



Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management
Policy 2017 Supporting Document
Policy Development Process

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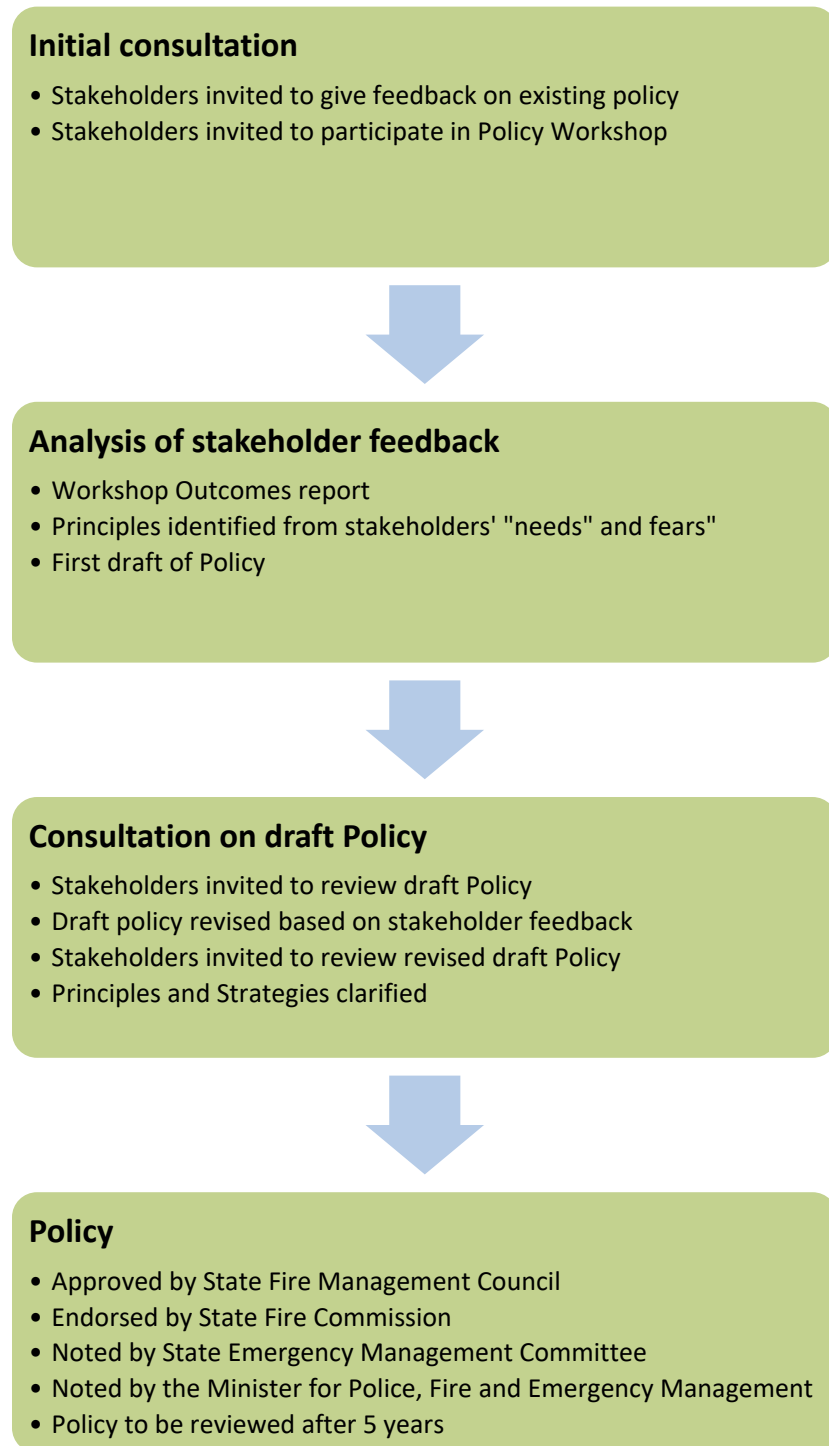
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1. Policy Development

The Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy was developed through a process, involving consultation with and participation by a wide range of stakeholders, illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 Consultation and Policy development process



The consultation strategy incorporated Whole Systems Theory where ‘the whole system’ participated in Workshops that shaped the Principles and Strategies that are now set out in the Policy. This method recognises and values the wide range of stakeholders that are involved in, have experience in, and have responsibility for vegetation fire management planning, activities and risk management in Tasmania.

The consultation process closely informed the development of the Principles and Strategies set out in the Policy. The principles identified by stakeholders in the workshop have been mapped to the Policy Principles and Strategies in Figure 3 below.

The consultation process also provided stakeholders with the opportunity to share their needs and fears with other stakeholders. We have also mapped these needs to the Policy Principles and Strategies in Figure 4 below.

Workshop participants were invited to provide feedback on the first draft of the Policy. Stakeholders were generally supportive of the proposed Principles (now Principles and Strategies) but asked how the Policy will work in practice. This uncertainty has been addressed by the inclusion of the Guide to Implementation (Appendix A). Stakeholders were then invited to provide an additional round of feedback on the Policy to ensure needs were addressed, prior to the final policy being approved.

2. Stakeholder Participation

An extensive stakeholder mapping process was conducted to ensure all relevant stakeholders were identified. Over 190 stakeholders were invited to participate in the policy development process at some point by providing feedback on the existing (2012) Policy and/or attended the Workshop and/or provided feedback on subsequent drafts.

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) would like to acknowledge the personnel from the following organisations who participated.

Figure 2 Participating stakeholders

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Aboriginal Heritage Council</i>• <i>Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania</i>• <i>Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania</i>• <i>Central Coast Council</i>• <i>Central North Fire Management Area Committee</i>• <i>Centre for Environment UTAS</i>• <i>Circular Head Council</i>• <i>City of Hobart</i>• <i>City of Launceston</i>• <i>Department of Health and Human Services</i>• <i>Department of Premier and Cabinet</i>• <i>Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment</i>• <i>East Coast Fire Management Area Committee</i>• <i>Forestry Tasmania (now Sustainable Timber Tasmania)</i>• <i>Forest Industries Association of Tasmania</i>• <i>Forest Practices Authority</i>• <i>Hobart Fire Management Area Committee</i>• <i>Hydro Tasmania</i>• <i>Kingborough Council</i>• <i>Local Government Association of Tasmania</i>• <i>Landcare</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Midlands Fire Management Area Committee</i>• <i>NRM South</i>• <i>Parks and Wildlife Service</i>• <i>Private Forests Tasmania</i>• <i>Sorell Council</i>• <i>Southern Fire Management Area Committee</i>• <i>State Emergency Service</i>• <i>State Fire Management Council</i>• <i>State Growth</i>• <i>Tasmania Fire Service</i>• <i>Tasmanian Climate Change Office</i>• <i>Tasmanian Conservation Trust</i>• <i>Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association</i>• <i>Tasmanian Land Conservancy</i>• <i>TasNetworks</i>• <i>TasWater</i>• <i>The Wilderness Society</i>• <i>University of Tasmania</i>• <i>Wellington Park Trust</i>• <i>West Coast Fire Management Area Committee</i> |
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3. From consultation to Policy – how workshop outputs shaped the Principles and Strategies

The following table (Figure 3) lists the themes identified by Workshop participants and shows how they are reflected in the Policy Principles and Strategies.

Figure 3 How Workshop outputs shaped the Policy Principles and Strategies

Theme	Workshop Outputs	Link to Policy
Acceptance of fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire is part of Tasmania that demands management • Realism: Fire is respected and there is a limit to what we can achieve 	Principles 1, 2, 3 Strategy 1
Adaptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptability/Adaptive/Be adaptive and flexible • Fire management requires long-term, holistic and landscape approaches that are diverse, adaptive and evidence-based • To climate, seasonality, resources, priorities 	Strategies 3,4, 9, 10
Bigger picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complemented by emergency management framework 	Addressed by the Policy being part of a broad legislative and systems framework.
Consistency / coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance that a consistent plan for events is pre-determined • Across all tiers and parties • Coordinated response to incidents • Remain consistent and actively engage with national principles • Systems, practices, protocols, technology 	Principle 6 Strategies 2, 5, 12 Addressed by the Policy being part of a broad legislative and systems framework.
Cross-tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied across jurisdictions and tenures • Cross-tenure, landscape-scale management • Fire management requires long-term, holistic and landscape approaches that are diverse, adaptive and evidence-based 	Principle 6 Strategy 4
Evidence-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage innovation, evaluation and collaboration • Evidence-based • Fire management requires long-term, holistic and landscape approaches that are diverse, adaptive and evidence-based • Measurable (SMART) • Recognise climate change increases the complexities around fire response and mitigation • Strive to be the leaders in fire management 	Strategies 3, 9, 10
Prioritise life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss of life – direct, indirect 	Principle 4 Strategy 2
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate resourcing 	This is a strategy and planning issue (Strategies 1, 9 may be relevant)

Theme	Workshop Outputs	Link to Policy
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Do nothing” is not an option • Collaboration/shared responsibility by local, state, federal, international governments and community /Shared responsibility and empowerment/ Inclusive/collaborative • Responsibility for fire must be shared across governments, land owners, industry, institutions, interest groups and individuals // Recognises shared and individual responsibilities • Shared understanding and shared objectives 	Principles 3, 6 Strategies 2, 4, 5, 12
Risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire management involves risks, costs and trade-offs • Risk assessment // Risk management approach // Risk based approach • Strategic approach based on science and evidence 	Principle 3 Strategies 1, 3, 9
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competing values // Fire management involves risks, costs and trade-offs • Fire management should maximise benefits and reduce the harm from fire to society and the environment • Holistically embrace needs of all stakeholders • Life, ecological, cultural, community, research • Mechanism to facilitate conflict between fire and other policies • Minimise adverse impacts on values, environment, communities • Values driven // Respect of stakeholder values (inclusive) 	Principles 4, 5 Strategies 7, 11

The following table (Figure 4) illustrates how the Policy also aims to broadly address the “needs” and “fears” identified by stakeholders at the Workshop.

Figure 4 Addressing stakeholders’ needs and fears.

Needs	Fears	Addressed in Policy
Safety of personnel	High intensity fire	Principle 4 Principles 1, 2 Strategy 1
Access and equipment maintained	Loss of working fire trails and equipment	Principle 6 Strategies 4, 6
Consistency and leadership	Decisions are reactive	Principle 3 Strategies 3, 4, 9, 10
Education Shared understanding	Lack of acceptance / understanding of fire – unrealistic expectations	Principle 1 Strategies 5, 6
Effective prevention Adequate, appropriate fuel reduction	Prevention efforts ineffective	Strategies 3, 9, 10
Access to fire as a management tool Landowners, occupiers and managers supported to conduct appropriate burns	Inappropriate burn regime Lack of community understanding of the need for burns	Principles 6, 7 Strategy 6
Framework to protect against litigation	Litigation Inappropriate regulatory restrictions	Strategies 8, 9
“Grasping the opportunity to craft sustainable co-existence with fire” Innovation and adaptability to changes in knowledge, technology and climate	Missing the opportunity Lack of adaptation to climate change	Strategies 3, 10
Inclusion / involvement Opportunities to participate	Exclusion Partnerships not developed	Principle 6 Strategies 5, 6, 7, 11, 12
Research Knowledge utilised Knowledge based maintained Robust data systems	Decisions based on poor science Loss of expertise / skilled personnel	Strategies 3, 10, 12
Resources used effectively	Resources used where not needed most	Principle 3 Strategies 1, 9
Shared responsibility Communication within and between agencies	Shifting of responsibility	Principle 6 Strategies 2, 4, 5, 7, 12
Values protected Assets protected	Loss or damage to values Values conflict Loss or damage to critical heritage, assets or infrastructure	Principles 4, 5 Strategies 2, 7, 11

Many stakeholders also identified “resources” as a need. Resourcing is a strategy and planning consideration that is outside the scope of this Policy. However, the Policy emphasises the importance of using a risk management framework to guide vegetation fire management activities. Risk management frameworks may also assist in identifying how resources can be most effectively used.