



Annual Report 2024-25



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Statement of Compliance

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 15(1)(f) of the Fire Service Act 1979, I hereby submit for your information, and presentation to Parliament, the annual report of the State Fire Management Council for the year ending 30 June 2025.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with provisions of the Fire Service Act 1979.

S. Whight

Sandra Whight
CHAIR, STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
1 October 2025



Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management



Report from the Independent Chair

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the State Fire Management Council for 2024-25.

Our Strategy

To facilitate efficient and effective governance and resource management.

Outcomes

- Delivery of SFMC strategic priorities.
- Accountable and transparent decision making and reporting.
- Ensuring we are legislatively compliant.
- Comprise of engaged and active members.

Key strategic initiatives

- Develop SFMC Annual Report
- Develop SFMC Reporting Framework
- Develop the new working group Fire Management to Research Group
- The continuous improvement of the Bushfire Risk Management Framework and annual approval of Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs),
- Significant increase in community engagement with fire and land management through the SFMC **Red Hot Tips** practical landowner burning program.

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.


The Red Hot Tips program continues to successfully deliver practical burning skills into the hands of Tasmanian landowners. In 2024-25, 17 farmers and private landholders registered with the Red Hot Tips program, bringing total participants to 326. Red Hot Tips program participants completed 324 planned burns (up 41% compared to 2023-24), covering over 4,350 ha (up 25% compared to 2023-

24), of privately managed land. Participants manage over 384,400 ha of private land (~15% of private land in Tasmania).

Facilitators have also reached the community through 15 events/shows, 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.

Finally, I would 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,



Sandra Whight

Chair, State Fire Management Council
1 October 2025

Governance

The SFMC is an independently chaired body, established under Section 14 of the Fire Service Act (the Act), Section 14. Our Mission is to enhance the efficient management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania to protect life, property, and significant community values.

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.

Membership

Under Section 14 of the Act the members of the SFMC comprise:

- a person nominated by the Minister – **Sandra Whight**
- the Chief Officer of Tasmania Fire Service – **Jeremy Smith**
- a nominee of the Chief Officer – **Andrea Heath**
- the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation – **Steve Whiteley**
- a nominee of the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation – **Suzette Weeding**
- the Director of National Parks and Wildlife – **Jason Jacobi**
- a nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife – **Katy Edwards**
- a person nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association – **John Atkinson**
- a person nominated by the Tasmanian Forest Products Association – **Owen Hoffman**
- a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania – **Amy Roberston**



Sandra Whight

Sandra Whight was appointed as independent Chair of the State Fire Management Council in May 2025.

An independent Chair is appointed by the Minister to the SFMC as per Fire Service Act 1979 14(2)(a) a person nominated by the Minister.

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.

Sandra 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.



Jeremy Smith

Jeremy commenced his service with the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) in 1987 as a recruit Firefighter and has progressed through the ranks. In June 2024, after a period as Acting Chief Officer, Jeremy was appointed as the inaugural Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.

Jeremy contributes extensively to the fire and emergency management sector on a National and International basis through his participation and leadership in a range of forums and for his lengthy, committed and dedicated service he was awarded the National Medal in 2002 and was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in 2017.



Andrea Heath

Andrea Heath has senior leadership experience in emergency management and strategic development across Government, the not-for-profit sector, and as a consultant.

Committed to providing ethical leadership that develops people and enhances organisational capability, Andrea has previously held senior executive roles in the COVID-19 response, SES, and Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Within her current role as Executive Director - Strategy and Capability, Andrea is responsible for setting and delivering strategic priorities, policies and programs to improve the safety of Tasmanians from fires and other emergencies.

Andrea also provides leadership to the Community Fire Safety Division, Office of the Commissioner, Training Services, Workforce Planning and the strategic project Digital Fire Permit Review.



Steve Whiteley

Steve 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.

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.



Suzette Weeding

Suzette 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.



Jason Jacobi

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

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.



Katy Edwards

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.

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.



John Atkinson

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.



Owen Hoffman

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.



Amy Robertson
(from 20 January 2025)

Amy is a Councillor at Huon Valley Council, bringing the perspective of a rural community together with governance skills from the front line of land management planning.

Amy's several decades of experience in forest and fire management in Victoria and Tasmania has included fire roles ranging from driving a D1 rakehoe to being a planning officer in campaign bushfires. Amy also experienced the 2019 Riveaux fire as a community member.

With expertise in both the Planning Scheme and the Forest Practices system, Amy is passionate about integrating policy solutions with community engagement and support. She is open-minded about both the challenges and opportunities ahead, but firmly believes that communication and collaboration will be necessary tools to find the solutions we need.



Sophie Muller
Observer

Sophie 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.



Chris Collins
Observer

Chris Collins is the Acting Director of Community Fire Safety at the Tasmania Fire Service and serves as an Observer on the State Fire Management Council.

The Community Fire Safety Division, delivers a comprehensive suite of programs and services across Tasmania, aimed at reducing fire risk in homes, workplaces, and the broader landscape.

With more than 25 years of experience in fire and emergency management, Chris is a nationally recognised leader known for his contributions to innovation in bushfire risk mitigation and emergency management. He brings deep technical expertise and proven leadership to his work, supported by formal qualifications including a Bachelor of Science, Graduate Diploma in Bushfire Protection, Graduate Certificate in Business, and a Diploma in Firefighting Management.

| Previous membership positions held during 2024-25 recruitment process | | |
|---|---|---|
| <i>a person nominated by the Minister</i> | <i>a nominee of the Chief Officer</i> | <i>a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania</i> |
| Ian Sauer (up to 7 February 2025) | Michael Jones (12 August 2024 to 4 April 2025) | John Fisher (up to 10 January 2025) |
| | Scott Wilson-Haffenden (1 June 2024 to 9 August 2024) | |
| Executive support to the SFMC and associated FMACs is provided by the Tasmania Fire Service and coordinated through the SFMC Manager Dr Perpetua Turner and SFMC Executive Officer Christina Smith. | | |

Achievements

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 State Fire Commission 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*.

During 2024-25, the SFMC appointed:

33 Fire Permit Officers and;

rescinded 53 Fire Permit Officers.

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.

Our Structure



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. The table 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.

| Our priorities | Our strategies are to | What we will achieve | What will deliver to achieve our outcomes | Key actions to be completed in 2025 |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Research and Innovation | Support and promote bushfire research and innovation | 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). |
| Policy | Provide evidence based public policy advice and information | 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. |

| Our priorities | Our strategies are to | What we will achieve | What will deliver to achieve our outcomes | Key actions to be completed in 2025 |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Community Capacity and Awareness | Build community capacity and awareness to support bushfire resilient communities | 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. |
| Communication and Collaboration | Build and support public and private sector partnerships and collaboration | 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 |

| Our priorities | Our strategies are to | What we will achieve | What will deliver to achieve our outcomes | Key actions to be completed in 2025 |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Vegetation Fire Management Planning | Enable strategic, effective and collaborative vegetation fire management planning in Tasmania | <p>National standards and tools are adopted to support planning and mitigation activities</p> <p>Planning reflects community and environmental priorities and values</p> <p>Bushfire risks are identified, prioritised and mitigation treatments are implemented</p> <p>Engaged and effective Fire Management Area Committees</p> | <p>Monitor effectiveness of FMACs at local and state level</p> <p>Monitor stakeholder inputs into FMACs</p> <p>Develop and implement a Fire Protection Planning Framework and tools</p> <p>Monitor progress and success of bushfire mitigation activities against Fire Protection Plans</p> <p>Maximise influence in land use planning</p> | <p>FMAC Review implementation; FMAC Induction Manual, function and structure of FMACs and FMAC meetings</p> <p>Bushfire Risk Management Plans</p> |
| Governance | Facilitate efficient and effective governance and resource management | <p>Delivery of SFMC strategic priorities</p> <p>Accountable and transparent decision making and reporting</p> <p>SFMC is legislatively compliant</p> <p>Engaged and active members</p> | <p>Develop SFMC Annual Report</p> <p>Develop SFMC Reporting Framework</p> | <p>Minister Updates</p> <p>SFMC contribution to SFC Annual Report</p> <p>SFMC reporting to SFC</p> <p>SFMC Annual report</p> |

Vegetation Fire Management Planning

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.

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.

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.



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 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.

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 Induction Manual



FMAC Induction Manual

The first draft of the FMAC Induction Manual was circulated in March 2024. A final draft was circulated to FMAC members in September 2024 with endorsement by the SFMC on the 29 November 2024.

All FMAC stakeholders received a copy of the manual in 2025. For further improvement a review is planned in 2026 utilising the feedback received during the 2025-26 period.

Part 1 of the manual describes the purpose, function and responsibilities of the FMAC and FMAC membership.

Part 2 provides guidance on the FMAC governance and business processes.

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

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.

Fire Management to Research Working 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 August 2024)*, followed by a *Fire management to practice workshop (29 August 2024)*. The idea for a Workshop focused on fire management practice to research came about after discussions between the organising committee of the Bushfire Research Group Day of Talks and the State Fire Management Council, and the joint desire for a knowledge-sharing meeting of Tasmanian fire management practitioners. This workshop delivered the State Fire Management Council's strategic aim to support and promote bushfire research and innovation.

A report outlining the aims and outcomes of this workshop was endorsed by the SFMC in May 2025, with a recommendation to establish a Working Group, the Fire Management to Research Working Group. This working group replaces the SFMC Research Coordination Group. The aim of the workshop is to provide expert overview and analysis of Tasmanian fire management practices to inform current and future research and development priorities and investment in Tasmania.

A Terms of Reference is being drafted by the Working Group. Terms of Reference will focus on key functions and desired outcomes and be kept simple without too much bureaucracy.





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 2024-25 the Fire Ecology CoP conducted one online meeting which included discussion of fire severity mapping for K'grai (Fraser Island world heritage area) by Dr Rhonda Melzer.





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 2024-25 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/wpcontent/uploads/2023/11/State-Fire-Management-Council.pdf>

Review of Fire Management Areas and Fire Management Area Committees 2024

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.

After the success of a trial joint meeting between North East and Tamar FMACs, SFMC consulted with other FMACs to engage in joint meetings. This resulted in a reduction from ten FMAC meetings to six with King Island FMAC and Flinders FMAC remaining independent.

This improved structure of FMACs has resulted in the highest level of stakeholder engagement, meeting attendance and productivity to date.

The final draft of the Induction Manual was resolved to be endorsed by the SFMC in November 2024 and was distributed to FMAC members in 2025.

The SFMC also maintain awareness and provide input into several other State and National initiatives, during 2024-25 these included:

- Monitoring and input into the Australian Fire Danger Rating System Project.
- 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.

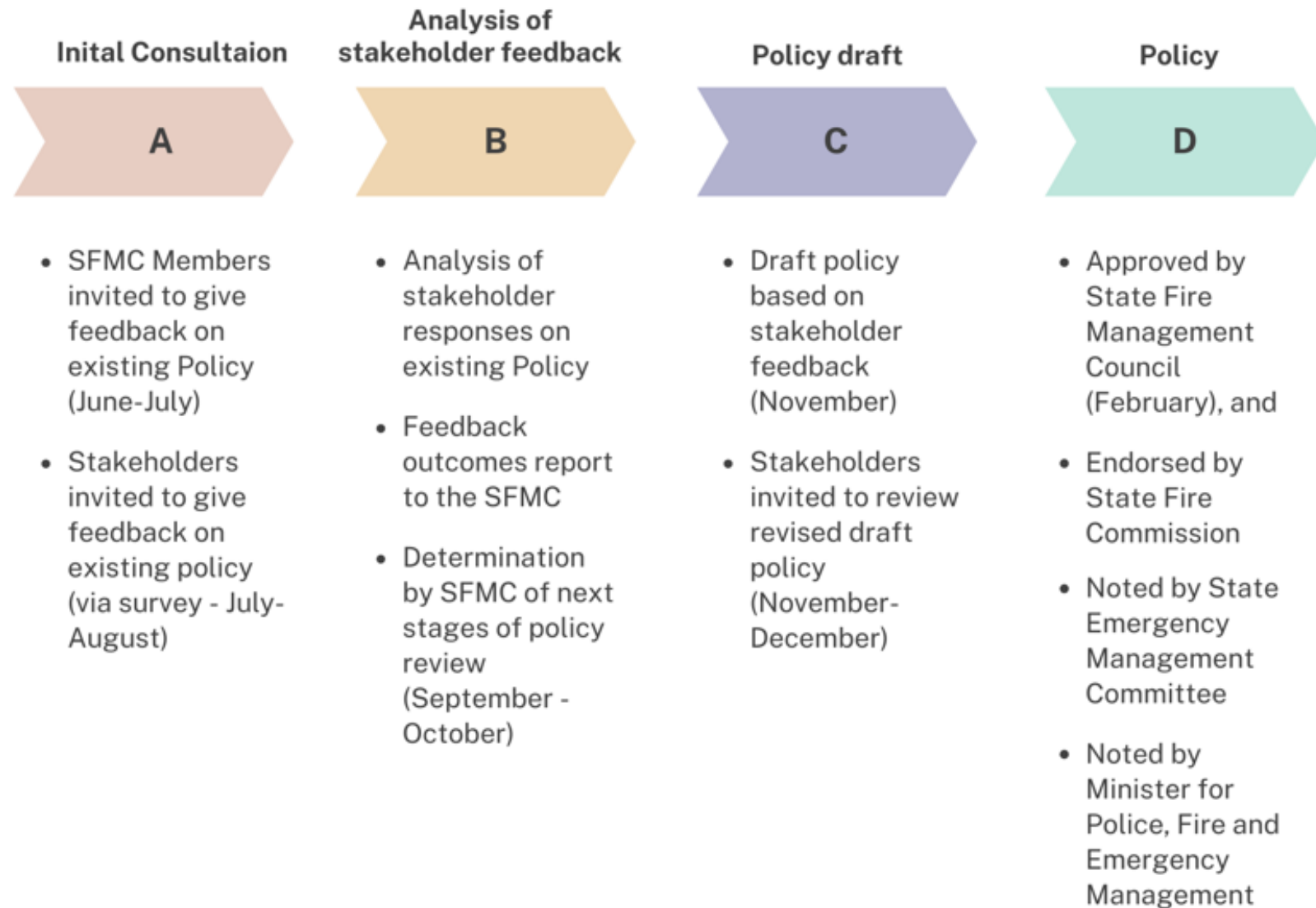
Stakeholders represented a highly diverse group, including fire agencies, conservation organisations, private forest industry, public health, farmers and producers, scientists and traditional landowners. Interaction between stakeholders resulted in high engagement and ownership of the Policy. The Policy 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

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 was developed and submitted to the SFMC at the end of 2024. SFMC resolved to approve the policy in March 2025 and it is currently waiting for endorsement by the State Fire Commission. The policy will then be sent to the State Emergency Management Committee and the Minister for Police Fire and Emergency Management for noting.



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.

In 2025 the SFMC approved the recommendation for the Machinery Operations Working Group to convene annually prior to the fire season. In addition, the SFMC have endorsed a formal review of the existing Machinery Operations Guidelines.

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 commenced in 2024 and included expert elicitation and stakeholder feedback. The paper was finalised as top cover principal level and was sent to SFMC members for endorsement in 2025.

RED HOT TIPS

Program in action



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.



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. The Red Hot Tips Program is currently continuing to operate on carry over of unspent funding 2025 – 2026 FY.

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 Team

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.



Sam Tacey, Andrew Crowden and Frank Bishop



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, drawing on the skills and experience within the Red-Hot Tips team to meet operational objectives with the most successful implementation of ecological and natural values with private landowners. Adapting new standards to best practices as they change with updates in ecological science-based research. Supplying landowners with current ecological tools and information to best inform management of private property around both bushfire risk and fuel reduction operations.





Red Hot Tips Lighting the Way - How one email helped a landowner take control of bushfire risk

For Northern Tasmanian property owner Dee Mills, the idea of using fuel reduction burns to manage bushfire risk had long been overshadowed by uncertainty, fear, and indecision. That changed with a single email - an invitation to a workshop run by the Red Hot Tips program.

"I was standing at a gate in the bush when I saw the email," Dee recalls. "The title alone, *Red Hot Tips*, grabbed my attention and I signed up immediately."

The two-day workshop in St Helens included a planned burn writing session and field site visits, giving participants the chance to turn theory into practice. For Dee, it was transformative.



"It was the most informative workshop I've ever attended," she says. I left feeling energised and confident. I realised that without proper planning, the land we intended to burn could become a real problem."

With support from Red Hot Tips, Dee began preparing her 50-hectare property, 35 hectares of which are covered in waist-high *Lomandra*, *Xanthorrhoea arenaria*, rapidly multiplying *Acacia sophorae*, and cutting grass. The team helped assess the terrain, advised on firebreaks (slashing vs. mulching), and recommended tools and equipment suited to both the landscape and budget.

The team helped assess the terrain, advised on firebreaks (slashing vs. mulching), and recommended tools and equipment suited to both the landscape and budget.

Following their advice, Dee created firebreaks that divided the land into three manageable blocks. But with mulch up to 300mm thick in places, it was essential to wait for the right conditions with autumn rains eventually providing the moisture needed to proceed safely.

Red Hot Tips didn't just offer advice, they were there on the day of the burn, guiding Dee through each step of her first mentor burn. From notifying FireComm to lighting a test fire, every action was deliberate and informed.



"I lit the main block with a drip torch," Dee says.

"I thought it would be too heavy for me, but the sense of purpose carried me through. It was a hard, hot day's work, but incredibly rewarding."

As the fire moved across the land, Dee saw first hand how slope and wind could be used to control fire behaviour.

"It was fascinating to watch and learn," she says.

Now, with three blocks successfully burned and a clear plan for future fuel management, Dee feels empowered, and grateful.

"The experience and support from Red Hot Tips have given me the confidence to prioritise and manage fuel loads into the future."

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. 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 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.



Membership

The Red Hot Tips Advisory Group membership is endorsed by the SFMC under the Terms of Reference. There should be a maximum of 10 members, and must include:

Persons holding the position of:

- SFMC Chair or a nominee of SFMC as RHTAG Chair – **Sarah Jacobson**
- SFMC Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Representative – **John Atkinson**
- Manager, State Fire Management Council – **Perpetua Turner**
- Tasmania Fire Service, Director Community Fire Safety – **Chris Collins**

A representative from:

- Private forestry industry – **Jarrold Burn**
- Parks and Wildlife Service – **Katy Edwards**
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy – **Elise Jeffery**

Key deliverables for the Red Hot Tips program for 2024-25

For 2024-25 progression was made in many areas.

| Objective | Outcome | Measurement of success 2024-25 |
|--|--|---|
| 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. | Increased community awareness of bushfire risk and shared responsibility | <p>17 new program registrations with land area of 5,837ha (July 2024 – June 2025) = 319 total or 400,345ha of private land.</p> <p>6 Burn workshops conducted statewide.</p> <p>13 Events attended statewide.</p> <p>20 FMAC meetings statewide.</p> <p>TFES conference.</p> |
| 2. Increase the understanding of bushfire risk and the social and environmental effects of vegetation fire management activities. | Increased participation in effective mitigation by communities | <p>As of June 2025, Red Hot Tips has a total of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 319 registered members (17 for 24/25FY) • 400,345ha registered private land (5837ha for 24/25 FY) • 713 registered burns complete since 2020. (109 for 24/25FY) • 14520ha area burnt since 2020.(2206ha for 24/25FY) • Attended 201 events statewide since 2020 (19 for 24/25FY) |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 3. Work collaboratively to assist each other to mitigate, and prepare for, bushfires | <p>Increased community awareness of bushfire risk and shared responsibility</p> | <p>Partnerships were maintained and grown with:</p> <p>Private Forest Tasmania</p> <p>Poppy Growers Association</p> <p>Old Mates Day</p> <p>Dairy Tasmania</p> <p>Tasmanian Women in Agriculture</p> <p>Primary Employers Tasmania</p> <p>Natural Resource Management</p> <p>Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service Cultural Burning Program</p> <p>Rural Business Tasmania</p> |
| 4. Vegetation fire management activities are increased and informed by the best available fire ecology research and practical operational and local knowledge. | <p>Continuation of adopting and delivering relevant contemporary information and technical support to landowners and public to best meet operation / ecological and legislative requirements around bushfire risk reduction and fuel reduction operations and guidelines. Knowledge sharing through public presentation.</p> | <p>RHT staff shared knowledge with:</p> <p>Private Forest Tasmania</p> <p>Farmers for Climate Change Forum</p> <p>SETAC</p> <p>Tebrakunna Rangers</p> <p>Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service Cultural burning program.</p> <p>Tas Farmers association</p> <p>Tasmanian Land Conservancy</p> <p>Local Government Councils</p> <p>Primary Employers Tasmania</p> |

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.



FMAC Communication



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

SFMC publish three newsletters each year in April, August and December and are published on the SFMC website and distributed to FMAC and SFMC members. Consultation undertaken with FMAC Members on newsletter format and content in 2024 resulted in changes including reducing the content to preferably two pages with a maximum of 3 pages.

Canva was agreed as the preferable platform to use instead of Microsoft Word (April Issue016) to create the newsletter.

Standing items include FMAC member profiles (1 per issue), membership appointments and changes, ex officio staffing position changes, SFMC Chair and project updates, upcoming events and Red Hot Tips program updates.

Email and SharePoint were 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.

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.

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.

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 2024-25.

BRMP Implementation Status Reports are prepared twice a year, generally following spring (2024) and autumn (2025) by the FMAC, supported by the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire Risk Unit (BRU). For the 2024-25 financial year this obligation was met.

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 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.

BRMPs for all FMAs were submitted to the SFMC by 30 September 2024 with an out of session meeting held on 23 October 2024 where the SFMC resolved to approve the plans as submitted (*Fire Service Act 1979 s15(2)(a)*).

BRMPs are available at

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

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

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 FMA 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

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, Gardeners Bay
- Sproules Road, Electrona, Oyster Cove, Red Hill, Conningham, 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, Pelverata
- 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

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

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

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

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 1. Areas of strategic importance for bushfire risk mitigation identified within the West Coast FMA.

| Treatment Area/Asset | Risk | Responsible Agency |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 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 |

| Treatment Area/Asset | Risk | Responsible Agency |
|---|---|---|
| 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 – <i>communication network, power facilities, water, and transport network.</i> | 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 <https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/>

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 2. 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
<https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/>

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, Hadspen, 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 FMA 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 FMA 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.
- Hadspen, 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 <https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/committee/>

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

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.

References

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Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines (2020) State Fire Management Council, Version 1.0. Available at <https://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/document/bushfire-risk-management-planning-guidelines-2020>, accessed 11 January 2024.

State Fire Management Council (2024). Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC) Induction Manual. V1.0. State Fire Management Council, Hobart.

Appendix 1

GLOSSARY

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| AFAC | Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council |
| DPIPWE | Department of Primary Industries, Parks & Water & 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 |