



Sandra Whight
CHAIR

State Fire Management Council

SFMC website

The website has
had a makeover.

Check it out

<https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/>

SFMC Update

The new Chair of SFMC is Sandra Whight. Sandra Whight was appointed Chairperson of the State Fire Management Council in May 2025.

Sandra is a highly motivated leader with experience developing and implementing innovative public policy. Sandra provides strategic collaborative leadership across industry and governments to improve the safety of communities from fire and natural hazard related emergencies.

Sandy is experienced leading change through organisations, applying scientific research to meet operational objectives, and incorporating risk management principles implementing a broad range of strategies to complex fire, natural hazard and landscape management problems.

SFMC Member - Steve Whiteley

Chief Executive Officer Steve Whiteley has retired from his role at Sustainable Timber Tasmania, concluding his membership of the SFMC. Steve leaves behind a legacy of more than 40 years of dedicated service to Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the broader forestry industry.

The SFMC extends deepest gratitude to Steve for his outstanding service and long-standing commitment to the State Fire Management Council.

Greg Hickey has been appointed as A/Chief Executive Officer, effective from 1 July 2025 and will assume the membership position vacated by Steve.

SFMC Manager

Perpetua (Pep) Turner will be continuing in her role as A/Assistant Director - BRM until 26 September 2025. Christina Smith will assist with Manager duties in the meantime.

UPCOMING Events

AFAC25, Perth

Tuesday 26 - Thursday 29 August 2025

<https://www.afacconference.com.au/>

Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2025

Wednesday 27 - Thursday 28 August 2025

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/events>

National Bushfire Conference 2025, Victoria

Wednesday 5 - Friday 7 November 2025

https://www.nature.org.au/bushfire_conference_2025

International conference on Water, Energy and Environmental Management - 16 December 2025

<https://internationalconferencealerts.com/australia/ecology>

8th International Fire Behaviour & Fuels Conference

Hobart, 28 April - 01 May 2026

<https://firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com/>

People Movements

FLINDERS FMAC

Brendon (Buck) Brown - ALCT

(Cape Barren Island Representative)

NORTH EAST FMAC

Sam Bouwman - Parks & Wildlife Services

(replacing Bernard Plumpton)

WEST COAST FMAC

Sourav Majumder - West Coast Council

(replacing Aaron Stewart)

FMAC meetings - Round 2

North East - Tamar - 7 October 2025

King Island - 14 October 2025

Central Nth - West Coast - 21 October 2025

Flinders - 28 October 2025

East Coast - Midlands - 4 November 2025

Hobart - Southern - 11 November 2025



FMAC PROFILE Sam Bouwman

CHAIR
North East-Tamar FMACs

I grew up in Inverleigh, located in western Victoria, and made my way to Tasmania in 2006 to attend the UTAS Hobart Campus, where I met my wife. After completing our university studies, we returned to Victoria, where I began my career in Fire Management, working with both the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria.

In 2018, my wife and I relocated back to Tasmania, where I joined the Bushfire Risk Unit at the TFS, holding various positions for the next three years.

I then transitioned to an Emergency Management role at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE Tas) for a year, before moving to PWS, where I currently serve as the Fire Management Officer for the Northern Region.



Outside of my professional life, my greatest joy is spending time with my daughter, Izzy. I also enjoy hitting the gym and soaking up the outdoors as much as I can, although that can be challenging here in Tasmania! When I find myself indoors, I love to immerse myself in reading, particularly fantasy novels, as a way to escape from the pressures of the world.



RED HOT TIPS

Successfully undertaking a fuel reduction burn isn't something that can be rushed. It takes planning, effort, and the right advice.



*Landowner Dee Mills is a great example of how to do it right. Dee first connected with the program by attending a **FREE** Planned Burn Writing Workshop in St Helens. Since then, she's made the most of what the Red Hot Tips Program has to offer.*

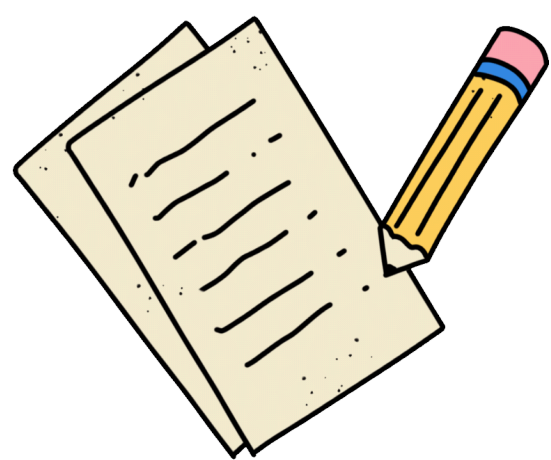
This included:

- Signing up to the Red Hot Tips program.
- Participating in a recent training burn in the state's north.
- Organising site visits to define her burn objectives.
- Writing and producing a burn plan.
- Receiving advice on suitable equipment for her property.
- Engaging contractors to slash boundaries and breaks onsite to ensure blocks were achievable in size with the available resources.
- Making fuel reduction a family priority for the property.



The Red Hot Tips team have really enjoyed working alongside Dee over the past year and look forward to continuing to support her - and others like her.

Interested in the same **FREE** service? Reach out to:
RedHotTips@fire.tas.gov.au OR via
<https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/red-hot-tips/>



Bushfire Risk Unit

by Bernard Plumpton and Denna Kingdom



Strategic Bushfire Management Plans

Planning Officers from the Bushfire Risk Unit are preparing Strategic Bushfire Management Plans for several localities across the state. The intent of these plans is to reduce bushfire risk across the designated plan area, and by doing so, reduce the likelihood of bushfire impacts on people, critical infrastructure, environmental values, and other community assets.

The plans are developed to guide and support bushfire mitigation efforts within the area.

They will:

- Identify areas within the landscape where fuel reduction should be prioritised
- Outline strategic mitigation activities to be implemented
- Identify locations where additional fire management infrastructure (fire trails, fuel breaks etc) is required

Strategic Bushfire Management Plans aim to establish a structured, strategic framework that reduces bushfire risk to priority communities and assets through coordinated and proactive bushfire management. The plans take a **tenure-blind approach** meaning implementation will require collaboration by land managers and relevant stakeholders.

By implementing this plan, fire agencies will be better positioned to protect life and property and improve suppression capabilities through:

- Lower potential head fire intensity and radiant heat levels
- Reduced rates of fire spread
- Decreased risk of ember attack
- Reduced likelihood of long-range spotting
- Improved access for fire suppression operations
- Strengthened containment opportunities

The plans identify:

- Defined **Fire Management Zones**
- Logical **Fuel Management Units**
- Mapping of **Existing Strategic Fire Infrastructure**
- Identification of **Future Infrastructure Requirements**

The identification of fire management zones is an important part of the planning process. The zones identify where specific fire management objectives should be achieved to increase protection to priority communities and assets and suppression capabilities. The two types of fire management zones are detailed within Strategic Fire Management Plans:

- Asset Protection Zone
- Strategic Fire Management Zone

Planners from each region will work with local government, land management agencies, utility providers and FRP partner agencies in the development of the plans.

Plans are currently being prepared for:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Flinders Island | • Wellington Range North |
| • Devonport | • Wellington Range South |
| • St Helens/Beaumaris | • Margate |
| • Hobart - Glenorchy | • Huonville East |
| | • Bicheno |

If you have any questions regarding Strategic Fire Management Plans, please contact:

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