



COMMUNIQUE

The State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) met at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Emergency Services Complex in Cockburn on 6 September for its third quarterly meeting of 2021.

Wooroloo Bushfire Review

SBAC members were provided with key updates relating to the independent review into the 2021 Wooroloo bushfire, as announced by State Government on 13 August 2021. The independent review is being undertaken by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), with the review panel comprising Mr David Nugent AFSM from Parks Victoria, Mr Steve Yorke AFSM from the NSW Rural Fire Service, and community representative Mrs Sue Davies. The independent inquiry will analyse information gathered during the first stage of the review of the Wooroloo Bushfire. It will examine a range of areas including the bushfire response, fuel management and mitigation activities and communications. Members of the public and organisations are invited to make a submission to the independent review. The closing date for submissions is Friday 8 October 2021. More information is available from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website, [here](#).

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The SBAC members were presented with an update on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) implementation project for Western Australia. The AFDRS project is redesigning the forecasting of fire danger in Australia, by improving the scientific accuracy behind fire danger predictions, and the way that fire danger is communicated. The AFDRS project has now entered its final 'state-based implementation' phase, which will deliver the new system, roadside signage, and a communication campaign in Western Australia. All jurisdictions are working toward a 'go live' date of 1 June 2022 for the new AFDRS. SBAC members discussed the significant complexities of transitioning to the proposed new system. The project team is developing case studies and conducting operational testing to inform these transition arrangements for Western Australian stakeholders. An initial stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 26 August 2021, attended by 23 key local and state government agencies, industry, utilities and infrastructure organisations. More information on the AFDRS implementation project can be obtained from Ms Rachael Parkes, AFDRS Project Manager, rachael.parkes@dfes.wa.gov.au.

State Bushfire Management Policy

As per the actions of the June 2021 meeting of the SBAC, the membership agreed to the re-focusing of the policy to a high-level statement relevant to Western Australian communities. This work has been undertaken through the policy working group, which comprises representatives from DFES, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia, and the Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades WA Inc. The policy working group submitted their final drafts to the SBAC membership for discussion at the September 2021 meeting. At the conclusion of this discussion session, members agreed to the finalisation of the consultation drafts, their consideration by Government, the development of a local government and public consultation strategy, and then the commencement of the consultation period.

SBAC Meetings

The next SBAC meeting is scheduled for 7 December 2021.

For SBAC related information or enquiries, please email RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au