



**STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

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*Cover photo: Supporting UTAS
research – Photo by Warren Frey*

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Report from the Independent Chair

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 Annual Report on behalf of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC).

2016-17 has been an incredibly busy and productive year. The SFMC have made a conscious decision to take a strategic approach to our activities and concentrate on the six themes outlined in the SFMC Strategic Direction Framework. The SFMC have been focusing on; understanding, communicating and managing risk; fostering and maintaining effective relationships; and building community capacity.

A major role of the SFMC is to approve the ten Fire Protection Plans developed by Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs). These plans contribute to the State Governments Fuel Reduction Program by identifying priority areas which guide the implementation of the program. This is not easy task, and the SFMC are amazed at the high standard of the plans produced by the FMACs. Working with the FMACs, the SFMC are committed to continually improve capability, governance, the culture and consistency of reporting.

In keeping with the theme of maintaining relationships and building community capacity, the public profile of the SFMC has greatly increased during 2016-17. The increased profile has supported changing behaviour and improved understanding of fire in the landscape through education and extension, including:

- The SFMC partnering with the Fuel Reduction Program at Agfest as part of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers site,
- Facilitation of a stakeholder forum which gave over 40 stakeholder groups the opportunity to set the direction for the state vegetation fire management policy,
- Hosting the inaugural SFMC network event, which has provided stakeholders with education and networking opportunities,
- Hosting the annual FMAC Chairs forum,
- Increasing the media exposure of the SFMC and supporting key messages; and
- The development of the Planned Burning for Farmers and Landholders booklet.

It is proven that the SFMC efficiently and effectively provide high level strategic advice. This is due to the high calibre, and dedication of the SFMC membership. I would like to thank all the members for their commitment.

As you can see from this report, a huge amount of high quality and relevant work has been achieved. I would like to acknowledge the dedication, drive and hard work of Debra Pope the SFMC Executive Officer and all the Chairs and members of the FMACs.



Ian Sauer
Chair, State Fire Management Council

Our Mission

“To enhance the efficient management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life, property and significant community values”.

About Us

The SFMC was originally established as the Fire Service Advisory Council under the *Fire Service Act 1979* (the Act) on 1 November 1979.

On 15 September 1995 the *Fire Service Reform Act 1975* amended the Act by disbanding the Fire Service Advisory Council and forming the SFMC.

Our Role

Under Section 15 of the Act the Council has the following functions:

- a) to develop a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning;
- b) to advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of this Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, as are referred to it by the Minister and on such matters concerning vegetation fire management as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Minister;
- c) to advise the State Fire Commission (the Commission) on such matters relating to the prevention and extinguishment of vegetation fires as are referred to it by the Commission or land managers and on such other matters as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Commission;
- d) to perform such other functions relating to the prevention or extinguishment of vegetation fires as the Minister may direct;
- e) to provide an annual report to the Minister on its activities, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission.

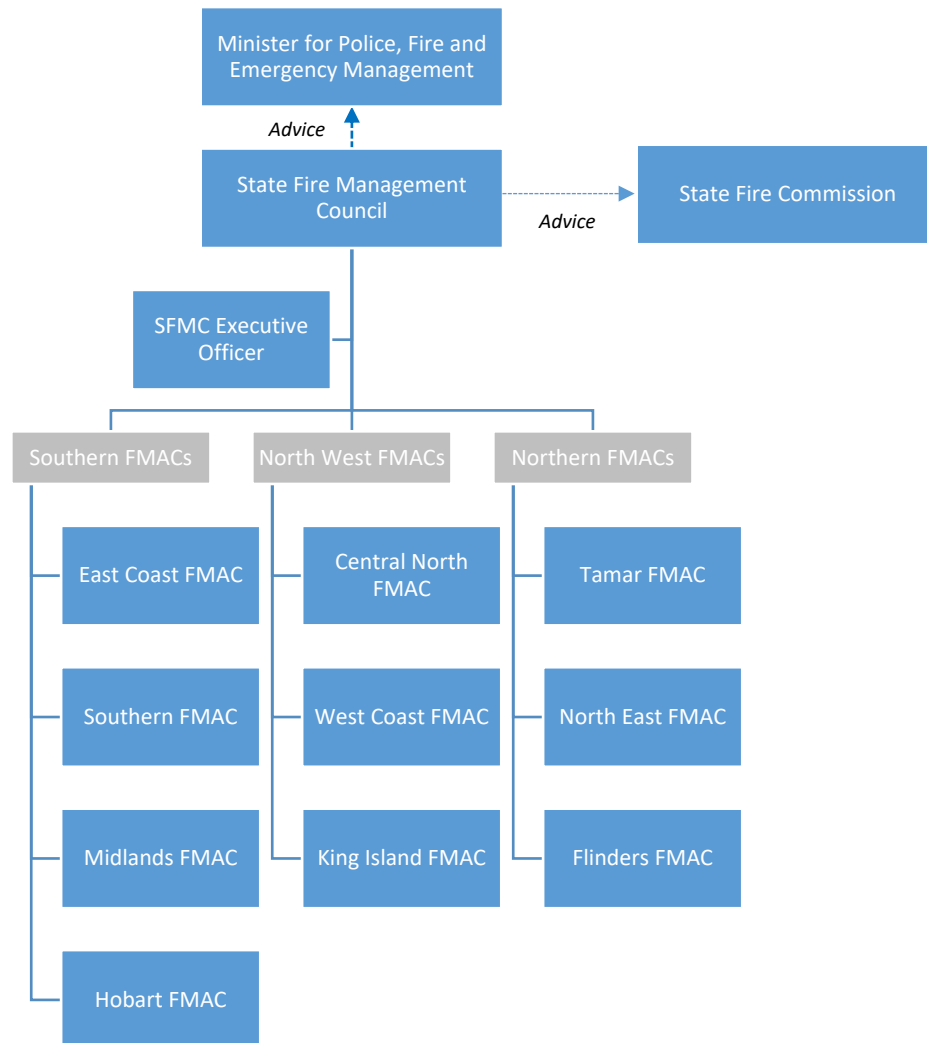
Our Members

Council membership is specified under Section 14 of the Act, as of 30 June 2017 membership consisted of:

- a person nominated by the Minister (Chair, Ian Sauer);
- the Chief Officer of Tasmania Fire Service (Chris Arnol);
- a nominee of the Chief Officer (Deputy Chief, Gavin Freeman);
- the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation (Steve Whiteley);
- a nominee of the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation (General Manager Forest Management, Suzette Weeding);
- the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (General Manager – Deputy Secretary, Jason Jacobi);
- a nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (Director Operations, Mark Bryce);
- a person nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association (John Atkinson);
- a person nominated by the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (Katy Edwards); and
- a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (Belinda Loxley).

Executive support to the SFMC and associated Fire Management Area Committees is provided by Tasmania Fire Service and coordinated through the SFMC Executive Officer Debra Pope.

Our Structure



Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs)

There are 10 Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) within Tasmania. The primary role of a FMAC is to prepare a Fire Protection Plan (FPP) for their Fire Management Area (FMA).

FMACs identify and assess community bushfire risks in their FMA and prioritise strategic works in response to those risks, including areas for strategic fuel reduction burning.

FMACs are appointed under Section 18(1) of the Act, and they report to the SFMC.

FMAC Purpose

“To provide a platform for a consistent, comprehensive and cooperative approach to strategic planning in relation to fire protection and fuel management. This will be achieved through the provision of a vital link between the local brigades, local government, land managers (both private and public), a representative of other groups or organisations as may be appropriate or identified and approved by the SFMC.”

FMAC Role

Under Section 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) have the following functions:

- a) to co-ordinate fire management activities within its Fire Management Area (FMA), including:
 - i) community education and information; and
 - ii) fuel management;
- b) to identify and assess community bushfire risks in its Fire Management Area and to prioritise strategic works in response to those risks;
- c) to submit to the Council, on or before 30 September of each year, a fire protection plan for its Fire Management Area for the next 12 months commencing on 1 October;
- d) to ensure that its fire protection plan is consistent with:
 - i) the State fire protection plan developed pursuant to section 8(1)(d); and
 - ii) the State vegetation fire management policy developed pursuant to section 15(1)(a); and
 - iii) such instructions or guidelines as the Council may from time to time issue to the Committee regarding the fire protection plan;
- e) to advise the Council on such matters relating to fire management and the Committee's other functions as the Council may refer to the Committee;
- f) to advise the Council on such matters concerning fire management as, in the opinion of the Committee, should be brought to the Council's attention;
- g) to perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Council may direct.

FMAC Membership

FMAC membership is defined under Section 18 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

FMACs usually consist of representatives from Tasmania Fire Service (career and volunteer), Local Government, Sustainable Timber Tasmania (formerly Forestry Tasmania), Parks and Wildlife Service, Wellington Park Trust (if included in the FMA), Tasmanian Farmers and Grazier's Association, relevant utility companies, and other large key land managers in the FMA.

Fire Protection Plans

The objective of the Fire Protection Plan (FPP) is to effectively manage bushfire related risk within the FMA in order to protect people, assets and other things valuable to the community. In preparing the FPP, a tenure blind approach to strategic fuel management is taken to identify and prioritise bushfire risks in the landscape and strategically identify work that can be done to mitigate that risk, including areas for strategic fuel reduction burning.

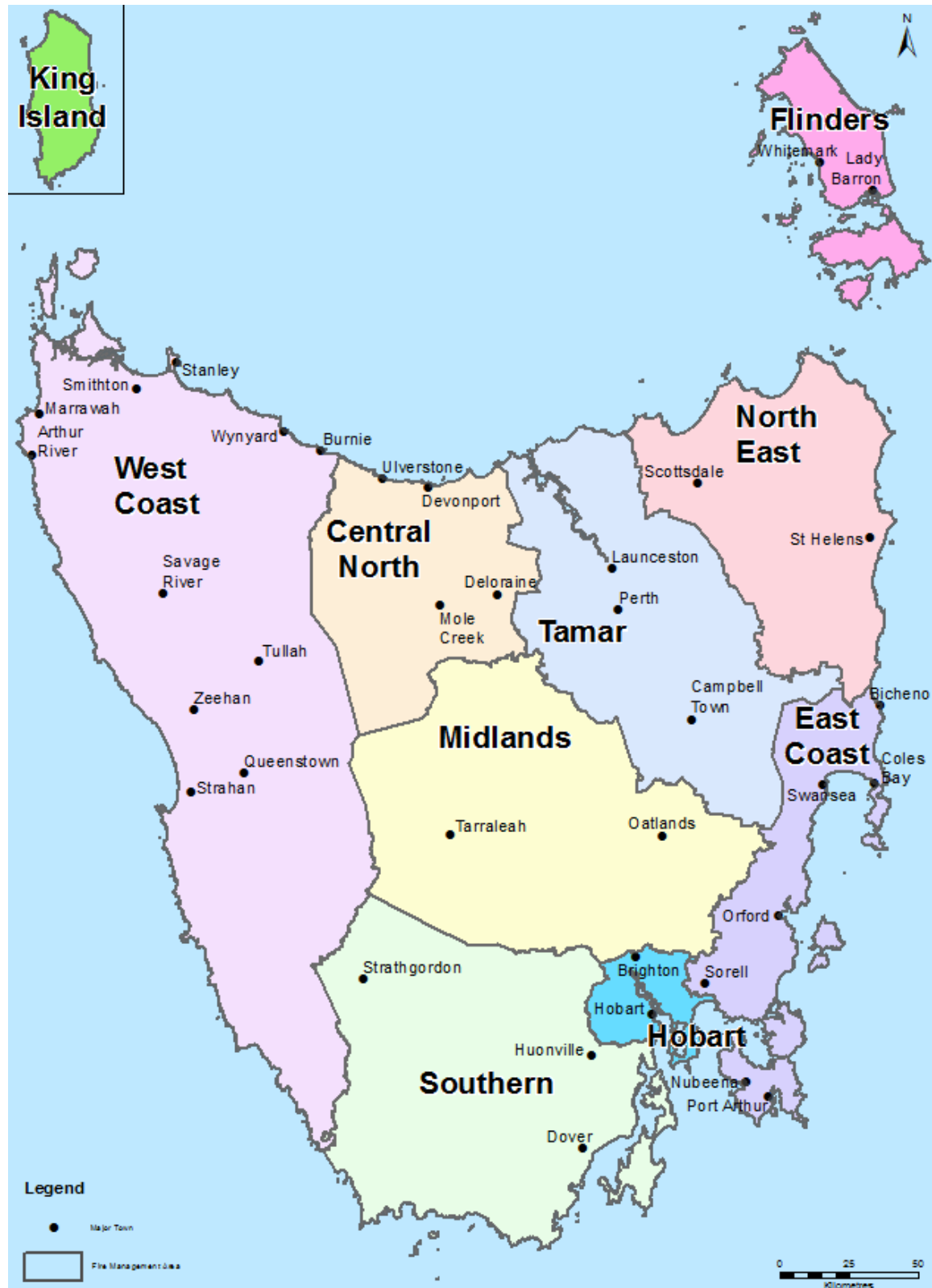
The priorities identified through the FPPs guide the implementation of the Fuel Reduction Program.

The management of bushfire related risk is not the sole responsibility of any one land manager or agency. It is a shared responsibility of the whole community. The tenure blind approach to bushfire risk mitigation planning as undertaken by FMACs creates opportunities for collaboration between public and private land managers and owners and promotes the development of a centrally coordinated bushfire risk mitigation program.

FPPs can be viewed at www.sfmc.tas.gov.au.

Fire Management Areas (FMAs)

There are 10 Fire Management Areas (FMAs) in Tasmania with boundaries based on bushfire risk and topography, largely aligning to local government boundaries. Each of these FMAs is supported by a Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC).



West Coast Fire Management Area

The West Coast FMA covers just over 1.9 million hectares and has an estimated residential population of 45 900 people. The FMA extends westwards from the township of Heybridge on Tasmania's north-west coast to Cape Grim on the west coast and southwards as far as Davey Head. The FMA also encompasses Robbins Island, Hunter Island and Three Hummock Island in Bass Strait.

A substantial proportion of West Coast FMA is formally reserved with larger reserves within the planning area including part of Cradle Mountain/Lake St Clair National Park, Franklin – Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, the Southwest Conservation Area (which all form part of the Western Tasmania World Heritage Area) and Savage River National Park in the north of the planning area.

Vegetation is well adapted to fire and, in recent times, the area has experienced a high frequency of fast moving bushfires which have burnt out large areas of the FMA. While the FMA contains a significant percentage of low flammability vegetation types it also contains even larger amounts of highly flammable vegetation in the form of button grass moorland, sedgeland, rushland and peatland in addition to scrub and heathland.

Tamar Fire Management Area

The Tamar FMA is located in the north of Tasmania and encompasses Launceston City and the Tamar River estuary. It covers a total area of 859 086 hectares with an estimated population of 128 000.

The FMA is dominated by agricultural and pastoral activities, particularly; meat production, apples, berries and viticulture. The Tamar Valley is one of Tasmania's leading wine producing areas.

Southern Fire Management Area

The Southern FMA is approximately 1 037 000 hectares in size and covers three local government areas (Derwent Valley, Kingborough and Huon Valley). Much of the area is uninhabited and forms part of the South West National Park.

The majority of the population in the FMA is found in the southern settlements of Hobart, the Huon Valley and along the D'entrecasteaux Channel. Significant populations are also located around New Norfolk with smaller populations located in the Tyenna Valley.

North East Fire Management Area

The North East FMA is approximately 681 193 hectares in size and encompasses two local government areas (Dorset and Break O'Day). The FMA covers an area bounded by the coast to the north and extending in south easterly direction from the mouth of the Pipers Brook to just below the mouth of the Douglas River on the east coast of Tasmania.

The permanent population of the North East FMA is estimated to be around 13 500 though this number increases markedly during the summer period though influx of tourists and absentee landowners.

Midlands Fire Management Area

The Midlands Fire Management Area is approximately 1 059 000 hectares in size and covers two local government areas (Central Highlands and Southern Midlands). Approximately 8 000 people live within the Midlands FMA, predominately around the South East corner, closest to the outer settlements of Hobart.

The Midlands FMA also contains smaller isolated communities located in the Upper Derwent Valley and Central Highlands. Shack communities are present around a number of the Highland lakes, with the population in these communities being seasonally variable.

King Island Fire Management Area

The King Island FMA covers the whole of King Island, an area of 11 975 hectares. King Island has an estimated residential population of 1 646 people.

King Island lies at the western entrance to the Bass Strait, midway between the state of Victoria and mainland Tasmania in the path of the “Roaring Forties”, a strong prevailing westerly wind that regularly reaches over 100km per hour. The island is generally quite flat, with the highest point being 168m above sea level at Gentle Annie in the south east of the Island.

Hobart Fire Management Area

The Hobart FMA is approximately 110 000 hectares in size. It includes the local government areas of Hobart, Glenorchy, Clarence, Brighton and parts of Kingborough, Huon Valley and Derwent Valley.

The Hobart FMA has two very distinct geographical features; firstly the area is bisected by the River Derwent, and secondly the Wellington Range borders many Hobart suburbs to the west, creating a long urban/bush interface. Tasmania’s most extreme fire weather events often occur within, and in areas adjacent to, the Hobart FMA. Rainfall varies considerably over the area (1 600mm per year on the summit of Mt Wellington to less than 500mm per year at the Hobart Airport) resulting in a highly variable fire season with some areas being able to sustain fire for many months of the year.

Flinders Fire Management Area

The Flinders FMA covers an area of approximately 206 046 hectares which includes the whole Flinders local government area and encompasses all the islands of the Furneaux Group.

The Furneaux Island Group is an archipelago of approximately 50 islands located in Bass Strait between mainland Australia and Tasmania. The largest island is Flinders Island followed by Cape Barren and Clarke Island. The Furneaux Islands have an estimated resident population of 784.

East Coast Fire Management Area

The East Coast FMA is approximately 393 000 ha in size and covers three local government areas (Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman). Geographically it follows the coastline from the Tasman Peninsular in the South to Bicheno in the North.

The majority of the population within the East Coast FMA is predominately located around the south east corner, closest to the outer settlements of Hobart. The East Coast FMA also contains smaller coastal communities spread along the coast line. The East Coast is a popular tourist destination which results in a large influx of visitors particularly during the summer months.

Central North Fire Management Area

The Central North FMA is located in central northern Tasmania and covers an area of 550 464 hectares. The FMA extends westwards along the north coast from Badger Head to Heybridge. The southern part of the FMA extends westward from Golden Valley to the middle of Walls of Jerusalem National Park.

The Central North FMA has an estimated residential population of 82 000 people and contains a mix of fertile agricultural land, wineries, dispersed rural communities and large areas of national park (including the Mole Creek Karst caves and The Walls of Jerusalem National Park which is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area).

Forty per cent of Tasmania's vegetable crop is produced in the Mersey/Forth valley area in the central northern part of the FMA. Significant built infrastructure assets in the region include Origin Energy's LPG Operation at Devonport and the Alinta natural gas pipeline offtake at Westbury. Critical infrastructure within the Central North FMA includes radio communications towers at Kelsey Tier, Mt Claude and Dazzler Range and the Orica storage facilities at Heybridge and Dulverton.

Strategic Direction Framework

The SFMC Strategic Direction Framework identifies six themes which represent a number of objectives and outcome statements.

SFMC Theme	Objectives	Outcomes
THEME 1 Understand, Communicate and Manage Risk	1.1 Identify and manage risks that impact on program outcomes and stakeholder relationships 1.2 Understand and communicate information regarding risk assessment and program limitations to the Minister and stakeholders 1.3 Promote consistency in the way fire is managed in Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk identification and management capability, including an understanding of vegetation fire risk and risk management options • Shared risk management understanding and responsibility with stakeholders • Effective communication and engagement processes • Management of risk within a climate change context
THEME 2 Advance Fire Management Area Committees	2.1 Support the further development and maturation of Fire Management Area Committees 2.2 Promote and support minimum standards and consistent and common approaches by all Fire Management Area Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed standards and consistency across all Fire Management Area Committees • Advancement in functionality and performance
THEME 3 Foster and Maintain Effective Relationships	3.1 Identify and further develop existing relationships with key stakeholders and the community 3.2 Establish new relationships with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commitment and engagement with stakeholders • Shared responsibility and commitment by land managers and the community • Connection with all relevant stakeholders
THEME 4 Build Community Capacity	4.1 Educate the community regarding bushfire risks in Tasmania 4.2 Increase community understanding and acceptance of vegetation management practices which address bushfire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed and competent community actions and activity
THEME 5 Continually Improve SFMC Capability, Governance and Organisational Culture	5.1 Further increase the capacity and capability of the State Fire Management Council 5.2 Actively monitor and address any loss of capability 5.3 Embed 'best practice' governance principles and practices in the culture and operations of the Council 5.4 Further develop evidence based and informed decision making processes of the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to measure and analyse performance of the State Fire Management Council • Effective accountable results • Access to additional expertise
THEME 6 Measure Performance and Effectiveness	6.1 Determine and measure program goals and priorities 6.2 Monitor, evaluate and report on program outputs and outcomes (including post fuel reduction burns and implementation of program initiatives). 6.3 Measure community acceptance and understanding of fuel reduction activities and other program initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to measure and analyse performance of initiatives and programs

THEME 1

Understand, communicate and manage risk

Objectives

- 1.1 Identify and manage risks that impact on program outcomes and stakeholder relationships.
- 1.2 Understand and communicate information regarding risk assessment and program limitations to the Minister and stakeholders.
- 1.3 Promote consistency in the way fire is managed in Tasmania.

Outcomes

- Risk identification and management capability, including an understanding of vegetation fire risk and risk management options.
- Shared risk management understanding and responsibility with stakeholders.
- Effective communication and engagement processes.
- Management of risk within a climate change context.

Achievements

State-wide Strategic Planning

The SFMC facilitates the production of a range of tools that supports effective vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

- The strategic relative risk of bushfire in Tasmania was reviewed in October 2016. Risk outcomes were presented to SFMC in February 2017 and were communicated to FMACs by Fuel Reduction Unit Planners during the FPP review process.
- New interactive Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) Charts were developed during 2016 and are now available on the SFMC website. Up until July 2016, FFDI was calculated using data obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) automatic weather stations. The new interactive graphs now show how FFDI fluctuates over the calendar year. This new tool also allows for comparison between the different weather stations.

State Vegetation Fire Management Policy

One of the main roles of SFMC is to develop a State vegetation fire management policy. The policy aims to provide an agreed set of principles and strategies to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities in Tasmania.

Tasmania is already breaking new ground in its approach to planned bushfire mitigation activities through the Fuel Reduction Program, and SFMC is building on this by re-developing the state policy to address both current and predicted future needs of Tasmanians.

The formal review of the policy commenced in October 2016, and has involved extensive stakeholder consultation at a number of key stages.

The SFMC took the bold approach to invite all major stakeholders to meet and discuss their perspective of the opportunities and threats, in relation to vegetation fire management in Tasmania. This was a critical first step of the review process and provided stakeholders with the opportunity to be meaningfully engaged in defining the policy scope, principles, strategies and responsibilities.

This workshop also assisted in strengthening the cooperation and understanding between the public and private sectors.

The SFMC was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic participation of stakeholders in the review process and their interest in maintaining relationships. This interest resulted in additional rounds of consultation being undertaken during the policy development process.



The State vegetation fire management policy workshop; participants setting the future direction of the policy.

THEME 2

Advance Fire Management Area Committees

Objectives

- 2.1 Support the further development and maturation of Fire Management Area Committees
- 2.2 Promote and support minimum standards and consistent and common approaches by all Fire Management Area Committees

Outcomes

- Agreed standards and consistency across all Fire Management Area Committees
- Advancement in functionality and performance

Achievements

Communication and Support

SFMC is committed to working collaboratively with FMACs to identify and prioritise bushfire risk and prioritise strategic mitigation activities.

In August 2016, FMAC Chairs and SFMC members met at their annual forum to report on performance, communicate change and discuss the future strategic direction.

The work of SFMC and FMACs was a focus in the TFS Fireground magazine in March 2017. The article highlighted the role of Councils and FMACs and profiled the West Coast FMAC.



Some of the West Coast FMAC Members: Bill Walker (Waratah-Wynyard Council), Julie Chair, Bernhagen (Circular Head Council), Michael Foster (Burnie City Council), Tyron Clarke (Tasmania Fire Service) and Wayne Richards (State Emergency Service).

Fire Protection Plans (FPPs)

SFMC support the identification of bushfire risk in Tasmania by approving FPPs developed by FMACs. These plans identify and prioritise bushfire risk in the landscape and strategically identify work that can be done to mitigate that risk.

All FMACs submitted FPPs to the SFMC within agreed timeframes, subsequently all plans were endorsed without amendment. SFMC was very impressed with the professionalism and detail included in the plans.

The FPPs have been instrumental in the identification of priority areas for the implementation of the whole-of-government fuel reduction program.

FMACs also highlighted the importance of FPPs being used as a tool to support operations. As a result, FPPs are now available in the 'Operational Tools' section of the TFS intranet. This information was communicated to TFS staff and volunteers through the Fireground magazine and internal newsletters.

Professional Development and Networking

SFMC and FMACs attended a number of events which supported both professional development and assisted in raising awareness of both the SFMC and FMACs. Events included the multi-agency pre-season bushfire briefing, Tasmanian Fire and Emergency Services Conference and participation in the State vegetation fire management policy review.

THEME 3

Foster and maintain effective relationship

Objectives

- 3.1 Identify and further develop existing relationships with key stakeholders and the community
- 3.2 Establish new relationships with relevant stakeholders

Outcomes

- Strong commitment and engagement with stakeholders
- Shared responsibility and commitment by land managers and the community
- Connection with all relevant stakeholders

Achievements

Learning Network Events

The inaugural SFMC network event was held in Hobart in May 2017. The events are aimed at fostering networks and knowledge in relation to vegetation fire management in Tasmania. The concept, aimed at developing professional networks, learning and sharing knowledge, was identified as a priority by stakeholders who participated in the review of the State vegetation fire management policy.

The first event was presented by Fuel Reduction Unit Regional Planner, Bernard Plumpton. It provided participants with an overview of the vegetation fire management planning frameworks, concepts and tools used in Tasmania.

Stakeholder Relationships

SFMC identified and developed a strategic stakeholder engagement register during 2016-17. The register supports effective communication and assists the SFMC in developing and maintaining important relationships.

SFMC is committed to flexible engagement strategies to suit different audiences. In May 2017, SFMC partnered with the Fuel Reduction Program as part of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers site at AGFEST. This enabled SFMC and the Fuel Reduction Program to specifically target the larger rural landholders and provide appropriate advice and support on managing their bushfire risk.

THEME 4

Build community capacity

Objectives

- 4.1 Educate the community regarding bushfire risks in Tasmania
- 4.2 Increase community understanding and acceptance of vegetation management practices which address bushfire risk

Outcomes

- Informed and competent community actions and activity

Achievements

Red Hot Tips

Red Hot Tips is a capacity building program aimed at increasing the knowledge, skills and confidence of private landholders in rural areas to manage bushfire risk on their property. The program was established in 2013 and has a particular focus on planned burning.

The final round of the Red Hot Tips Program concluded in May 2017, which exceeded all agreed deliverables, and has had a measurable impact on the level of successful burning undertaken by private property owners who participated.

A quotation process to engage a provider to continue the *Red Hot Tips* program commenced late 2016, unfortunately no quotations were successful. SFMC is investigating more cost effective, collaborative and flexible options for continuing this program.



Red Hot Tip participants during the planned burn at Barton. Photo by Warren Frey

Supporting Farmers and Landholders

During 2016-17, SFMC continued to build community capacity in managing bushfire risk, with a particular focus on the use of fire as a land management tool in rural communities.

The *Planned Burning for Farmers and Landholders* booklet was officially launched at Agfest by Hon. Rene Hidding, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management. The resource provides private landholders with useful information, tools and checklists that assist in safely planning and undertaking planned burning activities on their properties and continues to support the objectives of the *Red Hot Tip* program.

The guide was developed by a small working group made up of representatives from SFMC member agencies and organisations.

Red Hot Tips program resources, specifically the Planned Burning Manual, were used to assist in the development of this guide.

The resource received positive feedback and was promoted through a variety of media sources, it was downloaded from the SFMC website on 207 occasion from the launch date until the end of the financial year (57 days).

SFMC was also approached by a number of organisations requesting permission to use the resource which resulted in additional promotion on social media and external websites including; The Forest Practices Authority; Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment; FarmPoint; Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association; and numerous local government websites.

The booklet is available on SFMC website www.sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au



Left to Right: John Atkinson (SFMC, TFGA Representative), Stephen Lowe (TFS District Officer), A/Deputy Chief Officer Jeffrey Harper (State Fire Management Council), Sandy Whight (Manager, Fuel Reduction Unit), Lindsay White (Chair, East Coast Fire Management Area Committee), The Hon. Rene Hidding MP (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services), Ian Sauer (Chair, State Fire Management Council), Peter Skillern (Chief Executive Officer, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association), Wayne Johnston (President, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association).

THEME 5

Continually improve SFMC capability, governance and organisational culture

Objectives

- 5.1 Further increase the capacity and capability of the State Fire Management Council
- 5.2 Actively monitor and address any loss of capability
- 5.3 Embed 'best practice' governance principles and practices in the culture and operations of the Council
- 5.4 Further develop evidence based and informed decision making processes of the Council

Outcomes

- Capacity to measure and analyse performance of the State Fire Management Council
- Effective accountable results
- Access to additional expertise

Achievements

An Executive Officer was appointed to SFMC in 2016 to assist in delivering its functions, implement policies and provide advice on issues of bushfire risk at the state-wide level.

The Executive Officer role develops and implements strategies that also support FMACs and commenced work on standardising business planning and process, tools, templates and improving communication methods.

Effective Membership

A membership audit was conducted of SFMC and FMACs to ensure legislative compliance and the maintenance of a broad and effective membership. As a result a number of additional members were appointed to FMACs.

Supporting Research

In May 2017, SFMC facilitated a fuel reduction burn at Barton north of Cressy. The burn was conducted as part of the *Red Hot Tips* program.

Along with guiding private landholders through a fuel reduction burn process, the activity supported a research project being conducted by the University of Tasmania, School of Biological Sciences. The main focus of the research was to establish how fire impacts the habitat of small marsupials, in particular Bettongs.

SFMC is committed to providing opportunities for independent science based research and are proud to support local research opportunities within Tasmania.

THEME 6

Measure performance and effectiveness

Objectives

- 6.1 Determine and measure program goals and priorities
- 6.2 Monitor, evaluate and report on program outputs and outcomes (including post fuel reduction burns and implementation of program initiatives).
- 6.3 Measure community acceptance and understanding of fuel reduction activities and other program initiatives

Outcomes

- Capacity to measure and analyse performance of initiatives and programs

Achievements

SFMC has a legislative responsibility to report regularly to the Minister and provide advice to the Commission.

SFMC provide coordinated annual and quarterly communication to the Minister, along with additional updates as required. Reports are also provided on a monthly basis to SFC for information.

During 2016, SFMC finalised the work plan to support the Strategic Directions Framework. This plan has enabled SFMC to monitor, evaluate and report on their performance, including; outcomes, recommendations and identify areas for improvement.

Glossary

SFMC	State Fire Management Council
FMAC	Fire Management Area Committee
FMA	Fire Managment Area
FPP	Fire Protection Plan
TFGA	Tasmanian Farmers Graziers Association
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service
SFC	State Fire Commission
The Act	<i>Fire Service Act 1979</i>

