ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

2025-2030



Implementation Plan

Cover artwork

The ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) sought entries from creative and artistic ACT school students to design a cover for SBMPv5 that represented the theme: "Shared Responsibility – we all have a role in preparing for bushfires". The winning front cover design was created by Julia Juchnicki from Year 7 at Evelyn Scott School.

Artist statement

Using the previous winner's artwork as inspiration, I was drawn to the use of Indigenous art symbols. Living and learning on Ngunnawal country, it was important to me to incorporate it into my artwork. The three lines symbol represents fire in Aboriginal art. I used brown tones to represent the ground. I wanted to incorporate the flame as the focal point of the artwork. The bright colours of the flame make it eye catching and contrast well against the neutral tones. I wanted to have the theme of shared responsibility clear on the artwork as it is such an important statement to be made about fire safety in the ACT.

Other artists

Charlie Cooper - Year 3 Weetangera Primary School
Jiawei Wang - Year 5/6, Florey Primary School
Elle Scanes - Age 5
Son Do - Year 12, Lake Tuggeranong College

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Commissioner
Emergency Services Agency ACT Government
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Strategic direction and advice through the: Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Steering Committee, chaired by Sophie Lewis, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

Project Team: Ailish Milner, Vivienne Schweizer, and Katherine Jenkins supported by subject matter experts from across ACT Government.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal People, and express our appreciation for the traditional teachings of fire and the positive impact it can make to support land and country to thrive.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Contents

Introduction 2

Recap: the strategic intent of the SBMP 2

1. Community resilience and preparedness 4
2. Firefighting management and capability 7
3. Bushfire risk planning and land management 10
4. Land-use and development planning 14
5. Bushfire research 16
6. Bushfire recovery 18

Appendix A - Governance Committee Roles and Responsibilities 21

Purpose 21
Roles and responsibilities 21

Appendix B - Implementation Committee Roles and Responsibilities 22

Purpose 22
Roles and responsibilities 22

Appendix C - Bushfire Smoke and Air Pollution 24

Introduction 24
Impacts 24
How air quality informs bushfire planning 24

Introduction

The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) presented as two volumes, the Strategic Plan and this Implementation Plan. When referring to the SBMP, both volumes are referenced recognising their interdependence.

The SBMP cascades through several conceptual layers, as indicated in Figure 1. The Strategic Plan deals with material in the top two-thirds of the pyramid, while the remaining items are explored in this Implementation Plan.

The Implementation Plan is structured around the six SBMP strategic objectives and associated outcomes, which include:

- Community resilience and awareness
- Firefighting capability and management
- Bushfire risk planning and land management
- Land use planning and development
- Bushfire research, and
- Bushfire recovery.

The plan provides 71 proposed actions which may be implemented subject to available resourcing and annual governance committee reviews.

Recap: the strategic intent of the SBMP

The mission of the SBMP is:

To minimise the risk and impacts of bushfires on the ACT community and natural environment.

The vision of the SBMP is:

- To build, over time, a resilient and adaptive ACT community and natural environment through proactive and collaborative bushfire management.

Beneath these aspirational statements are the SBMP's two overarching goals:

- To enhance safety and resilience, and
- To promote adaptive management

The second of these goals is particularly important as the SBMP moves to implementation and delivery.

The SBMP acknowledges the necessity of adaptive management over its lifecycle, given various influencing factors such as climate change, natural disasters and financial constraints.

The SBMP Implementation Committee will support action owners to conduct regular monitoring to assess the effectiveness and relevance of actions, ensuring they align with the intended outcomes and achieve the defined indicators of success for the SBMP. Where there is a demonstrated need, changes to actions throughout the life of the SBMP will be approved by the Governance Committee.

'Adaptive management is not about changing goals during implementation; it is about changing the path being used to achieve the goals in response to changes.' (USAID, 2018)

For more detail on the strategic intent of the SBMP, and other matters concerning purpose and structure, please refer to the Strategic Plan, the first volume of the combined SBMP.

Figure 1: Layers of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

Vision & mission

> To build, a resilient and adaptive ACT community and natural environment through proactive and collaborative bushfire management
> To minimise the risk and impacts of bushfires on the ACT community and natural environment

Plan goals

> To enhance safety and resilience
> To promote adaptive management

Cross-cutting drivers

> Fire and the environment
> Climate change
> Cultural imperatives
> Sustainability

Key ACT management arrangements

> Risk
> Governance

Strategic objectives

> Community resilience and preparedness
> Bushfire risk planning and land management
> Fire-fighting capability and management
> Land use planning and development
> Bushfire research
> Bushfire recovery

Plan outcomes

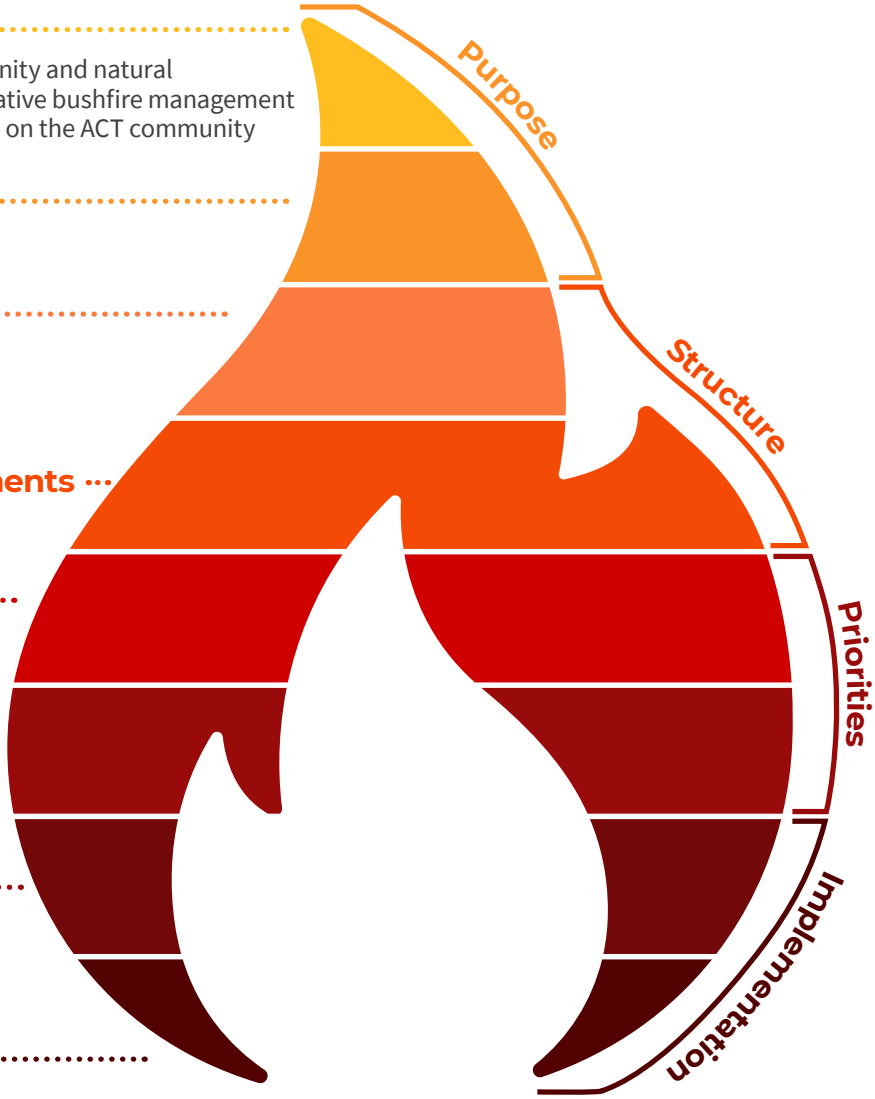
17 Outcomes in total
(see Implementation Plan)

Indicators of success

58 Indicators of success in total
(see Implementation Plan)

Plan actions

71 Actions in total (see Implementation Plan)



1. Community resilience and preparedness

Outcome 1		
The foundations and systems of community disaster engagement reduce community bushfire risk, meet community needs, and are informed by expertise and best-practice approaches.		
Indicators of success	Linked actions	
Community resilience projects are built using the governance framework and ESA community engagement strategy.	1.1, 1.2	
80% of Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) personnel that are active in community engagement have completed community engagement training.	1.3	
Annual benchmarking is undertaken on community needs around disaster risk reduction and preparedness.	1.4	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
1.1 Develop and maintain a governance framework for incorporating research findings, subject matter expertise, and community knowledge and needs into community engagement approaches.	ESA	Year 1 then ongoing
1.2 Develop an ESA Community Engagement Strategy and implementation plans that support the objectives of the SBMP and which align with relevant territory and national doctrines.	ESA	Year 1 then ongoing
1.3 Develop community engagement training packages that are informed by best practice methods and lived experiences.	ESA	Year 1 then ongoing
1.4 Explore options to regularly benchmark community bushfire resilience levels, community understanding of risk and personal disaster preparedness to identify gaps and to enable continuous improvement.	ESA Security and Emergency Management Division (SEMD)	Annual & ongoing

Outcome 2		
The ACT Community are informed about bushfire risk and are better prepared, through the support and guidance of the ACT Government.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
A prioritisation framework is in place for communication, engagement, and resilience building activities ensuring requirements of the *Emergencies Act 2004* (EA act) are delivered.	1.1, 2.1	
Risk and preparedness education practices are aligned with nationally agreed upon principles, through accessible, user-friendly tools.	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	
Nationally agreed standards are adopted for public fire prediction maps and bushfire warnings (AWS), to support risk communication tools.	2.5	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
2.1 Develop and maintain an ESA prioritisation framework for communications, engagement and resilience building activities.	ESA	Year 1 then ongoing
2.2 Review and evaluate the effectiveness of ACTMapi for community education related to bushfire risk.	ESA	Year 2 then ongoing
2.3 Establish an ACT risk page on the ESA website to improve how the ACT Emergency Services Agency communicates bushfire risk to the community.	ESA	Year 2 then ongoing
2.4 Evaluate and update the 'Be Emergency Ready' campaign to ensure it fulfills requirements in the EA act, and effectively meets community needs through best practice methods.	ESA	Year 1 then ongoing
2.5 Implement the nationally agreed standards for public fire prediction maps and warnings.	ESA (RFS)	Year 2 then ongoing

Outcome 3		
Through awareness of shared responsibility, the ACT community works together to build disaster resilience.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
Resilience building projects and programs across whole of government are prioritised to ensure the delivery of requirements legislated under the *Emergencies Act 2004*.	1.1, 1.2, 2.1	
Shared responsibility and expectations surrounding disaster resilience are clearly defined and communicated to government, non-government organisations, and the ACT community.	3.1, 3.3	
Bushfire resilience programs are designed and delivered with relevant partners and priority communities.	1.4, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6	
The contributions from various segments of the community to building resilience are communicated and highlighted.	3.4	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
3.1 Establish a responsibility and accountability ESA webpage to articulate how community members can help manage their own bushfire risk and what they can expect from fire and emergency services.	ESA Public Information and Engagement (PIE)	Year 2 then ongoing
3.2 Provide appropriate training for community liaisons engaged with key community groups to support relationship building.	ESA (PIE/RFS)	Year 2 then ongoing
3.3 Acknowledge and communicate the value and integral input that groups like ACT rural landholders, traditional land managers and community leaders provide to Canberra's bushfire resilience.	ESA (RFS)	Year 1 then ongoing
3.4 Define, identify, map and engage priority communities across the ACT.	ESA	Year 1 then ongoing
3.5 Collaboratively develop tailored resilience-building project plans and proposals following identification of priority communities.	ESA (PIE)	Year 2 then ongoing
3.6 Establish a Community Disaster Preparedness Network to coordinate a collaborative sector approach to disaster preparedness activities.	ESA	Year 2

2. Firefighting management and capability

Outcome 4		
The future ACT firefighting workforce and resources work jointly together to meet future needs of the ACT.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
The ACT's joint firefighting and Incident Management workforce are integrated and aligned with the multi-agency approach to bushfire management.	4.1, 4.2, 4.3	
The ACTRFS has a clear understanding and can articulate the ACT's joint integrated bushfire capability and resource level.	4.3	
Gap analyses are conducted in line with, and in support of national programs and strategies.	4.1, 4.2, 4.3	
The ACT meets the IMT resourcing requirements outlined in the ACT Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework while also meeting the Incident Management Team coordination requirements of the ACT Bushfire Sub-Plan.	4.2, 4.3	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
4.1 Consider the completion of a gap analysis of bushfire resources and capability including incident management, within the ACT in line with national capabilities and frameworks.	RFS (ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS), F&R)	Year 2 & Year 4
4.2 Review the bushfire human resource capability (within the Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework), to better document the capabilities of all ACT fire services. Update this annually to ensure the PPRR required of the ACT Bushfire Sub-Plan.	RFS	Annual
4.3 Complete annual analysis of all ACT bushfire assets to identify strengths and weaknesses of both current and future needs of the ACT. Undertake these reviews in line with the Strategic Bushfire Capability framework and alignment to the ACT Bushfire Sub-Plan.	RFS	Annual

Outcome 5		
The ACT's bushfire workforce capability is enhanced through recognising and appropriately implementing innovation, research and learning and development programs.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
A lessons management program is in place and embedded as a business-as-usual process.	5.2, 5.5	
Joint leadership and development programs are in place to enhance leadership capability for significant fire events.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	
The ESA and EPSDD target deployment of personnel to other jurisdictions with a goal of broadening and deepening wildfire capability.	5.1, 5.6	
Regular collaborative HR burns and exercises occur between all fire agencies and are reported on annually.	5.1, 5.4	
The ACT, through innovation and technology, develops and implements world class early detection systems for bushfires.	5.5, 5.6	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
5.1 Develop and implement a ACTRFS and PCS policy that supports and encourages national and international deployments for staff and volunteers, to improve individuals' skills and enhance inter-jurisdictional cooperation.	RFS (PCS)	Year 2
5.2 A Certificate 4 in Public Safety (fire fighting supervision) will be developed for senior members of the ACT Rural Fire Service. It will have a focus on improving practice through innovation and will include Lessons Learnt Field Trips (LLIFT).	RFS	Annual
5.3 Explore implementation of divisional commander training for senior firefighters.	RFS	Annual
5.4 ACTF&R, PCS and RFS conduct joint exercises (discussion, functional and field) which may include joint agency prescribed reduction burns that encourage knowledge sharing amongst different agencies.	PCS (RFS)	Annual
5.5 Establish and maintain a community of practice within the ACT that works to operationalise innovation and technology, this includes reporting and contributing to national forums such as AFAC, NHRC, universities, and collective acceptance of innovation across the Territory through local, Australian and international best practice.	ESA	Year 1
5.6 Consider development of trial programs in bushfire early detection for rapid response and situational awareness, including but not limited to artificial intelligence cameras, drones (RPAS), accurate lightning detection and satellites.	RFS	Year 1, then ongoing

Outcome 6		
Actions are taken to mitigate the physical and mental impacts of fire events on the firefighter workforce.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
The firefighting workforce have increased access to preventative and proactive mental and physical health tools.	6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5	
Bushfires (as a hazard to firefighter health and wellbeing) are understood and specifically addressed in the JACS and EPSDD WHS systems.	6.1, 6.2	
Programs are in place and have been implemented by the ESA and EPSDD that support the physical and mental wellbeing and the functionality of the firefighting workforce.	6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6	
Conditions and support for all fire operations staff across all agencies involved in bushfire mitigation and response are aligned.	6.1,6.3, 6.5,6.6	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
6.1 Consider establishing and implementing an ESA Work Health and Safety Management System for wildfire incidents and prescribed burning to minimise and prevent pollutants impacting firefighters and their families.	ESA	Year 3
6.2 Consider establishing a PCS Work Health and Safety Management System for wildfire incidents and prescribed burning to minimise and prevent pollutants impacting firefighters and their families.	PCS	Year 3
6.3 Consider developing and implementing a program to support and monitor staff and volunteers' mental health resilience.	ESA (PCS)	Year 2
6.4 Consider introducing evidence-based support systems addressing the impact of smoke on firefighters across all fire agencies, with a focus on best practices and procedures post fire events.	ESA (PCS)	Year 2
6.5 Develop physical fitness programs in each agency to support both physical and mental wellbeing	All	Annual
6.6 Develop and implement an onsite health monitoring program for all agencies during wildfire that is supported by best practice research.	ESA	Year 3

3. Bushfire risk planning and land management

Outcome 7		
Risk management is informed by a range of intelligence that underpins bushfire planning/mitigation activities.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
The ACT has adopted a tenure blind risk planning system which is reviewed regularly.	7.1	
The ACT has an expanded fit-for-purpose fuel and weather monitoring program across all tenures.	7.2	
The ACT has implemented bushfire risk modelling for tactical and operational planning.	7.3, 7.4	
The ACT maintains best practice in the use of risk modelling tools and is engaged with peak bodies for risk evaluation and planning.	7.2	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
7.1 Consider conducting bushfire risk plan modelling every five years (to be known as the Territory Bushfire Risk Managament Plan), which is impartial to land ownership (tenure blind) and based on maintaining a residual risk value between 35-45%. Integrate the outputs of this modelling (essential hazard reduction activities) into landholders, Bushfire Operation Plans (BOPs), Farm FireWise Plans, or Bushfire Management Plans.	RFS (EPSDD - Environment)	Year 4
7.2 Explore options to maintain and enhance the intelligence and ICT infrastructure that underpins bushfire risk modelling, including ongoing engagement with peak bodies ensuring best practice.	ESA (RFS)	Year 2, then ongoing
7.3 Consider conducting daily risk modelling throughout the declared bushfire season to gather intelligence for operational planning and activation arrangements.	RFS (PCS)	Year 2, then ongoing
7.4 Consider conducting annual bushfire risk modelling prior to the commencement of each bushfire season, considering the climate outlook.	RFS (PCS)	Year 2, then ongoing

Outcome 8		
Bushfire mitigation actions and infrastructure are effective and responsive to risk context across all areas of bushfire management.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
Minimum standard requirements for Bushfire Operation Plans are established and are adopted for all Bushfire Operation Plans within the life of the SBMP.	8.3	
Strategic fire management infrastructure across the ACT is fit for purpose to support mitigation and response actions.	8.2	
Pre-suppression plans for selected priority assets are developed.	8.1	
The ACT has a single point of truth for pre-fire planning that considers ecological and cultural values.	8.4	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
8.1 Consider the development of pre-suppression plans/tactical fire suppression for examples of priority sites across non-urban asset classes.	EPSDD - Environment (RFS)	Year 3 & Year 4
8.2 Undertake a review of Strategic Fire Management Infrastructure and develop an asset management plan and database for the ACT. This includes, but is not limited to, helipads, trail network, water sources, fire towers and camera network, and the communications network.	ESA (PCS)	Year 2
8.3 Develop Commissioner's Guidelines to establish standard requirements for all BOPs, including, but not limited to, spatial mapping of mitigation treatments, completion reports and auditing.	RFS	Year 1
8.4 Ensure all relevant GIS data is available on one platform to support fire management and response.	ESA (EPSDD - Environment)	Year 2

Outcome 9		
The ACT Government recognises the importance of and facilitates the use of fire as a tool in land management risk reduction and cultural connection under a changing climate.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
The community is informed through an annual reporting basis on the use of prescribed burns across the Territory.	9.1	
The annual burn program across Government creates a mosaic of bushfire fuel ages and incorporates cultural and ecological considerations in balancing risk management across asset classes.	9.2, 9.4	
The annual burn program and management of bushfires in the ACT incorporates air quality considerations.	9.3	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
9.1 Develop a single web resource for the community to access information on prescribed burns.	ESA (PCS)	Year 1
9.2 Ensure fire is used as a tool to adjust post fire age classes across the landscape to improve or maintain ecological value and biodiversity.	EPSDD - Environment (RFS)	Annual
9.3 Consider undertaking modelling to understand the smoke impact of both bushfires and prescribed burning. This data will inform operational planning and be communicated to the public.	ESA (PCS, Health Protection Service (HPS)	Year 2, then ongoing
9.4 Consider co-designing a program for cultural burning across the ACT with the traditional custodians.	EPSDD (RFS)	Year 2 then ongoing

Outcome 10		
Fire agencies and land managers have the tools and capability to effectively understand and communicate bushfire risk under a changing climate.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
ESA and EPSDD (cross-directorate) are equipped with the necessary tools and equipment to conduct bushfire risk modelling and analysis.	10.4, 10.5, 10.3	
ESA and EPSDD (cross-directorate) have specialised and trained staff capable of conducting bushfire risk plan modelling and analysis.	10.4	
The outputs of bushfire risk planning are communicated to our stakeholders and the community on a landscape scale.	10.1, 10.2	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
10.1 Make risk modelling maps available to the public at landscape scale.	ESA (PCS)	Year 4
10.2 Develop and implement a communications strategy for communicating bushfire risk to the public and key stakeholders.	ESA (PCS)	Year 4
10.3 Bushfire risk mitigation is based on the risk modelling, which can be updated.	RFS (PCS)	Year 4
10.4 Consider development and support for in-house capability to model and analyse bushfire risk	RFS (PCS)	Year 2
10.5 Consider development of resources that include, but are not limited to, fire behaviour modelling programs, GIS software, ICT capability and capacity and climate change modelling.	ESA (PCS)	Year 2

4. Land-use and development planning

Outcome 11		
Strategic engagement across government, industry and community groups is established to make developments resilient to natural hazards, with specific focus on bushfire risk.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
All-natural hazard risk information is provided during all sales.	11.3, 11.2	
ACT Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities have been developed that consider bushfire.	11.1, 11.2	
Bushfire risk is addressed in district strategies.	11.1	
Bushfire (natural hazards) risk, that is informed by future climate modelling, is embedded in strategic planning to support future land release and developments in the bushfire prone areas.	11.2, 11.5	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
11.1 Consider developing an engagement strategy to communicate more effectively, both across government and with professional organisations, how bushfire risk is incorporated in land development processes. Ensure the engagement strategy encompasses relevant community groups, including, but not limited to: community councils, construction industry bodies, bushfire consultants and individual construction companies.	RFS	Year 2
11.2 Consider ESA facilitation of biennial construction and development industry day.	F&R (RFS)	Year 2 & Year 4
11.3 Consider providing bushfire risk information on sales documentation (e.g. 149 certificate NSW).	Access Canberra Land Planning and Building Service	Year 5
11.4 Ensure successful engagement across directorates and utilities at ESA Annual Planning Forum.	RFS	Annual
11.5 Ensure ESA Fire Services and EPSDD attend industry conferences relevant to land use and planning	RFS	Annual

Outcome 12		
ACT urban and environmental policy and legislation are aligned to deliver development outcomes that are consistent with the ACT Bushfire Management Standards.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
A single cohesive bushfire prone area is used across all areas of the ACT Government.	12.1, 12.2	
ACT Bushfire Management Standards are embedded where appropriate in the ACT Legislative Framework.	12.1	
Harmonisation of urban and environmental legislation and policies (such as urban tree canopy requirements) and ACT Bushfire Management Standards.	12.3	
Public facing bushfire land-use planning spatial data is available to inform the building and construction industry, when changes are made this information is updated as a priority.	12.4	
A consistent, measurable standard on the requirements for upgrading construction standards during renovation and extensions of buildings is provided, with a focus on Bushfire Protection Measures and AS3959.	12.3	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
12.1 Subject to further regulatory impact analysis, identify and review bushfire requirements and conflicts in policy and legislation and work with responsible Directorates to harmonise them.	RFS (EPSDD)	Year 2
12.2 Subject to further regulatory impact analysis, strengthen collaboration between the EPSDD Building Design and Project Branch and ESA on the assessment of the defined bushfire prone area and establish consistency between the Building Regulations and ACT Bushfire Management Standards.	ESA	Year 1
12.3 Subject to further regulatory impact analysis, review national standard on renovations/extensions and compliance with bushfire standards and assess ACT Bushfire Management Standards against best practice.	RFS (EPSDD Building Policy)	Year 3
12.4 Subject to further regulatory impact analysis, clear information is provided regarding the timing of defined area (e.g. BPA, BAZ, FMZs) changes to mapping that impacts the building and construction industry, via public facing spatial data.	RFS	Annual

5. Bushfire research

Outcome 13		
ACT ESA and EPSDD have clear direction for bushfire management research.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
Research strategy endorsed by ESA & EPSDD.	13.1, 13.2, 13.3	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
13.1 Conduct an analysis of research knowledge gaps to develop priority areas considering cost-benefit, effectiveness and trade-offs to inform the bushfire research strategy.	EPSDD - Environment (RFS)	Year 1
13.2 Develop a five-year bushfire research strategy including but not limited to cultural considerations, fire and the environment, risk mitigation, operations, technology and community resilience.	EPSDD - Environment (RFS)	Year 1
13.3 Review the research strategy as required in response to changing bushfire risk context.	RFS	Annual

Outcome 14		
Research is translated for use in fire management in the ACT.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
ACT Research Translation and Utilisation Plan endorsed by ESA and EPSDD.	14.1	
ACT agencies involved with research projects are the lead end user.	14.2	
Research outcomes and information from national meetings (AFAC) are shared with partners and key stakeholders.	14.3, 14.4	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
14.1 Develop research priorities for the ACT.	EPSDD - Environment (RFS)	Year 1
14.2 Consider the development and implementation of a research program for the ACT with additional support staff in ESA and EPSDD.	EPSDD - Environment (RFS)	Year 2 then ongoing
14.3 Consider delivering research outcomes through an improved lesson management framework to support fire management activities.	RFS (EPSDD)	Annual
14.4 Establish a bushfire research practitioner network to support information sharing.	RFS (EPSDD)	Annual

6. Bushfire recovery

Outcome 15		
Recovery pathways and targets are clearly outlined and support building back better to increase resilience.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Action	
Pre-defined pathways exist for Directorates, businesses and community entities to access funds for post-disaster recovery and to 'build back better'.	15.1, 15.2	
Pathways are in place for community-led recovery.	15.3	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
15.1 Action arrangements within the ACT Recovery Sub-Plan an Disaster Assistance Guidelines appropriately.	ACT Recovery Committee	Annual
15.2 Access to commonwealth recovery funding streams is facilitated when appropriate	SEMD	Annual
15.3 Consider implementing the ACT Social Recovery Framework. The changing climate and associated risks increase the need for investment in community led and owned preparedness and response including for social recovery. This funding would invest in strengthening ACT Government and Community Service Organisations disaster preparedness and response services under the ACT Social Recovery Framework which is essential to reducing the impact and cost of recovery on Canberrans and the ACT Government.	Community Services Directorate (CSD)	Annual

Outcome 16		
Governance and policy systems across government support commitment to long term and complex recovery timeframes.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
Governance structures that enable long-term and complex recovery are documented and implemented.	16.1, 16.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3	
ACT Government agencies and external entities are available to support scalable relief and/or recovery activities.	16.1, 15.1, 15.3	
The ACT Government prioritises and promotes community-led recovery, including engagement with First Nations peoples.	16.1, 16.2	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
16.1 Ensure arrangements within the ACT Recovery Sub-Plan support sustainable operations for long term and complex recovery.	SEMD	Annual
16.2 Consult and include First Nations people when planning for and conducting recovery operations..	ACT Recovery Committee	Annual

Outcome 17		
The ACT Government has a whole-of-government approach to better understand bushfire impacts after bushfires.		
Indicators of Success	Linked Actions	
Evidence of improved understanding of bushfire impacts are embedded across multiple ACT Government agencies.	17.1, 17.2, 17.3	
Multi-agency Rapid Damage Assessment personnel are trained and deployable during and after bushfire events.	17.1, 17.2, 17.3	
There is consolidation of a whole-of-government approach to impact assessment data collection, storage and utilisation.	17.1, 17.2, 17.3	
Actions	Owner	Timeline
17.1 Conduct mapping of whole-of-government impact assessment capability, including the assessment of physical assets such as heritage and cultural assets, built assets, infrastructure assets and natural environment assets.	ESA	Year 1
17.2 Consider developing a whole of government Rapid Damage Assessment (RDA) capability that collects necessary data to support response and recovery operations.	ESA	Year 4
17.3 Consider establishing governance and training to maintain Rapid Damage Assessment capability.	ESA	Year 2

Appendix A

SBMP Governance Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Purpose

Effective governance of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) is crucial for achieving its objectives and safeguarding the ACT community.

The SBMP Governance Committee provides high-level oversight and strategic guidance for implementing the SBMP. This Committee ensures alignment with Plan priorities, supports adaptive management and fosters collaboration between key stakeholders to achieve the intended outcomes of the SBMP.

The SBMP Governance Committee will comprise of representatives from each of the major contributing agencies responsible for delivery of actions under the SBMP.

Leadership and Structure

Chairperson: The Committee is chaired by the ESA Commissioner or the Commissioner's representative.

Members: Chief Officer ACT Rural Fire Service (ESA), Executive Group Manager Environment, Heritage and Parks (ACT Government Conservator), Executive Group Manager Statutory Planning (Planning, Land and Building Representative), the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment and the Chair of Multi Hazard Advisory Council (observer).

Meeting Schedule: The Committee meets quarterly to oversee SBMP implementation and ensure alignment with strategic priorities.

One week prior to the meeting, committee members will be provided with accurate and unified reporting on the delivery of objectives and actions of the SBMP from the SBMP Implementation Committee.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Oversight and Reporting

Liaison with SBMP Implementation Committee: Review and endorse prioritisation recommendations from the SBMP Implementation Committee, resolving any conflicts in action prioritisation.

Additionally, approve adjustments to actions and timelines as recommended by the SBMP Implementation Committee in accordance with an adaptive management approach.

Support Commissioner in Reporting: Assist the Commissioner in endorsing the Implementation Committee's Annual Report to Security and Emergency Management Senior Officials Group (SEMSOG), which will also inform whole of government reporting on Bushfire Risk Management via the JACS annual report.

Ministerial Updates: Provide additional reports to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services as needed to update on SBMP progress and budget requirements.

2. Strategic Prioritisation and Conflict Resolution

Endorse Prioritisation Options: Evaluate and endorse prioritisation options for SBMP actions to ensure alignment with Plan outcomes and available resources.

Conflict Resolution: Resolve conflicts that arise during action implementation, ensuring actions support the broader goals of the SBMP.

Liaison with MHAC: Liaise with the Multi Hazard Advisory Council (MHAC) as needed, with support from an MHAC observer attending meetings to facilitate this collaboration.

3. Budget and Resource Allocation

Liaison with Treasury: Engage with Treasury to discuss budget allocations, requirements and adjustments necessary to support SBMP implementation.

Budget Reporting: Support the ESA Commissioner in preparing budget-related reports for submission to SEMSOG and to the minister as required.

4. Documentation and Endorsements

Terms of Reference Approval: Endorse or approve the terms of reference for both the SBMP Governance and SBMP Implementation Committees to ensure clarity in roles and responsibilities.

Annual and Additional Reporting: Oversee preparation of the annual report and endorse any additional reports required by SEMSOG or other stakeholders.

Appendix B

SBMP Implementation Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Purpose

The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) Implementation Committee is responsible for overseeing the successful execution of the SBMP and ensuring that actions taken align with the SBMP's intended outcomes and priorities. This committee reports to the SBMP Governance Committee, supporting accountability and transparency in the SBMP's implementation.

Leadership and Structure

Committee membership will consist of designated action owners and key stakeholders.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Oversight and Reporting

Oversight of actions and reporting: Monitor and guide the actions taken to implement the SBMP, ensuring they align with the SBMP's intended outcomes.

Action owners are responsible for reporting progress to the Implementation Committee according to the annual Action Plans. This includes obtaining approval from their directorate for the submitted reports.

Reporting to SBMP Governance Committee: Provide quarterly updates to the SBMP Governance Committee on progress towards the SBMP's actions and indicators of success. This will enable data-informed priority-setting to advance future initiatives of the SBMP.

Annual Reporting to Whole of Government: Submit annual reports to the SBMP Governance Committee that reflect the Committee's progress against indicators of success, with specific reference to SBMP outcomes.

2. Strategic Planning and Prioritisation

Identify and Coordinate Cooperative Actions: Recognise and coordinate efforts between agencies and/or directorates that contribute to actions outlined in the SBMP.

Set Priorities for Future Years: Use findings from regular reviews to inform and adjust SBMP priorities for upcoming years, updating action items as necessary to maintain alignment with the SBMP's outcomes. This ensures that actions maintain flexibility throughout the life of the SBMP.

Annual Action Plan Development: Collaborate with the secretariat to develop an annual action plan specifying key actions and milestones that support the SBMP. This will include looking ahead at future action plans to ensure funding is sought for future actions, as per identified timelines. Resource requirements must also be included within the annual action plans.

3. Progress Tracking and Meetings

Implementation Tracking: On an ongoing basis, assess the progress of SBMP actions, ensuring timely completion and adjusting as needed to maintain focus on the SBMP's intended outcomes.

Meeting Schedule: Conduct quarterly meetings to review progress, integrating lessons identified to refine SBMP actions and timelines.

Hold more frequent meetings during the first year (every two months) to ensure early-stage actions remain on track and plan for those actions that will require collaboration and/or additional funding in future years. Additional meetings may be held beyond the first year at the determination of the committee.

Biannual Reporting to Governance Committee: Submit biannual reports summarising achievements, challenges, and recommendations to the SBMP Governance Committee, with a focus on SBMP outcomes and indicators of success.

4. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

Stakeholder Engagement: The Implementation Committee must identify key stakeholders for the implementation of SBMP. The Committee must then engage with these stakeholders to share updates on progress towards SBMP indicators of success and to gather feedback for enhancing implementation approaches. The Implementation committee will also share biannual case studies to showcase the delivery of SBMP.

Liaising with SBMP Governance Committee: Engage with the SBMP Governance Committee on budget needs, policy matters and other resources required to support SBMP implementation.

Liaison with Action Owners: Maintain regular communication with those responsible for specific SBMP actions, providing support for timely completion and helping to address any challenges.

5. Implementation Tracking and Documentation

Implementation Tracking System Management: Oversee the SBMP Implementation tracking system, with the secretariat responsible for managing records provided by action owners on the progress and completion of actions.

Incorporating Lessons Identified: Integrate insights and lessons identified from past SBMP activities into quarterly meetings allowing for adjustments to continuously improve outcomes. Particular focus should be given to matters regarding adaptive management.

6. Reporting by Action Owners

Regular Updates from Action Owners: Require action owners to report to the SBMP Implementation Committee on the status and completion of actions as per the annual SBMP action plans.



Appendix C

Bushfire Smoke and Air Pollution

Introduction

The 2019–2020 'Black Summer' bushfire season severely impacted air quality across southeastern Australia, with cities like Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne experiencing dangerous levels of air pollution. This crisis heightened public awareness about air quality and the importance of employing personal protective measures like air purifiers and P2/N95 masks.

Impacts

Smoke from bushfires and prescribed burns remains a major concern for many Canberrans, especially those with chronic health conditions. Bushfire smoke contains harmful particles and gases such as carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter which can exacerbate asthma, cause respiratory infections and increase hospitalisations for heart and lung conditions. Even during the bushfire offseason, consideration for smoke and air pollution has significant impact on the actions of ACT emergency services.

How air quality informs bushfire planning

The ACTRFS and Parks and Conservation Service consider the impact of smoke and air pollution when planning prescribed burns. These burns are conducted under suitable conditions and may be postponed if there are adverse weather forecasts. The outcomes of this modelling are reported to the ACT Environmental Protection Authority. This modelling allows the community community to be informed in advance through media alerts and social media posts from ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and ACT Health.

ACT Health also actively monitors smoke impacts and distribution of selected urban burns with their mobile monitoring unit. The ACT Government's Bushfire Smoke and Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025 (act.gov.au) outlines Government measures to manage and mitigate smoke impacts on the ACT community.



Smoke from bushfires and prescribed burns remains a major concern for many Canberrans, especially those with chronic health conditions.



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