



Communique

Meeting Held - Friday 12 November 2021

Status Report

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

- **State Bushfire Coordination Committee Membership**

The contribution of representatives from the Attorney-General's Department – Planning and Land Use Services (AGD-PLUS) Ms Anita Allen and Ms Denise LeBlond to the Committee over an extended period was acknowledged. Processes are in train to propose a replacement Member and Deputy for the agency.

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

An update was provided on progress with the AFDRS rollout in relation to project management, stakeholder engagement and policy re-development.

- An operational trial of the system will take place during the current 2021/22 Fire Danger Season.
- Targeted consultation has been undertaken with primary producers and forestry industry groups to map out the current tools and feeds they use to calculate GFDI and FFDI.
- CFS is developing a style guide to assist with redevelopment of roadside fire danger signage but notes that this practice will not be endorsed or encouraged by the agency.

- **Advice on Codes of Practice**

Further clarification of recently received legal advice is being sought. Resourcing for review and development of existing and new codes of practice is also being pursued by SACFS.

Correspondence from Flinders Mid North and Yorke (FMNY) Bushfire Management Committee

The Committee noted correspondence from the FMNY Bushfire Management Committee seeking a state-wide clearance standard around critical infrastructure. The concept was supported in principle, as the need for improved planning and protection around critical infrastructure was identified in the *Independent Review* and captured in the *State Bushfire Management Plan* actions. However, regulatory change would be needed to provide a process to support the proposed outcome, and it will be considered in the review and redevelopment of the Bushfire Management Area Plan Handbook during 2022.

SBCC Annual Report 2020-2021

The Committee noted several follow up matters from the development of the SBCC's first annual report to the Minister, including:



- The reporting process was the first large scale audit of Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP) data since the plans had been developed, and as expected there were a substantial number of data corrections required that are being worked through.
- A positive outcome of the reporting process had been the engagement of BMC members in the content of the BMAPs and trialling a different approach to managing the larger BMCs, by breaking them into smaller, more functional groups based on geographic areas within the BMA.
- While the data analysis in the report was rudimentary, it was the first data reported from the BMAPs. In the absence of risk treatment reporting software, it was an entirely manual process and required significant resources from all contributing agencies
- As noted in the Report document, the format of the annual report will be altered from 2022-2023 to focus on the implementation of the State Bushfire Management Plan.

Reform Transition Management

The Committee considered several matters supporting the bushfire management reform process, outlined below.

- **SBCC Branding and Website**

Following the finalisation of a style guide to support the SBCC and BMC branding, templates and training for BMC support staff in CFS Regions will be provided over the coming months to support the rollout of the branding in a consistent manner in the new year.

A preview of the SBCC and BMC website was provided to the Committee. Each BMC has a separate landing page within the site, and information on both governance and bushfire management planning at state and BMC level is incorporated within the site.

The site is currently being operationalised ahead of its expected launch, likely early in 2022. Member agencies and organisations will be provided with a link to the site for their internal review prior to its launch.

- **SBCC and BMC Meeting Schedule 2022**

The Committee approved a schedule of meetings for the SBCC, and a revised approach to meetings for BMCs. The BMCs are proposed to meet as follows:

- *April* – post fire season review of the impact of risk reduction activities
- *July* – full day planning workshop to identify priorities for risk reduction treatments captured in BMAPs over the coming 12 months, to generate a risk reduction plan for each Bushfire Management Area
- *September* – pre fire season coordination of risk reduction activities
- *March* – an optional teleconference to make any recommendations regarding adjustment to the Fire Danger Season



It was noted that these arrangements will be put in place for 2022, but there will be further opportunity to consider this approach during the SBCC and BMC governance review. However, in the short term there is a need to improve the focus of BMCs on working with the BMAPs and coordinating risk reduction planning as their core functions. Greater detail on the framework for each of these meetings will be provided to BMCs in the new year.

- **SBCC and BMC Guideline Amendments**

The Committee rescinded sections of existing governance guidelines and endorsed replacement guidelines to support statutory and reporting compliance with SBCC and BMC membership management, and the processing of amendments to Bushfire Management Area Plans.

State Bushfire Management Plan 2021-2025 – Implementation Planning

Advice was provided to the Committee regarding the progression of implementation of key SBCC actions contained in the State Bushfire Management Plan, including timelines and resourcing matters.

- **SBCC and BMC Governance Review**

The Committee approved the development of a comprehensive discussion ('green') paper regarding review of SBCC and BMC governance for review and endorsement by the SBCC, prior to its circulation to member and targeted non-member agencies and BMCs.

The Committee also noted that SACFS will explore the emergency management framework with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and that governance matters related to environmental approvals will be brought to the attention of the SBCC following review of the BMAP Handbook.

- **BMAP 2.0**

The Committee noted two key activities have commenced to support the development of the next generation of Bushfire Management Area Plans, known as BMAP 2.0. The first is scoping the review of the BMAP Handbook, to achieve integration of the framework as outlined in the State Bushfire Management Plan, as a basis for discussion with stakeholders and further report to the SBCC in the new year.

The second activity is the redevelopment of the software supporting the development and management of BMAPs. Grant funding to support this project has been obtained through the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF) programme. This project is critical to standardising the risk assessment framework used to support BMAPs and providing reporting capability on risk reduction treatments through an online platform.



- **State-level Risk Assessment**

The Committee noted that the progression of a state level risk assessment will be predicated upon resourcing for this work to take place. SBCC member agencies and organisations were asked to consider whether they have any capacity to contribute to such a project.

- **Indicative timeframes for key SBCC Actions**

The Committee noted indicative timeframes, subject to dependencies, for the completion of SBCC actions contained in the State Plan:

SBMP Action #	Action description	Indicative completion	Dependencies
2.1-2.4	Review of SBCC and BMC Governance	2022 (December)	More rapid progression subject to funding Potential legislative change
2.5, 4.1, 4.2	BMAP 2.0 – Software Redevelopment	2022 (August)*	
4.1, 4.2, 4.3	BMAP 2.0 – Handbook Review	2022 (December)	
1.1, 2.5	State level risk assessment	2023	Subject to funding
5.1	Public awareness promotion	2023	(SACFS is undertaking an internal review)
3.1	Review environmental approvals process	2023	Subject to funding Potential legislative change
4.1, 4.2, 4.3	Review and redevelop existing generation of BMAPs to complete BMAP 2.0	2025	

** Note that the timeline for the delivery of this software may be adjusted as the funding contract is finalised.*

Draft Smoke Management Policy

The Committee discussed at length a draft smoke management policy developed following a resolution from the August 2021 meeting. The intent is to develop a common policy approach to smoke management encompassing industry and community requirements, as well as public health and environmental protection. SACFS as hazard leader is coordinating this process.

The Committee resolved to undertake targeted consultation through its member agencies and organisations on the draft smoke management policy and provide a summary of consultation outcomes for consideration at the February 2022 SBCC meeting.



Bushfire Management Committee Nominations

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

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday 18th February 2022.

(Communique issued 24 November 2021)