

COMMUNIQUE

The State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) met at the Western Australian Local Government Association's offices in West Leederville for their first quarterly meeting of 2025.

Places of Last Resort

The SBAC was provided with an update on the progress of the development of the Place of Last Resort Guidelines. A comprehensive review of the project occurred in late 2024 which resulted in - refinement of the project scope to define and specifically address bushfire risk, preferred scenario for DFES involvement in implementation of the guidelines, and indicative key guideline elements. The project is now referenced as Bushfire Places of Last Resort.

It was recommended that SBAC endorses the approach to date and the next steps, noting further consultation, testing and research will occur with local government, WALGA, DPLH and other key stakeholders. The SBAC recommended that further preliminary engagement is needed, particularly with local government, WALGA and DPLH prior to developing the guidelines and associated process.

Cultural Fire Program

The BCoE Cultural Fire Program staff presented to SBAC as an opportunity and link to land management topics being explored in the SBAC's 2025 Strategic Priorities work program.

The presentation included an overview of the program's purpose and objectives, the program delivery model and examples of their work. This included on Country delivery of cultural burns and demonstration of the products developed (including our Ways of Working guidance, [available here](#)) to enable cross-cultural collaborations on cultural burning in WA. The presentation also focused on the learnings and knowledge base that the program has developed over recent years, centring on 3 primary focus areas: enabling 2-way learning, demonstrating cultural competence and navigating authorising environments.

The presentation was followed by discussion with SBAC members on the mutual benefits of the program, contemporary barriers to cultural burning in WA and challenges that need to be addressed to expand cultural burning programs.

2025 Work Program – Strategic Planning session

The Governance Manual for WA Government Boards and Committees recommends committees regularly evaluate their performance. A survey was developed and circulated to the membership in February, and results of the survey were discussed during the first part of this session.

The Strategic Priorities Working Group met in early February to conduct an initial review of the Strategic Priorities Workbook in preparation for discussion during the Planning Session. The Council focussed on several topics for planning and ranking as well as providing a number of additional items for SBAC consideration.

The Strategic Priorities Working Group will meet and consider session responses and provide a 2025 action plan.

The next SBAC quarterly meeting is scheduled for late June 2025 with the date and venue to be confirmed.

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