

STATE BUSHFIRE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

COMMUNIQUE

Meeting Held
Friday 14 May 2021

Ministerial Visit

The Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, the Honourable Vincent Tarzia, visited the meeting. He noted the importance of the day with the National Firefighters Memorial Service being held in Canberra. Minister Tarzia also noted that, following the recent passage of amendments to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, the SBCC would now be reporting directly to Parliament through the Minister, providing a greater level of transparency for the Committee's operations.

Business Items

Status Update

The Committee noted the progress of a number of matters arising from the March meeting:

Amendments to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (SA)*

The *Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill* passed through the Parliament on 11th May.

Governance Working Group

It was noted that, pending final approval of the draft State Bushfire Management Plan, review of governance arrangements was indicated as a priority in the initial works plan for the SBCC.

State Bushfire Coordination Committee Membership

Nominations for Landscape SA, the Conservation Council of SA and the Native Vegetation Council are pending. As soon as the Native Vegetation Council is formally reconstituted a panel of nominations will be sought from the Council, so that all membership nominations can be considered through due process by the Governor.

Development of Code of Practice for Private Land Fuel Management

It was noted that, pending final approval of the draft State Bushfire Management Plan, development of an initial phase of the Code to identify standards for implementation of s.105F was indicated as a priority in the initial works plan for the SBCC.

Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Briefing

The Committee was provided with a briefing on the introduction of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System by project staff from SACFS. This is a national project being coordinated through the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC).

State Bushfire Management Plan 2021-2025 – Final Endorsement

The Committee was provided with all submissions on the draft State Bushfire Management Plan received from agencies, organisations and individuals during the public consultation period, together with discussion posts from the YourSAy website and survey responses received. It was noted that a significant number of comments made related to implementation of actions contained in the Plan, and would be retained for consideration. Comments made of relevance to different agencies would also be formally provided to those agencies.

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The Committee endorsed: publication on the SBCC page of the SACFS website of a list of all agencies, organisations and individuals who made submissions, together with a summary document of the key themes contained in the submissions; a summary of changes made to the draft Plan; matters to be retained for future reference regarding the Plan; and provision of the final draft to the Chief Officers of the SACFS and SAMFS for final review and endorsement, prior to submission to the Minister for final approval (as required under legislation). The final Plan will be published on the SBCC page of the SACFS website following its final approval by the Minister.

State Bushfire Management Plan 2021-2025 – Initial Works Plan

The Committee discussed an initial conceptual works plan prepared pending the final approval of the State Plan, providing some indicative timelines for actions identified in the Plan over its four-year life. Agencies were invited to provide comment on their priorities. A more detailed project plan will be presented to the Committee at its August meeting.

Annual Reporting 2020-2021

The Committee resolved that it will consider the process for formal endorsement of the annual report at its August meeting, noting that the first report to the Minister will need to be submitted by 30 September.

Bushfire Management Committee Membership

The Committee resolved to review and vote on endorsement of BMC nominations via an online vote in early June.

Code of Practice for Broadacre Burning – Draft for Consultation

The Department for Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) introduced a proposed update to the Broadacre Burning code of practice to incorporate new detail on smoke management and averting risk to sensitive areas. The Committee endorsed provision of the draft document to SBCC member agencies and organisations for socialisation among their stakeholders to obtain further feedback for consideration by the SBCC at its August meeting.

SBCC and BMC Website Development

The Committee noted that a new stand-alone website for the State Bushfire Coordination Committee and the Bushfire Management Committees is currently under development. The website will provide information on both the SBCC and BMCs, contain links to the State Plan and progress on its implementation, and links to the Bushfire Management Area Plans.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday 13th August 2021.

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