

Welcome to the first State Fire Management Council

edition of the SFMC Newsletter! Designed to keep you informed of upcoming events, meetings, progress of Red Hot Tips and Fire Management Area Committee Information. If there is anything you would like to see included, please email sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au with your suggestions, photos, articles etc.



L-R: Gavin Freeman AFSM, Katy Edwards, Nigel Foss, Peter Mooney, Tony Gee, Dr Stephen Bresnehan, Dr Adrian Pyrke, Sandra Whight, Mike Brown AFSM.
Absent: Steve Whiteley.

There have been a lot of changes in the last 12 months in this area. It is hard to believe that the fire management boundaries were only formally Gazetted in September last year, and here we are with committees producing their first fire protection plans. Council will be reviewing the plans at their next meeting on October 2. The fire protection plans are the first step in prioritising treatment areas for the new fuel reduction burning initiative announced by Government.

INTRODUCING COUNCIL

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) is an independent advisory body that has the responsibility of providing advice to the Minister of Police and Emergency Management, and the State Fire Commission about the management of vegetation fires across Tasmania. Its role is to enhance the efficient and effective management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life,

property and significant community values.

Council Members:

Adrian Pyrke - Parks & Wildlife Service
Mike Brown – Tasmania Fire Service
Gavin Freeman – Tasmania Fire Service
Katy Edwards – Forest Industries Association of Tasmania
Stephen Bresnehan – Local Government Association of Tasmania
Nigel Foss – Forestry Tasmania
Peter Mooney – Parks & Wildlife Service
Sandra Whight – SFMC Manager
Steve Whiteley – Forestry Tasmania
Tony Gee – Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

Further information regarding statewide policies, guidelines and manuals can be found on the SFMC website www.sfmc.tas.gov.au

BUSHFIRE IN TASMANIA

A report, *Bushfire in Tasmania* – a new approach to managing our residual risk has been provided to the Minister

of Police and Emergency Management. The report provides detailed evidence about how much risk reduction benefit to the Tasmanian community can be achieved by different levels of fuel reduction burning and patterns of target areas; prioritises the burning to target risk; and provides further details on implementation issues and benefits. One of the concepts introduced and analysed in the report is to understand the relative risk of bushfire in the landscape. Relative risk describes the potential impact of a bushfire into human settlement areas if there were some form of fuel treatment, versus that impact if there were no treatment at all and all fuels were at their maximum state. The report is available through the SFMC website <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/bushfire-in-tasmania> and the results have formed the basis of much of the analysis in the Fire Protection Plans. Hard copies of the report are being printed.

Fire Management Area Committees

After a review of the strategic arrangements for bushfire fuel management in Tasmania, in 2012 changes were made to the *Fire Service Act 1979*. The changes administratively align the responsibility for the management of bushfire fuels across the State in recognition that it is a shared responsibility across all sectors including the public arena.

The fire management area committee structure was reviewed and there are now 10 fire management areas for the State, reflecting the broader landscape and strategic focus that is required. The final boundaries were in the *Gazette* on 11 September 2013.

In June 2014 the SFMC and FMAC Chairpersons had a combined meeting for the first time and hope to work closely together moving forward.



Back Row L-R: Dean Sheehan, Martin Gill, Peter Groves, Katy Edwards, Lester Jackson, Sandra Whight, Mike Brown AFSM, Louise Mendel, Rod McGarvie, Samuel Ferguson, Meg Lorang, Lindsay White, Paul Black, Peter Mooney, Tony Gee, Axel von Krusenstierna.

Front Row L-R: Raoul Harper, Steve Summers, Bruce Corbett AFSM, Dr Stephen Bresnehan, Michael Phillips, Dr Adrian Pyrke, Kylie Cornish, Rochelle Richards.

Red Hot Tips

Red Hot Tips is a program that works with landholders to improve their knowledge and skill to enable them to safely and effectively conduct planned burning on their properties. The project provides landholders with tools, information and training about planned burning.

The program is funded for 3 years, and is being run through Macquarie Franklin. 19 farms were involved in the program in year 1, and a further 41 properties across the state have been selected for years 2 and 3.

Through the program a number of different tools have been prepared, including a guideline for planned burning on private land, weather and planned burning factsheets, a planned burning equipment factsheet; a risk assessment template and a monitoring template.



To access all this information and more, go to the State Fire Management Council website <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/red-hot-tips>



For further information please contact
State Fire Management Council on (03) 6230 8681,
email: SFMC@fire.tas.gov.au,
or post: GPO Box 1526, Hobart 7001. www.sfmc.tas.gov.au

