have started going out and clearing vegetation, which occurs annually.
- DIT are currently in their normal pre-season preparation mode, which usually starts around September or October, making sure that they are looking at their resources, as they have had some internal changes in the agency.

PIRSA:

- Justine Drew reported that PIRSA has enacted all its seasonal preparedness activities:
 - They have had their bushfire briefing session, a range of refresher training, and have been doing more recruitment around their IMT.
 - They have full roster for their IMT that commenced a few weeks ago through until May/June 2021, so they are all on standby.
- They are also rolling out lessons from the 2019/2020 bushfire season.
- She also noted the development of an industry-preparedness checklist for livestock, horticulture, and grapes, which will be a useful tool alongside some of the previously discussed codes of practice in development.
- PIRSA are also still actively involved in a range of bushfire and drought recovery programs.
- Brett Loughlin noted a need to chat out-of-session regarding ways to promote increased awareness around the storage of haybales and hay, due to seasonal conditions resulting in a spiked-increase in hay shed fires this year.

Attorney-General's Department:

- Denise LeBlond reported that Phase 3 of the implementation of the Planning and Design Code is going through a second period of consultation that closes on the 18th of December. There is some refinement to bushfire policy and the spatial application of that policy, but it is more of what has been consulted upon earlier.

NVC:

- Emily Jenke noted for new member of the SBCC that the NVC branch sits within DEW, which is why there are both representatives on the SBCC.
- She noted that the NVC is investing heavily in making sure that communications with the CFS and SBCC are strengthened and improved.
- Merridie Martin reported on the first part of recommendation 5 of the Keilty review (recommendation 5a), which talked about clarity in fuel

hazard reduction, and noted that understanding of fire behaviour within native vegetation is not what people tend to expect: it is the fine fuels in native vegetation that can be an issue, rather than standing trees. As such, improved lines of communication are required regarding this.

- Merridie noted that it was evident in both the Keelty review and the Royal Commission that agencies, including local government, do not understand the ability to clear for fuel hazard reduction.
- As such, the NVC have updated their Roadside Management guidelines, to allow councils to clear roadside native vegetation, within particular parameters.
- Furthermore, she reported that it does not appear to be widely understood that it is possible to apply to CFS to clear native vegetation, if it is for a fuel hazard reduction purpose; thus, this capability hasn't been utilised effectively.
- The NVC is also working with a couple of regional LGAs (Kangaroo Island and the Eyre Peninsula) regarding fuel hazard reduction, looking at how they can disseminate the messaging. She notes that the work of the PPWG will be of critical assistance to this.

LGA:

- John Moyle noted that one of the major issues for the LGA is communicating and getting information out across 68 councils across South Australia.
- He noted that councils are very busy at this time of year with fire prevention work, trying to get the state ready for the fire season. This includes flammable undergrowth reduction on private property, roadsides, and preparing fire tracks.
- Aside from this, one of the big issues for the LGA currently is low compliance with 105 notices. He notes that the LGA doesn't believe that the fines are significant enough for people to take serious notice of them. The LGA has approached the government to propose a substantial increase in expiation notices, to improve response from communities.

SAMFS:

- Peter Button reported that the main body of work that the SAMFS has been undertaking in preparing for the fire danger season is the review of levels of preparedness: they have a communications and operations level preparedness document, and Chief Officer's Intent. The purpose of that is to collect and interpret real-time predictive data, so that they can prepare for any events throughout the day.
- The SAMFS have six levels of preparedness that they operate under: green, yellow, orange, red, crimson, and black.
 - Each level of preparedness is split into three different types: bushfire danger; severe weather; and other, such as terrorism or pandemic.
- They have three strike teams that can be deployed at any point in time. They also bring on duty 'surge resilience groups', with four appliances fully stowed. As the level of preparedness escalates, they bring online active standby and passive standby crews and appliances.
- They can form, if approved by the executive, a fourth strike team to support other agencies through events.

SAPOL:

- John Venditto reported that the main issue of note is the restructure of Nomad and the completion of all but one of the Keelty review recommendations.
- The first activation of Nomad this year was supplemented by the SES. John noted that despite SAPOL's fear of depleted resources due to COVID-19, they actually had seven more patrols than they needed.
- They are currently awaiting the Harvesting Code of Practice and the regulations to support that.
- They continue to be busy with the recommendations from the Royal Commission and Keelty review.

DEW:

- Fiona Gill notes that DEW have also been busy with training and preparedness.
- DEW run a brigade of approximately 500 people. Much work has been done towards their bushfire response by getting these people through pre-season training, and undertaking operational audits.
- Fiona noted DEW's contribution to the state risk and management teams, fire behaviour analysts, the mapping support group, and the natural values team – which is the new function that started last fire season, where people with ecological expertise give advice to IMTs about minimising the environmental impacts of either bushfires or bushfire suppression techniques.
- In terms of preparedness, Fiona reported that 80% of the prescribed burning program and other fuel reduction programs has been delivered.
 - More successful than predicted it would be due to pandemic impacts and *la niña* effects, and short gaps between main events;
 - Only one region still undertaking burns – Adelaide Mount Lofty.
- Notes seven new roles that DEW are recruiting for, two of which are on Kangaroo Island (KI).
- DEW have also started early work on reviewing the Fire Management Plan for the west end of KI, and some analysis of proposed new tracks.

CCSA

- While Mark Ashley has not yet had a thorough briefing from the CCSA, he reported that their key priority at this stage is to contribute to the consultation process towards the SBMP.
- He noted that they are also interested in some of the linkages between the state plan and the regional plans, and how they might engage this at the on-ground level.

SACFS:

- Mark Jones reported that SACFS has not been busy with bushfires as yet; but has been very busy with other activities.
- He praised the BOM for their forecasting last year, and noted that it is much more difficult in years such as this one.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted SACFS are in full swing with pre-season preparedness activities: the last of the aircraft will be stood up this week, and the full fleet will be available at that point. • A number of highly important media campaigns continue. • They have started to fill a number of posts that were granted to them, and are looking to have permanent presence on KI for the first time, which is anticipated to assist greatly with future operations. <p>SA Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Loveder reported that SA Water are currently completing annual preparedness works across minor and major landholdings, and these works will be reflected in annual checklists. • He noted that they also recently completed an internal bushfire audit, and are working through key recommendations from that. • They have completed their prescribed burn program with the support of DEW Fire Crew, with the exception of one small burn. • A proportion of Hope Valley Reservoir reserve will be open to the public as of Sunday 13th December; and this body of work continues to move forward quickly. <p>ForestrySA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Godoy reported that all of ForestrySA's fire break maintenance programs in the Mid-North, South East, and Mount Lofty Ranges are in full swing. These programs run for 4-6 weeks. • She noted that they are addressing the highest fire risk areas first, flowing in a practical sequence down to the lowest risk areas. • All fire crews have been on deck since mid-October; they are on standby and units all serviced ready to go. • In the South East they are currently operating five fire towers, and are soon to install two cameras onto these towers. • She referenced a media announcement from the Minister regarding \$1.1m of funding gained from ForestrySA working with industry to update the fire towers and improve their fire preparedness. • She noted that ForestrySA are shut down every time there is a TFB; thus, there are ongoing patrols and compliance relating to this. • In the South East there are 12,000 hectares of native vegetation that ForestrySA look after that also needs to be taken into consideration.
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10. BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ITEMS

Amy Riebe (SACFS) advised the committee that BMCs are all continuing with regular business, with nothing specific of note.

She updated the SBCC on the ongoing body of work that has been undertaken by Phil McDonough (SACFS) and the Executive Officers of the BMCs to put up signage reminding people of fire risk areas at rest stops on major highways. They have identified all the spots where the signs need to go, and the two types of draft signs are close to being finalised.

Brett Loughlin (SACFS) noted that this was an action item commenced by the Lower Eyre Peninsula BMC, who noted that they were having trouble with travellers lighting campfires; and noted that other states had signage informing people that they were entering bushfire prone areas, and informing them of

fire restrictions and penalties. He noted the huge amount of work that has gone into this undertaking, and thanked DIT for their support in this.

12:05 Mark Jones proposed, with the agreement of the SBCC, that **Item 12 Bushfire Management Area Plans – Induction for Members** be taken after the formal closure of the meeting.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Working party proposed (changes to fire ban districts)

<p>Key Points:</p>	<p>Peter White (PPSA) noted an issue that has been previously raised by the PPSA, regarding the divisions of fire ban district areas and the issues these have presented. He handed over to Don Gilbertson (PPSA), who noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to vast differences in type of landscape and climate across some of the fire ban districts, at times the fire bans issued or not issued are not appropriate for all areas of a fire ban district. • He requested that a working party to be set up that looks at the climate within each fire ban district, which works with the BMCs to formulate new areas that more appropriately represent these differences in climate. <p>Brett Loughlin (SACFS) noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 15 fire ban districts in SA. At the time they were formed, the forecasting available was on a broader scale; • A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is brought in the when the Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) or the Grass Fire Danger Index (GFDI) is 50 or higher. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At that point, the science clearly shows that fire becomes uncontrollable by firefighters. ○ The maximum FFDI rating is 100, and maximum GFDI rating is 150, at which point you enter a catastrophic rating. • With the changes to the AFDRS underway nationally, the capability for forecasting to be done at a much finer resolution may facilitate the creation of smaller districts to better reflect forecasting accurate to the local area. • Given that this is an ongoing national body of work that is nearing the stage at which negotiations regarding fire ban districts could occur, it would be overstepping for the SBCC to form a working group to address this at this point in time. • He acknowledged the concerns of the PPSA regarding differences within the districts, noting in particular the Mount Lofty Ranges as a specific example. <p>Brett proposed that a more detailed briefing be given to the SBCC once there is an update from the national working group, including the proposed resolution of forecasting what the new fire ban districts could look like, and some of the proposed changes to terminology that have been proposed.</p> <p>Fiona Gill (DEW) noted the importance also of hearing from BMCs regarding their concerns regarding the fire ban districts.</p>
<p>Resolution:</p>	<p>An update will be provided to the SBCC once more detail has been provided on the AFDRS changes underway nationally.</p>

11.2 Landscape Act Representation on the SBCC

Key Points:	<p>Fiona Gill (DEW) noted the issue raised at the previous SBCC meeting, that the <i>FES Act</i> requires the SBCC to have an officer who administers the <i>Landscape Act</i> to be a member of it. This was missed in the nomination process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She noted that we moved from having an NRM Council in this state, to having NRM Boards, and now there are just Landscape Boards, with no-one sitting above that.• Fiona fulfils the <i>National Parks Act</i> requirement; however, she is not an expert in the <i>Landscape Act</i>.• As Landscape Boards employ staff directly now (they are not employees of DEW), this needs to be addressed.• She doesn't believe that legislative change is required, and that the Chief Executive of DEW could nominate someone.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The General Manager of one of the Landscape Boards may be the most appropriate nominee.• Fiona proposed that the SBCC write to John Schutz to explain this anomaly and address this.
Action:	The SBCC will correspond with John Schutz (DEW) seeking the nomination of a member of one of the Landscape Boards to the SBCC.

Mark Jones thanked members for their attendance and declared the meeting formally closed at 12:40pm.

12. NEXT MEETING : 12th February 2021