



Newsletter

for Fire Management Area Committees

Issue 008 | May 2019

In this issue.....

- **Snapshot: April SFMC Meeting**
- **Update: Bushfire Protection Plan Project**
- **Fire Centre Research Hub**
- **FMAC Training Dates**

Welcome to our first, and long over-due newsletter for 2019.

A busy bushfire season saw many of us involved in emergency response and/or recovery, and we are aware of the challenges everyone now faces in 'returning to normal' work.

We have started to field a few questions about FMAC meetings so Adrian Pyrke has provided an update on the Bushfire Protection Planning Project which should help with some of these questions.

Revised dates for Risk Training and FMAC Risk Assessment Workshops are also detailed on the last page of the newsletter. Remember, you can attend any of the FMAC Risk Training dates around the State prior to your FMAC specific Risk Assessment Workshop, where you will start to develop FPPs for your area. Calendar invites for this training will be sent out next week.

If FMACs have additional items they would like to discuss at a meeting prior to the scheduled training and risk workshops, please give Deb Pope a call and she will assist you with arranging a meeting.

Deb commenced a part-time project in April with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC) working on safety and fatigue arrangements and support tools for interstate and international firefighting deployments. Deb is also still working with SFMC (two days a week) and Kelly Marriott will commence with SFMC next week to assist Deb with some of key SFMC projects, including support to FMACs.

If you would like further information on the Bushfire Protection Planning Project please feel free to give Adrian a call on 6166 5600 or if you have questions about anything else in the newsletter call Deb or Kelly on 6166 5618.

Snapshot: April SFMC Meeting

The SFMC last met in Hobart on 3 April. Some of the items tabled/actioned included:

- **2018-19 bushfire season;** member discussion on the impact of fires on emergency services personnel and the general community.
- **Member appointment;** Mr Mark Bryce was re-appointed as the nominated Parks and Wildlife Service representative on the SFMC for another 3-year term.
- **Fire Protection Plans;** were distributed to Council members for out of session approval.
- **Red Hot Tips;** future funding proposal for Red Hot Tips for 2019-20 budget and proposed review of Planned Burning for Farmers and Landholders booklet.
- **Fire Service Act Review;** noted appointment of new Chair, Mr Michael Blake.
- **Fire Permit System Review;** discussion on establishment of TFS project to support the implementation of review findings.

On the Move

Congratulations to **Dan Hoar** who has been promoted to the position of Planning Coordinator with the Bushfire Risk Unit.

Chris Moore (Planning Officer, North – Bushfire Risk Unit) has transferred to the Planning and Assessment Officer role within the Bushfire Policy and Regulation team, still within the Bushfire Risk Unit.

Farewell to **Alex Bradley** (Operations Manager – Bushfire Risk Unit) who has moved across to a fire management role at Parks and Wildlife Service, and **Emma Gardner** (Community Engagement South – Bushfire Risk Unit) who is off to State Emergency Service in the flood mitigation area. We wish Alex and Emma all the best and thank them for their valuable input into supporting the SFMC and FMACs.

Training and Development



6 June

Bureau of Meteorology Webinar: Winter 2019 Climate and Water Update

Get an in depth analysis of recent conditions for Autumn 2019, as well as the rainfall and temperature outlook for the coming Winter.

Hear from climate experts on what is driving the climate, and how expected conditions might affect water availability and frost this winter.

Register [here](#) or go to www.bom.gov.au/webinars/



27 - 30 August

AFAC19 Conference, Melbourne

The conference will explore how to the emergency management sector is transitioning to a new normality. The program will focus on how our communities, environments and systems are evolving and adapting to change.

For more information go to <https://www.afaconference.com.au>

Update: Bushfire Protection Plan Project

Project aim: to provide a consistent framework, tools, education and support for FMACs to undertake bushfire risk assessments and develop fire protection plans (FPPs).

The project is still very much alive and with the same aims, however, interruption from the long and busy bushfire season as well as leave taken by the Project Officer have delayed the schedule by several months.

The Risk Training days and FMAC Risk Workshops were to be held in June, July and August this year. The Risk Training will now be held in October 2019, while the Risk Workshops will be conducted in November 2019. This delay is not ideal, but we want to be certain that the framework and guidelines for the risk assessments and FPPs are well prepared and approved by SFMC prior to running the workshops for FMACs.

A central aim of the project is to ensure that we conduct risk assessments for bushfire that are modelled on the Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG); a state-wide approach developed by Tasmania SES for all kinds of emergencies (e.g. flood, storm, bushfire). We can then consider all kinds of community values that may be impacted by bushfire, including built assets, production forests, biodiversity and community services; applying standard scales that already exist in TERAG for rating values and risk.

One of the challenges for the project is to ensure that the mapping scale of the risk assessment is appropriate – practical for FMACs to manage, with not too much unwieldy detail, but still meaningful for prioritising where investment in risk treatment is required. The preparation of data in GIS is part of this project development, using the state-wide data sets that already exist for many values as far as possible. This needs to be ready prior to the Risk Workshops to ensure that the time of the FMAC members is used efficiently.

The Project Working Group meetings have already laid much of the groundwork for the project and more meetings will be held over the coming weeks.

On 8 May a Risk Workshop was held with representatives of forest industries from across Tasmania to develop a common approach for bushfire risk assessment of production forests. State level risk workshops are efficient for organisations who operate across multiple FMACs – their contributions will be added to the risk registers and treatment plans of individual FMACs.

Following the Risk Workshops, new FPPs will be prepared. The regional FMAC Forums held in September 2018, along with the project working group, have guided the proposed new look for these plans. As a result the FPPs have been renamed as Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs). The plans will be slimmer, with a separate document providing explanatory information to avoid repetition of standard content in BRMPs. It is hoped that new BRMPs will be ready for SFMC to approve by the end of February 2020.

Here are key dates and milestones for the revised timeline of the project:

- **31 August 2019** – Framework, guidelines and risk assessment tools drafted, reviewed and final versions approved by SFMC
- **31 October 2019** – training days held on the risk assessment methodology for all FMAC members to attend (there will be a choice of dates and venues in all regions)
- **30 November 2019** – individual risk workshops held for all FMACs
- **31 December 2019** – FMAC risk registers and treatment plans updated and finalised
- **28 February 2020** – Bushfire Risk Management Plans for all FMACs submitted to SFMC for approval

What's New

Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods

[Issue 15](#) of the Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods Newsletter is now available. The theme for this edition is response to the 2019 bushfires.

In this edition:

- Public information and the 2019 bushfire season
- Media Liaison in Incident Management Teams
- Social media during bushfires
- Tasmania Fire Service's portable automatic weather stations – How these inform our warnings
- Community messaging and public information – 2019 bushfire season – Some stats on 2019 bushfire season.

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

The second edition of 2019 is now available on the Australian Disaster Resilience [Knowledge Hub](#) website.

Fire Australia Magazine

Issue Two of 2019 is available [now](#).

Research

UTAS Fire Centre Research Hub



The [Fire Centre Research Hub](#) was founded at the University of Tasmania in late 2018. The Pyrogeography Lab at UTAS hosted a number of workshops to gauge interest in a fire research centre, which some of our SFMC and FMAC members attended.

It became apparent that there was a strong appetite among practitioners for a centralised, trans-disciplinary research hub in Tasmania that could support all the research needs of the Tasmanian community.

The Fire Centre Research Hub was founded based on that need, as a virtual centre to bring together researchers from around Tasmania and be a contact point for the research needs of fire practitioners both in Tasmania and around the world.

SFMC support the Fire Centre and encourage FMAC members to visit the Fire Centre website and check out the range of resources available, including the Seminar Series where you can watch previous presentations.

Upcoming events are also registered on the Fire Centre Research Hub [Facebook](#) page.

Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC Research Forum: Bushfire Mitigation

The Bushfire Mitigation Research Advisory Forum brought researchers together with burning practitioners and planners, to explore how the knowledge emerging from research programs across Australia is influencing our landscape management and the challenges confronted in the field with the adoption of new techniques and planning concepts.

All presentations are available on the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC [event page](#).

2019 Events

JUNE

- 20** SFMC Meeting, Hobart
Agenda Papers due 7 June 2019

SEPTEMBER

- 18** SFMC Meeting, Launceston
Agenda Papers due 5 September 2019
SFMC Network Event, Launceston
- 19** Pre-Bushfire Season Briefing, Launceston
The Multi-Agency Coordination Group will be hosting the pre-bushfire season briefing in Launceston for all stakeholders and inter-agency personnel.

OCTOBER

- 9** FMAC Risk Training – Hobart
- 16** FMAC Risk Training – Launceston
- 17** FMAC Risk Training – Burnie
- 23** FMAC Risk Training – Campbell Town
- 31** SFMC Network Event, Burnie

NOVEMBER

- 5** East Coast FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (TFS Cambridge Complex)
- 7** Midlands FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (TFS Cambridge Complex)
- 12** King Island FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (King Island Council)
- 14** West Coast FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (TFS North West Headquarters, Burnie)
- 15** Central North FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (Devonport City Council)
- 19** Flinders FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (Flinders Council)
- 21** Tamar FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (TFS Northern Headquarters, Youngtown)
- 22** North East FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (Scottsdale)
- 26** Hobart FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (Glenorchy City Council)
- 27** SFMC Meeting, Hobart
Agenda papers due 15 November 2019
- 28** Southern FMAC Risk Assessment Workshop (TBA)