

COMMUNIQUE

The State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) convened its second meeting of 2026 to discuss key bushfire management priorities, including emerging sector challenges, Indigenous-led fire management, and the Council's strategic work program.

Key Stakeholder update from Kimberley Land Council

The Council received a presentation from the Kimberley Land Council outlining the significant scale and coordination of Indigenous-led fire management across northern Western Australia. Delivered in partnership with DFES and other organisations, these activities span a vast geographic area and are supported by a large network of ranger groups undertaking prescribed burning, risk reduction, and contributing to bushfire response. Members acknowledged the effectiveness of these programs in managing fire risk in remote landscapes, as well as their growing role in supporting broader land management outcomes.

Future priorities for SBAC

Members also undertook a strategic discussion on the Council's forward work program. It was agreed that a more focused and prioritised approach is required to ensure SBAC's efforts are aligned with its core advisory function and deliver clear, actionable outcomes. This includes refining existing priorities, strengthening the strategic value of stakeholder engagement, and ensuring that presentations and activities directly contribute to evidence based advice to government.

Key themes raised during discussion included the importance of reducing barriers to effective bushfire risk mitigation, particularly in relation to prescribed burning, and the increasing complexity of managing fire across diverse land tenures and governance arrangements. Members also noted the continued growth of Indigenous land management initiatives and the associated opportunities and challenges this presents. The need for greater clarity in roles, responsibilities, and coordination across agencies and partners was highlighted as an important factor in supporting safe and effective operations.

The Council will continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders to progress these matters and provide targeted strategic advice to government.

The next SBAC quarterly meeting is scheduled for **September 2026**.

For further information, please contact: RFDCcommittees@dfes.wa.gov.au