

Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Meeting No.	2-2025
Meeting Date	19 September 2025		
Meeting Time	2:00pm		
Meeting Location	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office		
Attendees	Mayor Jerry Clune	By Invitation	
	Cr Aaron Horsman	Leave of Absence	
	Cr Michael Librizzi	Distribution	
	Daniel Critch - Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer		
	Gerard Rowe - Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain		
	Aaron Halliday – CGG, Training Officer		
	Andy Gaze – CGG, Manager Regulatory Services		
	Brendan Weir - Tenindewa Bush Fire Control Officer		
	Craig Moran - Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade		
	Darren Simmons - Mullewa District Office Manager		
	Trevor Jones – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator		
	Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services		
	Murray Preston - Casuarinas Bush Fire Brigade		
	Murray Smith - CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management		
	Neil Johnstone - Chief Bush Fire Control Officer		
	Tony Crudeli - Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service		
Apologies	Heath Martin – CGG, Director of Development Services		
Absent	Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer		
Purpose of Committee	<p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees are formally appointed Committees of Council established under section 5.8 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, and are responsible to that body.</p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees provide advice regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires; • Planning layout of fire breaks in the district; • Prosecutions for breaches of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>; • The formation of Brigades; and • Coordination and cooperation between Brigades and Agents. <p>Refer to Committee Book</p>		

All Committee Members, including external members, are subject to the same rules as a Council Meeting concerning confidentiality, public statements, conflicts of interest and behaviours of members, pursuant to the [Local Government \(Model Code of Conduct\) Regulations 2021](#).

The Presiding Member is to refer to the following Policy, Meeting Procedures and Regulations when chairing a meeting.

[Meeting Procedures Local Law 2011](#)

[Council Policy 4.4. Operation of Advisory Committees-V4](#)

[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

1 Declaration Of Opening

Presiding Member, Mayor Clune declared the meeting open at 2:01pm.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

3 Welcome & Apologies

The Presiding Member welcomed the members and registered apologies were noted from:

- Heath Martin – CGG, A/Director of Development Services

4 Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 March 2025 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED CR LIBRIZZI, SECONDED CR HORSMAN

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 March 2025 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 5/5

Not Voted: **0**

Against Votes: **0**

For Votes: **5**

Name	Vote (For or Against)
Mayor Clune	FOR
Cr. Horsman	FOR
Cr. Librizzi	FOR
Daniel Critch Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	FOR
Gerard Rowe Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain	FOR

6 PRESENTATION: DFES State Hazard Plan Fire Comprehensive Review 2024/25 - M Teale

- Refer to attachment for full details.
- Discussion Points:
 - Spontaneous volunteers must meet minimum training requirements; this can include agencies like Western Power, WaterCorp, traffic controllers etc.
 - Farmers are encouraged to include rural firefighting skills in farm inductions to ensure spontaneous volunteers are prepared to assist during fires.
 - The new State Hazard Plan recognises landowners as employers.
 - **NOTED**: there is no specific requirement in the Plan for when a training refresher is needed; each landowner/employer should determine refresher needs based on their business and employee needs.
 - **NOTED**: most untrained individuals are asked to leave, but tracking their whereabouts is difficult.
 - **NOTED**: Incident tenure structure is unchanged, but handover now requires a stricter documented process.
 - DFES Regional Duty Coordinator number is 1800 317 555.
 - New DFES directory is coming soon.
 - **ACTION**: Neil to discuss with Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer appropriate message for the City to include with the link to the Rural Fire Awareness training via SMS to the Fireban and WhatsApp groups to reach landowners directly.

7 Agency and Brigade Updates

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – N Johnstone

- Refer to attachment – CBFCO Report September 2025.
- Discussion Points:
 - New tanks are 200,000L. Casuarinas tank will be filled by tanker initially; future grants and a nearby bore are being considered for water supply.
 - Aircraft will be staying until mid-December in support of harvest.
- **NOTED**: Restricted burning starts Monday; next week is expected to have high fire danger.

7.2 CGG Coordinator Emergency Management – M Smith

- No additional update.

7.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

- Refer to attachment for full details - DFES Report September 2025.
- Another fleet of standby trucks, including a 10,000L tanker, will be deployed in the region for larger fires or breakdowns.
- Brigades are encouraged to review available trucks as devices fall due for renewal - check the catalogue.
- DFES mitigation will start soon; currently delayed by wet conditions.
- To request water bombers, contact the DFES Regional Duty Coordinator
- Bombers are here to support harvest - request a ground controller if no trained staff are available to avoid redirection.
- Bushfire exercise in Geraldton next month - participation welcomed.

7.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction

- DBCA Region Duty Officer Number 0429 640 916.
- Refer to attachment for full details – DBCA Report September 2025.
- Water Bomber aircraft will arrive 31 October and stay through mid-December.

- If you don't have adequately trained staff, please request a ground controller; last year, some bombers had to dump water due to inadequate ground control.
- Request the bombers as soon as the need arises, as there can be delays activating pilots, loading planes and getting to the fire ground.
- **NOTED:** Bombers can return for major incidents after departure, subject to approved requests.

7.5 Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade

- Nothing to report.

7.6 Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue

- Incident response training underway.
- Lots of vehicle movement, but all have stayed upright thus far.

7.7 Mullewa South Bush Fire Brigade

- Nothing to report.

7.8 Tenindewa Bush Fire Brigade

- Nothing to report.

7.9 Pindar/Tardun Bush Fire Brigade

- Not present, no report received.

7.10 Casuarina Bush Fire Brigade

- Nothing to report.

8 General Business

8.1 Upcoming Election – Mayor Clune

- Council will reduce from 11 to 9.
- All committees will be reviewed; this committee is legislated to continue under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.
- Greenough and Mullewa zones are proposed to be merged into one committee.
- This change aims to ease the workload on committee administration and the reduced Council.
- Brigade management is currently at its best; meetings are no longer needed for operational matters, but will focus on strategic updates.
- **NOTED:** BFACs are now perceived as less local due to their size, though the professionalism of the new meeting structure is appreciated.

8.2 Seasonal Worker Training – Murray Preston

- Would like there to be tailored training courses for seasonal workers.
- Rural Fire Awareness training may be too advanced for some seasonal workers.
- City can provide local training, but seasonal workers often arrive late in the season meaning there is inadequate time for training.

9 Date of next meeting

To be confirmed post the 2025 Local Government election.

10 Close

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 2:55pm.



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



MULLEWA BUSH FORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TABLED DOCUMENTS

Item No. 5	Minutes of Previous Meeting – 20 March 2025
Item No. 6	PRESENTATION: DFES State Hazard Plan Fire Comprehensive Review 2024/25 - M Teale
Item No. 7.1	CBFCO Report September 2025
Item No. 7.3	DFES Report September 2025
Item No. 7.4	DFES Report September 2025

19 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment :

**Item No. 5 Minutes of Previous
Meeting – 20 March 2025**

Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Meeting No.	1-2025
Meeting Date	20 March 2025		
Meeting Time	2:00pm		
Meeting Location	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office		
Members	Mayor Jerry Clune Cr Aaron Horsman Cr Michael Librizzi Daniel Critch - Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	By Invitation	
Attendees	Aaron Halliday – CGG, Training Officer Andy Gaze – CGG, Manager Regulatory Services Craig Moran - Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade Trevor Jones – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Murray Preston - Casuarinas Bush Fire Brigade Neil Johnstone - Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Cassandra Young – Mullewa Customer Service Officer Tony Crudeli - Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	Leave of Absence	
Apologies	Brendan Weir - Tenindewa Bush Fire Control Officer Darren Simmons - Mullewa District Office Manager Gerard Rowe - Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services Murray Smith - CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer	Distribution	All.
Purpose of Committee	<p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees are formally appointed Committees of Council established under section 5.8 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, and are responsible to that body.</p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees provide advice regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires; • Planning layout of fire breaks in the district; • Prosecutions for breaches of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>; • The formation of Brigades; and • Coordination and cooperation between Brigades and Agents. <p>Refer to Committee Book</p>		

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[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

1 Declaration Of Opening

Presiding Member, Mayor Clune declared the meeting open at 2:06pm.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

3 Welcome & Apologies

The Presiding Member welcomed the members and registered apologies were noted from:

- Brendan Weir - Tenindewa Bush Fire Control Officer
- Darren Simmons - Mullewa District Office Manager
- Gerard Rowe - Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain
- Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator
- Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Murray Smith - CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management
- Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services
- Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer

4 Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 September 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED CR M LIBRIZZI, SECONDED CR A HORSMAN

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 September 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 4/0

Not Voted: **1**

Against Votes: **0**

For Votes: **4**

Name	Vote (For or Against)
Mayor Clune	FOR
Cr. Horsman	FOR
Cr. Librizzi	FOR
Daniel Critch Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	FOR
Gerard Rowe Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain	NOT PRESENT

6 Agency and Brigade Updates

6.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – N Johnstone

See attachment.

Special thanks to DBCA for support at the Minnenooka fire.

6.2 CGG Coordinator Emergency Management

Apology – no report.

6.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

See attachment.

NOTED: Grain Harvest – currently experiencing ground controller shortages, though not in the Geraldton area. Efforts continue to ensure sufficient personnel are available.

6.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction

- Appreciation extended to brigades that assisted at the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road and Karara fires.
- Murchison experienced 20 fires.
- 16 new crew members trained; one additional truck allocated to Kalbarri, available district-wide. New recruits will be based across Kalbarri, Geraldton and Jurien.
- Relocated to new 8th Street facility; still addressing power and backup issues.
- Prescribed burns to focus on Kalbarri due to inland drought conditions.
- Blackhawks recognised as a significant asset.
- **NOTED:** Future Blackhawk deployment can be prioritised if preferred.

6.5 Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade

- No major updates; new truck performing well with no significant issues.

6.6 Mullewa South Bush Fire Brigade

Apology – no report.

6.7 Tenindewa Bush Fire Brigade

- Quiet period with a fast harvest; cool and wet weather allowed for sufficient equipment and personnel checks.

6.8 Pindar/Tardun Bush Fire Brigade

Apology – no report.

6.9 Casuarina Bush Fire Brigade

- Quiet period, with brigade members assisting at Dongara fires.

7 General Business

- Lovers Lane Firebreak: Completed after the firebreak deadline due to Mitigation Activity Funding (MAF) approval only being received five weeks ago. Top growth removed for fire containment, with plans for ongoing maintenance or inclusion in future MAF grants.
- Additional Firebreaks: Dulchev Way and Verita Road were also delayed but completed under the same MAF funding. Work was done as soon as practicable.
- Starlink Availability:
 - A mini Starlink is available in Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's car.
 - DFES requested portable Starlinks, pending Labor government funding. If approved, they may be installed on fire appliances for operational support.
 - A DFES report suggested Starlink may become obsolete, but this is one opinion, and technology may adapt for mobile compatibility.
 - **NOTED:** regardless of Starlink claims, the importance is maintaining current brigade communication regardless of future changes.
 - **NOTED:** Mingenew have brought back their date for burning.
- Acknowledgment: Chief Bush Fire Control Officer expressed thanks for the ready availability of personnel during the quiet period.

8 Date of next meeting

Proposed for Thursday, 18 September 2025.

9 Close

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 2:34pm.

Attachment :

**Item No. 6 PRESENTATION: DFES
State Hazard Plan Fire Comprehensive
Review 2024/25 - M Teale**

State Hazard Plan Fire Comprehensive Review 2024/25



FOR A SAFER STATE



Emergency Management Framework

*Legislation

- Western Australian Emergency Management Act and Regulations
- Fire Brigades Act and Regulations
- Bushfire Act and Regulations
- Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations

State Emergency Management Framework

- Legislation
- Policy
- Plans
 - State Emergency Management Plan
 - **State Hazard Plans**
 - State Support Plans
- Procedures
- Glossary
- Guidelines

Agency / Local Government Procedures (Supporting the State EM Framework)

- Agency policies and doctrine including DFES SAP's and SOP's, DBCA's Field Operation Guides, LG Local Laws & Brigade Operating Procedures

*Work Health and Safety Act



State Hazard Plan Fire History

August 2013

- First Draft of SHP Fire (Westplan – Fire)
- Westplan Structure Fire and Westplan Bushfire merged

October 2017

- Westplan Fire converted to SHP format
- Released as Interim SHP Fire

November 2019

- Version 1.0 SHP Fire approved

2020 – 2024 - Statement of fact and consequential amendments undertaken by SEMC Business Unit

April 2024

- DFES initiates a scheduled 5 yearly comprehensive review
- DFES Metropolitan Operations tasked to lead the review
- Revised plan due November 2024
- Extension granted to **7 August 2025** due to HTP, extensive stakeholder feedback requiring further amendments to the Plan and to allow for sub-committee review

Review Team

Sponsor – DFES Assistant Commissioner Metropolitan Operations - Danny Mosconi

Lead Reviewer – DFES Superintendent Metropolitan North East - Clinton Kuchel

Review Team – SEMC State Emergency Management Policy Branch

- A/Director DFES Legal and Legislation - Matt Verney
- A/Principal Policy and Planning Officer - Abby Simons
- Senior Policy Officer - Simone Ruane
- A/Senior Policy Officer - Mel Klasztorny
- Review team support and research - Nikita Stockinger

Plan Intent

1. **Inform** – provide a reference document for fire management in Western Australia
2. **Enable** – provide role clarity and reduce uncertainty / ambiguity relating to fire management in Western Australia

Review Objective

Objective

Develop a plan designed to inform WA stakeholders of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery arrangements to limit the impact of the hazard of fire on the community of Western Australia

Review Principles

- Establish a strategic level emergency management plan (not an operational plan)
 - Remove agency specific initiatives and procedures
 - Remove duplication
- Provide clarity of roles and responsibilities across the hazard of fire
- Identify and address gaps
- Align with the State Emergency Management Framework
- Provide necessary statement of fact changes

Consultation

Five rounds of consultation from April 2024 – May 2025

1. Internal feedback from DFES Metropolitan and Country Operations, Rural Fire Division and State Recovery
2. Key external stakeholder feedback (6 weeks)
 - DBCA
 - WALGA and Local Governments
 - WAPOL
 - Dept Communities

Document re-drafted ahead of broad consultation (IBOC and SBAC briefed)

3. Broad consultation to the public (12 weeks)
 - 30+ Submissions
 - 150+ Issues considered
 - Survey results collated and reviewed

Document re-drafted ahead of final review

4. DFES Internal review
5. Key stakeholder final review

Document re-drafted for SEMC Sub-Committee endorsement and SEMC approval

Key Feedback Themes

- Further clarity needed relating to jurisdictional responsibilities and areas of responsibility across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities, particularly relating to:
 - Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Unmanaged Reserves (UMR)
 - Local government (LG) responsibilities for LG's without bush fire brigades inside or outside a Gazetted Fire District (GFD)
 - Owner/occupier responsibilities
- Hazard Management Agency (HMA) recommended training standards
 - What are they?
 - Where can they be accessed?
 - How will they be managed?
- Further clarity and guidance is needed for financial management processes between Controlling Agencies, including for recovery activities (out of scope for this plan)
- Improve clarity across all PPRR roles and responsibilities

Review Team Consideration

- 32 Separate submissions received – some very extensive (42 pages)
- 150+ separate issues extracted for consideration by the Review Team
- Relevant legislation and policies reviewed
- State Emergency Management Framework reviewed
- Submission / amendment validation via SME engagement
- Additional reference material reviewed

Review Team Broad Consultation Feedback Outcomes

- **(32) Considered – Adopted** – content amended
- **(9) Considered – Not Adopted** - content not amended, review team consideration captured
- **(81) Noted** – feedback presented as a comment or statement only
- **(16) Noted Positive** - feedback presented as a positive comment or statement only
- **(11) Out of Scope - Principles** – feedback not aligned to review principles
- **(4) Out of Scope – Fire** – feedback provided not specifically related to the hazard of fire

Additional amendments to the Plan have been made during subsequent Key Stakeholder consultation

Key Amendments

General

- Document layout re-structured to improve read-ability and flow
- Improved alignment of content with Emergency Service Legislation and State Emergency Management framework

Part 1: Introduction

- Refined scope focussing on the “*hazard of fire*”, removing distinction between bushfire and property fire unless specifically required
- Increased focus on a “*shared responsibility*” for fire management
- Introduction of “Owner/Occupier, Private Sector/Industry, State Agency/Public Authority” (headings carried through Parts 2 – 4)
- Introduction of an “*area of responsibility*” for state agencies and public authorities to support the intent of a shared responsibility for fire management (see also Parts 3 and 4)

Key Amendments

Part 2: Prevention and Mitigation

- Updated Bushfire Mitigation strategies and Risk Management Planning sections to reflect current practice

Part 3: Preparedness

- New sections added: “*Preparing the Community*”, and “*Fire Preparedness Arrangements*”
- Introduction of HMA recommended training standards for Controlling Agency responders

Part 4: Response

- Clarification of initial Controlling Agency responsibilities, including on Commonwealth land
- Updated transfer of control arrangements relating to Section 13 and Section 45, *Bushfires Act 1954*
- Public information and warnings updated to incorporate the Australian Warning System (AWS)
- Revised sections for controlling movement within an operational area and evacuation

Part 5: Recovery

- Section restructured incorporating feedback from DFES State Recovery
- Incorporation of State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support

Key Amendments

Appendix C - Roles and responsibilities tables updated to improve clarity

Appendix D - New appendix created to clarify initial Controlling Agency for response by area of responsibility

Appendix E - Transfer of control flow charts updated to improve clarity

Key Amendment - Training

Controlling Agencies responsible for fire response should ensure their personnel operating on a fire ground are trained to a standard no less than the minimum standard (or equivalent) recommended by the HMA. DFES has developed a suite of training programs that outline the minimum standard for bushfire operations and include additional training programs that meet DFES requirements. Access to these training programs is available online via the QR code below, via the DFES website or by contacting DFES.



Key Amendment - Training

Alerts & Warnings emergency.wa.gov.au

Fire or life threatening emergencies: 000 Emergency Information: 13 3337 SES Emergency Assistance: 132 500

Got 15 minutes to burn?

Create your bushfire plan and keep your household safe.

[Read more](#)

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Language Accessibility Contact Us

Bushfire Structure Fire Cyclone Storm Flood Tsunami Earthquake Hazard

- Home
- Hazard Information
- Employment and Volunteering
- Volunteering
- Regulation and Compliance
- Emergency Services Levy
- Awards and Events
- News
- Education and Heritage
- About Us
- Bushfire Centre of Excellence
- Resilience and Recovery Funding
- Publications**
- Languages
- Accessibility
- Freedom of Information
- Contact Us

Alerts & Warnings emergency.wa.gov.au

Fire or life threatening emergencies: 000 Emergency Information: 13 3337 SES Emergency Assistance: 132 500

PUBLICATIONS

Featured Publications

- Annual Report 2023-2024
- Burn SMART Guide
- Bushfire Warning System Fact Sheet
- Annual Report 2022-2023

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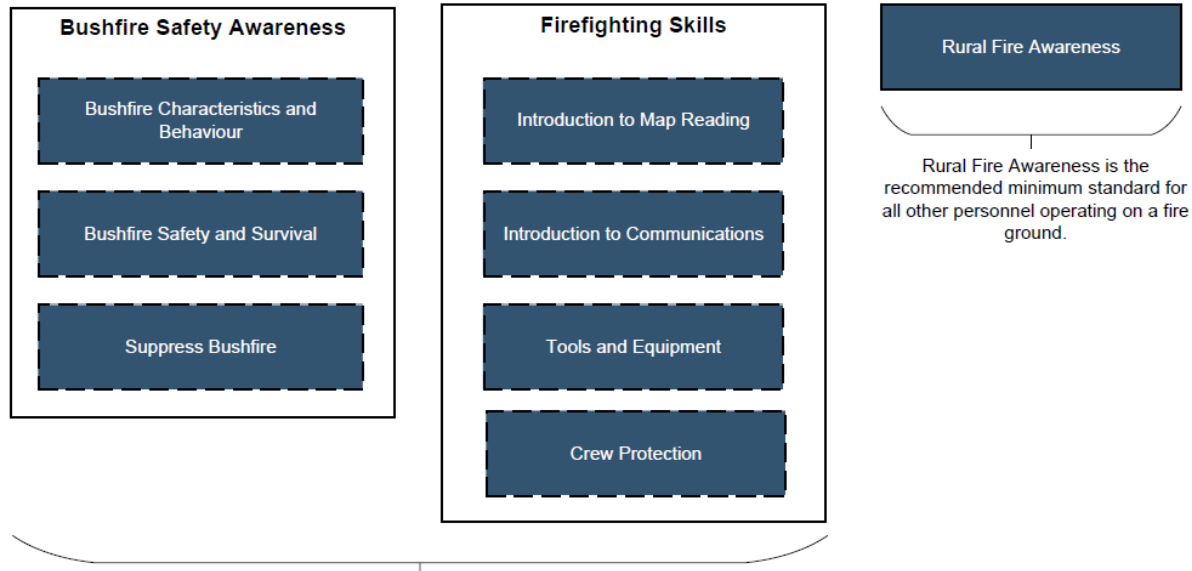
Document title	Category	Sub Category	Last modified	Actions
Hazard Management Agency (HMA) Recommended Minimum Training Standards for Response Personnel (Bushfire)	Hazard	Bushfire	Aug 2025	Download
Course Information - Online Rural Fire Awareness	Hazard	Bushfire	Dec 2023	Download
Course Information - Online Bushfire Fundamentals	Hazard	Bushfire	Feb 2024	Download
Bushfire Safety Guide for Direct Care Givers	Hazard	Bushfire	Dec 2022	Download
Bushfire Risk Management Plan	Hazard	Bushfire	Dec 2024	Download
Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2024	Hazard	Bushfire	Mar 2024	Download

Key Amendment - Training



Hazard Management Agency (HMA) Recommended Minimum Training Standards for Response Personnel

State Hazard Plan – Fire, section 3.4 states that all response personnel operating on a fire ground are trained to a standard no less than the minimum standard (or equivalent) recommended by the HMA. Fire ground is defined as “the area that response activities are being undertaken to mitigate the hazard of fire that has the potential to cause a threat or harm to the health or safety of responders”.



Recommended minimum standard for all personnel operating on a fire ground, using DFES or Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) (or equivalent specification) firefighting appliances.

The above training courses are part of the DFES Volunteer Service-specific Training Programs



Key Amendment - Recovery

Section 5.2 - Emergency Relief and Support

- Link to State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support
- Identification of the six (6) recovery domains
- Highlights Department of Communities role in supporting Level 1 incidents

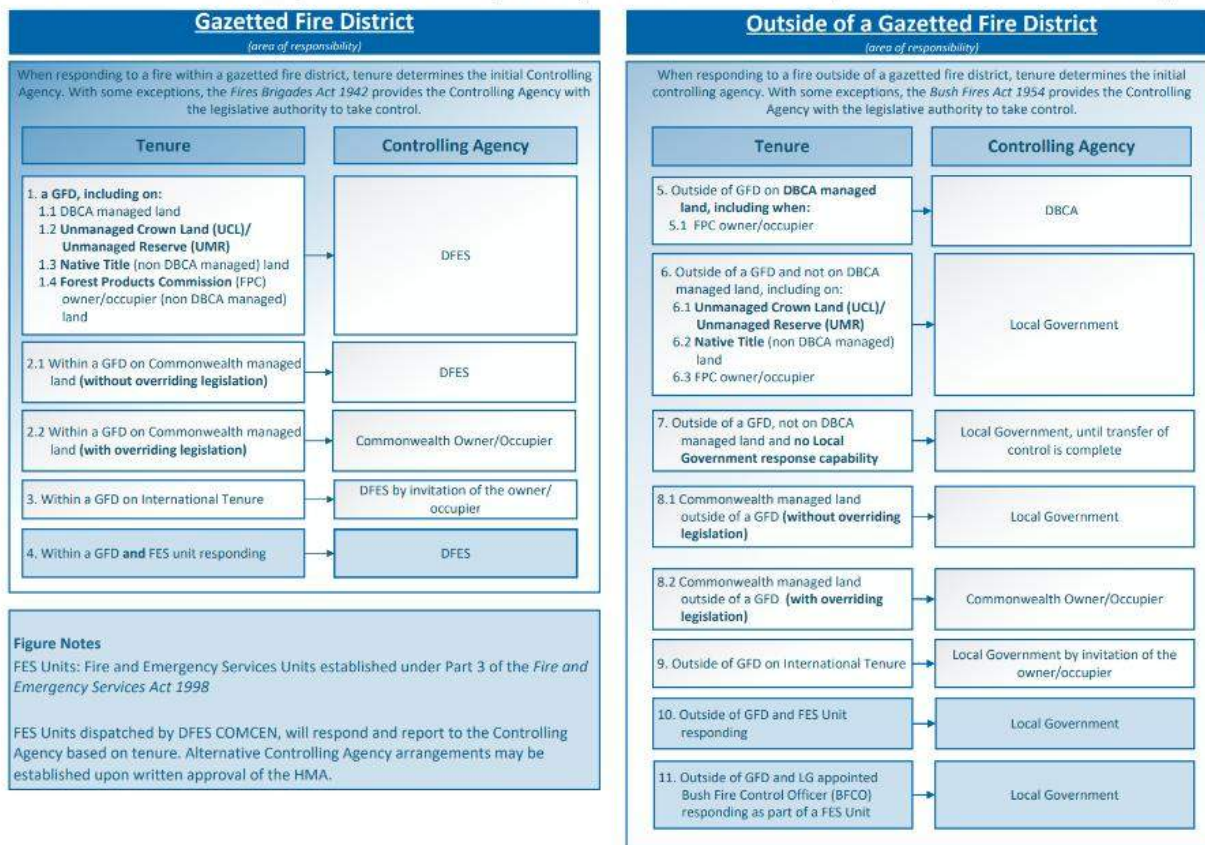
Section 5.4 - Transfer to Recovery-led Operations

- Focus on maintaining continuity of support to the community as the focus of an incident shifts from response to recovery led activities.
- Formalising the requirement for the Controlling Agency to identify residual risks arising from the initiating hazard and planning for the transfer of responsibility for the management of residual risks from the Controlling Agency to identified risk owners.

Key Amendment Appendix D

Appendix D: Initial Controlling Agency for Response by Area of Responsibility

This appendix provides examples and guidance on the initial Controlling Agency for Response based on their legislative area of responsibility. The examples provided are not exhaustive as there are many exceptions to controlling agency arrangements both within and outside of a Gazetted Fire District (GFD). It remains incumbent on all Controlling Agencies to understand their respective areas of responsibility. The transfer of control process is further described in Appendix E.



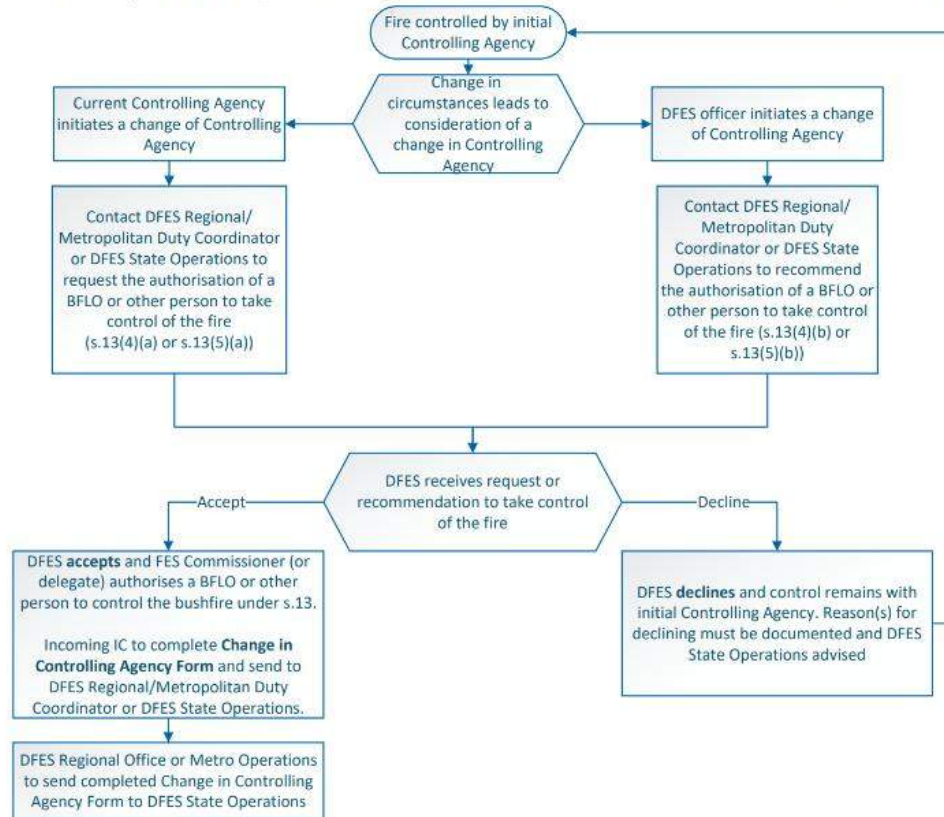
Appendix Figure D1: Initial Controlling Agency based on area of responsibility

Key Amendment Appendix E 1

Appendix E: Transfer of Control

E1: Transfer of control to DFES

When circumstances change during a fire initially controlled by DBCA or a local government, a request for the transfer of control to DFES may occur. The FES Commissioner may authorise a person under section 13(4) or 13(5)(b) of the Bush Fires Act to take control of the incident.



Appendix Figure E1: Transfer of Control from DBCA or local government to DFES

Figure Notes: Within this figure, all sections mentioned refer to the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

As described within section 4.4 Transfer of Control, there are several exceptions to the transfer of control process to DFES, including:

- Once a fire is declared a Level 3 incident and/or there is a need for an emergency situation or state of emergency declaration, then control is assigned to DFES.
- A Change in Controlling Agency Form is not required when the HMA has approved, in writing, the establishment of specific Controlling Agency arrangements with the local government.
- More than one person can be appointed under section 13 of the Bush Fires Act provided that the duration column specifies the time and circumstances of appointment and there is no overlap.

IC/Controlling Agency must request cancellation of appointment once deemed no longer necessary.

All requests are processed via DFES State Operations (District Officer State Situation).

Key Amendment Appendix E 2

E2: Transfer of control between a local government and DBCA

When circumstances change during a fire initially controlled by DBCA or a local government, the transfer of control may be requested between a local government and DBCA under sections 45A and 45 of the Bush Fires Act.

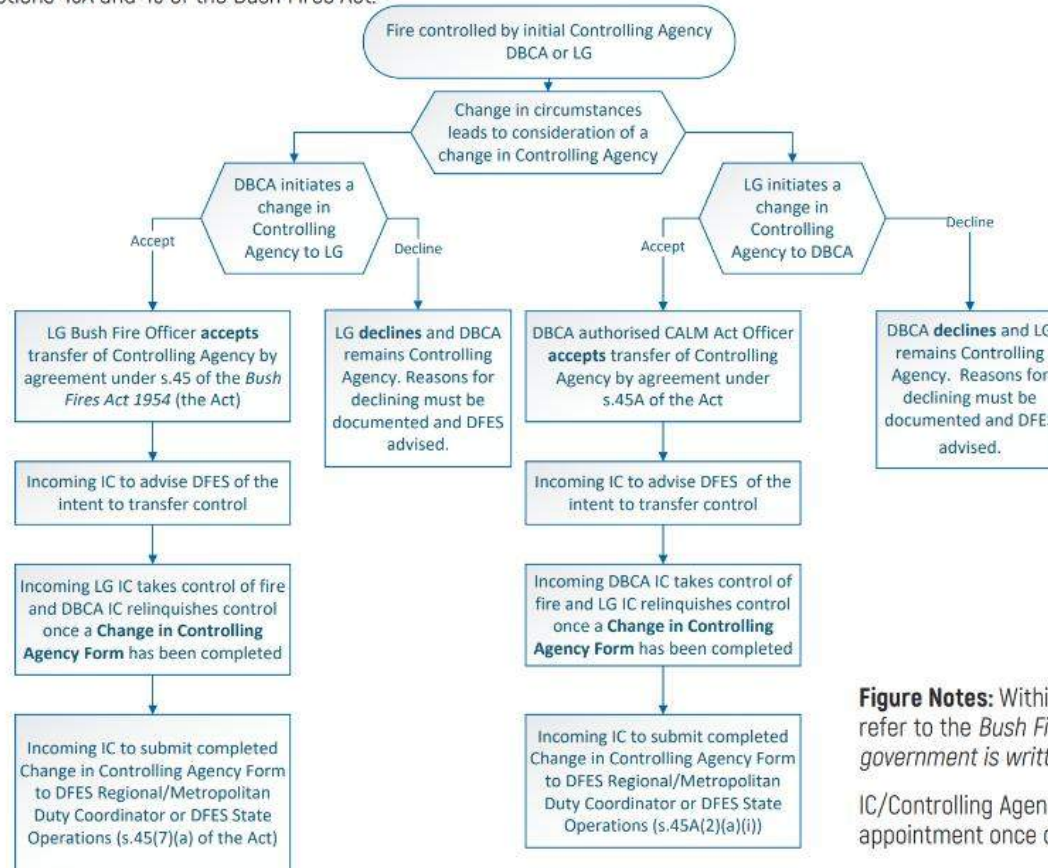


Figure Notes: Within this figure, all sections mentioned refer to the *Bush Fires Act 1954 (the Act)* and local government is written as LG.

IC/Controlling Agency must request cancellation of appointment once deemed no longer necessary.

All requests are processed via DFES State Operations (District Officer State Situation).

Appendix Figure E2: Transfer of Control between DBCA and local government

Please print this page on A3 to pass print accessibility standards.

Consequential Amendments

The Review Team notes that there are a number of State Emergency Management Framework projects and coronial inquests in progress that may require the approved Plan to be amended once published.

The SEMC State Emergency Management Policy Branch will make the necessary consequential amendments in consultation with subject matter experts should this occur prior to a scheduled review period.

Communication Plan

DFES is currently developing a communications strategy to support the implementation of the approved State Hazard Plan - Fire.

The communication strategy will include:

- Distribution of the approved Plan to SEMC member agencies as per distribution list Appendix A
- Publishing of the Plan on the SEMC website
- Regional face to face briefings to key stakeholders throughout Western Australia
- Engagement with partner agencies to engage via established communication channels

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-hazard-plan-fire>





FOR A SAFER STATE



Attachment :

**Item No. 7.1 CBFCO Report
September 2025**

CBFCO Report September 2025

BFAC

Merging of Brigades

Pindar/Tardun Merged with Mullewa South.

Casuarinas merged with Eradu.

Spontaneous Volunteers

Incident controller responsibility, Training for volunteers, Correct PPE.

Training on the 27th / 28th of September (Bush fire safety awareness, Firefighting skills, Aiims awareness)

Available for farmer response attending in own vehicle (Rural fire awareness online)

Starlink

City will be installing Starlink on all fire appliances with funding from Labor election promise.

Water tanks

We were successful in obtaining funding for two 200,000 Ltr water tanks. One installed at Wicherina and one at Casuarinas.

Appliances

All appliances have had or is in the process of having the pre-season service completed.

Radio update

All the appliances are in the process of having the radios updated.

Grain harvest air

The aircraft should be based out of the Geraldton airport from 1st week of November.

City Mitigation work.

Mitigation work is underway

Attachment :

**Item No. 7.3
2025**

DFES Report September



Midwest Gascoyne Region – BFAC Report – Pre High Threat Period 2025/26

FIRE SERVICES

Seasonal Outlook

DFES and the Bureau of Meteorology will be conducting the regional Pre-Fire/Cyclone Season Tour in late October. While targeting the northern parts of the region in person, Local Governments can access the DEMC presentation, which will provide a seasonal synopsis covering the whole Mid-West Gascoyne. That being said, the region has had a reasonably wet winter period, which will result in increased fuel loads throughout the high threat period.

State Hazard Plan – Fire

The updated State Hazard Plan – Fire has been published on the SEMC website. It outlines WA's fire hazard management arrangements, spanning prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. All stakeholders are strongly encouraged to review the latest plan and update internal processes and policies as required.

A key change requires controlling agencies, including Local Governments, to ensure personnel operating on firegrounds are trained to at least the minimum standard (or equivalent) recommended by the Hazard Management Agency. For more information <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-hazard-plan-fire>

Bushfire Appliances

The region will again receive additional bushfire appliances this season to support the high threat period. These will be strategically placed to boost local response capacity and will also be available for deployment on strike teams during a major incident. Please liaise with your local DFES fire manager to discuss further.

As bushfire brigade appliances are coming up for replacement, we also strongly encourage a review of the type of appliances brigades are requesting. There are several options available, each offering significant capabilities. Check out the current operational fleet catalogue <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/about-us/operational-fleet>

Bushfire Prone Areas – Map Review

Consultation for the 2025 Review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas has commenced, with an updated version scheduled for release in late 2025.

- The draft mapping standard has been refined, improving accessibility and removing the need for dedicated GIS software.
- Feedback access is limited to Local and State Government agencies, and submissions must be lodged via the relevant agency by **COB 10 October 2025**.

Mitigation

The three-year Mitigation Activity Fund grant round is currently open, closing **30 September 2025**. The one-year program for 2026/27 will open again in March next year.

DFES regional mitigation works are currently being planned, with works being scheduled for high-priority areas in and around townsites on UCL/UMR land.

Grain Harvest – Water Bombers

Water bomber aerial support is expected again during this coming grain harvest period. It is important to call for them early, with sufficient information to help the RDC support the request. As the name suggests, and with the focus being on support of the Grain Harvest, it is important to request them for harvest fires. They're response is highly beneficial for supporting fire containment, slowing the rate of spread and reducing fire intensity.

Water bomber reloader training will be occurring ahead of their deployment with the following dates and locations scheduled through DECA

- Moora, Eneabba & Dongara Saturday 1st November
- Kalbarri, Geraldton & Jurien Sunday 2nd November



It was highlighted last season that there are limited numbers of Ground Controllers and experience in that role. We encourage you to engage with our training program or contact your DFES Fire Manager to schedule training, along with conducting refresher training pre-season.

2025 Training Calendar

The DFES training season is slowly winding to a close, with over 200 courses completed/scheduled across the MWG region this year.

Bushfire Skills Toolkit – The Bushfire Centre of Excellence has created a bushfire skills toolkit that is available through eAcademy. The toolkit provides brigades with valuable information to support brigade-based training. Included is a new Pre-Season refresher skill card, which has been developed to outline key refresher activities to prepare firefighters for the season. Attendance at brigade training can also be captured on a Skills Maintenance Attendance Record (SMAR)

A five-year review of the Firefighting Skills course is progressing, with the update of the intro to map reading and communications modules in the final stages. The face-to-face versions of these resources have been updated, and blended options have been created, which include both online and face-to-face content and options.

A reminder that Rural Fire Awareness is also available online for both brigade members and the public/external stakeholders. Please access via the Volunteer hub or the public-facing link below.

<https://eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au/?client=externaltenant>

EmergencyWA App

The EmergencyWA app continues to be updated as required. Strongly recommend that everyone download the app.

With the increased accessibility of emergency-related public information, CBFCOs and FCOs are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Public Information at 1800 718 288 to issue alerts and warnings during incident response. The team are very supportive and will walk you through the process when you call.

Radio Communications

DFES are rolling out a replacement for the Vertex handheld radios. Tait TP9600 VHF and UHF radios will be available in the near future. As radios become available, contact will be made with each local government to discuss the rollout. Early stages will focus on replacing existing radios before considering additional ones.

A program is also underway to remove Midband radios from brigade appliances and replace them with a secondary VHF WAERN Radio. A DFES-approved contractor will be in touch with each local government to program in these works where and when available.

A review of the regional radio and communications plans is also underway. Please look out for the rollout of these plans in the coming months. If you have any feedback on your current plan, please reach out to

ao.midlands@dfes.wa.gov.au.

How to Order DFES Publications/Brochures

DFES has a range of publications dedicated to increasing public information about hazards such as bushfires, structure fires, floods, storms, and cyclones that can impact communities. Please visit

<https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/order-publications> to order

Exercises / Events

The DFES Regional Bushfire Exercise will be held in Geraldton on the 29th of October. Please reach out to your local fire manager if you wish to be involved.

DFES Regional Duty Coordinator

The Midwest Gascoyne Regional Duty Coordinator is available 24x7 for support and advice. Please make contact on 1800 317 555



State Hazard Plan - Fire

Comprehensive Review Summary

Background

The State Hazard Plan Fire (the Plan) provides an overview of arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia (WA) and contains information on fire prevention, preparedness, response and initial recovery. The Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for fire. Additionally, DFES, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and local governments all have legislative roles for the hazard of fire.

As this is a strategic level plan, it refers to a range of existing plans and documents relating to fire but does not duplicate the information. The Plan provides directions to appropriate sources where further information can be obtained.

Comprehensive Review Process

Every five years, a comprehensive review of the Plan is required to be undertaken and provided for broad consultation with all emergency management stakeholders.

To guide the comprehensive review process, DFES defined the following objective and principles for their review:

Objective

Develop a Plan designed to inform WA stakeholders of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery arrangements to limit the impact of the hazard of fire on the community of Western Australia.

Principles

- Establish a strategic level emergency management plan (not an operational plan)
 - Remove agency specific initiatives or procedures
 - Remove duplication
- Provide clarity of roles and responsibilities across the hazard of fire
- Identify and address gaps
- Align with State Emergency Management Framework
- Provide necessary statement of fact changes

Initial Consultation

Initial feedback was requested from internal DFES stakeholders and agencies with roles and responsibilities within the State Hazard Plan. All local governments were requested to join this initial consultation period.



Broad Consultation

Guided by initial feedback, the Plan was revised and amended in line with the identified objective and principles. This amended Plan was provided for broad emergency management stakeholder review and feedback from 17 September 2024 to 9 December 2024. Feedback gathered through consultation was reviewed and considered in further amendments of the revised Plan currently presented.

Key Feedback Themes

- Further clarity needed for areas of responsibility and jurisdiction across Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (PPRR) activities, particularly:
 - Unallocated Crown Land and Unmanaged Reserves
 - Local governments with no Bush Fire Brigades or situated within a Gazetted Fire District
 - shared owner/occupier land
- HMA recommended training standards
 - What are they
 - Where can they be accessed
 - Related processes
- Further clarity and guidance needed for finance and recovery processes between Controlling Agencies (out of scope for this Plan)
- Clarity of specific PPRR roles and responsibilities

Amendment Summary

Document-wide

1. Restructure of sections using principle of shared responsibility, to provide clarity of responsibilities and arrangements applicable across WA.
2. Change reference of Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) to DBCA.
3. Removed DFES specific/operational details, instead refers to arrangements and actions across agencies involved in fire management.
4. Removed references to documents and programs subject to impermanence.

Part One: Introduction

1. Broadened scope to identify target audience.
2. Refined hazard definition consistent with *Emergency Management Act 2005*
3. Removed divisions between 'types' of fire (sections titled bushfire, property fire and shipboard fires removed).
4. Introduced key stakeholder groups, 'Owners and occupiers', 'Private sector and industry', and 'State agencies and public authorities.'
5. Added additional related documents and legislation including Aboriginal *Heritage Act 1974* in 1.4.
6. Removed DFES specific detail from 1.5 Assurance Activities, section renamed 'Continuous improvement'.

Part Two: Prevention and Mitigation

1. Restructured section, Responsibility for Prevention and Mitigation, by key stakeholder groups as identified in introduction.
2. Removed all specific mitigation strategy subsections – level of detail is not in line with principles or sustainable. Replaced with summary of types of strategies and agencies involved.
3. Added new subsection on Bushfire Risk Management Plans 2.2.1



Part Three: Preparedness

1. Restructured section, Responsibility for Preparedness, in line with previous section and principle of shared responsibility set out in Part One.
2. Community Education and Information content now under section 3.2 Preparing the Community.
3. Preparedness Arrangements section has been restructured to provide further clarity of arrangements at different levels (local, regional/district, state and Inter-jurisdictional support arrangements).
4. Incident Management Team Structure section moved to Part Four.
5. New section, 3.4 Preparing for Response – outlines Controlling Agencies resourcing responsibilities, including training personnel to the minimum training standard recommended by the HMA. Access to the minimum training standards will be available via the QR code provided within the Plan, via the FES website or by contacting DFES.

Part Four: Response

1. Restructured to introduce section with Responsibility for Response in line with previous sections.
2. Added section 4.1.4 Controlling Agencies, to improve clarity of jurisdiction and areas of responsibility, including Commonwealth land.
3. Restructure of sections under new heading, 4.2 Incident Management, for improved cohesiveness – content of these sections has not changed significantly but sub-heading titles have been amended.
4. Renamed Response Arrangements to 4.3 Resourcing Arrangements and restructured in line with previous sections, to improve clarity of arrangements at different levels.
5. New section, 4.4 Transfer of Control created to improve clarity of arrangements and requirements.
6. Restructure and rename of sections - Emergency Public Information and Funding Arrangements for Response, keeping language in line with State EM Policy and Plan (includes updated AWS warnings). Also now split into separate sections, 4.5 Public Information and Warnings, and 4.8 Funding Arrangements for Response.
7. New section, 4.6 Controlling Movement within an Operational Area, which encompasses pre-existing sections outlining evacuation arrangements.
8. New section 4.7 Declaration of an Emergency Situation and State of Emergency, outlining powers regarding these declarations.

Part Five: Recovery

1. Sections restructured in consultation with State Recovery and State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support in line with broader State EM Framework.

Appendices

1. Appendix B revised and updated.
2. Appendix C revised and updated sections. Highlighted contribution and involvement of supporting agencies roles and responsibilities.
3. Appendix D Initial Controlling Agency by Area of Responsibility, new appendix to outline the initial controlling agency.
4. Appendices E (previously D & E) and F revised to provide clarity on the arrangements for change of Controlling Agency between DFES, local governments and DBCA.

Attachment :

**Item No. 7.4 DBCA Report
September 2025**

BFAC Meetings Report Sept 2025

Midwest Region Duty Officer Number – 0429 640 916

Bushfires

- DBCA Midwest responded to 40 fires across the three districts last season
- Staff deployed around the state from Exmouth to Walpole to assist local communities with IMT and on ground support.

Prescribed Burning

Autumn 2025

- Murchison District completed strategic town site protection burns around Kalbarri and buffer burning

Fire Mitigation

- Fire Access Track maintenance is due to commence when conditions allow for access, noting a few delays with approvals for ACH act Reg 7 & 10 and some internal department system upgrades.
- Radio repeater tower vegetation control is almost complete

Fire Preparedness

- Pre-season equipment checks of ICC's and Ops rooms are underway.
- DBCA Radio infrastructure servicing is underway
- Contractor engagement for suppression response arrangements
- An addition for the Midwest this year is 2 staff will be rostered on in Shark Bay providing additional coverage in the region.

Equipment

- DBCA Geraldton now has 2 x 12000L Collar Tanks that can be used for helitacks or remote fires

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- DBCA Geraldton now has 2 x VMS trailers and 2 x fuel tender trailers.
- DBCA Fire equipment servicing is currently underway (vehicles and base)
- Water bomber reloader equipment servicing
- Several new light units will come online over the next month

Training

- Firefighter crew member training
- Pre-season training
- SAR (Search and Rescue) Keeper Training for radio operators
- UXO Presentation from Australian Defence Force
- Machine fireline construction training for DBCA staff and contractors
- Rural Urban Interface training
- Water Bomber Reloader training

Saturday 1st November	
Moora	0900
Eneabba	1200
Dongara	1430
Sunday 2nd November	
Kalbarri	0900
Geraldton	1230
Jurien	1530

Grain Harvest Waterbombers

- Will be based in Geraldton 31st October until around mid December.
- Reminder to request through the RDC and include ground controller, request criteria, etc.
- It is critical that the Aircraft can contact someone on the ground when they are inbound and throughout the operation this needs to be someone dedicated to the role. Noting the importance of using Talk around if out of repeater range.