

## COMMUNIQUE

The State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) met at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Emergency Services Complex in Cockburn on 7 December for its fourth quarterly meeting of 2021.

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Reece Whitby MLA, and FES Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM addressed the membership acknowledging the importance of the work by the council.



### Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review

SBAC members were provided with key updates relating to the final stages of the Independent Review into the 2021 Wooroloo Bushfire, as announced by State Government on 13 August 2021. The independent review has been undertaken by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC). The review examines a range of areas including the bushfire response, fuel management and mitigation activities and communications. More than 80 public submissions were received by the independent review team. The final report is expected to be formally delivered to Government soon. More information on the Independent Review is available from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website, [here](#).

## State Bushfire Management Policy – Statement of Intent

As the membership agreed to the re-focusing of the policy to a high-level statement relevant to Western Australian communities, the State Bushfire Management Policy document has been retitled as a 'Statement of Intent'. SBAC members provided feedback on the draft Statement of Intent at the September SBAC meeting. A revised version of the Statement of Intent was circulated to members in November, along with prompting questions in order to refine the final draft in readiness for endorsement at this meeting. Refinements included reference to the Vision and Principles, a section with links to further information, and more images to demonstrate a greater range of activities.

At the conclusion of this discussion session, Council members agreed to the finalisation and submission of the draft consultation documents for consideration by Government. The next phase of the communication strategy will be agreed following Government feedback.

## Good Governance for Government Boards and Committees

A representative from the Public Sector Commission attended the council meeting to provide an overview and presentation on governance protocols for government boards and committees. This presentation was well received by the council, providing awareness of best practice and statutory requirements in relation to board governance.

## SBAC Meetings

The SBAC meeting schedule for 2022 was agreed by the members, and dates are as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022
- 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

For SBAC related information or enquiries, please email [RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au)