



Newsletter

for Fire Management Area Committees

Issue 009 | August 2019

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The Bushfire Protection Planning Project currently underway, is a significant milestone in empowering Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) to develop effective plans for directing bushfire risk treatment. This project, along with the [FMAC Terms of Reference](#) approved in December 2018, set the future direction for FMACs.

The Risk Training Workshops, scheduled to commence in October, will be the first opportunity for FMAC members to gain an understanding about the new framework and processes that will support the development of fire protection plans (now renamed Bushfire Risk Management Plans).

These workshops will provide members with critical information, so that when the Risk Assessment Workshops are held all members will have a common understanding of the risk assessment process and opportunities for input and influence during the development stage.

All FMAC members should have now received invitations to attend Risk Training Workshops and subsequent FMAC Risk Workshops. Members only need to **attend one of the four Risk Training Workshops** being held around the State, followed by their **relevant Risk Assessment Workshop**.

Please RSVP to these workshops by 30 August 2019.

If you have not received an invitation or are unable to attend please make contact with SFMC by 30 August, either by email sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au or phone 6166 5618, to discuss alternative options.

Key Messages: June SFMC Meeting

The SFMC last met in Hobart on 20 June. Some of the items tabled/actioned included:

- **National Fire Danger Rating**; presentation on the implementation of the National Fire Danger Rating to be rolled out 2020-22.
- **Fire Protection Planning Project**; presentation on development of the Bushfire Risk Management Guidelines, update included in this newsletter.
- **Fire Permit System Review**; TFS have committed funds to implement the recommendations for the Fire Permit System Review.
- **Machinery Operations Working Group**; Jeff Harper has been appointed as Chair, and will identify short, medium and long term goals for the Working Group.
- **Fire Permit and planned burning information**; discussion on options to improve the 1800 and TFS website information on Fire Permits and registering burns.
- **Red Hot Tips**; no funding commitment by Government at this point in time for the Red Hot Tips program.
- **Research Coordination**; SFMC conducting an environmental scan on research in Tasmania; identifying current research, providers and stakeholders. This will inform the direction in conducting more targeted stakeholder consultation with the aim to identify end-user research priorities in Tasmania.

What's On...

Opportunity to Comment: Forest Practices Code 2015

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) are seeking input on proposed amendments to the Forest Practices Code 2015 (the Code). Please note that comments related to the technical provisions of the Draft Forest Practices Code 2019 are being sought. Comments relating more broadly to the forest practices system as a whole will not be evaluated during this process. Comments must be received by **5pm, Friday, September 20**. Further information is available on the [FPA website](#).

Forum on Fire and Forestry, Launceston

Join The Australia Institute Tasmania in the first of a series of events looking at fire. This first seminar will look at fire and how it interacts with previously logged areas. The event will be held on Saturday, 17 August at the University of Tasmania, Newham Drive. More details can be found [here](#).

SFMC Network Event: Understanding bushfire risk

The next SFMC Network Event will be held in Launceston on Wednesday, 18 September 2019.

The event will provide an overview of bushfire risk and consider the following...

- What is bushfire risk?
- How do we identify bushfire risk?
- How do we manage bushfire risk?

Further information on the event including registration details can be found [here](#), or at www.sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au.



FREE Network Event

You are invited to come along and meet the experts, build your network and learn about...

BUSHFIRE RISK...

- What is bushfire risk?
- How do we identify bushfire risk?
- How do we manage bushfire risk?

Who should attend?

- Planners
- Local Government
- Land Managers
- Emergency Managers
- Utility Managers

18 September 2019
2.30 – 4.30 pm
Afternoon tea will be provided

LOCATION:
Talkrace Centre
3 Waterside Drive, Launceston

RSVP:
Places are limited, please RSVP by 11 September 2019

REGISTER HERE:
<https://www.tas.gov.au/1819>

Phone: 6156 5634
Email: info@fire.tas.gov.au

www.sfmc.tas.gov.au



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.

Much has been happening over the last few months getting ready for the Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC) Risk Workshops in November. One aim of the project is to align the risk assessments with the [Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines \(TERAG\)](#); this is a guiding principle for developing this project.

Firstly, various teams are preparing spatial data on the values and assets at risk, with the aim to identify the scale of impact that matches the large bushfire scenarios that are the basis for the risk assessments. For example, a biodiversity consequences map layer has been developed by DPIPWE in recent years; these values are being grouped to form larger area units that could feasibly be impacted by a single large bushfire. Similarly, mapping of production forests (plantations and native forests) and human settlement areas is being prepared. All these data are statewide layers that will be split up for consideration by individual Fire Management Areas.

Secondly, the fire spread simulation model, Phoenix RapidFire, is being fine-tuned to produce a likelihood input for the risk assessments that relates to the impact areas and standard weather scenarios.

A draft *Bushfire Risk Management Guidelines* was recently sent for comment to the project working groups which are providing essential advice. These guidelines outline the framework for bushfire risk management, detail the method for conducting the risk assessments and include a revised template for the fire protection plans (renamed as Bushfire Risk Management Plans - BRMPs). It is intended that these guidelines will be finalised, approved by SFMC and released well before the risk workshops.

Finally, the TERAG includes a tool for developing a risk register – this is an Excel workbook where data is entered for each asset or value and which then calculates a risk score and priority ranking. This tool is being adapted for the bushfire context and will be a central tool for FMAC risk assessments.

Key dates and milestones for the project:

- 31 August 2019 – Framework, guidelines and risk assessment tools drafted, reviewed and final versions approved by SFMC
- 31 October 2019 – training days held on the risk assessment methodology for all FMAC members to attend (there is a choice of dates and venues in all Regions)
- 30 November 2019 – individual risk workshops held for all FMACs
- 31 December 2019 – FMAC risk registers and treatment plans updated and finalised
- 28 February 2020 – Bushfire Risk Management Plans for all FMACs submitted to SFMC for approval

Job Vacancy

APPLY NOW

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) are looking for someone to join their team in the role of **Parks and Reserve Manager – East Coast**.

The purpose of the role is to manage the PWS East Coast Area within the Northern Region to deliver high quality visitor experiences, best practice approaches to the promotion, conservation, and sustainable use of Tasmania's natural and cultural resources with operational excellence in all facets of community, stakeholder, people, resources and infrastructure management.

The position is advertised on the [Tasmanian Government Jobs](#) website, applications close 19 August 2019.

What's New

New Community Bushfire Protection Planning Areas

Community Bushfire Protection Plans provide members of the community with specific information on:

- Safety options for surviving a bushfire, including the location of nearby safer places
- Communications for receiving emergency warnings and bushfire updates
- Access in and out of the community area
- Advice on what to do to prepare and survive a bushfire
- How and where to source additional bushfire safety information.

Current plans and information on the planning process can viewed at www.fire.tas.gov.au.

The map below identifies the communities that the Bushfire Risk Unit Planners will be working with over the next 12 months.



Operational Review into the Tasmanian Bushfires 2018-19

The Independent Operational Review into the Tasmanian Bushfires 2018-19 has been released by the Tasmanian Government.

The Review was commissioned by the Tasmanian Government and was conducted by an independent team selected by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), led by Mal Cronstedt from DFES in WA.

The Government has accepted all recommendations in principle and agencies have already commenced implementation in several cases

The Review provides invaluable learnings and recommendations that can help us enhance and improve our cooperative working partnerships between agencies and improve our response and preparedness capabilities.

The Review also highlights the excellent work of everyone involved in the response to what was an extraordinary bushfire season. We acknowledge everyone who worked tirelessly for around 100 days to keep the community safe, many in a volunteer capacity.

The Review and recommendations is available on the [TFS website](#).

Updates for Emergency Management Users



A newsletter has been launched for Emergency Management (EM) users which details new additions, layers and enhancements to LISTmap.

The emails will be limited to once a month and subscriptions will be limited to EM users at this stage.

To sign up just head to: <http://eepurl.com/gxqdVT>.

Children and young people agents of change in bushfire mitigation thanks to a new disaster resilience education resource for Tasmania.

Lesley King, Project Officer Disaster Resilient Schools

A new Tasmania disaster resilience education resource is enabling children and young people to actively participate in their households', schools' and community's disaster resilience.

Collaborations with the TFS Community Development and Education and Bushfire Risk Units, State Emergency Service, Tasmania Department of Education staff, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, municipal emergency management staff, researchers of child centred risk reduction, teachers, students and parents were critical to the development and testing of a new Disaster Resilience Education Tasmania (DRET) resource. (www.disasterresiliencetas.com.au)



*DRET online teacher delivery resource home page will be **launched in October***
www.disasterresiliencetas.com.au

Completing DRET students understand what being disaster resilient means for individuals and communities, they can identify local natural hazards and begin to understand key concepts of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. DRET helps them understand how mitigation, planning and emergency drills can help them to be safer in a disaster emergency, and they learn where to find Tasmanian emergency information to help them respond safely to floods, storms and bushfires impacting their local community.

DRET is a web-based teacher delivery package and has been designed so that educators have all the information, resources, activities and assessment in one place so that they can deliver the DRET unit confidently for the best possible learning experience for their students.

In October 2019 the DRET teacher delivery resource, www.disasterresiliencetas.com.au, will be launched on the International Day of Disaster Reduction. The website is unavailable until launch date

Children and young people are frequently overlooked when it comes to disaster resilience, but research shows that if they are provided with the necessary guidance and support, they can increase their own safety and the safety of others. Tasmania's new disaster education resource, DRET, aims to teach children and young people the fundamentals of disaster resilience and encourage their participation in the development of safer communities in Tasmania.



Students of Year 5/6 class at Leighlands Christian School in Ulverstone were one of five schools testing DRET and providing feedback for the final version.

Useful Links

2019 Fire Protection Plans Online

Fire Protection Plans approved by SFMC in April 2019 and are now available online at www.sfmc.tas.gov.au

UTAS Fire Centre Research Hub

Meet the researchers involved in the Tasmanian [Fire Centre Research Hub](#).

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

A quarterly journal of analysis, considered views, lessons learned and insights into current and future issues from researchers and practitioners at all levels of emergency management. The July issue of the AJEM is available [here](#).

NSW Bushfire Risk Management Research Hub

The [NSW Bushfire Risk Management Research Hub](#) brings together researchers, fire agencies and public land managers in a collaborative research effort to develop new knowledge that will underpin cost-effective strategies to reduce the risk fire poses to people, property and the environment.

Training and Development



5 September

Bureau of Meteorology Webinar: Spring 2019 climate and water update

Get an in depth analysis of recent conditions, as well as the temperature, rainfall and streamflow outlook for spring. Ask our experts all your climate and water questions to help make decisions for the months ahead.

Register [here](#) or go to www.bom.gov.au/webinars/



Two New Credentials: Complex Burn Planner and Operations Officer

The Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme (EMPS) is an industry designed and endorsed program, which benchmarks the professional expertise of career and volunteer individuals from across Australia and New Zealand, against nationally agreed standards.

The scheme now offers two credentials for prescribed burning practitioners: Registered Complex Burn Planner, and Registered Complex Burn Operations Officer.

Full details of these credentials and the criteria for awarding them can be found at www.emps.org.au.

2019 Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 18** SFMC Meeting, Launceston
Agenda Papers due 6 September 2019
- SFMC Network Event, Launceston
[Understanding bushfire risk](#)
- 19** Pre-Bushfire Season Briefing, Launceston
The Multi-Agency Coordination Group will be hosting the pre-bushfire season briefing in Launceston for all stakeholders and inter-agency personnel

OCTOBER

- 8** FMAC Risk Training – Hobart
(Lindisfarne Rowing Club, Lindisfarne)
- 16** FMAC Risk Training – Launceston
(Tailrace Centre, Riverside)
- 17** FMAC Risk Training – Burnie
(Burnie Civic Centre, Burnie)
- 23** FMAC Risk Training
(The Grange Meeting and Function Centre, Campbell Town)

NOVEMBER

- 5** East Coast FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(TFS Cambridge Complex)
- 7** Midlands FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(TFS Cambridge Complex)
- 12** King Island FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(King Island Council)
- 14** West Coast FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(TFS North West Headquarters, Burnie)
- 15** Central North FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(Devonport City Council)
- 19** Flinders FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(Flinders Island Multi-Purpose Centre)
- 21** Tamar FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(TFS Northern Headquarters, Youngtown)
- 22** North East FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(TFS Northern Headquarters, Youngtown)
- 26** Hobart FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(Glenorchy City Council)
- 27** SFMC Meeting, Hobart
Agenda papers due 15 November 2019
- 28** Southern FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop
(Huonville LINC)

For further information please contact:
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www.sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au