

A Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire – February 2011 Review
Stakeholder Briefing
As at 3 February 2012
Updates are Presented in Bold Text.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
<p>Recommendation 1 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation develop and finalise their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and commit to working in partnership.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Actions to Date 1 Memorandum of Understanding signed by FESA and DEC on 4 November 2011.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 (TOR 5) Emergency Management Western Australia establish an inter-agency working group to continue the development of the new single emergency services Act.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Actions to Date 1 Working Group formed and Terms of Reference agreed. 2 First meeting held with DEC, RiskCover, WA Police and FESA with apologies from WALGA. Further meetings will be held on an ongoing basis and subject to demand.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 (TOR 2 and 3) The State Government transfer responsibility for declaring bushfire prone areas from local government to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). The Western Australian Planning Commission should urgently assess those areas that should be declared bushfire prone.</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<p>Key Issues Lack of existing legislation to authorise the WAPC to declare bushfire prone areas. The DoP (which serves and advises the WAPC) does not have the technical expertise or the resources to urgently assess those areas that should be declared bushfire prone.</p> <p>Actions to Date Active investigation is underway to determine the available options and their implications for the WAPC to declare bushfire prone areas. Met with SSO to discuss the legislative changes required to provide the WAPC with the power for declaring bushfire prone areas. SSO advice confirms that legislative change is required to provide the WAPC the power to declare areas bush fire prone. Briefed the DoP's DG regarding recommendation 3 and the key issues of the Keelty Report Briefed the WAPC Chair regarding recommendation 3 and the key issues of the Keelty Report.</p> <p>Next Steps Examine and report on interstate processes and best practices in place to assess bushfire prone areas and fire risk management processes. Continue to brief the Minister for Planning on the options for legislative change and declaring and assessing bushfire prone areas. Investigate the suitability of the WAPC to be authorised to assess and declare bushfire prone areas. This outcome of this will directly impact upon the technical expertise, resources and legislation required for the WAPC to give effect to this recommendation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4 (TOR 2 and 3) The State Government give legislative effect to the <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines</i>.</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<p>Key Issues Legislative change is not considered necessary to give legislative effect to the Guidelines.</p> <p>Actions to Date Briefed the Minister for Planning regarding strengthening the legislative effect of the Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines. Briefed the WAPC Chair regarding recommendation 4 and the key issues of the Keelty Report.</p>

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		<p>Guidelines are under active review and discussions taken place regarding strengthening the legislative effect of the Guidelines through a review of SPP 3.4.</p> <p>Next Steps Further brief the WAPC regarding strengthening the legislative effect of the Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines. Brief the Minister for Planning regarding strengthening the legislative effect of the Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5 (TOR 2 and 3) Local Government recognise the work of the Gas Technical Regulatory Council and ensure any amendments to the Australian Standard are enforced.</p> <p>Local Government provide information to residents on any changes to the Australian Standard relating to tethering gas tanks and encourage property owners to take action to comply with the Standard.</p>	DPC	<p>Key Issues Gas standards and operation and monitoring of gas systems are the responsibility of Energy Safety WA not Local Government. No amendments to the Standard proposed at this stage. Any amendments normally take a minimum of 2 years.</p> <p>Actions to Date <i>Prepare.Act.Survive</i> and other relevant FESA publications have been amended to include references to tethering. A draft voluntary guideline of tethering gas cylinders has been developed by Energy Safety WA. Energy safety has completed the process of designing an improved tethering system for voluntary use for inclusion in the guideline and a prototype has successfully been installed. Commerce is consulting with the LP Gas Industry and Gas Suppliers.</p> <p>Next Steps The Gas Suppliers industry body, the LPGA, is organizing a consultation meeting to be held at EnergySafety in February to resolve any issues with Gas Suppliers.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, in partnership with local governments, conduct more focused pre-season bushfire education, which emphasises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply is not guaranteed during a bushfire • Power supply is not guaranteed during a bushfire • Saving life will be a priority over saving property so expect to be evacuated • Once evacuated, access to affected areas may not be possible for several days • Water „bombing“ by aircraft cannot be guaranteed in bushfire • SMS warnings are advice only and may not be timely. 	FESA	<p>Actions to Date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 94,500 copies of <i>Prepare. Act. Survive.</i> (revised) delivered to high risk bushfire locations. 2. New Urban bushfire publication produced. 3. Web content reviewed and updated, in particular to include information on water requirements and availability. 4. Local government bushfire information packs distributed to 38 local governments. 5. Bushfire strategy produced, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high risk locations approved and endorsed with priority locations and secondary locations for engagement. • all bushfire safety publications reviewed. • 7,500 invites issued for 3 Absentee Landowner forums to discuss bushfire preparedness for vacant or short term accommodation properties. • Three additional contract staff appointed as Community Safety Officers, bringing the total number of CSOs to six. The officers have been assisting with increased engagement of high risk bushfire locations, working with local brigades and volunteers. Thanks to the increased numbers of CSOs (CSOs), the number of priority locations has increased from 32 in 2010, to 77 in 2011/12.
<p>Recommendation 7 (Part a) (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) review its distribution of information material, including <i>Prepare. Act. Survive</i> (PAS).</p>		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also have appointed a dedicated Bushfire Ready Coordinator, who is working on increasing bushfire ready capacity in high risk locations. Bushfire Ready training has been undertaken. • Targeted information sent to over 6,500 owners of holiday and short term stay accommodation in the regional areas. <p>6. Report on distribution effectiveness produced.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 (Part b) (TOR 4) FESA should also consider including the community in pre-season exercising, in consultation with the Department for Child Protection and local governments.</p>	FESA	<p>Actions to Date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes of meeting with DCP documented and accepted. 2. Letter sent to Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) to consider involving the community in exercising through LEMC based exercises.
<p>Recommendation 8 (TOR 4) Local governments continue to include information on bushfire risk and preparedness with rates notices.</p>	WALGA	<p>Key Issues Local Government currently includes fire break and fuel load reduction notices to residents as part of their rates notices. Issuing of rates notices allows for preparations to reduce fuel loads but is well before the actual start of the bush fire season and consequently less timely in regard to bush fires response information.</p> <p>Actions to Date WALGA committed to continue to encourage Local Governments to include information in rates notices as per the recommendation. Some councils provide information separate to rates notices close to the bush fire season. Advice has been included in the weekly LG News bulletin to all Local Governments. WALGA has encouraged Local Governments to continue to include information on bushfire risk and preparedness with rates notices, through existing publications such as Western Councilor and Local Government News.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9 (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority work in partnership with the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA) to develop a package of information for new residents moving into bushfire prone areas, and a process to ensure this information is provided through real estate agents.</p>	FESA	<p>Actions to Date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bushfire safety material sent to agents in high bushfire risk locations, for distribution to new home owners. 2. Rental Fact Sheet sent to over 10,000 tenants in high bushfire risk locations. 3. Fact sheets (Rental Tenants and Owners of Rental Properties) finalised and posted on REIWA and FESA websites. 4. Industry article produced by FESA and used by REIWA in their December industry Journal and available on the FESA website.
<p>Recommendation 10 (TOR 4) The Department of Education oversee the provision of bushfire education in schools that are located in bushfire prone areas, ensuring that all schools in these areas incorporate key bushfire messages in their curriculum.</p>	Education	<p>Key Issues No mandate on non government schools.</p> <p>Actions to Date Updated Principals Guide to Bushfires (Placed on Department's policies website on Friday, 9 September 2011) Further updated on December 2011. Strengthened the key messages including Bushfire education and materials to be included in the school Curriculum.</p>

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		<p>Schools in bushfire prone areas to incorporate bushfire education into the school's curriculum plan. Meetings with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Compliance to Business Continuity Management Plan (school risk reference list) completed by Principals each year and submitted annually to Department.</p> <p>Professional Learning provided to Coordinators Regional Operations on 26 August 2011.</p> <p>Maintain strong communication with hazard management agencies.</p> <p>Reinforcement of the Department's internal and external communication plans.</p> <p>To further strengthen the Department's response to recommendation 10 a curriculum officer from the Department is now on the Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness Interagency Reference Group.</p> <p>In addition a Department representative is communicating with FESA in developing additional educational materials to support Overarching Learning Outcome 7: students understand and appreciate the physical, biological and technological world in which they live and work. (This will include material relating to bushfire developed in conjunction with FESA that will be put into schools as an adjunct to the teaching of the programs).</p> <p>A proposal has been presented to the Department by FESA on undertaking fuel load assessments of school sites. Department currently reviewing a proposal prepared by Building Management and Works on protecting evaporative air-coolers against ember attack.</p> <p>An Ed-e-mail was circulated to all schools on 16 September 2011 on the updated "The Principal's Guide to Bushfire" which included a reminder to schools on their preparedness for the bushfire season. This included a reminder to schools to undertake evacuation drills leading up to and during the bushfire season and also advising them of changes to the document and summary of key messages.</p> <p>All schools on the Bushfire Zone Register have been verified by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA). All regional education offices have been notified of schools within their region that are on the Bushfire Zone Register. Regions have been requested to notify all affected schools.</p> <p>Deputy Director General has met with Director of Country High Schools Hostels Authority Director to share work being done by Department.</p> <p>An Ed-email was sent to all schools providing a link to FESA materials to assists schools further in bushfire preparedness. (<i>Prepare, Act, Survive.</i>)</p> <p>Hazard Reduction Burns – The Department has provided FESA with a list of 25 schools for fuel load assessments. As of January 2012 controlled burns have been completed at (or adjacent to) eight schools, with four completed in regional areas.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>No additional funding requested for the public school system. All costs will be met from within the organisation.</p> <p>Deputy Director General recently discussed with Department of Education Services, CEO Mr Richard Strickland, regarding work of the Department in relation to Recommendation 10, regarding the mandatory nature of incorporating key bushfire messages in the curriculum of Catholic and Independent schools. It was agreed correspondence will be forwarded to Catholic Education and AISWA to inform of updates, in particular Department message of incorporating key bushfire</p>

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		<p>messages into the curriculum. Copies of all documentation developed to support this including Principals Guide to Bushfires will also be forwarded.</p> <p>To ensure schools on the Bushfire Zone Register (BZR) have bushfire education and bushfire plans in place, are updated before the end of October each year, tested and communicated to staff, students and parents, the details are now included in the online system and principals will receive an ‘automated’ email advice at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Reporting Requirements of Schools (RRS) is the Department’s official directory of school reporting requirements. RRS gathers in one place all mandated school reporting requirements. These requirements relate to the Department of Education’s policies and strategic initiatives, Commonwealth legislation and programs, routine operational information and information collected on behalf of external agencies.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11 (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority consider alternative wording to Total Fire Ban that ensures people gain a more complete understanding of what actions are prohibited.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Actions to Date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Letter sent to AFAC requesting information and advice, including the policies of other states, on the terminology of ‘Total Fire Ban’. Advice received to retain wording to ensure consistency across Australia. 2 Communications strategy delivered and signed with the key objectives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To educate people what a TFB is and why they are necessary. • To educate people about what they can and cannot do when a TFB has been declared. • To encourage people to check if a ban is in place during bushfire season. • To encourage people to make informed decisions about actions they take on days where a TFB is in place. • To educate the agricultural community about the changes that have been made to the TFB process. • To educate the agricultural community about the distinction between a TFB and a Vehicle and Harvest Movement Ban.
<p>Recommendation 12 (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority work in partnership with Main Roads Western Australia and local governments to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the use of mobile variable message boards to alert the community to the declaration of a total fire ban and what it means.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Actions to Date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Capability Review on the capacity of other agencies in relation to mobile message boards completed. 2 Recommendation Paper: Investigation demonstrated that the use of mobile message boards to alert the community about the declaration of a total fire ban is not a viable option. An alternative communication strategy has been developed as part of recommendation 11, and which includes the use of fixed message boards to notify when a total fire ban is in place.
<p>Recommendation 13 (TOR 1) The State Government consider resourcing the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments to develop and administer a comprehensive prescribed</p>	<p>DEC</p>	<p>Key Issues Additional resources required to build upon existing prescribed burning program. Availability of sufficient/suitable resources and expertise for local government to develop and</p>

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<p>burning program in Perth's urban/rural interface to complement DEC's existing landscape-scale program.</p>		<p>implement a program. Joint development of a coordinated program of prescribed burning across all tenures. Actions to Date DEC is well advanced in developing a specific program for fire mitigation on DEC-managed lands around the Perth urban interface. DEC Concluded a very successful Spring 2011 prescribed burning program in the Perth urban interface. More favourable winter and spring conditions in 2011 than those received in 2010 greatly assisted in this regard C FM and Community and Emergency Services Managers (CESM) positions in some LGs and FESA Bushfire Mitigation officers provide some capability. Development of draft policy for 'tenure-blind' fuel load management has commenced. Next Steps Complete policy for 'tenure-blind' fuel load management. A proposed consultation draft has been completed for corporate endorsement by DEC and FESA. DEC to complete its specific program for fire mitigation on DEC-managed lands around the Perth urban interface and integrate into its overall master burn plan. DEC will now brief FESA and WALGA on the results of this project and its intentions for targeted reporting of program versus achievements in this area. DEC has submitted bid for resources required to expand programs. FESA and LGs to develop strategy for planning and implementation of prescribed burning programs on non-DEC-managed lands, and resources required to implement. A Bushfire Risk Identification and Mitigation Project Team resourced by DPC, FESA, DEC and Department of Planning, including volunteer expertise, is being established to look at these issues.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14 (TOR 1) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments take proactive steps to conduct their prescribed burning programs as joint exercises. This will give effect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing fuel load • Improving inter-operability • A mutual understanding of the fire fighting techniques of each agency. 	<p>DEC</p>	<p>Key Issues Processes for advice to other authorities of proposed burns and opportunities for joint implementation. Availability of volunteers, particularly on the Perth urban fringe. Suitability of FESA equipment in Perth urban fringe for burning operations. Actions to Date DEC has reinforced need to communicate with FESA and LGs regarding opportunities for joint operations on DEC burns. DEC has completed review of burn approval process to embed such communications routinely. The daily approval process will now include formal recording of district and regional efforts to invite FESA/local government to assist with implementation of burns. Next Steps FESA and LGs to develop reciprocal process.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15 (TOR 1) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local governments ensure that the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measure and map fuel loads • maintain fuel load databases 	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues Determining high risk areas where competencies are required. Profiling of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) competencies against requirements in high risk areas.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> draw up prescriptions for, and oversee controlled burns are included as key competencies in any future recruitment of Chief Bushfire Control Officers (CBFCO) and Community and Emergency Services Managers (CESM). 		<p>Training impact on volunteers.</p> <p><u>Actions to Date</u> Planning meeting held 6th September 2011. FESA has adjusted the key competencies required for any future Community and Emergency Services Managers (CESM) positions that are negotiated with local government. All current CESM's have been trained by the bushland mitigation section on how to measure fuel loads and maintain this data in the Integrated Bushfire RMS database. This process includes the preparation of burn prescriptions then assisting local bush fire brigade volunteers in the burning of the site. All mitigation works are also captured on the Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System database for future planning use. A Volunteer Training Advisory Group is also a contributor to the development of competencies and training for CBFCOs and they will be a key stakeholder in this initiative. Mapping current competencies of volunteers and career staff and for future recruitments. Prescribed Burning course has been identified as a new requirement along with the need to review and update the CBFCO course.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> No recent developments as officer assisting with priority pre-fire season recommendations.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16 (TOR 1 and 3) The State Government give its full support to the Western Australian Local Government Associations <i>Send to Solve</i> initiative.</p>	<p>WALGA</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> The project with the working title <i>Send to Solve</i> is being developed to provide the public with an online and smart phone tool to make requests of Local Governments and to report works requirements. Specifically in regard to this recommendation, the tool will have application in assisting the community to report instances where load reduction has not been undertaken on commercial, residential and public property. The tool will also have a two way communication facility that can be used by individual Local Governments to engage their communities on issues which could include bushfire preparation. It will be available state wide and have the capacity to filter Local Government and State Government responsibilities. Participation of State Government agencies (Water Corporation, Main Roads WA etc) in the system would assist in the delivery of outcomes to the community.</p> <p><u>Actions to Date</u> The pin2fix website and iPhone app is anticipated to be operational in the first stage basis by the end of February.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> In supporting the tool, funding the capacity for State agencies to receive and action relevant requests made on the system by the community needs to be considered. In the initial phase, at launch, pin2fix will only direct requests to Local Governments.</p> <p>Users of pin2fix are required to acknowledge (agree to legal terms) that Local Governments will endeavour to respond in a reasonable timeframe given their current priorities and capacity. Users are also advised that if situations are urgent or could be considered emergencies, then alternative reporting channels should be used and these are suggested where appropriate and relevant.</p>

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		<p>The pin2fix website and iPhone app is anticipated to be operational in the first stage basis by the end of February. The first stage is the delivery of user requests to Local Government community service contact emails.</p> <p>The API required to manage the user requests from customer service emails to integrate with service requests at the Local Government operational level is anticipated to be completed by the end of April.</p>
<p>Recommendation 17 (TOR 1 and 3) Local governments consider increasing the number of green waste collections carried out each year to encourage a more proactive approach to property (and vegetation) maintenance by residents.</p>	<p>WALGA</p>	<p>Actions to Date Initial assessment of adequacy of collections / tip pass entitlements completed. Findings and City of Swan survey of residents seem to support tip passes and increased promotion of service availability to communities rather than increased roadside collection services. Meeting held with Local Governments in the hills area and benefits / costings for additional roadside collections being determined.</p> <p>Review and assessment of current roadside collections / tip pass entitlements undertaken. Local Governments in the hills area increased entitlements and collection services in high fire risk areas in the lead up to this bushfire season.</p>
<p>Recommendation 18 (TOR 1 and 3) The Western Australian Local Government Association explore the feasibility of local governments utilising aerial and satellite imagery to monitor firebreaks and fuel loads on private property.</p>	<p>WALGA</p>	<p>Key Issues The options around using satellite imagery have been investigated by WALGA and Landgate. There is ample evidence that suggests that satellite imagery in its present form will not deliver the required results but can be used in conjunction with on ground inspections. Most local governments have access to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for their area and supported by the FESA program Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System for those who do not will enable better management of reserves.</p> <p>Actions to Date Surveyed local governments. Obtained relevant information from FESA and Landgate.</p> <p>Next Steps Landgate is investigating the use of airborne and satellite imagery through a pilot project that will provide a firebreak monitoring capability. The outcomes of this investigation will be known in February 2012.</p> <p>WALGA inquiries reveal that all Local Governments active in fire management utilise GIS systems to monitor and record their activities. However, Local Governments rely almost exclusively on physical inspections as follow ups to work orders issued for non-compliance.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19 (TOR 1) The State Government reaffirm its 2009 decision to approve DEC exercising greater flexibility in managing smoke within national guidelines, in order to achieve its prescribed burn program.</p>	<p>DEC</p>	<p>Key Issues Government to send a clear signal that it intends to allow DEC to relax its approach to smoke management, within national guidelines, in an effort to maximize prescribed burning achievement and as such protection from damaging summer bushfires.</p> <p>Actions to date Agreed that the Government needs to re-affirm its previous decision. Decision taken that this recommendation will best be achieved through the Premier making a relevant statement to Parliament [or the Minister for Environment issuing a media statement].</p>

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		<p>Next Steps Further education of the public about the need for prescribed burns, including that they may be undertaken by DEC, FESA or local government. The Minister for Environment issued a media statement on 18 November 2011 reiterating that the Liberal-National Government supports DEC's prescribed burning program and approves DEC exercising greater flexibility applying smoke management guidelines.</p>
<p>Recommendation 20 (TOR 1) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments closely monitor the research and development of alternative fuel reduction techniques to ensure that the most efficient and effective programs are adopted.</p>	DEC	<p>Key Issues Cost and potential environmental impact of alternative techniques. Actions to Date DEC, FESA and LGs already use alternative mitigation techniques as part of fuel management programs. The program being developed for fire mitigation on DEC-managed lands around the Perth urban interface includes the use of alternative techniques where appropriate. A Bushfire Research Forum was held in WA in October 2011. While the program did not include any sessions dealing with hazard reduction techniques other than the use of planned fire, the final session at the forum focussed on future research needs. Alternative risk mitigation techniques were discussed. Next Steps Jointly develop an options and consequences paper. Developments in this area will be monitored on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21 (TOR 1 and 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation and local governments jointly develop a single, integrated system for fuel load assessment and management. The system should enable public access to allow members of the community to access information about the fuel load in a given locality.</p>	FESA	<p>Key Issues Different requirements of FESA and DEC Actions to Date FESA and DEC have agreed to have an independent assessment conducted on the respective fuel load and management systems currently used by FESA and DEC. Some reservations have been made by FESA's Fire Investigations and Analysis Unit and the WAPOL Arson Squad as to the merits of making fuel load information available to the public. This will require further deliberation to determine if the risks of public release can be mitigated. Cannot be actioned until the independent review referred to in recommendation 22 is completed. Attended Fuel Load Management (FLM) Sub-Committee to assess relevance of work to date. Consultation between FESA and DEC. Presented project update at Bushfire Consultative Committee meeting on 17th October. This recommendation is being progressed through the DPC Risk Definition Working Group. Next Steps Wait for the outcome of recommendation 22. Continue to attend Fuel Load Management meetings. This recommendation is on hold pending the end of bushfire season and confirmation on its inclusion in the Bushfire Risk Identification and Mitigation Project Team resourced by DPC, FESA, DEC and Department of Planning, including volunteer expertise, which is being established to look at these issues</p>

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<p>Recommendation 22 (TOR 1 and 5) The State Government ensure that the continued development of the Fire and Emergency Service Authority's Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System (IBRMS) is dependent on an independent comparative assessment of its functionality and cost effectiveness against the Spatial Support System (SSS) used by the Department of Environment and Conservation.</p>	DEC	<p><u>Key Issues:</u> Different requirements of FESA and DEC.</p> <p><u>Action to Date:</u> The IBMC through its subcommittee structure has closely examined the respective capabilities and uses of the IBRMS and the SSS and concluded that both systems were designed for different purposes, both currently fulfil differing business requirements and there is no unnecessary duplication or overlap. It has been determined that there is no requirement for an independent assessment of these tools.</p> <p><u>Next Steps:</u> No further action to be taken.</p>
<p>Recommendation 23 (TOR 1 and 5) The Interagency Bushfire Management committee develop and oversee a work program to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct site specific assessments to assess current fuel loads • assess, analyse and prioritise bushfire risk on land within and adjacent to communities • develop a three year rolling mitigation works program with annual implementation and review. <p>This work should commence independently of any decision on the most effective online integrated system. All data collected should be uploaded to the SLIP.</p>	FESA	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Assessment of current fuel loads and community risk mapping. Fuel load assessments of grasslands and coastal heath areas.</p> <p><u>Actions to Date</u> Planning meeting held on 6th September 2011. Fuel load mapping being conducted throughout the Perth Hills rural urban interface area. Whilst a 3 year rolling mitigation works program has not been developed as yet there is a 5 year program in place in some high risk areas. Work program by FESA Bushland Mitigation Officers and CESMs is ongoing. This includes conducting mitigation works, inspections and mapping on a weekly basis throughout the Perth Hills area. Project Officer attended the Fuel Load Management Sub Committee meeting on 30th September. CESMs and BMOs conducting mitigation works in high risk areas. Fuel load mapping is being conducted in tandem with the mitigation works. Presented project update at Bushfire Consultative Committee meeting on 17th October. Met with GIS/ICT staff to investigate and plan activities to consolidate fuel load mappings within SLIP for before pre-fire season.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> Continue meetings with GIS/ICT and progress the load of Fuel mappings within SLIP for pre-fire season. Work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach through the DPC Risk Definition Working Group. This recommendation is on hold pending the end of bushfire season and confirmation on its inclusion in the Bushfire Risk Identification and Mitigation Project Team resourced by DPC, FESA, DEC and Department of Planning, including volunteer expertise, is being established to look at these issues.</p>
<p>Recommendation 24 (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority convene a facilitated debriefing session between the families who remained behind to protect their properties, and the incident controllers.</p>	FESA	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Identifying property owners that elected to stay and actively defend. Psychological sensitivities of homeowners having to recount their story on the day. The session is required to be a closed event due to the needs of both the residents and the incident</p>

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<p>This session should include open discussion and explain the decisions of all parties – including how the incident controllers determined priorities, and why residents chose not follow their advice to evacuate.</p> <p>The learning outcomes should be promulgated across all agencies and incorporated in future level 3 incident controller training programs.</p>		<p>controllers. Professional advice has identified that it is essential that this feedback session is undertaken privately with small groups.</p> <p><u>Actions to Date</u> FESA has liaised with UWA who has undertaken the Perth Hills Bushfire Research in partnership with Bushfire CRC and FESA. They agreed to seek out people that may fall into this category (60% of research participants elected to be involved in further research with UWA) that may have stayed to defend their properties during these fires to be involved in a facilitated session. UWA have recommended that FESA engage advice from recommended professionals in regards to the process to ensure that FESA address the risk of trauma amongst residents and other stakeholders. Independent facilitator contracted to develop plan and facilitate meeting. The City of Armadale briefed on project and identified suitable venue (secured). Session conducted on 11 October 2011 with 17 persons who stayed and defended their properties during the Roleystone/Kelmscott fire. Along with FESA, DEC and DCP also present. Conducted as per recommendation with clear 2-way communication between FESA Incident Controllers and the resident facilitated independently. Significant positive feedback from participants for the opportunity. FESA has sought responses from the issues raised on the specific entities responsible (FESA, Local Government, Water Corporation). The second debrief session with families was held in December 2011.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> After the internal review the following recommendation was endorsed; A workshop to be undertaken post fire season with Level 3 Incident Controllers and key stakeholders to promulgate learning outcomes from the facilitated debrief sessions and to agree to any recommendations for changes to Incident Controller training or procedures within other agencies from this workshop.</p>
<p>Recommendation 25 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority immediately comply with the provisions of WESTPLAN BUSHFIRE and formally declare incidents at their appropriate level and document and communicate those decisions in a similar way to the systems used by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Western Australian Police.</p>	FESA	<p><u>Actions to Date</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 IAP documents (Timelines) including the creation of a Public Information Officer to manage information delivered to the media and community. 2 Create Process within FESA (form) 3 List of additional IAP documents identified 4 New, updated and standardised forms incident level declaration form created and agreed by all agencies. 5 New processes, procedures, work instructions. Business rules have been inserted into FESA operational procedures. 6 Processed changes to SEMP 4.1 7 Major Emergency Management Coordination Guidelines (MEMCG) updated and re-named “Operational Procedures for the Command, Control and Coordination of Major Incidents”
<p>Recommendation 26 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority develop formal procedures for mandating the completion of Incident Action Plans, ensuring the documents are detailed and that they record critical decision making.</p>		

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		8 WESTPLAN BUSHFIRE updated to include changes to SEMP 4.1 9 Incident Management Toolbox (AIMS) revised to incorporate critical infrastructure in consultation with all FESA Regional Directors and DEC. AIMS toolkit DVD produced and copied provided to Local Governments and DEC.
Recommendation 27 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority review its use of the Australian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) to ensure that the most appropriate resources (including aerial resources) are used to respond to an incident. If resources are rejected during an incident either through the decision making process or other grounds, the reason for the decision should be documented.	FESA	Actions to Date <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Report on findings delivered 2 Updated work practices and information tools, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Management Toolbox updated. • FESA Incident Diary updated. • Zone 2 & 2A Operational Protocols reviewed and amended in consultation with DEC.
Recommendation 28 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) review its program to decommission vehicles and ensure that when such vehicles are offered during an incident that FESA staff adhere to FESA's own policy of 'Use of Private Vehicles in Fires'	FESA	Actions to Date <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>Disposal of Fleet Assets (Owned and Returned)</i> procedure uploaded onto the FESA Intranet under the Seasonal Changes 2011/12 portal for general access by FESA staff. 2 <i>Direct Purchase Guidelines</i> and <i>Disposal of Fleet Assets (Owned and Returned)</i> revised, formally approved and distributed to the relevant FESA District Managers and Fleet personnel. 3 4500 copies of <i>Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires with Vehicle Identifier</i> stickers distributed to participating Local Governments. 4 Operational Circular issued about the new <i>Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires</i> and the expectation that FESA staff follow the guidelines where possible.
Recommendation 29 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation ensure that their Incident Controllers identify critical infrastructure as part of their initial assessment and preparation of Incident Action Plans when attending major incidents.	FESA	Actions to Date <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Incident Management Toolbox (AIMS) revised to incorporate critical infrastructure in consultation with all FESA Regional Directors and DEC. AIMS toolkit DVD produced and copied provided to Local Governments and DEC.
Recommendation 30 (TOR 1 and 2) Main Roads Western Australia undertake more frequent examinations of its bridges located in areas prone to bushfire and ensure that the risk posed to loss of infrastructure in a fire is understood by local authorities.	MRWA	Key Issues Resourcing of Main Roads WA, Local Government and Department of Environment and Conservation to inspect 2 700 bridges owned by the Authorities. Defining bushfire prone areas to target bridge inspections to the priority bridges prior to the 2011/12 fire season. Determining the risk posed by the loss of bridge infrastructure (including issues such as strategic importance, single access communities) and communication process. Actions to Date Accelerated bridge inspections and vegetation clearing in South West Region. Assessment of bridge inspection currency and status of bridge clearance envelopes. Streamlined Fire Risk Inspection process looking at only vegetation clearances.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
		<p>Next Steps Identify bridges within bushfire prone areas and develop an overall accelerated bridge inspection program. Continue with accelerated bridge inspection program. Develop risk assessment process and report.</p>
<p>Recommendation 31 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Western Australian Police ensure they receive all necessary legal clarification in relation to <i>Bushfire Responsibilities of Police Officers – Powers Used in Assisting Fire Authorities in Responding to Bushfires</i>, to be promulgated across FESA and WAPOL.</p>	<p>WAPOL</p>	<p>Key Issues WAPOL is under legal advice that it cannot ‘operate’ effectively under the Bush Fires Act, however it can do so under the Emergency Management (EM) Act. There was confusion over the suitability of the Bush Fires Act in relation to operational support activities during bushfires.</p> <p>Actions to Date Legal Advice received supports WAPOL view. WAPOL and FESA met 28 Sept 6 Oct and 1 Nov and agreed to a series of actions to resolve the issue. These included putting in place operational procedures for WAPOL to act at the direction of FESA Incident Controllers, possible modifications to the Bush Fires Act and appointment of Police Officers as HMO under the EM ACT. It was also agreed that, to avoid complexities in the short to medium term, FESA would consider making more use of the EM Act in the upcoming fire season. An operational procedure for WAPOL to support a Fire HMA has been accepted by all parties.</p> <p>Next Steps Amendments to Bush Fire Act still under consideration by FESA. WAPOL previous requests for HMO status under the EM Act to be processed by A/CEO FESA. Review of EM Act project to be revised to ensure that all aspects of multi agency legal requirements are considered. EMWA to ensure that the EM Act review project is conducted in a full consultative manner.</p>
<p>Recommendation 32 (TOR 4 and 5) The Western Australian Police and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority jointly examine the Traffic Management System developed in response to the 2009 Victorian bushfires and seek its adaptation to use in WA with additional attention to the access and egress by bona fide residents to areas that are evacuated.</p>	<p>FESA (EMWA)</p>	<p>Key Issues Keelty Report advocates adoption of Victorian Traffic Management System. WA has a currently widely supported ‘All Hazards’ Traffic Management Policy that was the subject of much multi agency work post the Boorabin Bushfires. The adoption of the Victorian System will require a significant change in policy which may not be suitable within the WA Emergency Management context</p> <p>Actions to Date The recent review of the Traffic Management Policy considered the policy used in Victoria, however, it is acknowledged there has been change to this. It is also noted the need for continuous improvement and the issues with the Perth hills Fire. Also noted that other recommendations such as evacuation will impact on this policy. The first meeting of the Traffic Management Working Group was held on the 6th of December 2011 at Southport Street Leederville. Subsequently, a draft recommendation paper was developed. The Traffic Management Working Group has met on two occasions and made three recommendations in relation to Recommendation 32 of the Keelty Report.</p> <p>Next Steps The final Report of the Traffic Management Working is currently being reviewed by the group</p>

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<p>Recommendation 33 (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the ABC commence a thorough review of emergency warning messages. This review should give consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content, structure and presentation of emergency warning messages • Media access to the Incident Management Team and State Operations Centre. <p>This review should be expanded to include other media organisations should they demonstrate a willingness and capacity to contribute.</p>	<p>WAPOL</p>	<p>and will be tabled at the Emergency Services Subcommittee meeting on 15 February 2012. Subsequently, it will be tabled at SEMC on 14 March</p> <p>Key Issues ABC and FESA to work cooperatively to further improve delivery of timely, clear and effective public messaging. Guidelines to be reviewed by both organisations to support this goal.</p> <p>Actions to Date FESA has had ongoing liaison with ABC management in Perth since the release of the Keelty report. Considerable and detailed work has gone into enhancing the structure, content, presentation and timeliness of emergency warning messages. There is a strong willingness on the part of both parties to make the emergency broadcaster interaction with FESA as effective as possible. While not a comprehensive list, the ABC and FESA have agreed/ undertaken the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be more specific in communicating need for warning for long-duration events; 2. FESA Media and Public Affairs will continue to encourage the Incident Controller to issue an appropriate level of alert as soon as there is a change in the incident threat level. However, Incident Controllers will always issue the alert appropriate to the known level of threat to the community, regardless of whether the warning has been in place for some time or not. 3. Apply a numbering system to FESA alerts and warnings, for greater clarity. 4. FESA has reviewed its standard operating procedures for activating ABC emergency broadcasting and how they are put into practice by MPA staff. Revised draft standard operating procedures have been approved internally by FESA and sent to the ABC. 5. Clarified for the ABC the process for clearance of information. FESA will continue to review the technologies it uses to increase the speed at which it issues emergency alerts via various communication mediums; and 6. Reached a common understanding on emergency messaging vs. editorial/program needs. <p>In December 2011, the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator wrote to other WA media outlets requesting their input into the same issues. To date, no responses have been received from those media outlets.</p> <p>Next Steps PING committee to revise existing MOU between ABC and SEMC to ensure that document remains consistent with the above changes and to also capture any references to new technology developments.</p>
<p>Recommendation 34 (TOR 4 and 5) FESA develop in partnership with other emergency service agencies a 'one source: one message' multi layered system similar to that recommended by the Victoria Bushfire royal Commission.</p>	<p>WAPOL</p>	<p>Key Issues This is acknowledged as a key capability for the future, particularly in the context of new communication technologies such as social media. Identifying suitable technology for One Source One Message (OSOM), resources and implementing that technology.</p> <p>Actions to Date SEMC on 6/9/11 agreed to support a review of this recommendation through the Public Information</p>

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		<p>Group (PING) of SEMC. That review is currently underway, with PING due to meet next on February 7, 2012, when an update will be provided.</p> <p>FESA and DEC are, in the interim, working to introduce limited OSOM capability, which will allow the fire agencies to simultaneously upload the same public information on the DEC and FESA websites during an incident. This would utilize the Whispir technology currently utilised by the Victorian Country Fire Authority.</p> <p>A review of how the One Source One Message technology (Whispir) is currently being used by the Victorian Country Fire Authority has been undertaken by FESA.</p> <p>Next Steps The PING sub-committee of SEMC to complete review of one source; one message technologies, including a review of technology already introduced by the Victorian Country Fires Authority.</p>
<p>Recommendation 35 (TOR 4 and 5) FESA and local governments jointly review radio communications capability prior to the 2011/12 bushfire season with a view to improving the current delivery of service to firefighters.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues Needs an all hazards approach. The scope of this project includes Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN) metro installations only. Country installations are out are out of scope and covered by a separate project.</p> <p>Actions to Date Implementation of WAERN to the metro area. 90% of radios on ESL vehicles in the metro area have been installed. Local Governments consulted as part of the WAERN Project. Metro Comms plan created and distributed.</p> <p>Next Steps Remaining 10% of vehicles in metro need to be fitted. This is estimated to be complete by Feb 2012.</p>
<p>Recommendation 36 (TOR 4 and 5) The Department for Child Protection, the Western Australian Police and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority develop improved arrangements for communicating the loss of home and possessions to persons gathered at evacuation centres with a view to increasing privacy.</p>	<p>WAPOL</p>	<p>Key Issues Delivering information at welfare centres to people who have lost property, ensuring this information is passed on in a suitably private manner, away from the news media.</p> <p>Actions to Date Consultation by WAPOL with FESA, DPC and the chair of the SEMC Public Information Sub-Committee has taken place and resulted in general agreement that common procedures can, and should, be adopted by all HMAs, as part of their standing procedures for the above issue. Common protocol endorsed by PING committee 4/10/11. Recommendation now completed and fully implemented.</p> <p>Next Steps Nil required.</p>
<p>Recommendation 37 (TOR 4 and 5) Hazard Management Agencies overseeing the response to incidents on the urban fringe select evacuation centres that are well within the urban environment and unlikely to be impacted by the incident.</p>	<p>WAPOL</p>	<p>Key Issues Availability of accurate information that is centrally located and available to Incident Controllers in an emergency.</p> <p>Actions to Date DCP have collated a list of State-wide welfare centres for the majority of localities, including StreetSmart map book references but not yet geospatial data, along with other useful</p>

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		<p>information such as capacity, facilities, contact phone numbers, etc. This has been circulated to all HMAs/Controlling Agencies via the ESS for onward internal distribution by each agency.</p> <p>DCP have confirmed that the process for enabling use of urban welfare centres for emergency events on the urban fringe can now be facilitated, subject to HMAs/Controlling Agencies consulting with DCP as set out in established Westplans, policy and procedural documents.</p> <p>Next Steps Collation of information, including spatial location. Awareness by, and availability to, Hazard Management Agencies.</p> <p>Updated versions of the list will be provided by DCP after the current bushfire/cyclone season and circulated as they become available as part of on-going normal business. Once geospatial information has been incorporated, the data can be made available via SLIP, with WA Police facilitating this process through the SLIP-EM working group.</p>
<p>Recommendation 38 (TOR 1 and 3) Local governments institute a comprehensive program to assess fuel loads and bushfire preparedness on private properties. The program should give reference to the creation and maintenance of a Building Protection Zone, in line with FESA guidelines.</p> <p>This program should be implemented and managed under the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> in a manner similar to the fire break inspection program.</p>	<p>WALGA</p>	<p>Key Issues The legislation currently in place (Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954) allows for the enforcement of fuel load reduction measures and the installation of fire breaks. Most local governments in bushfire prone areas are already enforcing this section of the Act but are hampered by lack of on-ground staff. Most local governments are currently using a mix of paid staff, some contractors and volunteers.</p> <p>The cost of providing seasonal staff to undertake inspections is an impediment to the success of this recommendation particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Actions to Date Survey of local governments.</p> <p>Next Steps Support FESAs ongoing funding requirements in relation to staffing the project. Assess funding opportunities for local government in support of seasonal inspection programs. Consult with FESA on ways to enable full take-up of the Integrated Bushfire Risk Management System across local government. Determine additional resources that would be required for local government to support increased full load assessment, bushfire preparedness and inspection programs.</p> <p>WALGA will be holding a one day Emergency Management Forum at Burswood on Friday 16th March 2012. The forum will focus on a range of emergency management issues identified by Local Government. While the forum will focus on all hazards, Local Government responsibility for the management of fuel loads will also be discussed. More details and attendance information will be widely circulated to all Local Governments in the near future. A Bushfire Risk Identification and Mitigation Project Team resourced by DPC, FESA, DEC and Department of Planning, including volunteer expertise, is being established to look at these issues.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
<p>Recommendation 39 (TOR 2 and 3) State and locals governments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) recognise that regardless of future declarations of bushfire prone areas, the existing planning and building problems in the Perth Hills related to bushfire risk will persist; b) urge residents in these areas to retrofit their homes and evaporative air conditioners in compliance with AS 3959 - 2009; c) examine options to retrospectively bring these areas into compliance with Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines. 	<p>WALGA/ DPC</p>	<p>Key Issues The National Construction Code and AS 3959—2009 are only mandatory for new building work in declared bushfire-prone areas.</p> <p>Actions to Date WALGA is working with the Department of Planning and FESA on methods for identification, mapping and regulation of bushfire prone areas. This includes increasing the planning and building standards / requirements for development in bushfire prone areas. Individual Local Governments are identifying bushfire prone areas within their boundaries and developing planning and building policies to guide future development applications. An Information Sheet on AS3959 has been developed and Local Governments have updated and increased community information (through brochures / community information events) about fire risk and mitigation measures that homeowners can take.</p> <p>The Department of Commerce has published a new booklet on bushfires (Building for Better Protection Bushfire areas – a Homeowner’s Guide) and it can be seen on the Department’s website. It includes advice for both new houses and upgrading existing houses and makes specific reference to ember-protection screens for evaporative air-conditioners. The Department of Commerce has written to the manufacturers of evaporative air conditioners and asked them to provide screens and information. This has been backed up by a request to other jurisdictions to make similar contacts and for it to be coordinated by the Australian Building Codes Board. A meeting was held with a WA manufacturer to discuss their products (including new screened evaporative air conditioners and screens for retrofitting). It is considered that these products can meet Building Code requirements.</p> <p>Next Steps WALGA to work with State Government agencies (DoP, FESA, Consumer Affairs) to identify options for retrospective application of building standards.</p>
<p>Recommendation 40 (TOR 2) The State Government mandate that the title deeds for relevant properties be amended to indicate if the property is in a declared bushfire prone area.</p>	<p>Landgate</p>	<p>Key Issues Addressing the recommendations in priority order to ensure interdependencies and impacts are understood and considered before decisions are made. Ensuring that the underlying issue and the intent of this recommendation are clearly understood before a solution is decided upon. Ensuring access to the 'right' information relating to bushfire prone areas, its currency, accessibility and accuracy. This recommendation is reliant upon recommendation 3 being completed (i.e. determining who is responsible for mapping and declaring bushfire prone areas, and creating and maintaining the dataset). Following investigation, mandating the amendment of title deeds for relevant properties to indicate if it is in a declared bushfire prone area is not the preferred option. This needs changes to, or new, legislation to provide the power to place this notification on titles and would be costly for</p>

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		<p>consumers. The preferred option is for WAPC (as the proposed agency responsible) to declare “bushfire prone areas” as an interest under a planning policy or similar means. It then needs to be agreed by key stakeholders for property interest disclosure to become a requirement of real estate agents for all new property listings. Approximately 3% of transactions are not handled by an agent. Parties to these transactions need to be made aware of the interests that affect the property by other means. While this is Landgate’s preferred option, its effectiveness requires careful consideration by Government and commitment from key stakeholders. There is some uncertainty about the industry response to the new requirement to disclose interests, in light of the changes to identity verification for property sales to manage the risk of fraud. Consultation needs to be undertaken with the real estate and conveyancing industries and an agreement reached on the changes to the codes of conduct.</p> <p>Actions to Date Discussions have taken place with the Dept of Planning/WAPC (as the proposed lead agency for declaring bushfire prone areas) to consider options for addressing this recommendation. Several options are being considered. Initial discussion with Dept of Commerce conducted. Landgate has determined that the declared bushfire prone areas become a registered interest and the use of Interest Enquiry is the preferred approach. Meeting between Landgate and Dept of Commerce 03/10/2011. A consultation paper has been drafted by Landgate for continued discussions with Commerce and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Continuing work to refine the stakeholder consultation paper.</p> <p>Next Steps Further investigation into the options and assessment of the work and resources required to deliver preferred solutions. Continued dialogue with the Dept of Planning/WAPC and other stakeholders. Continue to investigate the effectiveness of this approach with stakeholders. Landgate to liaise with Real Estate Institute of WA (REIWA) and Dept of Commerce to discuss making property interests disclosure a requirement for all listings. An initial assessment of the work and resources required to implement this option will be undertaken once the approach is agreed to. Continue dialogue with Dept of Commerce. Finalise consultation paper.</p>
<p>Recommendation 41 (TOR 2) Western Power and the Water Corporation continue to work collaboratively to assess options to better protect the power supply to water pumping stations in bushfire prone areas.</p>	<p>Water Corp</p>	<p>Key/Contentious Issues Overhead power lines prone to attack in bushfire - difficult to make lines fire proof. Power supplies often interrupted during bushfire emergencies. Environmental concerns sometimes inhibit clearing of native vegetation to provide physical asset protection zones, at some Water Corporation sites.</p>

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		<p><u>Actions to date</u> FESA, together with Western Power and Water Corporation have reinforced the existing interagency incident early notification processes, to assist with the proactive identification of potential risks to essential services, and initiate the early deployment of incident resources, and preventative strategies. Water Corporation continues to maintain and review the interagency Darling Escarpment Water Supply plan (DEWS), to coordinate interagency awareness and protection of water supplies in the high fire risk area. Water Corporation continues to maintain trailer mounted bulk water containers configured for FESA/DEC fast hose connect standard fittings, to support fire ground water resupply, and post incident potable water resupply, for incident callout by FESA/DEC. Western Power and Water Corporation have reviewed and reaffirmed their existing interagency incident communication and coordination processes. Western Power and Water Corporation actively participate in interagency emergency planning at the Regional, District and State level, which includes the interagency awareness of interdependent essential services infrastructure. Annual interagency DEWS fire season briefing – November 2011. Western Power and Water Corporation – South West Region, fire season interagency planning and briefing – October 2011. Identification of essential Water Corporation assets on the Western Power distribution management system – 30 September 2011. Water Corporation have received an amended DEC environmental clearance permit, allowing Water Corporation to determine fire fuel load asset clearances under DEC licence (November 2011) Water Corporation risk assessments and essential infrastructure clearances ongoing – (November – December 2011). Water Corporation conducted the interagency DEWS annual fire season briefing – 22nd November 2011.</p>
<p>Recommendation 42 (TOR 1) The State Government recognise the projected changes in climate and potential impact on future fire events.</p>	<p>DEC</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Government to acknowledge that projected changes in climate may have an impact on future fire events.</p> <p><u>Actions to Date</u> A draft Western Australian Government Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy [CCAMS] is being prepared, with reference to the potential climate change impacts on future fire events.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> Submission to be completed and Government to consider.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 43 (TOR 5) The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) amend State Emergency Management Policy 4.1 (<i>Operational Management</i>) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give clear and explicit direction about when and how an incident should be declared • clearly articulate the actions to be taken • clearly define accountabilities • provide detailed criteria for elevating issues and engaging other agencies. 	FESA	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Any amendments need to be implemented across all hazards. May need interim fire solution to ensure enhancements are in place.</p> <p><u>Actions to Date</u> Discussions between State Emergency coordinator and Executive Officer SEMC (SECG). Concept developed for the automatic activation of the SECG and a possible Emergency Situation. Agreement from stakeholders reached on all recommendations. Legal advice sought in relation to Recommendation 44 however, it was agreed that in the interim there were provisions for powers under the Bush Fire Act that provided the protections required. Changes to Policy documents and 4.1 have been made and circulated back to the reference group for final consultation The policy and processes that had been agreed have been put into policy and procedures within SEMP 4.1 and been circulated for comment to the reference group to ensure that consensus was reached. On 26/10/11 the documents were circulated to the working groups that exist within SEMC requesting comment by 02/11/11. Changes have been considered and incorporated. On the 7/11/11 SEMC approved in principle the changes. There were some amendments that were required to be made but this has now been finalized. The documents have been included in the Awareness sessions being conducted and are reflected on the portal.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> A minor change to the proposed legislative amendments is currently being endorsed (out of session) by SEMC.</p>
<p>Recommendation 44 (TOR 5) The State Government amend section 50 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> to allow the Chair of the State Emergency Coordination Group to declare an emergency situation.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 45 (TOR 5) Emergency Management Western Australia and the State Emergency Management Committee amend WESTPLAN-BUSHFIRE to require State Emergency Coordination Group meetings to be held at the State Coordination Centre in West Leederville.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 46 The State Government restructure the Fire and Emergency Services Authority as a department.</p> <p>As part of this restructure, Emergency Management Western Australia should either be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) clearly separated from the fire and emergency services response function (see figure 2); or b) moved to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (see figures 3 and 4); or c) moved to the Attorney-General's department (see figures 3 and 5). 	FESA	Cabinet has agreed to the creation of the department and legislation giving effect to the decision is expected to be introduced to Parliament in 2012. The process of drafting this legislation is under way.
<p>Recommendation 47 (TOR 5) Emergency Management Western Australia develop mechanisms to calculate the estimated total cost of a fire to the community.</p>	FESA	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Requires significant research work to identify issues such as scope, methodology, timeliness</p> <p><u>Actions to Date</u> An Interagency Working Group has been established.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u></p>

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		<p>The next step is to establish a working group and develop scope. EMWA will develop a draft proposed mechanism for calculating the cost of fire, in consultation with the Insurance Council of Australia. This proposal will then be presented to the Working Group for review and appropriate development. The expected output of this project will be an agreed proposal for appropriately calculating the cost of fire, which will be presented to SEMC for endorsement. EMWA has discussed issue with Insurance Council of Australia and is now preparing a draft Project Plan; including proposed mechanism for calculating cost of fire. This draft plan will be forwarded to Cost of Fire Project Team for review and comment.</p>
<p>Recommendation 48 (TOR 5) The State Government move the responsibility for the management and distribution of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) to the Department of Finance.</p>	<p>Finance</p>	<p>Key Issues The completion of this recommendation is not considered an urgent matter, at this time.</p> <p>Actions to Date Reviewed papers from the report on recommendation 48. Reviewed the 2006 report by the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the Parliament. Meeting held between Department of Finance and FESA representatives to understand the current application and approval process for grant applications lodged by local governments, with FESA, for funding allocations. It has been determined that there is no major benefit evident in transferring the assessment and collection of the ESL to DOF.</p> <p>Next Steps Conduct a review of the Emergency Services Levy grants application and allocation process within 6 months of putting in place of the revised FESA administrative arrangements. The conduct and chairing of the review to be further discussed between the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Treasury and the Department of Finance.</p>
<p>Recommendation 49 (TOR 5) Emergency service agencies undertake more consultation and joint exercising involving the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment, the Western Australian Police, the Department for Child Protection, local governments and volunteers – including Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.</p> <p>This should include field exercises which test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuation centres • Critical infrastructure (including at the local level) • Traffic management, including road blocks. <p>Consideration should also be given to involving the community in exercising (see Recommendation 7) and using prescribed burns as exercises (see Recommendation 14).</p> <p>More detailed planning for exercises should be included in a revised WESTPLANBUSHFIRE</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Actions to Date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WESTPLAN BUSHFIRE updated. 2. State Bushfire Exercise Plan produced in conjunction with DEC, WAPOL, LEMC, WALGA Local Governments, DCP 3. State Bushfire exercises (including regional) completed on 8th November and report delivered.

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to be endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee.		
<p>Recommendation 50 (TOR 5) The State Government transfer responsibility for the installation, removal, maintenance of fire hydrants to the Water Corporation, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2006 CDJSC <i>Inquiry into Fire and Emergency Services Legislation</i>.</p> <p>Recommendation 51 (TOR 5) The Water Corporation immediately review the outstanding orders for hydrant repairs and develop strategies to reduce the backlog.</p>	DPC	<p>This recommendation is being dealt with outside the Implementation Group and working groups structure.</p> <p>Key Issues Legal issues relating to the transfer of hydrant ownership. The extent of the maintenance backlog and the hydrant installation shortfall.</p> <p>Actions to Date Advice has been sought from the State Solicitors Office concerning transfer issues. The maintenance backlog has been significantly reduced, and an audit is being undertaken of all outstanding maintenance orders and of missing hydrants.</p> <p>Next Steps Consideration of the advice of the State Solicitors Office and proposal of the recommended option. Preparation of a report and recommendations to Government.</p>
<p>Recommendation 52 (TOR 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local governments ensure that Community Emergency Service Managers are physically based in local government.</p>	FESA	<p>Actions to Date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Locations of all CESMs documented. Consultation with WALGA and volunteer associations. 2. Changes to the CESM MOU finalised to note that where the CESM is not located within local government, it is at local government's request.
<p>Recommendation 53 (TOR 1 and 5) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local governments examine the current competencies of Chief Bushfire Control Officers (CBFCO) and Community Emergency Services Managers (CESM) or Community Fire Managers (CFM) and consider what further development is needed to ensure these staff are capable of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measuring and mapping fuel loads • maintaining fuel load databases • drawing up prescriptions for, and overseeing controlled burns • building effective working relationships with all relevant stakeholders. 	FESA	<p>Key Issues Determine the competency profile required for CBFCO and CESM Training needs analysis to be conducted Content of current training courses. Profiling of CBFCO competencies against requirements in high risk areas. Training impact on volunteers.</p> <p>Actions to Date Planning meeting held 6th September 2011 FESA has carried out training with all current CESM's and Regional staff on the integrated bushfire risk management system (IBRMS) which is a database to record fuel loads and what actions are taken when mitigating them. This training and database has also been made available to local government staff and volunteers in high risk areas with training being carried out upon request. A review of current CBFCO competencies from the FESA training database has been conducted and reveals that most have completed Fire Control Officer training and about a third have completed advanced bushfire suppression and behaviour courses. No CBFCO's are recorded within the training database as completing the prescribed burning or prescription course with DEC. It needs to be recognised that CBFCO's are not necessarily the appropriate person to manage fuel loads as most are volunteers that have their own work and family commitments which do not allow for the timely process of conducting this type of program.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
		<p>Currently seeking feedback from LG CBFCO's, CESM's and CFM's. Assessing feedback received from WALGA and ESVA. Finalised current competencies for staff and volunteers. Presented project update at Bushfire Consultative Committee meeting on 17th October.</p> <p>Next Steps A review of the current training resource kits available to staff, CESM's and volunteers to ensure the importance of fuel load assessments and maintaining them at safe levels is understood, information to be inserted in these TRK's where required. FESA will need to progress the implementation of a prescribed burning course and make it available to staff, local governments and volunteers to enable them to successfully carry out assessments and mitigation works within their local areas. Negotiation is required with local government and WALGA to work out how this type of program can be carried out within LGA's that do not have the services of a CESM or other officer. Determine high risk areas identification methodology including identification of required skills and competencies against each identified area.</p>
<p>Recommendation 54 (TOR 5) The Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) develop a consistent program of education, training (including media), testing and review of Level 3 Incident Controllers.</p> <p>This should include provision for a formal review of the performance of individual Level 3 Incident Controllers after every incident.</p>	<p>DEC</p>	<p>Key Issues No agreed formal process for the training and testing of Level 3 Incident Controllers exists in Western Australia. Maintenance of any such program is resource-hungry.</p> <p>Actions to Date This issue has been acknowledged by all parties within IBMC. DEC has undertaken preliminary work on systems in other jurisdictions that may inform progress in WA. DEC/FESA will "cross-endorse" Level 3 Incident Controllers.</p> <p>Next Steps IBMC to reconvene and progress the development of an agreed interagency model.</p>