

Bushfire Risk Management Program

Fact Sheet, February 2026

What is the Bushfire Risk Management (BRM) program?

The BRM program is a statewide initiative led by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to help local governments reduce the threat posed by bushfire. It provides a structured, best-practice approach to identifying, assessing, prioritising, treating and monitoring bushfire risk across all land tenures within a local government area.

What is a BRM Plan?

A BRM Plan assists a local government to manage bushfire risk throughout its local government area. The BRM Plan consists of two parts: the written BRM Plan; and the asset, risk assessment and treatment data held within the Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS).

Why is BRM planning important?

A number of bushfire inquiries have highlighted the critical role of local governments in bushfire mitigation, enforcement and community engagement. These inquiries identified gaps in systematic planning and resource capability, reinforcing the need for an integrated, all tenure approach to bushfire risk management at the local government level. The BRM program was established in response to these inquiries to strengthen a local government's capability and ensure bushfire risks are managed consistently across its local government area.

Who needs a BRM Plan?

Under the *State Hazard Plan Fire*, local governments with high or extreme bushfire risk must develop a BRM Plan that applies to their local government area. DFES strongly

recommends that all other local governments with bushfire risk also develop and implement a BRM Plan.

What standards does the BRM program follow?

The BRM planning process aligns with **ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management - Guidelines**, the international standard for risk management. It ensures risks are systematically identified, analysed, evaluated and treated, embedding principles such as inclusiveness, continual improvement and dynamic review.

BRM plans required under the *State Hazard Plan Fire* must align with the [Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan](#) and be endorsed by DFES' Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM). Other local governments are also encouraged to follow the guidelines and seek OBRM endorsement of their BRM Plan.

What is OBRM?

The Office of Bushfire Risk Management is part of DFES and was established to oversee and manage bushfire risks within WA. It works with other agencies to improve coordination in planned burning, fire mitigation and bushfire risk management efforts.

Benefits for local governments

Developing a BRM Plan delivers a range of important benefits for local governments, including:

- Demonstrates due diligence and a proactive approach to bushfire risk management.
- Applies internationally recognised best practice standard to a high-consequence hazard.
- Integrates bushfire risk management into broader strategic planning.
- Helps achieve local government strategic outcomes dedicated to creating safer communities.
- Builds community resilience through community engagement and fostering collaboration between land managers.
- Provides a clear, evidence-based treatment strategy and schedule.

Access to funding

Local governments with an OBRM endorsed BRM plan are eligible to apply to the Mitigation Activity Fund Grant Program (MAFGP). The MAFGP is a State Government funding initiative that supports the implementation of priority treatments on Crown lands managed by local government.

Does having a BRM Plan increase liability?

Developing a BRM Plan does not increase liability for a local government, even if not all identified risks can be treated. Not having a plan may actually pose a greater potential liability as a local government that develops a BRM Plan demonstrates due diligence and structured approach to risk governance.

While local government lead the planning process, they do so on behalf of all stakeholders and are not solely responsible for managing the risks outlined in the plan. The local government is only responsible for managing the risks identified on local government-managed land. BRM Plans can be scaled to match a local government's resource capacity, allowing treatments to be prioritised and implemented progressively as resources allow.

Continuous improvement

A BRM Plan is a living document. It should be reviewed regularly to remain current, incorporate lessons learned and adapt to any relevant changes in bushfire risk context.

Contact

Assistance with BRM Plans



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Assistance with BRMS



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