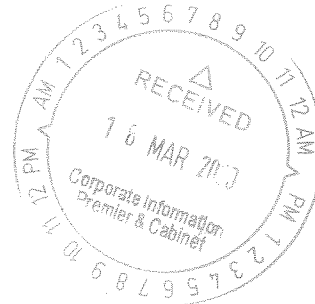




Our Ref: D10427: 20/038474  
Your Ref: D1928092

Mr Darren Foster  
Director General  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Locked Bag 3001  
WEST PERTH WA 6872



Dear Mr Foster

## **DEVELOPING THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S ABORIGINAL EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY**

Thank you for your letter requesting the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) feedback on the main ideas set out in the discussion paper titled 'A Path Forward: Developing the Western Australian Government's Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy'.

DFES continues to develop its engagement with Aboriginal people through the delivery of emergency management training to remote Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Ranger groups, the development of Aboriginal Volunteer Units across the north of the State, and notably through the development of the DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence and its Traditional Fire Management Program.

DFES supports the whole of Government approach to working with Aboriginal people to achieve better social, economic, health and cultural outcomes. DFES also supports the strategy's overall goal of Aboriginal people, families and communities being empowered to live good lives and choose their own futures from a secure foundation.

While DFES agrees that the strategy captures the main ideas and uses the right language, DFES acknowledges that the main challenge facing the strategy will be in identifying an inclusive process for Aboriginal input, to ensure that the Aboriginal community feels a sense of ownership of the strategy.

To discuss this submission further, please contact Grant Bobongie on 9395 9593 or by email at [grant.bobongie@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:grant.bobongie@dfes.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**DARREN KLEMM AFSM  
COMMISSIONER**

12 March 2020