

COMMUNIQUE

The State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) met in the LGIS Boardroom in West Leederville on the 9 June 2023, for its second quarterly meeting of 2023.

Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review Recommendations Implementation

In line with the Minister's focus areas for the SBAC, outlined in the revised Statement of Expectations, the SBAC will now provide oversight and ensure the implementation of the Wooroloo Review Recommendations.

The SBAC noted the release of the public reporting document in late March. This report has been well received with over 500 downloads in the first month. The report is updated quarterly and resides with the Wooroloo Independent Review on the government webpage. The next update is due to be released in early July.

The SBAC received a progress report from the project lead of Recommendation 11 on the ongoing work in the Telecommunications space.

The SBAC received briefings on the closures of recommendations 9 Evaluate the suitability of the ARENA HP module for application in WA and recommendation 13 Embed the issuing of Emergency Alert (EA) Telephone Warning System (TWS) in Public Information section.

The SBAC endorsed the closure of both projects.

More information on the Implementation of the Review recommendations can be obtained from the quarterly public reports at [WA Government website](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/department-of-fire-and-emergency-services) or by emailing RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au

SPP 3.7 – Map of Bushfire Prone Areas/LUP Guidelines

The Minister's revised Statement of Expectations included a request for the SBAC to provide advice and note progress on the development of the Land Use Planning guidelines and mapping of Bushfire Prone Areas.

The SBAC received a presentation on the progress of the jointly reviewed Bushfire Framework. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (Building and Energy Division) (DMIRS) are working jointly on the changes.

The draft SPP and Guidelines reflect the matters raised during the 2019 Buti Report. SPP 3.7 introduces the concept of Area 1 and Area 2 bushfire prone areas. Area 1 reflecting locations that are considered highly urbanised.

Different policy provisions are included for development within Area 1 to reflect the lower level of risk of loss of life or property.

Introduces a broader landscape assessment for strategic planning proposals in Area 2 that considers matters such as vegetation coverage, road networks and slope.

As part of these reforms, DPLH has released a draft State Planning Policy 3.7: Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (SPP 3.7) and Draft Planning for Bushfire Guidelines (Guidelines) for public consultation until 17th July. On completion of the public consultation period submissions will be analysed to inform redrafting with a final SPP 3.7 and guidelines intended to be gazetted in early 2024.

DFES are refining the Map of Bushfire Prone areas to inform and complement the policy.

The link to the public consultation is available here: [Draft State Planning Policy 3.7 – Bushfire and Planning for Bushfire Guidelines - WA DPLH - Citizen Space](#)

Places of Last Resort

In line with the Minister's Expectations, the SBAC will provide advice and note progress on the development of proposed WA guidelines on places of last resort.

The SBAC were provided with an overview on the development of a project plan to develop a WA position on places of last resort. This project will include extensive research and engagement to understand and review current processes and other States positions.

SBAC Strategic Planning

The SBAC discussed the results of the out of session planning survey which focussed on the priority, scope and outcomes of items for the SBAC's consideration.

Members have agreed on a restructured meeting format, with the list of the Minister's priority areas of focus forming the basis of the Standing agenda items at each meeting and an item added for consideration of future items.

Briefings at the next SBAC will include the AFDRS review and Land Use Management issues with respect to bushfire management.

The next SBAC meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th September 2023.

For SBAC related information or enquiries, please email RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au