



Communique

Meeting Held - Friday 20 May 2022

Minister Szakacs attended the meeting.

Status Report

The Committee noted the progress of several matters arising from the November meeting:

- **State Bushfire Coordination Committee Membership**

The Committee was advised that the SAPOL Deputy has indicated that he will be resigning due to a change of role.

During the caretaker period, the SBCC Secretariat also received advice regarding a nomination for a non emergency services sector position (as provided for under the Act), and this will be worked through with the Minister's office in due course.

- **Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Update**

Awaiting national agreement on key messaging.

- **Smoke Management Policy**

SACFS has formally referred the draft policy to PIRSA for their further development of industry guidelines for the wine grape and grain growing industries.

State Bushfire Management Plan Implementation Update

- **BMAP 2.0 Update**

The Committee was advised that a Request for Information (RFI) has been issued to the market for potential solutions to support the development of a new bushfire management planning and reporting system to support the redevelopment of BMAPs. The RFI closes on 6 June.

A user requirements scoping survey has also been circulated through BMCs and to SBCC Members. The survey includes an option to nominate to be part of the User Acceptance Testing for the new software.

- **Interim arrangements – Bushfire Management Area Plans**

Over the past 4-5 months Bushfire Management Planning Unit (BMPU) staff have been developing interim BMAP processes. This has been complicated by the fact that the software supporting the BMAPs has started to collapse, and the BMAP mapping can no longer be amended.

As a consequence, the online maps have been 'frozen' (they can still be accessed on the website) amendments to BMAPs can now only be recorded in a text form in the risk register.

To support the ongoing implementation of the BMAPs until BMAP 2.0 is developed, each BMC is being asked to prepare an annual bushfire risk reduction plan based on review of the content of the existing BMAPs. This plan will document priority actions to mitigate



bushfire risk to assets rated at Very High and Extreme in the BMAPs. The planning process will also provide an opportunity to identify any key omissions (eg. missing assets), and review risk ratings and risk reduction activities that need urgent prioritisation (that is, need to be addressed in the 2022-2023 financial year).

The SBCC resolved to endorse in-principle the use of bushfire risk reduction plans based on review of existing BMAP content as an interim BMAP review process.

Following confirmation by CEO's from each agency contributing to the delivery of the risk reduction plans, they will need to be endorsed by both the relevant BMC and the SBCC. Any changes to BMAPs proposed through the risk reduction planning process that constitute major amendments to a BMAP will be collated and presented for public consultation – as required under legislation - prior to their final endorsement by the relevant BMC and SBCC.

The finalised annual bushfire risk reduction plans will be published on the SBCC website and be the basis for reporting on BMAP delivery by BMCs for 2022-2023.

SBCC Governance Review Update

SACFS has not been able to resource and progress the SBCC governance review, but it is still hoped that this work can occur in the second half of the year, with the aim of bringing a discussion paper brought to the Committee in November.

In the meantime, there are some urgent boundary and membership issues with the Outback and Flinders Mid North and Yorke BMCs, that have been raised with the SBCC on a number of occasions previously.

The SBCC resolved to endorse the preparation of an options paper, prepared in consultation with the Outback and Flinders Mid North and Yorke BMCs, to address the boundary and membership concerns raised by these committees, and support their effective functioning.

SBCC Annual report 2021-2022

The annual reporting process for 2021-2022 will seek contributions from all BMC and SBCC members, as well as some non SBCC members.

Reporting requests have been sent to Chief Executive Officers and split into: local government, state agencies and statutory corporations, and organisations with a policy interest in bushfire management who are members of the BMCs and SBCC.

The annual report will be a collation of the information supplied by agencies and seek to paint a picture of the information currently able to be collected.

It was noted that performance based review of the delivery of risk reduction activities is currently compromised in the absence of a state risk assessment and a baseline understanding of residual risk.

SBCC Website

The Committee was advised that final amendments were being made to the website ahead of its inclusion in the State Budget Papers to be tabled in Parliament on 2 June. [[The site is now live.](#)]



Bushfire Management Committees Post Season Review Report

A summary report of the post season review outcomes from each BMC was tabled at the meeting. This was the first time such a review process has been undertaken, and there was some variation across the committees in approach and input.

Several common themes were noted from the review process, including: a lack of contractors to support hazard reduction works in many areas of the state, and the significant increase in free camping and tourism throughout the Outback areas, the west coast and the Flinders. The Committee discussed the need for a coordinated approach to addressing this latter issue ahead of a potentially significant fire season in the outback areas due to extensive flooding and associated grass growth.

Agency Updates

- **Community Risk Reduction Review (SACFS)**

SACFS noted that it is undertaking a comprehensive review of the agency's approach to community engagement activities, and the Committee will be informed as this progresses.

Bushfire Management Committee Nominations

The Committee approved several nominations for the current term of Bushfire Management Committees.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday 19 August 2022.

(Communique issued 23 June 2022)