



State Bushfire Coordination Committee

MINUTES

Meeting 6/7

20 May 2022

09:00 – 12:00hrs

Ground Floor Training Rooms, Emergency Services Headquarters

Attendance	Mr Mark Jones QFSM Ms Anthea Howard Ms Kylie Egan Mr Andrew Cadd Mr Mark Ashley (<i>online</i>) Ms Fiona Gill Mr Graeme Brown (<i>online</i>) Ms Justine Drew (<i>online</i>) Mr John Moyle Mr Troy Fountain (<i>online</i>) Ms Sarah Reachill (<i>online</i>) Mr Bill McIntosh Mr Peter White AC Noel Bamford (<i>online</i>) ACO Brett Loughlin (<i>online</i>) Mr James Crocker	Chairman (<i>ex officio</i>) Executive Officer Member, Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Member, Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFS VA) Member, Conservation Council of South Australia (CCSA) Member, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) Member, Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) Member, Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Member, Local Government Association of SA (LGA SA) Member, Planning and Land Use Services, Department for Trade and Investment (PLUS-DTI) Member, Native Vegetation Council (NVC) Member, Outback Communities Authority (OCA) Member, Primary Producers SA (PPSA) Member, South Australia Police (SAPOL) Member, SA Country Fire Service (SACFS) Member, SA Water
Apologies	Ms Monique Blason Mr Peter Merry Mr Michael Garrod Mr Jonathon Clark ACFO Peter Button ACFO Glen Benham A/ACFO Jeff Swann	Member, ForestrySA Deputy, ForestrySA Member, Landscape SA Deputy, Landscape SA Member, SA Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) Deputy, SAMFS Observer, SAMFS
Observers and Guests	Hon Joe Szakacs Mr Troy Horn Mr Ben DellaTorre (<i>online</i>) ACFO Colin Lindsay Ms Paula Slutzkin	Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services Observer, ForestrySA Member, Landscape SA Observer, SAMFS Administrative Support, SACFS



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1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees and gave an Acknowledgement of Country, and opened the meeting at 9:05. He then noted observers and remote attendees.

2. Apologies

The Chair noted the apologies received.

3. Safety Briefing

The Executive Officer outlined the evacuation procedures for the building and the location of exit and meeting points.

The Chair invited Minister Szakacs to address the Committee. The Minister thanked the Committee for their ongoing commitment to this important work, and invited the members of the Committee to introduce themselves. He invited questions from the floor, but noted that his main intention was to listen and observe, and further noted an intention to attend as many meetings as possible over the coming months.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest/Probity Matters

The Chair asked for a declaration of any Conflicts of Interest or Probity Matters, and asked that any conflicts that arose throughout the course of the meeting be declared and managed at that point in time.

Mr Moyle (LGA SA) and Mr McIntosh (OCA) noted conflicts of interest with regard to item 8.5 Bushfire Management Committee (BMC) Nominations, and would abstain from voting on this item.

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes of Meeting

The draft minutes of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) meeting of 18 March 2022 were considered for confirmation.

The Chair noted a change of expression required on page 9, from 'She noted' to 'The Executive Officer noted'.

The Committee resolved as follows:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2022 are confirmed as amended as a true and correct record.

Moved: Ms Fiona Gill

Seconded: Mr Andrew Cadd

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Status Report

6.1.1 SBCC Membership

The Chair invited the Executive Officer to provide a verbal update.



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The Executive Officer informed the Committee of several SBCC membership matters:

The SAPOL Deputy Member has indicated his intention to step down from the Committee. Further, during the caretaker period, advice that had been sought previously was received from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation department) regarding a potential nominee for the non-emergency services position on the Committee, which is currently vacant. These matters will be worked through with the Minister's Office.

The Chair noted further discussions with the foresters in the southeast, who are keen to have the private sector forestry industry directly represented on the Committee. This instigated consideration of the composition of the Committee, which is currently heavily government sector based. He suggested that when the contents of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act* (FES Act) is next considered, the government be asked to consider a more diverse approach to the composition of the SBCC. He added that the forestry area in the southeast of South Australia and adjacent in Victoria is now one of only three federally recognised important plantation forestry areas in Australia.

Minister Szakacs noted a willingness to explore any shorter term capacity (outside of legislation change) that he may have to address some of the representation issues on the Committee.

6.1.2 Australian Fire Danger Rating System Update

The Executive Officer noted the update from the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) team within SACFS, and emphasised the main point of note: there has only very recently been national agreement on the ratings included in the briefing note, and there is no zero start in this rating system. This commences at 'moderate'. It is hoped that there will be national agreement on the key messaging soon.

ACO Loughlin (SACFS) reiterated this key point, noting that there is a category between the fire danger indices of 0-11 which will be excluded from fire danger ratings, and be a 'no rating' category.

6.1.3 Smoke Management Policy

The Executive Officer noted that the draft Smoke Management Policy (as last circulated to the Committee) has been formally referred to PIRSA for their further development of industry guidelines to support the work between the wine grape growers and the grain sector. SACFS will continue to liaise with PIRSA to progress the completion of these guidelines.

In response to a question regarding the process for the development of the guidelines, the Executive Officer noted that PIRSA is progressing the particular guideline discussed, between the industry sectors. Once there is resource capacity, further opportunities will be explored to review other guidelines, and the Committee will be advised of this.

The Chair noted that this is indicative of the fact that the SBCC has a lot of business to get done, but the SACFS (as the agency providing the secretariat function) has limited resources to deliver this business. As such it will likely require a collegiate approach to committee to be able to bring



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forward business such as this.

The Committee resolved as follows:

That the State Bushfire Coordination Committee note the status report provided on matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 18 March 2022.

Moved: Mr Andrew Cadd

Seconded: Ms Justine Drew

Carried.

7. Correspondence

The Committee considered the correspondence list and resolved as follows:

That the Correspondence List be noted.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Mr Bill McIntosh

Carried.

8. Business items

8.1 State Bushfire Management Plan 2021-2025 – Implementation Update

8.1.1 BMAP 2.0 Update

The Chair referred to the briefing note circulated regarding the implementation of the *State Bushfire Management Plan 2021-2025*, and invited the Executive Officer to provide an overview.

The Executive Officer noted that there has been significant progress in the procurement of the redevelopment of the Bushfire Management Planning and Reporting System (BMPRS), which will replace the current system in due course. A high-level group forms the project steering committee, consisting of Mr Graeme Brown (DIT), representatives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and Office for Data Analytics (ODA); DEW; and the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) as the ESS host agency.

The steering committee has gone through a detailed process of reviewing how to best approach the market. A two-stage process has been chosen, where a Request for Information (RFI) has recently been put out as the first stage. The request is very complex, and the committee needs to understand potential solutions available in the marketplace. As such, this request for information is aimed surveying the market and whether there is an opportunity to use an off-the-shelf product (with some configuration); or whether a bespoke custom-build will be required. This will have a substantial bearing on the specifications for the tender. This approach has been undertaken on the advice of OCIO and ODA, as they are the internal-to-government experts in relation to the information technology sector.

There has been very good response to the RFI with 58 attendees to an industry briefing held on the 3rd May 2022, and it is hoped that there will be a reasonable number of submissions that will



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assist in trying to refine the approach that is taken to an Request for Quotation (RFQ). The RFI process concludes in early June. Submissions will then be reviewed, and the intention is to go out to tender from August, pending the outcome of the RFI.

While this is not a 'high value' project in terms of available funding, it is a very complex project and has considerable significance to the state. Best efforts are being made to utilise the funds available as effectively as possible.

A user requirements scoping survey has also been widely circulated within the BMCs and to members of the SBCC, seeking input from the end users on the elements that they are looking for from the new system, so that these can be considered as the terms of the RFQ are refined. This survey is open from May until August, reflecting the period of the RFI.

Project Management is also tracking well – the first progress report on the grant funding has been submitted to SAFECOM on time. However, on recommendation of the Steering Committee an extension of time for the project (to the end of the 2022-23 financial year) has been sought, to accommodate the uncertainties regarding the market solution, and noting OCIO advice that the supply chain in the IT sector is currently very compromised. The Executive Officer emphasised that the whole country is dealing with the same set of issues in relation to these matters, and there are also major national projects underway in the bushfire risk assessment area.

There is a strong desire to take the time needed to get the specifications right at the front end, rather than rushing into something that will cause difficulties later.

No questions were raised. The Committee noted the update on BMAP 2.0.

8.1.2 Interim Arrangements – Bushfire Management Area Plans

The Executive Officer informed the Committee that there has been a great challenge in working out how to manage the interim Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP) process.

A critical issue is that the software currently used to support the BMAPs has started to collapse. This software was built nearly 10 years ago using freeware and open-source development code. A lot of the freeware upon which it was built is now obsolete, and the only way it can be maintained is by paying a developer to continually renew the code. Given the limited resources available to develop a new solution, a decision has been taken to treat the current system as legacy. As such, the decision has been made to freeze the online web map that displays the current BMAPs, as the software does not allow these to be amended.

As this issue has been developing over the past 12 months, redundancies had been put into place. The online web map has been able to be frozen, and as such can continue to be available in the public interface, but will no longer be updated. Advice will be placed on these maps, now that the SBCC has been made aware of this. The BMCs have already been made aware of this issue.

The risk registers associated with the plans (essentially Excel spreadsheets) will continue to be updated and maintained; but the visualisation of the register (i.e. the online map) will not be able to be updated until the new system is in place.



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A process is being developed to manage the continued implementation of the BMAP risk reduction activities in this interim period.

In November 2021 it was agreed by the Committee that the BMCs would be asked to develop annual risk reduction plans (RRPs), against the BMAPs, for the 2022-23 financial year.

At this point, the proposal is to essentially use these risk reduction plans (RRPs) as the interim BMAP review process. It is intended that all of the agencies who sit on the BMCs who have responsibilities for delivering risk reduction activities, will be invited to commit to the risk reduction activities they will deliver against the BMAPs (particularly for assets rated Very High or Extreme) in the 2022-2023 financial year. There will be the opportunity to review any newer short-term priorities – as many of the BMAPs are now quite dated - and there have been changes in the external operating and natural environments that need to be addressed.

The RRP process is intended to provide an opportunity for:

- A basic level of BMAP review to accommodate short-term priorities;
- Bringing forward commitments (at a corporate level by the agencies involved) to deliver activities captured in the Plans;
- Bringing all the agencies around the table to discuss how they can coordinate their activities (in the workshops);
- Publishing of the RRP through the SBCC/BMC website, so that they are in the public domain and transparent; and
- Use of the RRP to report against for the 2022-23 financial year.

It is predicted that most of the RRP that will be developed will sit within the scope of what are termed 'minor amendments' under the FES Act. There may be some that trigger major amendments; and where that occurs, they will need to go to public consultation following their endorsement by the BMC and the SBCC. A process is in place as endorsed by the SBCC in November 2021 regarding the amendment of BMAPs, which will support the transparency of this process.

The SACFS Bushfire Management Planning Unit (BMPU) have been working with the BMC Executive Officers over the last few months to bring them up to speed on this, and support their implementation of the process with the BMCs, and they will be provided with further planning templates shortly.

While this is not a perfect approach, given the problems that have been encountered with the software supporting the BMAPs, this is the best solution that has been able to be developed. The Chair noted this, but suggested that the solution proposed to the Committee is quite a pragmatic approach.

In response to a question regarding how long this process is intended to be used for, the Executive Officer informed the Committee that the hope is that this process will only need to be used for the 2022-23 financial year. However, if necessary it could be used for the 2023-24



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financial year as well. It was noted that there is much uncertainty regarding the market solution to the software. If it is possible to use something off-the-shelf, then initial risk assessments may be able to be generated early next year. However, if a custom build is necessary, then it is likely that the full amount of time will be needed to support an interim solution. There are several critical variables that will affect this process, and as such the intention has been to develop an interim process to enable transparent reporting that is robust enough that it can be used again in 2023-24 if necessary.

Whether the interim risk reduction planning process needs to be used in 23/24 will be reviewed and the Committee advised in due course. Regular updates will be provided regarding progress in procuring and developing the new software solution.

The Committee resolved as follows:

That the Committee endorse in-principle the use of bushfire risk reduction plans based on review of existing BMAP content as an interim BMAP review process, noting that the plans will require endorsement by both the relevant BMC and the SBCC prior to their publication.

Moved: Mr John Moyle

Seconded: Mr Peter White

Carried.

8.1.3 Governance Review Update

The Chair invited the Executive Officer to provide an overview.

Mr Cadd (CFSVA) declared conflict of interest with regard to this item, as he sits on the Flinders Mid North and Yorke (FMNY) BMC.

The Executive Officer noted that when the indicative timeline and prioritisation for the implementation of the *State Bushfire Management Plan* was brought to the Committee in November 2021, the two priority items were BMAP 2.0 (discussed at item 8.1.1), and the governance review of the SBCC and the BMCs. Unfortunately, this has not progressed due to staffing resource limitations.

Options are being explored as to how to progress this in the short term so that resources can be put in place to support the development of a discussion paper for the review. It is still hoped that this discussion paper can be finished for presentation to the Committee by November this year, which is delayed from what had been hoped.

Notwithstanding this delay, through the first round of BMC meetings it has become clear that there are some key issues that need to be progressed as a matter of urgency, as they have been apparent for some time. These are boundary matters relating to the FMNY and Outback BMCs and membership of the Outback BMC.

The boundary issues between the FMNY and Outback BMCs have come before the SBCC on multiple occasions. The FMNY BMC brought this to the SBCC in 2014, and a proposal for change at that time was not supported due to a wider cross-government review of boards and committees that was being undertaken. The FMNY BMC also raised the matter in 2018 asking for it to be



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addressed, but it was not progressed.

The Outback BMC has similarly been asking for review of its membership for some years. When the new term of BMC membership was called in June 2021, there were a number of the member agencies/organisations of the Outback BMC who politely declined to nominate, as they did not feel that they were the right organisation to be represented on the committee.

The Executive Officer proposed to the Committee that if there is appetite to address these matters in the shorter time, an options paper will be brought to the SBCC for decision at the August meeting. Given that there has been much discussion of these things over a long period of time, there are already a range of options on the table to address the issues.

She noted that these two committees are struggling to function effectively due to these issues; and have been for some time. It is a struggle to get quorum in these committees, and there are a lot of very disengaged members who are frustrated that these issues have not been addressed for a long period of time.

No questions or concerns were raised, and the Committee resolved as follows:

That the Committee endorse the preparation of an options paper, prepared in consultation with the Outback and Flinders Mid North and Yorke Bushfire Management Committees, to address the boundary and membership concerns raised by these committees, and support their effective functioning.

Moved: Mr Peter White

Seconded: Mr Bill McIntosh

Carried.

Minister Szakacs left the meeting at 9.44am.

8.2 SBCC 2021-2022 Annual Report

The Chair shared with the Committee his enthusiasm for not only asking member agencies/organisations and BMCs what they are doing, but also encouraging them to onward report on other things that they are aware of that non-member stakeholders are doing. This will provide a more holistic picture of bushfire risk reduction activities being undertaken across the State and will enable the SBCC to report a more fair and realistic depiction of what is going. This may include revealing duplication of effort, that some activities are not complementary to others, and that there are things being done that other agencies/organisations are not aware of. He also noted that the proposed approach is very consultative, and predicted that non-member input may be enlightening to the Committee. He then invited the Executive Officer to speak to item 8.2.

The Executive Officer noted that due to the software issues discussed earlier, the annual reporting process has been quite a challenging and analogue process thus far. For last year's annual report, the BMAP data was used as the basis of the report. Only some of the amendments from that process were able to be updated due to the software issues. As previously mentioned, the 2020-21 annual report process was the first time that the data across all the BMAPs had been audited since their development.

For the 2021-22 annual reporting process, all of BMC member agencies and organisations will be invited



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to report on their activities, and some non-members – for instance the Department for Education (who have very extensive landholdings throughout the state, many in high risk areas). The requests have been split into different sectors, with a specific reporting template for local government, one for state government agencies and statutory corporations, and one for peak bodies and agencies who have a policy interest in bushfire management.

The local government templates contain a series of questions regarding the functions of local government under the FES Act, including compliance activities (the number of notices issues and the management of those notices). Most councils keep detailed statistics on these matters, and capturing this information will give an important account of work undertaken – particularly when aggregated at a state level. Local government have been provided with a refined selection of the risk register spreadsheet information extracted from the BMAP, which focuses on land management activities. As such, most councils have quite confined lists to report on.

State government agencies and statutory corporations are essentially being asked to provide the information that they are required to report through other channels in relation to their bushfire risk reduction activities. There are also some supplementary prompts around areas burnt, and areas treated through other means. Essentially, they are being asked to report by exception. This information will be provided from each of these agencies; but also collated into the one document. They have been given the option to report either at a state or BMC level.

A template for will be provided for peak bodies and agencies with a policy interest to reflect on their areas of interest over the season.

The intent is to aggregate all this information into one report, as there is a strong appetite from the Parliament to see a consolidated report on these activities.

In response to question about who the requests had gone to, the Executive Officer clarified that local government requests were sent to Chief Executives, and copied to BMC Members. State agency requests were sent to Chief Executives, and copied to BMC and SBCC Members, as the intent was that the reporting be managed at a corporate level.

The Chair noted the great disparity among local councils with regard to how much they attempt to control the bushfire risk in their area, suggesting that this process will give some transparency on the activity levels. He also noted within the FES Act the powers for the SACFS to take action against local councils who have not undertaken enforcement actions. However, the writing of this section of the FES Act does not create any imperative to do so, as in doing so SACFS would inherit the responsibility of the local council but none of the income. He noted that this is legislated differently in other jurisdictions.

A question was asked about how the state-level data will be reported (whether on an outcome or actions basis) – as costs can be difficult to track. For example internal staff are used for some things, and sometimes an activity is done for multiple purposes.

The Chair noted that as a state we are a long way from being able to report on whether we have achieved the hazard reduction that we intended to do. Given that there is not currently a state-wide annual bushfire risk assessment, any mitigation/prevention activities we undertake are things that we theoretically know to be good things to do. However, we cannot measure the level of risk reduction, as



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we do not measure how the extant risk at the outset.

The Chair suggested that until we have a full picture of the mitigation and prevention activities undertaken in the context of a wider risk assessment, measuring outcomes is a moot point. A lot of time and money could be wasted on mitigating risk that was not the most important risk to address.

In response to a question as to whether there was an intention for quality assurance (QA) of the data issued by councils in relation to Section 105F notices, the Executive Officer noted that only raw numbers (no breakdown) have been requested from councils, and so there is no opportunity to undertake any QA of this. By requesting the data for the Annual Report at a Chief Executive level, there is reliance upon internal due diligence within local government.

The Executive Officer reiterated the Chair's comment that the system that we currently have lacks maturity, in that one of the key factors missing is a calculation of residual risk. As such, the ability to be outcome focused currently is minimal to non-existent.

The Chair noted disappointment that following the Cherry Gardens fire, we were not able to properly tell the story of the proactive fuel reduction activities done by SA Water in partnership with DEW that contributed greatly to the successful management of that fire. The Executive Officer informed the Committee that the correspondence to all agencies/organisations regarding this year's Annual Report has asked for any case studies to be provided, for consideration for inclusion in the Annual Report where appropriate. This will give the opportunity to highlight these sorts of stories.

The Committee resolved as follows:

That the State Bushfire Coordination Committee note the briefing on the preparation of the 2021-2022 Annual Report.

Moved: Mr John Moyle

Seconded: Mr Andrew Cadd

Carried.

8.3 SBCC Website

The Chair invited the Executive Officer to provide an overview.

The Executive Officer thanked the members of the Committee who provided feedback on the website. The adjustments that were requested will now be made, where possible. This needs to be done, leaving the website ready to be promoted, by the release of the State budget on 2 June 2022 – as it has been included in the budget papers. The development of the website was a target activity for SACFS to be completed in the 21/22 financial year.

The SBCC Secretariat has further liaised with DPC regarding branding. A branding exemption was already in place for the SBCC (obtained when the branding was initially developed), and the branding status of all member agencies has been confirmed. The DPC are happy with the way the website is to be presented.

The Committee noted the briefing regarding the SBCC website, and resolved as follows:

That the State Bushfire Coordination Committee note the briefing on the preparation of the 2021-2022 Annual Report.



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Moved: Chair

Seconded: Ms Fiona Gill

Carried.

8.4 Bushfire Management Committees – 2021-2022 Post Season Review Report

The Chair invited the Executive Officer to provide an overview.

The Executive Officer reiterated to the Committee that it is the first time that a post season review has been attempted with the BMCs. She noted that the way each BMC engaged with this process varied greatly across the committees.

The reports from the Eyre Peninsula BMCs are attached to the briefing note, as these were the closest to hitting the mark with what was sought from the process. Some very constructive conversations were had by the Eyre Peninsula BMCs through the review process. The collaboration in these BMCs is also quite good – they are of manageable size, and the stakeholders around the table are very engaged – which is also a credit to the work of the SACFS staff in that Region supporting the BMCs.

From the post-season review, there were a few items worth highlighting. The lack of contractors to undertake hazard reduction work continues to be a major issue across the state. The other key item of note to be brought to the Committee's attention is concerns raised around free camping and tourism numbers through the Flinders Mid North area, the Outback, and the west coast and the associated issues relating to bushfire risk (both to the campers, and the risks that they themselves can generate due to comfort fires, and the locations in which they are camping). From the Outback perspective, there is also an issue relating to the sheer number of tourists and the lack of capacity in those areas to respond to issues arising. Concern about these issues have also been raised outside of the post-season review.

The Executive Officer noted that a coordinated campaign may be necessary in the lead-up to the 2022-23 fire season, particularly given the likelihood that there will be quite significant grass and vegetation growth through the more arid and remote areas of the state for the coming season, due to the extensive flooding that has occurred. There may be a need to increase the promotion of understanding and awareness of bushfire risk among that particular cohort of travellers, many of whom are very poorly prepared and have very little understanding of the risks that they face.

Mr McIntosh (OCA) expressed support for this, noting that the OCA has recently been through an extensive 2-year 'Outback Futures' consultation process. One of the big issues noted was that the visitation of the Outback has increased, and is likely to further increase. This is due in part to the sealing of Strzelecki track, the expansion in 4WD vehicle capabilities, and COVID impacts leading to an increase in domestic travel. The need to manage public access has been clearly identified, and the OCA is about to make a recommendation that this be looked into and a framework produced where people have all the access they need, but this is done in a regulated and managed way. The OCA would be looking to engage with other stakeholders about how this can be done.

ACO Loughlin (SACFS) noted that this was being progressed previously, and a body of work was done where several of the BMCs have identified specific campgrounds and areas. These details were passed on to DIT, and SACFS will work with the DIT Member on the SBCC, to establish the progression of this. The installation cost and maintenance of signage in those areas was noted as something that was going to be



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a sticking point where this issue was concerned; and ACO Loughlin noted that an easy solution to the funding required has not yet been identified in order to realise a good outcome on this important issue.

Mr Brown (DIT) confirmed that DIT will work with SACFS on this, noting that recent focus has been on flood recovery, but they are now at a point where they can turn their attention to bushfire management.

Mr James Crocker (SA Water) left room at 10.13am.

The Committee resolved as follows:

That the State Bushfire Coordination Committee note the 2021-2022 Bushfire Management Committee Post Season Review Report.

Moved: Ms Kylie Egan

Seconded: Mr John Moyle

Carried.

8.5 Bushfire Management Committee Nominations

The Committee considered the Bushfire Management Committee (BMC) nominations.

Noting the conflicts of interest declared earlier, the Committee resolved as follows:

That the SBCC confirm the requested appointments as being from agencies prescribed by the SBCC in the composition of the BMCs, and appoints the persons listed to the relevant BMC for the remainder of the current three year term of BMCs.

Moved: Ms Justine Drew

Seconded: ACO Brett Loughlin

Carried.

8.6 Agency Matters (verbal updates)

8.6.1 SACFS – Community Risk Reduction Review

The Chair invited ACO Loughlin (SACFS) to provide an overview on the Community Risk Reduction Review being undertaken by SACFS.

ACO Loughlin informed the Committee that SACFS are undertaking review of the agency's Community Engagement framework and activities. Periodic briefings and further updates will be provided to the Committee on this work, as it speaks to the SACFS role as hazard leader in this area, in that community engagement frameworks and programs are developed and then provided to groups such as local government for help distributing and promoting them, and through DEW (through the National Parks and Wildlife Service) who are advocates for SACFS in this space.

Mr James Crocker (SA Water) returned to the room at 10.16am.

He noted that it has been some time since the SACFS work in community engagement has been looked at holistically. SACFS has brought in someone experienced and knowledgeable in this area to review the capability and capacity to deliver the programmes that SACFS is currently committed to and to look at areas where there is opportunity for improvement. ACO Loughlin



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suggested that this is an important opportunity to examine where SACFS is benchmarked nationally in this area of work and examine what can be done to maintain state-wide best practice.

He noted that this will have a flow-on effect on the BMAPs, with regard to the risk reduction treatments currently in the BMAPs relating to community engagement. It has been noted in the past that this is a very broad definition; and there is opportunity for improvement in this regard.

No questions were raised regarding this update.

8.6.2 Member's Call

The Chair invited members to raise any matters they wished to bring to the Committee's attention.

Ms Egan (BoM) informed the Committee of the seasonal outlook, which noted increased rain across the north of the state this summer, and the potential for the development of a negative Indian ocean dipole over winter and spring. This could lead to increased rainfall particularly through the north of the state, through winter and early spring. As such, there is potential for more grass growth to occur. However, Ms Egan noted that parts of the state are sitting well below average rainfall at the moment – in particular, the south-east of the state; and the central parts, for instance Mount Lofty Ranges and Yorke Peninsula.

The Committee noted the verbal updates provided on Agency Matters.

9. Other Business

No other business was raised.

10. Meeting Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.21am.

Next meeting: 19 August 2022.

Endorsed by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Mark Jones QFSM
Chair, State Bushfire Coordination Committee