



Newsletter

for Fire Management Area Committees

Issue 011 | November 2020

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It has been a huge year for State Fire Management Council (SFMC) and Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs).

FMACs have completed risk training and are now in the process of developing their new Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMP). Also in over half of the FMACs new Chairs have been nominated.

We have also had an increase in interest from organisations to join FMACs or be included in workshops to contribute to the identification of bushfire risk. This is largely due to the dedication of Adrian Pyrke and the commitment of FMAC members and Bushfire Risk Unit Planners; well done to all.

SFMC have also been busy with formal submissions to the [Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements](#), Fire Service Act Review and the Bushfire Mitigation Measures Bill. An updated [Machinery Operations Guideline](#) has been produced as a direct outcome from the Machinery Operations Working Group. SFMC have also developed a Strategic Communication Strategy which will guide communication and engagement for SFMC and FMACs into the future. The first step of implementing this strategy is to conduct a strategic stakeholder audit, this will be sent to organisations, agencies and in some cases individuals shortly, seeking views and feedback on what type of communication stakeholders would like from SFMC.

Another huge achievement for 2020 has been the reinstatement of the Red Hot Tips Program. The Red Hot Tips team have hit the ground running, and already have over 80 landholders registered. Gill Basnett, the program coordinator, has provided an update in this newsletter.

SFMC meet next week, so we will provide another update prior to Christmas. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to the newsletter please email SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au.

Ian Sauer, Chair SFMC

SFMC Profile



Ian Sauer is the Chair of SFMC. He is nearing the end of his second term after initially commencing in October 2014.

Ian is a dry land sheep and cattle producer from Pipers Brook in northern Tasmania, with over 40 years' experience in agriculture, natural resource management, policy formulation, project development, management, and community development.

Ian is also a volunteer firefighter with Pipers Brook and has held a range of positions, including Brigade Chief. Ian's roles on committees and boards have all been linked to agriculture, allowing him to represent community groups at the local, State and National policy level.

How do your skills and experience assist in your role as Chair of the SFMC?

I have spent the last 40 years farming, as a volunteer firefighter, being involved in Landcare and sitting on a range of boards and committee's allowing me to acquire and develop a range of skills from the strategic to the operational side of projects and organisations. These skills are a comfortable fit for the Chair of SFMC. Understanding fire and bushfire management, project development and execution is important, but to understand the end user, the consumer and those who are managing land, is paramount.

What do you believe has been your biggest success as Chair of the SFMC?

There is no question SFMC has been successful in achieving its aim, principally being an advisory group to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, and supporting the FMACs.

SFMC represents the majority of public and private land managers in Tasmania, as well as government agencies responsible for vegetation fire management across the State. We work together to empower landholders and managers to understand and manage their own vegetation fire risk. These relationships, as well as a range of focused programs and initiatives, are ensure the co-ordination of the investment in bushfire risk management, building a shared responsibility approach to bushfire preparedness and helping to promote community resilience through education and government support.

Council normally flies under the radar and does not promote its work, however over the last few years I am incredibly proud of our achievements, which include but not limited to the following:

- Establishment of the whole-of-government Fuel Reduction Program.
- Establishment and implementation of the Red Hot Tips program.
- Development of the Strategic Communications Strategy.
- Development of a solid network of over 250 stakeholders that have 'skin in the game'.
- Coordination of the Machinery Operations Guideline and subsequent Working Group.
- Development of the '[Planned burning for farmers and landholder's](#)' resource.
- Initiation of the Fire Permit Review stakeholder forums.
- Development of the Tasmania Vegetation Fire Management Policy with stakeholders.
- SFMC being recognised as a hub for vegetation fire management, particularly in the private sector.
- The Bushfire Risk Management Planning Project; developing a framework for the identification of strategic bushfire risk.

I have always been passionate about assisting the rural sector and the above programs do that by helping landholders manage their bushfire risk. These programs are definitely a highlight of my time as Chair. I am most excited about the re-establishment of the [Red Hot Tips](#) program. The team of Gill, Brad, Dave and Garth have hit the ground running and I am incredibly proud of the program success to date.

My job as Chair is a pleasure and is made easy because of the high calibre of the Council members and staff, led by Deb and Hannah.

Update: Bushfire Protection Planning Project

Project aim: to provide a consistent framework, tools, education and support for FMACs to undertake bushfire risk assessments and develop fire protection plans.

The results of the survey about FMAC participation showed that there is very strong support amongst FMAC members for contributing to the risk assessment and Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs). The willingness to participate in online training was not quite so strong; however, fortunately we were able to provide face to face training as well as online training. These survey results and the many helpful comments have and will continue to assist the development of training, the risk assessment and the BRMPs.

The bushfire risk training was held at Devonport, Launceston, Hobart, King Island and online. The sessions were well attended and provided members with an understanding of how to contribute to the risk assessment and Bushfire Risk Management Plans.

The risk registers were finalised by the Bushfire Risk Unit (BRU) team supported by many contributions from FMAC members and other stakeholders. Here is a summary of the steps completed:

1. Risk assessment criteria and analysis inputs were determined by the working group: weather scenarios, data sources, consequences, likelihood and controls.
2. State-wide GIS layers were compiled for: Human Settlement Areas, natural values, production forests, critical infrastructure, social setting (i.e. community impacts) and people.
3. Value/asset clusters were created with aggregated consequence value; likelihood was calculated for the clusters: fire behaviour impact metric (Phoenix modelling) x ignition potential (BRAM modelling); and control effectiveness was estimated.
4. Workshops with REMC representatives identified the most significant Social Setting (e.g. community wellbeing, culturally important areas) and People (e.g. mortality) bushfire impacts. These values and assets were added to the risk registers, including new mapping where required and likelihood calculations.

5. The priorities identified in the risk registers were reviewed at FMAC meetings and the cut off for treatment was decided. The assets and values that were agreed for treatment were assigned to appropriate individuals and organisations for preparation of treatment plans.

As a result, the risk assessment is progressing well; the treatment planning will be the culmination of all the good work to date and will be the most important component of the BRMPs. There are improvements that can be made to the risk assessment and many of these have already been identified for the next cycle that commence soon after the finalisation of the BRMPs.

We are confident, however, that we now have a risk assessment framework and products that put FMACs in a better position to prepare BRMPs that will benefit the Tasmanian community.

The remaining key stages of the project and target completion dates:

Individuals and organisations develop treatment plans for the agreed assets/values: 27/11/2020

The BRU Planning Officer combines all separate treatment plans to create a single treatment plan for the FMAC

The FMAC reviews and finalises the risk assessment and treatment plan

The rest of the BRMP is drafted by the FMAC supported by the BRU:
24/12/2020

BRMP sent to SFMC for approval:
5/02/2021

A State BRMP is prepared that summarises the highest priorities and treatments across the State: 26/02/2021

FMAC Profile

Welcome Ed Gwynne as the new Midlands FMAC Chair!

Ed has been working at Hydro Tasmania for over 3 years as the Works Co-ordinator, Roads and Vegetation.

With a background in domestic construction, some military service and predominately civil construction, his current role at Hydro Tasmania is an asset management focus in areas that support the generation capability, and the protection of those generation assets.

How do your skills and experience assist in your participation on FMACs?

Ed is the new Chair of Midlands FMAC and represents Hydro Tasmania on a number of FMACs. Ed sees Hydro's involvement in the FMACs as an opportunity to collaborate with agencies and organisations cross tenure and increase Hydro's involvement in state-wide bushfire protection activities.

He also believes involvement in the FMAC is an opportunity to learn from a range of bushfire professionals and take the learnt knowledge to further develop Hydro's bushfire protection strategies.

What do you believe has been your main contribution or biggest success as Chair of the Midlands FMAC?

Hydro Tasmania has actively engaged in the recent Bushfire Risk Management project, and the support and guidance he received from the SFMC project team has contributed to data to be used moving into the future.

His role at Hydro has objectives around bushfire protection preparedness, and the contacts met through the FMACs have greatly assisted in a continuous improvement approach to mitigating bushfire risk across the Hydro asset portfolio.



Have Your Say....

Open for comment: Planned burning for farmers and landholders booklet

SFMC commenced a review of the [Planned burning for farmers and landholders booklet](#) earlier this year. Due to the funding announcement for Red Hot Tips we decided to postpone the review to enable further feedback from landholders.

If you would like to provide comment please send your **feedback** to SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au by **3 February 2020**.

Open for comment: TWWHA Biosecurity Strategy 2021-2031

DPIPWE is developing a Biosecurity Strategy to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) by reducing the impacts and risks associated with invasive organisms (weeds, pests and diseases) in terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments.

DPIPWE are seeking input from a broad range of stakeholders and experts who are associated in some way with biosecurity and/or the management of TWWHA values.

Feedback is now invited on the draft strategy and is **due 24 December 2020**. Please visit the [TWWHA Biosecurity Strategy](#) webpage to download a copy of the draft strategy and feedback form and for further information on the consultation process.

Red Hot Tips

Early March 2020, the State Government announced 12-months funding to help private landowners plan for and undertake vegetation fire management activities through the new look Red Hot Tips program, managed by SFMC.

Gill Basnett, previously of Tamar NRM, has taken on the Coordinator role for this program. Gill and a team of three regional facilitators: Garth Bennett in the North, Brad Williams in the South and David Fulford in the North West, provide on-ground support to landholders across Tasmania.

Supporting the program, and providing strategic oversight, is the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group, made up of stakeholders with specific knowledge and skills in land management, bushfire management and rural engagement, including representatives from the: SFMC, Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers, the agricultural sector, Private Forestry Tasmania and Parks and Wildlife.

Red Hot Tips offers a 'one stop service' for individuals, or groups of individuals, who own or manage large tracts of land, providing a range of support tailored to rural landholder needs, including:

- Site visits and phone advice
- Practical bushfire management planning advice
- Support to develop effective burn plans
- Training and mentoring opportunities
- Assistance identifying resources and requirements for planned burning
- Information on a range of fuel reduction treatments and methods
- Advice on burning for biodiversity benefits.

The program also seeks opportunities for neighbouring landholders, both private and public, and local brigades to work together and collaborate on vegetation fire management activities.

As of 16 November, over 80 landholders have registered for Red Hot Tips and conducted over 30 planned burns.



Southern Red Hot Tips Facilitator, Brad Williams with Coordinator Gill Basnett

Red Hot Tips initially ran from 2013 – 17 as a pilot program delivered by NRM North and then by SFMC and Macquarie Franklin.

The new look program builds on the success and learnings from the pilot program.



Practical bushfire management

For further information, to register or refer a landholder please contact the Red Hot Tips team:

Email: RedHotTips@fire.tas.gov.au

Web: SFMC.tas.gov.au/RedHotTips

Phone: 0448 297 224

What's New

3 December 2020: BOM Webinar – Summer 2020 climate and water update

Join climate experts for an update on temperature, rainfall and other conditions



to date, and an in depth look at the outlook for Summer 2020. Register now to learn how the Bureau's climate and water information can help you make important decisions for the season ahead.

Updated Machinery Operation Guideline

A new version of the [Machinery Operation Guideline](#) has been published. The publication is available on the SFMC and Tasmania Fire Service websites. If you would like hard copies of the publication or copies of the dashboard sticker please email SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements has published its final report. The [report](#) contains over 80 recommendations and can be viewed on the Commission website: naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au

Tree Alliance: New Website

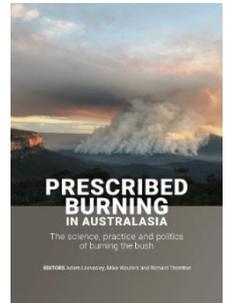
[Tree Alliance](#) is a marketing campaign, including a great website, run by Private Forest Tasmania. The campaign aims to raise awareness of farm forestry and the benefits of trees on farms, and to encourage and facilitate farmers to plant commercially viable trees in the agricultural landscape - www.treealliance.com.au

New Australian Disaster Resilience Index

An understanding of disaster resilience will help communities better prepare for, absorb and respond to natural hazards. A newly launched [website](#) helps explain and measure resilience so we can adapt and transform our communities for the better - adri.bnhcrc.com.au

New Resource: Prescribed Burning in Australasia

A [new book on prescribed burning](#) has just been published by AFAC, with our very own Adrian Pyrke as one of the authors.



The book is designed to increase the understanding of the value of prescribed burning in land management but also presents diverse perspectives on the complexity of the arguments surrounding prescribed burning. The book can be purchased through the AFAC shop - afac.com.au/auxiliary/shop/

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) is now finalising detailed implementation plans to manage the implementation of the AFDRS in 2022 along with the changes required to policy, procedures, IT and infrastructure.

Regular updates on the AFDRS are available at afac.com.au/initiative/afdrs/afdrs-program-updates

New Resource: Land Use Planning for Disaster Resilient Communities Handbook

The [Land Use Planning for Disaster Resilient Communities](#) handbook outlines nationally agreed principles for good practice in land use planning to build disaster resilient communities.

The handbook focusses on how land use planning for new developments can be undertaken collaboratively to effectively consider natural hazards and manage their associated risks.



Fire Australia Magazine

[Issue three](#) of 2020 is now available.

Training and Development



bushfire&natural
HAZARDSCRC

National Fire Fuels Science Webinars

The [National Fire Fuels Science Webinar](#) series can be found on the BNHCRC [Hazard Channel](#), along with presenter slides and resources. Topics include:

- The thing about hazard reduction: why is it so difficult and divisive?
- The science of hazard reduction: what do we know, what are the knowledge gaps?
- The practice of hazard reduction: what are the potentials and limitations?

Welcome: New SFMC Project Officer



New SFMC Project Officer

We would like to officially welcome Hannah Matthews to the SFMC team.

Hannah accepted a 12-month Project Officer position with SFMC in August. Hannah will be working with Deb and assisting with the coordination a number of projects and providing support to SFMC and FMACs.

SFMC Contact Details

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2021 Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

27 SFMC Meeting, Hobart

DECEMBER

24 FMACs to submit Bushfire Risk Management Plans to SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au

JANUARY

Formatting of Bushfire Risk Management Plans

FEBRUARY

5 Bushfire Risk Management Plans submitted to SFMC for approval

26 State Bushfire Risk Management Plan is completed

TBC Flinders FMAC Meeting

TBC North East FMAC Meeting

MARCH

2 Southern FMAC Meeting

3 Midlands FMAC Meeting

TBC Tamar FMAC Meeting

15 Hobart FMAC Meeting

24 SFMC Meeting, Hobart

Agenda papers due 11 March 2021 to SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au

JUNE

17 SFMC Meeting, Hobart

Agenda papers and FMAC mid-year reports due 4 June 2021 to SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au

SEPTEMBER

16 SFMC Meeting

Agenda papers due 3 September 2021 to SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au

DECEMBER

2 SFMC Meeting

Agenda Papers and FMAC end of year reports due 19 November 2021 to SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au

TBC East Coast FMAC Meeting

TBC West Coast FMAC Meeting

TBC King Island FMAC Meeting

For further information please contact:

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