

A Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire – February 2011 Review
Stakeholder Briefing
As at 27 September 2011
Updates are Presented in Bold Text.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
<p>State Policy Group</p> <p>Membership: Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), Fire and Emergency Services Association (FESA), Western Australia Police (WAPOL), Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Landgate, Department of Planning (DoP), Department of Education, Department of Finance</p> <p>Volunteer Rep: Robert Bootsma</p>		
<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>Key Issues Demonstrated strong strategic partnership Opportunity for volunteer and local government comment will be concluded by Friday 30 September</p> <p>Actions to Date FESA & DEC have been liaising in preparation. Draft Heads of Agreement nearing finalisation. Collaboration and cooperation between DEC and FESA has produced an agreed draft Heads of Agreement with Statements of Intent and commitment at a strategic level.</p> <p>Next Steps Consult with volunteers. Await final response from CEOs as to document content Provide draft document to volunteer representatives and WALGA for comment Conduct formal signing ceremony. Consultation with volunteer groups and local government on the draft document will occur before signing by the CEOs.</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>Key Issues Emergency Services Act has FESA specific as well as emergency services issues. Membership of Working Group to be finalised with current membership under consideration of FESA, DEC, WAPOL, DPC, and WALGA.</p> <p>Actions to Date Commenced revision of the Project Plan. Draft revised Project Statement has been developed and is currently being reviewed internally.</p> <p>Next Steps Commenced determination of those matters that may be within the Terms of Reference of an Interagency Working Group. Consult with identified stakeholders. Finalise membership of Working Group (documentation for next Working Group meeting), provide FESA endorsed Project Statement for comment and convene inaugural meeting no later than 14 October.</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</p>

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		<p>Meeting with WAPC Chair arranged to give briefing. Active investigation is underway to determine the available options and their implications for the WAPC to declare bushfire prone areas.</p> <p>Next Steps Organise meeting with WALGA and DEC to determine existing datasets and their applicability to bushfire prone mapping. Brief the WAPC on the options for declaring and assessing bushfire prone areas. 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. The 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>Planning to work with WALGA, FESA, DEC and Department of Agriculture and Food to clarify the definition of ‘bushfire prone’ and the requirements pursuant to a declaration.</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 Meeting with WAPC Chair arranged to give briefing. Guidelines are under active review and discussions have taken place regarding strengthening the legislative effect of the Guidelines through a review of SPP 3.4.</p> <p>Next Steps 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 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>	<p>Education</p>	<p>Key Issues No mandate on non government schools</p> <p>Actions to Date Updated Principals Guide to Bushfires (To be placed on Department’s policies website on Friday, 9 September 2011) Director General letter to FESA seeking assistance and advice on Fuel Loads assessments of school sites. The Department has sought advice from Building Management and Works on protecting evaporative air-coolers against ember attack. Schools in bushfire prone areas to incorporate bushfire education into the school’s curriculum plan. (Link to FESA resources also) Meetings with key stakeholders. Compliance to Business Continuity Management Plan (school risk reference list) completed by Principals each year and submitted annually to Department. Liaise with all Regions to update Bushfire Zone Register. (Currently waiting on</p>

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		<p>endorsement from FESA) Ed-e-mail prepared and ready to be sent to all Regional Executive Directors, Coordinators Regional Operations and Principals advising them of changes to document and summary of key messages. Professional Learning provided to Coordinators Regional Operations on 26 August 2011 Maintain strong communication with hazard management agencies Reinforcement of the Department's internal and external communication plans. 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. 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). Next Steps The Department of Education is in discussion with the Catholic Education Office and Department of Education Services regarding the mandatory nature of incorporating key bushfire messages in the curriculum of Catholic and Independent schools. No additional funding requested for the public school system. All costs will be met from within the organisation.</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>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. Specific discussions with Hills Local Governments to occur 15th Sept. Meeting held with Local Governments in the hills area and benefits / costings for additional roadside collections being determined.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19 (Part a) (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. Actions to date Decision taken that this recommendation will be achieved through the Premier making a statement to Parliament [or Minister for Environment issuing a media statement]. Next Steps Premier to make the statement in Parliament in the near future and/or the issuing of a media statement if / when appropriate by the Premier or the Minister.</p>

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<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>	WAPOL	<p>Key Issues WAPOL is under legal advice that it cannot ‘operate’ effectively under the Bushfire Act, however it can do so under the Emergency Management (EM) Act. There is currently confusion over the suitability of the Bush Fire Act in relation to operational support activities during bushfires.</p> <p>Actions to Date FESA have referred this to the State Solicitor’s Office (SSO) for resolution and definition of a legal course of action. FESA have indicated that they will discuss operational implications of this with WAPOL. Legal advice from SSO received by WAPOL 16 Sep, advice also sent to FESA. SSO advice appears to support WAPOL concerns in relation their ability to operate effectively under the Bush Fire Act and the Fire Brigades Act.</p> <p>Next Steps FESA and WAPOL to meet on 28 Sept to formally discuss implications of the SSO advice and to plan actions in relation to this recommendation for the upcoming fire season.</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>	FESA (EMWA)	<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.</p> <p>Next Steps FESA will review the existing Traffic Management Policy using an all hazards approach prior to the 2012/13 bushfire/cyclone season.</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>	FESA	<p>Key Issues Needs an all hazards approach.</p> <p>Actions to Date Implementation of WAERN (Western Australian Emergency Radio Network).</p> <p>Next Steps The WAERN project is on track for the implementation of the interim phase for the coming fire season. Continued consultation with stakeholders to achieve the interim phase and development of the “end state” of full transition to the high band for the 2012 / 13 fire season. FESA to complete prior to the bushfire season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Communications Plan for metropolitan agencies; and • training program for bush fire prone areas.

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<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 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.</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.</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.</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>Key Issues Government to acknowledge that projected changes in climate may have an impact on future fire events.</p>

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		<p>Actions to date A draft Western Australian Government Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy [CCAMS] has been prepared, with reference to the potential climate change impacts on future fire events. This will be considered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in the near future.</p> <p>Next Steps Government to consider and endorse.</p>
<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>Key Issues Any amendments need to be implemented across all hazards. May need interim fire solution to ensure enhancements are in place.</p> <p>Actions to Date Discussions between State Emergency coordinator and Executive Officer SEMC (SECG). Concept developed for the automatic activation of the SECG and a possible Emergency Situation. Note: Only high level consultation has occurred. Appropriate consultation with key stakeholders (operational level) has not yet been undertaken.</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>	FESA	<p>Stakeholder consultation in relation to the above recommendations has been scheduled for the 26th September 2011.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept to be discussed by the Implementation Group. • Discussion to be completed with FESA, DEC & WAPOL. • By Friday 16 September: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clarification with SSO to clarify and legislation issues; and ○ consultation with FESA, DEC, & WAPOL. • FESA to complete documentation
<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>	FESA	<p>Once agreement has been reached policy change will be developed for endorsement.</p>
<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>Key Issues Requires significant research work to identify issues such as scope, methodology, timeliness</p> <p>Actions to Date The process in which to progress this recommendation has been established.</p> <p>Next Steps The next step is to establish a working group and develop scope.</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>	Finance	<p>Key Issues The completion of this recommendation is not considered an urgent matter, at this time. Recommendation is that a review of the grants application and approval process for the Emergency Services Levy be undertaken after the revised FESA administrative arrangements are put in place Recommended that the review be undertaken within 6 months of the revised FESA administrative arrangements being put in place.</p> <p>Actions to Date</p>

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		<p>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. Reviewed 2006 CD&JSC Report Meeting held between DOF and FESA. Agreed no benefit in transferring the assessment and collection of the ESL to DOF <u>Next Steps</u> What will be done? Conduct a review of the Emergency Services Levy grants application and allocation process. When? Within 6 months of putting in place of the revised FESA administrative arrangements. By whom? To be further discussed between the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Treasury and the Department of Finance on the conduct and chairing of the review.</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>	<p>FESA</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Capacity within local governments to accommodate Community Emergency Service Managers (CESM) is limited and varied. However, the intent of the recommendation is agreed. There are currently two CESM'S that are not located in Local Government. <u>Actions to Date</u> Planning meeting held 6th September 2011. Review of all MOUs. Position on recommendation has been developed in draft. <u>Next Steps</u> Liaise with local governments to ensure compliance of intent where possible. Make minor changes in future MOUs. Finalise recommendation through IBM Working Group. Consult with WALGA and local governments regarding CESM positions to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities and compliance of intent where possible.</p>
<p>Interagency Bushfire Management</p> <p>Membership: Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), Fire and Emergency Services Association (FESA), Western Australia Police (WAPOL), Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Landgate, Main Roads, Western Power, Water Corporation</p> <p>Volunteer Rep: Rod Eyre</p>		
<p>Recommendation 7 (part b) (TOR 4) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) review its distribution of information material, including <i>Prepare. Act. Survive</i>. FESA should also consider</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Determining the most effective method of engaging the community in exercises. Determining the most at risk communities.</p>

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<p>including the community in pre-season exercising, in consultation with the Department for Child Protection and local governments.</p>		<p>Determining the most effective method of engaging the community in exercises. Short time available prior to the bushfire season</p> <p>Actions to Date DEC and FESA Manager's workshop held on 1st September. Planning meeting held on 6th September 2011</p> <p>Meeting held with DCP, WALGA and Emergency Management WA (EMWA) on 19th September</p> <p>Letter forwarded to Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC) through EMWA on 20th September</p> <p>Next Steps Consultation with DCP and LGs Engage Local Emergency Management Committees Statewide exercise planned for 8th November. Key stakeholders including WAPOL, Local Governments (LGs), DEC and DCP to be invited to take part at a district, regional or state level. The inclusion of the community in any exercising of evacuation centres to be considered in consultation with LGs and DCP.</p> <p>Review any feedback from LEMCs and ensure the request is carried forward to 2012. Support for this to be provided through FESA Regional staff.</p>
<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 burning program in Perth's urban/rural interface to complement DEC's existing landscape-scale program.</p>	DEC	<p>Key Issues Additional resources to build upon existing prescribed burning program Availability of sufficient/suitable resources and expertise for local government to develop and implement a program Joint development of a coordinated program of prescribed burning across all tenures.</p> <p>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 has included several burns in the interface area in its Spring 2011 master burn plan. Several have been fully or partly implemented. DEC is currently better placed with respect to its Spring 2011 burning program in the Perth hills than at the same time in 2010 as a result of a more favourable winter rainfall pattern. CFM 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.</p> <p>Next Steps Complete policy for 'tenure-blind' fuel load management 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 to submit 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.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14 (TOR 1) The Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Environment and</p>	DEC	<p>Key Issues Processes for advice to other authorities of proposed burns and opportunities for joint</p>

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<p>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>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 commenced a review of its burn approval process to embed such communications routinely. Next Steps DEC to complete review of burn approval process as above 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 • draw up prescriptions for, and oversee controlled burns <p>are included as key competencies in any future recruitment of Chief Bushfire Control Officers (CBFCO) and Community and Emergency Services Managers (CESM).</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues Profiling of CBFCO competencies. Determining high risk areas where competencies are required. Profiling of CBFCO competencies against requirements in high risk areas Training impact on volunteers. Actions to Date Planning meeting held 6th September 2011. FESA has already adjusted the key competencies required for any future 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 IBRMS 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 IBRMS 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.</p> <p>Next Steps FESA position to be developed in consultation with local government. A review of the current training resource kits (TRK) 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 assessing the development and implementation of a prescribed burning course and making it available to staff, local governments and volunteers to enable them to successfully carry out assessments and mitigation works within their local areas. Finalise required competencies for CBFCOs and CESMs. Determine what new course requirements are identified and develop timeframes for them to be developed. WALGA obtaining information from Local Governments about existing burning programs and coordination with DEC.</p>

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<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. WALGA to ascertain existing Local Government capacity.</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>	<p>DEC</p>	<p>Key Issues Cost and potential environmental impact of alternative techniques</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Next Steps A Bushfire Research Forum will be held in WA in October 2011. While the program does not include any sessions dealing with hazard reduction techniques other than the use of planned fire, the final session at the forum is focussed on future research needs. Alternative risk mitigation techniques will be raised at this time. Jointly develop an options and consequences paper</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.</p> <p>The system should enable public access to allow members of the community to access information about the fuel load in a given locality.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues Different requirements of FESA and DEC</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cannot be actioned until the independent review referred to in recommendation 22 is completed.</p> <p>Next Steps Upon completion of recommendation 22 it will be determined if a single data base or a</p>

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		<p>suitably compatible system can be developed for both agencies due to their differing needs e.g. Land conservation versus natural hazards.</p> <p>Outcomes from recommendation 22 will need to be considered in the context of available funding and current agency capabilities to implement and train staff.</p> <p>Wait for the outcome of recommendation 22</p>
<p>Recommendation 22 (TOR 1 and 5)</p> <p>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>Key Issues</p> <p>DEC and FESA have tools (SSS and IBRMS) that have been developed separately. The capability and reciprocal appropriateness of the tools has not been assessed.</p> <p>Actions to Date</p> <p>Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) has agreed to develop a scoping document for an assessment process.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>Complete scoping document.</p> <p>Undertake assessment in accordance with scoping document.</p>
<p>Recommendation 23 (TOR 1 and 5)</p> <p>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>Key Issues</p> <p>Assessment of current fuel loads and community risk mapping.</p> <p>Fuel load assessments of grasslands and coastal heath areas</p> <p>Actions to Date</p> <p>Planning meeting held on 6th September 2011.</p> <p>Fuel load mapping being is 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>The Fuel Load Management Committee to meet within the next month to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preliminary map of the Perth Hills; • A rolling three year program of planned bushfire risk treatment. <p>FESA will continue to conduct fuel load mapping in Perth Hills rural/ urban interface areas in consultation with Local Government and DEC. The fuel load mapping is to be progressed through to other identified high risk areas in the south west land division.</p> <p>Fuel Load Management Committee scheduled to meet on 30/9/11.</p> <p>FESA Bushland Mitigation Officers and CESMs to continue mitigation and mapping works in identified high risk areas.</p>
<p>Recommendation 25 (TOR 5)</p> <p>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>Key Issues</p> <p>Investigation of WAPOL and DEC declaration procedures and documentation.</p> <p>Information flow as a result of incident declaration.</p> <p>Impacts on day to day incident processes statewide.</p> <p>Actions to Date</p> <p>Planning meeting held 6th September 2011.</p> <p>Research has been carried out on the DEC and WAPOL systems.</p>

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		<p>A DRAFT form has been constructed and feedback sought from Operational Managers. To be tested during state exercise on November 8. Liaised with EMWA on possible new Operational Procedure to cover incident declarations across all hazards. <u>Next Steps</u> Develop declaration procedure including documentation and communication methods. Once pathway determined through procedure or EMWA policy adopt declaration procedure including documentation and communication methods and disseminate to operational personnel.</p>
<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>	<p>FESA</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> The completion of the Incident Action Plans (IAP) is achievable across the state e.g. detail v timely completion. <u>Actions to Date</u> Planning meeting held 6th September 2011. Formulated a timeline that describes when an IAP will be completed and what format it will be in including forms. Working on AIIMS toolbox with FESA ICT to update and reconfigure to make it easier to work for operational staff and volunteers. Updated some forms to reflect current work practice and changes in how AIIMS is set out with positions coming to the fore like the Public Information Officer. Consulted with the regional staff on current IAP's that they have and used the good points in proposed IAP. Assisted with exercise with District Managers to seek their views on problem issues and how we can progress them. Drafted an Operational Circular for all operational staff and volunteers on ensuring IAP's are completed in a timely and detailed fashion. <u>Next Steps</u> Mandating the completion of IAPs, with requisite detail and records of critical decisions. Test revised AIIMS toolbox during the state exercise with all agencies involved then review and publish for the 2011/12 fire season.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Review the AIIMs Toolbox Ability of FESA to view resources on a statewide basis Determine capability of WEBEOC to record critical decisions with regards to resources. <u>Actions to Date</u> Planning meeting held 6th September 2011 Information session on WEBEOC to determine its capability to provide statewide resourcing viewing was conducted on Monday 19th September.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
		<p>FESA's AIIMS Toolbox has been reviewed and is being updated, this includes associated forms that record critical decisions on resourcing</p> <p>Next Steps Develop procedure for recording the assessment, deployment and rejection of resources. Investigate how to enable FESA Comcen to view statewide resources. Meet with WEBEOC Project manager to scope out statewide resource board within WEBEOC. Review FESA's use of AIIMS</p>
<p>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'</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires (2nd ed. 2008) were developed for private citizens; adapted from CFA document (2004). Also used by other Australian fire jurisdictions. Operational doctrine does not address Incident Controller's responsibilities and procedures for managing private resources / personnel (when resources meet acceptable operational standards). No formal process exists for assessing private resources / personnel or documenting decisions. Processes exist for disposal of replaced (decommissioned) appliances direct to local governments and private interests. Review required to be completed before the 2011/12 fire season.</p> <p>Actions to Date Process for decommissioning of vehicles being revised with a view to the procedure being strengthened to ensure compliance. Disposal of Fleet Assets (Owned and Returned) procedure drafted by Fleet & Equipment Services.</p> <p>Next Steps Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires (2nd ed, 2008) ("the Guidelines") to be contemporised by Operations portfolio. A system will be developed and implemented for the communication of the Guidelines to ensure Operational Personnel are more effectively informed about the use of private equipment at fires. The Guidelines to be embedded in Operational Doctrine. Target date for completion: End of September 2011. No additional funding required. Approval of Disposal of Fleet Assets (Owned and Returned) procedure and linkage to FESA Policy Statement No. 28 Fleet Policy. Circulation of existing draft Direct Purchase Guidelines to Regional Directors and District Managers for comment, with feedback to be incorporated into a series of recommendations for the approval of the A/Director Business Services.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues What is defined as "critical infrastructure". Determine current training standards for identifying critical infrastructure as an incident controller.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
attending major incidents.		<p>Inclusion of critical infrastructure sections into current AIMS forms.</p> <p>Actions to Date Planning meeting held 6th September 2011. As part of recommendation 26 sections were added to AIMS forms to ensure operational managers are considering critical infrastructure as part of the planning process at incidents, it has also been recommended (supported) that PAFTACS be used as a first arrival reporting tool which takes initial incident controllers through a process when sizing up the fire and the threats around it</p> <p>Next Steps Consultation with DEC. Review the inclusion of critical infrastructure into Emergency Services Directories. Review current AIMS forms. Test revised forms within the toolbox during the state exercise with all agencies involved then review and publish for the 2011/12 fire season. Review current training material and update where required to reflect the need to assess critical infrastructure.</p>
<p>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.</p>	MRWA	<p>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.</p> <p>Actions to Date Accelerated bridge inspections and vegetation clearing commenced in South West Region. Fire threat assessment being prepared to define priority bridge inspections. Assessment of bridge inspection currency and status of bridge clearance envelopes. Streamlined Fire Risk Inspection process looking at only vegetation clearances.</p> <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 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>	WAPOL	<p>Key Issues Availability of accurate information that is centrally located and available to Incident Controllers in an emergency.</p> <p>Actions to Date The Department Of Child Protection is capturing information on all Welfare Centres.</p> <p>Next Steps Collation of information, including spatial location. Awareness by, and availability to, Hazard Management Agencies</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
<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. 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 In consultation with FESA ensure the 100% take-up of the Interactive Bushfire Risk Management System across local government. 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 Interactive 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>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> <p>Actions to date 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</p>

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		<p>awareness of interdependent essential services infrastructure. The Water Corporation are actively working with DEC to gain environmental approvals for fire fuel load management around essential services.</p> <p>Next Steps 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 are actively seeking DEC environmental clearances to assist with the development of Asset Protection Zones – approvals expected November 2011</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 to be endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee.</p>	FESA	<p>Key Issues Development of joint exercises. Identify current multi agency exercising schedule. Revising Westplan Bushfire – risk of extensive changes prior to the bushfire season. Short time available prior to the bushfire season.</p> <p>Actions to Date Planning commenced for statewide exercise in November. This exercise to include DEC, LG and WAPOL. Planning meeting held 6th September 2011. Exercise writing has commenced. 1st draft expected by 3rd October. DEC, WALGA, WAPOL and DCP to be included in the exercises. Opportunities to include the community to be considered by the exercise writers. Meeting held with DCP on 19th September to discuss inclusion in the exercise.</p> <p>Next Steps Ensure FESA conducts consultation across agencies for pre-season exercises. Develop scenario for statewide exercise. Review 1st drafts of exercises. Final exercises to be ready by 4th November. Review exercising requirements in Westplan Bushfire. Planning meeting held 20th September</p>
<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</p>

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		<p>also been made available to local government staff and volunteers in high risk areas with training being carried out upon request.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <p>Mapping current competencies of volunteers and career staff.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>Consultation with local governments and volunteer associations Position to be formed in regards to the recommendation.</p> <p>A review of the current training resource kits (TRK) 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Finalise current competencies for current staff and volunteers by 28th September. Determine what new course requirements are identified and develop timeframes for them to be developed.</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>	DEC	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>DEC/FESA will “cross-endorse” Level 3 Incident Controllers prior to the 2011/12 fire season.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>IBMC to reconvene and progress the development of an agreed interagency model.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Information</p> <p>Membership: Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), Fire and Emergency Services Association (FESA), Western</p>		

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
<p>Australia Police (WAPOL), Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Main Roads, Department for Child Protection</p> <p>Volunteer Rep: Colin James</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>	<p>WALGA</p>	<p>Key Issues Gas standards and operation and monitoring of gas systems are the responsibility of Energy Safety WA not Local Government. A guideline of tethering gas cylinders is currently under development by Energy Safety WA. However with no existing guideline, Energy Safety WA currently does not undertake a monitoring or enforcement program.</p> <p>Actions to Date Identification of the appropriate agency to be engaged to enact the intent of the recommendation. Identification that there is currently no guideline for the tethering and consequently no enforcement program. <i>Prepare.Act.Survive</i> and other relevant publications will be amended to include references to tethering.</p> <p>Next Steps Energy Safety WA to review timing of: - development of a gas bottle tethering guideline - community communication program on the requirements of the guideline - enforcement program for gas bottle tethering</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. 	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues FESA currently target the top 30+ priority areas from more than 100 bushfire prone areas for focused education – awareness activities based on resources. The difficulty in establishing Bushfire Ready groups in gazetted fire districts. Up-skilling contracted staff to undertake engagement activities.</p> <p>Actions to Date Two Factors identified to be addressed – 1. More focussed pre-season bushfire education. 2. Include and increase emphasis on issues covered in dot points. FESA has commenced revision of the content of its bushfire safety material to ensure that they are reflective of the advice by Mr Keely and other relevant reviews and research outcomes. Publications and associated tools will be updated and finalised by the end of September in readiness for pre season engagement in bushfire prone areas. FESA has commenced conducting Bushfire Ready Facilitator training scheduled as follows: 21 August 2011 - Metro South Baldivis Bushfire Brigade (13 attendees) 17 September 2011 - Southwest Bunbury FESA Regional Office (8 attendees) 18 September 2011 - Metro North Kalamunda Bushfire Brigade (18 attendees)</p>

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		<p>Bushfire Ready Facilitator Forum Professional Development Day 8 October 2011 Mundaring Administration Offices (Invitations extended to 81 Bushfire Ready Facilitators and Operational staff).</p> <p>FESA <i>Prepare.Act.Survive</i> publication revised and gone to print</p> <p>Additional contract staff (community safety officers) employed to work alongside community safety coordinators in the priority bushfire risk locations. Induction and training of these staff underway.</p> <p>7500 invitations sent to residents to attend Absentee Landowner Forums to discuss bushfire preparedness for vacant or short term accommodation properties.</p> <p>Bushfire Ready training Undertaken as per schedule</p> <p>Engaged local governments in high bushfire risk areas to promote bushfire safety material at public contact points (38 local governments)</p> <p>Identification of priority high bushfire risk locations well underway</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>FESA will conduct further Bushfire Ready Facilitator training and development in September and October.</p> <p>FESA is going to access additional community education resources as a temporary measure to extend the level of engagement in bushfire prone areas prior to the 2011/12 southern bushfire season.</p> <p>FESA is developing a schedule for the production and coordinated distribution of updated bushfire safety material along with face to face engagement activities in bushfire prone areas for the 2011-12 southern bushfire season.</p> <p><i>Prepare.Act.Survive (PAS)</i> printing to be finalized by 30 September.</p> <p>Distribution Plan to be finalised and executed</p> <p>Local government bushfire resources issued to 38 Local Government in high risk locations.</p> <p>Additional Bushfire Ready facilitator training to be undertaken</p> <p>Further revision of other bushfire safety material to be undertaken</p> <p>(Please also see Rec 7(a))</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 (part) (TOR 4)</p> <p>The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) review its distribution of information material, including <i>Prepare. Act. Survive</i> (PAS). FESA should also consider including the community in pre-season exercising, in consultation with the Department for Child Protection and local governments.</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Limited human resources to follow up the distribution of material with quality “face to face” community engagement activities tailored to local communities.</p> <p>Up-skilling contracted staff to undertake engagement activities.</p> <p>Actions to Date</p> <p>All publications and associated tools will be updated and finalised by the end of September in readiness for pre season engagement in bushfire prone areas.</p> <p>Analysis has been conducted to identify the logistics in providing material to all bushfire prone areas in Western Australia.</p> <p>FESA PAS publication revised and gone to print</p> <p>Additional contract staff (community safety officers) employed to work alongside community safety coordinators in the priority bushfire risk locations. Induction</p>

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		<p>and training of these staff underway. 7500 invitations sent to residents to attend Absentee Landowner Forums to discuss bushfire preparedness for vacant or short term accommodation properties. Bushfire Ready training Undertaken as per schedule Engaged local governments in high bushfire risk areas to promote bushfire safety material at public contact points (38 local governments) Identification of priority high bushfire risk locations well underway <u>Next Steps</u> FESA is developing a schedule for the production and coordinated distribution of updated bushfire safety material along with face to face engagement activities (associated with recommendation 6) in bushfire prone areas for the 2011-12 southern bushfire season. PAS printing to be finalized by 30 September. Distribution Plan to be finalised and executed Local government bushfire resources issued to 38 Local Government in high risk locations. Additional Bushfire Ready facilitator training to be undertaken Further revision of other bushfire safety material to be undertaken (Please also see Rec 6)</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 (TOR 4) Local governments continue to include information on bushfire risk and preparedness with rates notices.</p>	<p>WALGA</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> 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 fires season and consequently less timely in regard to bush fires response information. <u>Actions to Date</u> WALGA committed to continue to encourage Local Governments to include information in rates notices as per the recommendation. <u>Next Steps</u> WALGA to encourage 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. 16</p>	<p>FESA</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Distribution may be limited as not all properties are managed by REIWA. REIWA solution could be expanded to capture a greater amount of new home occupiers. Three deliverables have been identified to support the execution of this strategy – (1) Fact sheet for rental tenants (2) Fact Sheet for owners of rental properties (3) Material for new property owners in high bushfire risk locations. Dept of Commerce exploring the privacy issues in relation to the information on their rental database for distribution of renters fact sheet. <u>Actions to Date</u></p>

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		<p>FESA is working with REIWA on a strategy to engage with occupiers properties in bushfire prone locations.</p> <p>FESA is working with the Department of Commerce, Building and Tenancy branch to discuss the provision of information to property owners and tenants upon receipt of Bond applications to address the issue of rented premises.</p> <p>FESA has provided the Department of Commerce with bushfire prone postcodes to enable them to interrogate their database (which will provide for a more targeted mail out).</p> <p>In a complementary strategy, Absentee Landowners forums have been scheduled by FESA to engage landowners in: Gingin; Chittering; Quinnyup; Shire Augusta-Margaret River; Shire of Busselton; Shire of Murray; City of Albany; and Shire of Dandaragan. These forums address bushfire preparedness of properties by the landowner. Information to be provided to ‘occupiers’ of these properties of what to do in the event of a bushfire. Invitations will be sent to 7,200 property owners. The sessions are being held as follows:</p> <p>Heathridge - 5 October; 7:00-8:00pm - Heathridge Park Clubrooms, Sail Terrace Heathridge;</p> <p>Winthrop - 11 October 7:00-8:00pm - Lotteries Room, Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Corner Leah Highway and Murdoch Drive Winthrop; and</p> <p>Floreat - 19 October 7:00-8:00pm - Tamala Room, WA Ecology Centre Bold Park, 165 Perry Lakes Drive Floreat.</p> <p>Draft Fact Sheets for ‘Renters’ and ‘Property Owners’ in high bushfire risk areas sent to REIWA for Board approval.</p> <p>FESA negotiating with REIWA for agents to distribute bushfire safety material to new owners in high bushfire risk locations.</p> <p>Department of Commerce engaging legal advice to determine implications of access to tenancy database re privacy concerns (Residential Tenancy Act)</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>FESA working with REIWA on further developing the strategy and mechanisms to provide the information.</p> <p>FESA to develop bushfire safety fact sheet that can be utilized in the REIWA strategy.</p> <p>FESA to develop bushfire safety fact sheet for all new rental bonds received by Department of Commerce.</p> <p>Finalise fact sheets after feedback</p> <p>Meeting to occur with REIWA to progress distribution strategy.</p> <p>Dept of Commerce to advise of legality of sharing database</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>Key Issues Any changes to wording of Total Fire Bans could be in conflict with any Nationally adopted position on such wording</p> <p>Actions to Date Liaison with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) on:</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
		<p>Rationale behind the use of the words “Total Fire Ban”.</p> <p>State Policy Group has made decision to retain the terminology Total Fire Ban based on National uniformity.</p> <p>Next Steps FESA to develop an education/awareness strategy aimed at increasing community knowledge of Total Fire Bans and the actions that are prohibited.</p>
<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>Key Issues Resourcing, access, availability and timeliness. Limitations on what messages can be safely displayed and delivered on a variable message board usually for the purpose of passing traffic.</p> <p>FESA, Main Roads WA and Local Government are currently considering: Whether the current, limited capacity of Main Roads WA and Local Government in relation to mobile variable messages boards could viably be used to raise awareness of Total Fire Bans.</p> <p>Alternative sources of mobile variable message boards.</p> <p>Actions to Date FESA and Main Roads WA (MRD) have extended an agreement re the use of MRD variable message boards to alert the community to the declaration of Total Fire Bans. FESA and Main Roads WA currently have an agreement for Main Roads WA to post emergency information (including Total Fire Ban information) on Main Roads WA’s permanent variable message boards. FESA has established a steering committee to progress this recommendation in relation to mobile variable message boards. Main Roads WA and the Western Australian Local Government Association have provided FESA with initial advice regarding their current capabilities and possible sources of mobile variable message boards.</p> <p>Next Steps Current variable message board capacity has been examined. FESA to develop a 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. FESA will liaise with Main Roads WA and Local Government over how and where variable message boards could be sourced from. FESA will liaise with Main Roads WA and Local Government over how and who would maintain such a variable message board capacity. A strategy will be developed regarding the best, targeted use of a mobile message board capacity in relation to Total Fire Bans. That strategy will be implemented.</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>Key Issues 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.</p>

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		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>Actions to Date WALGA is in the final stages of developing the application. It is scheduled to be launched with a public campaign within the next few months.</p> <p>Next Steps 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. Regulation to require timely action by Local Governments to requests made by the community using the system should also be considered.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19 (Part b) (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>	DEC	<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.</p> <p>Next Steps Further education of the public about the need for prescribed burns. Appropriate mechanism for re-affirming the Government's previous decision being considered.</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> <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>	FESA	<p>Key Issues Identifying property owners that elected to stay and actively defend. Psychological sensitivities of homeowners having to recount their story on the day It may be that this session is required to be a closed event due to the needs of both the residents and the incident controllers.</p> <p>Professional advice has identified that it is essential that these feedback sessions are undertaken privately with small groups.</p> <p>Actions to Date FESA is liaising with UWA who has undertaken the Perth Hills Bushfire Research in partnership with Bushfire CRC and FESA. They have agreed to seek out people that may fall into this category (60% of research participants elected to be involved in further</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
		<p>research with University of Western Australia (UWA)) that may have stayed to defend their properties during these fires to be involved in a facilitated session. FESA is liaising with the City of Armadale as another source of information regarding people falling into this category. 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. FESA is liaising with DCP who have agreed to be involved in the session. Independent Facilitator contracted to develop plan and facilitate meeting The City of Armadale briefed on project and identified suitable venue (secured) Session has been scheduled for pre bushfire season 18 households currently identified Numbers limited to 15 persons per session due to professional advice so more than one session may be required Professional advice for this to be a closed session by invitation only (no media – no recording devices) Invitations to be sent on 23 September <u>Next Steps</u> FESA to engage advice from recommended professionals. FESA to develop a framework for delivery of these sessions, consideration to be given to the facilitation. Continued identification of participants from the Kelmscott/Roleystone fire Identification and engagement of appropriate independent facilitators for session. Alternative sessions to be scheduled if required.</p>
<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><u>Key Issues</u> 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. <u>Actions to Date</u> FESA and WA Police met with the ABC on Monday September 5th to discuss the Keelty report, this recommendation and ways in which the ABC as an endorsed emergency broadcaster and Government agencies can work better. Discussions focused on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speed of public information clearance by incident controllers; 2. How best the ABC can access that information most quickly; 3. The wording and duration of emergency messages; 4. The type of language used; 5. How social media systems (e.g.: Twitter and Facebook) can be best integrated into the emergency broadcasting service the ABC already provides. <p>FESA and the ABC have subsequently undertaken considerable direct liaison on the above issues, which will inform improvements to both organisations' guidelines. <u>Next Steps</u></p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
		<p>Write guidelines for use by ABC and agencies to aid improved liaison between the ABC and emergency authorities during bushfires. Wider media consultation will occur later, with other media.</p> <p>FESA and ABC to continue working cooperatively on improving their respective guidelines. (it is now not considered necessary to draft new guidelines as referenced in previous report)</p> <p>Public Information Group (PING) of SEMC committee to revise existing MOU between ABC and SEMC to remain consistent with changes in guidelines and capture new technology developments.</p> <p>Wider media consultation during October, by PING.</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>	WAPOL	<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.</p> <p>Identifying suitable technology for One Source One Message and cost of 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 Group (PING) of SEMC.</p> <p>Discussions within FESA regarding the potential to extend current use of Whispir technology.</p> <p>A review of how the One Source One Message technology (Whispir) is currently being used by the Victorian Country Fire Authority.</p> <p>Next Steps The PING will initiate a review of one source; one message technologies, including a review of technology already introduced by the Victorian Country Fires Authority during September/October 2011.</p> <p>Meeting on this topic involving FESA, DEC and WAPOL in early October.</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>	WAPOL	<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.</p> <p>Draft protocols will now be developed, with further consultation post this. PING’s chair is in agreeance that the eventual protocol can be considered (and endorsed by) PING out of session during September.</p> <p>Next Steps Draft protocols will now be developed and completed by September 20 then submitted to the Public Information Group of PING for assessment and endorsement for use by HMAs.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS – Key issues, actions and next steps
		<p>WAPOL Media Unit will finalise the draft protocols and circulate to all HMAs for comment, then put to the SEMC Public Information Sub-Committee for endorsement, after which agencies will incorporate into their standing procedures. Draft to be completed by WAPOL for consideration by PING at meeting on October 4, 2011.</p>
<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</p>	<p>Actions to Date WALGA is working with Department of Planning and FESA to identify the information that can be made available to Local Governments bushfire prone areas and is promoting the Guidelines to Local Governments to ensure awareness within the sector.</p> <p>Next Steps WALGA, Local Governments and FESA will work towards encouraging home owners in bushfire prone areas to retrofit their dwellings in compliance with AS3959; 2009. WALGA is developing an Information Sheet on AS3959 for use by Local Governments. WALGA working with West Australian Planning Commission to examine options for retrospective application.</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> <ul 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). 	<p>This recommendation is being dealt with outside the Implementation Group and working groups structure.</p> <p>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. This process is ongoing.</p>
<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>This recommendation is being dealt with outside the Implementation Group and working groups structure. The following update has been provided.</p> <p>Key Issues Legal issues relating to the transfer of hydrant ownership.</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>	<p>Actions to Date Advice has been sought from the State Solicitors Office concerning transfer issues.</p> <p>Next Steps Consideration of the advice of the State Solicitors Office and proposal of the recommended option.</p>