



State Hazard Plan - Fire

Comprehensive Review Summary

Background

The State Hazard Plan Fire (the Plan) provides an overview of arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia (WA) and contains information on fire prevention, preparedness, response and initial recovery. The Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for fire. Additionally, DFES, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and local governments all have legislative roles for the hazard of fire.

As this is a strategic level plan, it refers to a range of existing plans and documents relating to fire but does not duplicate the information. The Plan provides directions to appropriate sources where further information can be obtained.

Comprehensive Review Process

Every five years, a comprehensive review of the Plan is required to be undertaken and provided for broad consultation with all emergency management stakeholders.

To guide the comprehensive review process, DFES defined the following objective and principles for their review:

Objective

Develop a Plan designed to inform WA stakeholders of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery arrangements to limit the impact of the hazard of fire on the community of Western Australia.

Principles

- Establish a strategic level emergency management plan (not an operational plan)
 - Remove agency specific initiatives or procedures
 - Remove duplication
- Provide clarity of roles and responsibilities across the hazard of fire
- Identify and address gaps
- Align with State Emergency Management Framework
- Provide necessary statement of fact changes

Initial Consultation

Initial feedback was requested from internal DFES stakeholders and agencies with roles and responsibilities within the State Hazard Plan. All local governments were requested to join this initial consultation period.



Broad Consultation

Guided by initial feedback, the Plan was revised and amended in line with the identified objective and principles. This amended Plan was provided for broad emergency management stakeholder review and feedback from 17 September 2024 to 9 December 2024. Feedback gathered through consultation was reviewed and considered in further amendments of the revised Plan currently presented.

Key Feedback Themes

- Further clarity needed for areas of responsibility and jurisdiction across Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (PPRR) activities, particularly:
 - Unallocated Crown Land and Unmanaged Reserves
 - Local governments with no Bush Fire Brigades or situated within a Gazetted Fire District
 - shared owner/occupier land
- HMA recommended training standards
 - What are they
 - Where can they be accessed
 - Related processes
- Further clarity and guidance needed for finance and recovery processes between Controlling Agencies (out of scope for this Plan)
- Clarity of specific PPRR roles and responsibilities

Amendment Summary

Document-wide

1. Restructure of sections using principle of shared responsibility, to provide clarity of responsibilities and arrangements applicable across WA.
2. Change reference of Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) to DBCA.
3. Removed DFES specific/operational details, instead refers to arrangements and actions across agencies involved in fire management.
4. Removed references to documents and programs subject to impermanence.

Part One: Introduction

1. Broadened scope to identify target audience.
2. Refined hazard definition consistent with *Emergency Management Act 2005*
3. Removed divisions between ‘types’ of fire (sections titled bushfire, property fire and shipboard fires removed).
4. Introduced key stakeholder groups, ‘Owners and occupiers’, ‘Private sector and industry’, and ‘State agencies and public authorities’.
5. Added additional related documents and legislation including Aboriginal *Heritage Act 1974* in 1.4.
6. Removed DFES specific detail from 1.5 Assurance Activities, section renamed ‘Continuous improvement’.

Part Two: Prevention and Mitigation

1. Restructured section, Responsibility for Prevention and Mitigation, by key stakeholder groups as identified in introduction.
2. Removed all specific mitigation strategy subsections – level of detail is not in line with principles or sustainable. Replaced with summary of types of strategies and agencies involved.
3. Added new subsection on Bushfire Risk Management Plans 2.2.1



Part Three: Preparedness

1. Restructured section, Responsibility for Preparedness, in line with previous section and principle of shared responsibility set out in Part One.
2. Community Education and Information content now under section 3.2 Preparing the Community.
3. Preparedness Arrangements section has been restructured to provide further clarity of arrangements at different levels (local, regional/district, state and Inter-jurisdictional support arrangements).
4. Incident Management Team Structure section moved to Part Four.
5. New section, 3.4 Preparing for Response – outlines Controlling Agencies resourcing responsibilities, including training personnel to the minimum training standard recommended by the HMA. Access to the minimum training standards will be available via the QR code provided within the Plan, via the FES website or by contacting DFES.

Part Four: Response

1. Restructured to introduce section with Responsibility for Response in line with previous sections.
2. Added section 4.1.4 Controlling Agencies, to improve clarity of jurisdiction and areas of responsibility, including Commonwealth land.
3. Restructure of sections under new heading, 4.2 Incident Management, for improved cohesiveness – content of these sections has not changed significantly but sub-heading titles have been amended.
4. Renamed Response Arrangements to 4.3 Resourcing Arrangements and restructured in line with previous sections, to improve clarity of arrangements at different levels.
5. New section, 4.4 Transfer of Control created to improve clarity of arrangements and requirements.
6. Restructure and rename of sections - Emergency Public Information and Funding Arrangements for Response, keeping language in line with State EM Policy and Plan (includes updated AWS warnings). Also now split into separate sections, 4.5 Public Information and Warnings, and 4.8 Funding Arrangements for Response.
7. New section, 4.6 Controlling Movement within an Operational Area, which encompasses pre-existing sections outlining evacuation arrangements.
8. New section 4.7 Declaration of an Emergency Situation and State of Emergency, outlining powers regarding these declarations.

Part Five: Recovery

1. Sections restructured in consultation with State Recovery and State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support in line with broader State EM Framework.

Appendices

1. Appendix B revised and updated.
2. Appendix C revised and updated sections. Highlighted contribution and involvement of supporting agencies roles and responsibilities.
3. Appendix D Initial Controlling Agency by Area of Responsibility, new appendix to outline the initial controlling agency.
4. Appendices E (previously D & E) and F revised to provide clarity on the arrangements for change of Controlling Agency between DFES, local governments and DBCA.