



**STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2023-24**

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Cover photo: Credit Sam Tacey. A Red Hot  
Tips demonstration burn at a Red Hot Tips  
registrants property, Fingal

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# Contents

Report from the Chair .....	1
About Us .....	3
Our Mission .....	3
Our Role .....	3
Our Members.....	3
Our Members - biographies .....	4
Our Structure .....	10
Fire Management Areas.....	11
Fire Management Area Committees .....	12
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION.....	17
Research coordination .....	17
Research collaboration .....	18
POLICY.....	20
Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy .....	21
Machinery Operations Working Group .....	22
SFMC Position Paper – Management of smoke arising from prescribed burning of vegetation .....	22
COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND AWARENESS .....	23
Red Hot Tips Advisory Group.....	24
Landowner satisfaction survey.....	26
Red Hot Tips staff.....	30
Key deliverables for the Red Hot Tips program for 2023-24 .....	31
COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION .....	32
SFMC Network Events .....	32
FMAC Communication.....	32
VEGETATION FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING .....	34
East Coast Fire Management Area Committee.....	36
Southern Fire Management Area Committee.....	37
Midlands Fire Management Area Committee.....	38
Hobart Fire Management Area Committee .....	38
Central North Fire Management Area Committee .....	40
West Coast Fire Management Area Committee .....	40
King Island Fire Management Area Committee .....	42
Tamar Fire Management Area Committee .....	44
North East Fire Management Area Committee .....	44
Flinders Fire Management Area Committee .....	45

GOVERNANCE .....	47
References.....	50
Appendix 1 .....	50

## Report from the Chair

Over the last 12 months, a refined focus on strategic objectives has resulted in the SFMC delivering for 2023-2024:

- The SFMC submissions to the Fire Service Act Review,
- The SFMC submissions to the TFES Draft Bill. Submissions supported a principles-based legislation with overarching objectives that guide decision making outlining the vision of the Tasmania Fire Service and government,
- Attendance and input into the Ministerial Working Group for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services funding models,
- The coordination of the industry led, Machinery Operations Working Group, including annual review of the Machinery Operations Guidelines,
- Landowner and community engagement with a roundtable discussion on local champions, fire permits, and Machinery Operations Guidelines,
- Progress on the review of the Tasmanian Vegetation and Fire Management Policy, and Position Paper – Management of smoke arising from prescribed burning of vegetation,
- Strategic coordination of applied fire science, including coordination with the Tasmania Bushfire Research Group, and a Fire Management to Practice Workshop,
- The continuous improvement of the Bushfire Risk Management Framework and annual approval of Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs),
- The review of the Fire Management Areas and Fire Management Area Committees,
- Progression on an FMAC Induction Manual (draft to be finalised end of 2024),
- Significant increase in community engagement with fire and land management through the SFMC Red Hot Tips practical landowner burning program.

The Red Hot Tips program continues to successfully deliver practical burning skills into the hands of Tasmanian landowners. Since August 2020, Red Hot Tips has delivered 604 burns (428 in 2023-24) covering a total area of 12,314 ha (9,332 ha in 2023-24). Program registrations total 309 (268 in 2023-24), with 38 new registrants this financial year. Facilitators have also reached the community through 49 events, resulting in increased engagement and many new partnerships. The commitment of the Red Hot Tips Coordinator and Red Hot Tips Facilitators is demonstrated in these results. Budget management and strategic planning for the next year are strongly focused on building on capacity through community groups and education.

The value of Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) is evident through the collaborative focus and strategic planning for fire and vegetation management within and adjacent to Fire Management Area (FMA)s. On behalf of SFMC members, I would like to thank all FMACs for embracing change and improving coordination and communications. This work has resulted in greater efficiency and communications, as demonstrated in the effective treatment of bushfire risk through Bushfire Risk Management Plans.

Finally, I would also like to thank the SFMC members whose collective efforts have resulted in tangible positive impact, and the SFMC Manager Dr Perpetua Turner and SFMC Executive Officer Christina Smith, for their contribution to SFMC strategic direction and commitment to delivery.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Sauer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ian Sauer

Chair, State Fire Management Council

## About Us

The SFMC is an independently chaired body, established under Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (the Act).

## Our Mission

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

## Our Role

Under Section 15 of *the Act* the SFMC has the following functions:

- a) To develop a state vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning in Tasmania;
- b) To advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of the Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, as 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 2024 membership consisted of:

- a person nominated by the Minister (Chair, Ian Sauer);
- the Chief Officer of Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) (Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, Jeremy Smith);
- a nominee of the Chief Officer (Executive Director Capability and Strategy, Ross Hinkley);
- the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation (Chief Executive Officer, 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 (Secretary Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Jason Jacobi);
- a nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (State Fire Manager, Katy Edwards);
- a person nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association (John Atkinson);
- a person nominated by the Tasmanian Forest Products Association (General Manager, Owen Hoffman); and
- a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (John Fisher).

## Our Members - biographies

State Fire Management Council membership as of 30 June 2024 are detailed in Table 1.

*Table 1. State Fire Management Council members as of June 2024*



### **A person nominated by the Minister**

**Ian Sauer** was appointed as independent Chair of SFMC in October 2014.

Ian is a dry-land sheep and cattle producer from Pipers Brook in northern Tasmania. He brings over 35 years' experience in agriculture, natural resource management, policy formulation, project development, management, and community development.

Ian is also a long serving volunteer firefighter with the Pipers Brook Brigade and has represented community groups at the Local, State and National policy level, as well as being a representative on several National and State committees and boards.

Ian resigned as Chair of the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group in 2023.

Ian is President of TasFarmers (formerly Tasmania Farmers and Graziers Association), is a member of the Fuel Reduction Program Steering Committee and Chair of the Machinery Operations Guidelines Working Group.





### **the Chief Officer**

**Jeremy Smith** is Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Tasmania Fire Service.

Jeremy joined the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) in February 1987 as a recruit firefighter. During his 37 years with the TFS he has progressed through the firefighting and leadership ranks holding many leadership roles, including Director Community Fire Safety, Regional Chief South, and Acting Deputy Chief Officer.

Jeremy has had extensive operational experience in urban and bush firefighting and assisted with the development of the TFS remote area firefighting capability in the early 2000's. Jeremy is currently a State endorsed level III Incident Controller, a certified NIMS type IV and V Commander and Blue Card Incident Commander. He has been deployed to bushfire operations, Incident Management and coordination roles throughout Tasmania, interstate (New South Wales (2001) Victoria (2009), and Queensland (2018) and in North America in 2008 and 2012. Jeremy has undertaken the role of State Fire Controller during the extensive fire seasons of 2013, 2015-16 and 2019.

Jeremy has been the Executive Officer for the State Fire Management Council, the Tasmanian representative on the National Aerial Firefighting Centres (NAFC) Fire and Emergency Aviation Technical Group (FEATG), AFAC Rural and Land Management Group and the National Board for the development of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System. He has made a significant contribution to Bushfire Interoperability in Tasmania through his leadership of the Multi-Agency Coordination Group which has increased Tasmania's capacity, not only to respond to fires effectively across all tenures, but also to maximise the level of preparedness across agencies.



### ***the person for the time being holding, in the Fire Service, an office or position determined by the Chief Officer***

**Ross Hinkley** is Executive Director Strategy and Capability at Tasmania Fire Service.

Ross has 20 years of senior leadership experience in Corporate Services, Governance and Service Delivery areas with a proven track record of managing highly complex strategic projects and operational teams across a diverse range of State Government portfolios.

Ross notes a key achievement as the establishment of corporate 'foundations' to consolidate HR, Finance, IT, Facilities, Audit, Legal Services and Emergency Management arrangements being in place from the start of a new agency, to enable a new agency to target its objectives on solid foundations.

Ross is regarded as a people person with the necessary communication techniques required to manage diverse and multiple stakeholder groups and staff.

In 2014, Ross was awarded the Public Sector Young Professional of the Year in the Public Sector Excellence Awards.

Ross is a member of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System National Board.



***the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry corporation***

**Steve Whiteley** represents Sustainable Timber Tasmania on the State Fire Management Council.

He has more than 30 years' experience in managing public production forest assets and operations.

With a solid reputation for achieving results and adaptive leadership, Steve became Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Timber Tasmania in 2013. He has successfully steered the business into a solid financial footing and is leading business improvement under a sustainability-centric business model.

Steve is a Director of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) and was the inaugural Chair of the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network. He is a graduate of both the Oxford Advanced Management and Leadership Program and the Australian Institute for Company Directors. He holds a Bachelor of Forest Science from the University of Melbourne.

Steve contributed to the 2019 AFAC Review on the 2018-19 bushfires and is on the Fuel Reduction Steering Committee. He is a member of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC) and Chair of the SFMC Research Coordination Committee.



***a person nominated by the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation***

**Suzette Weeding** represents Sustainable Timber Tasmania on the on the State Fire Management Council.

Suzette is a management executive with over 20 years' experience in the Australian forest industry. She has leadership in environmental management, strategic planning, environmental compliance, and environmental certification.

Suzette is Vice Chair of the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Chair of the Australian Forest Products Association: Growers Chamber Certification Subcommittee, Chair of the Gottstein Trust, and Deputy Chair of the Forest Education Foundation.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Botany from the University of Tasmania and is a graduate of The University of Melbourne Advanced Management Program.



***the Director of National Parks and Wildlife***

**Jason Jacobi** is the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

Jason leads the department, comprising Primary Industries and Water (including the Office of Racing Integrity); Biosecurity Tasmania; Marine Resources; Forest policy; Environment; Heritage; Lands Tasmania; the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service; Strategy and Business Services.

Jason holds statutory responsibility as the Director General of Lands and the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, along with the responsibility for the oversight and performance of 31 statutory bodies, trusts, boards and councils, including the Inland Fisheries Service, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, the Forest Practices Authority, Private Forests Tasmania and the Waste and Recovery Board.

Jason has over 30 years' senior executive experience in National Park and forest management across Queensland and Tasmania.



***a person nominated by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife***

**Katy Edwards** is the State Fire Manager with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

Katy has more than 25 years' experience in forest and fire management across Tasmania. In her current role, Katy has responsibility for managing the fire operations of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) to reduce bushfire risk to reserve values, the public and adjacent property. This involves overseeing the management of fire management for over half of the land area of Tasmania.

She has a strong background from the Tasmanian forest industry including with North Forest Products, Hazell Bros., Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (currently Tasmanian Forest Products Association) and Norske Skog prior to her appointment at Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

Prior to commencing with the Parks and Wildlife Service Katy served as the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania representative on the State Fire Management Council for approximately 6.5 years.

Katy has also previously worked in areas of forest policy and industry representation, forest practices and environmental issues, forest management and marketing and contractor management.

Katy has a Bachelor of Forest Science from the University of Melbourne.



***a person nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association***

**John Atkinson** is the TasFarmers (formerly Tasmania Farmers' and Graziers Association) representative on the on the State Fire Management Council.

He is a mixed-enterprise farmer from the Northern Midlands with 20 years' volunteering as a firefighter and officer with the Barton Fire Brigade. John worked in the offshore oil and gas industry for 18 years as a commercial diver and supervisor and shares his experience of risk management and project planning.

With a strong interest in sustainable land management, he sat on the initial Steering Committee of the Red Hot Tips program and is now a member of the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group. He continues to work with natural resource management organisations, including the Landcare Members' Council.



***a person nominated by the Tasmanian Forest Products Association***

**Owen Hoffman** is the Tasmanian Forest Products Association representative on the on the State Fire Management Council.

Owen is the General Manager of Reliance Forest Fibre, which owns and manages a hardwood plantation estate with operations across Tasmania and a woodchip export facility at Bell Bay.

He has over 30 years operational experience in managing native forest and hardwood plantation operations across Tasmania.

Owen is a member of the governing council of the TFPA, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has a Bachelor of Forest Science from the University of Melbourne.

Owen Hoffman's term expired 5 January 2024.



***a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania***

**John Fisher** is the Local Government Association Tasmania representative on the on the State Fire Management Council.

He has over 35 years' experience in land use management for forestry, conservation, and fire management. His qualifications include a Bachelor of Science and postgraduate certifications in emergency management and leadership.

He has demonstrated leadership in land management as Manager Bushland for the City of Hobart, Regional Manager for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Deputy Chief Officer for the ACT RFS and Deputy General Manager for New South Wales Forests. He has major incident direction experience through deployments in Australia and North America. As Manager Bushland for the City of Hobart, he led a program focused on human, property, and environmental values for bushfire threat.



#### ***Observer***

**Sophie Muller** participated on the State Fire Management Council as Observer for the Director of National Parks and Wildlife in their absence.

Sophie Muller is the Deputy Secretary of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and serves as an Observer on the State Fire Management Council.

PWS manages over 800 reserves and 19 National Parks, covering more than 50% of Tasmania's landmass. Under Sophie's leadership, PWS promotes and protects Tasmania's world-renowned parks and reserves, delivers exceptional visitor experiences, and manages a significant portfolio of assets, including licences and leases for activities on crown land. Her extensive experience in environmental stewardship and asset management provides valuable insight to the Council's critical work in fire management and planning.

#### ***Observer***

**Will Joscelyne** participated on the State Fire Management Council as Observer for the Director of National Parks and Wildlife in their absence.

At the time, Will was Acting Deputy Secretary Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

#### ***Observer***

**Darryn Crook** participated on the State Fire Management Council as Observer for the Tasmanian Forest Products Association representative in their absence.

Darryn is the Technical Manager for Reliance Forest Fibre, which owns and manages hardwood plantation in Tasmania.

He has over 25 years' experience in managing native forest, hardwood and softwood plantations across Tasmania. He has also spent time managing plantations in northern NSW and the Green Triangle. Darryn has a Bachelor of Forest Science (Hons) from the Australian National University and is the current Chair of the Forest Industry Fire Management Committee in Tasmania.

Executive support to the SFMC and associated FMACs is provided by TFS and coordinated through the SFMC Manager Dr Perpetua Turner (from November 2022) and SFMC Executive Officer Christina Smith (from February 2023).

## Our Structure

The State Fire Management Council provides advice to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, the Honourable Felix Ellis, and the State Fire Commission (Figure 1.)

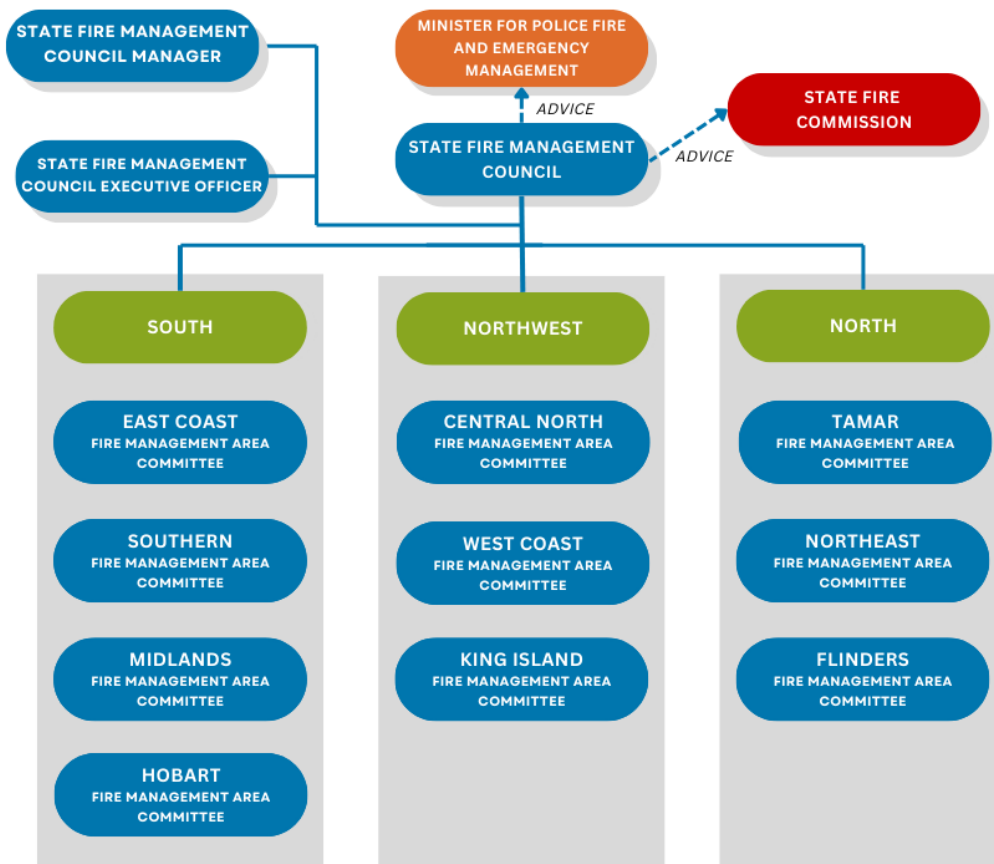


Figure 1. Governance structure of the State Fire Management Council.



## Fire Management Areas

A Fire Management Area (FMA) is a gazetted area declared by the SFMC (*Fire Service Act 1979 s 17(1)*); there are ten (10) FMAs for Tasmania (Figure 2.). Geographic representation of FMA boundaries is most closely aligned with existing boundaries for local government authority, but not agencies such as Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania Fire Service and Sustainable Timber Tasmania. Boundaries also consider risk profile including risk type, management of risk for the area, and functionality in the area. FMAs may include more than one Local Government Authority and FMA boundaries of agencies responsible for fire management.

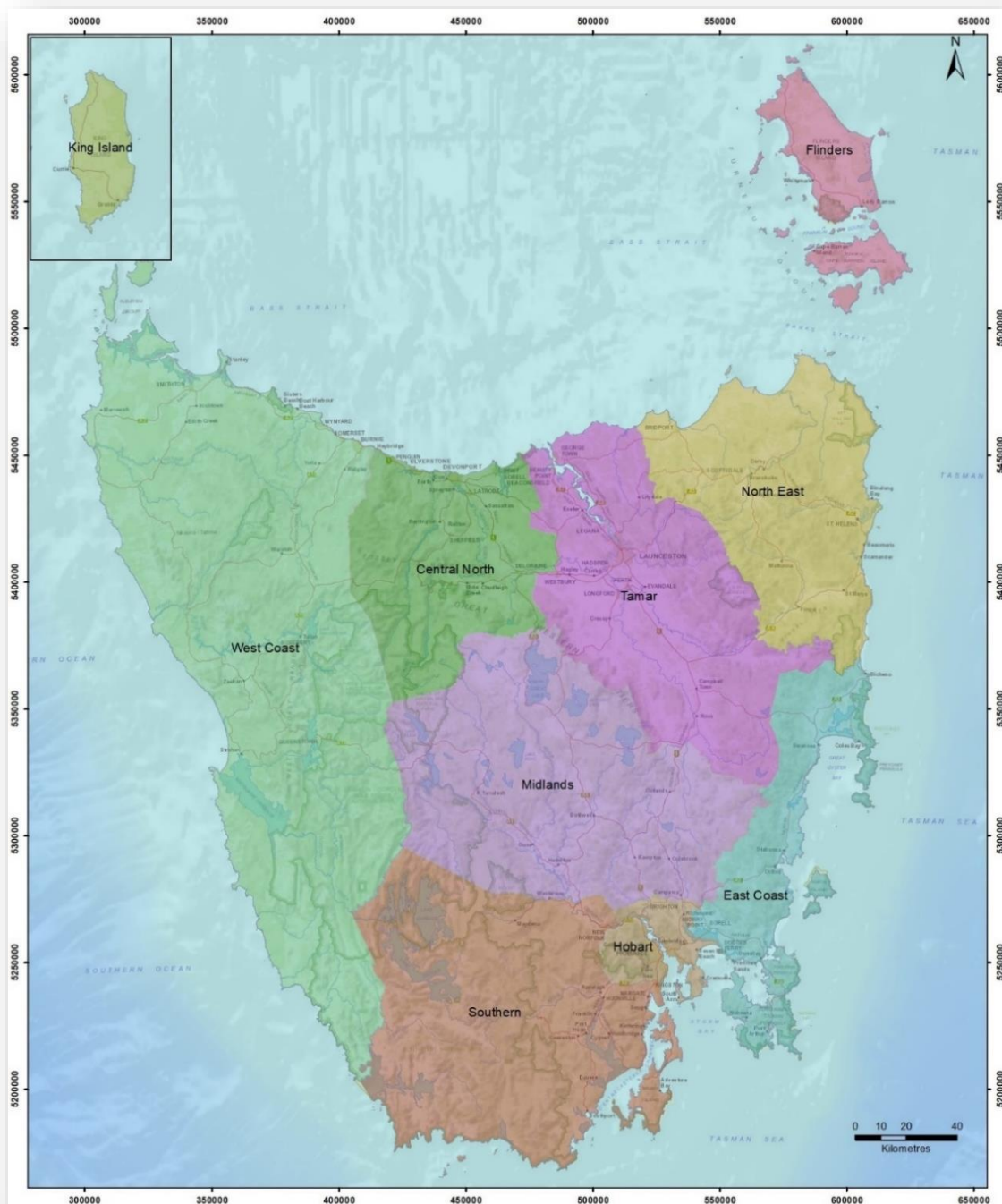


Figure 2. Location of the ten (10) Fire Management Areas in Tasmania

## Fire Management Area Committees

The SFMC manages bushfire risk management across all tenures in Tasmania. This involves coordinating multiple landowners and organisations to work together through a shared responsibility approach to manage bushfire risk. This collaborative approach addresses the individual barriers such as resources and infrastructure that landowners and organisations face when working individually and ensures that strategic planning for fire and vegetation management is consistent and comprehensive.

There are ten (10) Fire Management Area Committees, established by the State Fire Management Council under the provision of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (s 18(1)). Each FMAC is representative of a Fire Management Area (FMA). The FMAC is responsible to the SFMC and is to comply with its directions (*Fire Service Act 1979* s 21(3) & s 21(4)).

The SFMC provides policy, guidance, advice, direction, and day-to-day administrative, managerial and technical support to an FMAC in respect of the performance of the FMACs functions in relation to bushfire management of Fire Management Areas. They also ensure FMAC submitted Bushfire Risk Management Plans are consistent with the [Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines 2020](#), the state fire protection plan (*Fire Service Act 1979* s 8(1)(d)) and state vegetation fire management plan (s 15(1)(a)) and are approved as per requirements of the *Fire Service Act 1979* s 20(1)(c).

### FMAC Purpose

Section 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* sets out the functions and powers of Fire Management Area Committees. The purpose of a FMAC is, *'to provide a forum for effective bushfire risk management for the FMA through a consistent, comprehensive, and collaborative approach to strategic planning for fire and vegetation management, and effective coordinated community education and information, and fuel and fire management activities within the FMA'* (SFMC 2024).

### FMAC Role

Under Section 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* FMACs have the following functions:

- a) to co-ordinate fire management activities within its FMA, including:
  - i) community education and information; and
  - ii) fuel management;
- b) to identify and assess community bushfire risks in its FMA 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 FMA 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 *Fire Service Act 1979* s18(2); FMAC membership is inclusive of those listed, with additional representatives based on the unique requirements of the FMA and considered by the SFMC on a case-by-case basis for approval (*Fire Service Act 1979* s18(3)).

The membership of an FMAC should include an adequate range of stakeholder representatives to enable the committee to fulfill its purpose and perform its functions effectively. FMACs usually consist of representatives from TFS (career and volunteer), Local Government, Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Wellington Park Trust (if included in the FMA), Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, relevant utility companies, and other large key land managers in the FMA.

### **Review of Fire Management Areas and Fire Management Area Committees 2023**

In March 2022, the State Fire Management Council resolved to undertake a detailed review of FMACs with the aim to reduce levels of duplication occurring across FMACs. This decision was made considering response from FMAC members where some were participating in more than one FMAC, leading to a cost-benefit impost on those individuals and their organisations. In a letter to Chairs and Deputy Chairs of FMACs (27 June 2022), the SFMC committed to consultation with FMAC Chairs (and Deputy Chairs) throughout the review process.

The aim of the review was to establish areas that incorporate administratively aligned boundaries and consider bushfire risk and topography, for the responsible management of bushfire fuels across Tasmania in recognition of bushfire risk as a shared responsibility across all sectors in the public arena.

The objectives of the review were:

- a) To evaluate the effectiveness of the current 10 FMA boundaries and associated FMAC structure and function
- b) To evaluate the effectiveness of FMA boundaries and associated FMAC structure and function, as per alternative models
- c) To provide a recommendation to the SFMC.

No progress was made between March and December 2022 due to staff vacancies during that period. FMAC Review Workshops to discuss proposed FMA models and FMACs were held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The report, *Review of Fire Management Areas and Fire Management Area Committees 2023*, approved by the SFMC in December 2023 and endorsed by the State Fire Commission in early 2024. The report made three recommendations:

*Recommendation 1.*

*That the SFMC resource a project and project officer to establish 6 FMAs (Northwest, Northeast, South, King Island, Flinders Island, Hobart) based on Model 3 of this report. This project should include a separate working group to revise the current Hobart FMAC for inclusion with Model 3.*

During the 2024FY, resource planning for a project and project officer to establish 6 FMAs commenced. A meeting of Hobart FMAC and Southern FMAC members held on 12 March 2024 resolved to retain the existing gazetted Hobart FMA area,

*Recommendation 2.*

*That the SFMC by notice publish in the Gazette a declaration of six (6) Fire Management Areas in accordance with Recommendation 1.*

The progression of this recommendation is on hold until resourcing for a project and project officer to establish 6 FMAs has commenced.

*Recommendation 3.*

*That the SFMC consult with FMAC Members to write an FMAC Induction Manual with publication by 2024.*

The first draft of the FMAC Induction Manual was circulated in March. A final draft will be circulated to FMAC members September with a final draft expected to be endorsed by the SFMC by the end of 2024.



## Strategic Direction Framework

The Strategic Direction Framework (2018-2022) guides the SFMC priorities and activities. Due to an extended absence in SFMC management and the review of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (ongoing), a minor review of the Strategic Direction Framework (2018-2022) was undertaken in March 2024. Table 2 below outlines priorities, aims and actions. The results of the minor review were a focus on delivering on key actions across priorities by the end of 2024, as outlined in the last column of Table 2.

*Table 2. Strategic Direction Framework (2018-2022) for the State Fire Management Council.*

Our priorities	Our strategies are to	What we will achieve	What will deliver to achieve our outcomes	Key actions to be completed in 2024
<b>Research and Innovation</b>	<b>Support and promote bushfire research and innovation</b>	A coordinated and sustainable approach to research across private and public sectors in Tasmania Applied and relevant research and innovation is adopted and valued across Tasmania	Coordinate the adoption of research findings and recommendations Collaborate with stakeholders to identify applied research priorities and gaps in Tasmania Facilitate action to support bushfire research and innovation in Tasmania	Establish linkages with the Bushfire Research Group. Organise a forum focused on what bushfire research is being undertaken for Tasmania (tenure-blind).
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Provide evidence based public policy advice and information</b>	Research and innovation underpin policy development Stakeholders have opportunity to inform policy development	Develop and implement a policy framework to support vegetation fire management in Tasmania	State Vegetation Fire Management Policy. Stakeholder consultation and review.  Position Paper – Management of smoke arising from prescribed burning of vegetation. Expert elicitation and review.
<b>Community Capacity and Awareness</b>	<b>Build community capacity and awareness to support bushfire resilient communities</b>	Increased community awareness of bushfire risk and shared responsibility Increased community participation in effective mitigation activities Programs and community information support collaboration across private and public sector	Identify stakeholders and capacity gaps Identify existing programs and initiatives across private and public sector	Commitment to the Red Hot Tips Program.

Our priorities	Our strategies are to	What we will achieve	What will deliver to achieve our outcomes	Key actions to be completed in 2024
<b>Communication and Collaboration</b>	<b>Build and support public and private sector partnerships and collaboration</b>	Communications enhance and develop stakeholder relationships Actively engage with stakeholders Engagement is planned and inclusive	Develop and maintain existing stakeholder relationships	Machinery Operations Guidelines Working Group Annual meeting. Landowner/Stakeholder forum Campbell Town: local champions, fire permit, machinery operations
<b>Vegetation Fire Management Planning</b>	<b>Enable strategic, effective and collaborative vegetation fire management planning in Tasmania</b>	National standards and tools are adopted to support planning and mitigation activities Planning reflects community and environmental priorities and values Bushfire risks are identified, prioritised and mitigation treatments are implemented Engaged and effective Fire Management Area Committees	Monitor effectiveness of FMACs at local and state level Monitor stakeholder inputs into FMACs Develop and implement a Fire Protection Planning Framework and tools Monitor progress and success of bushfire mitigation activities against Fire Protection Plans Maximise influence in land use planning	FMAC Review implementation; FMAC Induction Manual, function and structure of FMACs and FMAC meetings Bushfire Risk Management Plans
<b>Governance</b>	<b>Facilitate efficient and effective governance and resource management</b>	Delivery of SFMC strategic priorities Accountable and transparent decision making and reporting SFMC is legislatively compliant Engaged and active members	Develop SFMC Annual Report Develop SFMC Reporting Framework	Minister Updates SFMC contribution to SFC Annual Report SFMC reporting to SFC SFMC Annual report

# RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

## Strategy

Support and promote bushfire research and innovation.

## Outcomes

- A coordinated and sustainable approach to research across private and public sectors in Tasmania.
- Applied and relevant research and innovation is adopted and valued across Tasmania.

## Key strategic initiatives

- Coordinate the adoption of research findings and recommendations.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to identify applied research priorities and gaps in Tasmania.
- Facilitate action to support bushfire research and innovation in Tasmania.

## Achievements

### Research coordination

Research Coordination Committee (RCC)

The SFMC Research Coordination Committee (RCC) was established in 2019 with the purpose to coordinate strategic research and influence future research within Tasmania, nationally and internationally.

The RCC aims to:

- Develop a coordinated approach to prioritising, managing, and adopting research.
- Coordinate research participation and foster partnerships between stakeholders.
- Provide advice on the expenditure relating to research.

Activities of the RCC include:

- Updating RCC protocol to be more contemporary.
- Engagement with the Wellington Park Trust.
- Identification of capability and incident management structure.

### *SFMC and Tasmanian Bushfire Research Group*

The SFMC joined for the first time with the *Tasmanian Bushfire Research Group* (managed by Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania and Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania) to coordinate the *Annual Bushfire Research Group Day of Talks (28<sup>th</sup> August 2024)*, followed by a *Fire management to practice workshop (29<sup>th</sup> August 2024)*.

The annual, *Bushfire Research Group Day of Talks*, aims, 'to bring the Tasmanian fire management community together to share and discuss results of recent research'. Presentations on fire research are made in person (and cast live online via Teams) to an audience of fire management researchers and practitioners. The event brings together institutions and disciplines involved in fire management and fire research across Tasmania and Australia. Based in Hobart, the event is expected to be attended by ~100 people from a range of organisations and research institutions. Presentations at the meeting are expected from representatives from managing organisations including the Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania Aboriginal Burning Program as well as from Australian National University, Bureau of Meteorology, Deakin University, melythina tiakanna warrana Aboriginal Corporation, Natural Hazards Research Australia, Queensland University of Technology, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, University of Adelaide and University of Tasmania.

The *SMFC and Bushfire Research Group Fire management to practice workshop*, aims to develop a shared understanding of fire research and development priorities, which then can be progressed in a coordinated way. The workshop aims to fill a gap by engaging effectively with fire management practitioners who practice fire research at the coalface, enabling knowledge sharing and feedback that informs future research and research priorities. Dr Blythe McLennan, Natural Hazards Research Australia has been invited to assist Dr Perpetua Turner, Manager State Fire Management Council, to facilitate the workshop. Workshop participants include fire management practitioners from Tasmania Fire Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, Bureau of Meteorology, Tasmania Land Conservancy, Reliance Forest Fibre and Forico Pty Ltd. This workshop delivers the State Fire Management Council's strategic aim to support and promote bushfire research and innovation.

### **Research collaboration**

#### *Fire Ecology Community of Practice (Fire Ecology CoP).*

The SFMC contributes to national inter-government agency research coordination via membership of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) Fire Ecology Community of Practice (CoP). The Fire Ecology CoP is hosted by the National Prescribed Burning Network, an entity comprised of AFAC member agencies in each Australian jurisdiction plus the Forest Fire Management Group (FFMG). The Fire Ecology CoP exists to be a community of practice for the staff of agencies involved in fire ecology field, particularly those providing their agencies with strategic guidance on the ecological considerations associated with prescribed



burning and bushfire response. Fire Ecology CoP membership is generally comprised of staff from AFAC/FFMG member agencies who provide strategic advice on fire ecology to inform and deliver prescribed burns and the assessment of prescribed burning and bushfire impacts. SFMC Manager, Dr Perpetua Turner is a member.

In 2023-24 the Fire Ecology CoP conducted two online meetings which included discussion of prescribed burning science publications, active sharing of information and resources, and collaboration on a SFMC supported and Natural Hazards Research Australia funded project

(<https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/research/research-projects/fire-mosaics-landscape-fire-planning>).



# POLICY

## Strategy

Provide evidence based public policy advice and information.

## Outcomes

- Research and innovation underpin policy development.
- Stakeholders have opportunity to inform policy development.

## Key strategic initiatives

- Develop and implement a policy framework to support vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

## Achievements

SFMC provide opportunity for stakeholders to inform policy and legislative review.

Some of the consultation opportunities for stakeholders during 2023-24 included:

- The Fire Service Act Review
- TFES Draft Bill
- FMAC Induction Manual
- Tasmanian Vegetation and Fire Management Policy
- SFMC Position Paper – Management of smoke arising from prescribed burning of vegetation

The SFMC submission to the TFES Draft Bill is available here <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/State-Fire-Management-Council.pdf>

The SFMC also maintain awareness and provide input into several other State and National initiatives, during 2023-24 these included:

- Monitoring and input into the Australian Fire Danger Rating System Project,
- Consultation on revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Tasmania Fire Service and Forest Industry Fire Management Committee Forest Managers for Management of Bushfires
- Consultation on revision of the Forest Industry Fire Management Committee Fire Prevention at Forest Operations



## Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy

The SFMC has a legislated function to develop a State fire vegetation fire management policy, which is to be used as the basis for all fire management planning in Tasmania. Initially developed in 2009, the Policy was extensively reviewed in 2016 with stakeholders actively participating in the development of a new policy. That process involved the participation of over 190 stakeholders through policy development and construction stages, with a key workshop defining the scope of the Policy. Stakeholders represented a highly diverse group, including fire agencies, conservation organisations, private forest industry, public health, farmers and producers, scientists and traditional landowners. Interaction between stakeholders resulted in high engagement and ownership of the Policy. The Policy was approved by the Minister in early 2017, with a review set for 5 years.

Due to COVID-19 interruptions and subsequent staffing vacancies, review of the Policy commenced in mid-2024. Recognising the extensive process undertaken by stakeholders in 2016, the present review process aimed at first establishing to what extent stakeholders felt the Policy required review (no review, minor review, moderate review or major review) and using this consultation to guide subsequent steps (Figure 3). This initial consultation process was achieved by inviting a wide range of stakeholders to respond to an online survey; this survey established that the Policy required minor review. A report is being developed and will be submitted to the SFMC towards the end of 2024.



Figure 3. Consultation and Policy development process

## **Machinery Operations Working Group**

The Machinery Operations Working Group was established in 2016 after landholders and machinery operators identified a gap with systems concerning the operation of machinery during days of Total Fire Ban. The group was instrumental in developing a proposal based on self-regulation to address issues. Subsequently, the Machinery Operations Guideline was jointly developed between industry and Tasmania Fire Service.

The group provides a forum for communication and collaboration between key stakeholders, offering opportunity for input into policy and systems that support safe machinery operations in dry vegetation. In January 2020, the SFMC assumed the coordination of the industry led Machinery Operations Working Group.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, the Machinery Operations Guidelines Working Group met at Tasmania Fire Service headquarters, Hobart, with members attending in person and online. The Machinery Operations Guidelines were revised against previous fire seasons and use and discussed in terms of the upcoming fire season. Also discussed were the Forest Industry Fire Management Committee Fire Prevention at Forest Operations Procedure and the wording for machinery operations during Total Fire Ban. An outcome of the meeting was revision of Total Fire Ban declaration wording for machinery operations.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, members of the Machinery Operations Guidelines Working Group were present at a stakeholder meeting with the Tasmania Fire Service, held in Campbell Town. The meeting discussed Fire Permits, Local Champions and Machinery Operations Guidelines. Discussion centred the differences of fire behaviour and associated machinery operations between forest and grassland and the need to resolve anomalies.

## **SFMC Position Paper – Management of smoke arising from prescribed burning of vegetation**

The SFMC Position Paper – Management of smoke arising from prescribed burning of vegetation outlines what is meant by ‘smoke’ and ‘prescribed burning’ the current legal environment, and the SFMC position. A review of the position paper includes expert elicitation and stakeholder feedback, with a revision expected in 2024.

# COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND AWARENESS

## Strategy

Build community capacity and awareness to support bushfire resilient communities.

## Outcomes

- Increased community awareness of bushfire risk and shared responsibility.
- Increased community participation in effective mitigation activities.
- Programs and community information support collaboration across private and public sector.

## Key strategic initiatives

- Identify stakeholders and capacity gaps.
- Identify existing programs and initiatives across private and public sector.

## Achievements

### Red Hot Tips

The Red Hot Tips program is an initiative of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC) with support from the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group. After strong success with the initial State Government funding for the 2020-21 financial year, the program secured an additional four years of funding to June 2025.

Red Hot Tips aims to educate, engage and support farmers and landholders in rural Tasmania to actively manage their bushfire risk, encouraging collaborative vegetation fire management and ecological sustainability across the landscape. The primary audience for Red Hot Tips is farmers and landholders who manage large tracts of land in rural areas of Tasmania. Through providing a central contact point and free 'one-stop service', Red Hot Tips successfully guides and educates landholders on matters relating to bushfire risk.

The Red Hot Tips strategic plan outlines four program objectives:

1. *Build capacity and capability of landholders, or groups of landholders, managing large tracts of rural land to take appropriate and informed action to manage their bushfire risk.*

Managing bushfire risk is a recognised component of land management and planning. On-ground, practical advice on effective bushfire management planning, includes obtaining appropriate permits, and developing burn plans and property management plans. Assisting landholders and groups of landholders to understand and navigate the rural land regulatory environment is an investment in building capacity and capability.

2. *Increase the understanding of bushfire risk and the social and environmental effects of vegetation fire management activities.*

With a changing climate, fire and vegetation fire management planning and practice at the property and landscape scale is critical for regenerative and sustainable future land management. Planned burning is one of the most cost-effective methods to manage bushfire risk, either on its own, or in conjunction with other fuel reduction methods. Being prepared for bushfire well ahead of time is important to mitigate potential negative social and environmental effects of bushfire.

3. *Work collaboratively to assist each other to mitigate, and prepare for, bushfires.*

Managing bushfire risk in Tasmania is a shared responsibility between governments, fire management agencies, land managers, landholders, private industry, and the community. Through working together, forming networks and partnerships with neighbours, private industry, government and other programs, knowledge and resources can be shared. This results in more effective and sustainable bushfire risk planning and management.

4. *Vegetation fire management activities are increased and informed by the best available fire ecology research and practical operational and local knowledge.*

To achieve best practice, planning and management should use the best operational and local knowledge, together with scientific research. Successful delivery of fire science to fire and vegetation management practice at the ground level is achieved through a team of individuals whose combined knowledge and skills in ecology, land management, burn planning and fire management operations bring narrow the gap between the ecological practitioner perspective and field manager and landowners experience.

## **Red Hot Tips Advisory Group**

The Red Hot Tips Advisory Group consists of stakeholders with specific knowledge and skills in land management, bushfire management and rural engagement across the state. The Red Hot Tips Advisory Group offers input and advice on the program set-up, design and delivery. The SFMC has strategic oversight of the Red Hot Tips program.

The Red Hot Tips Advisory Group is led by Chairperson, Mrs Sarah Jacobson. Membership of the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group is drawn from key stakeholders from across government and rural landowners (Table 3). Red Hot Tips Advisory Group members are program champions and promote the program within their own networks and communities and support media opportunities as required. They also provide insight into the requirements of stakeholder groups (Figure 4) to ensure the program remains relevant to the needs of rural landowners. This may include:

- the development of program resource content and support tools,
- advice on how best to engage with stakeholders,
- input on how best to market and promote the program, and
- guidance on how to address potential barriers to success.

The Red Hot Tips Advisory Group met three times in the 2023-24 financial year (13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 [including a Planning Workshop]; 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023; 21 June 2024) (Table 3). The Planning Workshop aimed at providing an update on the Program to the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group and invited landowners, delivering results of the Landowner Satisfaction Survey, a review of the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group Terms of Reference, and discussion on Red Hot Tips program including: achievements and areas for improvement; communication; collaboration; opportunities; and strategic planning. A major result of the Planning Workshop was the framework for a Red Hot Tips Strategic Plan.

*Table 3. Red Hot Tips Advisory Group members 2023-24:*

Member	Organisation represented	Meetings attended		
		13/07/23	24/11/23	21/06/24
Sarah Jacobson	Chairperson, Private landowner	✓	✓	✓
John Atkinson	Tas Farmers	Apology	✓	✓
Chris Collins	A/Director Community Fire Safety, Tasmania Fire Service	Apology	✓	✓
Bec Downie	Private landowner	✓	Apology	NA
Katy Edwards	Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania	✓	Apology	✓
Shane Hine	Private landowner	-	-	-
Rob O'Connor	Private landowner/Tasmania Fire Service volunteer firefighter	-	✓	✓
Rob Smith	Private Forests Tasmania	Apology	-	-
Perpetua Turner	SFMC, Tasmania Fire Service	✓	✓	✓

Ms Bec Downie resigned from membership of the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group in June 2024. Bec's dedication to the Red Hot Tips program is demonstrated through her membership since program inauguration, her strong support and advocacy for closing the gap between talking about burning and actually getting the burning done, and for improving burning knowledge and skills in communities. Bec provided high level strategic and practical advice to the Red Hot Tips program, progressed many landowner relationships and established productive collaborations. The Red Hot Tips program is very grateful to Bec for her generous contribution of time and sharing of knowledge.

A review of the membership of the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group is scheduled for 2024-25.

## Landowner satisfaction survey

A 'satisfaction survey' of landowners registered with the Red Hot Tips program aimed at gaining feedback about engagement with the Red Hot Tips Program. Comprising of 14 questions, the survey focused on,

1. Finding out how participants found out about the program, and if further assistance was felt required,
2. establishing the main reason participants registered with the program and how effective Red Hot Tips was in meeting that reason,
3. whether the Red Hot Tips program had instilled confidence to undertake burning, and the likelihood of continuing with the work, and,
4. establishing if the burning objective(s) was met.

The Survey Monkey online platform was used to create the survey. An email was sent to all Red Hot Tips program participants and a link to the survey provided as a URL. The survey was open to participants from the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and data analysis undertaken in July 2023. Twenty-eight responses were received.

The most common way participants said they found out about the Red Hot Tips program was from Industry or Government organisations (26% of responses), word of mouth (23%) or from rural events such as agricultural shows or AgFest (17%). The main reasons landowners engaged with the Red Hot Tips program was for assistance with burn plans, and then on ground assistance/mentoring, with the majority of participants responding positively to the effectiveness of these engagements (Figure 4). Participants who had undertaken a burn with Red Hot Tips were confident and more likely to burn again after the interaction (Figure 5).

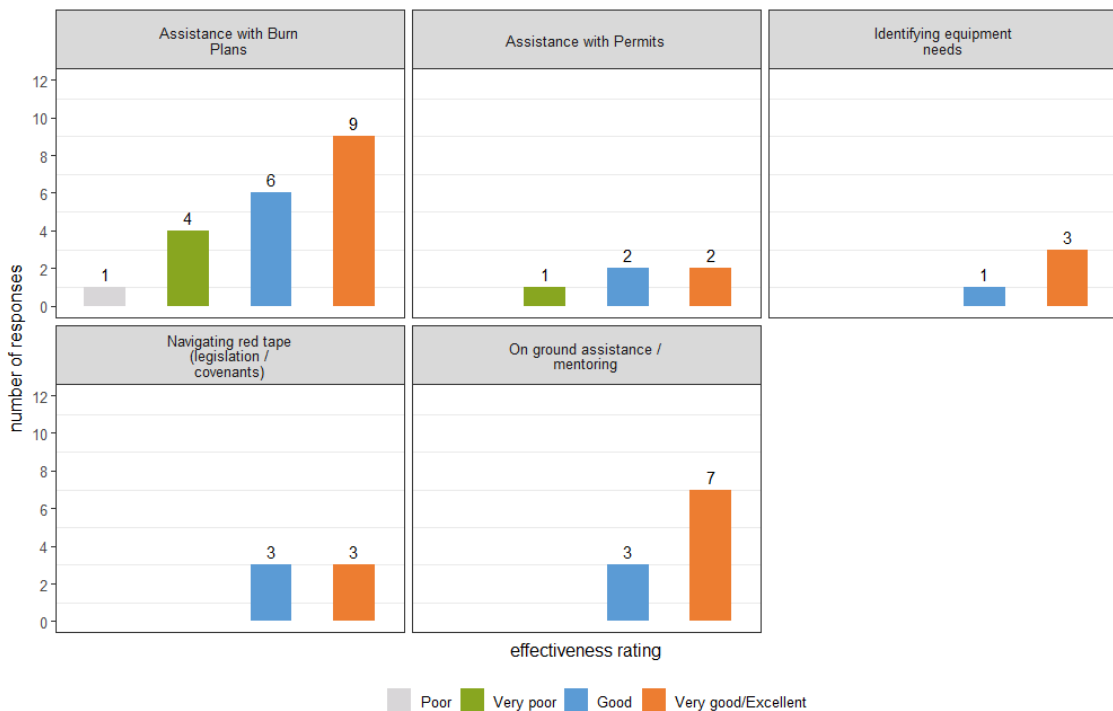


Figure 4. The main reasons participants engaged with Red Hot Tips and how effective they found that engagement to be.

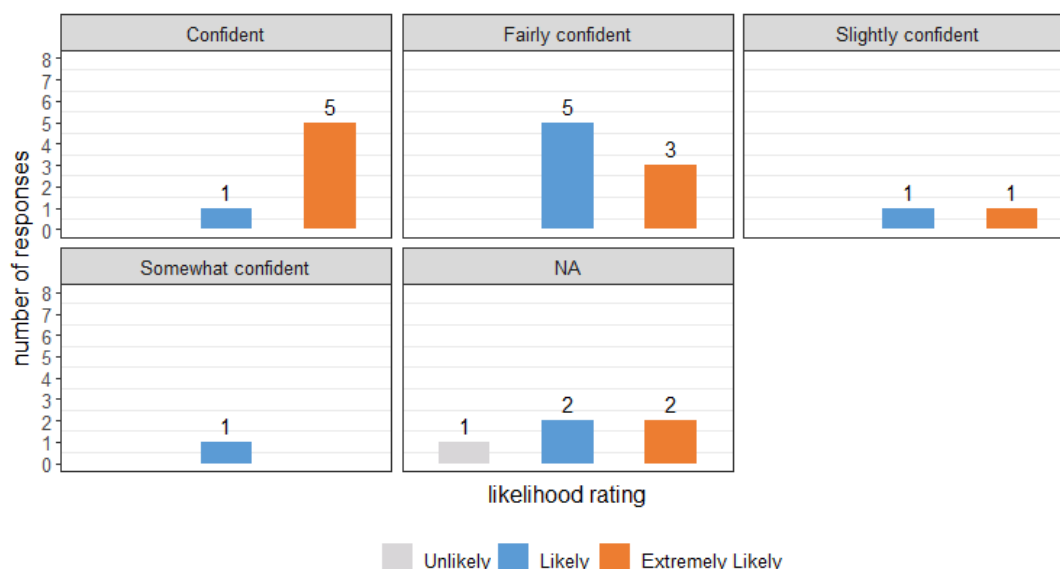


Figure 5. The confidence participants had to burn after undertaking a burn with Red Hot Tips and the likelihood participants would burn again after engagement. NA = participants who had not undertaken a burn.

Most participants said they would reach out to their facilitator if they required assistance with a more complex burn (extremely likely 64.3%; likely 21.4%; unlikely 7.1%, NA 7.1%).

Most participants had attended a burn plan workshop (42.4%) or demonstration burn (15%). For participants (61%), the 'burn objective' was focused on fuel reduction and ecological regeneration. Other participants (17%) indicated that their objective was focused on property bushfire safety, both for their own and their neighbours. All participants who said the burn matched-to-greatly-exceeded their expectations (59%) were likely to burn again after the engagement with Red Hot Tips with 69% saying they could do so with more than fair confidence.

The majority of participants (85.2%) said they would recommend Red Hot Tips to other landowners. Face-to-face, via telephone, text message or email were the preferred methods of communication for participants (90%) with Facebook, the Red Hot Tips website and postal services the least preferred methods (10%).





# Landcare Tasmania Conference 2023



On October 15 2023, Red Hot Tips Advisory Group Chair Sarah Jacobson, and State Fire Management Council Manager Perpetua Turner presented at the Landcare Tasmania conference about Red Hot Tips practical bushfire management.

Sarah spoke about managing a working property for multiple agricultural and biodiversity values, how to use fire to regenerate and promote health, how to landscape plan and manage habitat, and how to educate the community and that seeing smoke is fine.



## Forestry Australia Fire Summit 2023



### Red Hot Tips. Summary

- 3-4 full-time staff
- 306 registered properties across Tasmania
- Program registered landholders together manage an area of 394,426 ha of private land (15% of total private land in Tasmania)
- Completed 604 burns (12,374 ha)
- Mentored 32 burns
- Attended 167 events



RED HOT TIPS  
Practical bushfire management

On June 27th 2024, State Fire Management Council Manager Perpetua Turner presented at the Forestry Australia Fire Summit in Melbourne.



*'My presentation was called, 'Practical bushfire management on private land: Red Hot Tips'. It was a great opportunity to deliver our nation leading Red Hot Tips program to an audience of land managers and fire management practitioners. Their positive response to how Red Hot Tips draws on decades of practical fire management experience to upskill private landowners to better plan against bushfire and land management objectives is testament to the programs success.'* Perpetua Turner

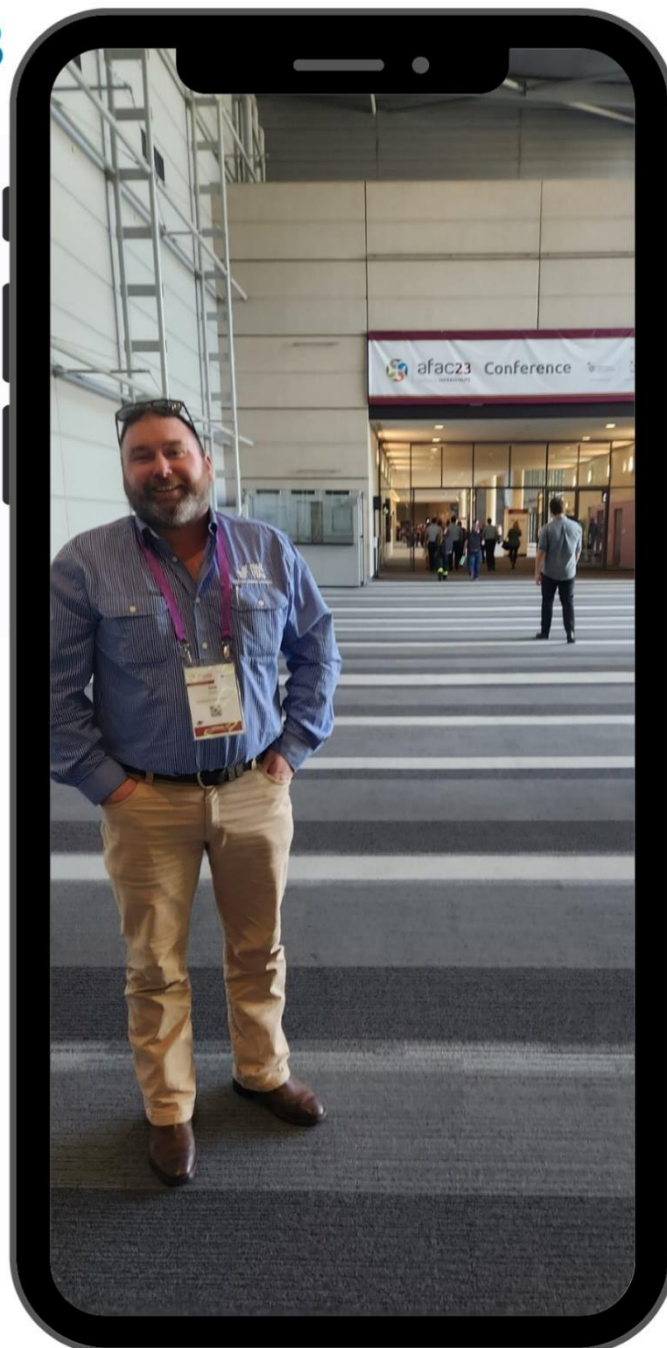


## AFAC 22-25 Aug 2023

Red Hot Tips Facilitator – North Sam Tacey said there was no shortage of inspiring and informative presentations at AFAC23.

*'It was fantastic opportunity to see solutions to common issues in the management of bushfire incidents and prescribed burning from all States. I really enjoyed the demonstrations around adaptations of new age technology such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's) and their use in recovery, intelligence gathering and pre and post burn aerial imagery updates just to mention a few'* Sam said.

*'Of the presentations I attended, I was particularly impressed with Jerry Greyson (Rescue Pilot) Lessons from the past, opportunities for the future which focused on building trust, resilience, and adaptability and how that relates to both emergency services roles and everyday life. I also enjoyed Tonya Hoover (Deputy Administrator, U.S Fire Administrator, FEMA) discussion on the structure and adaptability of the U.S Fire Service and the steps being taken to work globally to build partner relationships to better respond to increasing global emergency response.'*



## AGFEST 2-3 May 2024

Having a regular presence in the TasFarmers tent at AGFEST means landowners get answers to their bushfire and land management questions from the collective knowledge and experience of Red Hot Tips staff – that's over 100 years' worth of knowledge and experience!





Figure 6. Red Hot Tips stakeholders to June 2024

## Red Hot Tips staff

The Red Hot Tips Coordinator directs the program statewide. Three Red Hot Tips Facilitators are responsible for program delivery, with one Facilitator in each of the northwest, northern and southern regions of the state. Staff work to encourage and promote collaborative vegetation fire management across the private and public sector. Through encouraging participation from landholders, or groups of landholders managing large properties, a much-needed gap in fire and vegetation management capability and capacity is filled.



## Key deliverables for the Red Hot Tips program for 2023-24

For 2023-24 progression was made in many areas (Table 5).

Table 4. Red Hot Tips achievements for 2023-24

Objective	Outcome	Measurement of success 2023-24
<b>1. Build capacity and capability of landholders, or groups of landholders, managing large tracts of rural land to take appropriate and informed action to manage their bushfire risk.</b>	Increased community awareness of bushfire risk and shared responsibility	38 program registrations (July 2020 – June 2024 = 306 total or 394,426ha of private land or 15% of private land in Tasmania) 4 Burn workshops (7 total with 80 Participants) 49 Events (July 2020 – June 2024 = 167 total) 20 FMAC meetings TFES conference – booth Landcare Tasmania conference – booth
<b>2. Increase the understanding of bushfire risk and the social and environmental effects of vegetation fire management activities.</b>	Increased participation in effective mitigation by communities	176 registration planned burns (July 2020 – June 2024 = 604 total) 3, 018.0 ha burnt (July 2020 – June 2024 = 12,316.6ha) 11 Demonstration/Mentor burns (32 Total with 80 Participants) 23 facebook posts (91 Total)
<b>3. Work collaboratively to assist each other to mitigate, and prepare for, bushfires</b>	Increased community awareness of bushfire risk and shared responsibility	Partnerships were established and progressed with: Private Land Conservation Programs Covenant program, Poppy Growers Association, Old Mates Day, Dairy Tasmania, Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, Primary Employers Tasmania, Natural Resource Management, Rural Business Tasmania
<b>4. Vegetation fire management activities are increased and informed by the best available fire ecology research and practical operational and local knowledge.</b>	Increased engagement with planned burning publications and landowner technical information. Knowledge sharing through presentation	SFMC and RHT staff shared knowledge with: Private Forest Tasmania, Farmers for Climate Change Forum, SETAC (Cultural burning), Landcare Tasmania, Fire Ecology Learning Network, Fire Ecology Community of Practice

# COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

## Objectives

Build and support public and private sector partnerships and collaboration.

## Outcomes

- Communications enhance and develop stakeholder relationships.
- Actively engage with stakeholders.
- Engagement is planned and inclusive.

## Key strategic initiatives

- Develop and maintain existing stakeholder relationships.

## Achievements

### SFMC Network Events

SFMC Network Events foster relationships and promote knowledge sharing and collaboration between public and private sectors involved in vegetation fire management.

The SFMC hosted a successful Stakeholder Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> of May in Campbell Town between the Tasmania Fire Service and Central Highlands local landowners, of which some were also members of the Machinery Operations Guidelines Working Group. The meeting was to discuss the Fire Permit system and the move to a digital platform, how Local Champions can be sourced during an incident, and improvements required for the Machinery Operations Guidelines to resolve weather monitoring concerns and conditions for grassland vs forest in the rural landscape.

### FMAC Communication

Newsletters provide key messages from SFMC meetings, project updates, consultation opportunities, links to relevant research and publications and upcoming events.

The FMAC newsletter was reinstated in 2018 in response to FMAC feedback. Three newsletters were published in 2018-2019; two in 2019-2020; two in 2020-2021 and one in 2021-2022. There were no newsletters published in 2022-2023 due to staff vacancies. For 2023-24 three newsletters were published: July, December and April. Consultation undertaken with FMAC Members on newsletter format and content in early 2023 resulted in changes including reducing the content to a maximum of 2 pages and moving to using a new platform – Canva, instead of Microsoft Word (April Issue016) to create the newsletter, and compulsory content including FMAC member profiles (maximum of 2 per issue), FMAC member appointments and changes, ex officio staffing position changes, and stakeholder information. Email was also used to update FMAC Members and SFMC stakeholders on progress of the FMA and FMAC Review and SFMC communications.



# VEGETATION FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

## Strategy

Enable strategic, effective, and collaborative vegetation fire management planning in Tasmania.

## Outcomes

- National standards and tools are adopted to support planning and mitigation activities.
- Planning reflects community and environmental priorities and values.
- Bushfire risks are identified, prioritised and mitigation treatments are implemented.
- Engaged and effective FMACs.

## Key strategic initiatives

- Monitor effectiveness of FMACs at local and state level.
- Monitor stakeholder inputs into FMACs.
- Develop and implement a Fire Protection Planning Framework and tools.
- Monitor progress and success of bushfire mitigation activities against Fire Protection Plans.
- Maximise influence in land use planning.

## Achievements

### Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs)

Bushfire Risk Management Plans are strategic planning documents that identify priorities for the treatment of bushfire risk in the FMA. BRMPs are developed by FMACs as required under s 18 and 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

The statutory title for a BRMP in the *Fire Service Act 1979* is 'Fire protection plan'. For clarity and consistency with the objectives of the [Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines](#) and contemporary terminology, the term 'Bushfire Risk Management Plan' is used.

This BRMP aims to coordinate and influence the treatment of bushfire risk in the Fire Management Area. It identifies priorities for the treatment of bushfire risk. Section 20(1)(c) of the *Fire Service Act 1979* states that an FMAC is 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.

The BRMP identifies which organisations or individuals are responsible for implementing bushfire risk treatments. However, details of bushfire risk treatments (e.g. operational plans, burning plans, environmental assessments) are not included in the BRMP; these are the responsibility of the identified organisations or individuals.

BRMPs for all FMAs were submitted to the SFMC by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and an out of session meeting of the SFMC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 the SFMC resolved to approve the plans as submitted (*Fire Service Act 1979* s15(2)(a)).

BRMPs are available at <https://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/publications-resources>

### **Bushfire Risk Management Plans – Risk Assessment**

The design and much data compilation and analysis for the BRMP Risk Assessment is done at the State level, as much of the data is collected and mapped at this scale. This ensures consistency and saves time across all Fire Management Area Committees (FMAC) and is enhanced with individual FMACs checking and validating data as well as filling in any significant gaps. The [Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines\(2020\)](#) include detail on the Risk Assessment process. Identification of areas at risk is enabled through Risk Criteria. Risk Criteria means how consequences and likelihood are classified and quantified. The Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG) were used to guide the Risk Criteria:

The Risk Criteria include: consequences, likelihood measures, control strength and expediency and confidence level. The Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG) bushfire tool automatically calculates the priority rating based on levels assigned to consequences, likelihood, and confidence. These Risk Criteria are used to develop ratings and scores for rows in the Risk Register. Detail on how each of these Risk Criteria is calculated rated or scored in the Risk Register is in the Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines.

The Risk Register and Treatment Plan are products from the bushfire Risk Assessment process that identify priorities and treatments and are central components of the BRMP. These priorities are established from a three-year risk assessment analysis, last undertaken in 2021 for all FMAs. This 2021 risk assessment is currently relevant considering the fire seasons since 2021 and is the basis for the present review of BRMPs.



## Bushfire Risk Management Plans – Implementation Status Reports

Each Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC) is required to monitor progress towards the completion of treatment works listed in the Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP), including the timeliness of the works. Implementation Status Reports providing summaries of progress on treatment actions listed in BRMPs were provided to the SFMC in 2023-24.

BRMP Implementation Status Reports are prepared twice a year, generally following spring (2023) and autumn (2024) by the FMAC, supported by the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire Risk Unit (BRU).

BRMP Implementation Status Reports for all FMAs following spring 2023 were tabled at the 1<sup>st</sup> SFMC meeting for 2024 on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

BRMP Implementation Status Reports for all FMAs following autumn 2024 are ongoing and will be tabled at the 3rd SFMC meeting scheduled for 2024 on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## Bushfire Risk Management Plan Guidelines

The [\*Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines\*](#) were written in 2020 following a process of consultation with two working groups who provided expert and stakeholder input. The guidelines are a technical reference document aimed at assisting FMACs with the development of FMA risk assessments, using methodology outlined in the Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG). The guidelines were revised in 2023 and the updated version is publicly available.

## Fire Management Area Committees Activities

### SOUTH

#### East Coast Fire Management Area Committee

The East Coast BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/east-coast](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/east-coast)

The East Coast FMA covers the whole of the local government areas of Tasman, Sorell and Glamorgan-Spring Bay. The East Coast FMA comprises an area of 393 000 ha, along the east coast of Tasmania, from the Tasman Peninsula in the south to Bicheno in the north.

Low and dispersed human population is evident in the Tasman and Glamorgan-Spring Bay local government areas; 70% of the area's total permanent population (22,000 people) reside in the Sorell municipality. This human population aspect in Tasman and Glamorgan-Spring Bay local government areas correlates with the major land uses, particularly the large proportion of land used for agriculture, production forestry, and conservation. The landscape of the East Coast FMA includes an almost continuous band of dry eucalypt forest stretching almost the entire length of the FMA. This could see a major fire impact a large proportion of the FMA under serious fire weather conditions. Subject matter experts advised that



the risk profile for the East Coast FMA remain largely the same in 2024 as for 2020, due to the lack of any significant bushfires. Coles Bay is an exception to this, with a bushfire in September 2023 and subsequent backburning likely to have resulted in a significant reduction in bushfire risk.

The areas at highest risk of bushfire identified in the FMA by the East Coast FMAC include:

- Towns and larger communities within the FMA, including; Coles Bay, Bicheno, Dolphin Sands, Triabunna, Orford, Dodges Ferry, Dunalley, Nubeena and Port Arthur.
- Broader areas including Nugent/Orielton/Forcett, Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas, and the Buckland Military Training Area.
- natural values and production forests, prioritised according to risk rating. However, these are still being evaluated for treatment, further analysis or monitoring and review.

Fuel reduction burns have occurred around Bicheno, Orford/Spring Beach, Nugent, Eaglehawk Neck, and Nubeena.

## **Southern Fire Management Area Committee**

The Southern BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/southern](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/southern)

The Southern FMA covers an area of approximately 1 million ha and includes three local government areas: Derwent Valley, Kingborough and Huon Valley. The majority of the population is centred around the southern settlements of Hobart, the Huon Valley, and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. Significant populations are located around New Norfolk, with small populations in the Tyenna Valley. Much of the FMA is uninhabited and 73% of the area is public/crown land, most of which is the South West National Park, and 11% is Sustainable Timber Tasmania managed land. Vegetation types with the highest percentage area within the Southern FMA are; wet eucalypt forest, moorland, sedgeland and rushland, rainforest, and dry eucalypt forest.

Due to containing some of the wettest and driest locations in Tasmania, the length of the bushfire season in the Southern FMA can vary considerably. Bushfire seasons in drier locations can run from October - April whilst bushfire seasons in areas of higher rainfall with wetter vegetation types can be limited to period December - March. The majority (84%) of the Southern FMA has been long unburnt since fire incident recording began. 16% of the FMA is noted as having been subject to fire at least once. Approximately 2% of the FMA has been subject to more than 2 fires at the same location.

Communities that the FMAC have identified during the strategic assessment process as being at high risk and as having priority for mitigation actions include:

- Underwoods Hill, Woodbridge Saddle, Woodbridge, Sunny Banks, Cygnet, Birchs Bay, Heeneys Bluff, Range Hill, Gordon, Nicholls Rivulet, Middleton, Gaylors Sugarloaf, Gardners Bay
- Sproules Road, Electrona, Oyster Cove, Red Hill, Coningham, Margate, Kettering, Lower Snug, Snug
- Cades Spur, Leslie Vale, Neika, Sandfly, Allens Rivulet, Longley,

- Southport, Hastings, Sand Hill, Lune River
- New Norfolk, Magra, Black Hills, Lawitta
- South Bruny Range, Adventure Bay
- Huonville
- Strathgordon
- Gordon Power Station
- Shorts Hill, Upper Woodstock, Sherwood Hill, Peverata
- Randalls Bay, Mount Royal, Charlotte Cove, Garden Island Creek, The Pinnacle
- Numerous forest industry assets

## **Midlands Fire Management Area Committee**

The Midlands BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/midlands](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/midlands)

Covering an area of approximately 1 059 000 ha, Midlands FMA is the second largest FMA with two local government areas, Central Highlands, and Southern Midlands. The large area has a low and dispersed population, which correlates with the major land uses in the area: agriculture (54.9% of land is private/freehold), production forestry (11.6% managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania) and conservation (6.7% is crown land). The landscape includes very large, almost continuous bands of dry eucalypt forest.

Human caused ignitions are responsible for most recorded fires in the FMA. However, lightning strikes are an increasing cause of unplanned fires. There have been four very large fires (>10,000 ha) in the Midlands FMA in the past 20 years, occurring at Broadmarsh (2003), Lake Repulse (2013), Gell River (2019) and Great Pine Tier (2019).

The areas at highest risk of bushfire identified in the FMA by the Midlands FMAC include:

- Towns and larger communities within the FMA that are at risk of being heavily impacted by a bushfire. This may be because of their proximity to bushfire-prone vegetation, a single access road, or access roads being within bushfire-prone vegetation. These towns and communities include: Central Highlands shack communities (including those near Arthurs Lake, Bradys Lake and Great Lake), Wayatinah, Kempton, Bagdad, Fentonbury and Campania.
- Critical infrastructure for energy production, including those located in the Upper Derwent Valley.
- Production forest assets with a high value that have been clustered according to bushfire impact (identified through computer modelling).

## **Hobart Fire Management Area Committee**

The Hobart BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/hobart](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/hobart)

The Hobart FMA is approximately 110 000 ha and includes all of Hobart, Glenorchy, Clarence, Brighton local government areas, and parts of the local government areas of Kingborough, Huon Valley and Derwent Valley. The FMA Area is bisected by the Derwent River and bounded on the western side by the Wellington Range and a long urban-rural interface.

Tasmania's most extreme fire weather events are a common occurrence within and adjacent to the Hobart FMA. The bushfire season is variable mostly due to highly variable rainfall across the FMA (e.g. 1600 mm per year on the summit of Mt Wellington; less than 500 mm per year at Hobart Airport) resulting in a highly variable bushfire season with some areas being able to sustain fire for many months of the year. The length of the bushfire season can range from December - March in areas of higher rainfall and wetter vegetation types, and October - April in areas of lower rainfall.

The following areas were identified as high risk for bushfire within the Hobart FMA:

- Fern Tree, Satchell Drive, Mount Nelson, Kingston, West Hobart, Dynnyrne, Lenah Valley, South Hobart, Taroona, Bonnet Hill, Badger Hill, Ridgeway, Sandy Bay
- Glenorchy, Chigwell, Berriedale, Claremont, Montrose, Rosetta
- Rokeby, Cambridge, Howrah, Pilchers Hill, Geilston Bay, Mount Rumney, Bellerive, Mornington, Lindisfarne, Risdon Vale, Warrane
- Old Beach, Gagebrook, Tent Hill
- Dromedary, Mount Dromedary, Clark Stewart Road, Mcshane Hills, Limestone Hill, Granton, Upper Dromedary
- Collinsvale, Fairy Glen, Glenlusk, Mount Hull
- Dulcot, Grasstree Hill, Downhams Hill
- Lookout Knob, Mountain River
- Clifton Beach, Sandford
- The Backbone, Molesworth
- Mount Stuart
- Acton Park, Lauderdale, Roches Beach, Clarendon Vale.

## **NORTHWEST**

### **Central North Fire Management Area Committee**

The Central North BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/central-north](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/central-north)

The Central North FMA encompasses an area of 540 464 ha, with a total population of approximately 82 000, the majority of which situated in the population centres of Devonport, Ulverstone, Penguin, Deloraine, and Sheffield. Transient population is found at tourist destinations such as Cradle Mountain. The FMA contains a mix of fertile agricultural land, wineries, dispersed rural communities, and large areas of national park (including Mole Creek Karst caves and The Walls of Jerusalem National Park which is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area).

Much of the vegetation in the FMA has been highly modified for agriculture; non-native agricultural, urban and exotic vegetation (which includes plantations) are predominant. Fire intolerant highland, alpine and rainforest vegetation is high in the FMA compared to other FMAs. Historical data indicates fire ignitions have been predominately human based, though dry lightning events have ignited fires within the FMA.

Areas and assets that the FMAC have considered to be a priority for treatment in the FMA include:

- production forests to the west of the Mersey River on Badgers Range and Bonney's Tier, west of Deloraine and to the west of Wilmot River to the north of Nietta
- fire intolerant vegetation across the Central Plateau
- Hydro Tasmania critical infrastructure
- Railton Cement Works and waste transfer
- Quoiba, Spreyton, Stony Rise, Eugenana, Tugrah, Miandetta
- Tarleton, South Spreyton, Acacia Hills, Latrobe, Oppenheim Hill, Dooleys Hill, Dinsdales Hill
- North Motton, Mount Duncan, Leven Hill
- Railton
- Marsdens Hill, Penguin
- Heazlewoods Hill, Turners Beach, Brookvale Road

### **West Coast Fire Management Area Committee**

The West Coast BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/west-coast](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/west-coast)

The West Coast FMA covers just over 1.9 million ha and has an estimated residential population of 46, 598 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021). The high diversity in vegetation types in the West Coast FMA is a result of varied elevation, geology, and fire history. Whilst low flammability rainforest and related scrub has the greatest percentage area cover of all vegetation types, many of the remaining vegetation types are medium to high flammability, including of button grass moorland, sedge land, rush land and peatland as well as scrub and heathland. Vegetation is well adapted to fire with the region experiencing a relatively high frequency of fast-moving bushfires started predominantly by dry lightning and burning large areas of the FMA.

Areas of potential strategic importance for bushfire risk mitigation within the West Coast FMA were identified (Table 4). These areas were identified through a process that utilised and combined local knowledge and computer modelling. FMAC members with specific bushfire expertise and knowledge across the area contributed to the identification of both the communities at risk and the broader strategic areas for potential mitigation activities.

*Table 5. Areas of strategic importance for bushfire risk mitigation identified within the West Coast FMA.*

<b>Treatment Area/Asset</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>
Zeehan Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Zeehan and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community. Weed infested land represents a high fire risk to the community and associated critical infrastructure.	West Coast Council, PWS, TFS, and NRE.
Strahan Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Strahan and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	West Coast Council, STT, PWS and TFS
Rosebery Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Rosebery and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	West Coast Council, STT, PWS and TFS
Queenstown Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Queenstown and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	West Coast Council, STT, PWS and TFS
Tullah Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Tullah and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	West Coast Council, STT, PWS and TFS
Burnie Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Burnie and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	Burnie City Council, PWS, STT and TFS
Human Settlement areas from Black River through to Rocky Cape	Bushfires pose a risk to the Shack Communities of Circular Head Council and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community	Circular Head Council, PWS and TFS
Sisters Beach Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Sisters Beach and Boat Harbour and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	Waratah Wynyard Council, PWS and TFS
Arthur River Human Settlement Area and Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Arthur River and adjoining coastal and the threatened ecosystems and associated individual plant and animal species in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area.	PWS and TFS
Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and surrounding landscape	Bushfires pose a risk to threatened ecosystems and associated individual plant and animal species.	PWS and TFS
Critical Infrastructure – communication network, power facilities, water, and transport network.	Bushfires pose a risk to critical infrastructure (through disruption of power) for the west coast region and have the potential to pose significant negative impacts for Statewide critical infrastructure.	Hydro Tasmania, Telstra, TasNetworks, TasWater, Local Government.

## King Island Fire Management Area Committee

The King Island BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/king-island](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/king-island)

The King Island FMA covers all of King Island, an area of 110 975 ha. A successful agricultural industry on the island is a result of fire being long utilised for clearing of vegetation. Approximately 70% of the land mass has been modified for agricultural purposes. This has resulted in the removal of most rainforest and wet forest vegetation types; the reduction in habitat has also resulted in a decline of native fauna.

The high agricultural productivity of the island is a consequence of the organic soils (otherwise referred to as 'peat') underlying the pastures on King Island. These soils are likely to be at least hundreds if not thousands of years old. Peat or organic leaf matter in soils has both a high economic and environmental value but can also be an issue for extinguishment following bushfires. Where swamps have been drained for agricultural purposes or dry out during drought years, peat if exposed to fire can be burnt away and totally and permanently destroyed. Bushfire poses a risk to peat deposits on King Island.

Areas of potential strategic importance for bushfire risk mitigation within the King Island FMA were identified (Table 5). These areas were identified through a process that utilised and combined local knowledge and computer modelling. FMAC members with specific fire expertise and knowledge across the area contributed to the identification of both the communities at risk and the broader strategic areas for potential mitigation activities.





Table 6. Areas of strategic importance for bushfire risk mitigation identified within the King Island FMA.

Treatment area/Asset	Risk	Responsible Agency
Currie Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Currie and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	King Island Council, PWS and TFS
Grassy Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Grassy and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community.	King Island Council, PWS and TFS
Naracoopa Human Settlement Area	Bushfires pose a risk to the human settlement area of Naracoopa and associated critical infrastructure supporting the community	King Island Council, PWS and TFS
Colliers Swamp	Bushfires pose a risk to threatened ecosystems and associated individual plant and animal species.	PWS
Nook Swamp and Lavinia wetlands	Bushfires pose a risk to threatened ecosystems and associated individual plant and animal species	PWS
Pegarah Plantation	Bushfires pose a risk to threatened ecosystems and associated individual plant and animal species Economic loss from potential harvest material	STT
Critical Infrastructure – communication network, power facilities, water, and transport network.	Bushfires pose a risk to critical infrastructure (through disruption of power) for the King Island community	Hydro Tasmania, Telstra, King Island Council, TasWater and TAS Ports
Strategic fire infrastructure.	Access and egress to King Island community and natural values during the event of a bushfire. Adequate separation from radiant heat.	King Island Council, PWS, STT and TFS



## **NORTH**

### **Tamar Fire Management Area Committee**

The Tamar BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/tamar](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/tamar)

The Tamar FMA encompasses Launceston City, the Tamar River Estuary, and the Northern Midlands plains with an estimated population of 106,000 principally residing in the major population centres including Launceston, Beaconsfield/Beauty Point, George Town, Hadsen, Legana, Longford, Perth, and Westbury. Encompassing an area of 859 086 ha, the Tamar FMA includes a mixture of land use types with high conservation or agricultural value. Production in the region is dominated by agricultural and pastoral activities, particularly meat, wool, apples, berries, and viticulture, with the Tamar Valley being one of Tasmania's leading wine producing areas. Tourism, manufacturing, and mineral exploration are also important industries in the region.

The East and West Tamar ridges (either side of the Tamar Estuary) are areas that the FMAC have considered to be a priority for treatment. These ridges have the potential to lead fires into the major population centres or negatively impact minor communities.

Areas and assets that the FMAC have considered to be a priority for treatment in the FMA include:

- Bell Bay, Mount Pelion infrastructure.
- Several production forest coupes.
- Hydro Tasmania critical Infrastructure.
- High value production forests.
- Hadsen, Travellers Rest, Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights.
- Trevallyn, Riverside, Summerhill, and West Launceston.
- Finger Post Hill, Holloways Hill.
- Nunamara, Patersonia.
- Notley Hills South, Glengarry.
- Exeter, Lanena, Grindelwald, Rosevears, Millers Road, and
- Settlers Range, Beaconsfield, Beauty Point.

### **North East Fire Management Area Committee**

The North East BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/north-east](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/north-east)

The North East FMA covers area of 681 193 ha and includes the local government areas of Dorset and Break O'Day. With an estimated residential population of 12 884, the major community centres include Scottsdale, Bridport, St Helens, St Marys, Fingal, and Scamander. This population is transient, with increases attributed to attractions such as mountain bike trails, golf courses and national parks, as well as to coastal areas during summer.

Agriculture, forestry/plantations, and fishing are the predominant industries that form a landscape mosaic with native vegetation. The native vegetation consists of open sclerophyll woodlands in lowlands, heath complexes on coastal plains, inland

wet and dry sclerophyll forest, and some rainforest and alpine and sub alpine complexes on the upper slopes of the elevated terrain. High productivity buttongrass is also present.

The highest priority risks identified by the North East FMAC are broadly defined as:

- Human Settlement Areas: St Helens to Scamander, Bridport/Ockerbys Hill, St Marys, Ansons Bay, Binalong Bay/Humbug Hill, Musselroe Bay, Fingal/Mangana, Mathinna, Gladstone, Baretop/Nicks Hill. Strategic planning to identify risk mitigation activities (fuel reduction burning, fuel breaks, emergency management planning, community education or further analysis of the risk) are the individual or collective responsibility of the TFS, PWS, STT, local government, infrastructure providers and private forestry companies.
- Natural Values: Fire sensitive native species and native vegetation communities. Investigating treatment options is the responsibility of PWS.
- Production forests: forestry clusters interspersed within the FMA, multiple owners
- Mountain Bike Trails: Blue Derby and St Helens mountain bike trails. Risk mitigation activities (fuel reduction burning, emergency management planning) is the individual or collective responsibility of TFS, PWS, STT and local government.
- Campgrounds: Bay of Fires campgrounds. Risk mitigation activities is the responsibility of PWS.
- Collieries: Blackwood, Cullenswood and Duncan collieries. Further analysis of existing risk mitigation measures must be investigated to determine the most appropriate ways to reduce bushfire risk. This remains the responsibility of the colliery owners and the FMAC.

## **Flinders Fire Management Area Committee**

The Flinders BRMP is available at [sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/flinders](https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/flinders)

The Flinders FMA is an archipelago of 52 islands, the of which is Flinders Island, followed by Cape Barren Island/Truwana and Clarke Island. The total FMA area is approximately 206 046 ha, extending from approximately 10 km south of Wilson Promontory in Victoria to the northeast tip of mainland Tasmania. Over half of the Flinders FMA is private freehold land tenure. Flinders Island is home to approximately 900 residents, with a transient population in the warmer months. Agriculture, tourism, and natural and cultural assets are highly valued by the Flinders FMA community.

The vegetation types within Flinders FMA have well been mapped and documented and include heaths, scrub and dry woodlands, dry sclerophyll forest interposed with wet sclerophyll forest gullies, and remnant rainforest on Mt Strzelecki and the Darling Range.

Strategic mitigation plans for highest priority risk assets identified by the Flinders FMAC are either developed and require review or require development. It is envisaged strategic mitigation for the FMA in general will be undertaken/reviewed during the life of this BRMP to further augment risk mitigation activities.

The highest risks identified in the FMA are broadly defined as:

- The Human Settlement Areas of Lady Barron, Whitemark/Blue Rocks, Killiecrankie and The Corner on Truwana/Cape Barren Island. Fuel reduction is identified as a treatment for these areas including fuel breaks and fuel reduction burning. The primary responsibility for conducting these fuel reduction burns and fuel breaks are the Parks and Wildlife Service and Tasmania Fire Service.
- The historical site of Wybalenna. Discussions with the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) will be required to determine the site's values and how to mitigate bushfire risk.
- Communications towers at Mt Tanner, Hays Hill and Walkers Lookout. Fuel reduction opportunities.



# GOVERNANCE

## Strategy

Facilitate efficient and effective governance and resource management

## Outcomes

- Delivery of SFMC strategic priorities.
- Accountable and transparent decision making and reporting.
- SFMC is legislatively compliant.
- Engaged and active members.

## Key strategic initiatives

- Develop SFMC Annual Report
- Develop SFMC Reporting Framework

## Achievements

### Effective Membership

An annual membership audit was conducted of SFMC and FMACs to ensure legislative compliance and the maintenance of a broad and effective membership.

FMACs actively engaged with community and organisations to strengthen membership and representation within their FMA. This saw several changes with new members appointed to FMACs.

### Reporting

The SFMC has a legislative responsibility to report regularly to the Minister and provide advice to the State Fire Commission (the Commission). SFMC provides regular advice to the Minister on a range of issues relating to vegetation fire management.

Reports were provided to the State Fire Commission quarterly along with an annual update for inclusion in the Commission's Annual Report.

This stand-alone Annual Report was developed and is distributed to stakeholders, highlighting the accomplishments of the SFMC each financial year.

## Fire Permit Officers

The SFMC has a legislative responsibility to appoint Fire Permit Officers under Section 65 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

On 1 October 2022, all Fire Permit Officers were reappointed as part of the Fire Permit Officer project. For the data in Figure 7, the appointment of new Fire Permit Officers is only included on this date, not the existing appointments.

During 2023-24, the SFMC:

- appointed 25 Fire Permit Officers (Figure 7); and,
- rescinded 34 Fire Permit Officers (Figure 8).

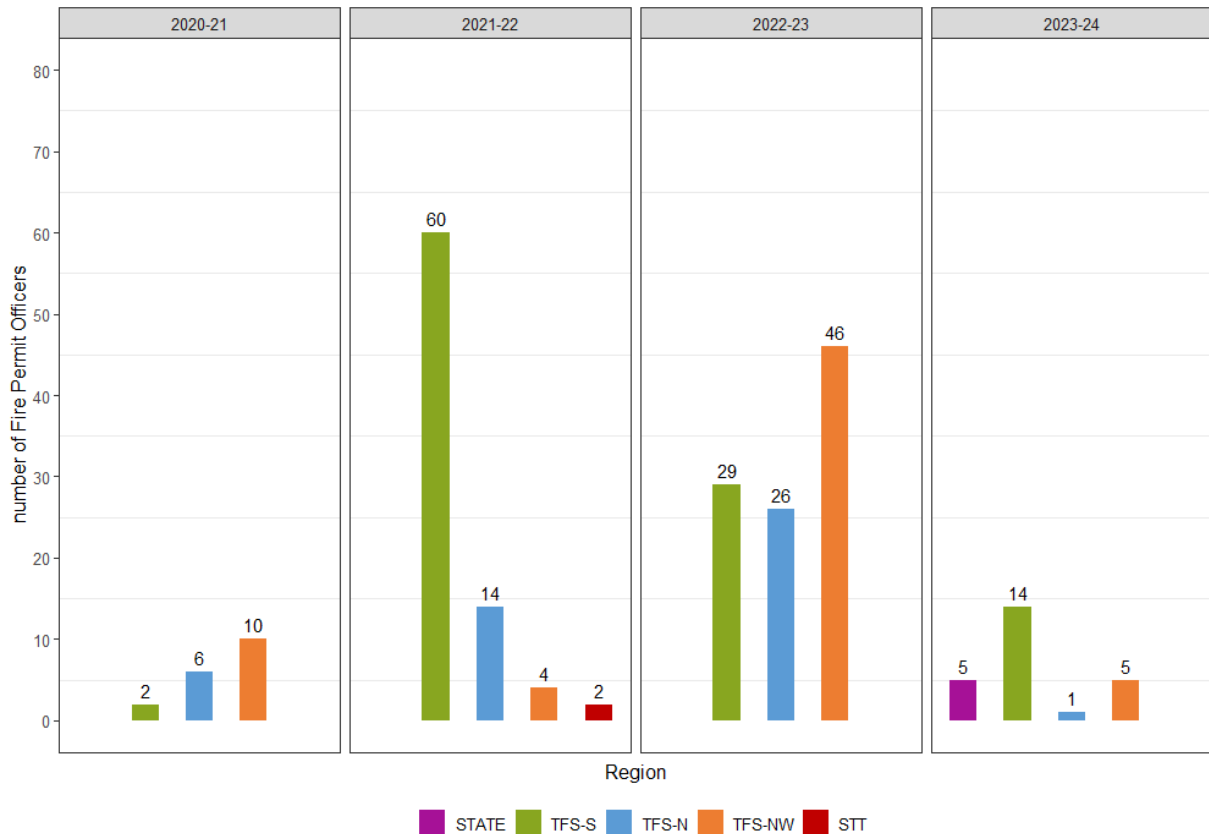


Figure 7. Fire Permit Officer appointments from July 1 2020 to June 30 2024

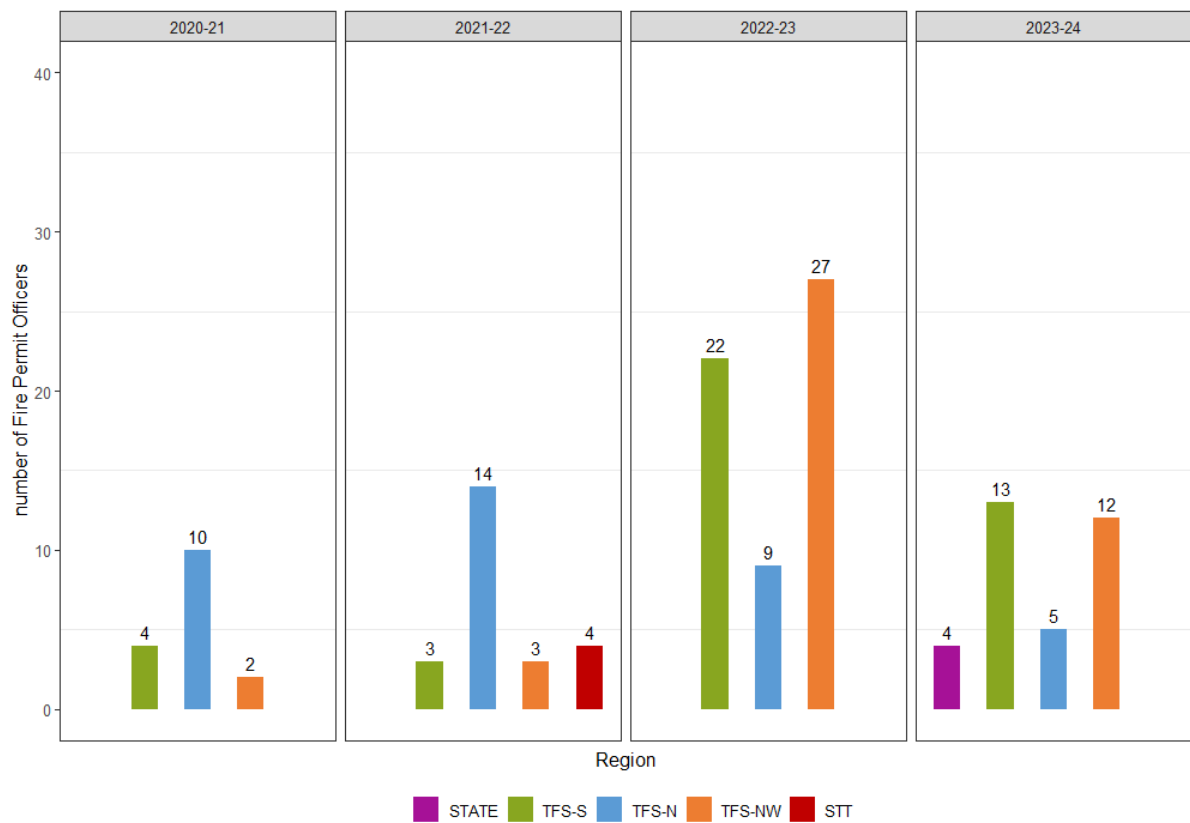


Figure 8. Fire Permit Officer rescindments from July 1 2020 to June 30 2024



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## Appendix 1

GLOSSARY	
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
FMA	Fire Management Area
FMAC	Fire Management Area Committee
FPP	Fire Protection Plan
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
SFMC	State Fire Management Council
STT	Sustainable Timber Tasmania
TFGA	Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service
the Act	<i>Fire Service Act 1979</i>
the Commission	State Fire Commission

